

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



July 16th – 23rd, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Between 1990 and 2005, the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day declined from 58% to 51%. The proportion of malnourished population declined from 31% in 1990 to 26% by 2005-2007. The problem is that the pace of change is way too slow. Africa still has 300 million people living on less than a dollar a day. For far too long we have considered these 300 million people to be the drag on development. But what if we were to turn this problem on its head? What if, as Dr. Borlaug did so many times, we removed the constraints from our approach? What would happen if we looked at them as assets waiting to be unlocked and unleashed? These are 300 million who could produce food, generate incomes, employment and higher savings. To unlock their capacity we must be bold and put in place policies that will accelerate their access to agricultural technologies.”* – Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, Vice President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Remarks at “SAA Borlaug Symposium 2010,” Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 13-14, 2010

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort to make the Global Food for Thought news brief more digestible, we have removed the “New Reports/Books/Policy Briefs” section. Instead, new reports, books, and policy briefs can be found in chronological order within the respective topical section.

Please click on the hyperlinks in the “Contents” section if you would like to drop down to a specific section.

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.
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Oversight of the Feed the Future Initiative, *Hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, and the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, July 20*

http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1193

Rep. Russ Carnahan (D - MO), Chairman of the International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight Subcommittee: “Feeding the future,’ the goal of this initiative, will be no easy task. By 2050, the population is expected to reach 9 billion. To feed the growing population, farmers will need to produce more food in the next 40 years than they have in the past 10,000 years combined. We must catalyze research and innovation to meet this challenge. We will need to focus on breeding, biotechnology, and agronomic practices. Some African producers are reluctant to use biotechnology due to concerns that some countries in Europe—one of Africa’s primary export destinations—will not accept genetically modified food. We must use ‘smart power’ through our diplomatic and trade missions to end these unfair trade restrictions.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/carnahan072010.pdf>

Patricia Haslach, Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy, Office of the Coordinator for the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, U.S. Department of State: “Our efforts also benefit from a strong commitment at the cabinet level, including Secretaries Clinton, Vilsack and Geithner and Administrator Shah. All have put concrete actions behind their words of encouragement and support. Secretary Geithner’s leadership was crucial for the establishment of the multi-donor trust fund, and Secretary Vilsack has been a strong advocate for a robust research agenda and has offered crucial staff and other resources to implement this Initiative. Secretary Clinton and Administrator Shah have spoken out repeatedly about how food security is at the heart of our efforts to elevate development as a pillar of our foreign policy, and have stressed with their foreign counterparts the importance of creating a policy environment that supports investment in agriculture. The work already underway through Feed the Future demonstrates our new vision for development.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/has072010.pdf>

William Garvelink, Deputy Coordinator for Development, Office of the Coordinator for the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, U.S. Agency for International Development: “The U.S. is playing a leadership role in facilitating robust country-led processes. Over the last year, we have stepped up our support to developing country governments to undertake the analysis that is needed to set priorities based on the potential impact. In all the food security focus countries, we are increasing support for capacity building and institutional strengthening as a core area of our investments to ensure sustainability that can make lasting change in their own countries. We are emphasizing a focus on reaching small scale producers and gender for example. Countries need to improve the rigor of policy making, to make hard choices about priorities given scarce resources, and to link those choices to results.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/gar072010.pdf>

William H. Danforth, Chairman, Board of Directors, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center: “I believe that, there is enormous potential for modern agricultural research to address issues of hunger and food security and make our world a more livable planet for generations to come. Now in 2010 we have the federal agencies Agricultural and Food Research Initiative and the Agency for International Development (AID) poised to use the technologies and power of modern research to bring great boons to the fields under the jurisdiction of this sub-committee.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/dan072010.pdf>

Gerald A. Steiner, Executive Vice-President, Sustainability and Corporate Affairs, Monsanto Corporation: “Feed the Future is exciting not least because it recognizes both the business imperatives by which Monsanto and other companies must operate, and the contributions that we can make once those imperatives are met. We want to do good in the world, while we also do well for our shareowners. We believe both must happen to make this sustainable. Our acts of social responsibility have to be part and parcel of our core business goals, or they risk becoming wishful thinking that has to be cast aside in tough times, like many of us are facing today.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/ste072010.pdf>

Hans Herren, President, Millennium Institute: “In order to address the diverse needs and interests that shape human life, we need a shared approach to sustainability with local and cross-national collaboration. We cannot escape our predicament by simply continuing to rely on the aggregation of individual choices to achieve sustainable and equitable collective outcomes. Incentives are needed to influence the choices

individuals make. Issues such as poverty and climate change also require collective agreements on concerted action and governance across scales that go beyond an appeal to individual benefit.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/her072010.pdf>

Evelyn Nassuna, Uganda Country Director, Lutheran World Relief: “Feed the Future has also identified ‘gender’ as one of its cross-cutting priorities and I agree strongly with this strategy. Although women like the two I’ve told you about do most of the farming in Africa, they face significant disadvantages compared to men.

Challenges include access to land ownership, education and credit. So I look forward to seeing increased efforts to make agricultural inputs and extension services more accessible for women.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/nas072010.pdf>

Jennifer Smith Nazaire, Country Representative, Catholic Relief Services – Rwanda: “Local operational NGOs are advancing food security development efforts in significant ways in all Feed the Future target countries.

National investment strategies do not reflect this. Local NGOs have developed programs and activities over many years that advance food security to fill a void caused by lack of attention by national governments.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/naz072010.pdf>

Innovations in Rural and Agriculture Finance, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

Most rural households lack access to reliable and affordable finance for agriculture and other livelihood activities. Many small farmers live in remote areas where retail banking is limited and production risks are high. The recent financial crisis has made the provision of credit even tighter and the need to explore innovative approaches to rural and agricultural finance even more urgent. This set of 14 briefs clearly points out the importance of business realities faced by small farmers, including low education levels, the dominance of subsistence farming, and the lack of access to modern financial instruments. The findings and recommendations presented here will contribute to policy changes that enhance poor people’s access to financial services in ways that increase their livelihoods and improve their lives.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/focus18.pdf>

Implications of Proposed Food Security Law, *Reuters, July 20*

In India, the ruling Congress party is pushing for a law to subsidise grains for the poor, a move that will impact government finances as well as political support for the party ahead of key state elections that begin in October. The bill, proposed by Congress in its election manifesto last year, will be debated in parliament when it sits next week. But it is uncertain whether it will be passed into law this session. The proposal appears to run counter to recent reforms by the government, which lifted subsidies on fuel prices, but aims to partly shield a substantial voter base from surging inflation in a country where about 40 percent of the 1.2 billion population lives below the U.N. estimated poverty line.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-50260020100720>

At Harvest Time, Seeing is Believing, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, July 23*

Jentrix credits the difference in yields to her membership in the One Acre Fund, a new organization that aims to bring the best available technology and the best farming and business practices to farmers who in the past have had neither. One Acre, which works with about 25,000 small-holder farmers in Kenya and Rwanda, provides seed and fertilizer in advance of the planting season – in the past, late delivery of those inputs, and then often in insufficient amounts, have limited harvests.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/07/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-at-harvest-time-seeing-is-believing.html>

Alarm Grows Over Drought-Stricken Niger, *Reuters, July 21*

The United Nations sounded the alarm over drought-stricken Niger as the World Food Programme (WFP) doubled aid operations and the U.N. appeal for the West African country was raised to \$371 million. With 7.1 million people or 47.7 percent of its population facing food shortages, Niger lies at the centre of a food and malnutrition crisis that is affecting nearly 10 million people in the arid Sahel region that runs south of the Sahara desert.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE66K02520100721>

See Also: UN: African Nations Face Food Crisis, *CNN, July 21*

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/07/20/un.africa.food.crisis/#fbid=yw8z9bP8aug>

See Also: UN Food Agency Steps Up Aid to Drought-Hit Niger, *Agence France-Presse*, July 20
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hTA2slm49wIA_DoDLXDS0SthdC5Q

Africa's Compelling Progress towards Peace and Prosperity, *Op-Ed*, Steve Killelea, founder and chair, Institute for Economics and Peace, *Christian Science Monitor*, July 19

Governments must, at a minimum, meet the agreed levels of overseas development assistance for Africa, and they should improve their national accounting practices so they can quantify the effects and economic impacts of peace. The multinational private sector, meanwhile, should develop better, more sustainable relationships with African governments they are working with to improve peacefulness in key markets. Finally, both governments and the private sector in rich countries should work together to reduce or abolish agricultural subsidies to allow free and fair trade opportunities for the African economies.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/layout/set/print/content/view/print/314848>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Opening Remarks at U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, U.S. Department of State*, July 19

SECRETARY CLINTON: "One sector primed to grow is farming, and so to support agricultural productivity in Pakistan, we will help develop a rural dairy program and the infrastructure to export Pakistan's mangos, which I can say from personal experience are going to be very welcome on the shelves of American stores."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/07/144827.htm>

See Also: The United States Announces New Support for Pakistan's Agriculture, *U.S. Department of State*, July 19

After the bilateral Strategic Dialogue meeting in Islamabad, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced \$21 million in USAID-supported projects to boost Pakistan's agricultural productivity and to open new market opportunities.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/07/144817.htm>

See Also: Clinton Seeks More Pakistan-Afghan Cooperation, *Associated Press*, July 18

Clinton is offering a package of about \$500 million in development programs, funded by legislation approved by Congress to triple nonmilitary aid to \$1.5 billion a year over five years. The aid will focus on water, energy, agriculture and health.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iSGfp2D080cOcwHW9bJqvF9ir6LgD9H1L17G0>

See Also: Holbrooke Wins the War... Against USAID, *The Cable (blog)*, *Foreign Policy*, July 19

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/07/19/holbrooke_wins_the_war_against_usaid

USAID Needs to Improve Its Strategic Planning to Address Current and Future Workforce Needs, *U.S. Government Accountability Office*, June 2010

USAID's workforce declined 2.7 percent from 2004 to 2009. While the decline is primarily due to decreases in the number of U.S. and foreign national personal services contractors, these staff continue to comprise the majority of USAID's workforce. Over the same period USAID's program funding increased 92 percent to \$17.9 billion. USAID also faces some workforce gaps and vacancies at the six missions visited by GAO. Mission officials cited recruiting difficulties and the need for staff in priority countries, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, as factors contributing to these vacancies. According to mission officials, it is not uncommon for positions to remain vacant for a lengthy period. During this time staff may assume multiple responsibilities and accept additional workload, which present some challenges in the agency's ability to manage and oversee its activities. For example, workforce gaps and heavy workload may limit mission staff's ability to travel to the field to monitor and evaluate the implementation of projects.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10496.pdf>

Afghanistan: Governance and the Civilian Strategy, *Hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee*, July 14

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=6e4bb067-5056-a032-521f-a829d8b3f86c>

Richard Holbrooke, Department of State: "USAID's agriculture voucher program, launched in September 2009, has distributed wheat seed to more than 366,000 farmers, trained 80,000 Afghan farmers in best practices, and employed over 70,000 Afghans on short-term rural infrastructure projects. In many places throughout the Afghanistan's south, these programs are increasingly being administered under the auspices of the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, whose extension agents receive training from forward-deployed USDA and USAID agriculture advisors."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Holbrooke.%20Amb.%20Richard%20C1.pdf>

See Also: It's the Afghan Economy, Stupid: Jobs and Development will Defeat the Taliban, *Op-Ed*, M. Ashraf Haidari, political counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan, *New York Daily News*, July 18

Drug production in Afghanistan is another key problem that can be addressed by economic development. We know from international experience that global demand for narcotics finds ready supply in nations where governance is weak, instability high and poverty rampant. But if Afghanistan's agriculture sector is revitalized, fewer farmers will rely on opium harvesting - a dangerous enterprise to begin with - to make a living. Instead, they could grow wheat, pomegranates, saffron and other high-value crops. As agribusiness becomes profitable and sustainable, it will drive down the cost of food for Afghanistan's poor and raise rural incomes, which should in turn further weaken the insurgency in crucial provinces like Helmand and Kandahar.

[http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/07/18/2010-07-](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/07/18/2010-07-18_its_the_afghan_economy_stupid_jobs_and_development_will_defeat_the_taliban.html)

[18_its_the_afghan_economy_stupid_jobs_and_development_will_defeat_the_taliban.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/07/18/2010-07-18_its_the_afghan_economy_stupid_jobs_and_development_will_defeat_the_taliban.html)

Afghan Farmers Gain More Access to Credit through News \$100 Million Agricultural Development Fund, *U.S. Embassy Kabul*, July 21

Afghan farmers will have more access to financial credit thanks to a \$100 million grant, called the Agricultural Development Fund and financed through the United States and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The new Agricultural Development Fund will build on the successful collaboration between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) by extending credit to farmers to expand their production while also using new skills farmers learn at Badam Bagh farm.

<http://kabul.usembassy.gov/pressrelease-usaid-21710.html>

See Also: Kabul Conference Cheat Sheet, *Al Jazeera*, June 20

Omar Zakhilwal, the Afghan finance minister, asked donors to channel 50 per cent of their aid through Afghan ministries within two years. Only about 20 per cent of the aid sent to Afghanistan is currently funnelled through ministries; the rest is spent by NGOs and other organisations, many of which fail to tell the Afghan government how they are spending it. Zakhilwal also laid out a long list of priorities for how that money will be spent. He pledged to create 300,000 new jobs over the next three years through agricultural development programmes; to expand women's access to education; to improve Afghanistan's infrastructure, particularly its meagre railroad networks; and to expand foreign investment.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2010/07/201072075811120324.html>

Remarks by Paul Weisenfeld, Haiti Task Team Coordinator, *U.S. Agency for International Development*, July 19

"If you think about Haiti, over 60 percent of the Haitian population are engaged in agriculture. The economy is fundamentally an agricultural economy. Agriculture was not directly impacted by the earthquake in the sense that crops don't fall down from being shaken, but agriculture is a very complex sector that involves lots of links to markets and the major domestic market, Port-au-Prince, was destroyed. So that has a spillover effect on the economy. If farmers don't have any place to sell their products, then they're not going to plant. If they don't plant, then people are hungry. If people are hungry -- It becomes a vicious spiral very quickly."

http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100719_1.html

Joint Statement on the new AusAID-USAID Partnership for International Development Cooperation, *U.S. Agency for International Development*, July 20

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have formed a strategic partnership on international development that

will see us working together to reduce poverty in developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100720.html>

Remarks at Meeting with Embassy Kabul's Civilian and Military Staff, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, July 20*

"We have a great civilian-military leadership team here, and both Ambassador Eikenberry and General Petraeus, Special Representative Holbrooke, all of us, are working hard to try to chart the way forward in this very difficult assignment. And I'm aware too that we have a diverse staff. It's not just State and AID, although that's the bulk of the people here in this complex, but military personnel, agricultural experts, specialists in subjects ranging from crisis stabilization to rule of law to women's rights."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/07/144959.htm>

See Also: Intervention at Kabul Conference, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, July 20*

"Earlier today, I met with a number of Afghan women leaders who are doing heroic work to strengthen their communities and country, and I was privileged to announce several new programs that the United States will fund to support women and families by improving maternal and child health in pursuit of Afghanistan's desire to move closer to the Millennium Development Goal."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/07/144961.htm>

Clinton Speaks Out for Afghan Women in Kabul Conference, *Agence France-Presse, July 20*

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jUzaaQQ_Erf8beBDwEEc2vGTocpg (see also)

U.S. Congress May Pass Cuba Travel Bill This Year, Dorgan Says, *Bloomberg Businessweek, July 16*

Senator Byron Dorgan, co-sponsor of a bill to lift a ban on U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba, said both houses of Congress will pass the legislation this year. Dorgan, a North Dakota Democrat who is sponsoring the bill with Wyoming Republican Mike Enzi, said in an interview that he plans to move the legislation to the Senate floor by attaching it as an amendment to another bill this month or in September. He plans to include a measure to make it easier for U.S. farmers to sell goods to the communist island.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aArc7517wdUk>

Smith Calls on President to Help End Russian Beef Ban, *Office of Congressman Adrian Smith, July 22*

Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE) recently demanded any renewed support for Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization be contingent on Russia dropping a ban on the import of cooked beef from the United States.

http://www.adriansmith.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=723&Itemid=73

(congress)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Accelerating Africa's Agricultural Development: Leveraging Knowledge, Innovation & Resources through Collaboration

Date: July 27, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

A luncheon panel discussion hosted by The Association of African Agricultural Professionals in the Diaspora (AAAPD)

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/accelerating-africas-agricultural-development-leveraging-knowledge-innovation-resources-thro>

African Agri-Food Exports to the U.S.: Facing Challenges of Sanitary & Phytosanitary Standards and Tariff-Rate Quotas

Date: July 28, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act has strengthened U.S.-Africa trade ties, but the \$1.2.-1.4 billion in food and agricultural goods the U.S. purchases from Africa each year are only a small fraction of the total value of U.S. imports from the continent. Please join the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council and the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa for the release and discussion of two policy briefs, which analyze and seek to improve upon the disappointing performance of African food and agricultural exports to the U.S.

<https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/agritrade/event.jsp?event=835>

2010 AGOA Forum; “New Strategies for a Changing World”

Dates and Locations: August 2-3: Washington, DC–Ronald Reagan Building; August 4-6: Kansas City, MO
This Reverse Trade Mission will focus on state-of-the-art U.S. technologies, equipment, and services, as well as policies, regulations, and financing mechanisms that can support the implementation of large-scale food production and process projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Delegates will include public and private sector representatives from sub-Saharan Africa’s agribusiness sector. The visit will include a Business Briefing at an AGOA-related event in Kansas City, MO. The visit will also feature meetings with U.S. industry and U.S. government agencies, as well as site visits, in Kansas City, MO, and other U.S. cities yet to be determined.

<http://www.agoa.gov/>

Soy Innovation Africa 2010: Cultivating Potential in Emerging Markets

Date: August 26th – 27th, 2010

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

In collaboration with the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, Soy Southern Africa and the National Soybean Research Laboratory, Soyatech LLC will host a two-day strategic leadership conference in Cape Town, South Africa to bring the best global resources to bear on the challenges of efficiently utilizing the world's most complete plant protein to emerging markets around the globe.

<http://events.soyatech.com/conference.php?cid=13>

African Green Revolution 2010 Forum

Date: September 2nd–4th

Location: Accra, Ghana

The African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) focuses on promoting investments and policy support for driving agricultural productivity and income growth for African farmers in an environmentally sustainable way. The Forum, which stems from the African Green Revolution Conference in Oslo, is a private-sector led initiative which will bring together African heads of state, ministers, farmers, private agribusiness firms, financial institutions, NGOs, civil society and scientists, to discuss and develop concrete investment plans for achieving the green revolution in Africa.

<http://agrforum.com/>

2010 Borlaug Dialogue - “Take It to the Farmers”: Reaching the World’s Smallholders

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Inspired by the last words of Nobel Laureate and World Food Prize Founder Dr. Norman Borlaug, the 2010 Borlaug Dialogue international symposium will gather the top minds and foremost leaders in global agriculture, food, and development this October in Des Moines – with a special focus on the world’s small-scale farmers.

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

International Annual Meetings of American Society of Agronomy - Crop Science Society of America - Soil Science Society of America

Date: Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2010

Location: Long Beach, CA

Plans are underway for the 2010 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, 31 October–3 November in Long Beach, CA. The year’s Annual Meetings theme connects attendees to the growing global challenges of “Green Revolution 2.0: Food+Energy and Environmental Security.” Consider joining your colleagues in Long Beach! More than 2,700

scientists, professionals, and students will present the latest research and discuss emerging trends in agriculture, energy, climate change, environmental science, and related issues. The Annual Meetings program features keynote and plenary lectures, 2,500 oral and poster presentations, an Exhibit Hall, Career Center, tours, workshops, and plenty of networking events. For additional information on the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, please visit: www.acsmeetings.org

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th –12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

<http://www.ricecongress.com/cmsdetail.php?id=1>

First Global Conference on Biofortification: From Discovery to Delivery

Date: November 11th – 12th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The First Global Conference on Biofortification is the first international effort to take stock of progress made in developing nutrient-rich crops, share lessons learned, and chart the future of biofortification. This three-day event will bring agricultural scientists, public health specialists, policymakers, donors, and business leaders together to move this emerging agricultural intervention for public health forward.

<http://www.harvestplus.org/content/first-global-conference-biofortification>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

What Is the Irrigation Potential for Africa?, *International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

Although irrigation in Africa has the potential to boost agricultural productivities by at least 50 percent, food production on the continent is almost entirely rainfed. The area equipped for irrigation, currently slightly more than 13 million hectares, makes up just 6 percent of the total cultivated area. Eighty-five percent of Africa's poor live in rural areas and mostly depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. As a result, agricultural development is key to ending poverty on the continent. Many development organizations have recently proposed to significantly increase investments in irrigation in the region. However, the potential for irrigation investments in Africa is highly dependent upon geographic, hydrologic, agronomic, and economic factors that need to be taken into account when assessing the long-term viability and sustainability of planned projects. This paper analyzes large, dam-based and small-scale irrigation investment needs in Africa based on agronomic, hydrologic, and economic factors.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00993.pdf>

Ensuring Responsible Agricultural Investments in the Least Developed Countries and Developing Countries, *Centre d'Analyse Stratégique, 2010*

While the food riots of 2008 are still in our minds, the increasing importance of foreign investors in the agricultural sector of developing countries may seem worrying. In Africa, Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe, governments are choosing to sell or let land, farms and harvests. Pakistan also intends to allocate a tenth of its arable area in this way, a strategy that is criticised by those who recall that a quarter of the Pakistani population suffers from malnutrition. These transactions have taken an unprecedented size with the increasing involvement of the States that are most dependent on food imports and new investors.

http://farmlandgrab.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/ANALYSIS_Responsible-agricultural-investments.pdf

Briefing Note on the African Economic Outlook 2010, *African Development Bank Group, July 16, 2010*

The global crisis also hit through the decline of worker remittances and of foreign direct investment. The economic slowdown was most pronounced in mining, manufacturing and tourism. These sectors were particularly exposed to the fall of commodity prices and global trade in goods and services. Other sectors, notably agriculture and non-tourism services, were more resilient and mitigated the downturn. In fact, in

most African countries the agricultural sector benefited from good harvests due to favourable weather, although in some countries, bad harvests exacerbated the effect of the global crisis.

http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Knowledge/100716%20zzNewOutlook%20Africa%20Rebounding_RRR3.pdf

Jatropha: A Smallholder Bioenergy Crop, *Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, 2010*

Using the energy crop jatropha for biodiesel production could benefit poor farmers, particularly in semi-arid and remote areas of developing countries. But the report stresses that jatropha is still essentially a wild plant sorely in need of crop improvement. Expecting jatropha to substitute significantly for oil imports in developing countries is unrealistic.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1219e/i1219e.pdf>

Food Security in Uzbekistan, *UN Development Program, 2010*

The aim of this publication is to highlight the importance of food security and initiate a discussion concerning this issue in Uzbekistan. The report utilizes official statistics and comprehensive household survey to assess the supply of and demand for food. The publication consists of an introductory review of the concept of food security, followed by chapters analysing food availability and consumption. It concludes by recommending specific policy measures directed at improving various aspects of food security in Uzbekistan.

<http://www.undp.uz/en/download/index.php?type=publication&id=241&parent=4294&doc=105275>

See Also: Uzbekistan's Road to Food Security, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 19*

<http://www.ifpri.org/blog/uzbekistan-s-road-food-security>

Benin: Recent Developments in Agricultural Research, *Gert-Jan Stads, Jonas Hinvi, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

Since the turn of the millennium, total investments in agricultural research and development (R&D) in Benin have been on the increase.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/benin-note.pdf>

See Also: Eritrea: Recent Developments in Agricultural Research, *Gert-Jan Stads, Michael Rahija, Iyassu Fesha, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

In 2008, Eritrea invested 11.7 million nakfas or 1.9 million PPP dollars (in 2005 prices) in agricultural R&D, down from 90 million nakfas or 14 million PPP dollars a decade earlier, which represents a drop of 80 percent.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/eritrea-note.pdf>

See Also: The Gambia: Recent Developments in Agricultural Research, *Gert-Jan Stads, Faye Manneh, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

The Gambia is one of Africa's smallest countries, so its agricultural research and development (R&D) capacity and investment levels are understandably low compared with most of its neighbors. The country's total agricultural R&D investment levels have been erratic over the past two decades due to significant fluctuations in government and donor funding.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/gambia-note.pdf>

See Also: Ghana: Recent Developments in Agricultural Research, *Kathleen Flaherty, George Owusu Essegbey, Roland Asare, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

After a period of relative stagnation in the 1990s, agricultural research and development (R&D) spending in Ghana increased dramatically after 2002.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghana-note.pdf>

See Also: Kenya: Recent Developments in Agricultural Research, *Kathleen Flaherty, Festus Murithi, Wellington Mulinge, Esther Njuguna, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

Since the early 1990s, public agricultural research and development (R&D) spending in Kenya has varied considerably from year to year, while agricultural research capacity showed a more stable trend.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/kenya-note.pdf>

See Also: Mauritius: Recent Developments in Public Agricultural Research, *Michael Rahija, Jairaj Ramkissoon, Gert-Jan Stads, July 2010*

After a period of steady increases throughout the 1990s, public agricultural research and development (R&D) expenditures in Mauritius began to decline from 2002.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/mauritius-note.pdf>

Media Articles:

AUC-NEPAD and Stakeholders sign CAADP Compact Agreement with Burkina Faso, *Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, July 22*

The African Union Commission (AUC), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Development Partners and the Private Sector have signed a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Program (CAADP) country compact agreement with the Government of Burkina Faso.

<http://www.caadp.net/news/?p=780>

See Also: Banks, Policymakers and Researchers Call for Increased Access to Finances for African Farmers, *Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, July 21*

"We should all commit ourselves to mobilising the resources that are required in order for us to implement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). We need to look very carefully at how we can increase national budgetary and private sector support for our farmers", said Dr. Laurent Sedogo, Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries for Burkina Faso at the start of the second annual CAADP Day.

<http://www.caadp.net/news/?p=778>

Broccoli Breeding Battle Gives Food for Thought, *Financial Times, July 22*

Broccoli, or at least one of its many varieties, is now the main course in a battle that could have significant repercussions for the European, and indeed global, agricultural, agrochemical and food industries. The issue is whether you can, or should be able to, put a patent on a vegetable.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/de1bae42-95ad-11df-b5ad-00144feab49a.html>

Pork Sellers Stymied by Russian Rules, *Financial Times, July 22*

If Europe's pork producers seem a bit jittery of late, it is probably because the Russians are coming – Russian veterinarians, that is. A delegation from the country's federal veterinary service will be visiting Brussels to participate in a conference hosted by the European meat industry. High on the agenda will be a discussion of the Russian system of health and sanitary standards that inspires about as much dread among European pork producers as another outbreak of swine flu.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/09310a36-95b4-11df-b5ad-00144feab49a.html>

Katine 'On Track' towards Food Security, *Guardian, July 21*

Joyce Ekere Tibananuka was recently appointed new livelihoods officer in Katine, Uganda, for the African Medical and Research Foundation. Here she tells Joseph Malinga about her plans to help farmers make cash from crops.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/53b51428-9427-11df-a3fe-00144feab49a.html>

India Says Farms Key to Matching China, *Financial Times, July 20*

Improving India's rural economy is the key to matching China's economic growth rate of 10 per cent, Indian financial policymakers said. Speaking at a meeting on growth strategy over the next four years, K.M. Chandrasekhar, the government's cabinet secretary, said reaching double-digit growth was "largely contingent" on the farm sector's achieving 4 per cent growth. Mr Chandrasekhar said the global economic downturn that had choked off India's manufacturing exports had highlighted the importance of agriculture.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/53b51428-9427-11df-a3fe-00144feab49a.html>

Rwanda Sets Path to Middle-Income Future, *Reuters, July 19*

Rwanda, racked by genocide over a decade ago, is investing in innovative agriculture, methane gas, fiber optics and ice tea in a bid to become a middle-income economy by 2020, its foreign minister told Reuters. The eastern-central African country has invested in new agricultural production to raise food and export output and try to push economic growth ahead of rates in neighboring countries. "Agriculture in the last 3 to 5 years has been the driver of our economy," Rwanda's Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE66I0ON20100719>

African Agriculture: A Time for Cautious Optimism?, *One*, July 19

At a recent public lecture on the prospects for African agriculture, Ousmane Badiane from the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the Overseas Development Institute's Steve Wiggins discussed why they saw signs for (cautious) optimism.

<http://www.one.org/international/blog/african-agriculture-a-time-for-cautious-optimism/>

One-Third of Yemenis Going Hungry – Report, *IRIN News*, July 19

Water scarcity, rapid population growth and internal conflicts are some of the main factors causing an “alarming state of food insecurity” at national and local levels, a new report has warned. Rural areas are particularly affected with five times as many food-insecure people as in urban areas, it said.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89884>

See Also: Yemen Battles Food Insecurity, *United Press International*, July 20

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/07/20/Yemen-battles-food-insecurity/UPI-52591279630125/

Internal conflict in Yemen is putting stress on an agricultural sector also plagued by drought and narcotics use, international reports indicate.

See Also: Assessing Food Security in Yemen, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, May 2010

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00982.pdf>

Wasps to Fight Thai Cassava Plague, *New York Times*, July 18

Entomologists deployed the first wave of an army of 250,000 tiny wasps last weekend in a campaign to eradicate a plague of mealybugs that threatens to devastate Thailand's \$1.5 billion cassava crop. The use of wasps, which has been effective in Africa, is expected to also succeed in Thailand, the world's leading exporter of cassava, which is also known as manioc, tapioca and yucca.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/19/world/asia/19thai.html>

See Also: Parasitic Wasp Swarm Unleashed to Fight Pests, *National Geographic News*, July 19

A huge swarm of parasitic wasps has been unleashed in Thailand as a last-ditch effort to control a devastating pest outbreak, scientists say.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/07/100719-parasites-wasps-bugs-cassava-thailand-science-environment/>

Standard Bank Says Set to Fund More S. Africa Farmers, *Reuters*, July 16

Standard Bank plans to finance more land deals involving South African farmers seeking expansion opportunities across the continent to grow export crops, the bank said. South African farmers are negotiating land deals with some African countries, including Egypt, Mozambique, Sudan and Zambia, which are offering land to the farmers in a bid to raise agricultural output, create jobs and grow their economies.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE66F0IW20100716>

Two Days of Dialogue between AGRA and Civil Society Lays Groundwork for Collaboration toward a Food-Secure Africa, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa*, July 16

The first-of-its-kind forum between the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and civil society organizations (CSOs) from across Africa concluded in Nairobi. The two days of dialogue were convened by AGRA to consider how to reach a common agenda for achieving an African Green Revolution when the ultimate goal is the same for all parties—food security for a continent where too many people suffer from hunger and malnutrition. The “Dialogue with Civil Society Organisations on the African Green Revolution” brought together groups representing smallholder farmers, women and youth, scientists, ngo's, academics and agra-businesses.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1173>

A Green Revolution for Africa: Fulfilling the Borlaug Dream, *Remarks by Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, vice president, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa*, July 14

“Africa was Dr. Borlaug's ‘greatest worry’ – especially sub-Saharan Africa where, and I quote Dr. Borlaug, ‘extreme poverty, poor soils, uncertain rainfall, increasing population pressure, changing ownership patterns for land and cattle, political and social turmoil, shortage of trained agriculturalists and weaknesses in

research and technology delivery systems all the make the task of agricultural development more difficult.” When you look at that list of challenges, one would be inclined to say this task is impossible. But Dr. Borlaug realized that Africa has the potential to meet these challenges. He saw the possibilities for Africa when few outside of this continent could.”

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1172>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Food Aid and Food Assistance in Emergency and Transitional Contexts, *Humanitarian Policy Group, June 2010*

This synthesis paper examines the changes in food aid and food assistance policies and highlights the key findings and issues of broader relevance arising from this research such as issues around definitions, the future of the Food Aid Convention and a new food security architecture.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4934.pdf>

Satisfying Hidden Hunger: Addressing Micronutrient Deficiencies in Central Asia, *Asian Development Bank, July 2010*

Disease caused by major micronutrient deficiencies posed a growing and urgent problem for the newly emerging countries of Central Asia in the 1990s. The Asian Development Bank responded with a regional food fortification initiative - the first major initiative using public-private partnerships to address public health problems in the region. This report details how the initiative helped the participating countries move toward universal salt iodization and establish sustainable wheat flour fortification, and how the initiative successfully addressed three unknown development issues in mainly newly emerging market economies: the use of public-private partnerships; collaboration between the government and industry; and the formation of industry associations.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/nutrition/Hidden-Hunger/hidden-hunger.pdf>

Twenty Concrete Steps to Improve the United States' Commitment to Development, *Center for Global Development, July 2010*

The Commitment to Development Index (CDI) ranks 22 rich countries on their dedication to policies that benefit poor nations. Looking beyond standard comparisons of foreign aid flows, the CDI measures national policies on aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security, and technology. The United States ranked 17th overall in 2009, strong in trade and security but less competitive in aid and environment. This memo describes how to boost the U.S. score and links to CGD materials with more detail.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424303_file_How_to_Improve_CDI_FINAL.pdf

Practical Approaches to the Aid Effectiveness Agenda, *Samuel Moon, Zachary Mills, Overseas Development Institute, July 2010*

This paper explores the link between donor aid and recipient budgets, and the role that greater transparency and clearer information about aid can play in improving budget transparency, the quality of budgetary decisions and accountability systems in developing countries.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4801.pdf>

Media Articles:

US Announces Climate Change Help for Mekong Region, *Agence France-Presse, July 22*

The United States announced a three-year programme to help countries in the Mekong River basin adapt to the impact of climate change on water resources, food security and livelihoods.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hE731bi82br8wBOXT2Q6iUs7L4Og>

Sixty Years of Foreign Aid Sees China Intensify Co-op in Global Development, *Xinhua, July 21*

Over the past 60 years, China has grown from a poor developing country into an engine of the world economy with unfolding potential. At the same time, China has hitched intensified cooperation in global development to its increasing economic power. In Harare, many Zimbabweans place high hopes on the Demonstration Center of China Agricultural Technology. Currently being built, it is hailed as an important cog in the country's agricultural development and its bid to regain its status as Africa's "bread basket."

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/indepth/2010-07/21/c_13407637.htm

Haiti: Human Foundation Key to Recovery, *Stephan B. Tanda, Huffington Post, July 20*

Poor people who do not have access to nutritious food for themselves or their children create a vicious circle of decline. Malnutrition has a devastating effect on the individual, but it also destroys societies. Malnutrition means potentially sick and weak adults who statistically do need more healthcare. But it also means more people who are economically less active, reducing economic productivity in countries that need all the strong hands they can get. The combination of higher costs and lower growth has been estimated to be at least two to three percent of GDP. The World Food Programme has recognized this and initiated a major change in the way it designs and implements its feeding programmes. Under its new Nutrient Improvement Approach, it ensures that the strategic focus of food security - providing enough calories - is now supplemented by an additional focus on nutrition security - providing nutrient-rich food that includes the right balance of vitamins and micronutrients.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephan-b-tanda/haiti-human-foundation-ke_b_652394.html

See Also: Agriculture Short-Changed in Haiti's Post-Quake Recovery, *Voice of America, July 16*

After a powerful earthquake struck Haiti in January, boosting agricultural production was seen as one of the keys to the nation's recovery. Six months later, the U.N. Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) says only half the funding pledged for agriculture has been delivered. Experts say short-changing food production is a common problem in many humanitarian crises and, in Haiti, it threatens to undermine the nation's already-troubled recovery.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/americas/Agriculture-Short-Changed-in-Haitis-Recovery--98612309.html>

See Also: Is Haiti Ready for Hurricane Season?, *Time, July 20*

There are plans in place for the distribution of food and other basic needs, and U.S. and U.N. forces are at hand to facilitate rescue missions. The U.N.'s World Food Program (WFP) says it is 80% of the way to completing the pre-positioning of 2 million food rations across the country. Because of potential roadblocks caused by floods, a barge service connecting all major Haitian ports is being set up to transport food and emergency items.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2004448,00.html>

See Also: The Economics of Food Aid in Post-Quake Haiti, *Daily Finance, July 20*

International aid currently accounts for about 5% of Haiti's food requirements. The country produces less than half the food it needs and relies heavily on commercial imports.

<http://www.dailyfinance.com/story/the-economics-of-food-aid-in-post-quake-haiti/19560285/>

Looking to Cellphones to Deliver Aid in Africa, *Digits (blog), Wall Street Journal, July 19*

Aid groups can buy cheap phones or have them donated, and most people in Africa now live in an area where they can get mobile phone coverage. A non-governmental group called Concern Worldwide is testing the system in Niger and analyzing whether it actually saves aid groups money and provides other benefits to the users. The money being doled out doesn't sound like much — about \$40 a month — but it's enough for families hit by recent drought in Niger to buy staple foods and avoid selling their possessions or cutting down trees to make money, Dr. Aker said. In previous studies, access to the phones — which are just simple devices and not anything like a smartphone — helped improve literacy and gave farmers access to better information about crop prices.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2010/07/19/looking-to-cellphones-to-deliver-aid-in-africa/>

Britain to Boost Afghan Aid by 40%, *Guardian, July 18*

The government is to announce a 40% increase in aid funding to Afghanistan amid warnings it should not use development money for military ends. Andrew Mitchell, the international development secretary, will increase aid from £500m to £700m over the next four years to help Afghanistan stabilise. Mitchell is to redirect funding from projects in other parts of the world that his department has identified as

underperforming. The UK currently gives aid to 90 countries, but has found that some countries, such as China and Russia, no longer need it and that funding to India, which Mitchell described as "roaring out of poverty" would be reviewed.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jul/18/uk-afghanistan-aid-increase>

End West Africa's Cycle of Hunger Crises, Say Scientists, *AlertNet, July 16*

Amid urgent calls by aid agencies for help to tackle the hunger crisis gripping Africa's Sahel region, scientists are urging donors and local governments to end the region's cycle of major food shortages. Agriculture experts say promoting sustainable agriculture policies and technology can help prevent the need for costly emergency aid which this year may not reach all the needy in time.

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/58388/2010/06/16-174426-1.htm

Senior UN Official Urges Africa to Focus on Agriculture, Jobs and Social Services, *UN News Centre, July 16*

A combination of investment in agriculture, basic social services and job creation is the key to ensuring that Africa can meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – including slashing poverty, reducing illiteracy and boosting maternal and child health, all by 2015 – according to a senior United Nations official. Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), made the comments during her three-day visit to Ghana.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35349&Cr=mdg&Cr1=>

Brazil's Foreign-Aid Programme: Speak Softly and Carry a Blank Cheque, *Economist, July 15*

One of the most successful post-earthquake initiatives in Haiti is the expansion of Lèt Agogo (Lots of Milk, in Creole), a dairy co-operative, into a project encouraging mothers to take their children to school in exchange for free meals. It is based on Bolsa Família, a Brazilian welfare scheme, and financed with Brazilian government money. In Mali cotton yields are soaring at an experimental farm run by Embrapa, a Brazilian research outfit. Odebrecht, a Brazilian construction firm, is building much of Angola's water supply and is one of the biggest contractors in Africa. Without attracting much attention, Brazil is fast becoming one of the world's biggest providers of help to poor countries.

http://www.economist.com/node/16592455?story_id=16592455

The Politically Incorrect Guide to Ending Poverty, *Sebastian Mallaby, Atlantic, July/August 2010*

In the 1990s, Paul Romer revolutionized economics. In the aughts, he became rich as a software entrepreneur. Now he's trying to help the poorest countries grow rich—by convincing them to establish foreign-run "charter cities" within their borders. Romer's idea is unconventional, even neo-colonial—the best analogy is Britain's historic lease of Hong Kong. And against all odds, he just might make it happen.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/07/the-politically-incorrect-guide-to-ending-poverty/8134/>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

The Future Climate for Development, *Forum for the Future/DFID, 2010*

Climate change will reverse years of work reducing poverty without strong, urgent action. The report calls on governments and NGOs to build climate change into their economic development programmes to help low-income countries manage its impacts and seize new opportunities as the world shifts to a low-carbon economy. The report, produced by independent sustainability experts Forum for the Future with support from DFID, explores how climate change will transform low-income countries over the next 20 years, causing profound social, economic and political changes as well as major environmental impacts.

http://www.forumforthefuture.org/files/DFID_webreport_lr.pdf

World Investment Report 2010: Investing in a Low-Carbon Economy, *UN Conference on Trade and Development, July 22, 2010*

UNCTAD estimates that in 2009 low-carbon FDI flows into three key low-carbon business areas (renewables, recycling and low-carbon technology manufacturing) alone amounted to \$90 billion. In its totality such

investment is much larger, taking into account embedded low-carbon investments in other industries and TNC participation through non-equity forms. Already large, the potential for cross-border low-carbon investment is enormous as the world transitions to a low-carbon economy.

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/wir2010_en.pdf

U.S. Agriculture and Climate Change Legislation, *Pew Center on Global Climate Change, July 20, 2010*

Any climate and energy legislation will impact U.S. farmers and ranchers, and this paper examines the many legitimate concerns the agriculture sector has with such legislation. There have been a large number of economic analyses, modeling exercises, and reports published in the past several months based on an array of climate policy assumptions, and the resulting scenarios have ranged from realistic to doomsday. The results of these efforts have often been skewed or cherry-picked to support particular arguments. This brief tries to objectively assess the impacts of climate legislation and identify ways that such legislation could be shaped to provide greater opportunities for the sector.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/us-agriculture-climate-change-legislation-markets-myths-opportunities.pdf>

Media Articles:

UN in Fresh Bid to Salvage International Deal on Climate Change, *Guardian, July 22*

Climate change campaigners welcomed UN plans to amend the way changes to the Kyoto protocol are made in an effort to salvage negotiations on a new international deal.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jul/22/un-bid-international-deal-climate-change>

Water Dispute Increases India/Pakistan Tension, *New York Times, July 20*

In this high Himalayan valley on the Indian-controlled side of Kashmir, the latest battle line between India and Pakistan has been drawn. This time it is not the ground underfoot, which has been disputed since the bloody partition of British India in 1947, but the water hurtling from mountain glaciers to parched farmers' fields in Pakistan's agricultural heartland. Indian workers here are racing to build an expensive hydroelectric dam in a remote valley near here, one of several India plans to build over the next decade to feed its rapidly growing but power-starved economy. In Pakistan, the project raises fears that India, its archrival and the upriver nation, would have the power to manipulate the water flowing to its agriculture industry — a quarter of its economy and employer of half its population. In May it filed a case with the international arbitration court to stop it.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/21/world/asia/21kashmir.html>

See Also: Why India and Pakistan Will Continue to Struggle for Common Ground, *Foreign Policy, July 20*

Finally, there is water. India plans to build several hydropower projects on rivers that cross the border to irrigate 80 percent of Pakistan's agricultural land and fuel 50 percent of Pakistan's hydropower capacity. Islamabad worries that India could use hydropower projects to trigger a flood or a drought -- and the economic crisis that either might provoke. This fear reached new heights in August 2008, when India withheld a considerable amount of water from the Chenab River and stored it in a local dam, worsening already serious problems for Pakistan's farming sector. Pakistan claims that India's projects violate a 1960 treaty that governs the use of water resources in the Indus River System. India says they do not.

http://eurasia.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/07/20/india_and_pakistan_struggle_for_common_ground

Nepal: Training Farmers to Adapt to Unpredictable Weather, *IRIN News, July 19*

Rising temperatures, drought, floods and landslides have combined to kill crops and leave millions hungry in Nepal. "Those traditional crops like rice, potatoes, wheat, maize, which were doing well decades ago are not doing so well recently," said Gehendra Gurung, Nepal programme leader of international NGO Practical Action.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89880>

Water 'Essential' to UAE Security, *The National, July 18*

An adequate supply of clean, fresh water is vital to the security of the UAE and the entire MENA region, according to the director of the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Water Academy. "Water security means also food security, energy, climate change. It is tightly linked to crucial security issues," says Dr Asma el Kasmi, the first director of the two-year-old academy. "This region will be the most strongly hit by the effects of climate change on water. If we do nothing, it's not only the problems of the water manager, it will really affect overall security."

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100718/BUSINESS/707189902/1005>

Our Beaker is Starting to Boil, *Op-Ed, Nicholas Kristof, New York Times, July 16*

The retreat of the glaciers threatens agriculture downstream. A study published last month in Science magazine indicated that glacier melt is essential for the Indus and Brahmaputra rivers, while less important a component of the Ganges, Yellow and Yangtze rivers. The potential disappearance of the glaciers, the report said, is "threatening the food security of an estimated 60 million people" in the Indus and Brahmaputra basins.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/18/opinion/18kristof.html>

WOMEN

Media Articles:

UN Forced to Cut Food Aid to Iraqi Women, Children, *AOL News, July 20*

Lack of donor funding has forced the United Nations to cut back on its humanitarian efforts in Iraq, with its food aid agency halting distributions to hundreds of thousands of women and children in the conflict-ridden country.

<http://www.aolnews.com/article/un-forced-to-cut-food-aid-to-iraqi-women-children/19560052>

New UN Agency for Women – First Battle Won, *IRIN News, July 16*

The new UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women will pump the bulk of its projected US\$500 million annual budget into programming to directly benefit the world's most vulnerable women, but this unprecedented boost may still leave the agency lacking influence and impact, civil society advocates say.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89857>

See Also: From a 'Shack' to a New-Age Building? Appraising the new UN Gender Architecture, *Overseas Development Institute, July 6*

UN Women will have significantly more resources than its predecessors at its disposal (an initial budget of \$500 million with a goal of \$1 billion); more and more senior-level staff with decision-making power within the UN; as well as the promise of more operational mechanisms to effectively integrate the voices of women activists who have played such a pivotal role in tackling gender injustice in developed and developing countries alike. All of these features bode well for addressing the weaknesses that have plagued gender mainstreaming efforts to date within and outside the UN, and in contributing to the new gender equality architecture's emergence as an effective and streamlined building fit for a new age. However, UN Women needs to support national governments and civil society movements to promote change that will dismantle both formal and informal institutions and practices of gender inequality.

http://blogs.odi.org.uk/blogs/main/archive/2010/07/06/UN_Women.aspx

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Coffee Production in Africa and the Global Market Situation, *African Development Bank Group, July 2010*

Coffee producers in Africa accounted for about 12% of global supply and less than 11% of global exports of the product for the 2009/10 season. These contributions to the global coffee market are almost equal to Indonesia's, the third largest world producer of the commodity.

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/Coffee%20Brief%20July%202010%20rev16July2010.pdf>

Commodity Markets Review, *World Bank, July 2010*

This report provides a review of the prices of the various commodities in the commodity markets such as non-energy commodity, crude oil, natural gases, agricultural products, metals and minerals, and major mover's commodities of the June.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/07/23/000334955_20100723042038/Rendered/PDF/557420BRI0Box31arketsReviewJuly2010.pdf

Whither Commodity-Based Trade?, *Karl Rich, Brian Perry, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, July 2010*

This paper examines the potential economic impact of changing international trade regulations for livestock products on market access from developing countries.

<http://english.nupi.no/content/download/13668/129051/version/2/file/WP-776-Rich-Perry.pdf>

Media Articles:

Too Early to Gauge Impact of Canada-Colombia Trade Pact, U.S.'s Kirk Says, *Bloomberg, July 22*

U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk says it's too early to gauge the impact of the Canada-Colombia trade agreement on U.S. producers. He also said that World Trade Organization negotiations on a new trade accord, which have been dogged by clashes between rich and poor economies since they began in Doha, Qatar in 2001, will progress when advanced emerging countries are ready to make concessions. Countries like Brazil, China, Russia and India have already benefited "extraordinarily" from the access they have to markets in the U.S., Canada and the European Union and must now prepare to make some of the "very difficult decisions" required to conclude the Doha round, Kirk said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-22/too-early-to-gauge-impact-of-canada-colombia-trade-pact-u-s-s-kirk-says.html>

Bangladesh: Unemployment, Food Prices Spur Growing Hunger, *IRIN News, July 22*

Rising unemployment and food prices and a sluggish economy are taking their toll on Bangladesh, where a growing number of people are struggling to survive.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89920>

World Cup Lends South Africa Confidence to United Continent, *Wall Street Journal, July 18*

When it comes to trading partners, African countries have long looked beyond their neighbors. And when inadequate infrastructure makes transporting a car across the continent about triple the cost of importing it from Japan, it's not hard to understand why. But the paltry level of trade among African countries—now only about 12% of total African trade—could be in for a big boost. South Africa's trade ministry is now promoting an Africa trade zone that will stretch from Cape Town to Cairo, with the goal of knitting together three different regional trade groups over the next year.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703287204575374262535755240.html>

Disease Takes Toll on Japanese Beef Exports, *Financial Times, July 18*

For months, Nagahisa Komoda resisted government pressure to cull his prized stud bulls in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Miyazaki. This weekend, however, the farmer's six stud bulls joined more than 280,000 cows and pigs that have been slaughtered in Miyazaki amid a devastating outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The epidemic has forced Japan to halt most exports of its internationally renowned wagyu beef, famous for its marbled texture, tenderness, flavour and astronomical price.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7a9d5644-9284-11df-9142-00144feab49a.html>

India: Monsoon Decisions Loom, *Financial Times, July 18*

The Indian government will make a call on the monsoon this week. While Indians are nervously watching the skies, the country's bureaucrats are poised to impose duties on cheap wheat imports. The worst drought in

30 years last year had the Congress party-led government pulling all manner of levers to ease food imports, and lower skyrocketing prices. Non-basmati rice exports were banned, and duties on wheat and sugar imports slashed.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2010/07/18/india-monsoon-decisions-loom/>

U.S. Business Sees Doha Trade Deal Momentum in 2011, *Reuters, July 16*

Trade is moving back up the U.S. political agenda and there is scope to reach a deal next year in the long-running Doha round and other stalled trade negotiations, industry lobbyists said. But to get the backing of business, a Doha agreement must be more ambitious than what is currently on the table, said Christopher Wenk, senior director for international policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE66F0U420100716>

Interview – Canada Urges Action on Big Doha Issues, *Reuters, July 16*

WTO member states must find answers to bilateral squabbles if they want to achieve any global breakthrough in free trade talks, Canada's trade minister said. In an interview with Reuters, Peter Van Loan said he would not point fingers at which World Trade Organisation members were holding up the Doha round but warned that political populism could slow progress towards any kind of free trade deal.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-50175220100716>

AGRIBUSINESS

Reports:

Costs and Benefits to Taxpayers, Consumers, and Producers from U.S. Ethanol Policies, *Bruce Babcock, Kanlaya Barr, Miguel Carriquiry, Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Iowa State University, July 2010*

The U.S. ethanol industry is lobbying hard for an extension of existing ethanol import tariffs and blenders tax credits before they expire at the end of 2010. The purpose of this study is to examine the likely consequences on the U.S. ethanol industry, corn producers, taxpayers, fuel blenders, and fuel consumers if current policy is not extended.

<http://www.card.iastate.edu/publications/DBS/PDFFiles/10sr106.pdf>

See Also: Reducing Ethanol Protections Won't Hurt Industry, Report Finds, *E2 Wire (blog), The Hill, July 21*

A new study by the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development shows a reduction in the ethanol tax credit proposed by the House Ways and Means Committee and removing tariffs on the fuel will have a negligible affect on domestic production because mandates require increased use of renewable fuels.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/110055-reducing-ethanol-protections-wont-hurt-industry-report-finds>

Media Articles:

Syngenta, *Financial Times, July 22*

There is an array of products to protect investors from monetary inflation. More certain is population inflation. With the global headcount set to top 9bn by 2050, about a third higher than it is now, one way to profit is to invest in agriculture companies such as Monsanto, the US fertiliser group, or Syngenta, its Swiss rival.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/3/7a85fc4e-95ca-11df-b5ad-00144feab49a.html>

Agribusiness: Solution to Africa's World Seed Demand, *East African Business Review, July 20*

A network of African agribusinesses wants greater support for the development of private entrepreneurship in rural areas.

<http://www.busiweek.com/10/page.php?aid=924>

Nestle to Invest U.S. \$158 Million in New Plants, *All Africa, July 19*

The Swiss food giant Nestle has announced that it will invest \$138.32 million in East, Central and Southern Africa over the next three years to enhance its competitiveness in the food industry. The firm wants to increase the proportion of sales in emerging markets from the present 35 per cent to 45 per cent over the next 10 years.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007191544.html>

Carlyle Seeks Slice of Philippines' Pure Foods, *Financial Times*, July 18

Carlyle, the US private equity group, is vying with three Philippine business groups to buy half of San Miguel Pure Foods, the country's largest food producer with a market capitalisation of 57.5bn pesos (\$1.2bn).

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/88a9b56c-9251-11df-9142-00144feab49a.html>

Brazilian Farmland Group Set for HK Listing, *Financial Times*, July 18

A farmland development group backed by Jacob Rothschild is hoping to become the first Brazilian company to list on the Hong Kong stock exchange, after attracting investments from some of the territory's largest tycoons. Agrifirma Brazil purchases scrubland and transforms it into agricultural land. The company has raised \$179m to date, including investments from two Hong Kong tycoons – Raymond Kwok and Adrian Fu – and Lake House, an investment group.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5127f77c-9295-11df-9142-00144feab49a.html>

Unilever Unfreezes Sale of Findus Italy, *Financial Times*, July 18

Unilever is expected to announce the sale of its Italian frozen food business to Birds Eye Iglo, the private equity-owned group famed for its fish fingers and frozen peas, in a deal worth more than €800m.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/acc7b68a-92b8-11df-9142-00144feab49a.html>

Ethanol Industry Scrambles to Keep Incentives, *Associated Press*, July 16

The once-popular ethanol industry is scrambling to hold onto billions of dollars in government subsidies, fighting an increasing public skepticism of the corn-based fuel and wariness from lawmakers who may divert the money to other priorities. The industry itself can't agree on how to persuade Congress to keep the subsidies, which now come in the form of tax credits worth about \$6 billion annually.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hbKbqhi3yq0Mv6QFkA2KkpAzsJagD9H069780>

See Also: Industry proposal said to shift ethanol politics, *Green Fields (blog)*, *Des Moines Register*, July 16

Meatpackers and livestock producers, meanwhile, aren't missing an opportunity to weigh in on the issue. They've been pushing for a long time to end the subsidy, figuring it promotes the conversion of corn into ethanol, and they've sent a letter to Senate leadership urging an end to both the tax credit and the tariff on imported ethanol.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/07/16/industry-proposal-said-to-shift-ethanol-politics/>

See Also: Ag, Ethanol Groups Press for Fuel Tax Credit Extensions, *E2 Wire (blog)*, *The Hill*, July 19

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/109563-ag-ethanol-groups-press-for-tax-credit-extensions>

FDA Calls Antibiotic Use In Farming 'A Serious Public Health Threat,' GOP Ignores Mounting Evidence, *Lucia Graves*, *Huffington Post*, July 16

The overuse of antibiotics in farming may have significant health consequences for consumers, according to testimony from the Food and Drug Administration. Now lawmakers are looking to curb the use of antibiotics in raising livestock, a move that puts them at odds with agribusiness interests.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/16/antibiotic-farming-fda-vs-republicans_n_649611.html

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