

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



January 29<sup>th</sup> –February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** *“One of our shared values is making sure we feed our people. But, as we heard this morning food prices are on the rise again. What is clear to us at the World Bank is that food price volatility is here to stay...The lesson here is that increased agricultural production and productivity and the ability to move food to where it is needed can make African countries more resilient to global food price spikes.”*– Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Bank Managing Director, Remarks to the African Summit, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

**For more information:**

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
- Background information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, can be found on the Initiative’s website: [www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
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**KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS**

**FAO Food Price Index, FAO, February 2011**

The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) rose for the seventh consecutive month, averaging 231 points in January 2011, up 3.4 percent from December 2010 and the highest (in both real and nominal terms) since the index has been backtracked in 1990.

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/FoodPricesIndex/en/>

**SEE ALSO: Food Prices at Twenty Year High, BBC, February 3**

Up for the seventh month in a row, the FAO believes that these high prices are likely to persist and will not be helped by recent anti-government protests in both Algeria and Tunisia, political unrest that has now spread to Egypt. On the line to Rome, BBC Focus on Africa’s Peter Nodoro asked Abdol Reza Abbassian, a senior economist with the Food and Agriculture Organisation, why we are seeing food prices increase in this way.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/2011/02/110203\\_food\\_prices.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/2011/02/110203_food_prices.shtml)

**SEE ALSO: Food Prices Worldwide Hit Record Levels, Fueled by Uncertainty, U.N. Says**, *New York Times*, February 3

Global food prices are moving ever higher, hitting record levels last month as a jittery market reacted to unpredictable weather and tight supplies, according to a United Nations report released Thursday. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/04/world/04food.html?adxnml=1&ref=asia&adxnmlx=1296835291-YSgbk2rECUHK5Sa3gWn0QQ>

**SEE ALSO: Food Prices Rise to Fresh Record High**, *Financial Times*, February 2

Commodities analysts and UN officials fear further price increases as February has started with strong gains in wheat and sugar markets due to bad weather.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/60af28b6-2f00-11e0-88ec-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/201123/nbe/USMorningHeadlines/product#axzz1CrGYaclf>

**SEE ALSO: Hunger for Change**, *Huffington Post*, February 2

Sharply rising food prices have often meant trouble for governments, especially when people expect better and the cost of food is a big fraction of average household consumption.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/craig-k-comstock/hunger-for-change\\_b\\_816624.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/craig-k-comstock/hunger-for-change_b_816624.html)

**Let's Restart the Green Revolution**, *Wall Street Journal*, February 2

Food prices are up, and output and productivity is falling behind. Not enough attention is being placed on regulation-induced stagnation. The U.N.'s food price index has hit an all-time high. Food price hikes are widely understood to be a trigger of Egyptian upheavals in a country that imports a large share of its grain. Some blame Ben Bernanke. Some blame the Chinese for gobbling up too much of the world's resources. Not enough attention is focused on the forces of stagnation loose in our world. Agricultural output has been falling behind population growth for almost two decades, and so has productivity.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703445904576118020915591658.html>

**The Psychology of Food Riots**, *Foreign Affairs*, January 30

The connection among rising prices, hunger, and violent civic unrest seems intuitively logical. But there was more to Tunisia's food protests than the logic of the pocketbook. The psychological element -- a sense of injustice that arises between seeing food prices rise and pouring a Molotov cocktail -- is more important.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67338/evan-fraser-and-andrew-rimas/the-psychology-of-food-riots>

**House Republicans Begin the Budget Cutting Process, Proposing a \$74 Billion Cut**, *Agri-Pulse*, February 4

House Budget Committee Chair Paul Ryan, R-Wisc., announced Thursday that "Washington's spending spree is over." Laying out a plan to cut the federal budget for the current fiscal year by \$74 billion compared with the administration's budget request, Ryan said that "As House Republicans pledged and voted to affirm on the House floor last week, the spending limits will restore sanity to a broken budget process and return spending for domestic government agencies to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels." Ryan's proposal for an overall 9% cut in non-defense, discretionary spending would include a 14% cut for farm program spending.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/House\\_GOP\\_Sets\\_Spending\\_Limits\\_20110204H.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/House_GOP_Sets_Spending_Limits_20110204H.asp)

**State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)**, *FAO*, January 2011

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) is the flagship publication of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. This premier advocacy document is published every two years to provide policy-makers, civil society and those whose livelihoods depend on the sector a comprehensive, objective and global view of capture fisheries and aquaculture, including associated policy issues. Each edition of SOFIA also includes an updated version of the FAO World Fisheries and Aquaculture Atlas CD-ROM.

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/sofia/en>

**SEE ALSO: Seafood Sustainability Recipe Needed as Increased Fish Demand Collides with Failing Fisheries**, *World Wildlife Fund*, January 31

The conflict between increasing demand for fish and failing fisheries has enormous implications for world food security and the state of our oceans, lakes and rivers, WWF said today.

[http://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_news/?199226/Seafood-sustainability-recipe-needed-as-increased-fish-demand-collides-with-failing-fisheries](http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?199226/Seafood-sustainability-recipe-needed-as-increased-fish-demand-collides-with-failing-fisheries)

**SEE ALSO: Experts Debate Limits of Fish Farming**, *New York Times*, January 31  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/01/science/earth/01fish.html?ref=world>

**Girls in Rural Economies Web Platform Launched**, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, January 2011  
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs announces the recent launch of the Girls in Rural Economies project's community web platform. This platform is a part of the aforementioned initiative that is chaired by Catherine Bertini, former executive director of the UN World Food Programme (1992-2002), and spearheaded by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs with generous support from the Nike, Bill & Melinda Gates, and United Nations Foundations. The site is intended as an information clearinghouse - a space where colleagues who work to address rural development and the role of adolescent girls within rural economic transformation can share information and resources and participate in on-line discussions. To facilitate this online community, we encourage colleagues to join the platform by accessing the site via the link:  
<http://www.changemakers.com/node/95961>. To join, one must create a brief profile, including a login and password.

**Writing on the Wall**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog*, February 4  
The writing on the wall, foretelling the turmoil that has roiled North Africa and the Middle East in recent weeks, appeared during the food crisis of 2008. It was then that staple food shortages and soaring prices sent protesters into the streets in dozens of countries in the developing world.  
<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/02/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-writing-on-the-wall.html>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**House Appropriation Subcommittee Allocations 2011**, *U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations*, February 2011  
House Budget Committee Chairman Rogers outlined spending cuts for each Appropriations Subcommittee for fiscal year 2011. Non-Defense Domestic and International Spending was cut by 9%; Agricultural and Rural Development was cut by 14%.  
<http://appropriations.house.gov/files/2311SubcommitteeAllocationsforFY11ContinuingResolution302bs.doc>

**Fed Denies Policy is Causing Food Riots**, *Financial Times*, February 3  
Asset purchases by the US Federal Reserve do not cause rising food prices in countries such as Egypt, the central bank's chairman Ben Bernanke said on Thursday. "I think it's entirely unfair to attribute excess demand pressures in emerging markets to US monetary policy, because emerging markets have all the tools they need to address excess demand in those countries," he said.  
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5c4aeaea-2fbd-11e0-91f8-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/201124/nbe/WorldNews/product#axzz1D0UQAqRK>

**Inaugural Global Chiefs of Mission Conference**, *Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator, U.S. Department of State*, February 2  
In order to live up to the obligations that we believe exist in elevating development, the QDDR does in fact lay out essentially a blueprint for reforming the way we work. And the basic premise is that we have to move away from some practices that have been, in my mind, less effective at achieving the real development results that are both measurable, real outcomes we all seek and that create the conditions of success so our assistance over the long run is no longer needed. And that starts with delivering value by putting in place more innovative and more focused strategies in each of our proposed areas of excellence - areas like food security, where we know smart, focused investments in agriculture coupled with private sector investments and infrastructure and good policies that will enable agricultural development, can really create broad-based, inclusive growth and reduce the number of people who suffer from hunger, extreme poverty, and malnutrition in so many parts of the world. And we know that that's a cheaper long-term effort than dealing with the failed states, food riots, and famines that exist when we fail in that endeavor.  
<http://www.state.gov/s/c/remarks/155892.htm>

**Six Vie to Become Next Chief of UN Food Agency**, *Associated Press, February 1*

Six candidates are vying to become the new chief of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, including a former EU commissioner, a former Iraqi minister and Spain's former foreign minister.

The new director-general, to be elected late June, will replace Jacques Diouf of Senegal, who has held the position since 1994.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g5a1FGqULe2Tv4BYxMHAlj7e8H7Q?docId=19ae2588930b4ce496006dfc64d0217c>

**Senator Roberts Says the Ag Posse is Back and Ready to Ride**, *Agri-Pulse, February 1*

It is finally official. After weeks of speculation, U.S. Senator Pat Roberts was voted by fellow Republicans to be Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Committee today. The Kansas Republican goes into the history books as the first Member of Congress to serve as both chairman and ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Roberts\\_Named\\_Ag\\_Ranking\\_Member\\_20110201SW.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Roberts_Named_Ag_Ranking_Member_20110201SW.asp)

**Obama's Foreign Aid Reform**, *Devex, January 31*

A proposed five-year spending freeze announced by U.S. President Barack Obama in his Jan. 25 State of the Union address will likely exclude the country's foreign affairs budget, according to a U.S. official. The proposed freeze on nonsecurity, discretionary spending "is the guidance for all departments, and so our budgets going forward will reflect that we clearly are very keen to preserve our foreign affairs funding in order to be best able to advance U.S. interests," U.S. National Security Council spokesman Mike Hammer said in a Jan. 27 press briefing.

<http://www.devex.com/en/blogs/development-assistance-under-obama/obama-s-spending-freeze-to-exempt-foreign-affairs-budget?g=1>

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**UPCOMING EVENTS****The Famous Purdue Fish Fry**

*Date:* February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Indianapolis

Purdue Agriculture is pleased to host yet another nationally prominent speaker to keynote the Ag Fish Fry. Dan Glickman has a long record of public service to agriculture stakeholders, including 18 years in the U.S. House of Representatives during which time he served on the House Agriculture Committee. He was appointed Secretary of Agriculture in 1995 and served until 2001. Mr. Glickman is now involved in global agricultural concerns, serving as the Vice Chair of the World Food Programme, and he serves as the co-chair of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. His board memberships include the Chicago Mercantile Exchange; the National 4-H Council; Food Research and Action Center, a domestic anti-hunger organization; and the Center for U.S. Global Engagement.

<http://www.ag.purdue.edu/agalumni/Pages/2011FishFry.aspx>

**The Politics of Hunger – David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World**

*Date:* February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Chicago, IL

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs welcomes David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World in conversation with Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Deadly food riots in Mozambique this past fall have illustrated that the world is perilously close to a new global food crisis. Natural disasters and reduced exports of staples, such as wheat, have pushed prices of commodities from soybeans to sugar up significantly in the past six months. Food prices are forecast to hit all time highs in 2011, generating concerns about global food supply and reserves. With the United Nations reporting that over 925 million people suffer from hunger globally, the G-20 has taken steps to fight food insecurity by pledging \$22 billion toward agricultural development, but is this move enough to prevent a new food crisis? Join us for a conversation with David Beckmann and Roger Thurow as they discuss the present politics of hunger in the context of a looming global food crisis.

[http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/files/Event/FY11\\_Events/02\\_February\\_2011/The\\_Politics\\_of\\_Hunger.aspx](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/files/Event/FY11_Events/02_February_2011/The_Politics_of_Hunger.aspx)  
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### **Feeding the Future: African Hunger, American Business and Global Stability**

*Date:* February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Rick Leach, President and CEO, World Food Program USA will give an overview of “Key Budget and Policy Issues Critical for Alleviating Global Hunger & Empowering the Poor.” Gayle Smith, Senior Director, National Security Council will speak about “Advancing Economic Opportunity and National Security: How the U.S. is leading global efforts to promote food security and why this leadership is Good for the World’s Hungry and Global Stability.”

[https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCHPA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt\\_key=03bd7d8-a50c-4483-a000-9e9c7a5a7715&msm=b0411472-724c-4301-89aa-0707ce62532b&cst=b73f3893-d81b-4aef-976a-307b8d68e17a&ent=49e8447d-9780-4f5d-bff0-26d8a3c5755c](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCHPA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=03bd7d8-a50c-4483-a000-9e9c7a5a7715&msm=b0411472-724c-4301-89aa-0707ce62532b&cst=b73f3893-d81b-4aef-976a-307b8d68e17a&ent=49e8447d-9780-4f5d-bff0-26d8a3c5755c)

### **Global Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*Date:* February 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International studies presents this professional skills course to provide analysts and practitioners involved in agriculture and food issues or policies an overview of the mix of considerations that will impact the agricultural sector in the future. It is specifically offered as an interdisciplinary class with a non-theoretical bias. For further details and to reserve a place, please contact [mleinz@jhu.edu](mailto:mleinz@jhu.edu)

### **The Corporate Council on Africa Agribusiness Working Group Rollout Event**

*Date:* February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The Agribusiness Working Group seeks to be a private sector voice to foster an enabling environment for investment in Africa’s agricultural value-chains through better coordination of government development policies and private sector investment. Areas of focus will include: trade and investment; financing; agricultural technology, natural resource management & value chain enhancement; technical assistance; capacity building and stakeholder alignment.

<http://www.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=6d4d884c-e8ba-453e-aa93-36e83585e5a3>

### **Launch of the UK Global Food and Farming Futures Foresight Project Report**

*Date:* February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* London

The report will look out to 2050 and take a global view of the food system, considering issues of demand, production and supply as well as broader environmental issues. Because of the report’s global perspective, the work will draw heavily on the skills and perspectives of leading experts and stakeholders from around the world. As with all Foresight reports, the Foresight Global Food and Farming Futures report will seek to apply leading scientific and other evidence and futures analysis to identify critical issues and their consequences, and to identify and analyse possible policies and interventions for addressing those challenges.

Please RSVP to James Birch on [birchj@parliament.uk](mailto:birchj@parliament.uk) <<mailto:birchj@parliament.uk>>

### **Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health**

*Date:* February 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people’s nutrition and health, and people’s nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people’s nutrition and health. This conference will inform, influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world’s poor people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>

### **USDA's 2011 Agricultural Outlook Forum: Today's Strategies & Tomorrow's Opportunities**

*Date:* February 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Arlington, VA

Secretary Tom Vilsack will deliver the Forum's keynote address followed by a distinguished speaker. Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will deliver the Forum's welcome. Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will discuss the Domestic and Foreign Agricultural Economic Outlooks. Plenary and session speakers will be announced in the near future. Twenty-five breakout sessions will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to risk management, foreign trade and domestic markets, rural communities, conservation and the environment, renewable energy, broadband, nutrition and food safety, dietary guidelines, land tenure issues, and sustainability. The Forum also will feature traditional commodity and supply and demand outlook sessions.  
<http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>

### **Getting Down to Business: Building Partnerships to Expand African Agricultural Development**

*Date:* March 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa is pleased to announce the third annual US-Africa Forum.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/getting-down-business-building-partnerships-expand-african-agricultural-development>

### **7 Billion to Feed: Can We Do It?**

*Date:* March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Women Thrive Worldwide presents their Third Annual International Women's Day Breakfast.

For more information, contact [aenglish@womenthrive.org](mailto:aenglish@womenthrive.org)

### **CARE's 2011 Conference & International Women's Day Celebration**

*Date:* March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The CARE Conference & International Women's Day Celebration will unite hundreds of CARE supporters — individuals, partner organizations, major donors and corporate partners. Together, we'll come together as part of the movement that is bringing hope to millions of poor women, families and communities around the world. At CARE's conference, participants will learn why CARE places women and girls at the heart of our efforts to fight poverty. When equipped with the proper resources, women rise to overcome the great challenges they face. Every day women are leading the way for lasting change for all.

<http://www.careconference.org/>

### **COMESA Investment Forum 2011**

*Date:* March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The conference will provide an interactive platform to find out first-hand about the opportunities in the region, where investors and business leaders are putting their money, and how they are going about generating high long-term returns. The agenda will focus on 5 key sectors: Trade, Finance, Logistics, Agriculture/Agribusiness and Infrastructure.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/comesa-investment-forum-2011>

### **Agriculture 2.0**

*Date:* April 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* San Francisco

This event will be the 5th installment in the conference series and for the first time we are adding several tracks to a multi-day format. This expansion will facilitate the creation of a commercial marketplace for the industry—a first of its kind, one-stop shop not only for venture capitalists and early stage companies, but also for senior decision makers in agribusiness and farmland funds, commodities experts, growth stage and institutional investors, key industry insiders, and policy makers. They all come together at Agriculture 2.0 with one intent – to catalyze and capitalize on this rapidly evolving industry.

[https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm\\_source=SilverpopMailing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520\(1\)&utm\\_content=&step=start](https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520(1)&utm_content=&step=start)

### **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Ag Policy Conference**

*Date:* April 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

<http://www.informaecon.com/WashMarkCalendar2011.pdf>

### **CropLife America National Policy Conference: Lost in Translation? Deciphering the Discourse on Modern Agriculture**

*Date:* May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The CropLife America National Policy Conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of agriculture, food safety and security, agricultural technology and policy to offer highly diverse perspectives and engage in frank discussions on all issues facing modern agriculture. Our Master of Ceremonies will again be Marc Gunther, contributing editor at FORTUNE magazine and a senior writer at Greenbiz.com who has appeared on NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/nationalpolicyconference>

### **Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies**

*Date:* June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Tufts University, Medford, MA

Humanitarian crises and the responses they trigger are evolving rapidly. This conference looks at the opportunities and threats for addressing these crises, as well as at the strengths and weaknesses of the actual responses. The conference provides a unique forum for both scholars and practitioners to present research and debate these issues. In particular, the conference focuses on four broad themes: emerging from protracted crises; new directions in policy; innovations in humanitarian practice; and advances in public health and food security in crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Reports:

#### **Food Security Portal, IFPRI**

New tools to support the global food security discussion by making news, data, and price analysis more accessible. The FAO's recent announcement that global food prices reached a record high in December 2010 has once again brought food security to the forefront of global attention. The continued rise in food prices in 2010, coupled with the prediction of a continuation of the trend in 2011, will have serious implications for food and nutrition security across the world, particularly in developing nations. We have already seen some of these implications with riots in Algeria and Jordan and the ousting of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Tunisia.

[http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/?utm\\_source=New+At+IFPRI&utm\\_campaign=b62b5d33da-New+at+IFPRI+01Feb2011&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/?utm_source=New+At+IFPRI&utm_campaign=b62b5d33da-New+at+IFPRI+01Feb2011&utm_medium=email)

#### **Implementation Plan for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Africa: 2011-2015, African Development Bank, January 2011**

Concerned about the declining quantity and quality of agricultural statistics and the need to provide data to support emerging data requirements and the requirement for the data systems to be integrated to achieve synergy and costeffectiveness, the United Nations Statistical Commission, in February 2010, endorsed a Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a framework and methodology that will lead to the improvement of national and international agricultural and rural statistics to guide policy analysis and decision making in the 21st century.

[http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Strategy\\_Implementation\\_Bulletin\\_No1\\_English.pdf](http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Strategy_Implementation_Bulletin_No1_English.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: New African Development Bank Statistics Bulletin in the Service of Agriculture and Rural Development in Africa**, *AllAfrica*, January 31

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has released the first edition of a quarterly Global Strategy Implementation Bulletin, produced by the institution's statistics department. It provides an overview, progress made so far and the way forward, since the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the global strategy in February 2010. Africa needs to enhance its statistical capacity to surmount existing and potential obstacles to its agriculture and rural development and seize new opportunities that come its way.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201101311616.html>

**Africa Can Feed Itself in a Generation**, *Belfer Center, Harvard*, January 2011

African agriculture is at a crossroads. Persistent food shortages are now being compounded by new threats arising from climate change. But Africa also has three major opportunities that can help transform its agriculture to be a force for economic growth. First, advances in science, technology, and engineering worldwide offer Africa new tools needed to promote sustainable agriculture. Second, efforts to create regional markets will provide new incentives for agricultural production and trade. Third, a new generation of African leaders is helping the continent focus on long-term economic transformation.

[http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20685/africa\\_can\\_feed\\_itself\\_in\\_a\\_generation.html](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20685/africa_can_feed_itself_in_a_generation.html)

**The Role of Agricultural Growth in Reducing Poverty and Hunger**, *IFPRI*, February 2011

Although Sub-Saharan Africa experienced unprecedented economic growth in recent decades, this did not always translate into less poverty or improved nutrition. This outcome raises two questions. First, why did rapid growth not translate into more rapid reductions in poverty and malnutrition? And second, what is the contribution of agricultural growth to reducing poverty and malnutrition in Tanzania? To address these questions, an economywide model of Tanzania is linked with microlevel poverty and nutrition models to (1) show how the current structure of growth resulted in the weak poverty and nutrition outcomes and (2) examine how accelerated, broad-based agricultural growth can contribute to higher overall growth and more rapid reductions in income poverty and hunger. Finally, this brief examines more closely the growth, poverty, and nutrition contributions of agricultural subsectors in order to identify priority sectors.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/role-agricultural-growth-reducing-poverty-and-hunger>

**The Nexus between Agriculture and Nutrition**, *IFPRI*, February 2011

Do growth patterns and conditional factors matter? This paper seeks to provide an overview of the complex and dynamic relationship between nutrition and growth, examine how different growth patterns lead to different nutritional outcomes, and identify the factors that influence the magnitude of this relationship. It aims to offer researchers insights on areas for future research and analysis and to provide policymakers with knowledge regarding potential development strategies and investment policies that will increase the likelihood of positive nutritional outcomes.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/nexus-between-agriculture-and-nutrition>

**Agriculture, Health, and Nutrition**, *IFPRI*, February 2011

This paper outlines a conceptual framework that links agriculture, health, and nutrition. Three components make up this framework: settings, resources, and production processes. Policy levers, programs, and interventions designed to affect agriculture will affect health and nutrition by changing the quantity and type of goods consumed by household members; work intensity; exposure to zoonoses, pesticides, and work-related accidents; the allocation of time devoted to agriculture, health, and nutrition; asset accumulation; and the rules governing intrahousehold resource allocation.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/agriculture-health-and-nutrition>

**Biofortification: Leveraging Agriculture to Reduce Hidden Hunger**, *IFPRI*, February 2011

Agriculture is the primary source of nutrients necessary for a healthy life, but agricultural policies and technologies have focused on improving profitability at the farm and agroindustry levels, not on improving

nutrition.<sup>4</sup> Given the prevalence of hidden hunger, there is growing interest in the role agriculture should play in improving nutrition, in particular by paying more attention to the nutritional quality of food.  
<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020anhconfbr19.pdf>

**Land Deals in Africa: What is in the Contracts?**, *International Institute for Environment and Development, February 2011*

Over the past few years, agribusiness, investment funds and government agencies have been acquiring long-term rights over large areas of land in Africa. Together with applicable national and international law, contracts define the terms of an investment project, and the way risks, costs and benefits are distributed. Who has the authority to sign the contract and through what process greatly influences the extent to which people can have their voices heard. Yet very little is known about the exact terms of the land deals. Drawing on the legal analysis of twelve land deals from different parts of Africa, this report discusses the contractual issues for which public scrutiny is most needed, and aims to promote informed public debate about them.

<http://pubs.iied.org/12568IIED.html>

Media Articles:

**Sub Saharan Africa: Raising Its Profile on Global Food Security Issues**, *Ambassador Robin Renee Sanders, U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Huffington Post, February 3*

Can Sub-Saharan Africa be the next bread basket for the world, helping to address global food security issues? The answer is yes; the challenge is how. Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the developing world have a key role to play in leading, designing, deciding, and shaping food security policy for the coming decades.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amb-robin-renee-sanders/sub-saharan-africa-raisin\\_b\\_817898.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amb-robin-renee-sanders/sub-saharan-africa-raisin_b_817898.html)

**Africa Better Prepared for Jump in Food Costs, World Bank Says**, *Bloomberg, February 2*

Africa's increased investment in agriculture over the past few years has left it in a better position to weather the jump in global food prices in 2010, the World Bank's African vice president said. Global food costs rose to a record in December on higher sugar, grain and oilseed prices, the United Nations said on Jan. 5, exceeding levels reached in 2008 that sparked riots in African nations including Somalia, Burkina Faso and Cameroon. Investment since 2008 in infrastructure, irrigation, fertilizer and seed technology has reduced reliance on grain and rice imports, particularly in West African countries.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-02-02/africa-better-prepared-for-jump-in-food-costs-world-bank-says.html>

**Remarks to the African Union Summit**, *Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Bank Managing Director, World Bank, January 31*

Agriculture can and has to be part of the solution. With better agriculture, land and water management practices, the sector could sequester 13% of current annual greenhouse gas emissions. There is real scope here for the "triple win" of supporting enhanced food security and productivity, climate resilience and carbon sequestration in agriculture. Therefore, countries need to begin to think of doing agriculture differently.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0..contentMDK:22820130~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

**In a Global Land Rush, a Search for Fair Returns**, *Reuters, January 31*

Land, long ignored by non-farmers as an asset class, has become one of the hottest investments around over the past half decade. When food prices spiked in 2007 and 2008, demand for arable land shot up. Land prices stalled after the credit crunch and global downturn, but another round of food inflation over the past year has fueled new demand and price gains.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/31/idINIndia-54527420110131>

**The Dangers of Treating Food as a Strategic Asset**, *Op-Ed, Global and Mail, January 30*

Food prices have spiked this year, far less than they did in 2008, but ominously. This time, weather-driven crop failures caused by the Pacific La Nina current are playing a big part. But the underlying trend is one of insufficient supply: The world is now producing less than enough food when demand is rising. Unfortunately, too many governments look at this situation of inadequate market supply and apply the label "food security."

This is dangerous: To treat food as a “strategic asset,” as something to be hoarded or kept from export, is to gravely misunderstand the nature of food. An increase in food production, anywhere in the world, increases the supply and lowers the prices everywhere. The challenge is not to provide your own country’s food needs from within; it’s to ensure that everyone in the world is growing plenty of food, so the question of domestic versus imported food is irrelevant.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/the-dangers-of-treating-food-as-a-strategic-asset/article1886971/>

**Continent Can Overcome Food Insecurity**, *AllAfrica*, January 29

President Paul Kagame has said that Africa can address the problem of food insecurity, if the arable land on the continent is put to good use. The President made the remarks while speaking at a World Food Program (WFP) event, held alongside the World Economic Forum in Davos- Klosters, Switzerland, under the theme “nourishing people, invest in the next generation”. “If you look at the arable land in Africa that is not put to good use for food production, if you look at the food situation globally if we resolve the problems of access and distribution, there are serious challenges but also immense opportunities.”

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201101310168.html>

**Annan Says Food Security Must be ‘Taken Very Seriously’**, *Washington Post*, January 27

Kofi Annan, former United Nations secretary general, talks about education and employment policies and the need to ensure all countries have secure food supplies. He speaks with Bloomberg's Francine Lacqua at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2011/01/27/VI2011012703592.html>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

**Aiding Development: Assistance Reform for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, *Brookings Institute*, February 2011

Global development assistance efforts are experiencing a critical moment of change. This moment is not a week or month but a several-year period in which political scales are tipping, rationales and underlying assumptions are being reexamined, and new systems and approaches are emerging. Collectively, the public and private institutions involved are working around the world to alleviate poverty and human suffering, support equitable economic growth, foster better governance, promote global public health, prevent conflict, and strengthen the resilience of communities vulnerable to external shocks. The solutions to these problems require major shifts in the international dialogue on development and aid, followed by key architectural and operational changes across a wide range of actors. Large donors like the United States must lead by modeling and implementing fundamental reforms.

[http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2011/02\\_aiding\\_development.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2011/02_aiding_development.aspx)

### Media Articles:

**World Bank Calls for Growth in Africa that Creates Jobs, Alleviates Poverty amidst Concerns of Rising Food Prices**, *World Bank*, January 31

As the African Union summit opens in Ethiopia, the World Bank urged African leaders to focus on achieving the kind of inclusive, shared growth that creates jobs, affords safety nets for the most vulnerable, diversifies and adds value to African products, and educates an African citizenry that is highly competitive in today’s knowledge-based global economy.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/0,.contentMDK:22819409~menuPK:258659~pagePK:2865106~piPK:2865128~theSitePK:258644,00.html>

**IFC Plans to Boost Food Security**, *AllAfrica*, January 31

The World Bank’s private financing arm, IFC, has said it will double funding to agribusiness projects in Sub Saharan Africa to boost food security in the region. The International Financial Corporation (IFC) director of

global manufacturing, agribusiness and Services, Atul Mehta, said on Friday the organisation will increase its budget for agriculture to \$250 million in the next two years from \$100 million last year.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201101310547.html>

**What is Foreign Aid for?**, *Foreign Policy*, January 27

Foreign aid is once again under fire. Every so often a few politicians -- usually Republicans -- get up in arms about our government's gift of large amounts of money to other countries. Equally often, media stories appear detailing how ineffective aid supposedly is. The picture emerges that foreign aid is unnecessary, ineffective, and wasteful.

[http://shadow.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/01/27/what\\_is\\_foreign\\_aid\\_for](http://shadow.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/01/27/what_is_foreign_aid_for)

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Managing Weather Risk for Agricultural Development and Disaster Risk Reduction**, *IFAD*, January 2011

Conventional crop or livestock insurance relies on direct measurement in the field of a loss or damage suffered by the farmer in order to determine the payout. Field loss assessment is normally costly or impractical where there are many small-scale farmers and insurance markets are undeveloped. Weather index insurance (WII) responds to an objective parameter, such as rainfall or temperature, at a defined weather station during an agreed period of time. The parameters of the insurance contract are set to correlate, as closely as possible, with the damages suffered by the policyholder. All policyholders within a defined area receive payouts based on the same contract and measurement at the same station, eliminating the need for field loss assessment.

<http://www.ifad.org/ruralfinance/pub/wrmf.pdf>

**Quantifying Vulnerability to Climate Change: Implications for Adaptation Assistance**, *Center for Global Development*, January 2011

The effects of climate change have been and will be worse in poor countries and small-island states, those least able to adapt to the climate-related disasters. In this paper, senior fellow David Wheeler quantifies and makes available in an accompanying database the vulnerability of 233 countries to three major effects of climate change (weather-related disasters, sea-level rise, and reduced agricultural productivity).

[http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424759/?utm\\_source=nl\\_weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl\\_weekly\\_02012011&](http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424759/?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_02012011&)

### Media Articles:

**James Cameron Answers your Questions**, *James Cameron, Vice Chairman, Climate Change Capital, Financial Times*, February 4

What do you think will be the future for biofuels? We will need to have a renewable economy in the decades ahead. What is the right approach to make sure we get there without compromising food security and ecosystem services? Is it possible? There is a relationship between energy, water and food security that assists answering this question. "We cannot use productive agricultural land to grow fuel that otherwise could be used to grow food and we need to value the water consumption in both products. There have been various examples of poor public policy in the biofuels area (US corn), but it's foolish to say all biofuels are bad because of the risk of substituting fuel for food. Even first generation biofuels can work in the right circumstances. On balance Brazilian ethanol is a success story."

<http://blogs.ft.com/energy-source/2011/02/04/96046/>

**Crops Withier and Prices Rise in Chinese Drought**, *New York Times*, February 3

A severe drought in northern China has badly damaged the winter wheat crop and left the ground very dry for the spring planting, fueling inflation and alarming China's leaders. President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao separately toured drought-stricken regions this week and have called for "all-out efforts" to

address the effects of water shortages on agriculture, state media reported on Thursday. Mr. Wen made a similar trip just 10 days ago and called for long-term improvements in water management.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/04/world/asia/04china.html?scp=3&sq=A4&st=cse>

**SEE ALSO: China Makes Water a \$12 Billion Priority**, *Wall Street Journal*, January 30

Chinese officials said water conservation will be their top agricultural priority this year and targeted up to \$12 billion for irrigation and related projects, while also acknowledging the country could have to import more farm goods over the long term. Chronic droughts have parched aquifers in China's northern plains and weighed on grain output, even as the stock of arable land is under pressure from urban encroachment amid a massive continuing population shift from country to city.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703833204576113561639658334.html?mod=oglenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703833204576113561639658334.html?mod=oglenews_wsj)

**Farmers are Key to Climate Change but Poor Policy is Locking them Out**, *AllAfrica*, January 31

Agricultural productivity across Africa has plummeted greatly as a result of climate change, pointing to future food crises on the continent. According to the Worldwatch Institute, a New York-based environment research organisation, there is an urgent need for sweeping policy changes on the continent to combat worsening weather patterns. Africa's major focus is on adaptation, ignoring other factors, hence the sluggish progress in combating climate change.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201101311487.html>

**A Climate Cure's Dark Side**, *Newsweek*, January 30

It sounded like a panacea for climate change: "geo-engineering" the atmosphere to block some sunlight and counter global warming. Now scientists scrutinizing the approach say it could produce dangerous cascade effects, severely disrupting weather and agriculture—and might fail to block the worst of the greenhouse effects anyway.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2011/01/30/a-climate-cure-s-dark-side.html>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Reports:

**Gender: A Key Dimension Linking Agricultural Programs to Improved Nutrition and Health**, *IFPRI*, February 2011

Improving the livelihoods and well-being of the rural poor is an important aim of agricultural development, promoted through agricultural intensification and commercialization strategies. But improved agricultural productivity does not necessarily translate into improved health and nutrition, either for producers or consumers. How can standard agricultural development strategies—promoting agricultural intensification, greater linkages to markets, and high-value production—also create positive impacts on health and nutrition? This brief argues that a key element linking these programs to improved outcomes is the dimension of gender roles and gender equity.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/gender-key-dimension-linking-agricultural-programs-improved-nutrition-and-health>

### Media Articles:

**Harmful Hearths: Open-Fire Cooking Threatens Lives**, *Food Safety News*, January 31

The most well-known causes of death in developing countries today include dangers such as unclean drinking water, malnutrition and HIV infection. Cooking, on the other hand, probably would not make the list of recognized killers. However, for the more than 3 billion people who stand over fires to cook every day, preparing food poses just such a life-threatening risk.

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/01/harmful-hearths-open-fire-cooking-threatens-lives/>

**Leading Through Civilian Power: The First Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review**, *Anne-Marie Slaughter*, Director, Policy Planning Staff, U.S. Department of State, January 27

The sixth way to engage is through women. In every part of this document – diplomacy, development, conflict prevention, international security, human security, and indeed our own internal reforms – we focus on women. We focus on elevating women in our diplomacy, whether that's our bilateral or multilateral diplomacy. Across the board in development, we know that investing in women and girls is the best investment we can make in development, but not just on the softer side; on the conflict side as well, bringing women to the table, engaging them in both conflict prevention and conflict resolution. They are not just victims. They are agents of change. They are agents of economic growth. They are half the population. If we're not taking account of that, we are missing something very important.  
<http://www.state.gov/s/p/rem/155622.htm>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Feeding the Future's Changing Diets**, *IFPRI, February 2011*

This paper explores the nature of several key drivers of change in food systems and examines a number of possible entry points for policy intervention to determine their effect on food prices and other market-driven outcomes. Among the drivers of change discussed are those of diet change, which is an important demand-side driver for the longer-term evolution of agricultural market dynamics. We use a global supply, demand, and trade model to simulate these effects out to 2030 to illustrate the implications for various world regions embodying different rates of socioeconomic and demographic change.  
<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/feeding-futures-changing-diets>

### Media Articles:

#### **Debating the Link between Food Prices and Revolution**, *Atlantic Wire, February 4, 2011*

According to the latest data from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, food prices have reached an all time high, since the UN started tracking prices in the 1990s. This means, Time's Krista Mahir points out, we're wrestling with costs that are higher than the June 2008 prices that triggered food riots in Haiti and the Philippines. Tack on the FAO's statement that "the number of hungry people is higher in 2010 than before the food and economic crises of 2008-2009," and the fact that Egyptians spend about 40 percent of their income on food, and it would seem reasonable to think that rising food prices are behind what's happening in Egypt. In fact, a connection has been suggested several times in the past week.  
<http://www.theatlanticwire.com/opinions/view/opinion/Debating-the-Link-Between-Food-Prices-and-Revolutions-6855>

#### **SEE ALSO: Rising Food Prices Can Topple Governments, Too**, *NPR, January 30*

Political unrest has broken out in Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt and other Arab countries. Social media and governmental policies are getting most of the credit for spurring the turmoil, but there's another factor at play. Many of the people protesting are also angry about dramatic price hikes for basic foodstuffs, such as rice, cereals, cooking oil and sugar.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/30/133331809/rising-food-prices-can-topple-governments-too>

**SEE ALSO: The Situation Room**, *Dan Glickman, Cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Senior Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center, CNN, February 3*

*It [soaring food prices] is not the prime cause, initial cause of the rioting in Egypt, but it will certainly exacerbate it and make it a lot more malignant.*

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1102/03/sitroom.01.html>

#### **Markets Rebound on Recovery Hopes, Supply Risks**, *Reuters, February 4*

Commodities charged higher on Friday after a one-session retreat as investors focused again on the supply scares and optimism over economic recovery that have fueled much of the recent rally. Concerns about crop damaging weather and unrest in North Africa and signs that the U.S. economy was recovering, albeit slowly, encouraged investors. A mixed reading for U.S. jobs in January and the dollar's lingering strength made little impact.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL3E7D40AV20110204>

**Davos: Ministers Target Toha Accord by End-2011; Experts Call for 'Absolute Deadline'**, *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, February 3*

Trade ministers from two dozen influential WTO member countries on Saturday agreed to push for a breakthrough agreement in the Doha Round negotiations by July, so that the long-struggling trade talks can be wrapped up by the end of the year.

<http://ictsd.org/i/trade-and-sustainable-development-agenda/100035/>

**Tackle Export Bans to East Food Crisis**, *Financial Times, February 3*

While most politicians focus on speculation, I strongly believe that the current spike in agricultural prices was exacerbated by policy – export bans – and lack of information, as no one really knows what the current level of stocks is.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/743b502e-2f75-11e0-834f-](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/743b502e-2f75-11e0-834f-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/201123/nbe/USMorningHeadlines/product#axzz1CrGYac1f)

[00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/201123/nbe/USMorningHeadlines/product#axzz1CrGYac1f](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/743b502e-2f75-11e0-834f-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/201123/nbe/USMorningHeadlines/product#axzz1CrGYac1f)

**The U.S. Needs to Pursue Trade with Africa**, *Stephen Hayes, President, Corporate Council on Africa, January 31*

U.S. agriculture subsidies have inhibited a lot of trade for African exporters. Africa is an agriculture economy for the most part, and they can't get their primary products to the U.S. The second area would be the Phyto-Sanitary regulations. We have some of the most stringent standards in the world. I think the regulations are good, but we don't have enough inspection stations in Africa to move through produce as quickly as needed. It is easier for Africans to move produce to Europe than America. Standards are less strict and there is more direct transportation from African nations to Europe. We need more direct air routes to Africa, and that is beginning to happen.

<http://theshoshinproject.com/#!/content/detail/Stephen-Hayes-The-US-Needs-to-Pursue-Trade-with>

**Egypt and Tunisia Usher in the New Era of Food Revolutions**, *Telegraph, January 30*

If you insist on joining the emerging market party at this stage of the inflation blow-off, avoid countries with an accelerating gap between rich and poor. Cairo's EGX stock index has dropped 20pc in nine trading sessions. Events have moved briskly since a Tunisian fruit vendor with a handcart set fire to himself six weeks ago, and in doing so lit the fuse that has detonated Egypt and threatens to topple the political order of the Maghreb, Yemen, and beyond.

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans\\_pritchard/8291470/Egypt-and-Tunisia-usher-in-the-new-era-of-global-food-revolutions.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans_pritchard/8291470/Egypt-and-Tunisia-usher-in-the-new-era-of-global-food-revolutions.html)

**SEE ALSO: Gulf Arab Governments Tackle Higher Food Prices**, *Reuters, February 2*

Countries in north Africa and the Middle East are urgently seeking ways to soften the blow of surging food prices for their citizens, alarmed by protests against authoritarian rulers from Algeria to Yemen.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/02/gulf-food-idUSLDE71127220110202>

**Food Price Shocks Ripple Worldwide from Iowa**, *Des Moines Register, January 29*

Shoppers who have seen hamburger prices increase as much as 10 percent in recent months will pay even more for burgers, steaks and other meat products as a result of a commodities boom that is putting money in Iowa farmers' pockets while it rocks the rest of the world.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110130/BUSINESS/101300340/Food-cost-shocks-ripple-worldwide-from-iowa?Frontpage>

**Canada, Morocco Start Free Trade Talks, Ministry Says**, *Bloomberg, January 28*

Canada, the world's third-largest wheat exporter, is beginning free trade talks with Morocco, said Gerry Ritz, the North American country's minister of agriculture. Morocco bought C\$267 million in Canadian agricultural products in 2009, making up the "vast majority" of trade between the two countries, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada said in an e-mailed statement today. Canada wants to "expedite" the passage of the agreement because Morocco already has a trade pact with the U.S., the world's largest wheat shipper, Ritz said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-01-28/canada-morocco-start-free-trade-talks-ministry-says.html>

**End of Cheap Food Era as Grain Prices Stay High**, *Reuters, January 28*

U.S. grain prices should stay unrelentingly high this year, according to a Reuters poll, the latest sign that the era of cheap food has come to an end. While corn, soybean and wheat prices may dip by as much as 5 percent by the end of this year, compared to the end of 2010, that's scant relief after last year's up to 50 percent surge drove futures to their highest since the peaks of 2008. The survey of 16 analysts suggests no quick fix for nations bedeviled by record high food costs that have stoked civil unrest. And any extreme weather event in a grains-producing part of the world could send prices soaring further.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/28/us-usa-grains-idUSTRE70R3EY20110128>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Reports:

**Evaluative Lessons for Agriculture and Agribusiness**, *Evaluation Cooperation Group, February 2011*

This paper synthesizes recent work by the independent evaluation agencies of the ECG and incorporates lessons from related research by multilateral development banks and from the academic literature on agriculture and agribusiness. Evaluative findings indicate that increasing productivity--through attention to research and extension, access to water, access to credit, land issues, transport, policy, markets, and institutional development--is vital for improving agricultural performance. Functional monitoring and evaluation systems, lacking in most settings, are needed to help ensure project performance and to draw lessons from experience.

[https://wpqr1.adb.org/LotusQuickr/ecg/Main.nsf/h\\_7E6E83714D63FAC348257731002A960F/FE4C65B834B4483D48257818001450A0/?OpenDocument&Form=h\\_PageUI](https://wpqr1.adb.org/LotusQuickr/ecg/Main.nsf/h_7E6E83714D63FAC348257731002A960F/FE4C65B834B4483D48257818001450A0/?OpenDocument&Form=h_PageUI)

### Media Articles:

**Asia, Middle East Target Ukraine Farms to Secure Supplies**, *Bloomberg, February 3*

Asian and Middle East buyers want to buy agriculture companies in Ukraine to secure supply of grains and oilseeds, Vienna-based Raiffeisen Investment AG said. Ukraine was the world's biggest shipper of barley in the year to September and also produces wheat and corn. Governments in North Africa and the Middle East are seeking food supplies as protests spread to Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria and Yemen. World food costs rose to a record last month on higher dairy, sugar and grain prices, the United Nations said yesterday. "Countries like China and Libya are interested in buying large agribusinesses to secure their supplies," Wolfgang Putschek, co-head of Raiffeisen, said two days ago in an interview in Vienna. "Several" acquisitions are pending, he said, declining to elaborate.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-03/asian-middle-east-buyers-want-ukraine-grain-companies-raiffeisen-says.html>

**New Ethanol-Only Biotech Corn Raises Doubts**, *Des Moines Register, February 2*

The companies that mill corn into food products claim they could face problems like those should the government allow biotech giant Syngenta Seeds Inc. to commercialize a new variety of corn. The corn was engineered to cut the cost and greenhouse gas emissions of making ethanol. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is expected to announce any day now whether he'll clear the biotech product for production.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110203/BUSINESS01/102030343/New-ethanol-only-biotech-corn-raises-doubts>

**Cargill Investing \$210 Million in Brazilian Plant**, *Bloomberg, February 2*

Cargill plans to build a corn processing plant in Brazil to produce starches and sweeteners, building on its investments in the South American country, which is becoming a magnet for agribusiness investment. Cargill plans to invest 350 million Brazilian reais (\$210 million) to build the plant. The facility will boost Cargill's corn processing capacity in the country by 30 percent.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-02/cargill-investing-210-million-in-brazilian-plant.html>

**Shortfalls Spark Record ADM Grain Shipments**, *Financial Times*, February 1

Archer Daniels Midland, the US-based agricultural trading house, shipped record amounts of grain from the US in the latest quarter as the group profited from global shortfalls. The strong second-quarter results came after severe drought in the Black Sea region and disappointing harvests in the US drove the prices of corn, soybeans and wheat to the highest levels in two years and forced food importers to step up purchases from foreign sources.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1cbca9d0-2e2e-11e0-8733-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1CrGYacIf>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*