

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

**Quote of the Week:** *"We only spend about 1 percent of our budget on foreign aid. But it pays off in a lot of ways. Most of the aid we provide goes to countries that are helping us with our national security. When we're providing aid to that country, we may be saving a larger amount in terms of what we would have to deal with if they weren't cooperating with us."* – U.S. President Barack Obama, Google+ Hangout with the President, January 30, 2012

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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### CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

[Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

[Environment \(Water/Climate\)](#)

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**DuPont Announces Goals to Help Feed a Growing World Population Calls on Others to Join Effort to End Global Hunger**, *MSNBC, February 2*

Responding to the challenge of global hunger, DuPont announced goals for its contribution to help improve food security around the world. DuPont's food security goals - which address innovation, education and rural community development - will be tracked along with DuPont sustainability goals. DuPont was one of the first companies to establish sustainability goals in the 1990s and has consistently surpassed its commitments.

[http://www.cnn.com/id/46237450/DuPont Announces Goals to Help Feed a Growing World Population Calls on Others to Join Effort to End Global Hunger](http://www.cnn.com/id/46237450/DuPont%20Announces%20Goals%20to%20Help%20Feed%20a%20Growing%20World%20Population%20Calls%20on%20Others%20to%20Join%20Effort%20to%20End%20Global%20Hunger)

**SEE ALSO: Africa Farms Need Crop Aids Tailored to Local Needs**, *Bloomberg*, February 2

International agriculture companies need to work more closely with farmers in poorer countries to tailor products that will help boost crop production, Ellen Kullman said. Companies including DuPont, the world's second-largest seed maker, must be mindful of what farmers in Africa and other developing regions need so that agricultural products are used effectively,

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-02/africa-farms-need-crop-aids-tailored-to-local-needs-dupont-says.html>

**Food Price Watch**, *World Bank*, February 2012

Higher maize, sugar, and oil prices have contributed to increase the costs of various types of food, though local maize prices have largely been stable in Sub-Saharan Africa. These food price rises create macro vulnerabilities as well as increases in poverty. Estimates of those who fall into, and move out of, poverty as a result of price rises since June 2010 show there is a net increase in extreme poverty of about 44 million people in low- and middle-income countries.

[http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/food\\_price\\_watch\\_report\\_feb2011.html](http://www.worldbank.org/foodcrisis/food_price_watch_report_feb2011.html)

**SEE ALSO: Global Food Prices Easing, Volatility Still High: World Bank**, *Reuters*, January 31

Global food prices are set to decline further in 2012 as a weaker world economy dampens consumer demand while food supplies rise, the World Bank said on Tuesday, warning that a possible rise in oil prices could reverse the trend. The World Bank said its 2011 annual food price index shows prices are still 24 percent higher than in 2010 despite some decline.

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/41604036>

**Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing**, *UN High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability*, January 30

The new agricultural revolution should focus on sustainable intensification and on crop diversification and resilience to climate change. New "green" biotechnologies can play a valuable role in enabling farmers to adapt to climate change, improve resistance to pests, restore soil fertility and contribute to the diversification of the rural economy.

[http://www.un.org/gsp/sites/default/files/attachments/GSPReport\\_unformatted\\_30Jan.pdf](http://www.un.org/gsp/sites/default/files/attachments/GSPReport_unformatted_30Jan.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: UN Panel Urges World to Kick Off Energy Revolution at Rio Summit This Year**, *Associated Press*, January 30

The report says governments and international organizations "should work to create a new green revolution — an 'ever-green revolution' for the 21st century" by spending more on agricultural research, protecting imperiled plant and animal species, conserving land and water and fighting pollution.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/un-panel-urges-world-to-kick-off-energy-revolution-at-rio-summit-this-year/2012/01/30/gIQAq5FfcQ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/un-panel-urges-world-to-kick-off-energy-revolution-at-rio-summit-this-year/2012/01/30/gIQAq5FfcQ_story.html)

**SEE ALSO: The U.N.'s New, Big, Scary Report**, *Editorial*, *Washington Times*, February 2

The United Nations is raising the alarm that unless the world's governments take drastic action to impose strict development controls, humanity is in grave peril. So what else is new?

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/feb/2/the-uns-new-big-scary-report/>

**UN Declares Somalia's Famine Over, but Says Millions Across East Africa Still in Crisis**, *Associated Press*, February 3

The UN said that Somalia's famine is over, but the world body's Food and Agricultural Organization warned that continued assistance is needed to stop the region from slipping back. The U.N. said that 2.3 million people remain in a food crisis situation in Somalia and still need assistance. That represents 31 percent of the country's population. Across the Horn of Africa region the total is 9.5 million who need help.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/un-downgrades-somalias-famine-but-says-millions-across-east-africa-still-in-crisis-situation/2012/02/03/gIQANMIBmQ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/un-downgrades-somalias-famine-but-says-millions-across-east-africa-still-in-crisis-situation/2012/02/03/gIQANMIBmQ_story.html)

**Reinvigorating Land-Grant Institutions Is Vital**, *Opinion*, *John Carlin and Mark E. Keenum*, *Roll Call*, February 2

The investments our country has made in land-grant institutions over the past 150 years have paid huge dividends many times over. They have kept our nation at the forefront of scientific discovery, laid the foundation for our industrial might, assured safe and plentiful food for generations of Americans and helped propel the global fight against hunger. With a track record like this, and so many critical challenges before us, now is the time to reinvigorate our support for America's land-grant colleges and universities.

[http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57\\_89/john\\_carlin\\_mark\\_keenum\\_reinvigorating\\_land\\_grant\\_institutions\\_vital-212059-1.html](http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57_89/john_carlin_mark_keenum_reinvigorating_land_grant_institutions_vital-212059-1.html)

**Taking On Agriculture to Reduce Obesity And Hunger: Derek Yach, *Huffington Post, February 1***

We're investing in small farmers around the world and we're involved all along the chain, from the seed and development of farming practices to the final product and its consumption. We've partnered with the WFP and the USAID to fund better seeds and drip irrigation systems in Ethiopia so farmers can improve their yield of chickpeas. We believe this project can potentially reduce famine in Africa over the long term.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/riva-greenberg/diabetes-wellness\\_b\\_1236238.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/riva-greenberg/diabetes-wellness_b_1236238.html)

**Ambassador Cousin: An Important Choice for the World Food Program, *Opinion, Marshall Matz, Agri-Pulse, January 31***

Ambassador Cousin will take over the reins of WFP at a critical moment. The eyes of the world are on hunger, agriculture production and its importance to economic development and world stability. Almost 1 billion people are struggling with hunger every day. Most of them are children. The social, economic and political impact of hunger on this scale is extraordinary impacting all of humanity. The last three Executive Directors have been Americans, Catherine Bertini, Jim Morris and, currently, Josette Sheeran.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Matz\\_Cousin\\_01312012.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Matz_Cousin_01312012.asp)

**Feeding a Growing World Sustainably and Nutritiously, *Opinion, Dan Glickman, Diplomatic Courier, January 2012***

A key solution to this crisis lies in the improvement of agricultural systems, especially those in the developing world. With demand for food expected to more than double in the next 40 years, the world's farmers, ranchers, and fishers must be equipped to sufficiently increase food production and accessibility. Reaching this goal will require political and financial support for global agricultural development by governments, businesses, international organizations, and donors.

<http://www.diplomaticcourier.com/news/environment/721-feeding-a-growing-world-sustainably-and-nutritiously>

**Global Collaboration, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, February 3***

African soils are some of the poorest in the world. For generations, farmers have tilled the same plots, often with the same crop, year after year. The soil has had no time to rest and replenish. The smallholder farmers couldn't afford to let an inch of land lie fallow. Nor did they practice much crop rotation, the method of planting different crops in sequential seasons in order to restore certain nutrients to the soil or to prevent the buildup of pests or pathogens that occur when one crop is constantly grown.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2012/02/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-global-collaboration.html>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Remarks by the President at the National Prayer Breakfast, *White House, February 2***

When I decide to stand up for foreign aid, or prevent atrocities in places like Uganda, or take on issues like human trafficking, it's not just about strengthening alliances, or promoting democratic values, or projecting American leadership around the world, although it does all those things and it will make us safer and more secure. It's also about the biblical call to care for the least of these -- for the poor; for those at the margins of our society.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/02/remarks-president-national-prayer-breakfast>

**United States Advances Global Food Security under L'Aquila Food Security Initiative**, *U.S. State Department, February 2*

Food security is closely linked to economic growth, social progress, political stability, and peace. This is why we must show real progress in delivering on commitments to improve food security. AFSI participants convene twice annually to review progress toward meeting commitments, including financial pledges, and to discuss best practices and lessons learned.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/02/183066.htm>

**SEE ALSO: Keeping Promises on Food Security**, *Opinion, Jonathan Shrier, DipNote, February 3*

In the United States, this pledge is embodied in Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative. Taking a uniquely comprehensive approach to food security by investing in entire agricultural value chains, from seeds to markets to consumers, Feed the Future is the largest investment in agricultural development the United States has made in decades.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/keeping\\_promises\\_food\\_security](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/keeping_promises_food_security)

**Senate Appropriations Committee Announces Extension of Earmark Moratorium**, *U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, February 2*

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye announced that the Committee will continue a moratorium on earmarks for the current session of Congress. The moratorium will be extended to include all Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations bills.

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=3883059e-7a0c-496e-8d51-440aa7c2d57c>

**Chairwoman Stabenow Announces Farm Bill Hearing Schedule for February, March**, *U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, February 1*

Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, announced the Committee's Farm Bill hearing schedule for February and March. The hearing dates are: February 15, Energy and Economic Growth for Rural America; February 29, Strengthening Conservation through the 2012 Farm Bill; March 14, Healthy Food Initiative, Local Production and Nutrition; March 21, Risk Management and Commodities in the 2012 Farm Bill.

<http://www.ag.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/chairwoman-stabenow-announces-farm-bill-hearing-schedule-for-february-march>

**The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2012 to 2022**, *Congressional Budget Office, January 2012*

Each January, CBO prepares "baseline" budget projections spanning the next 10 years. Those projections are not a forecast of future events; rather, they are intended to provide a benchmark against which potential policy changes can be measured.

[http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/126xx/doc12699/01-31-2012\\_Outlook.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/126xx/doc12699/01-31-2012_Outlook.pdf)

**The Competitiveness and Innovation Capacity of the United States**, *U.S. Department of Commerce, January 2012*

Common to all three pillars—research, education, and infrastructure—is that they are areas where government has made, and should continue to make, significant investments. For a variety of reasons, the private sector under-invests in these areas so the government needs to step in to bring investment up to the socially optimal levels.

[http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/competes\\_010511\\_0.pdf](http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/competes_010511_0.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Food Secure Arab World**

*Date:* February 6 – 7, 2012

*Location:* Beirut, Lebanon

To achieve long-term prosperity and stability, Arab countries urgently need to foster food security. A comprehensive roadmap for development and poverty reduction requires a broad food security program for the region accompanied by country-specific strategies. Governments, civil society, nongovernmental

organizations, and the private sector should use participatory, transparent decisionmaking processes to design strategies and investment plans. The February 2012 Food-Secure Arab World Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, is a forum to discuss that evidence and use it to set priorities for a better future.

<http://fsaw2012.ifpri.info/>

### **Feeding the World: The 9-Billion People Question**

*Date:* February 8, 2012

*Location:* Geneva, Switzerland

By 2050, the global population will surpass 9 billion people. At the same time, the world's agricultural systems will be increasingly challenged by water scarcity, climate change and volatility, raising the risk of production shortfalls. Economist Conferences are launching an inaugural *Feeding the World* summit, to deliver fresh insight into solving the critical food challenges.

<http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/feeding-world>

### **Agricultural Communications Symposium**

*Date:* February 17, 2012

*Location:* Champaign, Illinois

The Symposium will include discussions on communicating the science behind modern agriculture, what consumers want to know about their food, nutrition in developing regions and communications challenges of the future.

<http://www.agcommevent.com/symposium-information/agenda>

### **USDA's 2012 Ag Outlook Forum**

*Date:* February 23-24, 2012

*Location:* Arlington, VA

Twenty-five breakout sessions with more than 80 speakers will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to agriculture and global food security; foreign trade, financial markets, and economic development; conservation; energy; climate change; food safety; food hubs; and Cooperative Extension and beginning farmers.

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>

### **4th Annual International Women's Day Breakfast**

*Date:* March 1, 2012

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Women Thrive and Honorary Co-Chairs Senator John Kerry, Representative Ted Poe, and Representative Jan Schakowsky invite you to join us to celebrate International Women's Day. From One in Three to None in Three: Women and Girls Living Free of Violence.

<http://www.womenthrive.org/images//invite020112ngo.jpg>

### **Effective Solutions for Agricultural Development through Empowered African Women Scientist**

*Date:* March 7, 2012

*Location:* London, U.K.

African women farmers and agricultural scientists make essential contributions to agriculture and can do so much more to help drive agricultural growth and tackle hunger in SSA - but they must be fully engaged. If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 percent, raising agricultural output and reducing the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 percent.

[http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/centres/africanagriculturaldevelopment/newssummary/news\\_2-2-2012-14-35-23](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/centres/africanagriculturaldevelopment/newssummary/news_2-2-2012-14-35-23)

### **World Biofuels Markets**

*Date:* March 13th – 15th, 2012

*Location:* Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will shared their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

<http://www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com/>

### **Jobs, Food & Farming**

*Date:* March 19-21, 2012

*Location:* Accra, Ghana

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: 1) Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agri-food sector in Africa; 2) The dynamics of change in different components of the agri-food sector and the implications of these dynamics for young people; 3) The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agri-food sector.

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/index.php>

### **CropLife America and RISE Spring Conference 2012**

*Date:* April 5-6, 2012

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Our 2012 conference will delve into key fields such as NPDES permitting, spray drift, the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program and pesticide registration, as well as broader issues such as the important role of precision agriculture.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/CLA-RISE-Spring-Conference-2012>

### **2012 National Policy Conference**

*Date:* May 16, 2012

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

CropLife America's 3rd Annual National Policy Conference will bring together leading experts, academics and politicians to engage in a debate on the development of 2012 Farm Bill. How does Congress design a Farm Bill that addresses human, social, economic, research and environmental needs while taking into account farmers, consumers and the natural systems that give us the food and fiber we need to live?

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/National-Policy-Conference-2012>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Reports:

#### **Multiplying Agriculture by the Power of Mobile**, *World Economic Forum, January 2012*

With skyrocketing populations in many developing countries, it is more important than ever that farmers have access to these same services to grow both their production and their incomes. This is where mobile-based financial services can help. By bridging the information gap and putting financial services within the reach of smallholder farmers, mobile platforms can make farming a more sustainable and profitable occupation with the potential to lift millions out of poverty.

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_TC\\_MFS\\_mAgriculture\\_Briefing\\_2012.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TC_MFS_mAgriculture_Briefing_2012.pdf)

#### **Resolving the Food Crisis: Assessing Global Policy Reforms Since 2007**, *IATP and Tufts University, January 2012*

Our review suggests that the food crisis was an important catalyst for change. This prompted renewed attention to agricultural development. Our review suggests areas of great concern, though. We see neither the necessary urgency nor the willingness to change policies that contributed to the recent crisis. New international funding is welcome, but only \$6.1 billion of the G-8's pledged \$22 billion, three-year commitment represents new money, and those pledges have been slow to materialize and are now threatened with cutbacks as developed countries adopt austerity measures.

<http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/ResolvingFoodCrisis.pdf>

#### **SEE ALSO: A Fresh Take on the World Food Problem**, *Justin Gillis, New York Times, January 30*

The authors found that genuine reforms are under way but that they have been slow and halting. The governments of rich countries have pumped some new money into agriculture, but they have not fully made good on the broad promises they made at a conference in Italy in 2009. And with their

economies still under strain, it is not clear that they will.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/30/a-fresh-take-on-the-world-food-problem/>

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

The fundamental purpose of agriculture is not just to produce food and raw materials, but to grow healthy, well-nourished people. One of the sector's most important tasks then is to provide food of sufficient quantity and quality to feed and nourish the world's population sustainably so that all people can lead healthy, productive lives. Achieving this goal will require closer collaboration across the sectors of agriculture, nutrition, and health.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/oc69a.pdf>

Media Articles:

**Agriculture Must Play 'Critical Role' in Africa's Future**, *CNN, February 1*

Commercial farming is a major industry in South Africa -- it distributes produce all over the world while Johannesburg's fruit market sells about a million tons of goods every year. But the picture is quite different in other parts of the continent -- more than two-thirds of African countries are net importers of agricultural products, with the continent importing \$50 billion worth of food every year.

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/02/01/business/africa-agriculture-food/index.html>

**Food Production Must Double in 30 Years**, *VOA News, February 1*

The world will need to double food production within the next three decades in order to feed a rapidly growing and increasingly affluent population. A UN report says reaching that goal will require major increases in intensive, high-efficiency livestock operations for both meat and dairy production. The report concedes that intensive livestock operations can pose serious ecological risks.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/health/Study-Food-Production-Must-Double-in-30-Years-138506174.html>

**Howard W. Buffett interview: How Warren Buffett's Grandson Developed a Passion for Agriculture**, *Washington Post, January 29*

Howard W. Buffett, the grandson of Warren Buffett and son of Howard G. Buffett, has a passion for agriculture. Buffett was in Davos as a "Global Shaper," the forum's newest group of those between 20 and 30. Buffett, who has worked with the White House and Defense Department, is the executive director of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-innovations/howard-w-buffett-interview-how-warren-buffetts-grandson-developed-a-passion-for-agriculture/2012/01/26/gIQAGRu3ZO\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-innovations/howard-w-buffett-interview-how-warren-buffetts-grandson-developed-a-passion-for-agriculture/2012/01/26/gIQAGRu3ZO_story.html)

**Rwanda's 'Specialty Coffee' Under Attack by Stink Bugs**, *Cathy Majtenyi, VOA News, January 27*

Specialty coffee comprises almost one-third of Rwanda's agricultural exports. But a sizable portion of the crop is being compromised by a defect called "potato taste." There is growing evidence that potato taste may be in part caused by the antestia, or "stink bug."

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/economy-and-business/Rwandas-Specialty-Coffee-Under-Attack-by-Stink-Bugs-138199789.html>

**USAID signs MOU on Food Security with N/R RCC**, *Modern Ghana, February 2*

The United States Agency for International Development, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Northern Regional Coordinating Council to improve upon food security in the region. It is expected to benefit about 367,000 people, including women and children in 12 districts in the region.

<http://www.modernghana.com/news/375961/1/usaids-signs-mou-on-food-security-with-nr-rcc.html>

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**FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

Reports:

**Aiding Conflict: The Impact of U.S. Food Aid on Civil War**, *National Bureau of Economic Research, February 1*

This paper examines the effect of U.S. food aid on conflict in recipient countries. Our estimates show that an increase in U.S. food aid increases the incidence, onset and duration of civil conflicts in recipient countries. Our results suggest that the effects are larger for smaller scale civil conflicts. No effect is found on interstate warfare.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w17794>

**SEE ALSO: Does Sending Food Aid to Struggling Nations do More Harm than Good?**, *Opinion, Ray Fisman, Slate, February 1*

Focusing on U.S. food aid windfalls that were triggered by bumper crops in the Midwest, they find that unexpected increases in wheat shipments increase civil conflicts in countries unlucky enough to be the beneficiaries of American assistance.

[http://www.slate.com/articles/business/the\\_dismal\\_science/2012/02/international\\_aid\\_does\\_sending\\_food\\_to\\_struggling\\_nations\\_do\\_more\\_harm\\_than\\_good.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/business/the_dismal_science/2012/02/international_aid_does_sending_food_to_struggling_nations_do_more_harm_than_good.html)

**SEE ALSO: Food Aid to Developing Nations May Increase Armed Conflict**, *Justin Lahart, Wall Street Journal, January 30*

The country is torn by conflict. The people are hungry. Harvard's Nathan Nunn and Yale's Nancy Qian found that an increase in food aid raises the incidence, onset and duration of armed civil conflict in a recipient country. The problem is particularly acute in countries where there are few roads — giving aid convoys fewer opportunities to circumvent problems — and ones where there are stark ethnic divisions.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2012/01/30/food-aid-to-to-developing-nations-may-increase-armed-conflict/>

**2012 Humanitarian Action for Children**, *UNICEF, January 2012*

In 2012, UNICEF expects to assist approximately 97 million persons in the countries and territories. To carry out its planned response, the organization will need US\$1.28 billion. Compared to the 2011 appeal, launched in February 2011, this requirement has decreased by 9 per cent, and the number of country-specific appeals has been reduced from 32 to 25.

[http://www.unicef.org/hac2012/files/HAC2012\\_LOW\\_WEB\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/hac2012/files/HAC2012_LOW_WEB_Final.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: UNICEF Appeals for \$1.28 Billion**, *AFP, January 27*

The East Africa and Southern Africa regions show the largest increase in funding needs, mainly due to the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. The Horn of Africa countries are Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ivBN6trio7NCI2SSe4e6cpQvWH7A?>

Media Articles:

**Government Backs Away from Pledge to Enshrine 0.7% Aid Level in Law**, *Guardian, February 2*

The coalition government has come under fire for backing away from its election pledge of passing into law a commitment to give 0.7% of national income in foreign aid. Andrew Mitchell, the international development secretary, said public opinion would find it hard to accept such a move ahead of legislation on the faltering economy.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/feb/02/government-backs-away-pledge-aid-law>

**Investing in America's Global Leadership**, *Adm. Robert J. Natter, Opinion, The Florida Times-Union, February 1*

America has never run from challenges, and we cannot now. That is why we need to ensure all of our tools of foreign policy — diplomacy and development, as well as defense — are ready to protect our national interests. The value of investing in American global leadership and our international affairs programs cannot be overstated. It is when America has become disengaged that the world has become less stable and less prosperous.

<http://jacksonville.com/opinion/letters-readers/2012-02-01/story/investing-americas-global-leadership>

**Africa Asks Itself: Where is the Aid Money?**, *Christian Science Monitor, February 1*

Jerry Rawlings, Ghana's former president and the AU's envoy to famine-hit Somalia, had talked of giving a "convincing response to the rest of the world that we're not incapable of supporting our own when the need arises." Yet according to figures obtained by the Monitor and confirmed by the United Nations, less than 15 percent of the promised money has turned up, from only seven countries.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2012/0201/Africa-asks-itself-Where-is-the-aid-money>

**South Korean Activists Says North Korea has Received Food Aid from China**, *VOA News, January 31*

A South Korean human rights group says China apparently delivered large amounts of food aid to impoverished North Korea earlier this month. The Japanese newspaper Tokyo Shimbun reported that Beijing has pledged to give North Korea 500,000 tons of food aid and 250,000 tons of crude oil.

<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2012/01/31/south-korean-activists-says-north-korea-has-received-food-aid-from-china/>

**Somali Insurgents Shut Down Red Cross Food Aid**, *MSNBC, January 31*

Somali insurgents have shut down food aid distribution by a major aid group because they say the organization is distributing spoiled food in the famine-hit south. The al-Shabab militant group said late Monday that they were shutting down the Red Cross' operation permanently.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/46200174>

**SEE ALSO: Red Cross Banned from Areas of Somalia Under al-Shabaab Control**, *Guardian, January 31*

Hundreds of thousands of Somalis could be deprived of critical food aid after Islamist rebels banned the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) from areas under their control. The move severs a critical lifeline in the south of the country where famine still threatens 250,000 people.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jan/31/red-cross-somalia-al-shabaab>

**World Food Programme: Up To 500,000 May Need Food Aid In Sudan**, *Huffington Post, January 30*

The World Food Program estimates that as many as a half million people could be forced to flee Sudan if the government in Khartoum does not allow humanitarian aid into the country, while a top U.S. official said that a humanitarian crisis is looming. Sudan is battling the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, a branch of a guerrilla movement which has fought various regimes in Khartoum.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/30/world-food-programme-up-t\\_n\\_1241680.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/30/world-food-programme-up-t_n_1241680.html)

**After the Famine: Somalia's Refugees Ponder Their Future**, *Guardian, January 30*

Across the country more than 1.4 million people have been displaced with more than 900,000 fleeing to neighboring countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia. Aid agencies warn that there can be no let-up in international support, and looking ahead to a voluntary return of displaced people seems a big ask. Despite reports that some men have returned to their farms, many more are too afraid to return south.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jan/30/somalia-famine-aid-refugees-shabaab>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Crop Yields in a Geoeingneered Climate**, *Nature, January 23*

Climate variations affect food production in complex ways. The most direct impacts stem from the dependence of crop yields on climate variables such as precipitation and temperature. The impact of climate change on yields varies widely across regions. Positive effects are projected in some areas, whereas strong detrimental effects are projected for highly vulnerable regions, with negative consequences on food security.

[http://geoengineering.googlegroups.com/attach/16d161c9a8d96638/Pongratz\\_et\\_al\\_NatureCC2012.pdf?part=4](http://geoengineering.googlegroups.com/attach/16d161c9a8d96638/Pongratz_et_al_NatureCC2012.pdf?part=4)

**SEE ALSO: Complications of Hacking the Planet**, *Justin Gillis, New York Times, January 23*

Researchers used computer analysis to test the idea of managing incoming sunlight and predicted what that would do to crop yields. As an example of the strategies that might be employed, some sunlight could be deflected away from the earth by using planes or rockets to scatter sulfur

compounds into the upper atmosphere on a routine basis, mimicking the effect of big volcanic eruptions.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/23/complications-of-hacking-the-planet/>?

#### Media Articles:

##### **Food Crisis as Drought and Cold Hit Mexico**, *New York Times*, January 30

The government in the past week has authorized \$2.63 billion in aid, including potable water, food and temporary jobs for the most affected areas, rural communities in 19 of Mexico's 31 states. But officials warned that no serious relief was expected for at least another five months, when the rainy season typically begins in earnest.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/31/world/americas/drought-and-cold-snap-cause-food-crisis-in-northern-mexico.html>

##### **SEE ALSO: Carstens Says Mexico's Historic Drought May Hamper Inflation Expectations**, *Bloomberg*, January 30

Mexico's worst drought on record is pushing up food costs and may hamper the country's efforts to keep inflation expectations in check. The drought, which President Felipe Calderon said Dec. 14 was the worst on record, is crimping grain crops and fueling concerns of shortages of food and water supplies in some areas.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-28/carstens-says-mexico-s-historic-drought-may-hamper-inflation-expectations.html>

##### **SEE ALSO: Drought Conditions Spur Action in Mexico**, *CNN*, January 31

Mexico is experiencing its most intense drought in 71 years, affecting 19 of the country's 31 states. The result has been a shortage of drinking water that affects about half of the nation's territory. More than 2 million people in 900 communities are estimated to be affected and are expecting to receive 400 million liters of water from the government.

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/01/31/world/americas/mexico-drought/index.html?>

##### **No Need to Panic About Global Warming**, *Opinion, Claude Allegre, Wall Street Journal*, January 27

The lack of warming for more than a decade—indeed, the smaller-than-predicted warming over the 22 years since the U.N.'s IPCC began issuing projections—suggests that computer models have greatly exaggerated how much warming additional CO2 can cause. Faced with this embarrassment, those promoting alarm have shifted their drumbeat from warming to weather extremes, to enable anything unusual that happens in our chaotic climate to be ascribed to CO2.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204301404577171531838421366.html>

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## **WOMEN & GIRLS**

#### Reports:

##### **Putting Gender on the Map**, *IFPRI*, January 2012

Gender mapping offers an important step toward greater awareness of the diverse gender roles in agricultural farm management systems, but gaps remain between field reality and the understanding of gender relations in research, on the one hand, and between the researchers' understanding and what can be displayed on a map, on the other.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01153.pdf>

#### Media Articles:

##### **India Deadliest Place in World for Girl Child**, *Times of India*, February 1

India is the most dangerous place in the world to be a baby girl. Newly released data shows that an Indian girl child aged 1-5 years is 75% more likely to die than an Indian boy, making this the worst gender differential in child mortality for any country in the world. The UN report is clear that high girl child mortality is explained by socio-cultural values.

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-02-01/india/31012468\\_1\\_child-mortality-infant-mortality-infant-deaths](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-02-01/india/31012468_1_child-mortality-infant-mortality-infant-deaths)

**UGANDA: Rural Women's Banks Ease Tough Times**, *IPS News, January 30*

For most Ugandan women, obtaining a commercial loan to start a business has been very difficult. Many do not have the required collateral of land title deeds and many cannot afford the interest rates charged by commercial banks. But six women-led rural banks have begun changing the lives of women in rural Uganda, easing their access to credit and enabling them to start small businesses and improve their food security.

<http://www.ips.org/africa/2012/01/uganda-rural-women8217s-banks-ease-tough-times/>

**Why the Global Economy Needs Businesses to Invest in Women**, *Opinion, Melanne Vermeer and Kim Azzarelli, Newsweek, January 30*

Businesses are starting to understand what development experts have long known: investing in women pays dividends. Women are more likely than men to put their income back into their communities, driving illiteracy and mortality rates down and GDP up. Women can also be the best innovators of the products they use and sell, sometimes transforming their communities with something as small as the knowledge of the optimal use of a household's single electric light.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/01/29/why-the-global-economy-needs-to-businesses-to-invest-in-women.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

**Customary Land Tenure in the Modern World**, *Rights and Resources, January 2012*

Governments often regard such lands as un-owned public lands or state property, making them particularly vulnerable to involuntary loss. A premise of this series is that most of these lands are rightfully the property of rural communities, in accordance with customary norms. This conflict of claim and interest directly affects most rural Africans and among whom 75 percent still live on less than US\$2 a day.

<http://www.rightsandresources.org/documents/quarantined/files/turningpoint/RightsToResourcesInCrisis.Briefs1thru5.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Global Land Grab Could Trigger Conflict, Report Says**, *Guardian, February 2*

The global rush for land in developing countries around the world could trigger a new wave of civil unrest if governments fail to recognise the rights of those using land without formal legal titles, according to new studies.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/feb/02/global-land-grab-trigger-conflict-report>

### Media Articles:

**As EU Ramps Up Biofuels, Climate Debate Intensifies**, *Wall Street Journal, February 3*

By setting a target for 2020, the EU is effectively encouraging farmers to grow biofuel crops. But that potentially incentivizes farmers to cut down forests and move into peat lands, both of which absorb high levels of carbon dioxide in their natural states. Even if these lands aren't claimed directly to grow crops for biofuels, biofuel crops could displace food crops that would then be forced to move there.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203806504577177723056373332.html>

**Ghana: Kufuor Blames Food Shortage on Lack of Good Governance**, *AllAfrica, February 3*

The former President of Ghana, H.E John Agyekum Kufuor has blamed the devastating food shortage facing African countries on lack of knowledge and good governance on the continent. According to him, our national political choices do not tend to reflect and accord the primacy due to the agricultural sector which is still inhabited by far the majority of the populations. The former President noted that the failures to provide sufficient and nutritious food have a devastating impact on health and development.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201202031086.html>

**China to Invest in Agriculture Innovation to Boost Food Security**, *Reuters, February 1*

China said it would boost agriculture innovation in an effort to increase food output, signaling that the world's most populous country is trying to tackle outdated farm and food infrastructure to feed its people. China accounts for a fifth of the world's population with less than 9 percent of its arable land, and the cabinet suggested in a document that China's leaders were aiming to get serious about technology to ensure long-term food supplies.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/01/us-china-agriculture-idUSTRE81016L20120201>

**Should We Still Worry About Food Prices?**, *Opinion, Otaviano Canuto, Huffington Post, February 1*

Food prices are finally coming down after a year of spikes and high volatility. But we must remain vigilant. It's true that high food prices are not bad for everybody. While the poor in urban areas and rural net consumers of food are usually threatened the most, farm producers tend to benefit. Yet when there is so much price volatility -- as we experienced last year -- uncertainty very often gets in the way of reaping any gains. And when domestic prices of key staples remain high in certain countries, millions of people suffer.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/otaviano-canuto/food-prices-volatility\\_b\\_1246674.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/otaviano-canuto/food-prices-volatility_b_1246674.html)

**Imperialism 2.0: EU fosters Botswana Degradation**, *Opinion, William G. Moseley, Aljazeera, February 1*

Botswana produces some of the highest quality organic, free range beef in the world. Until early last year, the EU was an important destination for this high value product. Then, following a visit by EU veterinary inspectors, new requirements were imposed requiring that all beef exports be traceable to fenced ranches or territories. After over a million USD in expenditures, and a six month self-imposed export moratorium to the EU, the government of Botswana has met these requirements.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/01/2012127131741143676.html>

**Davos is a World Apart from Niger's Food Crisis**, *Opinion, Jasmine Whitbread, Al Jazeera, January 31*

What we cannot forget is that the problems in the Global North are inextricably linked with those in the South. Almost 60 percent of African exports go to the US and Europe, two of the regions worst hit by the economic crisis. Reduced aid budgets in developed countries, rising oil prices and declining trade decrease poor countries' abilities to prepare for and offset against future disasters, such as the one we saw in East Africa in 2011.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/01/201212673450167297.html>

**UN Launches Information System to Boost Disaster Prevention, Food Security Measures**, *UN News Center, January 31*

The UN launched an information system to improve and expand the exchange of weather, climate and water data, which can be used for disaster risk reduction, water management, food security and health purposes. The World Meteorological Organization Information System will facilitate access to meteorological observations and products, making it easy to share them with a wide variety of stakeholders.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41091&Cr=&Cr1>

**Trade Barriers Imperil African Food Security**, *AlertNet, January 30*

Barriers to intraregional trade are preventing food from reaching the poor. Tanzania's minister for agriculture, food security and cooperatives, Jumanne Maghembe, announced a ban on the export of food stocks, especially maize, to neighboring countries in June 2011, in order to avert hunger at home. Export bans are just one example of the problems that constrain regional trade, with a significant impact on regional food security for millions.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/trade-barriers-imperil-african-food-security>

**Famine isn't an Extreme Event, it's the Predictable Result of a Broken System**, *Opinion, Oliver De Schutter, Guardian, January 30*

For the third time in seven years, the Sahel region of west Africa is facing a toxic combination of drought, poor harvests and soaring food prices. The solution is twofold: we must plan adequately for the food crises that emerge within our broken food system, and we must finally acknowledge how broken it is. Only when we are honest about hunger will the world's most vulnerable populations receive the short-term aid and long-term

support that they need.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/jan/30/famine-predictable-result-broken-system>

**To Feed a Billion Mouths**, *Himanshu, Opinion, Forbes India, January 30*

It is well known that majority of the poor are either cultivators or worse, agricultural labourers dependent on agriculture, but with no other means of sustenance. It is here that one has to start looking at Indian agriculture not as a means of producing food and other raw material for industry, but also as an integral component of the Indian population which has remained outside the growth spurt seen in the last decade.

<http://forbesindia.com/article/reimagining-india/to-feed-a-billion-mouths/32112/1>

**Food Production Scheme Needs All-Round Support**, *AllAfrica, January 29*

Tanzania's most ambitious farming scheme, the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania, which envisages increasing food output for local consumption and export, has impressed delegates at the just ended World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The SAGCOT scheme is a highly ambitious initiative that is organized through a Public-Private Partnership model. It focuses on promoting clusters of profitable farming with major benefits going to small-scale farmers and local communities.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201201300861.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**CME Rice Contract Sows Dissension**, *Ian Berry, Wall Street Journal, February 3*

CME Group Inc. is under pressure to restructure its rice futures contract as farmers contend it no longer is effective in protecting against price swings. CME executives acknowledge the gap has become an issue for farmers and changes might be needed, but won't say what steps they favor. The exchange would only say it is continuing to investigate the issue.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204662204577199320437040152.html>

**Plan to Feed 67,000 Children in Central and Eastern Provinces**, *AllAfrica, January 28*

Over 67,000 children in 75 public schools in marginalized areas of Central and Eastern provinces will benefit from a multi-million farming project to boost nutritional levels. The programme, which is being funded by the US-based Monsanto Fund, will help retain pupils in school in the dry areas. Monsanto Fund corporate affairs director in charge of Africa said each of the institutions will receive drip irrigation kits and variety of vegetable seeds and fruits.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201201301493.html>

**Unilever Launches Global Charity Foundation**, *Marketing Magazine, January 27*

Unilever has teamed up with Oxfam, PSI, Save the Children, Unicef and the World Food Programme to launch The Unilever Foundation and ramp up its CSR credentials. The foundation will work in partnership with the global organizations on a number of specific initiatives. Unilever will work with Oxfam on a number of programs to "empower individuals and deliver good nutrition and clean drinking water" around the world.

<http://www.marketingmagazine.co.uk/news/1114363/Unilever-launches-global-charity-foundation/>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*