

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



January 22nd - 29th, 2010

Beginning April 1, 2010, Secretary Dan Glickman will become the President of Refugees International. The Chicago Council congratulates him on his new appointment, and is delighted Secretary Glickman will continue in his role as cochair of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative in his new post.

Please visit the [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) which provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.

For more information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, please visit the Initiative's new website: www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.

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Quote of the Week: *"That's the leadership that we are providing -- engagement that advances the common security and prosperity of all people. We're working through the G20 to sustain a lasting global recovery. We're working with Muslim communities around the world to promote science and education and innovation. We have gone from a bystander to a leader in the fight against climate change. We're helping developing countries to feed themselves, and continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS."* – President Barack Obama, State of the Union Address, January 27, 2010.

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KEY ARTICLES

Innovation: The Difference between a Bleak Future and a Bright One, *Annual Letter from Bill Gates, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, January 2010*

In the past few years, the foundation has begun to invest heavily in innovations that can increase agricultural productivity for the world's poor. More than 1 billion people suffer from chronic hunger, and most of them

are small farmers. We need to raise their productivity so that they have extra output, which can be saved for lean years, or sold so they can have money to send their kids to school. We will also need to feed the additional 3 billion people that will populate the earth in the next 50 years. People involved in agriculture care about both improving farm productivity and making sure farming is done in a sustainable way. Although these needs are often seen as mutually exclusive, they are actually quite complementary. They both depend on innovation, including new seeds, better training for farmers, and better access to inputs and markets.
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/annual-letter/2010/Documents/2010-bill-gates-annual-letter-text-only.pdf>

See also: Saving the World, 2.0, *Newsweek*, January 25

How do you address global hunger, epidemics, and poverty? According to Bill Gates, it takes R&D, software, and plenty of money.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/232367>

See Also: We Need Productivity and Sustainability, *The Gates Notes*, January 20

<http://www.thegatesnotes.com/Thinking/Article.aspx?ID=99>

See Also: The Second Epistle of St. Bill, *Economist*, January 26

http://www.economist.com/businessfinance/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15386866

A Hunger Czar Talks... And Talks, *Outrage & Inspire*, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow for Global Agriculture and Food Policy, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, *Global Food for Thought Blog*, January 28

Beyond Ireland, few countries, if any, have a hunger envoy. Then again, few countries can match Ireland's relationship to hunger. Stories of the Great Famine of the 19th century are passed down through most every family. Humble and haunting monuments to starvation, death or emigration abound across the countryside. When hunger calamities arise anywhere else in the world, like most recently in Haiti following the earthquake, calls for donations echo on every street corner. The rattling of coins in the collection cans provides the rhythm for Saturday shoppers, who reach into their pockets with the generous refrain, "Ah, sure, we know what it was like to be poor and hungry." The hunger envoy's job is to make sure no one forgets. And to remind everyone that there is plenty of work yet to be done to end the chronic hunger that burdens one billion people in the world today. Every country should have a hunger envoy.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/01/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-ireland.html>

See Also: Roger Thurow calls for US to form "hunger envoy", *ONE Blog*, January 29

<http://www.one.org/blog/2010/01/29/roger-thurow-calls-for-us-to-form-hunger-envoy/>

See Also: Roger Thurow Discusses Global Hunger on BBC Radio

<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Newsletter/RogerThurowBBC.mp3>

How to feed people and save the planet, *Special Report on Business and Food Sustainability*, *Financial Times*, January 26

While governments, donors and the aid community have traditionally dominated food security discussions, the corporate sector has an increasing voice in the debate. Of course, when it comes to the food industry, the term "sustainability" refers to more than a secure supply. It encompasses everything from the environmental impact of agriculture and farm-worker labour standards to the private sector's role in producing nutrient-rich products and in fighting rising levels of obesity.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b568a740-0a00-11df-8b23-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Ethics: 'Islands of Best Practice in Sea of Poor to Middling Ones'

[Food Science: Rewards of Precision Farming](#)

[Food Safety: Standards Set to Protect Reputations](#)

[Multinationals: Self-Interest Drives New Attitudes to Agriculture](#)

[Case Study: Congo Coffee on Shelves Near You Soon](#)

[Entrepreneurs: The Importance of a Local Connection](#)

[Obesity: Corporate Sector Backtracks on Fat Facts](#)

[Technology: Some Rubber Tubing and a Foot Pump](#)

[Case Study: Exploring a Market-Based Approach to Malnutrition](#)

[Food Waste: Plenty of Guilt and a Very Heavy Footprint](#)

[Supply Chains: Plan for the Future from Fork to Farm](#)

[**Agricultural Pollution: Inputs that Place Huge Pressure on the Land**](#)
[**Livestock: Burping Cow is Just Part of the Problem**](#)
[**ID Tags: A Fresh Perspective on Tracking Supermarket Produce**](#)
[**Mideast Supplies: Slowdown in Gulf States' Dash for Farmland**](#)

Building Haiti's Economy, One Mango at a Time, *Op-Ed, Paul Collier and Jean-Louis Warnholz, New York Times, January 28*

Haiti is by far the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and yet it need not be so, because unexploited economic opportunities abound there. Some of the best mangoes in the world grow in Haiti — though too many of them rot, offshore from the world's largest market, for want of adequate roads and well-governed ports. Excellent coffee is grown in the Haitian mountains, but much of it is sold informally across the border to coffee producers in the Dominican Republic, who reap most of the profits.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/29/opinion/29collier.html>

See Also: How to Put Haiti on the Road to Recovery, *Op-Ed, Paul Collier and Jean-Louis Warnholz, Financial Times, January 24*

The first essential, an economic strategy, is to hand. The one prepared in 2009 was sensible and remains valid. It aimed to create 150,000 jobs over two years by harnessing Haiti's genuine advantages in garment manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. Of course, the earthquake requires a response beyond the strategy of 2009: both the need and the opportunity to relocate economic activity away from Port-au-Prince are now cruelly apparent. The construction of new homes needs to be linked to the generation of new economic opportunities, located in areas less exposed to storms, floods and earthquakes. This implies the expansion of secondary cities and modernisation of agriculture.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8e7089d2-08f7-11df-ba88-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: What to Do About Haiti, *Op-Ed, LA Times, January 24*

What is the right mix of agriculture and manufacturing to guarantee the country's future?

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-haiti24-2010jan24.0.3795439.story>

Agriculture: Multinationals Are Learning Lessons from Peasant Farmers, *Special Report on Water & Waste Management, Financial Times, January 25*

Josephine Kavita farms the slopes just outside the town of Kola, about 40 miles south-east of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital. Her plot might be only a few acres, but her environmental credentials outstrip those of many agribusiness giants. While many large monocrop fields leach pesticides, chemical fertilisers and topsoil into local water supplies, her neat terraces keep nutrients efficiently in their place. Organic fertiliser from her goats prevents chemical contamination; extensive cover cropping prevents soil erosion; and her border plants put a stop to water run-off. Big names in global agribusiness, increasingly anxious about global water supplies, have recently started paying more attention to such practices.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/61330952-0953-11df-ba88-00144feabdc0.dwp_uuid=68347df0-0956-11df-ba88-00144feabdc0.html

See Also: Food: Leftover Offer Hope to Hungry, *Financial Times, January 25*

Food waste is so widespread that experts believe if it could be eliminated there is already enough to feed the expected world population of 9bn in 2050.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6b14c4a6-0953-11df-ba88-00144feabdc0.dwp_uuid=68347df0-0956-11df-ba88-00144feabdc0.html

See Also: Legislation Is Not the Only Route, *Financial Times, January 26*

<http://media.ft.com/cms/600e8886-097a-11df-b91f-00144feabdc0.pdf>

The Next Chapter Is About to Be Written, *Dan Glickman, Refugees International Blog, January 27*

I've been working in Washington for awhile and I am eager to share with my friends and colleagues the numerous needs of refugees -- not just food, but other basics as well. It's alarming to me that thousands of people living in squalid conditions in refugee camps are struggling to feed their families, find clean drinking water and send their children to school. Yet, they never lose hope for a better future.

<http://www.refintl.org/blog/next-chapter-about-be-written>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks by President Barack Obama in State of the Union Address, *The White House, January 27*

“That's the leadership that we are providing -- engagement that advances the common security and prosperity of all people. We're working through the G20 to sustain a lasting global recovery. We're working with Muslim communities around the world to promote science and education and innovation. We have gone from a bystander to a leader in the fight against climate change. We're helping developing countries to feed themselves, and continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS.”

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-state-union-address>

See Also: The State of the Union on Foreign Policy – Translated, *Foreign Policy, January 27*

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/27/the_state_of_the_union_on_foreign_policy_translated

Foreign Assistance Reauthorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010-2011, *111th Congress, 2nd Session, January 2010*

Text of Bill: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/images/100129_DAV10058.pdf

Fact Sheet: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/images/100129_State_Auth_Fact_Sheet_-_012910_-_FINAL_%282%29.doc

See Also: Congress weighs in on foreign-aid reform, *Foreign Policy (The Cable), January 29*

Senate Foreign Relations Committee leaders John Kerry, D-MA, and Richard Lugar, R-IN, introduced a State Department policy bill for both fiscal 2010 and fiscal 2011. The introduction comes just days before the release of the administration's fiscal 2011 State Department budget request and in the middle of important foreign operations policy reviews both at State and in the White House.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/29/congress_weighs_in_on_foreign_aid_reform

Ann Tutwiler Appointed USDA's Coordinator for the Global Food Security Initiative, *Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, January 2010*

Ann will be advised by a Food Security Council comprised of experts from across USDA to ensure that the entire department contributes to the initiative and works closely with other USG partners at the State Department, USAID, and Treasury, among others. The Global Food Security Initiative was launched in 2009 by President Obama as a multi-agency and international effort to reduce hunger and malnutrition in some of the world's poorest countries. The US and other donors will work with the world's poorest countries to reduce hunger by building strong agricultural sectors.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/former-partnership-board-member-ann-tutwiler-appointed-usdas-coordinator-global-food-security>

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Announces Millions to Promote U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, January 26*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the allocation of \$234.5 million to 70 U.S. trade organizations to help promote American food and agricultural products overseas. The funding was allocated under the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Cooperator Program, both administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0033.xml>

See Also: Obama Champions Exports in Overture to Business, *Reuters, January 27*

President Barack Obama launched a drive to double U.S. exports over the next five years in a move that reaches out to business groups and Republicans who have criticized his inaction on trade.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60R13E20100128>

Remarks at the International Conference on Afghanistan, *Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, U.S. State Department, January 28*

“I also believe very strongly, as is apparent in what I say about this issue, that women have to be involved at every step of the way in this process. To that end, I unveiled our Women's Action Plan. It includes initiatives focused on women's security, women's leadership in the public and private sector; women's access to judicial institutions, education, and health services; women's ability to take advantage of economic opportunities, especially in the agricultural sector. This is a comprehensive, forward-looking agenda that stands in stark

contrast to al-Qaida's recently announced agenda for Afghanistan's women, attempting to send female suicide bombers to the West."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/01/136159.htm>

See Also: Clinton: Military Action Isn't Enough In Afghanistan, NPR, January 29

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123098927>

Town Hall Meeting for Employees Marking One Year at State, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, U.S. State Department, January 26

Clinton: "In close partnership with USAID, we're supporting investments to make agriculture more productive. We're helping farmers produce more in a sustainable way that, in turn, promotes economic growth. And we're seeing the impact of that approach in many countries around the world."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/01/135863.htm>

See Also: The Entire State Department Is Exempted from the Spending Freeze...Almost, Foreign Policy (The Cable blog), January 28

There's going to be some resistance to exempting the entire foreign-affairs budget from President Obama's promise to freeze all "non-security relations discretionary spending" for three years, as he declared in his State of the Union speech. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley confirmed that The International Boundary and Water Commission is the only part of the state budget that isn't exempted from the freeze because it doesn't fall under the 150 designation. That makes up 0.002 percent of the overall foreign affairs budget, he said.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/28/the_entire_state_department_budget_is_exempted_from_the_spending_freeze_almost

Haiti: From Rescue and Recovery to Reconstruction, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, January 28

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/20100128/>

Paul Farmer, Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti, United Nations: "Today, Haiti is facing what we would term 'acute on chronic' problems. Before January 12, the country was already facing huge long-term challenges in public health and education, the unemployment rate over 70%, and a majority of its population was living on less than two dollars a day. Food and water insecurity were already huge problems."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/FarmerTestimony100128a.pdf>

Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate: Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act of 2009, Congressional Budget Office, January 20

S. 1524 would establish the Council on Research and Evaluation of Foreign Assistance (CORE) to evaluate the impact of foreign assistance programs and would establish or expand several programs at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). CBO estimates that implementing S. 1524 would cost \$198 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized and estimated amounts. Enacting the bill would not have a significant effect on direct spending or revenues.

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/109xx/doc10993/s1524.pdf>

Safeguarding the World's Water: 2008 Report on USAID Water Sector Activities, U.S. Agency for International Development, January 2010

USAID's total investments in all aspects of the water sector reached almost \$490 million in 2008. USAID provided more than 7 million people with improved water supply, more than 4 million of whom received first-time access to an improved water source. More than 6 million people received access to improved sanitation, more than 2 million of whom received first-time access. The Agency fulfilled its worldwide water earmark with FY 2008 funding of \$296.65 million "for safe drinking water and sanitation supply projects, including water management related to safe drinking water and sanitation".

http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACN272.pdf

Remarks by Ambassador Demetrios Marantis at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Office of the United States Trade Representative, January 28

"Look at the Asia-Pacific region. On the one hand, it is a picture of huge markets that already are key destinations for U.S. manufactured goods, agriculture products, and services. Even given the deteriorating

global economy, in 2008 U.S. goods exports to the Asia-Pacific region totaled \$747 billion, up over 8 percent over the previous year. Agriculture exports were \$76 billion, a 30 percent increase over the previous year.”
<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/january/remarks-ambassador-demetrius-marantis-center>

Can America's Top Gun in Haiti Keep the Relief Effort in Order?, *TIME*, January 25

Dressed in tan fatigues, Keen then returned to the embassy to meet with USAID's Shah. The two discussed the other humanitarian challenge facing the hemisphere's poorest nation: lack of food and water. The water distribution run by the Haitian government the past week, they agreed, was going as smoothly as one could hope for. Food, on the other hand, was going to be a problem. In the short term, C-17s are dropping tons of food across Haiti that is distributed by U.S. troops. NGOs are also working with the World Food Program to feed as many as 2 million people five-day rations of nutrient-rich cookies by the end of the month.
http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/printout/0,29239,1953379_1953494_1956342,00.html

See Also: Shah Visits Haiti Response Center, *Foreign Policy*, January 25

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/25/shah_visits_haiti_response_center

Confirmed: Radelet Begins New Role at State, *Foreign Policy (The Cable Blog)*, January 26

Steve Radelet has begun his new job as senior advisor on development in the Office of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Radelet announced his move, which had been reported but not confirmed, in an email to staffers at the Center for Global Development.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/26/confirmed_radelet_begins_new_role_at_state

MCC CEO Names Sheila Herrling as Vice President for Policy and International Relations, *Millennium Challenge Corporation*, January 29

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Chief Executive Officer Daniel W. Yohannes announced the appointment of Sheila Herrling as Vice President for Policy and International Relations (PIR). Ms. Herrling most recently served as Senior Policy Associate and Director of the Rethinking U.S. Foreign Assistance Program at the Center for Global Development (CGD). Ms. Herrling also served as a Principal on the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network -- a coalition of international development and foreign policy experts and advocates helping to reform U.S. foreign assistance.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-012910-mcceeonames.shtml>

President Obama and Secretary Vilsack Announce Intent to Nominate Dr. Elisabeth Hagen as USDA Under Secretary of Food Safety, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, January 25

President Obama announced his intent to nominate Dr. Elisabeth Hagen as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Under Secretary for Food Safety. Hagen will serve with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0022.xml>

FOR MORE SUMMARIES OF AND LINKS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND RESOURCES ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND FOOD SECURITY, PLEASE VISIT OUR [AG & FOOD POLICY LIBRARY](#)

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

Food Security: The Challenge of Feeding 9 Billion People, *Science*, January 2010

Continuing population and consumption growth will mean that the global demand for food will increase for at least another 40 years. Growing competition for land, water, and energy, and the overexploitation of fisheries, will affect our ability to produce food, as will the urgent requirement to reduce the impact of the food system on the environment. The effects of climate change are a further threat. But the world can produce more food, and can ensure that it is used more efficiently and equitably. A multifaceted and linked global strategy is needed to ensure sustainable and equitable food security, different components of which are explored here.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/science.1185383>

Why No Thought for Food?, *All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development, January 2010*

The recent steep rises in food prices, global food safety scares, and the continued volatility of the agricultural commodities market have had an impact not limited to the developing world, resulting in 'food riots' and social unrest in over 20 countries spreading over four continents. Yet, unsurprisingly, it is the poorest that have suffered hardest, and the impact on developing nations has been disproportionately more severe as, for the first time in over a decade, world hunger has increased.

<http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Guardian/documents/2010/01/28/food.pdf>

See Also: MPs Call for More Food Security Aid, *Financial Times, January 27*

Support for agriculture in the developing world has been "consciously and deliberately" run down by the government, according to a parliamentary committee. It urged the Department for International Development to double the current level of aid provided to food security and sustainable agriculture programmes.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9c1d302e-0ab1-11df-b35f-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: DfID 'Not Neglecting Agriculture', *Guardian, January 29*

A report that called for the government to allocate at least 10% of its aid budget to agriculture and food security has been dismissed as "out of date" and "selective" by the Department for International Development (DfID).

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/2010/jan/29/agriculture-report-dfid-response>

Eating the Planet: Feeding and Fueling the World Sustainably, Fairly, and Humanely – a Scoping Study, *Social Ecology Vienna, January 2010*

The surging demands of a growing and increasingly affluent world population are confronting the natural world with mounting pressures. Human use of the earth's land for agriculture, forestry or infrastructure is degrading the ability of many ecosystems to deliver vital services to humanity. While modern agricultural technologies have resulted in rapid increases in yields and efficiencies, they have also caused significant and widespread negative environmental effects. Here, the authors aim to contribute to one of humanity's grand challenges: assessing how we can feed and fuel the world sustainably, fairly and humanely in the future.

http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/socec/downloads/WP116_WEB.pdf

Delivering Genetically Engineered Crops to Poor Farmers, *International Food Policy Research Institute, January 2010*

Small-scale, resource-poor farmers in developing countries face daily stresses, including poor soils, drought, and lack of inputs. Ongoing trends such as climate change and population growth will likely exacerbate binding stresses. A new generation of genetically engineered (GE) crop research aims to alleviate these pressures through the improvement of subsistence crops—such as cassava, sorghum, and millet—that incorporate traits such as tolerance to drought, water, and aluminum in soils as well as plants with more efficient nitrogen and phosphorus use. However, many developing countries lack the necessary biosafety systems for a timely and cost-effective adoption. This brief focuses on the regulatory reforms necessary for farmers and consumers in developing countries to benefit from GE crops.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bp014.pdf>

Solar-Powered Drip Irrigation Enhances Food Security in the Sudano-Sahel, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, January 2010*

Meeting the food needs of Africa's growing population over the next half-century will require technologies that significantly improve rural livelihoods at minimal environmental cost. These technologies will likely be distinct from those of the Green Revolution, which had relatively little impact in sub-Saharan Africa; consequently, few such interventions have been rigorously evaluated. This paper analyzes solar-powered drip irrigation as a strategy for enhancing food security in the rural Sudano-Sahel region of West Africa. Using a matched-pair comparison of villages in northern Benin (two treatment villages, two comparison villages), and household survey and field-level data through the first year of harvest in those villages, the authors find that solar-powered drip irrigation significantly augments both household income and nutritional intake, particularly during the dry season, and is cost effective compared to alternative technologies.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/01/13/0909678107.full.pdf+html>

Reconstructing Haiti, *Oxfam International, January 2010*

Haiti's agricultural sector was in urgent need of support prior to the earthquake, and food insecurity was a serious problem. With planting season coming and with many Haitians leaving Port-au-Prince for the rural areas, urgent action is needed to provide adequate support to enable Haitian farmers to elevate their food production capacity, boost local incomes, and decrease dependency on imported food aid. Irrigation system repair and transportation routes need urgent attention.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/reconstructing-haiti.pdf>

Strategic Issues on Growth in the Agricultural Sector and Reducing Poverty in Nigeria, *International Food Policy Research Institute, January 2010*

Designing agricultural strategies requires an understanding of the options for dealing with growth in the sector, its impact on targeted beneficiaries, and the investment required to achieve the growth. IFPRI's recent study identified agricultural growth and development options that can support comprehensive rural development in Nigeria, in line with its national agricultural strategy – the National Food Security Program – over the next nine years (2009-2017).

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nsspbb10.pdf>

See Also: Institutional Capacity for Designing and Implementing Agricultural and Rural Development Policies and Strategies in Nigeria, *International Food Policy Research Institute, January 2010*

This brief highlights key issues on the capacity for designing and implementing agricultural and rural development policies, strategies, and programs in Nigeria.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nsspbb09.pdf>

Africa Policy Outlook 2010, *Africa Action, January 2010*

In addition to the scramble for Africa's oil and mineral resources, land-grabbing in Africa is increasing at an alarming rate. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute, 115,624 square miles in several African countries are "up for grabs." Since 2004 Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, and Sudan have leased nearly 10,000 square miles of land to overseas investors. This comes at a time of a worsening global food crisis, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Agriculture employs 70 percent of the labor force in Africa, and is responsible for over 25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and 20 percent of agribusinesses in most countries. The UN estimates that Africa contains approximately 2.8 million square miles of arable land. However, out of the total land area in Africa, only a fraction is being used for farming.

http://www.africaaction.org/campaign/docs/africa_outlook2010_Final.pdf

Quick Impact, Quick Collapse: The Dangers of Militarized Aid in Afghanistan, *Oxfam International, CARE, and Afghanaid, January 2010*

Militarized aid is not only wasteful and ineffective, it is putting Afghan lives at risk. An estimated \$1.7 billion in development aid has flowed through the military (primarily US forces), with another \$1.2 billion allocated for 2010. The Afghan people have suffered three decades of conflict and disorder leaving the country the second poorest in the world. Donor countries need to improve the impact of international aid as a whole, much of which has been wasted and does not meet the basic needs of the people, many of whom are poor farmers. Aid should go to key sectors such as agriculture, education, and law and order, and to build the capacity of Afghan institutions, including at local level. Aid and, above all, the diplomatic effort with the Afghan government and international partners, must be focused on ensuring that good government and development goals are prioritised and effectively delivered.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/oxfam-quick-impact-quick-collapse.pdf>

See Also: Afghan Aid Risks 'Militarisation', *BBC, January 27*

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8482247.stm

See Also: End "Militarization" of Afghan Aid, Agencies Say, *Reuters, January 26*

Too much aid for Afghanistan is being channeled through foreign militaries who try to win over ordinary Afghans with "quick fixes" instead of tackling the root causes of poverty, aid groups said on Wednesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60Q00920100127>

Recommendations: The London Ministerial on Yemen, *Center for American Progress and Center for Strategic & International Studies, January 25*

Yemen is experiencing a water crisis, with most of its aquifers expected to run dry in the coming years. A global fund should support Yemen's acquisition of the best available technologies to avert water shortages, assess areas in most urgent need of water, and develop infrastructure necessary for widespread water delivery.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/01/pdf/yemen_memo.pdf

See Also: Yemen: Fear of Failure, *Chatham House, January 2010*

The poorest nation in the Arab world struggles with 27% inflation, 40% unemployment and 46% child malnutrition. Half of its 22 million citizens are under sixteen and the population is set to double by 2035. Seven million people live in poverty and the country is heavily dependent on food imports, making it especially vulnerable to global price shocks. Reserves of groundwater and oil are rapidly diminishing.

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/15712_bp0110yemen.pdf

A Labor Mobility Agenda for Development, *Center for Global Development, January 2010*

Rich countries have made efforts for half a century to help people in poor countries catch up to rich-country standards of living. This paper argues that every rich country should consider its immigration policy to be part of its international development policy, and vice versa. A development policy that includes migration will be more effective; an immigration policy that includes development will better serve rich countries' ideals and interests.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423717_file_Clemens_labor_mobility_FINAL.pdf

Promoting the Dialogue: Climate Change and the Quadrennial Defense Review, *Center for New American Security, January 2010*

Congress required in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that the Department of Defense consider the effects of climate change on all of its "facilities, capabilities and missions," and, perhaps most notably, it called for the Department to incorporate such concerns into the next Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). When the QDR is sent to Congress on February 1st, it will offer an unusual opportunity to shift how the national security community views climate change. In this working paper, CNAS Bacevich Fellow Christine Parthemore and Research Assistant Will Rogers provide observations about how the QDR process addressed the 2008 NDAA requirement and some potential outcomes of that process.

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/QDR&ClimateChange_Parthemore_Rogers_Jan2010_cod_e406_workingpaper_1.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security: Progress to Date and Strategies for Success

Date: February 22, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

On February 22, 2010, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs will convene a symposium in Washington, D.C. to review progress on the Administration's global food security strategy and provide critical thinking on how best to overcome potential obstacles to success. The day-long event will:

- Discuss progress on U.S. and international food security commitments,
- Examine strategies for how to sustain support for these activities, and
- Provide constructive thinking on implementation challenges.

This symposium early in 2010 will provide a unique opportunity to raise attention to these issues: it will be one year since the Obama Administration took office, Congress will begin a new session, and the U.S. and the international community will be evaluating foreign policy priorities for the year ahead.

Event Cochairs

[Catherine Bertini](#), executive director, UN World Food Program (1992-2002)

[Dan Glickman](#), secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture (1995-2001)

[Robert Lane](#), chairman, Deere & Company (2000 – present)

Additional Materials

[Concept Paper](#)

[Working Agenda](#)

Registration and Further Information

Registration to this event will be by invitation only and seating is expected to be limited. To request further information about the symposium, please contact Lindsay Iversen at liversen@thechicagocouncil.org or (312) 821-7560.

For further information about the Symposium, please visit:

<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/GLOBALAGDEVELOPMENT/gad/Events/Symposium.aspx>

International Conference on Food Security and Climate Change in Dry Areas

Date: February 1 - 4, 2010

Location: Amman, Jordan

The dry areas of the developing world occupy some 3 billion hectares, and are home to one-quarter of the global population. About 16% of the population lives in chronic poverty, particularly in marginalized rainfed areas. Characterized by water scarcity, the dry areas are also challenged by rapid population growth, frequent droughts, high climatic variability, land degradation and desertification, and widespread poverty. The conference will provide recommendations to policy makers and other stakeholders on steps to be taken to reduce the impacts of climate change on food security in dry areas, as well as a framework for supporting research and development to address the threats identified.

http://www.icarda.cgiar.org/Announcement/2009/IntlConfnc_FoodSecurity/FoodSecurityAndClimateChangeInDryAreas_2009.htm

Farm Foundation Forum

Date: February 2, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Farm Foundation organizes these public forums to engage all stakeholders in informed dialogue on food, agricultural and rural policies. Meeting participants examine current policies, explore and analyze alternative policy proposals, and give voice to new proposals. Speakers provide brief topic summaries, with the majority of time devoted to discussion. The Forums have been ongoing since February 2006.

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/webcontent/Farm-Foundation-Forums-363.aspx?z=na&a=363>

2009 Commitment to Development Ideas in Action Award

Date: February 5th, 2010

Location: Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.

Please join us in honoring Diego Hidalgo Schnur, the 2009 winner of the Commitment to Development Ideas in Action Award, sponsored jointly by the Center for Global Development (CGD) and *Foreign Policy* magazine. Hidalgo's career reflects his resolute dedication to helping the world's poorest people. He is the founder or key sponsor of numerous organizations committed to promoting development and democracy across the globe. The award, bestowed annually since 2003, honors an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to changing attitudes and policies towards the developing world.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/calendar/detail/1423701/>

2010 World Ag Expo

Date: February 9th-11th, 2010

Location: Tulare, California

With 2.6 million square feet of show grounds and 1,600 exhibitors, World Ag Expo is an industry leader in agriculture expositions. Attracting an annual average of 100,000 attendees, this three day expo transforms Tulare, California into the World's hot spot for agriculture technology and innovation.

<http://www.worldagexpo.com/General-Info/About-The-Show.htm>

[Register](#)

African Agriculture: Land Reform or Land Grab?

Date: Tuesday, February 16th, 2010

Location: London, England

After decades of neglect and declining support from both national governments and donors, African agriculture is attracting growing attention. But who will benefit from this increasing investment and political interest? Rules and institutions governing the distribution and security of land ownership will be one of the crucial factors determining whether this revival of interest in agriculture leads to broadly based long-term growth and poverty reduction - or whether the benefits accrue mainly to a new group of large-scale (and therefore less employment-generating) landowners, both domestic and foreign. Land reform is on the agenda in many African countries, but so is land grab.

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/1431/>

Agricultural Outlook Forum 2010

Date: February 18th-19th, 2010

Location: Arlington, Virginia

USADA's 2010 Outlook Forum will be held Feb. 18-19 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Va. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will keynote the forum titled "Sustainable Agriculture: The Key to Health & Prosperity." Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will open the annual forum on Feb. 18 at 8 a.m. A panel, which features Whole Foods Market Co-President Walter Robb, recently retired Sysco Corporation CEO Richard Schnieders, Bon Appétit Management Company CEO Fedele Bauccio, and Science and Technology Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of State Nina Fedoroff, is titled "Sustainability, Stakeholders and Customers: Achieving a Healthier 21st Century."

[Session and Speakers](#)

[Program at a Glance](#)

[Public Registration](#)

Food and Agriculture Policies for a Sustainable Future: Responding to Global Challenges and Opportunities

Date: February 25th-26th, 2010

Location: OECD Conference Centre, Paris, France

In the coming decades, the global food and agriculture system will have to provide sustainably for billions more people and meet greater demands on quality, affordability and availability. Farming will be competing with other sectors for land, water and investment, while climate change adds a new unknown to the equation. Ministers from OECD member countries and key emerging economies will meet in Paris on 25-26 February to identify action that best responds to the needs of a rapidly changing world.

http://www.oecd.org/document/53/0,3343,en_21571361_43893445_43909109_1_1_1_1,00.html

5th Annual University Hunger Summit

Date: February 26th-28th, 2010

Location: Auburn, Alabama

With the number of hungry people dramatically increasing worldwide, never has the challenge to address both short-term and long-term solutions to ending hunger been greater. In response, President Obama has pledged to end child hunger in America by 2015 and recently dedicated \$3.2 billion to agricultural development in an effort to assist in the fight against global hunger. You don't want to miss this opportunity to learn more about these efforts and to be actively involved in Universities Fighting World Hunger, a dynamic partnership with the UN World Food Programme. We recommend that a combination of students, faculty, and/or university administrators from each university attend the Summit. Other attendees will include NGO, government, and corporate representatives.

<http://www.universitiesfightingworldhunger.org/summit.php>

FamilyFarmed EXPO

Date: March 11th-13th, 2010

Location: UIC Forum, Chicago, Illinois

FamilyFarmed EXPO is a three day gathering of Chicago-area fans of locally grown and responsibly produced food and artisanal goods. Thursday and Friday feature business-to-business connections. Saturday features cooking demos, interactive seminars and a busy Kids Corner. There will also be over 120 exhibitors offering a wide selection of local food, gifts and lots of useful information that will help you eat healthy year-round, while supporting local, family-run businesses.

<http://www.familyfarmedexpo.com>

Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD)

Date: March 28th-31st, 2010

Location: Montpellier, France

The GCARD process will address the below questions: What are the development needs where AR can play its best role? How best do we turn research in development impacts at scale? How can more effective pathways be developed to create impact for the poor? What investments, institutions, policies and capacities are necessary?

<http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard>

18th Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference

Date: April 21st – 22nd, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

Hosted by Informa Economics Inc.

For more information, contact [Theresa Stephens](#)

2010 Borlaug Dialogue - "Take It to the Farmers": Reaching the World's Smallholders

Date: October 13th-15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Inspired by the last words of Nobel Laureate and World Food Prize Founder Dr. Norman Borlaug, the 2010 Borlaug Dialogue international symposium will gather the top minds and foremost leaders in global agriculture, food, and development this October in Des Moines – with a special focus on the world's small-scale farmers. As global leaders and institutions carry out work to increase agricultural production and ensure food security worldwide – on the heels of severe food shortages, economic crises, and other upheavals of the past several years – the small-holder farmer is poised to play a unique role in enhancing the food supply for families and communities around the globe. However, small-holder farmers also face particular challenges that must be overcome in order to meet international goals to produce enough food for a growing population in the face of limited resources.

<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2010.htm>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

ARS Genetic Analysis Helps Spot Sugarcane Rusts, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, January 29*

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists have analyzed rust fungi from more than 160 sugarcane samples from 25 countries to provide a valuable resource for plant breeders and pathologists who are searching for genetic resistance to the deadly orange and brown rusts.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2010/100129.htm>

World Economic Forum Told Smallholder Farms Key to Food Security in Poor Countries, *Voice of America, January 28*

The World Economic Forum is being held this week in Davos, Switzerland. This year's theme is "Improve the State of the World: Rethink, Redesign, Rebuild." Among the issues being discussed are global food security and poverty. For the first time, the U.N. rural poverty agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has been invited to attend. IFAD president Kanayo Nwanze told delegates that an opportunity exists to link smallholder farms to the private sector.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-world-econ-forum-ifad-28jan10-82939517.html>

See Also: Leadership Questions Shape Davos Talks, *Financial Times, January 28*

The problems of food security and energy security are also being widely aired.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b4bdd9a4-0c31-11df-8b81-00144feabdc0.html>

Food Crisis Threatens Millions in West Africa: Aid Official, *Agence France-Presse, January 28*

Millions in Niger and across West Africa face food shortages after erratic rains hit farming in countries in the Sahel region south of the Sahara desert, the European Commission's aid group.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hoUmUfd6WNspcB2xc0X2UINR-ing>

A Needier Era, *Economist*, January 28

The 2010s, it is sometimes said, will be an age of scarcity. The warning signs of change are said to be the food-price spike of 2007-08, the bid by China and others to grab access to oil, iron ore and farmland and the global recession. The main problems of scarcity are water and food shortages, demographic change and state failure. How will that change politics?

http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15404916

Farmers Resent Fertilizer Ban to Thwart Taliban Bombmaking, *Globe and Mail*, January 27

But a new law banning ammonium-nitrate fertilizers - which the Taliban use to build deadly roadside bombs - is stirring fury among farmers who say they need the chemical to nourish their crops. Opposition to the law is spreading, threatening to complicate the West's new counterinsurgency strategy in its most crucial battleground - the southern provinces, where the Taliban and coalition forces are locked in a vicious battle for loyalty in Afghanistan's agricultural heartland. Several farmers said they would rather risk jail by defying the ban than have their crops suffer with no fertilizer.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/farmers-resent-fertilizer-ban-to-thwart-taliban-bombmaking/article1445499/>

India's Poverty Curse, *Op-Ed*, Kunal Kumar Kundu, *Financial Times*, January 27

It is important to note that growth rate in agriculture actually declined post-reform, leading to a drastic reduction in the share of agriculture in GDP. While this need not be a problem, it assumes disastrous proportion if we consider the fact that there was hardly any adequate reduction in the dependence of the population on this sector. Currently, about 65 per cent of the population is still dependent on the agricultural sector.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e654efe2-0a7a-11df-ab4a-00144feabdc0,s01=1.html>

Pakistan Stays Committed to Farmland Deals, *Reuters*, January 27

Pakistan will press ahead with plans to lease or sell farmland to foreign investors despite United Nations concern over such deals, arguing the land would otherwise lie fallow, Pakistan's foreign minister said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE60Q0M620100127>

Over Half Niger's Population Faces Hunger - Report, *Reuters*, January 27

More than half of the population of Niger will go without food at some point this year, according to a leaked official survey contradicting public assurances by the government of the poor West African state. About 7.8 million people in the desert nation of 15 million will face food insecurity -- a term that covers stages from missing meals to malnutrition and famine -- according to a report in *Le Canard Enchaîné*, one of the country's newspapers.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSLDE60Q14F.CH.2400>

Security, Food Prices Top Prez Priority List, *Times of India*, January 26

Flagging off the looming terrorism threat and spiralling food prices as high priority issues, President Pratibha Patil in her address on the eve of Republic Day said the government was committed to maintaining high vigil. The current rise in prices of foodgrains and essential commodities has raised concerns at the highest level with the President stressing on the need to ensure food security.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Security-food-prices-top-Prez-priority-list/articleshow/5500023.cms>

EU Official Concedes Failure over World Hunger, *The Parliament*, January 25

The international community has "failed" in the fight against world hunger and malnutrition, according to a senior commission official. Stefano Manservigi, director general for development, said food insecurity represents a "growing threat for humanity." Writing in the latest issue of *Parliament Magazine*, Manservigi also revealed that the executive is undertaking a radical "rethink" of its development policy.

http://www.theparliament.com/no_cache/latestnews/news-article/newsarticle/eu-official-concedes-failure-over-world-hunger/

African Agriculture Suffers as Global Economy Falters, *Voice of America*, January 25

African agriculture has taken a hit from the worldwide economic crisis. Agriculture is one of the most important economic activities in Africa. Millions of people are direct beneficiaries of employment from farming or other agricultural activities. Over 200 million people are engaged in agricultural labor, according to UN estimates – over 50 percent of the total population. Aside from employment, agriculture supports the survival and well-being many African societies. It has been one of the most affected sectors in the current global crisis. World Bank figures show that global trade is expected to decrease by almost 10 percent in both the developed and developing world.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/African-Agriculture-Suffers-as-Global-Economy-Falters--82603602.html>

Donor Support to the Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), *Overseas Development Institute*, January 25

As discussions begin in Rome on donor support to the Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), it is time to move beyond debate on sound principles and address the root causes of failed policy coordination in agriculture. The Annual General Assembly of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GPD RD) seems a good opportunity to start this shift in thinking.

http://blogs.odi.org.uk/blogs/main/archive/2010/01/25/donor_agriculture_support_CAADP.aspx

U.S. \$2 Million Bid to Fight Cassava Disease, *All Africa*, January 23

Tanzania and Uganda are set to benefit from a US\$2.4 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help the two countries fight cassava diseases and improve breeding varieties. Cassava feeds millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa and some of its uses are not well tapped.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201001251365.html>

Sunflower DNA Map Could Produce Plants for Fuel, *Associated Press*, January 22

A \$10.5 million research project aimed at mapping the DNA sequence of sunflowers could one day yield a towering new variety for both food and fuel. Its goal is to locate genes responsible for agriculturally important traits such as seed oil content, flowering, drought and pest tolerance.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100122/ap_on_bi_ge/us_farm_scene_sunflower_dna

Zimbabwe Farm Invasions “Threaten Food Production,” *Financial Times*, January 22

In a statement, the CFU, which represents the country’s remaining white farmers accused the coalition government set up eleven months ago by Mr Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai, prime minister, of failing “to stop a few extremists from openly threatening, physically attacking and illegally evicting commercial farmers and their workers”.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/af7ed1c0-0770-11df-a9b7-00144feabdc0.html>

One Quarter of U.S. Grain Crops Fed to Cars - Not People, New Figures Show, *Guardian*, January 22

New analysis of 2009 US Department of Agriculture figures suggests biofuel revolution is impacting on world food supplies.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jan/22/quarter-us-grain-biofuels-food>

See Also: U.S. Feeds One Quarter of Its Grain to Cars While Hunger Is on the Rise, *Earth Policy Institute*, January 21

http://www.earth-policy.org/index.php?/press_room/C68/2010_datarelease6/

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Afghan construction fund to spend \$2.6 bln over 3 years, *Reuters*, January 29

Donors will provide around \$2.6 billion to finance development in Afghanistan through a World Bank-administered reconstruction fund over the next three financial years. In laying out its new strategy for the fund, the Afghan government focused on priorities in the agriculture, infrastructure and irrigation sectors. <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE60S20X20100129>

A Better Week for Haiti - And With These Reforms, a Far Better Future, *Charles McCormack, President, Save the Children, Huffington Post, January 29*

In the short-term it's critical that we continue reaching earthquake survivors with food, water, shelter, and medical attention.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/charles-maccormack/a-better-week-for-haiti_b_441986.html

Scrabbling for Survival, *Economist, January 28*

The inadequate distribution of food aid is also causing tension. Walls across the city feature English-language messages like "We need food and water." President René Prével complained that a few aid NGOs were putting more effort into creating photo-opportunities than co-ordinating their efforts with the government. The UN World Food Programme has so far been able to reach only 450,000 of the 2m people it hopes to feed. Some distributions have been cancelled due to rowdy crowds—Brazilian peacekeepers resorted to using tear-gas to control one mob this week. Relief workers fret about earthquake profiteering, with good reason: in one large tent city, sacks of grains marked "US rice" were on sale. Some locals feel insulted by those trying to help them. Marie Sam Bastien, a mother of five, complains that relief workers throw food at Haitians as if they were dogs.

http://www.economist.com/world/americas/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15393494

See Also: Haiti Aid Needs Better Coordination: President, *Reuters, January 27*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60O29A20100127>

See Also: Lack of Crowd Control Hampers Food and Water Delivery to Haitian Earthquake Victims, *Washington Post, January 29*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/28/AR2010012803618.html>

To Win the War, Empower the Afghan Economy, *Op-Ed, Zalmay Khalilzad, Counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Financial Times, January 28*

More Afghans are employed in agriculture than any other sector, so purchasing agricultural products locally is an effective and immediate path to increasing prosperity. It also reduces the attractiveness of the illegal opium market, which is currently one of the largest sources of income for farmers.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f2f1dd4a-0b7a-11df-8232-00144feabdc0.html>

A People's Plan of Action to Fight Extreme Poverty, *John W. McArthur, CEO Millennium Promise, Huffington Post, January 28*

Government leaders cannot solve global challenges on their own any more. In today's much flatter world, it is everyday people --and, critically, their personal networks--who have the potential to be the world's big new problem solvers. Haiti's post-earthquake emergency has vividly displayed the need for coordinated best efforts from non-profits, companies, individuals, online communities, governments and the UN system. The same mindset of partnership, urgency, and "all hands on deck" is also required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the world's integrated targets for tackling extreme poverty by 2015.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-w-mcarthur/a-peoples-plan-of-action_b_440634.html

Oxfam Initiates "Cash for Work" Program in Haiti, *Oxfam International, January 26*

Oxfam has started to employ people affected by Haiti's earthquake to clean up their makeshift camps and improve their living conditions. This "cash-for-work" effort will expand this week across the nine sites serving 80,000 people where Oxfam has recently installed clean water and latrines. Oxfam has tested "cash for work" in crises around the world and found it more effective than food distribution as long as sufficient food is available on the market. Oxfam's assessment of market conditions in Port-au-Prince shows there is sufficient food, but people do not have the money to purchase it.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/press/pressreleases/oxfam-initiates-201ccash-for-work201d-program-in-haiti>

Haiti: Obama's Katrina, *Op-Ed, Soumitra R. Eachempati, Dean Lorich and David Helfet, Wall Street Journal, January 26*

All these problems stemmed from ours being an isolated operation, a feature that may work in a humanitarian medical mission but not in a disaster situation. Later, as we were leaving Haiti, we were appalled to see warehouse-size quantities of unused medicines, food and other supplies at the airport, surrounded by hundreds of U.S. and international soldiers standing around aimlessly.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748703808904575025091656446622.html>

Haiti: A War Against Chaos, *Princess Haya Al Hussein, UN Messenger of Peace and former Goodwill Ambassador for the World Food Programme, Huffington Post, January 26*

It is easy to criticize the pace of relief, and sadly some may have done so just for the media attention. During a brief visit to oversee the delivery of nearly 100 tons of food, medical supplies, tents and other aid last week, I saw some of the chaos that critics have cited. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) began distributing high-energy biscuits to hungry Haitians within the first 24 hours after the earthquake and has not let up.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/princess-haya-bint-al-hussein/haiti-a-war-against-chaos_b_437688.html

World Bank President Arrives in Sierra Leone, *Agence France-Presse, January 26*

World Bank President Robert Zoellick arrived in Sierra Leone for the start of an eight-day, three-nation tour of Africa which will also take him to the Ivory Coast and Ethiopia. The World Bank chief will visit projects in energy, agriculture and fisheries which have benefited and will benefit from the bank's funding.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i3v0qyQKln8NxV8jViXgCBXwntBA>

Rebuilding Haiti from Davos, *Kanayo F Nwanze, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Project Syndicate, January 26*

Agriculture plays a vital role in Haiti's economy, yet the country does not produce enough food to feed its people. Some 60% of the food Haitians need, and as much as 80% of the rice they eat, is imported. Sustainable agricultural development is essential to improving the country's prospects for long-term economic and food security.

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/nwanze1/English>

See Also: 'Agriculture Makes Good Business Sense': IFAD President Urges Davos Leaders to Invest in Developing Countries, *International Fund for Agricultural Development, January 26*

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2010/2.htm> (See also to above)

Relief Efforts Shift to Rebuilding Haiti's Agriculture, *Voice of America, January 25*

Two weeks after Haiti's earthquake, the international community is beginning to focus on long-term aid for the devastated nation. International donors are meeting in Montreal. A United Nations agency is calling on international donors to focus on rebuilding Haiti's agriculture.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/disaster/Relief-Efforts--Rebuilding-Haitis-Agriculture--82598607.html>

See Also: Agreement on Effort to Help Haiti Rebuild, *New York Times, January 26*

Concerned about corruption and wobbly Haitian leadership, international donors agreed during a meeting in Montreal on a 10-year rebuilding effort for earthquake-damaged Haiti, one that would create an even better capital city and that the government said would cost \$3 billion. Haiti's President, René Préval, who has yet to formally address the country since the earthquake, also issued a written plea for immediate aid, asking for 200,000 sturdy, family-size tents and 1.5 million food rations.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/26/world/americas/26haiti.html>

Fighting Starvation, Haitians Share Portions, *New York Times, January 25*

The communal rationing, along with signs all over the city that say "S O S" and "we need food," suggests that the food crisis here is growing. In a country where malnutrition was common even before the earthquake, the United Nations now estimates that two million Haitians need immediate food assistance. And despite frantic efforts by aid groups, distribution has been limited.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/26/world/americas/26hunger.html>

See Also: Haiti Seeks Food and Shelter So Displaced Residents Can Survive the Coming Weeks, *Washington Post, January 25*
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/25/AR2010012502224.html>

Statement at the Montreal Ministerial Conference, *Helen Clark, Administrator of United Nations Development Programme, Montreal, Canada, January 25*

"Long before this disaster, Haiti was already enduring serious food security problems, with soaring food prices and food riots. Now thousands are fleeing Port-au-Prince to join relatives in impoverished rural areas where 60 per cent of the population already lived. The UN system will use its capacities for early recovery to couple its food aid programmes with immediate support to boost food production, starting with inputs for the next planting season in March, while simultaneously expanding food security programmes."

<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2010/january/helen-clark-statement-at-the-montreal-ministerial-conference.en>

U.S. Leads Way in Aid Pledges with Tally Likely to Skyrocket, *Wall Street Journal, January 22*

The Obama administration has already spent more than \$170 million in disaster relief for Haiti, significantly more than the \$100 million the White House pledged in the days following the earthquake, and is expected to spend millions more in the coming weeks, according to U.S. officials. Of the total already committed by the U.S., most has come from the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, which has spent \$140 million, including \$48 million in food aid.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704423204575017420889974094.html>

The Nation: Haiti's Recovery, a Repeated Tragedy, *National Public Radio, January 18*

Haiti's vulnerability to natural disasters, its food shortages, poverty, deforestation and lack of infrastructure, are not accidental. As a 2008 Jubilee USA report notes, although the country had once been a net exporter of rice, "by 2005, three out of every four plates of rice eaten in Haiti came from the US." During this period, USAID invested heavily in Haiti, but this "charity" came not in the form of grants to develop Haiti's agricultural infrastructure, but in direct food aid, furthering Haiti's dependence on foreign assistance while also funneling money back to US agribusiness.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122693853>

See Also: Haiti Before and After the Earthquake, *National Public Radio, January 18*

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Before the quake, the country had a population just over nine million, of those, approximately seven million lived on two dollars a day or less. The labor force is largely based on agriculture, mostly small-scale subsistence farmers.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122702659>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Egypt's Fertile Nile Delta Falls Prey to Climate Change, *Agence France-Presse, January 28*

The Nile Delta, Egypt's bread basket since antiquity, is being turned into a salty wasteland by rising seawaters, forcing some farmers off their lands and others to import sand in a desperate bid to turn back the tide.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hp0t3scxkaI20NEIQ8INQu3-A9aA>

Militants Try to Cash in on Pakistani Farmers' Woes, *The National, January 27*

A deteriorating supply of water to farms in the southern districts of Pakistan's central Punjab province is causing concern among farmers and is being seized upon by militant groups looking to capitalise on discontent, locals say.

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100128/FOREIGN/701279829/1002>

Water Woes Could Undermine Yemen's Drive against Qaeda, *Daily Times, January 26*

Impoverished Yemen is reeling under the threat of Al Qaeda, northern rebels and southern secessionists, but a lack of water is putting its ancient capital at even greater risk, experts say. Within a decade — or even less

— Sanaa could become the first waterless capital in the world, they warn, adding the outlook is also bleak for the rest of this parched country where wells in some regions are already dry.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\01\26\story_26-1-2010_pg4_9

Stop Eating Meat and Save the Planet, *New York Times*, January 25

Links between climate change and food policy are an important element in the debate over what to do about the rising levels of greenhouse gases.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/25/business/energy-environment/25iht-green25.html>

China, India, Brazil Commit to Meet Copenhagen Accord Deadline, *Bloomberg*, January 25

China, Brazil, South Africa and India will disclose the voluntary steps the countries will take to help reduce global warming by the Jan. 31 deadline set during negotiations in Copenhagen, India's environment minister, Jairam Ramesh, said after talks between the four nations in New Delhi.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a9.zG1KFcgA>

See Also: China to Rich Nations: Hand Out Climate Money Now, *Washington Post*, January 24
Brazil, China, India and South Africa called for developed countries to quickly begin handing over the \$10 billion pledged in Copenhagen to poor countries to help them deal with the effects of climate change.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/24/AR2010012401355_pf.html)

[dyn/content/article/2010/01/24/AR2010012401355_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/24/AR2010012401355_pf.html)

U.N. Climate Panel Chief: Error Shouldn't Derail Global Warming Efforts in India, *Washington Post*, January 23

For many Indians, the most powerful and urgent reason to battle global warming arose from a report warning that the Himalayan glaciers could melt away by 2035. With its rapid industrialization and population of more than 1 billion, India is the world's fifth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases. The country has long, populous coastlines, and it is in a region that is among the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, battling lower farm production, droughts and floods.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/23/AR2010012302399.html>

WOMEN

With few resources, Haiti's women and children at a disadvantage, *Washington Post*, January 28

Workers in the battered town of Leogane carefully planned the distribution of hygiene kits by first sending in an assessment team and coordinating with local leaders to ensure that the neediest women would be helped, officials said. The goal is to prevent the aid from ending up in the hands of people who try to sell it or force women to trade sexual favors for food and supplies.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/27/AR2010012702266.html>

As Nations Meet, Clinton Urges Yemen to Prove Itself Worthy of Aid, *New York Times*, January 28

Senior officials from the United States and 19 other countries gathered here in London to declare themselves friends of Yemen. But Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton administered a dose of tough love, saying Yemen, an impoverished Arab nation, must earn increased foreign aid by rooting out corruption, settling internal strife and protecting the rights of girls and young women.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/28/world/asia/28diplo.html>

With Plight of Mothers, Harper Seeks New G8 Course, *Globe and Mail*, January 27

Stephen Harper is highlighting the healthcare plight of mothers and infants in the developing world as a means of transforming the role of the G8 club of wealthy countries.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/with-plight-of-mothers-harper-seeks-new-g8-course/article1445531/>

Women Suffer from Gandhi's Legacy, *Guardian*, January 27

India today, according to the World Economic Forum, finds itself towards the very bottom of the gender equality index. Indian social campaigners battle heroically against such patriarchy. They battle dowry deaths. They battle the honour killings of teenage lovers. They battle Aids. They battle female foeticide and the abandonment of new-born girls.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jan/27/mohandas-gandhi-women-india>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Brussels to Lift Sugar Exports amid Shortfall, *Financial Times*, January 27

The European Commission plans to allow European farmers to export an additional 500,000 tonnes of sugar before the end of July to ease a worldwide supply shortage that has driven prices to their highest levels for almost 30 years. "The current situation on the world market is exceptional," said Mariann Fischer Boel, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development: "Sugar prices have risen to unprecedented levels, to the detriment of consumers in poorer countries."

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6d0a5342-0b7f-11df-8232-00144feabdc0.html>

World Food Stocks Better, Prices to Rise: UN Food Chief, *Reuters*, January 27

World food stocks have recovered from a crisis in 2008 but a repeat of the soaring prices which sparked riots in many developing nations was a real danger, the head of the U.N.'s food agency said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60Q2FG20100127>

Invest in High Speed Internet, Says Scholar to African Leaders, *Voice of America*, January 26

Calestous Juma of Harvard University says information and communication technologies are the foundations for Africa to meet its developmental needs. "I would argue that Africa's inability to solve basic like provide low cost medical care, expand agricultural production is linked to in fact poor access to information. Information will make it easier for Africa to grow better food because the availability of information will enable farmers to determine precisely when to plant their crops," he said.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/butty-africa-information-and-technology-27jan10-82757297.html>

India's Road to Progress, *Op-Ed*, Kamal Nath, Indian Minister of Road Transport and Highways, *Wall Street Journal*, January 26

Infrastructure must be India's focus today, for its overhaul will drive our economic growth in this new decade. One of the aims of the government is to have inclusive growth, and there is nothing more inclusive than roads. They touch all sections of society and the economy—impacting trade, industry, and agriculture. They traverse all parts of the country, and go through even the most rural areas. Roads are all about connecting people.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703808904575026043518922322.html>

See Also: New Highway Stirs Changes and Aspirations in Indian Villages, *Washington Post*, January 27

In many ways, the new road is a shining emblem of India's efforts to create economic momentum by upgrading its infrastructure. In an Eisenhower-like mission, the road transport and highway minister, Kamal Nath, recently announced that he wants to add 12 miles of highway across India every day beginning in April. The biggest hole in the country's economic growth, he said, is a lack of good highways that can bring farms and factories closer. Farmers from 150 villages will soon be able to take their vegetables directly to a new tomato trading center, cutting out expensive middlemen.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/27/AR2010012704759.html>

When Nations Turn Into Hoarders, *Gideon Rachman*, *Financial Times*, January 25

This new global paranoia about food and energy security is driven by four factors: economics, demography, the environment and geopolitics. Just before the global financial crisis, prices of food and oil were surging, leading some big food producers to restrict exports. Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state, claimed recently that there had been food riots in more than 60 countries over the last two years. Today's food and energy scares are sharpened when governments examine demographic and climate trends. The United Nations has

estimated that the world's population could exceed 9bn by 2050, compared with about 6.6bn now. This, it says, could necessitate an increase in food production of about 70 per cent from current levels.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/60de67dc-09f1-11df-8b23-00144feabdc0.html>

Greece Farmers Demand Subsidies at Athens Protest, *BBC, January 25*

Hundreds of Greek farmers have marched through the capital Athens demanding more subsidies and higher prices for their goods.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8479589.stm>

Mr. Obama, Global Trade Needs You Now, *Op-Ed, Jean-Daniel Gerber, Switzerland's State Secretary of Economic Affairs, Wall Street Journal, January 24*

If the U.S. wants to remain the world's most important economic power, it must put trade back at the top of its agenda.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703699204575017671265073654.html>

Angry Squeals over Pork-Rind Imports, *Wall Street Journal, January 23*

Now a new federal rule that will loosen import regulations for pork rinds is roiling the industry. The Department of Agriculture, responding to an Ohio company's request, has opened the door to imports of the pig skins used for pork rinds from Brazil and other nations. That has stirred an uproar among rivals and many state agriculture officials, who warn that importing pork rinds from areas of the world afflicted with livestock diseases is a threat to food safety.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703822404575019291744323572.html>

Farm Talks Start 2010 Quietly, But More Substance Lies Ahead, *World Trade Organization, January 21*

The first agriculture negotiations sessions of the year on 21 and 22 January 2010 saw further discussions of technical work, as delegates prepared to take up more substantive issues 10 days later.

http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news10_e/agng_21jan10_e.htm

Russian Seeks New Chicken Supplies as U.S. Talks End, *Reuters, January 21*

Russian chicken importers have begun seeking alternative suppliers, including Thailand, as talks with U.S. experts ground to a halt without a commitment to reopen Washington's biggest export market. Russia, which spent \$800 million on U.S. poultry in 2008, has banned imports from its largest supplier on concerns related to the use of chlorine in treating the meat -- a practice routinely used in the United States to kill bacteria that can cause food poisoning.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60K50K20100121>

AGRIBUSINESS

DuPont Chair and CEO: Agriculture is Key to Global Economic Growth, Sustainability and Security,

EarthTimes, January 29

Agriculture is a game-changer that addresses multiple global issues – hunger, poverty, environmental degradation, poor nutrition and subsequent effects such as civil unrest, DuPont Chair and CEO Ellen Kullman told attendees of the 40th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting.

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/dupont-chair-and-ceo-agriculture.1143006.shtml>

DSM Extends Strategic Partnership with World Food Programme, *CNN, January 28*

Royal DSM N.V., the global Life Sciences and Materials Sciences company, announced a three year extension of its global partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), the world's largest humanitarian organisation, fighting hunger worldwide. The aim of the partnership is to fight the debilitating effects of hunger in the developing world.

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/marketwire/0581439.htm>

Britain's Strategic Chocolate Dilemma, *Op-Ed, Martin Wolf, Financial Times, January 28*

Briefly, during the takeover bid for Cadbury by Kraft, I thought the UK might proclaim a “strategic chocolate” doctrine. Fortunately, that did not happen. Less fortunately, if history is any guide, the takeover of Cadbury is quite likely to be a flop. If so, the winners will be the shareholders of Cadbury, the advisers for both sides and those who arranged the loans. The right question, then, is not about chocolate. It is about the market in corporate control itself.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1ed01c40-0c40-11df-8b81-00144feabdc0.html>

Sweet and Low Down, *Economist*, January 28

Artificial sweeteners, now a \$1.1 billion business in the country, have been part of Americans’ diet for decades.

http://www.economist.com/businessfinance/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15393526

Caterpillar Looks to China for Growth, *Financial Times*, January 27

Caterpillar, the world’s biggest maker of earth-moving equipment and heavy-duty engines, said it would look mainly to China and other emerging economies for growth next year, saying it expected North America, Europe and Japan to remain weak.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/71373e9c-0b4a-11df-9109-00144feabdc0.html>

Lonrho Is a Speculative Play on African Development, *Telegraph*, January 27

Lonrho, the pan-African based conglomerate, is one easy way to invest in African development. Frontiers are, by their nature, dangerous places so this investment must be regarded as speculative. The company operates in five key sectors that should benefit from growth in African economies – transportation, infrastructure, agriculture, support services and hotels.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/markets/questor/7079631/Questor-share-tips.html>

Big Food, *Editorial*, *New York Times*, January 25

Though merger activity fell during the financial crisis, it is expected to rebound sharply. There is already another behemoth lumbering toward consumers: Big Food. The latest news is Kraft’s planned purchase of Britain’s Cadbury to create a mac-and-cheese-to-candy-bar megalith with combined worldwide sales of nearly \$55 billion.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/25/opinion/25mon4.html>

U.S. Sues to Rescind Deal by Dean Foods, *Wall Street Journal*, January 23

The Justice Department filed an antitrust lawsuit seeking to undo Dean Foods Co.’s 2009 acquisition of Foremost Farms USA’s consumer-products division. Ms. Varney, who was confirmed as antitrust chief last April, had pledged to take a close look at competition issues in the agriculture industry.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703822404575019491814396282.html>

Why Big Ag Won’t Feed the World, *The Atlantic*, January 20

Both Deutsche Bank and Monsanto made it clear that they are basing their business strategy on answering a simple question: How will we feed the world in 2050, when the population reaches over 9 billion and global warming puts massive strains on our resources? The answer for Deutsche Bank: increase yields by investing in industrial agriculture in the developing world, with an emphasis on technology; put lots of capital into rural land to shift subsistence and local market agricultures to commodity export agriculture. The answer for Monsanto: increase yields by decreasing resource dependence using genetically modified crops.

<http://food.theatlantic.com/sustainability/why-big-ag-wont-feed-the-world-1.php>

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