

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



July 2nd – 9th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Despite the unfavorable long-term projections, Sub-Saharan Africa’s food security situation improved between 2009 and 2010 following stronger economic growth and a continuation of the recent upward trend in food production. The number of food-insecure people in the region is estimated at 390 million in 2010, a near 12-percent decline from 2009. The distribution gap—the amount of food needed to raise consumption in each income group to meet the nutritional target of 2,100 calories per person per day—also declined, albeit negligibly. Despite the improvement, nearly half of the region’s population remains food insecure. In addition, while accounting for only one-quarter of the population of the 70 countries included in this study, the region is estimated to account for 44 percent of the food-insecure people.”—U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service, “[Food Security Assessment, 2010-20](#),” July 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

Food Security Assessment, 2010-20, US Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service, July 2010

Food security in 70 developing countries is estimated to have improved between 2009 and 2010, in part due to economic recovery in many of these countries. The number of food-insecure people in the developing countries analyzed by ERS researchers is estimated to decrease about 5 percent from 2009 to 882 million in 2010. The number of food-insecure people at the aggregate level will not improve much over the next decade, declining by only 1 percent. While there will be notable improvements in Asia and Latin America, the situation in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to deteriorate after 2010.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/GFA21/GFA21.pdf>

African Perspectives on Genetically Modified Crops: Assessing the Debate in Zambia, Kenya, and South Africa, *Center for Strategic & International Studies, July 2010*

The authors gauge the current status of the debate on biotechnology in Africa with a snapshot of three countries at different stages along the spectrum of opinion on genetically modified crops (GMOs): Zambia, where a strong emphasis on the precautionary principle remains very much in place; Kenya, where recent legislation has opened the door to eventual commercialization of GM crops; and South Africa, where GM food crops are widespread and where elaborate regulatory capacities are fully established. The authors look at what practical steps countries are taking to settle the question and examine the wider issue of what debates around GM technology say about the role of science in Africa.

http://csis.org/files/publication/100701_Cooke_AfricaGMOs_WEB.pdf

See Also: In Europe, a Move to Ease Curbs on Growing Biotech Crops, *New York Times, July 7*

The European Commission's proposal will suggest allowing local and national governments to decide whether genetically modified crops should be grown.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/08/business/global/08biotech.html>

Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries: At a Glance, *OECD, July 2010*

Government support to farmers rose slightly in OECD member countries in 2009, reversing a declining trend in state support since 2004.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/17/0/45539870.pdf>

Agriculture essential for lifting people out of poverty, *Op-Ed, Marshall Matz, Founding President of World Food Program USA, Des Moines Register, July 3*

In Africa, the effort to spur agriculture development is being led by a new organization called the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), chaired by Kofi Annan, the former secretary general of the United Nations, with backing from the Gates and Rockefeller Foundations. AGRA's goal is to help spark emergence of a vibrant, homegrown agricultural economy led by smallholder farmers, mostly women, and thereby lift Africa out of poverty. To do this, it has focused on education, seed production, soils, marketing, credit and public policy. Already in the past two years, its coordinated effort has produced 34 new business enterprises producing over 13,000 metric tons of improved crop seeds, trained some 7,000 agriculture dealers in business management, and sponsored 80 new Ph.D.s in agricultural science.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100703/OPINION01/7030305/-1/BUSINESS04/Guest-column-Agriculture-essential-for-lifting-people-out-of-poverty>

Biofortification can help 'Feed the Future', *Howard Bouis, Director, HarvestPlus, Global Food for Thought Blog, July 7*

Increasing the mineral and vitamin content of staple foods through plant breeding, a process known as biofortification, is part of the solution. Drawing on the immense seed banks of the CGIAR, we found that in several cases, Mother Nature has already provided us with the raw materials: rice and wheat with higher levels of zinc; bean and pearl millet with more iron; and cassava, maize, and sweet potato varieties rich in vitamin A. HarvestPlus have proven that scientists can use these to breed higher amounts of nutrients into popular varieties without affecting yields and that consumer will readily accept them.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/07/expert-commentary-biofortification-feed-the-future-hidden-hunger.html>

World Economic and Social Survey 2010: Retooling Global Development, *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, July 2010*

The rapid spread of the financial fallout in the United States of America throughout nearly the entire world, affecting jobs and livelihoods, underscored the interconnectedness of the global economy. Moreover, the economic and financial crisis came on top of several other crises. Skyrocketing but highly volatile world food and energy prices reflected a decades-long neglect of food agriculture and failure to reign in increasingly speculative energy markets. Climate change is already a clear and present danger whose consequences are being felt in many parts of the world in the form of more frequent and severe droughts and excessive rainfall; its effects are compounding the other crises.

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wess2010files/wess2010.pdf>

New Partnerships for Growth Research in Africa: Launch Workshop Report, *Brookings Institution*, July 2010

Africa's economic growth is a source of constant debate and commentary, often driven by Western-based experts and institutions. This workshop report details discussion at a workshop held by the Brookings Africa Growth Initiative on February 25-26, 2010. The workshop gathered some of the top African think tanks and international research networks together with key foundations and multilateral institutions to discuss how to strengthen the voice and deepen the policy impact of African research institutions, and how to increase collaboration among institutions to benefit Africa's growth and development.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/07_africa_growth/07_africa_growth.pdf

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks by President Obama Announcing the President's Export Council, *The White House*, July 7

"We're upping our efforts to remove barriers to trade and open new markets and new opportunities for American business. On a global level, this begins with pushing hard in the Doha Round to improve those negotiations so that they have a higher level of ambition in the way that will translate directly into more opportunities for American exporters. Regionally, we're working on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement to expand our commercial presence in some of the most dynamic markets in Asia. And where our businesses run up against barriers in individual markets, we are acting. In March, for example, we reached an agreement with China to reopen their market to American pork and pork products. And last month, during President Medvedev's visit, we reached an agreement with Russia to reopen their market to American poultry. And these steps are worth more than \$1 billion to American business."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-announcing-presidents-export-council>

See Also: Obama sets up export growth panel, *Financial Times*, July 7

There are more than 100 regional and bilateral trade agreements under negotiation around the world but the US is involved in only one, the Trans Pacific Partnership, the WTO says.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/78dc215e-89ed-11df-bd30-00144feab49a.html>

Liberian President Sirleaf Attends Ceremony with Members of U.S. Congress to Sign \$15 Million MCC Grant, *Millennium Challenge Corporation*, July 7

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberian Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs Amara Konneh, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Senior Advisor Cassandra Butts, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Linda Thomas-Greenfield, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Pamela White, and a delegation of members of the U.S. Congress participated in a ceremony celebrating the signing of an approximately \$15 million MCC Threshold Program grant to Liberia. The three-year grant will invest in improving the policy environment in the areas of land rights and access, girls' primary education, and trade policy. The MCC Board of Directors first selected Liberia as eligible for MCC's Threshold Program in December 2008.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/liberian-president-sirleaf-attends-ceremony-with-m.shtml>

U.S. on Track to Double Exports in Five Years, Locke Says, *BusinessWeek*, July 7

The top U.S. trade officials said the country is on track to meet President Barack Obama's goal of doubling exports in five years, led by a 19 percent increase in agricultural exports in this year's first quarter. "We're very bullish on agricultural exports," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said at the White House after export-

promotion officials met with the president. Vilsack said that with the 19 percent increase, he expects the U.S. will have its second-best year of agricultural exports since his agency began keeping track.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-07-06/u-s-on-track-to-double-exports-in-five-years-locke-says.html>

Brazil's WTO Case Against the U.S. Cotton Program, *Congressional Research Service, June 2010*

U.S. and Brazilian trade negotiators reached agreement on June 17, 2010, on a "Framework agreement" regarding a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement case over U.S. cotton subsidies and GSM-102 agricultural export credit guarantees. The Framework agreement—which lays out a number of "steps and discussions"—represents a path forward toward the ultimate goal of reaching a negotiated solution to the dispute, while avoiding WTO-sanctioned trade retaliation by Brazil against U.S. goods and services. The Framework includes quarterly discussion on potential limits of trade-distorting U.S. cotton subsidies (recognizing that actual changes will not occur prior to the 2012 farm bill) and provides benchmarks for further changes to the GSM-102 program. The Framework agreement was formally accepted by Brazil's Foreign Trade Council of Ministers (CAMEX) on June 17, 2010.

<http://agriculture-legislation.blogspot.com/2010/07/brazils-wto-case-against-us-cotton.html>

Kirk Announces U.S. Contribution to WTO Technical Assistance Efforts, *USTR, July 6*

U.S. Trade Representative Ronald Kirk announced that the United States will contribute \$1.05 million for trade-related technical assistance (TRTA) to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO's TRTA program provides training for developing countries that enhances their ability to analyze issues, assess their interests and participate effectively in the negotiations. "This contribution reflects the United States' commitment to work with developing countries as partners in the global trading system, and to ensuring that developing countries can and do benefit when the Doha Round of world trade negotiations concludes," Ambassador Kirk said. "A balanced and ambitious conclusion to the Doha Round, with meaningful new opportunities for farmers, manufacturers and service providers, will help these countries meet their development objectives and improve the well being of their people."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/july/kirk-announces-us-contribution-wto-technical-assistan>

Waiting for a Trade Policy, *Editorial, The New York Times, July 5*

The United States must become a leading voice for open international trade. It must press harder for the completion of the stalled round of global trade talks started nine years ago in Doha, Qatar, and to undo the myriad protectionist measures that governments around the globe — including our own — have adopted since the financial crash.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/06/opinion/06tue1.html>

See Also: Truck Dispute Previews Trade Battle, *Wall Street Journal, July 9*

Over the past several weeks Mr. Obama has vowed to push for passage of pending free-trade agreements with Korea, Panama and Colombia, and seek other trade opportunities. Yet shortly after taking office, Mr. Obama signed a bill with a provision that effectively bans Mexican trucks from operating inside the U.S. The ban violates the North American Free Trade Act, and prompted Mexico to impose punitive tariffs last year on \$2.4 billion in American products—from Christmas trees and potatoes to wine.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703609004575355472529637834.html>

Reviving 'Little America' In An Afghan Province, *NPR, July 5*

Scott Dempsey is a USAID officer who's been working on agriculture projects as part of the reconstruction team. He says economic support for people in Helmand ultimately keeps them from turning to the Taliban. "If they're growing more, if they're producing more and selling for a higher price, there's less economic incentive for them to join the insurgency, so it's part of the strategy," says Dempsey. "So, it's a lot cheaper to fight a war with seed than it is with bullets" All the Americans in this story say they believe that — and believe that the work they're doing contributes to the success of the war effort.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128271872>

See Also: This Is War: How USAID workers are trained for work and danger in Afghanistan, *Washington Post, July 4*

The civilian surge includes USAID development specialists, State Department diplomats, Justice Department lawyers, Agriculture Department agronomists, and experts from Treasury, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Drug Enforcement Administration, among others. At first, in the push to get people in the field, the main qualification for new hires seemed to be a simple willingness to go. Now, USAID targets people with expertise in agriculture, infrastructure, private enterprise, education, health care and good governance.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/25/AR2010062503838_pf.html

Malawi's Anniversary of Independence, Statement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, July 6

"The United States and Malawi have a long history of working together to promote health and economic development, and we look forward to deepening and strengthening our bilateral relationship in the coming years. We will also continue working with President Mutharika as the current chair of the African Union to combat hunger and food insecurity, promote regional security and stability, and advance good governance and human rights throughout Africa."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/07/144054.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium

Date: July 13th, 2010

Location: London

This unique private-sector focused business and biodiversity conference, supported by Defra and BIS, will see the launch of the highly anticipated 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB) report from study leader Pavan Sukhdev. The TEEB for Business report, will offer attendees an insight into how business and enterprise have a huge role to play in how we manage, safeguard and invest in our natural capital. The report provides practical guidance to businesses on the issues and the opportunities created by the inclusion in mainstream business practices of ecosystem and biodiversity related considerations.

<http://www.businessofbiodiversity.co.uk/>

US Food Assistance Programs: Assessing Progress and Challenges Related to Local and Regional Purchase, Food Quality, Host Country Capacity, and Moving to a Comprehensive Approach

Date: July 13th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

At a time when US food assistance programs are undergoing significant changes, the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars will host a half-day discussion with USG program leaders and other food assistance experts to assess the progress of ongoing reforms. Please join us for an open and engaging discussion on local/regional purchase, improving nutritional quality of food assistance, implementing a comprehensive approach to food security, and related issues.

[Register](#)

CropLife America National Policy Conference

Date: July 13th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The daylong conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of agriculture, technology and policy, who will offer highly diverse perspectives and engage in frank discussions on all issues facing modern agriculture. Panelists will discuss the essential role of technology to produce more food while using fewer natural resources, barriers to and opportunities for progress and innovation, and the ethics behind who decides agriculture policy. Speakers and panelists include Michael Specter, *New Yorker* staff writer and author of *Denialism*, Marc Gunther, contributing editor at *FORTUNE* magazine, and Robert Kenner, producer of *Food, Inc.* For additional information on the 2010 National Policy Conference, please contact Francesca Joyce at 202-872-3898 or fjoyce@croplifeamerica.org.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/National-Policy-Conference-2010>

What technology for African agriculture?

Date: July 15th, 2010

Location: London, UK

Better use of technology is at the heart of ambitions to improve productivity and efficiency in African agriculture but issues around how to best implement the use of agricultural technologies are hotly debated. For example which technologies are most needed and should the priority be to produce new technologies or rollout the use of proven ones? Through presentations from the panel, including Sir Gordon Conway, the meeting will explore how innovations should be generated, whether by formal scientific research, through farmer-to-farmer communication, or some intermediate approach.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/events/details.asp?id=2420&title=technology-african-agriculture>

U.S. Foreign Policy and Rural Women: A Gender Integration Approach to Diplomacy and Development

Date: July 16th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Department of State and USAID have made gender equality a priority in their development and diplomacy efforts. As a flagship initiative, Feed the Future is an example of how this priority is being operationalized through policies and investments targeting rural women. This seminar will provide an overview of the Obama administration's new concerted diplomacy and development efforts and their implication for rural women. The seminar will also explore the new direction of the policy dialogue and what the development community can do to 'go beyond the rhetoric' on gender integration, and translate policy commitments into action on the ground. Particular focus will be placed on the challenges associated with implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/us-foreign-policy-and-rural-women>

Sub-Saharan Africa Food Security Technologies Reverse Trade Mission

Date: August 2nd – 13th, 2010

Location: Kansas City, MO, and other U.S. cities (TBD)

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.usda.gov/news/events/2010/SubSaharanAfrica/SubSaharanAfricaFoodSecurityTechnologiesRTM.asp>

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>

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:

Making the most of agricultural investment: A survey of business models that provide opportunities for smallholders, IFAD and IIEE, July 2010

Recent years have witnessed a renewed interest in agricultural investment. In many cases, this new momentum has translated into large-scale acquisitions of farmland in lower- and middle-income countries. Partly as a result of sustained media attention, these acquisitions have triggered lively if polarized debates about "land grabbing". Less attention has been paid, however, to alternative ways of structuring agricultural investments that do not involve large-scale land acquisitions. These include a wide range of more collaborative arrangements between large-scale investors and local small-scale farmers and communities, such as diverse types of contract farming schemes, joint ventures, management contracts and new supply chain relationships. Drawing on a literature review, this report examines a range of business models that can be used to structure agricultural investments in lower- and middle-income countries, and that provide an alternative to large-scale land acquisitions.

http://www.ifad.org/pub/land/agri_investment.pdf

The determinants of food insecurity in rural Malawi: Implications for agricultural policy, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010

Achieving food security is high on the agenda of the Malawi government. Notably, Malawi's Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) recognizes that food security is a prerequisite for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. However, a good understanding of the determinants of food insecurity is required to inform and guide the design and execution of effective and well-targeted policy interventions. A recent study by Lewin and Fisher (2010) addressed this issue by examining how socio-economic characteristics of

households, local conditions, and current agricultural policies influence the likelihood that a farm household in rural Malawi is food insecure. This policy brief highlights key findings of the study.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/masspn4.pdf>

Technology adoption and productivity in Bhutan, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

In this study, the authors look at patterns and determinants of agricultural productivity and technology adoption in Bhutan. The authors do so by using recent information of the national Census conducted in 2009. The authors also look more in detail at the effects of road infrastructure and remoteness on agriculture given the pledge of the new government to improve connectivity of the geogs in the country.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bhutannote03.pdf>

Insuring Against Drought-Related Livestock Mortality: Piloting Index Based Livestock Insurance in Northern Kenya, *Andrew Mude, Sommarat Chantararat, Christopher B. Barrett, Michael Carter, Munenobu Ikegami, and John McPeak, June 2010*

Climate related shocks are among the leading cause of production and efficiency losses in smallholder crop and livestock production in rural Africa. Consequently, the identification of tools to help manage the risks associated with climactic extremities is increasingly considered to be amongst the key pillars of any agenda to enhance agricultural growth and welfare in rural Africa. This paper describes the application of a promising innovation in insurance design – index-based insurance – that seeks to bring the benefits of formal insurance to help manage the weather-related risks faced by rural crop and livestock producers in low-income countries.

http://aem.cornell.edu/faculty_sites/cbb2/papers/Mude%20et%20al_Piloting%20IBLI%20in%20Northern%20Kenya%20June%202010%20_2_.pdf

Media Articles:

UN agency opens up access to largest database of hunger statistics, *UN News Centre, July 9*

The world's largest and most comprehensive database on food, agriculture and hunger is now open to the public, free of charge, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced. Previously, it was possible to download a limited amount of information from FAOSTAT, but access to large amounts of data required a paid annual subscription.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35281&Cr=&Cr1=>

See Also: FAO provides free access to statistics treasure trove, *FAO, July 9*

World's largest database of food, hunger and agricultural information now fully accessible online.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/43724/icode/>

Asia needs more farm investments to feed hungry, *Associated Press, July 7*

Asia and the Pacific, home to two-thirds of the world's one billion hungry people, need increased investment in agriculture of \$120 billion a year for the next 40 years to contain hunger and future spikes in food prices, United Nations and Asian Development Bank officials said. They said agricultural investments in the region, currently at \$80 billion, will need to rise by 50 percent to \$120 billion yearly until 2050 -- when world population is expected to swell to 9.1 billion from the today's 6.5 billion.

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/ap/20100707/tbs-as-asia-food-security-e285837.html>

See Also: U.N: Food security challenges Asia-Pacific, *United Press International, July 8*

More could be done to address growing food insecurity in the Asia-Pacific region but trends are reversing, U.N. officials told delegates in the Philippines.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/07/08/UN-Food-security-challenges-Asia-Pacific/UPI-40541278595917/

AgBank on course for record \$22.1bn IPO, *Financial Times, July 7*

Agricultural Bank of China is set to raise up to \$22.1bn in the world's biggest initial public offering.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d407aa62-8916-11df-8ecd-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: Chinese IPO May Be Largest Ever, *Wall Street Journal, July 7*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704535004575349210680027260.html>

See Also: China Ag Bank IPO: Poor Farmers Need Not Apply, *NPR, July 7*

The bank's mission is to help rural residents and promote development of rural areas. That's particularly important given the widening disparity between China's relatively prosperous coast and less developed interior. But don't tell that to investors. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the bank is pitching itself as a way to tap into inland growth— and is stressing that it doesn't lend money to poor farmers.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2010/07/06/128332676/china-ag-bank-ipo-poor-farmers-need-not-apply>

See Also: Some market players wary of AgBank's massive IPO, *Market Watch*, July 7

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/some-market-players-wary-of-agbanks-massive-ipo-2010-07-07?reflink=MW_news_stmp

Africa needs a brown (not green) food revolution, *Op-ed, Shannon Horst, CEO, The Savory Institute, Christian Science Monitor*, July 6

Africa's long-term food security will come from nurturing the soil, not manipulating expensive seeds.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2010/0706/Africa-needs-a-brown-not-green-food-revolution>

Kenya to get Brazil's help to produce biodiesel, *Associated Press*, July 6

Brazil, the world's leading ethanol exporter, will help Kenya produce biodiesel and improve its agriculture sector, the two nations' leaders said. Silva and Kibaki did not give more details about how Brazil will help Kenya develop biodiesel or improve its agriculture. For several years, however, a growing number of Kenyan farmers have been increasing the amount of land they dedicate to plants known to be good sources of biofuel. The production of such fuel remains small scale in Kenya.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gjR8JkpScojVrWoe9Ql3upIsoRaAD9GPIQP00>

INDONESIA: Demand for palm oil fuels land-grabbing, *IRIN*, July 6

Communities throughout Indonesia are losing land to companies seeking to profit from the booming palm oil industry.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=89747>

Farmers find opportunity in immigrant vegetables, *Associated Press*, July 5

Maxixe, a Brazilian relative of the cucumber, is relatively unknown in the U.S., but it may one day be as common as cilantro as farmers and consumers embrace more so-called ethnic vegetables. Agriculture experts at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and elsewhere are teaching farmers to grow non-native vegetables that appeal to a growing market of African, Asian and Latin American immigrants.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iGBj-Jmbo1zZ0VZ61HyfzH_H9oGAD9G008UG2

Planting for the future: New rust resistant wheat seed on its way to farmers, *CIMMYT*, July 2010

United multinational efforts to develop and deploy rust resistant wheat varieties are making the world's wheat crops more secure.

http://www.cimmyt.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=716&Itemid=924

Metal silos lock out maize pests in Africa, *CIMMYT*, July 2010

Farmers in developing countries typically lose 20-30% of their crop due to poor grain storage facilities. Through a project with roots in Central America, African maize farmers are adopting metal silos to protect their families' food supply and source of income.

http://www.cimmyt.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=717&Itemid=924

Maize farmers and seed businesses changing with the times in Malawi, *CIMMYT*, July 2010

In Malawi, farmers who have in the past few years witnessed crop failure due to poor rains are switching to two new drought tolerant maize varieties, and seed companies are changing their business models to keep up.

http://www.cimmyt.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=715&Itemid=924

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Donor Funding for Health in Low- & Middle- Income Countries, 2001-2008, *Kaiser Family Foundation and the Stimson Center, July 2010*

This Kaiser Family Foundation report tracks the most recently available data on official development assistance from the U.S., European Community and other donor nations, including data from 2001 to 2008. The report's data reflects decisions made prior to the global economic crisis that struck in the second half of 2008, which may have an effect on decisions made more recently by donor governments. In addition, donors have continued to focus international attention on global health through such efforts as the U.S. government's Global Health Initiative, the Group of Eight's new signature initiative on maternal and child health, and the upcoming United Nations Summit of world leaders designed to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

<http://www.kff.org/globalhealth/upload/7679-04.pdf>

The Clash of the Counter-bureaucracy and Development, *Andrew Natsios, Center for Global Development, July 2010*

In this essay, Andrew Natsios describes what he sees as the most disruptive obstacles to development work in agencies such as USAID: layers and layers of bureaucracy. He gives a first-hand account of how this "counter-bureaucracy" disfigures USAID's development practice and even compromises U.S. national security objectives. Most of all, he argues, the counter-bureaucracy's emphasis on easy measurement is at odds with the fact that transformational programs are often the least measurable and involve elements of risk and uncertainty.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424271_file_Natsios_Counterbureaucracy.pdf

Global Development through Aid, Partnerships, Trade and Education: Recommendations from Global Washington, *Global Washington, July 2010*

In 2009, U.S. Senators Cantwell and Murray reached out to Global Washington seeking input on strengthening U.S. foreign assistance and examples of successful development partnerships. The Senators looked to Global Washington, a regional convening organization, to offer a fresh perspective on global development issues.

<http://globalwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Global-Development-through-Aid-Trade-and-Education.pdf>

See Also: A local approach to solving problems with foreign aid, *Seattle Times, July 7*

The Seattle area's large global-development community says it's time to fix the important yet overlooked national strategy.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2012294051_foreignaid07.html

Media Articles:

Six months after quake, Haiti boosts its food security with UN help, *UN News Centre, July 8*

Six months after being devastated by a massive earthquake, Haiti is on the road towards enhancing its food security, with assistance from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in building a strong nutritional foundation for all of the impoverished Caribbean nation's people.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35264&Cr=&Cr1=>

German Cabinet Approves Aid Agencies' Merger, *Devex, July 8*

The German cabinet has approved a detailed plan to combine the country's three foreign aid agencies into a single unit.

<http://www.devex.com/articles/cabinet-approves-german-aid-agencies-merger>

Red Cross Says Food Crisis in Niger Worsening, *VOA News, July 7*

A deepening food crisis in the eastern Sahel threatens half of Niger's 14 million people. The International Federation of the Red Cross says it needs an additional \$3.3 million to provide much-needed assistance. A

new assessment, released by Niger's government in May, says severe food shortages are now threatening 3.3 million people in the country, up from last December's projection of 2.7 million.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Red-Cross-Says-Food-Crisis-in-Niger-Worsening-97934974.html>

See Also: UN Says Malnourished Children in Niger at Risk Of Dying, *VOA News, July 2*

The U.N. World Food Program warns severely malnourished children in Niger are at risk of dying. The program is set to double the number of people receiving food aid in drought-hit Niger, in the light of a new government survey showing malnutrition rates among young children have reached emergency levels. The World Food Program says alarm bells go off when the emergency threshold of more than 15 percent of acutely malnourished children is reached.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/-UN-Says-Malnourished-Children-in-Niger-at-Risk-Of-Dying--97677369.html>

The Top 5 Myths About Global Poverty, *Clint Borgen, Huffington Post, July 7*

Over the past 20 years, the number of the world's chronically undernourished has been reduced by 50 percent. More children are in school today than at anytime in history. Diseases like smallpox and polio that once tormented millions of the world's poorest are becoming distant memories. So what would it cost to achieve the once impossible dream of ending world hunger? The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, estimates that \$30 billion a year is needed to end world hunger. Compare that to the United States current foreign policy focus... War. This year alone, Congress and White House will allocate \$693 billion toward military spending. The United States is the only country in history that could end world hunger and still have by far the most expensive military on the planet.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/clint-borgen/the-top-5-myths-about-glo_b_638359.html

Let's All Eat Fish: A Model of Sustainability, *Donna Stokes, Heifer International, The Hunger and Undernutrition Blog, July 7*

Hunger and poverty organizations often talk about the challenge of sustainability—of continuing to lift up families and communities long after the aid work ends. Heifer International's Pass on the Gift model, where recipients of donated animals become donors themselves when they share training and animal offspring with someone else in need, offers a unique solution.

<http://www.hunger-undernutrition.org/blog/2010/07/lets-all-eat-fish-a-model-of-sustainability.html>

The facts behind G8 aid promises, *Jeffrey Sachs, The Guardian, July 4*

G8 commitments to fight poverty are life-and-death issues. They require professional management, not empty promises.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jul/04/g8-aid-pledges-broken>

Small-scale farmers in Malawi latest beneficiaries under UN local purchase scheme, *UN News Centre, July 2*

Malawi has become the latest country to join an innovative scheme by which the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) buys surplus from local farmers' organizations for its aid operations, thereby helping to boost agricultural production and incomes in developing nations. This week WFP bought 50 tons of maize from the Grain and Legumes Association, a farmers' organization made up of over 95,000 smallholder farmers, as part of the agency's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35225&Cr=WFP&Cr1=Africa>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Media Articles:

On climate change, let cool heads prevail, *Op-Ed, Eugene Robinson, Washington Post, July 9*

It's time to end the silly "argument" over whether climate change is real. Here's a better question: Would it be more appropriate for humanity to spend, say, \$1 trillion reducing carbon emissions, and thus save thousands or millions of lives that could be lost to drought or sea-level rise or whatever at the end of this century or the

next, or to spend that money providing clean water in places such as Congo or Bangladesh, saving thousands or millions of lives right now?

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/08/AR2010070804271.html>

Dust From Farming May Affect Rainfall, *VOA News*, July 8

New research suggests agriculture has greatly increased the amount of dust blowing off of West Africa, the world's largest source of atmospheric dust, and may have been one factor driving the decrease in rainfall in the region over the past several centuries.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/environment/Dust-from-Farming-May-Affect-Rainfall-98030749.html>

See Also: Increase in African dust flux at the onset of commercial agriculture in the Sahel region, *Nature*, July 2010

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v466/n7303/full/nature09213.html>

Corn, Soybeans Rise as Adverse Weather Reduces Global Crops, *Bloomberg*, July 8

Corn rose to the highest price since January and soybeans jumped to a one-month high on speculation that adverse weather will reduce yields in China and Russia, boosting demand for supplies from the U.S.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-07-08/corn-soybeans-rise-as-adverse-weather-reduces-global-crops.html>

See Also: Soybean Yields Will Drop on Climate, Ozone, University of Illinois Says, *Bloomberg*, July 8

Climate change and pollution may cut yields for soybeans and other crops by 2050 unless plants are adapted, the University of Illinois said, citing research.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-08/soybean-yields-will-drop-on-climate-ozone-university-of-illinois-says.html>

Security and the environment: Climate wars, *The Economist*, July 8

As the planet warms, floods, storms, rising seas and drought will uproot millions of people, and with dire wider consequences. Barack Obama, collecting his Nobel peace prize, said that climate change “will fuel more conflict for decades”. He took the analysis not from environmental scaremongers but from a group of American generals. The forecast is close to becoming received wisdom.

http://www.economist.com/node/16539538?story_id=16539538&&CFID=139050571&CFTOKEN=23523471

The Tap's Running Dry, *Forbes*, July 6

For India, China, Nepal and Bangladesh, the availability of water and dependence on the monsoon is central to the problem of food security. Huge tracts of farming regions in all four countries are fed by rivers that have a common source--the Himalayan glaciers. It is this common thread that now has India and its three neighbors facing a possibly much more serious food security crisis than the present one; something that can push inflation to levels that will make the present rate seem manageable.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/07/06/forbes-india-water-security-south-east-asia.html>

See Also: The Himalayan Challenge: Water Security in Emerging Asia, *Strategic Foresight Group*, June 2010

<http://www.strategicforesight.com/Himalayan%20Challenge%20ES.pdf>

See Also: Dodgy Rains Pose Food Challenge, *India Realtime (blog)*, *Wall Street Journal*, June 29

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2010/06/29/dodgy-rains-pose-food-challenge/>

Accentuate the negative, *The Economist*, July 5

Last January errors in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) hit the headlines. Perhaps the most striking relates to Africa. The table in the summary for policymakers reads: “By 2020, in some countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50%.” The evidence on which this is based says only that yields during years in which there are droughts could be reduced by 50%.

Furthermore, the relevant reference applies only for Morocco—and it cites as its source an earlier paper that the PBL says no one, including the IPCC authors, now seems able to find.

http://www.economist.com/blogs/newsbook/2010/07/bias_and_ipcc_report

See Also: The controversies in climate science: Science behind closed doors, *The Economist*, July 8

Two new reports say the science of climate change is fine, but that some scientists and the institutions they work in need to change their attitudes

<http://www.economist.com/node/16537628>

See Also: Review Finds Issues at Climate Panel, *The Wall Street Journal*, July 6

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704535004575348274207760594.html>

WOMEN

Media Articles:

After 65 Years, A UN Agency for Women, *The Nation*, July 6

The General Assembly resolution creating UN Women expects the new agency to have both operational and what the UN calls "normative" roles: dealing with policies and promoting and monitoring international covenants and agreements, working with the Commission on the Status of Women, a separate intergovernmental body, and the UN's Economic and Social Council. ECOSOC, as it is known, was created to parallel the Security Council, focusing on social and economic conditions, but it has not been very bold in carrying out its mandate.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/37121/after-65-years-un-agency-women>

See Also: UN to set up agency promoting women's rights, *BBC*, July 2

The UN is to set up a single agency dedicated to promote the rights of women and girls around the world.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/us_and_canada/10496864.stm

See Also: In historic move, UN creates single entity to promote women's empowerment, *UN News Centre*, July 2

In a bid to accelerate the empowerment of women, the General Assembly voted unanimously to create a dynamic new entity merging four United Nations offices focusing on gender equality, a move hailed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other senior officials.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35224&Cr=gender&Cr1=>

The G8 Invests in Women and Children, *Asma Lateef, Director of the Bread for the World Institute, The Hunger and Undernutrition Blog*, July 1

A third of all deaths of children younger than five are related to hunger and malnutrition. The G-8 leaders' Declaration mentioned the connection to malnutrition by reaffirming the 2009 G-8 Summit's L'Aquila Food Security Initiative to reduce hunger by boosting the agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers and taking steps to reduce malnutrition. The Muskoka Initiative must be closely coordinated with the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. Given the devastating impact of malnutrition on maternal and child mortality, a lot could be done to scale up evidence-based maternal and child nutrition interventions through the Muskoka Initiative itself, focusing on the critical window during pregnancy and the first two years of life. This is an opportunity that should not be missed.

<http://www.hunger-undernutrition.org/blog/2010/07/the-g8-invests-in-women-and-children.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Agricultural trade in Bhutan: Patterns, trends, and impact, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, July 2010

In spite of its remote and land-locked location, Bhutan has been relatively successful as an agricultural exporter. The value of agricultural exports has grown at an annual rate of almost 9% since 2000. Taking advantage of the cooler climate, Bhutan exports oranges, potatoes, vegetables, and apples to India and Bangladesh. At the same time, agricultural imports have been growing at 10% per year. Rice accounts for

more than two-thirds of the value of agricultural imports, which is not surprising given that Bhutan depends on imports for about half of its consumption needs. Wheat, vegetables, fruits, and spices are also imported. A key question, however, is whether this trade in agricultural products is beneficial to Bhutan in general and to poor farmers and consumers in particular?

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bhutannote06.pdf>

See Also: Achieving rice self-sufficiency in Bhutan: Long-term projections, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, July 2010

Since Bhutan is already self-sufficient in maize and wheat imports are relatively small, most of the interest in food self-sufficiency is focused on rice. The interest in rice self-sufficiency raises a number of key questions: Based on current trends, is rice self-sufficiency likely to increase or decrease? Is it feasible to reach full rice self-sufficiency in the medium-term? And if so, what would it take to reach 100% rice self-sufficiency?

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bhutannote02.pdf>

See Also: Food security and food self-sufficiency in Bhutan, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, July 2010

Is food self-sufficiency necessary or sufficient for achieving food security in Bhutan?

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bhutannote04.pdf>

The Key to Success in Afghanistan: A Modern Silk Road Strategy *Center for Strategic & International Studies*, July 2010

One of the most promising ways forward for the U.S. and NATO in Afghanistan is to focus on removing the impediments to continental transport and trade across Afghanistan's territory. Many existing international initiatives from the Mediterranean to the Indian sub-continent and Southeast Asia are already bringing parts of this network into being. Absent is the overall prioritization, coordination, and risk management that will enable Afghanistan to emerge as a natural hub and transit point for roads, railroads, pipelines, and electric lines. America and its coalition partners can provide these missing ingredients.

http://csis.org/files/publication/100610_key_to_success_in_afghanistan.pdf

See Also: Agriculture, Food, and Poverty in Afghanistan, *Center for Strategic & International Studies*, April 2010

It has taken nearly eight years for the member countries in ISAF, and International Aid donors, to realize just how critical Afghanistan's agricultural sector is to many of its people. Food security and distribution is also a major problem and both are sources of vulnerability for the Afghanistan given its 30 year history of violence and given the scale of Taliban and insurgent operations. Moreover, both agriculture and food distribution are caught up in the problems raised by Afghan dependence on opium cultivation, extortion and corruption in aid and transport operations at every level, and manipulation by national and local power brokers.

<http://csis.org/publication/agriculture-food-and-poverty-afghanistan>

Media Articles:

Is world's largest vanilla market on verge of collapse?, *CNN International*, July 9

The world's largest vanilla industry is feared to be on the verge of collapse as farmers struggle to earn a living. Madagascar, renowned for its high quality vanilla, is the world's leading exporter of the spice, accounting for half of global production. But abysmal wages, sharp competition from markets in Asia and the growing popularity of synthetically produced alternatives means Madagascan farmers are abandoning their crops.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/07/09/madagascar.vanilla.industry/?fbid=yw8z9bP8aug>

India says committed to WTO talks, logjam must end, *Reuters*, July 9

India remains committed to the long-delayed Doha round of global trade talks and does not believe that bilateral and regional trade deals will affect the multilateral process, its trade minister said.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-49996420100709>

Tight supplies push sugar to four-month high, *Financial Times*, July 9

The price of white sugar surged to a four-month high this week as a strong demand and a shortage of physical availability of the sweetener buoyed the futures market.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/aea17778-8810-11df-a4e7-00144feabdc0.html>

Developing Islamic nations seek closer trade ties, Reuters, July 8

Eight developing Islamic economies including Nigeria, Iran and Pakistan aim to reach a preferential trade agreement by next year to try to double trade and deepen economic cooperation, government officials said. Heads of state and ministers from the Developing Eight Countries (D8) -- Iran, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey -- are meeting in Nigeria to discuss developing business ties and reducing trade barriers.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE66709V20100708>

Africa prospects lure investors, but is it ready?, Reuters, July 7

Africa offers among the world's best investment prospects as emerging markets grow ever more important, although its economies risk being destabilized by the slew of capital they stand to attract in coming years. A shift of global economic power to emerging giants such as Brazil, Russia, India and China -- known collectively as the BRICs -- benefits Africa as surging economies seek its resources and push up commodity prices and investment. Brazil, Russia and India still trail China, which last year became Africa's biggest trade partner, but they have been rapidly expanding trade and putting more money into Africa.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE66622620100707>

Cocoa groups allege price distortion, Financial Times, July 5

Soaring prices for cocoa have sparked allegations of manipulation in the London market from a group of European processors and traders who are threatening to turn to alternative venues for their hedging needs. In a letter sent to NYSE Liffe, the global derivatives business of NYSE Euronext, 16 cocoa companies and trade associations have complained that "a manipulation of the contract" was "bringing the London market into disrepute".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2aacddcc-8868-11df-aade-00144feabdc0.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Venezuelans oppose Chávez attempt to nationalize private food company, Washington Post, July 9

As in all major government takeovers of private companies in Venezuela, President Hugo Chávez declared that seizing beer-and-food giant Polar's facilities here would mark another victory for the poor in the country's march toward socialism.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/08/AR2010070802795.html>

Commodities: Into the spotlight, Financial Times, July 8

Global, energy, commodities and resources. The in-house joke at Glencore about the origin of its name neatly captures the all-encompassing size of a business that within a matter of four decades has come to dominate the world's raw materials markets. To grow further, it needs extra funding. The investments in industrial assets, from coal mines in South Africa to farmland in Argentina, are critical to the company's "competitive strength" as they account for about half of its profits and, according to a bond prospectus, they provide "a long-term, stable supply of raw materials, market intelligence and access to operating and technical know-how".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/70b00eb2-8ac1-11df-8e17-00144feab49a.html>

Converted Organics Strengthens Green Tech Portfolio With Proposed Acquisition of Vertical Farming Pioneer TerraSphere Systems, Market Watch/Press Release, July 7

Converted Organics Inc. announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire TerraSphere Systems, a Massachusetts LLC and a rapidly growing pioneer in the vertical farming market. "Current economic, societal, political and regulatory trends have created strong demand for innovative agricultural solutions and a

significant market opportunity for innovators such as TerraSphere and Converted Organics," said Nick Brusatore, inventor and co-founder of TerraSphere Systems. "This combination will enable us to more effectively pursue our growth objectives, better addressing both environmental concerns and the growing global need for food security."

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/converted-organics-strengthens-green-tech-portfolio-with-proposed-acquisition-of-vertical-farming-pioneer-terrasphere-systems-2010-07-07?reflink=MW_news_stmp

An Open Letter on Haitian Agriculture to the CEO of Monsanto, *Crossover Dreams, Huffington Post, July 5*

Your communications people say you did contact the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture and got their approval to donate seeds. That's a good first step, but it doesn't take a MacArthur Grant to figure out that even the best-intentioned people behind the desks in a ministry, especially one that has just suffered heavy losses in an earthquake, might not always represent the final word on what impoverished farmers deep in the countryside are thinking.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/crossover-dreams/an-open-letter-on-haitian_b_635751.html

See Also: Haitian Farmers Leery of Monsanto's Largesse, *June 21*

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=51894>

Deficit worries stall biofuel incentives, *Des Moines Register, July 4*

Worries over the federal budget deficit are raising concerns in the biofuels industry about the future of its existing subsidies and chances for getting new incentives.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100704/BUSINESS01/7040323/1029/BUSINESS/Brasher-Deficit-worries-stall-biofuel-incentives>

Monsanto, U.S. Peace Corps and Historically Black Land Grant Universities Foresee New Opportunities for Collaboration, *Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, June 29*

Monsanto Company and the Council of 1890 Land-grant Universities have signed a memorandum of understanding to encourage collaborative research projects and to facilitate diverse groups working together on the important and pressing areas of food production while seeking to improve agriculture's overall sustainability.

<http://www.aplu.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1669>

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank