

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



January 8th – 15th, 2010

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Quote of the Week: *"But it's important that everybody in Haiti understand, at this very moment one of the largest relief efforts in our recent history is moving towards Haiti. More American search and rescue teams are coming. More food. More water. And today, I'm also announcing an immediate investment of \$100 million to support our relief efforts. This will mean more of the life-saving equipment, food, water and medicine that will be needed. This investment will grow over the coming year as we embark on the long-term recovery from this unimaginable tragedy,"* Remarks by President Barack Obama on Recovery Efforts in Haiti, January 14th, 2010.

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KEY ARTICLES

What We Can do to Help Haiti, Now and Beyond, *Op-Ed*, Bill Clinton, U.N. Special Envoy for Haiti, *Washington Post*, January 14

I met with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday and with other key U.N. leaders to discuss Haiti's immediate and long-term needs. Those who are still alive under the rubble must be found. The bodies of those who have died must be taken away. Power must be restored and roadways cleared. But what Haiti needs most is money for water, food, shelter and basic medical supplies to bring immediate relief to those who are homeless, hungry and hurt.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/13/AR2010011304604.html>

Days Into New Job, USAID Chief Tackles Haiti Earthquake Response, *Washington Post*, January 14

"Dr. Shah has been excellent," said Denis McDonough, National Security Council chief of staff, who has worked closely with Shah since the earthquake struck Tuesday. "Focused. Calm. Facts-based." As the day ensued, aides said, Shah shuttled between the White House and USAID's disaster headquarters and remained in near-constant contact with top officials, including the president and the secretary of state, using a Bluetooth device in his ear. Extra staff had to be brought in to answer Shah's phones. Shah has been "unflappable," said a senior aide to the secretary of state, who called Shah "a superstar waiting to be discovered."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/14/AR2010011402961.html>

See Also: Rajiv Shah: Point Man on Haiti Crisis, *Foreign Policy*, January 13

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/13/rajiv_shah_point_man_on_haiti_crisis

See Also: New USAID Head Takes Helm of Haiti Disaster, *USA Today*, January 13

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-01-13-Shah-Haiti_N.htm

Why Not Hunger?, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow for Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog*, January 14

On the hunger front, the last decade was one of great outrage. We shamefully brought hunger with us into the 21st Century after the Green Revolution was one of the great scientific achievements of the 20th Century. And not only have we brought hunger into the new century and new millennium, we brought it with us in ever-increasing numbers. The food crisis of 2008 exposed the decades-long negligence of agriculture development investment and the hypocrisy of policies like structural adjustment and farm subsidies that punished small farmers of the developing world, particularly in Africa. By the end of the decade, the roll-call of the world's chronically hungry had lengthened dramatically, soaring past one billion people. That, the folks who do the counting tell us, is the highest absolute number in history.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/01/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-why-not-hunger.html>

Deploying the Plowshares: Restoring Afghan Agriculture Sector Will Be Key to Turning Back the Taliban, *Editorial, Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 15

The Obama administration regards agriculture as its top non-security priority in Afghanistan. Restoring the country's once-vibrant agricultural sector would create jobs that undercut Taliban recruitment. It would give farmers an alternative to growing opium poppies and shrink the Taliban's profit from the drug trade. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack toured Afghanistan this week, stressing the U.S. commitment to aid agriculture - a pledge made repeatedly by Obama's special emissary to the region, Richard Holbrooke. But can a troubled U.S. aid program figure out how to help poor, rural Afghans?

<http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/81649602.html>

We Cannot Fail the Challenge of Tackling World Poverty, *Op-Ed, Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of Britain*, January 15

Our mission must be both to deliver past pledges and pursue new ways to answer climate change and overcome the economic constraints that could imprison hundreds of millions in permanent poverty and despair. First, we must stay the course to make poverty history. Britain will not only keep our aid promises in 2010, we will exceed them. That is why today, the UK is publishing draft legislation that would make it the first country in the world to give a permanent guarantee we will reach and maintain the United Nations aid target of 0.7 per cent.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/gordon-brown-we-cannot-fail-the-challenge-of-tackling-world-poverty-1868352.html>

The Era of Engagement Takes Shape, *Esther Brimmer, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, U.S. Department of State, Huffington Post*, January 12

The challenges we face have never been more shared, more common in nature: climate change, nonproliferation, disarmament, food security, human rights. On the urgent question of global hunger and food security, the President again led by example, first committing the U.S. to at least \$3.5 billion over three years for agriculture-led economic development, and then reaching out to global partners to propose a marked departure from the models of the past, an approach that was endorsed during November's World Summit on Food Security.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/esther-brimmer/the-era-of-engagement-tak_b_420049.html

For Pakistan, No Turning Back from Reform, *Op-Ed, Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan, Washington Post, January 15*

When I was elected president more than a year ago, Pakistan was in grave condition, strained by terrorism and a ravaged economy. Countering the effects of a decade of dictatorship requires bold actions, some of which are unpopular. I am working with Parliament to run a country, not a political campaign. The goal of our democratic government is to implement policies that will dramatically improve the lives of Pakistanis. In time, good policies will become good politics. Our economic crisis demanded unprecedented response. On taxes, education, agriculture and energy, we have shown that we must adapt, reform and become self-sufficient.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/14/AR2010011403921.html>

The Underlying Tragedy, *Op-Ed, David Brooks, New York Times, January 14*

Over the past few decades, the world has spent trillions of dollars to generate growth in the developing world. The countries that have not received much aid, like China, have seen tremendous growth and tremendous poverty reductions. The countries that have received aid, like Haiti, have not. There are no policy levers that consistently correlate to increased growth. There is nearly zero correlation between how a developing economy does one decade and how it does the next. There is no consistently proven way to reduce corruption. Even improving governing institutions doesn't seem to produce the expected results.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/15/opinion/15brooks.html>

A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out, *Op-Ed, Philip Vassiliou, Managing Director, Legatum, Forbes, January 12*

Over the past few decades, it's become evident that traditional "top-down" development, in which large amounts of aid are distributed to governments in the developing world, is ineffective. Africa, for instance, has taken in \$568 billion in economic aid over the past 42 years. Yet per capita economic growth for the median African country has remained stagnant. Adjusting international development policy to encourage entrepreneurship would go a long way toward helping the poorest countries pull themselves out of poverty. This was India's strategy--and it is paying off.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/01/12/africa-india-poverty-legatum-tech-opinions-contributors-philip-vassiliou.html>

A New Dawning in Africa, *Op-Ed, Marshall Matz, Agri-Pulse, January 6*

The challenge is clearly daunting. One third of Sub-Saharan Africa, 300 million people, is hungry. Half of Kenya lives on less than one dollar a day. Forty-two percent of the population barely survive on one meal a day, according to the World Food Program. Medical doctors who are the front line in the fight against AIDS are forced to farm if they want to provide their patients with the food needed to go with the AIDS medication. Crop yields are stuck at a fraction of worldwide norms. In the middle of all of this however--- somehow--- hope and optimism can be seen.

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20100106S1.pdf>

Statement on Haiti Earthquake from Jacques Diouf, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, January 15*

"In the joint international rescue and assistance efforts FAO will be part of the UN team now preparing to leave for Haiti. It will be FAO's job to assess the damage done to the agricultural sector and assess the impact of the earthquake on food security in the poverty stricken nation that already had the highest level of malnutrition of any country in the Western Hemisphere."

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/39044/icode/>

Remarks of Ann M. Veneman, *UNICEF Executive Director to the 2010 First Regular Session of UNICEF's Executive Board, January 12*

"UNICEF has significantly contributed to accelerating the use of ready-to-use therapeutic foods for treatment of acute malnutrition, with our purchases of the product increasing from 100 metric tons in 2003 to over 11,000 metric tons in 2008. Vitamin A and zinc supplementation, salt iodization, and flour fortification have all been scaled up and rates of exclusive breastfeeding have improved. UNICEF strategically invested in

nutrition programs when global food prices rose, and our recently released nutrition scorecard report provides data and evidence on the nutritional status of children. As a member of the Secretary General's Task Force on Food Security, we have emphasized the importance of addressing nutrition security in the context of food security."

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_52418.html

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks by the President on the Situation in Haiti, *President Barack Obama, January 15*

This morning, the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson arrived, along with helicopters that will be critical in delivering assistance in the days to come. They are preparing to move badly needed water, food, and other life-saving supplies to priority areas in Port-au-Prince. Food, water, and medicine continues to arrive, along with doctors and aid workers.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-situation-haiti>

See Also: Remarks by the President on Recovery Efforts in Haiti, *President Barack Obama, January 14*

"None of this will seem quick enough if you have a loved one who's trapped, if you're sleeping on the streets, if you can't feed your children. But it's important that everybody in Haiti understand, at this very moment one of the largest relief efforts in our recent history is moving towards Haiti. More American search and rescue teams are coming. More food. More water. And today, I'm also announcing an immediate investment of \$100 million to support our relief efforts. This will mean more of the life-saving equipment, food, water and medicine that will be needed. This investment will grow over the coming year as we embark on the long-term recovery from this unimaginable tragedy."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-recovery-efforts-haiti>

See Also: Remarks by the President on the Rescue Efforts in Haiti, *President Barack Obama, January 13*

"The people of Haiti will have the full support of the United States in the urgent effort to rescue those trapped beneath the rubble, and to deliver the humanitarian relief -- the food, water and medicine -- that Haitians will need in the coming days. In that effort, our government, especially USAID and the Departments of State and Defense are working closely together and with our partners in Haiti, the region, and around the world."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-rescue-efforts-haiti>

See Also: Obama Pledges Aid to Haiti, *New York Times, January 14*

President Obama on Thursday promised \$100 million along with more American troops for the relief effort in Haiti, vowing that the United States would stand with the impoverished nation as it grappled with the devastation of its capital city.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/15/us/15prexy.html>

The Situation in Haiti, *On-The-Record Briefing by State Department Counselor Cheryl Mills, USAID Administrator Raj Shah, and U.S. SOUTHCOM Commander General Douglas Fraser, January 13*

Shah: "The other comment I wanted to make is that as part of this we are also, of course, thinking about critical needs in the area of health and food, water, transportation, and infrastructure, and other advanced planning that needs to take place now so that we can, because we know that we will have quite a lot of work to do in the days and weeks ahead. We are committed to a significant effort, and we are committed to doing everything we can in all of those sectors."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100113.html>

See Also: USAID to Provide Emergency Food Aid for Haiti Earthquake Victims, *USAID, January 13*

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100113.html>

US Tells Afghans to Grow Grapes Not Opium Poppy, *Washington Post, January 12*

The Taliban make Afghanistan's opium business easy, offering credit, seeds and fertilizer to farmers to grow the drugs that fuel the insurgency. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who wrapped up a three-day visit

to Afghanistan on Tuesday, is determined to change that momentum by offering similar incentives to steer farmers away from the drug trade and toward grapes, wheat and other legitimate crops.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/12/AR2010011201135.html>

See Also: Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces up to \$20 Million for Capacity Building Efforts in Afghanistan, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, January 12*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced up to \$20 million for capacity building efforts within Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the department responsible for managing that country's agricultural economy.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0008.xml>

See Also: U.S. Turns to Afghan Farmers to Uproot Insurgency, *McClatchy Newspapers, January 12*

Launching a major drive to improve agriculture in this war-weary land, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack set off this week on a rare airborne tour of troubled Helmand province before delivering a message to its farmers. Helmand, once a thriving producer of grains and food crops and a beneficiary of U.S. aid, today is better known as the world's leading producer of opium poppies and a Taliban stronghold. Vilsack's message was: If you grow wheat, vegetables and pomegranates instead of poppies, the United States will help you reap the financial benefits.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/world/story/82165.html>

See Also: U.S. Aid Aimed at Agriculture, *Politico, January 12*

The Agriculture Department is prepared to give Afghanistan \$20 million to help improve agriculture there after years of war. The money hinges on Afghanistan's "commitment to transparency," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a news release. The department said the money would be for "reconstruction goals," including improvements in irrigation, jobs and technology. USDA experts would work with the Afghans.

http://www.politico.com/politico44/perm/0110/vilsack_in_afghanistan_83fd2d55-8432-47a2-a633-50a8f18d9133.html

Draft Committee Legislative Report: Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act of 2009, *Senate Foreign Relations Committee, January 2010*

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/S1524%20.pdf>

See Also: Clinton v. Kerry: The AID War Begins, *Foreign Policy, January 14*

A draft version of a report by Senate Foreign Relations chiefs John Kerry, D-MA, and Richard Lugar, R-IN, that lays out their position on foreign aid reform - a position that will very likely be at odds with Clinton's State Department on several key issues, such as how independent USAID should be from State. The main disagreements between Clinton and State and the senators are over whether USAID, and Shah specifically, will be given control over all State Department humanitarian relief functions; whether he will be given real power in the interagency process; and whether the "integration" of development with diplomacy and defense as announced by Clinton will dilute the development mission for the benefit of the other two. The Kerry-Lugar foreign aid reform bill could be moving in the coming weeks, possibly with all or parts of it being folded into the soon-to-be-introduced State Department authorization bill.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/14/clinton_v_kerry_the_aid_war_begins

See Also: Development community sees Clinton consolidating power over USAID, *Foreign Policy, January 15*

Today, development professionals are telling The Cable privately they see increasing signs that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is moving to consolidate development power and decision-making in her own shop, not at USAID. Clinton has often remarked about the need to "elevate" the development mission, which may well be another way of saying it needs to "integrate" into the State Department. But some key lawmakers and development community representatives would rather have USAID more independent of State in order to protect their interests, which don't always line up with the diplomatic missions in Foggy Bottom.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/15/development_community_sees_clinton_consolidating_power_over_usaid

Remarks on Regional Architecture in Asia: Principles and Priorities, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, January 12

"For example, in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami that devastated South and Southeast Asia, the world witnessed how concrete collective action and a relentless focus on results can provide hope in the face of tragedy. We should learn from this example, and act with similar urgency and efficiency in dealing with challenges such as climate change and food security. I am proud that the United States has been and will continue to be a leader in this area. In fact, as we have put together our food security initiative, depending upon the region of the world and the country, 60 to 70 percent of the farming in the world is done by women, and yet they are very often at the back of the line when it comes to having access to new technology, new seeds, new irrigation methods, and so much else."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/01/135090.htm>

See Also: Clinton Calls for Asia to Cooperate More on Economy, Security, Bloomberg, January 14

The Obama administration wants to play an active role in building Asia's security and economic architecture, Clinton said, and will be looking to large and small Asian nations alike to "focus on action" through regional forums to solve problems such as nuclear proliferation, food security and climate change.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=aXBA0bhQEF6Q>

USDA Announces Resignation of Deputy Under Secretary Philbrook, U.S. Department of Agriculture, January 15

USDA announced that Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Burnham "Bud" Philbrook is resigning. Philbrook is leaving to care for his son. Philbrook informed the Secretary personally in late December of his situation and intent. His resignation is effective January 22nd. USDA is moving swiftly to name a replacement.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0018.xml>

Remarks on the 15th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, January 8

"Investing in the health of women, adolescents, and girls is not only the right thing to do; it is also the smart thing to do. That is why we are integrating women's issues as key elements of our foreign policy agenda and in, especially, our Global Health Initiative and our Global Food Security Initiative. That is why we saw the first appointment of an ambassador for global women issues, and it didn't take me long to decide who should fill that position."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/01/135001.htm>

Russia Rules Could Hurt U.S. Beef Exports: Senators, New York Times, January 15

New Russian inspection rules could trim U.S. beef exports to the market as of February 1, two influential U.S. senators said in a letter to President Barack Obama on Friday, urging action on bilateral meat trade issues.

"We have been told that the U.S. beef industry has been informed that only U.S. product which has been inspected according to Russian standards will be allowed into the country as of February 1, 2010," said Blanche Lincoln, chairman of the Senate agriculture committee, and Saxby Chambliss, the ranking Republican on the committee.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/01/15/us/politics/politics-us-beef-usa-russia.html>

See Also: U.S. Farm Chief Wants Useful Russia Poultry Talks, Washington Post, January 9

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said on Saturday he hoped for "meaningful" talks with Moscow next week over a ban on U.S. poultry, warning relations would be harmed if the issue were not resolved. Vilsack said a team of U.S. technical experts was due in Russia around January 17 to discuss this month's ban on U.S. poultry imports because of Moscow's concern over a commonly used chlorine treatment.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/09/AR2010010901826_pf.html

See Also: Putin Tells U.S. to Observe Poultry Safety Rules, Reuters, January 14

Russia warned the top poultry supplier, the United States, it will insist that Washington observe Moscow's new safety rules, but will accept shipments cleared by the customs before January 19.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60D2EV20100114?sp=true>

Lincoln, Chambliss Commend Kirk Position at WTO Ministerial Meeting, *Senate Committee on Agriculture, January 14*

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., and Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., noted comments by U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk strongly defending the U.S. position at the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting last December in Geneva. In a letter to Kirk, the Senators praised his call for an ambitious agricultural market access agreement within the Doha Development Round. They also highlighted the importance of maintaining the “single undertaking” approach with respect to cotton, which ensures that no separate agreements affecting U.S. cotton programs would be signed outside of a comprehensive agreement of the Doha Round. They emphasized that such an insistence is specifically important to maintain the Senate’s support for and confidence in the multilateral negotiations.

http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1989&Itemid=2

New USAID Mission Director for South Africa Sworn In, *USAID, January 12*

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announce today the swearing in of Jeff Borns as mission director to South Africa. Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator Earl Gast presided over the event and administered the oath to Borns. Most recently, Borns served as the Director of the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) within the agency's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA).

http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100112_1.html

MCC and USAID Bring Mechanization to Georgian Farmers, *Millennium Challenge Corporation, January 11*

Investments in agricultural development are integral to MCC’s commitment to sustainable poverty reduction in rural Georgia. The Millennium Challenge Georgia Fund (MCG), implementing Georgia’s \$395 million MCC compact, is nearing completion of the Agribusiness Development Activity (ADA), a \$20 million program designed to strengthen commercial linkages among agricultural service providers, producers, processors, wholesalers/distributors, and markets. The 287 targeted matching grants already awarded to Georgian agribusinesses and farmers are supporting sustainable, long-term growth.

<http://www.mcc.gov/blog/povertyreduction/2010/01/11/georgia/>

New Official Named With Portfolio to Unite Agencies and Improve Food Safety, *New York Times, January 13*

The Obama administration, moving to address the nation’s fractured food safety system, on Wednesday appointed Michael R. Taylor, a veteran food expert, as deputy commissioner for foods at the Food and Drug Administration. The newly created position is the first to oversee all the agency’s many food and nutrition programs.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/14/health/policy/14fda.html?scp=20&sq=agriculture&st=cse>

New development appointment mulled as reviews advance, *Politico (Laura Rozen Blog), January 15*

Development community experts say that the conceptual architect of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Steve Radelet, is under consideration for what would be a new senior State Department post advising Hillary Clinton and the State Department on development issues.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0110/New_appointment_mulled_as_development_reviews_advance.html?showall

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NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

U.S. Agricultural Research in a Global Food Security Setting, *Center for Strategic and International Studies, January 2010*

Agricultural research and development are at a crossroads. The close of the twentieth century marked changes in policy contexts, fundamental shifts in the scientific basis for agricultural R&D, and shifting funding patterns for agricultural R&D in developed countries. Even though rates of return to agricultural research are demonstrably very high, we have seen a slowdown in spending growth and a diversion of funds away from farm productivity enhancement. Together these trends will contribute to a slowdown in farm productivity growth at a time when the market has, perhaps, begun to signal the beginning of the end of a half-century and more of global agricultural abundance. It is a crucial time for rethinking national policies and revitalizing multinational approaches for financing and conducting agricultural research. The authors present and evaluate practical policy actions for revitalizing agricultural R&D in the United States and globally to meet global food demand in the face of climate change and other challenges in the decades ahead.
http://csis.org/files/publication/100111_Pardey_USAagriRes_Web.pdf

Review of Evidence on Drylands Pastoral Systems and Climate Change, *Food and Agriculture Organization, January 2010*

Grasslands have vast untapped potential to mitigate climate change by absorbing and storing CO₂. Pastures and rangelands represent a carbon sink that could be greater than forests if properly managed. Covering some 30 percent of the earth's ice-free land surface and accounting for 70 percent of its agricultural land, the world's 3.4 billion ha of grasslands can also play a major role in supporting the adaptation and reducing the vulnerability to climate change of over one billion people who depend on livestock for a living.
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/i1135e/i1135e00.pdf>

See Also: Report Says Grasslands Can Help Combat Climate Change, *Voice of America, January 13*

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/environment/Grasslands-To-Combat-Climate-Change-81332832.html>

Solar-Powered Drip Irrigation Enhances Food Security in the Sudano-Sahel, *Jennifer Burney et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 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, we 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.abstract>

See Also: Solar-Powered Pumps Aid African Farmers, *Voice of America, January 10*

A new study in West Africa shows how farm irrigation systems powered by the sun can produce more food and money for villagers. The study in Benin found that solar-powered pumps are effective in supplying water, especially during the long dry season.

<http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/2010-01-10-voa2.cfm>

The Farm Bill and Beyond, *GMF Transatlantic Fellow Dan Morgan, German Marshall Fund, January 13*

More than a year after the U.S. Congress enacted a new multi-year farm bill (the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008), the politics of agriculture in Washington have been substantially reshuffled. This paper by agricultural commentator and former GMF Transatlantic Fellow Dan Morgan examines these tensions in the context of the 2008 farm bill, with a view to setting the stage for the next phase of the debate in the United States and Europe over climate, energy, farm subsidies, food safety, trade, and agricultural aid to farmers in developing countries.

http://www.gmfus.org/template/download.cfm?document=/doc/GMF7378_Farmbill_011210_Final.pdf

Towards a Typology of Food Security in Developing Countries, *International Food Policy Research Institute, January 2010*

The recent global food and financial crises have reversed the last decade's progress in reducing hunger and poverty. This paper conducts a factor and sequential typology analysis to identify groups of countries categorized according to five measures of food security—consumption, production, imports, distribution, and agricultural potential—by using indicators from 175 countries.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00945.pdf>

Food 2030: How We Got There, *UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, January 2010*

This is a summary of *Food 2030* – the U.K. Government's new food strategy – the first of its kind in over 50 years. In it the authors set out our vision of what they want the food system to look like in 2030, and how we can get there.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/pdf/food2030strategy-summary.pdf>

Green Protectionism in the European Union: How Europe's Biofuels Policy and the Renewable Energy Directive Violate WTO Commitments, *European Centre for International Political Economy, January 2010*

This paper examines the trade-policy consequences of current approaches in the European Union towards biofuels. The EU uses a broad range of measures to subsidise the production of biofuels in Europe and to protect them from foreign competition. It is one of the biggest manifestations of "green protectionism".

<http://www.ecipe.org/green-protectionism-in-the-european-union-how-europe2019s-biofuels-policy-and-the-renewable-energy-directive-violate-wto-commitments/PDF>

Agricultural Development and Nutrition: The Policies Behind China's Success, *World Food Programme, November 2009*

China's success in economic development is nothing short of extraordinary and has been the subject of countless studies. Relatively little attention, however, has been paid to the fundamental role that improvements in agriculture and nutrition played in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and hunger.

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp213339.pdf>

A Modern Trade Policy for the European Union, *European Centre for International Political Economy, January 2010*

This report of the European Trade Policy Study Group offers a comprehensive account of trade policy today and strategies for the future. These have not been easy tasks. Global trade is ever more complicated, involving old and new economic powers as well as old and new trade barriers. Crystallising the key strategic priorities out of the many interests and views that shape EU trade policy is a delicate affair. Yet it cannot be avoided. Leadership is about defining core strategies that enlighten, motivate and guide policymakers and citizens. Too often in recent trade policy, these strategies have been missing. Unsurprisingly, results have been absent, too. Europe's trade policy leadership for the next five years – at home and abroad – should aim to reverse the trend of trade policy in decline.

<http://www.ecipe.org/tpsg/A%20Modern%20Trade%20Policy%20for%20The%20European%20Union.pdf>

See Also: EU Must Lead on Trade Policy, Seek Doha Deal: Think-Tank, *Reuters, January 14*

The European Union must streamline its trade policy and take the lead in reaching a new global trade deal, a Brussels think-tank said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE60C18L20100114>

Paving the Way for Development? The Impact of Transport Infrastructure on Agricultural Production and Poverty Reduction in the Democratic Republic of Congo, *International Food Policy Research Institute, December 2009*

Given its vast land resources and favorable water supply, the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC's) natural agricultural potential is immense. However, the economic potential of the sector is handicapped by one of the most dilapidated transport systems in the developing world. Road investments are therefore a high priority in the government's investment plans and those of its major donors. To inform this issue, the present paper primarily employs geographic information system (GIS)-based data to assess the impact of market access on agricultural and rural development in the DRC.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00944.pdf>

Greater Aid Transparency: Crucial for Aid Effectiveness, *Overseas Development Institute, January 2010*

This paper sets out and explores the link between donor aid and recipient country budgets, and the role greater transparency about aid can play in improving budget transparency, the quality of budgetary decisions, and accountability systems. The paper goes on to explore how current initiatives to improve aid transparency can best support better budgets and accountability in aid dependent countries. These efforts provide an important opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of both the recipient governments' own spending and the aid they receive from donors.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4673.pdf>

Looking Beyond the Obvious: Uncovering the Features of Natural Resource Conflicts in Uganda,

International Food Policy Research Institute, December 2009

Disputes over land, water, forests, rangelands, and other resources, both privately and commonly-held, are omnipresent across Africa and increasing in number due to the socioeconomic and environmental changes happening on micro- and macro-levels. Communities in Africa have a variety of mechanisms rooted in customary and statutory institutions to deal with disputes. This paper uses community-level survey data from Uganda to investigate the determinants of natural resource conflicts and the type of institutions people turn to for conflict resolution.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/CAPRIWP95.pdf>

Poverty in the Philippines: Causes, Constraints and Opportunities, *Asian Development Bank, December 2009*

Against the backdrop of the global financial crisis and rising food, fuel, and commodity prices, addressing poverty and inequality in the Philippines remains a challenge. The proportion of households living below the official poverty line has declined slowly and unevenly in the past four decades, and poverty reduction has been much slower than in neighboring countries such as the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. This report analyzes the causes of poverty and recommends ways to accelerate poverty reduction and achieve more inclusive growth. It also provides an overview of current government responses, strategies, and achievements in the fight against poverty and identifies and prioritizes future needs and interventions.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Poverty-Philippines-Causes-Constraints-Opportunities/Poverty-Philippines-Causes-Constraints-Opportunities.pdf>

Innovations in Insuring the Poor, *International Food Policy Research Institute, December 2009*

This set of briefs considers how to increase the tools available to poor households to manage agricultural and health risks. The focus is how to develop insurance markets, along with other financial instruments such as credit, savings, and social protection policies. The series does not document the proven impact of insurance markets for the welfare of poor people; rather, it brings together briefs written by businesspeople, policymakers, and researchers that document innovations, lessons learned, and areas of future work and action.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/focus17.pdf>

The Economics of Adaptation to Extreme Weather Events in Developing Countries, *Center for Global Development, January 2010*

Without international assistance, developing countries will adapt to climate change as best they can. Part of the cost will be absorbed by households and part by the public sector. Adaptation costs will themselves be affected by socioeconomic development, which will also be affected by climate change. Without a better understanding of these interactions, it will be difficult for climate negotiators and donor institutions to determine the appropriate levels and modes of adaptation assistance. This paper contributes by assessing the economics of adaptation to extreme weather events.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423545_file_Economics_of_Adaptation_FINAL.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)

Further information about the symposium will soon be available on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative's website, www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.

Global Forum for Food and Agriculture

Date: January 14 - 16, 2010

Location: International Congress Center, Berlin, Germany

Climate protection is one of the key challenges facing us today in environmental, social and economic policy terms. This holds true for all sectors at global and at regional levels. With the subject "Agriculture and Climate Change – New Concept Proposals from Policymakers and Industry" the Germany's Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) will take up the challenges associated with climate change at the forthcoming International Green Week and, at the same time, follow up on "food security" which was the main focus in 2009. Agriculture Ministers from around the globe are invited to come to Berlin to attend the International Agriculture Ministers' Panel Discussion and the Berlin Summit of Agriculture Ministers on 16 January 2, 2010 during the Green Week in order to discuss experiences and concept proposals in the field of climate protection and the adaptation strategies pursued by their countries. In doing so, they can already draw on the outcome of the G8 Summit in L'Aquila and the UN Climate Conference of December 2009 and discuss in more concrete terms how the results can be implemented in the new climate regime from 2012.

[Program](#)

[Online Registration](#)

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. Poverty and other social problems are leading to unsustainable agriculture, degradation of natural resources and increased migration. Another challenge is the impact of globalization, due to changes in the world trade system and potentially skewed forces of competition. This instability is further exacerbated by the unrest in financial markets. 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

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](#)

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." USDA's Under Secretary Jim Miller will present the foreign trade outlook and Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will deliver the domestic agricultural economic outlook. It will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to rural communities, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, conservation, and food safety and security. The forum also will feature traditional USDA commodity supply and demand and food price outlooks. USDA will Web cast the entire morning plenary speeches. USDA has hosted the Outlook Forum since 1923 to provide farmers and ranchers, government, and agribusinesses with sound information for decision-making. Attendees are expected to include members of farm organizations, food and fiber firms, academia, foreign governments, and the news media.

[Session and Speakers](#)

[Program at a Glance](#)

[Public Registration](#)

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](#)

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

India Holds Public Meetings on GM Food Crop, *Guardian, January 15*

As India's central government begins a series of public meetings across the country this month on the commercial release of genetically modified (GM) brinjal – or aubergine - in this country, activists and farmers' groups are mobilising to oppose such a plan.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jan/14/india-gm-food-crop>

Ethiopia – Country of the Silver Sickle – Offers Land Dirt Cheap to Farming Giants, *Guardian, January 15*

Ethiopia's great land lease project is moved swiftly ahead. In an effort to introduce large-scale commercial farming to the country, the government is offering up vast chunks of fertile farmland to local and foreign

investors at almost giveaway rates. By 2013, 3m hectares of idle land is expected to have been allotted – equivalent to more than one fifth of the current land under cultivation in the country.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jan/15/ethiopia-sells-land-farming-giants>

Haiti's Only Wheat Mill Inoperable, *Wall Street Journal*, January 14

Haiti's only major flour mill was severely damaged in the earthquake, complicating efforts to feed the country's people.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/dispatch/2010/01/14/haiti%E2%80%99s-only-wheat-mill-inoperable/>

Power of Genomics Cracks Soybean Code, *Agence France-Presse*, January 14

Scientists on Wednesday unveiled the genome of the soybean, saying it was an achievement that should deepen understanding of one of the world's most important crops, help to boost yields and defend the plant against pests.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gFjiEoUn3rPVqIBHjjs-D6ej8sHg>

See Also: USDA Scientists, Cooperators Sequence Soy Genome, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, January 13

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/01/0014.xml>

See Also: Genome Sequence of the Palaeopolyploid Soybean, *Jeremy Schmutz et al., Nature*, January 14

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v463/n7278/pdf/nature08670.pdf>

Specter of Afghan Drought Brings Hunger, Poppy Fears, *Reuters*, January 14

Nearly half way through the Afghan winter, unusually warm and dry weather is raising fears of a drought that could cause food shortages, undermine efforts to slash poppy growing and worsen security problems.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Afghanistan-Pakistan/idUSTRE60D0X020100114>

Agri-Vie Eyes \$300 Million for Africa Farm Projects, *Reuters Africa*, January 14

Sub-Saharan focused private equity fund Agri-Vie will reach its \$100 million target for investment in agricultural projects by March, and could triple this amount in a second fund, a top official said. Agri-Vie funds food and agricultural projects in Africa seeking to make equity investments across the agribusiness spectrum, including processing and product distribution. Agri-Vie's backers include South Africa's Development Bank of Southern Africa and private entities such as the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE60D0DM20100114>

Organic Farmers Must Embrace GM Crops If We Are to Feed the World, Says Scientist, *The Times*, January 13

The organic movement should overcome its hostility to genetically modified crops and embrace the contribution that they can make to sustainable farming, one of the world's leading agricultural scientists has told *The Times*. Although organic farmers are among the most implacable opponents of genetic engineering, it should be accepted as legitimate, according to Gordon Conway, Professor of International Development at Imperial College London and a former government adviser.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/science/earth-environment/article6985295.ece>

Maize Farmers in Zimbabwe Again Face Widespread Fertilizer Shortages, *Voice of America*, January 13

Many Zimbabwean farmers face the risk of another poor maize season due to widespread shortages of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, a key input. Agriculture Minister Joseph Made told the state-controlled Herald newspaper in a report published Tuesday that the government was scaling up imports of fertilizer from Zambia, Malawi and South Africa. But experts said this move comes too late given the time it will take shipments to arrive.

<http://www1.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/food-agriculture/Zimbabwe-Maize-Farmers-Bemoan-Fertilizer-Shortages-13Jan10-81340057.html>

U.S. Food Delivery Contracts in Middle East Worth Billions, *Washington Post*, January 11

One of the least publicized elements of the cost of the fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq is the need to truck into Iraq and landlocked Afghanistan almost all the perishable and non-perishable food items consumed by U.S. forces and civilian personnel.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/10/AR2010011002473.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Why Italy is Giving Priority to Africa's Development, *Daily Nation*, January 14

Italy is paying closer attention to Africa in the conviction that there is a different continent from the one traditionally depicted as a land of poverty, disease and conflict.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Opinion/-/440808/841590/-/5q9kpy/-/>

Did You Take an Afghan with You, U.S. Farms Chief Asks, *Reuters*, January 14

President Barack Obama's administration is targeting agriculture as its key non-security priority, aiming to bolster the Afghan government by helping it to deliver services to the largely rural population and lessen support for the Taliban. But getting Afghan officials involved is often difficult, particularly in outlying districts, as the fragile central government tries to build up its own capacity and shake mistrust over a reputation of corruption.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60D1KX20100114>

See Also: U.S. Boosts Efforts to Track Aid Money in Afghanistan, *Washington Post*, January 12

President Obama's special inspector general for Afghanistan said in Kabul that his team is boosting its manpower as U.S. aid money into the country grows -- and along with it the potential for fraud and abuse. "We are ramping up," retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields said at a briefing for Afghan and foreign journalists at the U.S. Embassy.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/12/AR2010011202276_pf.html

Pakistan to Get More US Assistance: Trade, Investment Opportunities to Increase: Holbrooke,

Associated Press of Pakistan, January 13

US Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke said bilateral relations between Pakistan and America have improved in one year and announced that Pakistan will get more flow of financial assistance in the near future. On the situation in Afghanistan, Holbrooke said when the Afghan military moves in areas controlled by Taliban and clears them, then it is important to restore services of health and education, roads, schools, justice system and administration and that needs more US trained staff. He said agriculture, one of the important sectors, was being given more emphasis following the clearance of the areas from the Taliban in Afghanistan.

http://www.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=93838&Itemid=1

UN Food Aid Trouble in Somalia "A Great Concern": US, *Reuters*, January 9

Disruptions of the U.N. World Food Program's operations in Somalia by al Shabaab rebels are a great concern and could worsen that country's humanitarian crisis, the top U.S. military officer said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE60801J20100109>

USAID Awards Grants Aimed at Rural Farmers, *AllAfrica.com*, January 7

The United States Agency for International Development (USAid) has awarded US\$14 million in grants to seven non-governmental organisations aimed at restoring livelihoods to farmers in rural Zimbabwe and kick-starting agricultural recovery. The grants target more than 52 000 farmers and agri-businesses in support of a broad range of activities and sectors, with the ultimate goal of increasing production and raising incomes.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201001080816.html>

A Spoonful of Ingenuity, *Economist*, January 7

Every year, nearly 11m children die before the age of five because of a mixture of poor nutrition and preventable disease. Many of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (calling, for example, for a plunge in child and maternal mortality by 2015) look unattainable. The good news is that more imaginative

ways of raising and spending money are now on the horizon. How well they do will depend on many details—like the quality of information flowing between poor places and the governments, firms and individuals that want to help.

http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15213715

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

MSU Experts Help East Africa Model Climate Change, *Associated Press, January 14*

Drought blamed on global warming is the latest source of uncertainty for East African farmers, and experts at Michigan State University are working to develop climate data that helps growers pick crops that can take the heat. The project, financed by a Rockefeller Foundation grant, will focus on the effects of climate change on Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9563357>

U.S. Climate Envoy Urges Nations Pledge Carbon Cuts, *Reuters, January 14*

The top U.S. climate envoy urged other countries to set carbon emission targets to fight global warming by the end of this month as a crucial step toward a global legally binding agreement.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60D5KE20100114?feedType=RSS&feedName=everything&virtualBrandChannel=11563>

China Needs to Cut Use of Chemical Fertilizers: Research, *Reuters, January 14*

China, the world's largest grain producer and top consumer of fertilizers, should reduce its reliance on chemical fertilizers by as much as 50 percent because excessive use has resulted in serious pollution, according to a research report. Chemical fertilizers had helped China, the world's most populous country, to feed its population despite limited farmland, but excessive application had led to low farmland efficiency and serious pollution, according to a research report issued by the school and Greenpeace on Thursday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE60D20T20100114>

Rains in Kenya Help Cool Tea Prices, *Financial Times, January 13*

Tea prices have plunged almost 20 per cent since the beginning of the year as heavy rains in Kenya, the world's largest exporter, boost supplies and cut abruptly the price rally in one of last year's best performing commodities.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/890c84f8-0075-11df-b50b-00144feabdc0.html>

Warming Imperils Crops in India and China, *New York Times, Green Inc. (blog), January 11*

China and India, which constitute about 37 percent of the world's population, face a future of sharply lower crop yields as a consequence of climate change, leading scientists in both nations warned recently. Yields from rain-irrigated wheat could drop by 44 percent by 2050 under warmer conditions forecasted by climate models, the Indian farm scientist M.S. Swaminathan told reporters during the 97th Indian Science Congress last week.

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/11/warming-imperils-crops-in-india-and-china/>

India's Opening With Bangladesh, *Op-Ed, Philip Bowring, New York Times, January 11*

Bangladesh's biggest security issue is water. It has legitimate worries about Indian plans for dam building on shared water resources that are the lifeblood of all of Bangladesh and much of northern India. Can the two cooperate for mutual benefit — and to oppose any plans China, the source of many of these rivers, has to divert them for its own use?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/12/opinion/12iht-edbowring.html>

Future Kenya Port Could Mar Pristine Land, *New York Times, January 11*

The biggest worry is the environment. Fishing is a lifeline for many of Lamu district's 85,000 people, and the Kenyan government does not have the greatest record of preserving its natural resources, with raw sewage dumped into Lake Victoria and countless trees chopped down in the Rift Valley. Lamu fishermen fear that the planned dredging of the port will ruin fish breeding grounds.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/12/world/africa/12lamu.html>

Mideast Water Crisis Brings Misery, Uncertainty, *NPR, January 7*

The Middle East is facing its worst water crisis in decades. For three summers, the annual rains have failed to come. Farmland has dried up across the region in Iraq, Syria, southeast Turkey and Lebanon.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122294630>

WOMEN

Pakistani Women Work for Peace amid Violence, *Op-Ed, Renee Loth, Boston Globe, January 15*

Every day in Pakistan - and in volatile trouble spots all over the world - women's lives are routinely endangered, to say nothing of their "rights." Even where such practices are strictly against the law, they are woven into a social system where young girls are bartered away to pay off family debts, brides are killed in suspicious "kitchen fires" for having an insufficient dowry, and women marry their rapists because they cannot live with the social stigma of a crime not their own. Cultural violence targeting women is a bedeviling problem everywhere, but Pakistan is ranked third lowest on the World Economic Forum's gender equality index.

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/01/15/pakistani_women_work_for_peace_amid_violence/

Women's Issues Back on the Agenda for US, *Post-Standard, January 14*

The Obama administration has reaffirmed a U.S. commitment to foreign aid that promotes family planning and women's reproductive health. But it's long past time to remove the ideological blinders and accept that the welfare of women is inextricably linked to the welfare of nations.

http://blog.syracuse.com/opinion/2010/01/womens_issues_back_on_the_agenda.html

Clinton Diplomacy Emphasizes Women's Rights, *Washington Post, January 13*

Rarely does Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton venture abroad without pushing the case for "women empowerment," a signature issue of her nearly one-year tenure as the top U.S. diplomat.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/13/AR2010011300464.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

India Approves Several Measures to Cool Food Prices, *Wall Street Journal, January 13*

India's federal government Wednesday approved a slew of measures to tame rising food prices and boost local supplies, as output of many agricultural commodities has dropped following the lowest monsoon season rainfall in 37 years.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100113-704288.html>

See Also: India to Increase Supply of Rice, Wheat, Sugar to Check Prices, *Bloomberg, January 13*

India, the world's second-most populous nation, plans to boost domestic supplies of rice, wheat, sugar, cooking oil and lentils to cool food inflation from a near an 11-year high. The government proposes to sell 2 to 3 million metric tons of wheat and rice in the open market in the next two months, Farm Minister Sharad Pawar told reporters in New Delhi. The government will allow duty-free import of white sugar until Dec. 31, increasing supplies, he said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=atxIn8p.G8YI>

Grain Prices Dip after Forecast for Record Crops, *Financial Times, January 13*

Grain and oilseed prices tumbled after the US government said the country's farmers would harvest the largest ever crop of corn and soybean. The report by the US Department of Agriculture wrong footed the market as traders have largely bet on a smaller crop due to bad weather in the US Midwest.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3444d12e-ffe3-11de-ad8c-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Corn and Soybean Prices Plummet After Estimates of Record Crops, *Wall Street Journal, January 13*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703672104574654743666027548.html>

Corn, Soybean Record Crops Mean 20% Price Drop, Huckabay Says, *Bloomberg, January 13*

Record corn and soybean production in the U.S., the world's largest grower and exporter, may extend a slump in prices this month to more than 20 percent before the next harvest in September, said Roy Huckabay at the Linn Group.

<http://bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601109&sid=abv33eSaxfCY&pos=13>

Trade War Fears Raised on Carbon Border Tax, *Financial Times, January 12*

Karel De Gucht, Europe's trade commissioner-designate, warned that a carbon border tax could lead to a "trade war" as he rejected a policy that has gained traction in Europe following last month's disappointing Copenhagen summit on climate change. Nicolas Sarkozy, the French president, has for months championed the idea that the European Union should levy an import tax on goods from countries that do not show similar ambition in fighting global warming.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ac093724-ffa5-11de-921f-00144feabdc0.html>

India Says Core Issues in Doha Round Unresolved, *Reuters, January 11*

Key issues in the ongoing talks for a global trade deal have not been settled and it is too early to say whether the pact will be signed by the stated target of 2010, India's chief negotiator in the Doha round said on Monday. Countries will have to agree on a formula for the deal by June 2010 at the latest in order to be in a position to sign an agreement by the end of the year, D.K. Mittal told Reuters. They are due to assess the progress of the talks again in March.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-45312520100111?sp=true>

India Likely to Import More Sugar, *Wall Street Journal, January 11*

India is likely to import an additional 1 million metric tons of sugar in the current marketing year to help bridge a shortfall it faces for the second year in a row due to low crop output and high demand.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126320161403624393.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Antitrust Questions for Monsanto, *New York Times, January 14*

The Monsanto Company, the world's largest seed producer, said that the Justice Department had formally requested information on its herbicide-tolerant soybean seed business as part of an investigation into anticompetitive practices.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/15/business/15seed.html>

See Also: Monsanto Announces Continued Cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice, *Press Release, Monsanto Company, January 14*

<http://monsanto.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=793>

Chinese Food Giant Eyes Australian Sugar Maker in Billion-Dollar Offer, *Voice of America, January 14*

A Chinese food giant has offered \$1.4 billion to buy one of Australia's biggest sugar companies. The huge bid could reignite concerns about Chinese investment in Australia. Shanghai's biggest food company, Bright Food Group, is trying to buy the sugar business of CSR, one of Australia's oldest firms.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/Chinese-Food-Giant-Eyes-Australian-Sugar-Maker-in-Billion-Dollar-Offer--81471032.html>

Tyson Agrees to Settle Lawsuit Over Antibiotics, *Associated Press, January 14*

Tyson Foods Inc. has agreed to settle a lawsuit that accused the poultry giant of falsely claiming its chickens were "raised without antibiotics."

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9563822>

BASF, DuPont Settle Over Patent Infringement Suits, *Associated Press, January 13*

Chemical companies BASF and DuPont on Wednesday said they are putting to rest dueling patent lawsuits. In June 2009 the two companies filed suit against each other, claiming the other infringed on patents related to seed traits that give plants tolerance to certain herbicides.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/BASF-DuPont-settle-over-apf-931400689.html?x=0&v=3>

Hershey's Bar to Bidding for Cadbury, *Financial Times*, January 13

Hershey's attempt to put together a formal bid for Cadbury has steep hurdles to overcome if it is to have any chance of success. A committee consisting of three Hershey directors, set up to study the feasibility of a Cadbury bid, has given a green light to pursue a deal, and Hershey has authorized its primary banks – JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America – to line up financing for its bid.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/92fa2eaa-0072-11df-b50b-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Cadbury Steps Up Defense Against Kraft Bid, *Wall Street Journal*, January 12

British candy maker Cadbury PLC reported steady growth in revenue and margins for 2009 and a promising outlook for 2010, news that it hopes will bolster its defense against unwanted suitor Kraft Foods Inc. as the companies enter the final stages of a five-month takeover battle.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704081704574653512584339346.html>

See Also: In Boost to Kraft, Ferrero Out of Cadbury Race, *Washington Post*, January 12

Italy's Ferrero has decided not to bid for Cadbury Plc, further strengthening the case of Kraft Foods in its 10.5 billion pound (\$17 billion) takeover bid for the British chocolatier.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/12/AR2010011200221.html>

Danforth Center to Collaborate With Dow AgroSciences to Employ EXZACT™ Precision Technology, *Dow Agro Sciences*, January 12

Researchers working at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center have entered into a research collaboration with Dow AgroSciences LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, to study how its EXZACT™ Precision Technology can help improve the root crop cassava for millions of people living in developing countries. Cassava serves as the primary food source for more than 750 million people each day. While also an important source of local income for small farmers across much of Africa, Asia and Latin America, cassava production and use is limited by several constraints. The starchy storage roots have poor nutritional content and the plant is susceptible to a number of pathogens. This is particularly the case in Africa, where one third of the continental harvest is lost each year to viral diseases; with Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) currently emerging as the major threat to food security in some parts of Eastern Africa. Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) alone accounts for 35 million tons of yield loss in Africa, with an estimated value of nearly \$1 billion per year.

<http://www.dowagro.com/newsroom/corporatenews/2010/20100112a.htm>

Biodiesel Producers Wait for Subsidy Renewal, *Des Moines Register*, January 10

The biodiesel industry is sweating out an unplanned winter vacation. Industry officials say plants that produce the fuel have slowed production or shut down after a \$1-a-gallon tax subsidy expired Dec. 31. The industry also is waiting for a decision from the Environmental Protection Agency as to whether biodiesel made from soybean oil will qualify toward meeting new biofuel usage mandates.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100110/BUSINESS01/1100320/1029/BUSINESS/Brasher-Biodiesel-producers-wait-for-subsidy-renewal>

See Also: The Unintended Ripples From the Biomass Subsidy Program, *Washington Post*, January 10

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/09/AR2010010902023_pf.html

Pioneer Calls Rival Monsanto 'Monopoly', *Des Moines Register*, January 9

Pioneer Hi-Bred called rival seed company Monsanto an "overwhelming monopoly" and said it had "encouraged the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Justice to examine the current state of ag biotech competition and take appropriate action to restore a competitive environment."

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100109/BUSINESS01/1090330/-1/SPORTS12/Pioneer-calls-rival-Monsanto-monopoly->

See Also: DuPont Urges U.S. to Curb Monsanto Seed Monopoly, *Reuters*, January 8

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN087196620100108>

See Also: Monsanto States Its Case on Seed Competition, *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, January 8

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/business/stories.nsf/story/E5171D85DB674547862576A5000E29FA?OpenDocument>

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