



SPECIAL G-8 SUMMIT EDITION
July 8 – 10, 2009

This special edition of *Global Food for Thought* will focus exclusively on the coverage of agricultural development issues at the L'Aquila G-8 Summit. Please visit the Global Agricultural Development Project's website, www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment, for additional special coverage of the G-8 meeting.

For more information on the Global Agricultural Development Project and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, please visit www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.

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DESCRIPTION – G-8 PLEDGES \$20 BILLION TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OVER THREE YEARS

July 10, 2009 - On Friday, July 10, G-8 countries announced a food security initiative that will provide \$20 billion over the next three years towards agricultural development in impoverished countries. Facts about the L'Aquila Initiative on Global Food Safety include:

- President Obama, and leadership from Japan and Italy have been building consensus for this initiative over the past several months;
- The U.S. has pledged to commit \$3.5 billion of the \$20 billion over the next 3 years;
- the partnership will prioritize the importance of agriculture on the international agenda, launching new investments and improving the efficiency of aid programs and regional coordination;
- There are no details yet on how the commitment will be administered, but G-8 countries have stated assistance will be delivered in coordination with each other and the World Bank;
- If fulfilled, the commitment would be a dramatic increase from the \$5 billion given globally towards agriculture in 2007.

Further Resources

- **Press Conference of President Obama at G-8 Summit**, July 10, http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Press-Conference-by-the-President-in-LAquila-Italy/
- **The Official G-8 Declaration on Food Security** - http://www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/News/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_1246708102771.htm

- **G8 to commit \$20bn for food security**, *Financial Times*, July 10, http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b71a9052-6d2b-11de-9032-00144feabdc0.html?nclick_check=1
- **G-8 Announces \$20 Billions for Food Plan**, *New York Times*, July 10, 2009 http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/11/world/europe/11prexy.html?_r=1&hp
- **G-8 Leaders Agrees to Raise \$20 Billion for Food, Farm Aid**, *Washington Post*, July 10, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/10/AR2009071001436.html?hpid%3Dmoreheadlines&sub=AR>
- **Obama Enlists Major Farmers to Aid Poor Farmers with \$15 Billion**, *The New York Times*, July 9, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/09/world/europe/09food.html?ref=global-home>
- **G8 calls for increased food security**, *Washington Post*, July 8, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/08/AR2009070802510.html>
- **Pledges on Food Aid Expected**, *Wall Street Journal*, July 8, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124700972211908605.html>
- **G8 shifts focus from food aid to farming**, *Financial Times*, July 6, <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/60720902-6992-11de-bc9f-00144feabdc0.html>
- **The world must learn to live and farm sustainably**, *Financial Times*, July 5, <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d6e93cf6-6995-11de-bc9f-00144feabdc0.html>

EXPERT COMMENTARY ON G-8 Commitment

“The G8 and the World's Hungry: Progress Will Take More Than Money,” Neil Gallagher, former communications director and senior advisor to the executive director of the UN World Food Programme
July 9, 2009 - The ranks of the world's hungry have now swollen to over 1 billion. So the G8 call to rebuild investment in agriculture and commit \$12 billion over the next three years is critical. It is about time -- the United States, other major donors like the European Union and the World Bank all share the blame for having neglected agricultural development for decades. None of them anticipated the global food price crisis of 2006-2008, but having seen the results, each is trying in its own way to make amends -- the Obama Administration and the World Bank have already doubled agricultural development funding while the EU has sought to divert funds from internal agricultural subsidies to supporting Third World farmers. None of these efforts approaches the \$30 billion a year scale of investment FAO believes is necessary to reduce the growing burden of hunger on poorer nations, but the G8 move is still significant.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment/experts_commentary.asp#progress

“America is Back -- At L'Aquila, the G8 applies what we knew -- but forgot -- about food security”, Will Masters, professor of agricultural economics, Purdue University

July 9, 2009 - The L'Aquila Food Security Initiative turns the G8 in a much-needed direction, towards the fields and granaries of the world's poorest regions. The initiative is to be funded largely by Japan, Europe and Canada, in robust support for a U.S. plan promised in President Obama's inaugural address: *“To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish...”*

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment/experts_commentary.asp#progress

“The G8 Food Security Initiative: A Welcome Step,” Chris Barrett, Steven B. & Janice G. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management, International Professor of Agriculture, Cornell University

July 10, 2009 - Today's announcement by President Obama and the other G-8 leaders of a \$20 billion three-year investment in developing country agriculture marks a historic shift that merits widespread applause. Throughout world history, agricultural productivity growth and more efficient, inclusive food distribution systems have been the primary engines of economic growth, poverty reduction and improved human health in North America, Europe and East Asia.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment/experts_commentary.asp#progress

“Hungry World: A Silent Crisis Calls for Urgent Action” Marshall Bouton, president, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*

July 7, 2009 (published in *YaleGlobal Online*) - As the world still struggles to deal with the first truly global recession, little attention has been given to the growing number of hungry people and the possibility of

mounting food crises in the years ahead. According to the World Bank, over a billion people around the world are now chronically hungry. Stagnant agricultural productivity, rising food prices and now declining incomes, especially in much of Africa and parts of South Asia, have brought the world dangerously close to humanitarian distress and resulting social and political instability. Averting such a calamity must be high on the global agenda. The G8 meeting in L'Aquila, Italy on July 8-10 is the time to start.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment/experts_commentary.asp#progress

MEDIA COVERAGE OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED ISSUES – G-8 SUMMIT

Key media coverage from Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10 is detailed by date below.

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2009

G8 Promises \$20 Billion in Agricultural Aid: Real Change or Business as Usual? *The Huffington Post*

Today, the **Group of 8** meeting in L'Aquila, Italy pledged **20 billions dollars in agricultural aid**, responding to a request made yesterday by President Obama. For the first time, instead of being given directly as food aid, these funds are set to be allotted for building an agricultural economy in nations in need, specifically in Africa. Just what this agricultural infrastructure entails (the fine print mentions fertilizer and seed, grain storage vessels and plant variety research) could be the key to whether the plan actually seeks to feed many of the billion people on earth who are now hungry, or whether the U.S. and other nations will, instead, further fuel the **food crisis**.... Low-tech technologies could imply **better education around sustainable farming practices and food storage**. But "improving food production" sounds a lot like boosting yields, similar to what **Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack** said at the **Chicago Council on Global Affairs** in June ("If we can help countries become more productive themselves then they will be in a better position to feed their own people").

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paula-crossfield/g8-promises-20-billion-in_b_229526.html

G8 boosts farm aid to \$20bn in radical shift *The Times*

World leaders agreed a radical shift in aid strategy today by surpassing expectations and pledging a **\$20 billion programme** to help poor nations feed themselves. The fund, which will include **\$1.8 billion from Britain's development budget**, will be spent on agricultural development in Africa and other nations, a switch of priorities from the traditional practice of direct food aid. Leaders had been expected to agree a \$15 billion fund but more pledges came during the final session from other nations. It was not clear immediately what part of the programme was "new" aid money and how much had been taken from other parts of aid budgets.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/europe/article6682568.ece>

G-8 summit disappoints many, but nor Berlusconi *Christian Science Monitor*

L'AQUILA, ITALY - As the **Group of Eight** summit wrapped up Friday, the assessment of what it had achieved was rather less bright than the sun shining on the rugged peaks overlooking this Italian mountain city....

Leaders **pledged \$20 billion** over three years – \$5 billion more than had been expected – **in farm aid to help poor nations** feed themselves, with the US pushing for a shift away from food handouts and toward greater self sufficiency. "The United States produces maize and some crops and sends it to people in famine, but the **new conception is to produce these crops in Africa and not in the United States,**" said Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade. <http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0710/p06s08-woeu.html>

G8 leaders announce £12.3 billions package for world's poor *Telegraph*

At a **G8 summit** in Italy, the leaders of the world's richest states backed a plan drawn up by President Barack Obama that could transform **the international approach to food shortages**. Instead of focusing on giving **food to the hungry**, often at times of famine, the G8 committed itself to investing in increasing **developing countries' own capacity to grow and store food**. The G8 plan calls for farmers in developing countries to be given **greater access to seeds and fertilizer**. Poorer countries will also encouraged to **establish regional trade pacts** allowing them to sell more of their crops.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/g8/5795689/G8-leaders-announce-12.3-billion-package-for-worlds-poor.html>

Food aid a priority, Barack Obama says, *Politico*

Obama relied on his own African heritage to push for a global agreement to **increase food aid** – telling fellow world leaders that he has relatives in Africa who live in communities facing poverty and hunger, he said Friday. “My father traveled to the United States [from Kenya] a mere 50 years ago. And yet now I have family members who live in villages — they themselves are not going hungry, but live in villages where hunger is real. And so this is something that I understand in very personal terms,” Obama told reporters in a news conference wrapping up the **G-8 conference**, recounting his pitch for the **anti-hunger funds**.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0709/24771.html>

Has the G8 done enough for the poor?, *BBC*

World leaders have pledged an additional **\$20bn (£13bn) in aid to boost agriculture** in poor countries at the end of the **G8 summit** at the Italian city of L'Aquila - \$5bn more than originally expected. It is part of a package designed to show that the rich countries are working together to ensure that poor people do not suffer in the global recession. But the head of the **UN's Food and Agriculture Agency**, Jacques Diouf, says that the aid falls short of what is needed. "Certainly, it's not enough," he told the Reuters news agency. "But compared to where we were, it's a big jump." The FAO points out that the percentage of **foreign aid devoted to helping agriculture has fallen from 17% to 5% since 1980**.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8144205.stm>

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2009

US to launch \$15 billion food initiative at G-8 *Associated Press*

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP) - President Barack Obama is expected to announce a **\$15 billion agricultural investment** initiative to help small farmers feed themselves, delegates at a Group of Eight summit said Thursday. Not all the money is new funding, however, and as it is several countries are already well behind in **aid pledges to Africa** made four years ago.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gP8Iph65DTNYG0jnJzMD9J8lagWQD99B2I580>

G8 backs farmland code of conduct, details sketchy, *Reuters*

ROME (Reuters) - A call by G8 leaders for a **code of conduct in international agricultural investments** reflects a growing international debate over **foreign land purchases in poor countries**, but it is not clear how such a code might work. Group of Eight countries said in a statement at a summit in Italy they would "work with partner countries and international organizations to develop a joint proposal on principles and best practices" in the face of rising investments in foreign land. The issue is likely to come up again at talks Friday, when the G8 and other countries will discuss a **new food security** initiative that could result in up to **\$15 billion** being pledged to **boost agriculture** in poorer nations.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE5683C420090709>

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009

G8 set to tackle hunger in Africa, *BBC*

President Obama is expected to reveal a **major initiative to boost agricultural development** and prevent hunger in Africa, worth perhaps \$3bn (£1.8bn) to \$5bn, at the summit. The Japanese government also says it wants the **G8** to put more emphasis on helping **African farmers** to produce enough food to feed local communities. **Japan spent more than \$1bn supporting agricultural projects in developing countries in 2007** and has pledged to increase spending on this area, despite a recession.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8131179.stm>

G8: Does the world need new rules on food security?, *Christian Science Monitor*

LONDON – Some are calling it a **neocolonial land grab**. Others liken it to a second scramble for Africa, only this time the land is being **secured through monetary, not military, means**. The trend of rich countries

buying and leasing large tracts of land to farm in the developing world in causing such consternation in **United Nations, diplomatic, and nongovernmental circles that the Group of 8** will be urged as they meet this week to discuss new rules that could somehow regulate the phenomenon.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0708/p06s17-wogn.html>

How the global food crisis helped the rural poor, *Prospect Magazine Blog*

At the summit meeting that opens in Italy on Wednesday the leaders of the G8 are expected to announce a **"food security initiative"**—an effort to reverse "the tendency of decreasing official **development aid to agriculture**" and increase investment in **third world food production** instead. According to the **Chicago Council on Global Affairs**, Washington spends 20 times more on food aid in Africa than on long-term agricultural...

<http://blog.prospectblogs.com/2009/07/07/how-the-global-food-crisis-helped-the-rural-poor/>

G8 Summit: Feed the Hungry or Fuel Hunger?, *Foreign Policy In Focus*

As the rich **Group of 8** (G8) nations convene in L'Aquila, Italy this week, world hunger will once again take center stage. The United States will likely announce a **"significant" increase** in funding for agricultural development aid, along with multi-year commitments from other G8 countries. This follows the G8's admission of failure in tackling hunger at its **first-ever farm conference in Treviso, Italy** in April 2009.

<http://www.fpif.org/fpiftxt/6239>

G-8 Summit Picks up Where G-20 Left Off, *National Public Radio*

Another area where governments are sure to be shamed is their commitment to Africa. In **2005, the G-8 countries promised to increase aid to Africa by a total of \$25 billion by 2010**. That deadline is just one year away, and the **goal is not being met**. "We're very disappointed, particularly with countries that have promised a lot and then delivered very little," says Tom Hart, government relations director for the global advocacy organization ONE. Italy, the G-8 host, has so far come through on **just 3 percent** of what it promised.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106376589>

G-8 Nations Fail to Agree on Plan to Fight Climate Change, *New York Times*

L'AQUILA, Italy — The world's major industrial nations and newly emerging powers **failed to agree Wednesday on specific cuts in heat-trapping gases by 2050**, undercutting an effort to build a global consensus to fight climate change, according to people following the talks.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/09/world/europe/09prexy.html?_r=1&nl=pol&emc=polb1

G8 sees economy still in peril, falters on climate, *Reuters*

L'AQUILA, Italy (Reuters) - Group of Eight leaders agreed on Wednesday the **world economy still faced "significant risks"** and it was too early to unwind measures put in place to end the deepest recession in living memory. But efforts to get an undertaking from the **17-nation Major Economies Forum for a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050** stumbled on resistance from China and India, in a setback to efforts to secure a new U.N. climate act.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE5662VJ20090708?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

G8 backs Japan's farmland investment principle idea, *Reuters*

ROME (Reuters) - Japan's proposal to set up a set of common guidelines to promote **smooth global investment in agriculture** was endorsed by other leaders of the **G8** at a summit on Wednesday, a Japanese government official said. **Competition to secure food production** has gained momentum in the past few years as prices of grains have soared on expectations of greater demand from emerging countries. That has **exposed nations with low food self-sufficiency**, such as Japan, to the volatility of the commodities markets.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/gc07/idUSTRE5676SF20090708>

Pledges on Food Aid Expected, *The Wall Street Journal*

ROME -- World leaders meeting in Italy this week are expected to **commit as much as \$15 billion to agricultural projects over the next three years to try to reduce world hunger and ease food-price**

volatility. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told a news conference Tuesday that leaders of the Group of Eight nations could agree to provide **farm aid of \$10 billion to \$15 billion. Leaders of the G-8** are due Wednesday in the mountainous town of L'Aquila. The U.S.-backed program would fund agricultural projects in developing countries, providing farmers with seed, fertilizer and equipment. It will "**help all the people in the world who suffer from hunger,**" Mr. Berlusconi said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124700972211908605.html>

G8 calls for increased food security, *Washington Post*

L'AQUILA, Rome -- World leaders at the Group of Eight summit say they want to **promote investment in agriculture** as a way of combating hunger in the face of the economic crisis. **The G-8 is expected to expand talks on food security** when they meet with countries with emerging economies and with African countries over the next two days. Officials have said that they are discussing the creation of an agricultural development fund for Africa.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/08/AR2009070802510.html>

Economic crisis to dominate opening of G8 summit, *Washington Post*

ROME (Reuters) - Leaders from the **Group of Eight** major industrial nations will warn against complacency over **economic recovery** on Wednesday at a world summit that will also tackle trade, climate change and food security. **Chinese President Hu Jintao** pulled out of the meeting at the last minute because of unrest in northwestern China in which 156 people have been killed. A Chinese delegation was still set to attend the talks and Berlusconi said he had "**encountered strong resistance**" from Beijing over G8 efforts to narrow differences over **cuts in greenhouse gas emissions** and **funding for low carbon technology**.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/07/AR2009070701625.html>

World economies 'precarious' as G-8 meets, *Washington Times*

The leaders of the **Group of Eight** convene their annual summit in Italy on Wednesday amid the most devastating global recession since the Great Depression. Representing 870 million people with as annual economic output approaching \$32 trillion, G-8 leaders will hold a "working lunch" Wednesday. According to a report by the **Chicago Council on Global Affairs**, the United States, the **world's largest food donor**, spends 20 times more on food aid than it spends on long-term, on-the-ground agricultural development.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jul/08/big-talks/>

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009

Climate Change Threatens Food Supply, G8 Warned, *AllAfrica.com*

Cape Town — Sub-Saharan Africa is set to **lose U.S. \$2 billion** a year as the viability of its maize crops declines as a **result of changes in global weather patterns**. Cash crops such as tea and coffee in East Africa will suffer. And Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tanzania are likely to be the African counties hardest hit by climate change in the next decade. These are among warnings issued by the international aid and advocacy group, Oxfam, ahead of the **annual G8 Summit** of the world's major industrialized economies which begins in Italy on Wednesday.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907070060.html>

Pope Urges Forming of New World Economic Order to Work for the 'Common Good', *New York Times*

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday called for a radical rethinking of the global economy, criticizing a growing divide between rich and poor and urging the **establishment of a "true world political authority" to oversee the economy** and work for the "common good." Reportedly delayed to take into consideration the financial crisis, it was **released by the Vatican on the eve of the Group of 8 industrialized nations summit** meeting, which opens in Italy on Wednesday, and before Benedict is expected to receive President Obama at the Vatican on Friday. "In the search for solutions to the current economic crisis, **development aid for poor countries** must be considered a valid means of creating wealth for all," he wrote.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/08/world/europe/08pope.html>

World Bank head welcomes G8 food plan, *Reuters*

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - **World Bank President Robert Zoellick** welcomed a **G8 plan to invest billions to boost food security** on Tuesday, and said the focus should be on immediate needs of **reducing hunger** as well as raising **world agricultural production**. "The idea of boosting food security for all of the developing world, especially Africa, is a very good one," Zoellick said in an interview ahead of a summit of leaders from the Group of Eight industrialized nations and four major developing powers in Italy starting on Wednesday. Speaking by telephone from Geneva, Zoellick said a proposed agricultural investment fund, possibly managed by the World Bank, will be discussed and refined at the G8, but a decision may have to wait until the Group of 20 meeting in September.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/gc07/idUSTRE5666G320090708>

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2009

G8 shifts focus from food aid to farming, *Financial Times*

The **G8** countries will this week announce a "**food security initiative**", committing more than **\$12bn for agricultural development** over the next three years, in a move that signals a further shift from food aid to long-term investments in farming in the developing world. **The US and Japan will provide the bulk of the funding, with \$3bn-\$4bn each**, with the rest coming from Europe and Canada, according to United Nations officials and Group of Eight diplomats briefed on the "**L'Aquila Food Security Initiative**".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/60720902-6992-11de-bc9f-00144feabdc0.html>

Poor nations look for help to feed themselves, *Financial Times*

Kanayo Nwanze is hoping that the **Group of Eight** summit will increase his workload dramatically. As president of the **International Fund for Agriculture Development**, the United Nations agency in charge of helping poor countries to increase their food output, he has long hoped for the **G8 to confirm its shift from food aid to long-term agricultural investment**.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fd15fdf8-6984-11de-bc9f-00144feabdc0.html>

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