

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



July 17<sup>th</sup> – July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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### KEY ARTICLES

**The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009**, *United Nations, July 2009*

Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals is now threatened by sluggish — or even negative — economic growth, diminished resources, fewer trade opportunities for the developing countries, and possible reductions in aid flows from donor nations. At the same time, the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent, with a potentially devastating impact on countries rich and poor. This report presents an annual assessment of progress towards the MDGs. Although data are not yet available to reveal the full impact of the recent economic downturn, they point to areas where progress towards the eight goals has slowed or reversed.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202009%20ENG.pdf>

*See Also:* Africa: **Continent's Gains Against Poverty 'Wiped Out'**, *AllAfrica.com, July 20*

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907201409.html>

**G8 promise a \$20 bln chance to beat odds on hunger**, *Reuters, July 17*

Last week's promise by the world's wealthiest nations to spend \$20 billion on impoverished farmers represents a chance to tackle chronic hunger, but leaders face daunting odds to make the pledge count. Instead of counting on shipments of food from donors, particularly the United States, to feed the more than 1 billion chronically hungry people in the world, leaders want to help more smallholder farmers feed

themselves and their neighbors. “I know that foreign aid generally is not really popular, in terms of the politics of it,” said Dan Glickman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture who also spent 18 years in Congress. Americans support the concept of foreign farm aid, according to polling commissioned by the Chicago Council, where Glickman is co-chair of a food security initiative. But they want to make sure it's not wasted.  
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N17468277.htm>

*See Also: G8 creates big chance for small African farmers, Jeffrey Sachs, Project Syndicate, July 22*  
<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2009/07/22/2003449246>

### **Sowing Africa's Green Revolution, Namanga Ngongi, Seed Magazine, July 18**

Seven out of every 10 Africans make their livelihoods through farming. They are smallholders, and they produce the majority of Africa's food but with minimal resources and little support. Agriculture receives, on average, just 4 to 5 percent of national budgets. And the yields of our smallholder farmers are one quarter the global average. In Africa government accountability means nothing without the provision of comprehensive support to smallholder farmers, most of whom are women.

[http://seedmagazine.com/content/article/sowing\\_africas\\_green\\_revolution/](http://seedmagazine.com/content/article/sowing_africas_green_revolution/)

### **Malawi Shows Obama's Goal for African Self-Reliance Is Possible, Bloomberg, July 17**

President Barack Obama need look no further than Malawi to support his argument that with the right seeds, fertilizers and transport, Africa can feed itself. Once the victim of intermittent famines that left 40 percent of the population dependent on international aid just four years ago, Malawi has become a food exporter. Farmers credit a government program of subsidizing fertilizers for the turnaround.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=ajpFIIKA4zk0>

### **UN panel to study impact of climate change on poor countries, The Guardian (U.K.), July 21**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body of scientists drawn from around the world, will use its next assessment due in 2014 to look at how the impact of global warming is falling unequally on the poorest developing countries. Rajendra Pachauri, the body's chairman, told reporters that the panel was determined to increase its understanding of local and regional impacts of rising temperatures. There was an awareness, he said, that in Africa in particular there was insufficient scientific and modelling fire-power to be able to predict in any detail what was likely to happen under global warming.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/20/climate-change-underdeveloped-countries>

### **India's thirst drives water to crisis level, Financial Times, July 20**

Persistent worries about water shortages on farms and in cities across India have been exacerbated this year by poor monsoon rains, which have been both late and scanty. Although agriculture accounts for just 17 per cent of gross domestic product, two-thirds of India's population relies on farming and related industries as its primary source of income. Although the planting season still has a few weeks to go, a sharp reduction in agricultural output could send food prices spiralling, eroding both the confidence and purchasing power of urban families, especially those with limited income.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5df1af76-7544-11de-9ed5-00144feabdc0.html>

### **World trade to shrink 10 pct, Asia leads recovery: WTO, Washington Post, July 22**

Asia is leading a recovery in global trade, but world trade volumes are still expected to shrink 10 percent this year, the World Trade Organization said.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/22/AR2009072200458.html?wprss=rss\\_world/wires](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/22/AR2009072200458.html?wprss=rss_world/wires)

*See Also: World Trade Report 2009 - Trade Policy Commitments and Contingency Measures, World Trade Organization, July 2009*

In times of economic crisis, governments face pressure to adopt measures which may restrict trade and there are real dangers that such pressures, if not addressed adequately, can lead to a dangerous escalation. Contingency measures can act as a safety valve in such instances and can play an important role in maintaining a rule-based system of multilateral trade. These are the conclusions of World Trade Organization economists in a report on contingency measures in the WTO's 2009 World Trade Report.

[http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/anrep\\_e/world\\_trade\\_report09\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/anrep_e/world_trade_report09_e.pdf)

**Africa's New Path**, *Fareed Zakaria, Newsweek, July 18*

President Obama was right to give his recent address in Ghana, highlighting an African success story rather than casting his speech against the backdrop of poverty and pity. One of the great underreported stories of the last decade has been the rise of this new Africa. In 2007, before the economic crisis hit, 37 countries on the continent were growing at 4 percent a year or more, and 34 countries there are classified by Freedom House as "free" or "partly free." The OECD reports that, in a first, Africa gets more money from investors than from foreign aid. The continent remains poor, disease-stricken, and often poorly governed. But for the first time in a long time, there is forward momentum.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/207403>

*See Also: U.S. Finding Its Voice in Africa Again, The New York Times, July 17*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/18/world/africa/18iht-letter.html>

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**RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**The Case For Reform: Foreign Aid and Development in a New Era**, *Hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, July 22*

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/2009/hrg090722p.html>

Peter McPherson, President, The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities; Former Administrator, USAID: <http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/McPhersonTestimony090722p.pdf>

Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/SachsTestimony090722p.pdf>

David Beckmann, President, Bread For the World:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/BeckmannTestimony090722p.pdf>

**Preliminary Analysis Of the Effects of HR 2454 On U.S. Agriculture**, *Office of the Chief Economist, Economic Research Service, U.S., Department of Agriculture, July 22*

USDA performed a preliminary economic analysis of the impacts of House-passed climate legislation, HR 2454, on U.S. agriculture. The analysis assumes no technological change, no alteration of inputs in agriculture, and no increase in demand for bio-energy as a result of higher energy prices. Therefore, it overstates the impact of the climate legislation on agriculture costs in the short (2012-18), medium (2027-2033), and long-term (2042 to 2048). In summary, USDA's analysis shows that the agricultural sector will have modest costs in the short-term and net benefits – perhaps significant net benefits – over the long-term.

[http://www.usda.gov/documents/PreliminaryAnalysis\\_HR2454.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/PreliminaryAnalysis_HR2454.pdf)

*See Also: USDA Sees House Climate Bill Yielding Long-Term Benefits for Agriculture, The New York Times, July 22*

The Agriculture Department released its analysis of the House-passed climate bill today showing the cap-and-trade legislation having modest short-term costs for agriculture and long-term net benefits for the sector. USDA's analysis shows that short-term costs to agriculture are low, in part because of provisions in H.R. 2454 that reduce the bill's impacts on fertilizer costs. Net farm income would decrease by less than 1 percent in the short term, the study found. Over the medium term, the analysis shows, net farm income could decrease by between 3.5 percent and 7.2 percent.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/07/22/22greenwire-usda-sees-house-climate-bill-yielding-long-ter-74914.html>

**Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, Energy Secretary Chu Announce \$6.3 million for Biofuels Research**, *United States Department of Agriculture, July 22*

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the joint selection of awards of up to \$6.3 million towards fundamental genomics-enabled research leading to the improved use of plant feedstocks for biofuel production.

[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2009news/07221\\_plant\\_feedstock.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2009news/07221_plant_feedstock.html)

**Climate Change and Global Security: Challenges, Threats, and Diplomatic Opportunities**, *Hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, July 21*

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/2009/hrg090721p.html>

John Warner, Former U.S. Senator:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/WarnerTestimony090721p.pdf>

Vice Admiral Lee F. Gunn, USN (Ret.), President, American Security Project:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/GunnTestimony090721p.pdf>

Sharon Burke, Vice President, Center for a New American Security:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/BurkeTestimony090721p.pdf>

Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn, USN (Ret.), Member, Center for Naval Analysis, Advisory Board:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/McGinnTestimony090721p.pdf>

**Remarks Following Tour of Indian Agricultural Research Institute Research Field, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, New Delhi, India July 19**

“Now, research is a critical component of what must be a comprehensive approach to improving agriculture. We have to connect the labs where new technologies are developed and the research is done to the fields where the farmers labor to plant and harvest crops to feed their families, to the markets where crops are bought and sold, and finally, to the homes and schools of all of us who are not farmers, but who rely on the labors of those who are. And for decades, as the minister said, the United States and India have been partners in agriculture. We have collaborated over more than 50 years. And today we are called to collaborate once again. We have to work together, because it's imperative that we invest in the science that will increase crop yields, that we do more to link farms and markets so that farmers can sell their products, that we expand the export of technology and training to bring more assistance to farmers in vulnerable communities, worldwide, and we strengthen our response to climate change, which threatens the waterways that sustain agriculture in many parts of the world, including South Asia.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/july/126207.htm>

See Also: **Agriculture, most important area of India-U.S. collaboration: Hillary**, *The Hindu*, July 20

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/20/stories/2009072056911800.htm>

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## NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

**World Hunger Series: Hunger and Markets**, *U.N. World Food Programme, July 2009*

Well-functioning food markets are central to ending hunger. Not only must enough food be produced to meet consumption needs, but this food must also be accessible. Food markets link food production and consumption sectors. But they can do much more. When food markets are functioning well, they can create jobs and stimulate economic growth by spurring diversification of food systems based on comparative advantage. This can lead to more equal distributions of income and purchasing power, and thus increased nutritional well-being and enhanced food security. This issue of the *World Hunger Series* considers this potential, highlights the major opportunities and risks facing households seeking to realize it, and outlines strategic priorities for policies and investment.

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp200279.pdf>

**Institutional Economics Perspectives on African Agricultural Development**, *Edited by Johann F. Kirsten, Andrew R. Dorward, Colin Poulton, and Nick Vink, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2009*

Professionals in economics and agricultural economics have been paying increasing attention to institutional issues and have developed strong concepts and analytical tools to do so. The core message of this book is that this new focus is particularly relevant to the problems of agricultural development in Africa. As a result, there is a need to consolidate the lessons learned into a textbook to illustrate the relevance and application of these concepts and tools. The core purpose of the book is, therefore, to provide an accessible text on the economics of institutions relevant to agricultural development in the African context.

Full document: <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/oc61/oc61.pdf>

To download by chapter: <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/oc61.asp#dl>

**The Aid for Trade at a Glance 2009: Maintaining Momentum**, *OECD/WTO, July 2009*

The Second Global Review provides an opportunity to give added impetus to the ambitious mandate on Aid for Trade, agreed at the WTO's Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in 2005, which aims to help developing

countries, and the least developed in particular, to build the supply-side capacity and infrastructure they need to take advantage of trade opening and to connect with the global economy.

[http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/aid4trade09\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/aid4trade09_e.pdf)

**Measuring the Economic Impacts of Transgenic Crops in Developing Agriculture during the First Decade: Approaches, Findings, and Future Directions**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2009*

This review of scholarly literature explores a key concern of IFPRI's: whether biotech crops can benefit poor farmers. The authors examine the issue by emphasizing the methods applied to empirical data from developing countries, because these methods influence the nature of economists' findings and how they interpret them. The authors consider the economic impacts of biotech crops not only on farmers, but also on consumers, the agricultural sector as a whole, and international trade. They have also compiled a web-bibliography, bEcon, which is available to researchers, particularly those in developing countries, as a tool to further their own understanding of the evidence.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/fpreview/pv10.pdf>

**Arab Human Development Reports 2009: Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries**, *United Nations Development Programme, July 2009*

Despite its ample resources, and low incidence of hunger relative to other regions, the Arab countries are seeing hunger and malnutrition among their people rise. Although prevalence rates and absolute numbers in individual countries vary quite markedly, the region, as a whole, is falling behind in achieving the hunger-reduction target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, the backlog from hunger and malnutrition in the past continues.

<http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/other/ahdr/ahdr2009e.pdf>

**China in Africa - Preparing for the Next Forum for China Africa Cooperation**, *Chatham House, June 2009*

These commitments include: Double its 2006 assistance to Africa by 2009; Provide US\$3 billion of preferential loans and US\$2 billion of preferential buyer's credits to Africa in the next three years; Set up a China-Africa development fund; Cancel debt in the form of all the interestfree government loans that matured at the end of 2005; Further open up China's market to Africa by increasing exports receiving zero-tariff treatment from the least developed countries in Africa having diplomatic ties with China; Establish three to five trade and economic cooperation zones in Africa in the next three years; Over the next three years, send 100 senior agricultural experts to Africa; set up 10 special agricultural technology demonstration centres in Africa; build 100 rural schools in Africa; and increase the number of Chinese government scholarships to African students from the current 2,000 per year to 4,000 per year by 2009.

[http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14269\\_0609ch\\_af.pdf](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14269_0609ch_af.pdf)

See Also: **Off the Shelf: China's Wide Reach in Africa**, *The New York Times, July 18*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/19/business/19shelf.html>

**Factors Behind the Rise in Global Rice Prices in 2008**, *USDA Economic Research Service, May 2009*

Global rice prices rose to record highs in the spring of 2008, with trading prices tripling from November 2007 to late April 2008. The primary cause of the rise in prices for these commodities from 2006-08 was rising global incomes, dietary changes, increased use of biofuels, tight grain supplies, and increased participation in futures markets by nontraditional investors. Because rice is critical to the diet of about half the world's population, the rapid increase in global rice prices in late 2007 and early 2008 had a detrimental impact on those rice consumers' well-being. Although rice prices have dropped more than 40 percent from their April 2008 highs, they remain well above pre-2007 levels.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/RCS/May09/RCS09D01/RCS09D01.pdf>

See Also: **Speculators, Storage, and the Price of Rice**, *Brian Wright, Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, University of California, 2009*

[http://www.agecon.ucdavis.edu/extension/update/articles/v12n2\\_4.pdf](http://www.agecon.ucdavis.edu/extension/update/articles/v12n2_4.pdf)

**Development Dimensions of High Food Prices**, *Philip Abbott, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), May 2009*

International agricultural commodity prices rose dramatically from the summer of 2006 through mid 2008. Then they fell faster than they rose, until December 2008, but to levels higher than historic norms. The consensus outlook is for world agricultural prices to remain high and volatile. It is expected that the past trends of demand increasing faster than supply and the persistent new biofuels demands will continue. Today's deteriorating global economic conditions add considerable uncertainty to that prediction. Commodity prices are now linked more directly via biofuels demand and depend strongly on bilateral exchange rate adjustments and global macroeconomic outcomes.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/19/41/42972908.pdf>

**Social and governance dimensions of climate change : implications for policy**, *World Bank, May 2009*

This paper addresses two vital concerns in the debate on adaptation to climate change. First, how can countries prepare to manage the impact of climate-change induced natural disasters? Second, how can countries ensure that they have the governmental institutions required to manage the phenomenal challenge of adaptation to climate change? The findings suggest an important role is played by social and political institutions in determining the ability of countries to adapt to climate change and respond to natural disasters, in particular in the degree to which countries have succeeded in gender empowerment and the development of a robust civil society and nonprofit sector.

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/05/19/000158349\\_20090519141602/Rendered/PDF/WPS4939.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/05/19/000158349_20090519141602/Rendered/PDF/WPS4939.pdf)

**Beyond mitigation : potential options for counter-balancing the climatic and environmental consequences of the rising concentrations of greenhouse gases**, *World Bank, May 2009*

Global climate change is occurring at an accelerating pace, and the global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are forcing climate change continue to increase. Given the present pace of international actions, it seems unlikely that atmospheric composition can be stabilized at a level that will avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference" with the climate system. Although a number of possible geoengineering approaches have been proposed, each has costs and side effects that must be balanced against the expected benefits of reduced climate impacts. However, substantial new research is needed before comparison of the relative benefits and risks of intervening is possible.

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/05/19/000158349\\_20090519141020/Rendered/PDF/WPS4938.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/05/19/000158349_20090519141020/Rendered/PDF/WPS4938.pdf)

**Public Health in Africa**, *Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 2009*

Nowhere are global public health challenges more acute than in sub-Saharan Africa. With just 13 percent of the world's population, this region carries 24 percent of the global burden of disease. The continent's immense disease burden and frail health systems are embedded in a broader context of poverty, underdevelopment, conflict, and weak or ill-managed government institutions. These complex, interrelated challenges will ultimately demand sustained, patient, and integrated responses. This report examines these challenges and makes recommendations for a strategic U.S. response by the Obama administration.

[http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/090420\\_cooke\\_pubhealthafrica\\_web.pdf](http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/090420_cooke_pubhealthafrica_web.pdf)

**Market Information and Food Insecurity Response Analysis**, *Christopher B. Barrett, Robert Bell, Erin C. Lentz and Daniel G. Maxwell, February 2009*

Food aid is no longer the only, or even the dominant, response to widespread food insecurity. Donors, governments, NGOs and recipient communities exhibit rapidly growing interest in and experimentation with cash-based alternatives, both in the form of direct cash distribution to food insecure persons, and of local or regional purchase of food using cash provided to operational agencies by donors. But the humanitarian action and social protection communities lack a systematic, field-tested framework for choosing between food- and cash-based responses to food insecurity. This paper outlines the rationale for "response analysis" and introduces a new, fieldtested, systematic approach to this emergent activity.

<http://www.basis.wisc.edu/ept/barrett%20background%20food%20security.pdf>

**World Development Report 2010: Development in a Changing Climate**, *Concept Note, World Bank, 2009*

We are at a critical juncture. The Kyoto Protocol was agreed to over a decade ago and we are now in the first period of rigorous accounting of emissions by developed countries. However, greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are still increasing, possibly at an accelerating rate. There are real and immediate concerns that global warming associated with such trends could reverse the development gains of recent years. There are equal concerns that some of the policy responses triggered by these trends could also be harmful to growth and poverty alleviation objectives.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2010/Resources/5287678-1226014527953/5555566-1226014549177/WDR2010\\_CN\\_oct14v3.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2010/Resources/5287678-1226014527953/5555566-1226014549177/WDR2010_CN_oct14v3.pdf)

**Rising CO<sub>2</sub>, Climate Change, and Public Health: Exploring the Links to Plant Biology**, *Lewis H. Ziska, Paul R. Epstein, and William H. Schlesinger, Environmental Health Perspectives, February 2009*

Although the issue of anthropogenic climate forcing and public health is widely recognized, one fundamental aspect has remained underappreciated: the impact of climatic change on plant biology and the well-being of human systems. The authors aimed to critically evaluate the extant and probable links between plant function and human health, drawing on the pertinent literature. There are a number of clear links among climate change, plant biology, and public health that remain underappreciated by both plant scientists and health care providers.

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/picrender.fcgi?artid=2649213&blobtype=pdf>

**Food Versus Biofuels: Environmental and Economic Costs**, *David Pimentel, Alison Marklein, Megan Toth, Marissa Karpoff, Gillian Paul, Robert McCormack, Joanna Kyriazis, Tim Krueger, Human Ecology, January 2009*

The rapidly growing world population and rising consumption of biofuels intensify demands for both food and biofuels. This exaggerates food and fuel shortages. The use of food crops such as corn grain to produce ethanol raises major nutritional and ethical concerns. Nearly 60% of humans in the world are currently malnourished, so the need for grains and other basic foods is critical. Growing crops for fuel squanders land, water and energy resources vital for the production of food for human consumption. Using corn for ethanol increases the price of US beef, chicken, pork, eggs, breads, cereals, and milk more than 10% to 30%.

<http://stopogm.net/files/foodvsbiofuelspimentel.pdf>

**Impact of the Food Price Hike on Nutritional Status of Women and Children**, *Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), January 2009*

Malnutrition levels in Bangladesh, particularly among children, are among the highest in the world. The consequences of this have been studied extensively, though progress has been slow and not sustained. Poor nutritional outcomes of children have lifelong consequences: in terms of productivity, cognitive ability, educational attainment, vulnerability to disease and overall quality of life. Life in utero and the first six months of life when the child should be breastfeeding are critical moments in a child's development, during which permanent patterns of poor nutrition are often established. This intrinsically links maternal health and nutrition to that of the child's.

[http://www.bracresearch.org/monographs/Monograph\\_38.pdf](http://www.bracresearch.org/monographs/Monograph_38.pdf)

**Historical and simulated ecosystem carbon dynamics in Ghana: land use, management, and climate**, *Z. Tan, L. L. Tieszen, E. Tachie-Obeng, S. Liu, and A. M. Dieye, Biogeosciences, January 2009*

Authors used the General Ensemble biogeochemical Modeling System (GEMS) to simulate responses of natural and managed ecosystems to changes in land use and land cover, management, and climate for a forest/savanna transitional zone in central Ghana.

<http://www.biogeosciences.net/6/45/2009/bg-6-45-2009.pdf>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **"Enough! Emerging U.S. and African Leadership on Food Security"**

Hosted by Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN)

Date: July 29, 2009

Time: 9:30- 11:00 a.m.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs  
*Global Food for Thought* – July 17th – July 24th, 2009

Location: B-339 Rayburn House Office Building

**Representative Betty McCollum** to deliver opening remarks. **Roger Thurow** and **Scott Kilman**, *Wall Street Journal* reporters and **Franklin Moore**, deputy assistant administrator for USAID to the U.S. to speak on the emerging U.S. and African food security initiatives. **Marshall Bouton**, president, **The Chicago Council on Global Affairs** and **Peter McPherson**, president, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. Please RSVP to Julie Howard by **FRIDAY, JULY 24**, at [Partnership.events@gmail.com](mailto:Partnership.events@gmail.com).

### **“Enough! Emerging U.S. and African Leadership on Food Security”**

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars

Date: July 29, 2009

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m., with reception to follow

Location: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Flom Auditorium, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Washington, D.C.

**Roger Thurow** and **Scott Kilman**, *Wall Street Journal* reporters; **Franklin Moore**, deputy assistant administrator for USAID; and **H.E. Amadou Ba**, Ambassador of Senegal to the U.S. to speak on the emerging U.S. and African food security initiatives. **Marshall Bouton**, president, **The Chicago Council on Global Affairs** and **Steve McDonald**, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars to moderate. Please RSVP to Julie Howard by **FRIDAY, JULY 24**, at [Partnership.events@gmail.com](mailto:Partnership.events@gmail.com).

### **International ISHS/ProMusa Symposium Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges**

Date: September 14-18, 2009

Location: Guang Dong, China,

ProMusa, in collaboration with the Guang Dong Academy for Agricultural Sciences (GDAAS), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and Bioversity’s Banana and Plantain Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific (BAPNET), has announced the “International Banana Symposium: Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges.”

[http://www.promusa.org/symposium\\_2009/home.html](http://www.promusa.org/symposium_2009/home.html)

[http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/fischerboel-hill-event\\_may-06-09-invite-final-3.pdf](http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/fischerboel-hill-event_may-06-09-invite-final-3.pdf)

### **2009 World Food Prize and “Borlaug Dialogue” symposium: Food, Agriculture, and National Security**

Date: October 14-16, 2009

Location: Des Moines, IA

The formal awarding of the \$250,000 World Food Prize will be the cornerstone of a week-long series of events that will attract several hundred government officials and policymakers, private-sector and agribusiness executives, academics and scientists, and NGO and development-agency leaders from over 65 countries. The “conversations” of the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium will this year focus on the connection between food and agriculture and national and international security and cooperation, with speakers including renowned global CEOs, agricultural ministers and diplomats, noted intelligence and security experts, and other eminent leaders in agricultural and rural development.

<https://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009.htm> (registration available)

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### **2 mln children suffer from acute malnutrition in Bangladesh, *Xinhua*, July 24**

Two million children aged between six months and five years are suffering from acute malnutrition in Bangladesh due to last year's price hike of essentials, the official news agency BSS reported. According to the survey, the malnutrition level might be even higher during the periods of food scarcity as the survey was carried out during the harvesting season.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/24/content\\_11767714.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/24/content_11767714.htm)

### **Back to a dusty future, *The Economist*, July 23**

During the Depression of the 1930s, drought turned much of Alberta and Saskatchewan, on Canada’s western prairies, into a dust bowl. The combination of poor harvests and low grain prices drove thousands of farmers

off the land. Now some prairie dwellers reckon history is repeating itself. The fall in oil and gas prices from their record highs a year ago has brought an abrupt halt to Alberta's energy-based boom. And while grain prices have picked up, drought has once again brought billions of dollars of losses to farms and ranches.  
[http://www.economist.com/world/americas/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14094060](http://www.economist.com/world/americas/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14094060)

**Agriculture is The Country's Saviour**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 23

Given the volatility of the oil sector, agriculture holds the key to sustainable economic growth since it employs about two-thirds of Nigeria's labor force and contributes about 44 percent of GDP, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources Dr. Sayyadi Abba Ruma has said. He said agriculture provides 88 percent of non-oil earnings with 90 per cent of small scale farmers each cultivating less than two hectares of land.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907230071.html>

**Boakai Opts for Large-Scale Investment in Agriculture Sector**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 23

Liberia's Vice President Joseph N. Boakai Boakai has called for large-scale investment in the agriculture sector to enable Liberia produce not only for local consumption but for export. He said Liberia which has a small population, has the fertile soil, land and adequate rainfall to support such initiative, but noted that what the country lacks is the expertise, technology and funding.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907230732.html>

**The Chicago Council on Global Affairs Calls for a Renewed U.S. Commitment to Fight Hunger and Poverty**, *The Hunger and Undernutrition Blog*, July 22

A report released by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs titled "Renewing American Leadership in the Fight Against Global Hunger and Poverty," calls for long-term agricultural development efforts, with particular emphasis on the two poorest regions of the world -- Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The report emphasizes the role the Obama Administration and Congress can take to improve agricultural outputs and access to quality food. It also, and perhaps more importantly, demonstrates that by doing so we can promote poverty alleviation, the development of women and girls, smallholder farmer market access, and security through a new and different type of aid that goes beyond writing a check. This new form of aid, in addition to some level of financial commitment, relies heavily on technology and knowledge transfers, increased research, and developing in-country infrastructure.

<http://www.hunger-undernutrition.org/blog/2009/07/we-cannot-ensure-food-and-nutrition-security-without-building-up-agricultural-systems-improving-crop-output-technologies-s.html>

*See Also: The G8's Food Security Initiative, The Washington Note, July 14*

Many development experts have long pushed for this sort of foreign aid, promoting it as a far more effective poverty fighting tool than direct food aid. A report published by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in February, *Renewing American Leadership in the Fight Against Global Hunger and Poverty*, outlines just how important such assistance is. The report concludes that "rural hunger and poverty decline dramatically when education, investment, and new technologies give farmers better ways to be productive."

[http://www.thewashingtonnote.com/archives/2009/07/guest\\_post\\_by\\_c\\_2/](http://www.thewashingtonnote.com/archives/2009/07/guest_post_by_c_2/)

**A global back up for agriculture**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, July 22

For all of our technical wizardry, human survival relies on a thin layer of soil, seeds and the occasional thunderstorm, Cary Fowler told the TEDGlobal audience in Oxford. It is a picture of the delicate balance that nurtures life on Earth, and while the planet warms, Fowler is working to save a critical element that will allow humanity to cope with global warming: biodiversity. Fowler is one of the driving forces behind an international seed bank on the Arctic island of Svalbard to save 500 seeds from as many species as possible to help agriculture cope not only with global warming but also pests and disease.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/pda/2009/jul/22/climate-change-agriculture>

**Uganda: Tracing the Root Cause of Hunger in Northern Uganda**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 22

The persistent food shortages and problems in the agricultural sector show that it is not enough to celebrate the country's natural gifts; they must be harnessed and used sustainably. Nearly 40 people have died of hunger-related complications across the country since May. Millions more in the north, east and north-eastern regions of the country are living on food handouts given by the World Food Programme and other aid

agencies. How can a country gifted by nature with fertile soils, the second largest freshwater lake in the world, whose entire length is straddled by the Nile, the longest river in the world, fail to feed its population?  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907220618.html>

**Sudan: The deadly cycle of cattle-raiding**, *Reuters, July 21*

Tutlow Ruot has yet to come to terms with the death of his two children, who drowned in a river as his village fled an attack by cattle raiders from the Murle community. "They attacked us at 5am, burnt our tukuls [houses], killed some people, especially women and children, and took our cattle," he said. To safeguard their remaining livestock, the Lou Nuer have moved most of their remaining herds to communal grazing grounds east of Akobo, guarded by armed youth.  
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/c3db599517d5cf53dcb04ac367c92bb.htm>

**Nigeria 2009 – The economy: Still trapped on the threshold of prosperity**, *Special Report, Financial Times, July 20*

Spend a few days in Nigeria, and the contradictions seem extreme: a world-class oil exporter hit by fuel shortages; a country with massive gas reserves in darkness; fertile land empty of farmers. The agriculture sector has grown steadily in recent years and accounts for about 40 per cent of gross domestic product, but limited progress has been made to create the kind of processing industries that would lift farming beyond subsistence level. Remi Babalola, the minister of state for finance, says the government is also working to repair crumbling roads with 55 projects in progress and N500bn earmarked for investment between now and 2011. The government also plans to make N200bn of loans available to farmers and invest a further N200bn in silos, irrigation and other projects. The private sector is working to improve provision of fertilisers, where scams revolving around state subsidies have long benefited officials at the expense of farmers.  
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0d6305c0-74cf-11de-8ad5-00144feabdc0.html>

**Kenya puts off food for work plan**, *Capital News (Kenya), July 20*

The government has suspended the food for work program saying hunger stricken people cannot be subjected to manual labour before getting food. Special Programme Minister Naomi Shabaan said it was wrong to subject those facing famine to digging trenches and making dams on empty stomachs.  
<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Local/Kenya-puts-off-food-for-work-plan-5184.html>

**Technology can ensure food security in S Asia**, *World Trade Review (Pakistan), July 16*

Introduction of new technologies in the agriculture sector supported by media, both electronic and print, can only ensure food security in the region, otherwise the countries are vulnerable to naked faces of hunger, poverty and other ills. The rural economy needed more understanding of the sector as it had been divorced by the policy-makers in Pakistan and other countries of the region and investment in rural economy could ensure security for the region, speakers at a three-day workshop on the role of media for accelerating agricultural growth in SAARC countries.  
<http://www.worldtradereview.com/news.asp?pType=N&iType=C&iID=210&siD=8&nID=48361>

**KENYA: Malnutrition crisis in northwest**, *Reuters, July 16*

Poor rains have heightened food insecurity in Kenya's northwestern region of Turkana, where malnutrition rates in children under five have risen above the emergency threshold, according to humanitarian officials. At least 50 percent of child deaths in the region were due to malnutrition or had malnutrition as an underlying cause of death. Turkana is a mostly arid region, with little agriculture. Most of the population depends on livestock, but the viability of pastoralism is being undermined by recurrent and increasingly unpredictable droughts and armed conflict with groups from neighbouring regions or countries.  
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/9f03df9be9e53de04c5c49445ef10a10.htm>

**Target the Drug Lords in Afghanistan, Not the Farmers**, *Vanda Felbab-Brown, Brookings Institution, July 15*

Ultimately, rural development is the key to reducing the illicit economy and its multiple pernicious effects in Afghanistan, and the Obama administration is right to make it the centrepiece of the new policy. The development efforts need to assure legal microcredit, roads, fertilizers, irrigation and access to land for the farmers. But the focus on new crops needs to go beyond subsistence. Wheat especially is not the way to go in Afghanistan. All of the arable land of Afghanistan could be planted with wheat, but due to population density,

the people would still be lacking in subsistence. Because wheat is also far less labour-intensive than poppy, it could employ only about 15% of the population engaged in poppy cultivation and harvesting.  
[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0715\\_counternarcotics\\_felbabbrown.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0715_counternarcotics_felbabbrown.aspx)

**Guatemala's malnutrition crisis**, *The Lancet*, July 2009

Half the children in Guatemala have chronic malnutrition. In some areas the rate is as high as 90%. This is startling, because in terms of gross domestic product, Guatemala is a fairly prosperous country. Yet the rates of stunting here are on par with failed states like Haiti—the national census of height in 2008 found that nearly half of children younger than 5 years are stunted. Research published in *The Lancet* last year shows that children who have chronic malnutrition face not only stunted growth but also a diminished mental capacity and a substantial decrease in earning power.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)61314-3/fulltext?\\_eventId=login](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)61314-3/fulltext?_eventId=login)

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**A Sea Change in Food Aid?**, *Foreign Policy*, July 23

It is easy to be cynical about these new commitments. But the G-8's summit statement on food security provides some real cause for optimism. It promises substantially more than an uncritical rehashing of failed efforts from the past. If implemented properly, the G-8's pledge could well represent a sea change in food aid and, ultimately, human development. There are problems with the G-8 statement, certainly, many of them having to do with the \$20 billion figure. Thanks to the statement's opacity, it is unclear whether the \$20 billion represents a rededication of existing funds or a new injection of additional cash. Foreign aid for agricultural development currently stands at \$5 billion a year (an inflation-adjusted drop of 75 percent since the 1980s). If the G-8 pledge adds an additional \$6.7 billion, the change is massive. But if it simply adds \$1.7 billion to raise it to \$6.7 billion, we should not expect significant policy changes.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/07/23/a\\_sea\\_change\\_in\\_food\\_aid](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/07/23/a_sea_change_in_food_aid)

**Special Op-Ed From Senator Lugar: Strong Voice for Development Needed**, *Center for Global Development*, July 23

In recent years we have seen a welcome renaissance in American foreign assistance, which was starved for funds during the 1990s. Members of both parties have supported new programs and new spending, and American efforts overseas today are helping to fight disease and hunger and end the poverty that can be a seedbed for terrorism. Development, along with defense and diplomacy, is now a pillar of our national security policy.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2009/07/special-op-ed-from-senator-lugar-strong-voice-for-development-needed.php>

**UN Gives U.S.\$55 Million Emergency Food Fund to Continent**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 23

United Nations Emergency Response Fund (UNERF) has announced it has allocated emergency fund for people most affected by hunger mainly in the African continent. This week, the UN earmarked \$55 million which will be distributed mainly in Africa. Hunger-stricken eastern Africa nations of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Eritrea are also on the list. The region requires an emergency food aid for nearly 13 million people now facing hunger due to drought-related reasons.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907230835.html>

**Food security concerns grow as foreign NGO workers leave Burmese delta**, *Irrawaddy*, July 22

Survivors of last year's deadly Cyclone Nargis are worried that the departure of foreign aid workers from the Irrawaddy delta will expose them to even greater food insecurity, according to local sources. According to a recent survey conducted in Laputta and Bogalay townships in February, 51 percent of households reported that they are still relying on food aid from humanitarian agencies, while only 25 percent said they could feed themselves. The report also said that about 83 percent of households have gone into debt to purchase rice.

[http://irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=16383](http://irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=16383)

**U.S. Forces Foster Growth in Afghanistan**, *American Forces Press Service*, July 22

U.S. forces aided Afghan farmers and villagers recently in operations aimed at cultivating a brighter future in Afghanistan. Farmers in Panjshir province's Dara district will be able to store their produce from the fall harvest in a temperature-controlled underground facility for the first time, thanks to the efforts of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team. The \$45,000 project provides farmers with a place to store food either for personal consumption or to sell at markets. Potatoes, watermelon, wheat and other fruits and vegetables can be stored in the facility.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=55215>

**UN says world's poor need \$5bn**, *Al Jazeera English*, July 22

The United Nations says it needs \$5bn to help the world's poor this year, warning that the need for aid has never been greater. John Holmes, the UN humanitarian chief, said that more than \$4.8bn of the agency's \$9.5bn target for the year had yet to be raised - the biggest ever shortfall at the mid-year mark. UN projects that could be affected include those which provide shelter, food, water and medical aid, and those that clear landmines and help people improve their agricultural output.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/europe/2009/07/2009721225756284434.html>

See Also: **The UN's own financial crisis**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, July 23

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jul/22/un-budget-shortfall-aid>

**U.S. foreign assistance's effectiveness should be held to rigorous standard**, *The Seattle Times*, July 21

U.S. assistance programs should fulfill their intended purposes to build schools, pave roads, treat the sick and train farmers. These investments should produce tangible results and a marked improvement in the lives of poor people. Too often, however, aid programs have been measured by how much has been spent rather than the results that have been achieved. To reinforce accountability, aid must be transparent as well. Countries ought to know what level of funding to expect and over what period of time, giving them the confidence to plan long-term. Their citizens ought to be part of an open process to determine development priorities so they, too, can hold their governments accountable for delivering results with the assistance provided.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2009512233\\_guests22grinstein.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2009512233_guests22grinstein.html)

**Aiding the Future: Does U.S. foreign assistance really work?**, *Foreign Policy*, July 20

International-development circles in Washington are abuzz with hope that U.S. foreign-aid policy might finally be getting a much-needed overhaul. Critics have long complained that U.S. assistance comes with too many conditions and that too much of the money goes to U.S. companies and consultants. But now, those same mumblings are coming from the government itself.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/07/20/aiding\\_the\\_future](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/07/20/aiding_the_future)

**Under bills, U.S. would funnel more money into diplomacy**, *USA Today*, July 19

The State Department is poised to realize significantly larger percentage budget increases than the Pentagon — a reflection, officials say, of a bipartisan consensus that civilians should play a greater role in U.S. foreign policy. Bills passed recently by House and Senate committees would increase State Department and related spending by about 25% from what was spent in 2008 and nearly double the 2005 level. The new money, some of which is included in a 2009 supplemental spending bill passed and signed last month, is set for 1,300 new diplomats, major new development programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan and increases in foreign and humanitarian assistance.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-07-19-diplomacy\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-07-19-diplomacy_N.htm)

**Specialists Debate How US Aid to Africa Can be More Effective**, *VOA News*, July 17

As both the Obama administration and Congress discuss reform proposals in U.S. foreign aid and development assistance, experts at a panel discussion in Washington have called on the United States to make U.S. foreign aid more supportive of effective governments and citizen-led institutions.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-07-17-voa5.cfm>

**UN envoy calls for more relief to war-ravaged northern Uganda as hunger sets in**, *Xinhua*, July 17

A UN expert on human rights of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) called for more humanitarian aid to the war-torn northern Uganda where famine is ravaging the region. Walter Kaelin, the representative of the UN Secretary General on the human rights of IDPs, told reporters here that the most vulnerable people to the

hunger situation are the elderly, persons with disabilities, orphans and child-headed homes. The region, like other parts of the East African country, is facing a food crisis due to the prolonged dry spells and unpredictable rain seasons which have destroyed crops in the fields.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/17/content\\_11725571.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/17/content_11725571.htm)

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### **Fighting climate change the key to ending poverty, *San Francisco Examiner*, July 24**

This December, representatives from more than 180 countries will gather in Copenhagen to negotiate a renewed treaty to fight global warming. The goal is to forge a fair and effective agreement that helps countries address the impacts of climate change and cut global greenhouse-gas emissions such as carbon dioxide. The effects of climate change — higher temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, rising sea levels and more frequent weather-related disasters — pose serious risks for agriculture, food and water supplies. This can imperil recent gains in the fight against poverty, hunger and disease, and the lives and livelihoods of billions of people in the developing world.

[http://www.sfoxaminer.com/opinion/columns/oped\\_contributors/Fighting-climate-change-the-key-to-ending-poverty-51536977.html](http://www.sfoxaminer.com/opinion/columns/oped_contributors/Fighting-climate-change-the-key-to-ending-poverty-51536977.html)

### **Small-scale irrigation schemes are key to food security in Uganda, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, July 24**

As we now know, the people of Katine, the wider Teso region and other parts of Uganda are bracing themselves for famine following back-to-back drought. This is, of course, bad news, which makes the recent G8 pledge to support Africa to feed itself all the more timely. Out of Uganda's estimated 400,000 hectares of irrigable land, barely 5% is under irrigation – and these are large-scale farms. The government has for years talked about harnessing water for production, but there is too little being done.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global/katineblog/2009/jul/24/livelihoods-news>

### **Drink to That: What's the best way to help make the world's water supply safer?, *Slate*, July 22**

Why water? Nearly 1 billion people lack access to safe water supplies. Some 3.5 million people die each year from water-related diseases, and almost 3 million of them are children. While most Americans simply turn on the tap, people in many parts of the world spend three hours searching for clean water each day. Not because there isn't enough water to go around but because poor people are systematically denied access to the clean water they need.

<http://www.slate.com/id/2223279/>

### **Price put on Copenhagen success, *BBC News*, July 22**

The UN's top climate official has said that the richest nations will have to put \$10bn "on the table" during the Copenhagen climate change summit. Yvo De Boer, who will lead the negotiations, said such a commitment was necessary for their success. He insisted the burden of climate change must be shared and that the money would help developing countries.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8163456.stm>

*See Also: Informal world climate talks in Bonn in August, Reuters, July 21*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE56K5Q620090721>

### **India leads demands for £120bn climate change fund paid for by the West, *Telegraph (U.K.)*, July 22**

In a proposal that appears to have astonished Western officials, the Indian government suggested that the price of co-operation would be for industrialized countries to pay at least 0.5 per cent of their GDP to help developing nations invest in cleaner renewable sources of energy and reduce their carbon emissions. While the size of the demand was dismissed by US officials as unrealistic, Gordon Brown has proposed industrialized countries contribute to a £60 billion fund to help the developing world play its role and said Britain would pay "its fair share".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/5888583/India-leads-demands-for-120bn-climate-change-fund-paid-for-by-the-West.html>

### **Meeting Shows U.S.-India Split on Emissions, *The New York Times*, July 20**

In a meeting with Mrs. Clinton, India's environment and forests minister, Jairam Ramesh, said there was "no case" for the West to push India to reduce carbon dioxide emissions when it already had among the lowest levels of emissions on a per capita basis. "If this pressure is not enough," he said, "we also face the threat of carbon tariffs on our exports to countries such as yours."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/20/world/asia/20diplo.html>

*See Also: Clinton can deliver a tough message to India, Strobe Talbott, Op-Ed, Financial Times, July 16*

A similar appeal to self-interest might prevail with respect to climate change. Since much of India's population lives in rural and coastal areas, it is acutely vulnerable to the devastation of agricultural lands and rising sea levels that come with global warming.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/af3f4136-7233-11de-ba94-00144feabdc0.dwp\\_uuid=a6dfcf08-9c79-11da-8762-0000779e2340.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/af3f4136-7233-11de-ba94-00144feabdc0.dwp_uuid=a6dfcf08-9c79-11da-8762-0000779e2340.html)

### **Riding a Wave of Culture Change, DOD Strives to Trim Energy Demand, *The New York Times, July 20***

Top-level efforts to upend this notion are under way at the Department of Defense (DOD) as the agency looks to remake how it powers operations and consumes energy. While the military by itself won't make a market for plug-in hybrid vehicles or algae-based jet fuel, its investment power can bump emerging climate-friendly technologies onto a larger commercial stage. Several policies already are under way. A presidential order currently requires federal departments to cut energy and water demand and use more renewable energy every year. In addition, Congress has mandated that the military consider climate change in its long-term planning.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2009/07/20/20climatewire-riding-a-wave-of-culture-change-dod-strives-23689.html>

### **Iraq's forgotten crisis, *The Guardian (U.K.), July 18***

Indeed, while the history of post-invasion Iraq is a narrative largely composed of body counts, electoral milestones, torture scandals and troop numbers, a forgotten story is how the destruction and painfully slow reconstruction of the Iraq state is occurring against the backdrop of a deteriorating natural environment. Over two years of drought have seriously dented what was already a marginalised and underfunded agriculture sector. Iraq is a largely desert country with an average of only four to just over six-and-a-half inches of rainfall a year; only 13% of its land is arable. Traditionally, agriculture has been the second largest employer behind the oil sector, yet the impact of years of sanctions followed by the 2003 war has compromised the central state's ability to contest the upstream damming of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers by Syria and Turkey.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/jul/18/iraq-environmental-crisis-security?commentpage=1>

*See Also: Water, Sewer Projects Impact Environment in Iraq, American Forces Press Service, July 17*

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=55162>

### **Encourage Pakistan as it confronts extremism, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Op-Ed, Times of India, July 17***

Climate change is another area where India can be a vital partner. We want India's economy and people to prosper. At the same time, we can look for opportunities to help India achieve these goals while avoiding an old development model based on dirty fuels and outdated technology. Better environmental practices can and must complement economic growth. The United States and India share an interest in greening our economies. This is not only an ecological imperative, it is also an economic and strategic opportunity. Our countries and the world will gain if we can pool our expertise to increase cooperation on energy efficiency and improve the management of our forests and water.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/4787173.cms>

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## **GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

**Africa's Capitalist Revolution, *Ethan B. Kapstein, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2009***

In one of the great ironies of history, Africa may well emerge from the current global recession as the only region in the world that remains committed to global capitalism. Everywhere, countries are beginning to batten down the economic hatches, closing off their economies to foreign trade through a variety of insidious policy measures. Protectionist policies that currently prevent African farmers from exporting genetically modified crops to the European Union are likely to harden in the months ahead as EU leaders attempt to appease their domestic agricultural sector.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65158/ethan-b-kapstein/africas-capitalist-revolution>

**SA hit by service-delivery protests**, *Mail & Guardian*, July 22

Since the end of apartheid in 1994, South Africa has made strides in improving housing while expanding access to clean water and electricity, building 2,8-million houses in 15 years. But more than one million families still live in shacks without power, often sharing a single tap among dozens of households. Zuma took office two months ago, after campaigning on promises to step up the fight against poverty in a country where unemployment is officially at 23,5% but is believed much higher. But the country has slipped into its first recession since apartheid, and thousands of jobs have been lost this year, complicating plans to boost government spending to fight poverty.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-07-22-sa-hit-servicedelivery-protests>

See Also: **Anti-poverty protests sweep South Africa**, *Agence France-Presse*, July 23

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090723/wl\\_africa\\_afp/safricapoliticsprotestpoverty:ylt=Aib0vNUZv5lwB1ApomnCaiOQOrgF;ylu=X3oDMTjyOWE1M3FiBGfzc2V0A2FmcC8yMDA5MDcyMy9zYWZyaWNhcG9saXRpY3Nwcm90ZXN0cG92ZXJ0eQRwb3MDMTkEc2VjA3luX3N1YmNhdF9saXN0BHNSawUhbNRpLXBvdm](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090723/wl_africa_afp/safricapoliticsprotestpoverty:ylt=Aib0vNUZv5lwB1ApomnCaiOQOrgF;ylu=X3oDMTjyOWE1M3FiBGfzc2V0A2FmcC8yMDA5MDcyMy9zYWZyaWNhcG9saXRpY3Nwcm90ZXN0cG92ZXJ0eQRwb3MDMTkEc2VjA3luX3N1YmNhdF9saXN0BHNSawUhbNRpLXBvdm)

**Financial Crisis Expected To Increase World Hunger**, *VOA News*, July 16

The World Food Program warns hunger and malnutrition will continue to rise as financial and food crises bite into the ever-shrinking income of the world's poor. They say new creative ways must be found to feed the hungry as government resources dry up.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-07-16-voa45.cfm>

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## WOMEN

**African women suffer most**, *Financial Standard (Australia)*, July 24

The global economic crisis has a serious impact not just on the finances of African women but on their mortality rates too, said Obiageli Ezekwesili, World Bank vice president for the Africa Region. The global economic crisis, Ezekwesili explained, is likely to hit African women on two fronts. First, it will arrest capital accumulation by women, and second, it will drastically reduce women's individual incomes as well as the budgets they manage on behalf of households. This would have damaging consequences notably on the girl child.

<http://www.financialstandard.com.au/news/view/26352/>

**Egyptian Women in Agriculture**, *Agwired.com*, July 23

Amin Ismail Abdou of the National Research Center in Egypt acknowledged that Egyptian women have significantly improved their standards of living over the years. Women in rural Egypt represent 10 to 25 percent of total land holders. Rural women tend to have a higher amount of decision-making power. Women tend to control the financial aspects of farming operations as well. While women tend to do anywhere between 60 to 80 percent of the farm work in Africa, they tend to not be involved in the high-tech, hazardous and labor intensive jobs.

<http://agwired.com/2009/07/23/egyptian-women-in-agriculture/>

**Women could help solve the global hunger crisis**, *Ritu Sharma, Op-Ed, St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, July 22

This week, 4 million more people will go to bed hungry all over the world. Seven out of ten of them are women. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization recently reported that the total number of hungry people worldwide now has topped 1 billion. Today, with high food prices and the global economic crisis, the world's poorest citizens can only afford a third as much staple food as they could three years ago.

Last month, while traveling in the West African nation of Burkina Faso, I met with rural women who are living right on the edge of poverty and hunger. They wake up at 4 a.m. to clean their houses, walk miles to fetch water and prepare their children for school. Then they head to small plots of land that they farm (but do not own) to tend to their crops and vegetables. After several hours working in the 100-degree temperatures, the women return home to meet their children after the school day and prepare the mid-day meal of rice and greens.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/editorialcommentary/story/A9165BCABAD806DD862575FA0080999C?OpenDocument>

**African women on front line against hunger**, *Capital Business (Kenya)*, July 20

Sixty one women scientists will benefit from the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) fellowship support by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). At the moment, 80 percent of Africa's farmers are women and 60 to 80 percent of Africa's food is produced by women. "Yet," according to AWARD Director Vicki Wilde, "only five percent of agricultural extension and 10 percent of rural credit reaches women. Part of the reason this longstanding situation hasn't changed is because women comprise only 25 percent of the agricultural research and development (R&D) talent pool and very few hold positions of leadership."

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/Local/African-women-on-front-line-against-hunger-2705.html>

**Tailoring a better life for women in Bangladesh**, *United Nations Development Programme*, July 17

The women's involvement with their community, in training and loan schemes supported by UNDP poverty reduction projects, is creating a huge impact on society. Kakuli and Aleya are helping to shrug off historical prejudice, also relating to the abilities and roles of women. By teaching their apprentices, they also pave the way for new roles for women. Aleya, for example, is working not only to provide the basics for herself and her 13-year-old daughter: she is slowly helping to change the conditions that may enable young women like her daughter to craft their own lives.

<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2009/july/tailoring-a-better-life-for-women-in-bangladesh.en>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**WTO farm talks resume in September, ready for Doha**, *Reuters*, July 23

Diplomats will pick up negotiations on a farm trade agreement in September, working on the technicalities of fleshing out a possible deal and plugging remaining gaps, the chairman of the talks said. New Zealand ambassador David Walker, who chairs agriculture negotiations at the World Trade Organisation, said delegations wanted to be ready to handle the mass of number-crunching that would be required if there was a breakthrough in the WTO's long-running Doha round.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL480184?sp=true>

See Also: **EU trade chief: U.S., India ready to move on Doha**, *Reuters*, July 22

<http://in.reuters.com/article/economicNews/idINIndia-41241220090722?sp=true>

**Enhanced U.S. Market Access Critical**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 23

Enhanced market access to the United States -- a key feature of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) -- remains a "critical component" for Africa's long-term economic growth and development, says longtime Africa trade facilitator and attorney Anthony Carroll. In the nine years since AGOA's enactment, Carroll said, it has been determined that "market access is not enough," but has to be coupled with technical assistance, infrastructure development and marketing sophistication for Africa to be able to take advantage of AGOA and other such trade agreements.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907230896.html>

**Agricultural subsidies**, *The Economist*, July 23

The OECD estimates that its member countries spent \$265 billion on farm subsidies in 2008. This was slightly more than a fifth of their farmers' total earnings. Last year's increase in food prices ensured that such payments were at their lowest level since records began in the mid-1980s.

[http://www.economist.com/markets/indicators/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14098262](http://www.economist.com/markets/indicators/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14098262)

**African Producers Press Rich Nations On Cotton Subsidies**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 23

Representatives from four major cotton-producing African countries came to Washington this week to engage in a dialogue about what they consider to be unfair U.S. trade practices.

The trade ministers of the so-called Cotton-4 or C4 countries - Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali - spoke at a Tuesday conference at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as well as a press conference on Wednesday at the National Press Club.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907230897.html>

**East Africa: Sea Cable Ushers in New Internet Era**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 23

The first undersea fibre optic cable went live in five African countries simultaneously on Thursday, marking the beginning of an era of faster and cheaper internet connections. A privately-funded consortium, Seacom, commissioned its Sh59 billion (\$760m) undersea cable in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda and South Africa with Rwanda set to be linked up in the next two weeks. This effectively means that Kenya is now part of the global information superhighway and will be able to compete on a more level platform with more established economies.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907230954.html>

**Dairy Milk Fairtrade Switch Aids Ghanaian Farmers**, *The Telegraph (UK)*, July 23

Cadbury has relaunched its Dairy Milk bar as a certified Fairtrade product, tripling demand for cocoa from certified farmers in the small West African country to 15,000 tonnes a year. Sales of such products, where manufacturers guarantee a minimum payment even if market prices drop lower, have increased by 50 per cent since 2001.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/ghana/5880305/Dairy-Milk-Fairtrade-switch-aids-Ghanaian-farmers.html>

**USGC: U.S. Farmers Help Curb Global Hunger**, *Cattle Network*, July 22

“The Importance of Trade in an Uncertain World” was the theme of the U.S. Grains Council’s 49th Annual Board of Delegates Meeting. More than 300 U.S. farmers, agribusiness representatives and international agriculturalists gathered in San Diego, Calif., this week to identify ways U.S. farmers and agribusinesses can help curb global hunger. **“How many presently low income consumers are lifted out of poverty will be the most important determinant of the future global demand for food,”** said Dr. Robert L. Thompson, Gardner Endowed chair in agricultural policy at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=332297>

**Agency Uses Africa Growth Act to Spur Trade, Investment**, *America.gov*, July 20

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) are cornerstones of the Obama administration’s development policy for Africa because they are complementary and have the potential to stimulate trade and investment across the continent. Jeri Jensen, MCC’s managing director of private-sector initiatives, estimated that 70 percent of MCC’s portfolio is agriculture-related, and many infrastructure programs the agency funds also boost agriculture in some way.

<http://www.america.gov/st/business-english/2009/July/20090720124432WCyeroC0.2524988.html>

*See Also:* Africa: **U.S.-Africa Trade Improving Lives Across Continent**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 17

Interview with Lloyd Pierson, president, African Development Foundation.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907210119.html>

**Why Africa depends on handouts**, *Al Jazeera English*, July 19

People cannot achieve self-determination, if their most basic human right – food - is controlled and determined by others. This marks a pronounced shift in policy toward food and Africa. Africans, we are told, will now be helped to farm their way out of hunger, rather than rely on handouts from overseas. But "food security" will never lead to African food sovereignty and independence until Europe and America do something about their own agricultural subsidies, which they pour on their own farmers.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/2009/07/200971681917239803.html>

**Into Africa**, *The Financial Times*, July 17

As investors begin to re-engage with risky assets, such as emerging market equities, it is fascinating to watch the slow rekindling of interest in Africa. Africa has plenty of resources and land – and, judging by an excellent *Economist* feature on sovereign wealth funds buying up tracts of Sudan, African agriculture remains a very long-term bet for the adventurous investor. However, there is still the issue of how to access the various discrete “Africa” stories – resources, agriculture and the growing middle class.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/bc323e14-72da-11de-ad98-00144feabdc0.html>

**Trade negotiators to refocus Doha talks**, *Reuters*, July 17

Negotiators at the World Trade Organisation have decided to put more emphasis in the long-running Doha talks on areas outside the core sectors of agriculture and industrial goods. Diplomats say they believe little is likely to happen in Geneva until the end of September, when leaders meeting at the G20 summit in Pittsburgh to review the global economic crisis are likely to renew calls to conclude the Doha talks to help boost the economy.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idINLH35464020090717>

**India-Pakistan Trade: A Roadmap for Enhancing Economic Relations**, *Mohsin S. Khan, Peterson Institute for Economics*, July 2009

Currently, tariff rates in India are significantly higher than those in Pakistan. In particular, India’s high tariffs on agricultural products and textiles severely discourage Pakistan’s exports to India. The Pakistanis believe that these tariffs are implicitly targeted at their country, whose potential exports would mainly include these two items (e.g., cotton yarn and fruits and vegetables).

<http://www.iie.com/publications/pb/pb09-15.pdf>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**Stanbic Bank to Support Cocoa Purchasing Firms**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 22

The IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, will provide a \$30 million guarantee facility to Stanbic Bank Ghana Limited, to help it increase financing to companies that purchase cocoa from small farmers in Ghana. Stanbic Ghana has been identified as the country’s fastest-growing bank. It is the only bank that moved to the tier one bank category in the latest PriceWaterhouseCooper Banking Survey, commissioned by Ghana Association of Bankers.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907220966.html>

**Industry Lines Up Behind Bold African, Mideast Solar Project in Hopes Politicians Will Follow**, *The New York Times*, July 22

For centuries, Mediterranean countries have found countless ways to disagree -- over religion, ethnicity, colonialism and trade. But there are signs the region might yet unite in pursuit of a common goal: renewable energy. European government and industry have been eyeing tracts of sun-drenched, vacant land in North Africa and the Middle East for some time. And now, officials and business executives are beginning to sweat out the details that could see renewable power sprouting in the desert.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/07/22/22greenwire-industry-lines-up-behind-bold-african-mideast-67746.html>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*