

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



July 23rd – 30th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region that endures the greatest burden of extreme poverty and the most gradual long-term progress towards the MDGs, although the past decade has seen many great successes across the continent. Malawi, for example, began a national program five years ago to help its farmers obtain fertilizer and seeds. This doubled the country’s food production, kick-started economic growth, and helped re-energize the international community’s attention to agriculture. President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and USAID Administrator Shah have each played key roles in advancing the global agricultural agenda over the past 18 months. Continued progress in smallholder agriculture will yield a crucial double dividend for both hunger and economic growth.”* – John McArthur, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Promise; Testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight at Hearing: “Achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals: Progress through Partnerships,” July 27

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

Summary: FY 2011 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, July 29

Food Security. The Committee provides \$1.3 billion for food security and agricultural development assistance programs to support the “Feed the Future” initiative, which is \$344 million below the request and \$130 million above the FY10 level.

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program. The Committee provides \$250 million for this recently established fund administered by the World Bank. This is \$158.4 million below the request.

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=caf007f2-fda5-4a72-a8e8-21549b6b18e8>

Celebrate, Innovate, and Sustain: Toward 2015 and Beyond, *U.S. Millennium Development Goals Strategy, U.S. Agency for International Development, July 30*

Enormous progress has been made so far toward meeting the MDGs, and we must recognize, celebrate, and support these achievements. Above all, credit belongs to the citizens and governments of countries that have prioritized development and invested in their people. These achievements are also testimony to the power of successful development partnerships. But much more remains to be done. If we are to meet the ambitious objectives we have set, historic leaps in human development will be needed. For this reason, we must be even more determined, strategic, and focused on results as we chart the path to 2015.

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/mdg/US_MDG_Strategy.pdf

See Also: Statement from USAID Administrator Shah on the U.S. Strategy to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals, *USAID, July 30*

This strategy takes a hard look at what needs to happen to put these important goals within reach. We put innovation and sustainability at the heart of our approach and we address these core human development indicators comprehensively in order to leverage their cross-cutting synergies.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/ps100730.html>

Treasury, African Ambassadors Discuss Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, Urge New Donors to Come Forward, *U.S. Department of Treasury, July 30*

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that Under Secretary for International Affairs Lael Brainard, along with Sylvia Mathews Burwell, president of the Global Development Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, met with ambassadors and embassy officials from more than a dozen African countries to discuss the increased demand for assistance from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a new fund to tackle global hunger and poverty. GAFSP grants help countries with vulnerable populations to increase food security, raise rural incomes and reduce poverty. In October, approximately \$120 million will be available for allocation to countries eligible for the GAFSP. More than 25 countries are expected to apply for assistance.

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/tg798.htm>

Global Partnerships Act of 2010, *Discussion draft, Office of House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman, July 2010*

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman and his staff released the first 55 pages of a new act designed to replace the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. These initial preambles incorporate much of what has been called for in a 21st century development strategy: development is more than aid; USAID is more in charge of U.S. development policy and budget; and public transparency is paramount. There are outstanding questions of how much funding Congress should direct to country strategies versus specific sectors. Other open questions include how the new act will relate to the outcomes of the administration's two major development policy reviews and whether the complete bill will strike the right balance between increased flexibility for the administration and accountability to Congress.

http://www.cgdev.org/doc/PREAMBLES_xml.pdf?utm_&&&

See Also: Applause for Chairman Berman's New Foreign Aid Legislation, *George Ingram, co-chairman, Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, Huffington Post, July 23*

House Foreign Affairs Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA) and his staff recently released a working draft of new legislation authorizing U.S. foreign assistance. This is a major step toward building a 21st-century approach and apparatus for promoting development, which President Obama's first National Security Strategy (NSS) called a "moral, strategic, and economic imperative" for the U.S. It is also a long overdue step, as U.S. foreign assistance legislation has not been overhauled since President Kennedy signed the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-ingram/applause-for-chairman-ber_b_653977.html

Small, Large Farmers Can Both Boost Global Food Security, *Op-Ed, Howard Buffett, Omaha World-Herald, July 16*

Global food security lies in the hands of both U.S. producers and small-scale farmers. Without high-yield systems, many more people would go to bed hungry. With the proper investment and appropriate solutions, resource-poor farmers can attain food security and self-reliance. To achieve this, we cannot continue to follow 30 years of failed policy. We must be more inclusive, more innovative and more engaged with farmers for practical solutions.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20100716/NEWS0802/707169981>

Monitoring the World's Agriculture, *Jeffrey Sachs, Nature, July 28*

To feed the world without further damaging the planet, Jeffrey Sachs and 24 food-system experts call for a global data collection and dissemination network to track the myriad impacts of different farming practices.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v466/n7306/pdf/466558a.pdf>

Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2010, *Global Humanitarian Assistance, July 2010*

Humanitarian interventions exist to meet humanitarian need – the provision of aid to save life and to maintain human dignity. These needs can be generated by large, sudden and globally visible disasters as well as long-term hard to see events such as drought, a sudden upsurge of violence and forced movement of population; or long-term complex emergencies involving multiple elements of both conflict and natural disaster. This myriad of interconnections is essentially what GHA Report 2010 attempts to track: the response to need, the provision of finance, the actors involved, the funding mechanisms used, and the countries and projects prioritised.

<http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/gha-report-2010-latest.pdf>

See Also: Insights Into the Ever More Complex Aid System, *IRIN News, July 27*

As the humanitarian “system” becomes more complex, with new actors and overlapping mandates, different definitions of humanitarian aid, and ever-more ambitious goals, humanitarian aid watchdog Development Initiatives outlines some of the needs, responses and funding trends over the past decade in its 2010 Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89982>

The Roadmap for a Grand Bargain, *James Kunder, Jonathan White, German Marshall Fund of the United States, 2010*

The objective of this paper is to assist with the U.S. Presidential Study Directive on Global Development Policy (PSD) conducted by the White House, the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) established by the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development, and Congressional examinations of the future of American development assistance. The contention of this paper is that the United States government can and must have a global, unified, straightforward, powerful, and measurable development assistance strategy in order to attain the elusive “Grand Bargain” among stakeholders necessary to achieve America’s foreign policy and humanitarian aspirations.

http://www.gmfus.org/galleries/ct_publication_attachments/Kunder_White_GrandBargain_Jul10_final.pdf

World Bank Warns on ‘Farmland Grab’, *Financial Times, July 27*

Investors in farmland are targeting countries with weak laws, buying arable land on the cheap and failing to deliver on promises of jobs and investments, according to the draft of a report by the World Bank. The report, *The Global Land Rush: Can it yield sustainable and equitable benefits?* is the broadest study yet of the so-called “farmland grab”, in which countries invest in overseas land to boost their food security, or investors – who are mostly locals – buy arable land. The draft was leaked to the Financial Times by a person who said they wanted to prevent the World Bank releasing the report in the middle of the summer holiday period. The draft highlighted a few successes in land acquisition – mostly in Latin America and also in Tanzania – but the overall picture it gave was one of exploitation, warning that investors either lacked the necessary expertise to cultivate land or were more interested in speculative gains than in using land productively.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/62890172-99a8-11df-a852-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: World Bank Land Grab Report under Fire, *Wall Street Journal, July 29*

Development advocates are up in arms about the Bank's handling of the report, which say flatly contradicts the Bank's own policy of encouraging international trade and investment. That's why the bank proposes releasing it at the height of the summer, when no one will be watching, they claim.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/brussels/2010/07/29/world-bank-land-grab-report-under-fire/>

Leaders Accused of Breaking Their Promises as Africa Union Starts Talks, *All Africa*, July 24

African leaders have not kept their promises and are failing their citizens, according to a new report released as Heads of State arrive in Kampala for the African Union summit. The "State of the Union" coalition is the first of its kind set up to monitor how African governments are delivering on their development commitments -- from increasing investment in health care and agriculture to improving human rights and tackling corruption. Drawing on studies from 10 key AU nations, the report paints a picture of unfulfilled agreements, missed targets, and failure to invest in the development of the continent. Most of the landmark announcements made at previous AU Summits are far from being implemented. A scorecard issued with the report rated South Africa as the best performer of the 10, closely followed by Algeria, Egypt and Senegal, but it noted that all the governments have a lot more to do. Nigeria and Cameroon came last.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007250013.html>

See Also: Continental Report 2010, *State of the Union Africa, 2010*

<http://www.ansa->

africa.net/uploads/documents/publications/State_of_the_Union_Continental_Report_2010.pdf

Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities

Achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals: Progress through Partnerships, *Hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight*, July 27

http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1198

Chairman Russ Carnahan: "As we recover from an economic recession, it is important to keep in mind that the Millennium Development Goals are not only a moral commitment, but are also vital to our security and economic prosperity. Fighting poverty, hunger, lack of access to education and healthcare helps reduce unrest and extremism, which can contribute to hatred and violence. The MDGs also help to leverage U.S. aid, bringing in contribution from other countries, the private sector and civil society. Collectively, our investment helps to reduce extreme poverty and build a growing middle class abroad, which will ultimately buy U.S. products."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/carnahan072710.pdf>

John McArthur, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Promise: "Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region that endures the greatest burden of extreme poverty and the most gradual long-term progress towards the MDGs, although the past decade has seen many great successes across the continent. Malawi, for example, began a national program five years ago to help its farmers obtain fertilizer and seeds. This doubled the country's food production, kick-started economic growth, and helped re-energize the international community's attention to agriculture. President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and USAID Administrator Shah have each played key roles in advancing the global agricultural agenda over the past 18 months. Continued progress in smallholder agriculture will yield a crucial double dividend for both hunger and economic growth."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/mca072710.pdf>

James Roberts, Research Fellow for Economic Freedom and Growth, The Heritage Foundation: "The Declaration adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 addressed a wide range of problems related to peace, security, and development. No one disputes the desirability of reducing poverty, hunger and infant mortality, increasing access to safe drinking water, improving education, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, or protecting the environment. There is significant disagreement, however, about the proper methodology to achieve those goals."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/rob072710.pdf>

The Crisis in Haiti: Are We Moving Fast Enough?, *Hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere*, July 29

http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1200

Chairman Eliot L. Engel: "The devastation in Haiti was so all-encompassing and the destruction was so complete, it is hard to know where to start. Should the international community focus first on shelter, health care, education, agriculture, or economic development or must we address all at once?"

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/eng072910.pdf>

Rajiv Shah, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development: "USAID is targeting areas in which we can materially and systemically add greatest value and generate greatest results. U.S. Government investments in the reconstruction effort seek depth, rather than breadth, in four key sectors – infrastructure, including housing and energy; agriculture; health and other basic services; and rule of law, governance, and security – across three key geographic corridors. For the agricultural sector, our strategy is addressing critical food security and environmental degradation issues, and will assist Haiti in improving its ability to export cash crops such as mangoes and coffee."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/Sha072910.pdf>

Climate Change Finance: Providing Assistance for Vulnerable Countries, Hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, July 27

http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1197

Lael Brainard, Under Secretary for International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury: "Each of these climatic and environmental impacts has a corresponding human cost. Water and food shortages can lead to hunger and conflict. Razed forests can threaten fragile and traditional populations. Rising oceans and constrained lands can motivate climate migrants. All of these and more can lead to energy and environmental shocks that exacerbate poverty and stymie health advances."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/bra072710.pdf>

Nancy E. Soderberg, President, Connect U.S. Fund: "Lagging behind the rest of the world in supporting a new global energy infrastructure is unacceptable for a nation like ours – particularly when new solutions for jumpstarting our economy are needed more than ever. Significant investments today will also help reduce global dependence on fossil fuels, and jumpstart projects that will combat current and future threats emanating from more severe and frequent weather hazards, decreased agricultural production, increased water scarcity and insufficient food stocks."

http://www.connectusfund.org/files/Nancy_Soderberg_Written_Testimony_7_27_2010.pdf

Dr. Maura O'Neill, USAID Counselor for Innovation: "USAID utilizes its experience in all of the climate-sensitive sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, conflict mitigation, water, health, and disaster risk reduction. Innovation, science and technology can be "game-changers" in areas such developing heat and drought tolerant crops, early warning systems and forecasting capabilities, and new approaches to conservation. These and other innovations will enable better decision making in partner countries and also help the United States visualize climate impacts, utilize modeling for forecasting future scenarios, and integrate that knowledge into planning."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/ty100727.html>

Feed the Future: A U.S. Commitment against Poverty and Hunger, U.S. Mission to the United Nations – Geneva, July 22

The U.S. government, backed by U.S. scientists and corporations, is investing money and energy into reducing global hunger and poverty on a huge scale by 2015.

<http://geneva.usmission.gov/2010/07/23/feed-the-future/>

Oversight of U.S. Civilian Assistance For Afghanistan, Hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, July 28

http://appropriations.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&extmode=view&extid=2078&Itemid=137

Richard Holbrooke, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan: "We face many obstacles in achieving our civilian goals...but I believe we are now beginning to see initial results from these changes in approach in several areas, particularly in rebuilding the agriculture sector, perhaps our greatest non-security initiative. For example, we have distributed discounted wheat seed to over 366,000 farmers and employed over 70,000 Afghans in Kandahar alone on short-term infrastructure projects. Additionally, Afghan apples and other fresh fruit are being air-freighted to India for the first time. We also are making strides in the areas of counternarcotics, where more than 50 interdiction operations have led to 50 percent of former poppy nad being converted to licit use."

Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID: "Our agriculture request, which includes funding for USAID's alternative development and agriculture programs, will enable us to work with the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock, farmers and the agribusiness firms to increase agricultural productivity, regenerate the agribusiness sector, rehabilitate watersheds, improve irrigation infrastructure and devolve funding and programs to targeted provinces and districts."

http://appropriations.house.gov/images/stories/pdf/sfo/RAJIV_SHAH_7.28.2010.pdf

See Also: Afghanistan War: How USAID Loses Hearts and Minds, *Christian Science Monitor*, July 28

In 2005, the remote northeastern province of Badakhshan worried United States officials. Considered one of the safer regions of Afghanistan, it had become a major cultivator of poppy and a magnet for drug traffickers. So USAID called for bids to spend \$60 million on development there. The winner, PADCO (now called AECOM), had no experience in Afghanistan, but offered an ambitious crop substitution and economic development plan to build roads, irrigation canals, hydroelectric plants, and better agriculture. The project – Alternative Development Program/North (ADP/N) – ended in early 2009 with work hastily finished or left incomplete.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/layout/set/print/content/view/print/315980>

USDA Employee Dan Kugler Deploys to Help Rebuild Afghanistan's Agricultural Sector, *USDA Foreign Agricultural Service*, July 29

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) announced that Dan Kugler, a Deputy Administrator with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture in Washington, D.C., recently deployed to serve a 1-year assignment in Afghanistan as an Agricultural Ministry Expert to help rebuild that country's agricultural sector. Since 2003, USDA has deployed more than 100 people for medium- and long-term assignments in Afghanistan and allotted roughly \$256 million in food aid to the country.

http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/PressRelease/pressrel_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0175-10

Remarks – India Donor Roundtable, *Robert O. Blake, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, U.S. Department of State*, July 29

"The challenges go beyond drinking water and sanitation. Approximately 80 percent of India's water is used in agriculture. However in many parts of the country farmers are still without reliable access. For example in Maharashtra only 16 percent of the state's cultivable lands are under irrigation, leaving the remaining farm lands reliant on seasonal rains. This lack of access to water, compounded by inefficiencies in canal irrigation, can pose threats to India's food security. As pressing as water issues are now in India and around the world, they will become even more important in the near future. Experts predict that by 2025 nearly two-thirds of the world's countries will be water-stressed -- which is defined as demand for water exceeding availability, or when poor quality restricts its use. India is expected to be water stressed by 2020, just 10 years from now."

<http://www.state.gov/p/sca/rls/rmks/2010/145355.htm>

It's Time to End the Excessive Subsidies for Corn Ethanol, *Editorial, Washington Post*, July 24

When Washington starts handing out cash, it can be hard to stop. See, for example, the decades of subsidies the government has showered on the corn ethanol industry. The fuel was supposed to free America from its dependence on foreign oil and produce fewer carbon emissions in the process. It's doing some of the former and little of the latter. But corn ethanol certainly doesn't need the level of taxpayer support it's been getting. Lawmakers are considering whether to renew these expensive subsidies; they shouldn't.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/23/AR2010072304345_pf.html

See Also: Survival of the Fattest, *Editorial, Wall Street Journal*, July 26

What a deal: Ethanol reduces carbon for only \$754 a ton.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703720504575377591228733662.html> **See Also:**

Enough Ethanol, *Editorial, Chicago Tribune*, July 23

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-ethanol-20100723.0.5924813.story>

UPCOMING EVENTS

USDA Food Aid at 2010 IFADC

Date: August 2nd, 2010

Location: Kansas City, MO

The Food Assistance Division and the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff will present on USDA food assistance programs on August 2nd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/FoodAid/2010FoodAidConf/index.asp>

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

Dates and Locations: August 2-3: Washington, DC–Ronald Reagan Building; August 4-6: Kansas City, MO

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

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

Soy Innovation Africa 2010: Cultivating Potential in Emerging Markets

Date: August 26th – 27th, 2010

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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

African Green Revolution 2010 Forum

Date: September 2nd–4th

Location: Accra, Ghana

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

<http://agrforum.com/>

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

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

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

Date: Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2010

Location: Long Beach, CA

Plans are underway for the 2010 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, 31 October–3 November in Long Beach, CA. The year’s Annual Meetings theme connects attendees to the growing global challenges of “Green Revolution 2.0: Food+Energy and Environmental Security.” Consider joining your colleagues in Long Beach! More than 2,700 scientists, professionals, and students will present the latest research and discuss emerging trends in agriculture, energy, climate change, environmental science, and related issues. The Annual Meetings program features keynote and plenary lectures, 2,500 oral and poster presentations, an Exhibit Hall, Career Center,

tours, workshops, and plenty of networking events. For additional information on the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, please visit: www.acsmeetings.org

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th –12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

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

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

First Global Conference on Biofortification: From Discovery to Delivery

Date: November 11th – 12th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

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

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Mapping Food and Bioenergy in Africa, *Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, June 2010*

Bioenergy interest has gained much attention in the last years due to the positive issues that it can bring specially for developing countries but at the same time because of the many concerns on risks and trade-offs that could generate. FARA considers that the production of bioenergy crops will need to take into account a) a broader understanding of the extent of the issues and concerns surrounding food to bioenergy conversion and b) the accompanying policy/institutional dimensions as input to the development of an appropriate and truly responsive food and bioenergy programs in developing economies.

<http://blogs.nature.com/news/thegreatbeyond/Mapping%20Food%20and%20bioenergy%20Africa%20June%202010%20Summary.pdf>

See Also: Africa Can Grow Biofuel Crops Without Harming Food, Habitats, Study Shows, *Bloomberg, July 23*

Africa can grow biofuel crops on a “significant scale” without damaging food production or natural habitats, researchers said. A study of biofuel production in Senegal, Mali, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Mozambique found enough land is available to “significantly” raise cultivation of sugar cane, sorghum and jatropha for energy production without reducing food output, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, or FARA, said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-23/africa-can-grow-biofuel-crops-without-harming-food-habitats-study-shows.html>

Livestock Development Planning in Uganda: Identification of Areas of Opportunity and Challenge,

Todd Benson, Samuel Mugarura, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010

Livestock are an important element of the livelihoods of many Ugandan households, and considerable efforts at economic development by the government of Uganda have focused on the livestock sector. However, these development efforts have suffered due to a lack of detailed data on the distribution of livestock in Uganda to guide the targeting of such programs. In this paper the authors use data from the 2008 National Livestock Census to develop a better understanding of where in Uganda there might be potential for significant investment to intensify the production of livestock and, conversely, where there are important challenges, such as conflicts between human populations and livestock that need to be addressed.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01008.pdf>

Media Articles:

Superweed Problem Yields Call for New Tax, Rules, *Green Fields (blog), Des Moines Register, July 28*

Critics of agricultural biotechnology used the increasing problem with herbicide-resistant weeds to call for tighter regulation of biotech crops.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/07/28/superweed-problem-yields-call-for-new-tax-rules/>

Mushrooms Used to Make Eco-Friendly Packaging, *Christian Science Monitor*, July 28

Mycobond, a composite material made from mushroom roots and agricultural waste, is grown around structures to create customized packaging.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2010/0728/Mushrooms-used-to-make-eco-friendly-packaging>

Ivory Coast to Focus on Cocoa Quality: Agriculture Minister, *Reuters*, July 28

Ivory Coast will focus on boosting the quality of its cocoa exports in the coming years instead of seeking to reverse recent declines in output, the top grower nation's agriculture minister said. Cocoa production from the West African state, which accounts for a third of world supply of the main ingredient in chocolate, is on track to fall to its lowest in at least five years due to the effects of disease and underinvestment since a 2002-03 civil war split the country.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFIOE66R0A220100728>

Pampered Pigs 'Feel Optimistic', *BBC News*, July 28

Pigs feel optimistic or pessimistic about life depending on how pleasant their environment is, researchers at Newcastle University have found.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-10787070>

Mozzarella, the Big Cheese Aiding Brazil's Growth, *Financial Times*, July 27

The best mozzarella comes from Italy. And Italian buffalo mozzarella is the best of the best. But because of a shortage of suitable grazing land, Italy is struggling to produce enough buffalo milk to manufacture the 33,000 tonnes of soft cheese that the country makes every year. With the very future of Italian cuisine on his mind perhaps, Antony de Berardinis, a London-based entrepreneur, believes he has the solution. Using Italian-sourced technology, his Brazilian company, Ilha Grande Investments, produces a snap-frozen buffalo milk base on 80,000 hectares of prime grazing land near São Paulo.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6f2cc4d6-99a8-11df-a852-00144feab49a.html>

Africa and Brazil to Cross-Fertilise Agricultural Ideas, *SciDev Net*, July 27

An ambitious development partnership aimed at strengthening agricultural collaboration between Africa and Brazil was launched at the 5th African Agriculture Science Week in Burkina Faso last week. The initiative — the Africa-Brazil Agriculture Innovation Marketplace — recently announced in Brazil, and now formally launched, aims to enhance South-South knowledge and technology transfer and stimulate policy dialogue between the two regions.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/news/africa-and-brazil-to-cross-fertilise-agricultural-ideas-1.html>

Improved Disease Prevention in Animal Health Could Save Billions of Dollars, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN*, July 26

Governments could save billions of dollars by stepping up the prevention and control of high impact animal diseases, some of which pose a direct threat to human health, FAO said.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44327/icode/>

See Also: Cost of Animal Disease Outbreaks Rising Steeply, *Independent*, July 27

With more than half of the world's population now living in cities, urban areas are sprawling closer to intensive farming operations, while at the same time, the consumption of animal products is on the rise. More than 21 billion animals were raised for food in 2008, a figure that FAO believes by 2020 will grow by more than half, as demand for animal products rises in East Asia and other parts of the world.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/costs-of-animal-disease-outbreaks-rising-steeply-2036308.html>

Ultra Rice: Whatcom County Invention Holds Hope for Health, *Seattle Times*, July 24

Originally the creation of father-and-son inventors from Bellingham, Ultra Rice is now being produced and tested around the world as a potential solution to malnutrition. Governments in Brazil and India are serving it in school-lunch programs, and the United Nations' World Food Programme is conducting a trial in Cambodia to see if families find it acceptable.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2012441987_ultrarice25.html

Zimbabwe: From Breadbasket to Basket Case, *Toronto Star*, July 24

From breadbasket of Africa to African basket case — that's Zimbabwe. A country rooted in agriculture that now must import maize and wheat, 7 million of its people targeted for assistance this year by the World Food Program. At least 85 per cent of the population is unemployed, 49 per cent malnourished according to WFP figures, with 83 per cent living on less than \$2 a day.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/839834--zimbabwe-from-breadbasket-to-basket-case>

New Cassava Varieties Save Zanzibar's Food Security, *Nourishing the Planet (blog)*, *Worldwatch Institute*, July 22

Millions of cassava farmers in eastern and central Africa are in distress from viral cassava diseases that are sweeping across the region and ravaging their crops. But their counterparts on the popular tourist island of Zanzibar are undergoing a quiet revolution using new disease-resistant and high-yielding varieties that were introduced three years ago.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/new-cassava-varieties-save-zanzibars-food-security/>

The Food Bubble, *Harper's*, July 2010

The history of food took an ominous turn in 1991, at a time when no one was paying much attention. That was the year Goldman Sachs decided our daily bread might make an excellent investment.

<http://harpers.org/archive/2010/07/0083022>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Beyond Population: Everyone Counts in Development, *Joel Cohen*, *Center for Global Development*, July 2010

This prodigious stain of human hunger results from collective human choices, not biophysical necessities. While hundreds of millions hungered, farmers grew enough to feed 50% more people than are alive now, at least at a subsistence level. The estimated cereal production in the 2007-2008 crop year exceeded 2.1 billion metric tons of cereal grains, sufficient to feed more than 10 billion people an adequate vegetarian diet. But as demographer-sociologist Kingsley Davis observed in 1991, "There is no country in the world in which people are satisfied with having barely enough to eat." While too many people eat too much, more than a billion eat less than barely enough.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424318_file_Cohen_BeyondPopulation_FINAL.pdf

Media Articles:

Nutrient-Rich Algae from Chad Could Help Fight Malnutrition, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN*, July 29

A nutrient-rich indigenous produce holds out the hope of a better life for the impoverished women who harvest it on the edges of Lake Chad, and may also one day make a contribution to fighting malnutrition.

Under a \$1.4 million project funded by the European Union and run by FAO the women are gathering and processing increasing quantities of a remarkable produce known locally as Dihé, a variety of the blue-green algae called Spirulina.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44388/icode/>

Anti-Poverty Programmes: Give the Poor Money, *Economist*, July 29

CELIA ORBOC, a cake-seller in the Philippines, spent her little stipend on a wooden shack, giving her five children a roof over their heads for the first time. In Kyrgyzstan Sharmant Oktomanova spent hers buying

flour to feed six children. In Haiti President René Préval praises a dairy co-operative that gives mothers milk and yogurt when their children go to school. These are examples of the world's favourite new anti-poverty device, the conditional cash-transfer programme (CCT) in poor and middle-income countries. The programmes have spread because they work. They cut poverty. They improve income distribution. And they do so cheaply.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16693323>

DFID to Help the Hungry People of Sudan, *Press Release, UK Department for International Development, July 27*

DFID has responded to a World Food Programme (WFP) Sudan appeal with a contribution which will cover the costs of procurement and delivery of 30,000 metric tonnes of food. This will provide a month's emergency food distributions to over 1.8 million people.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/DFID-help-to-the-hungry-people-of-Sudan/>

UN's FAO Says Zimbabwe Food Security Improving, *Reuters, July 27*

Zimbabwe's troubled farm sector has started to recover from depths plumbed two years ago when it faced a food crisis, but funding problems could cut into programmes helping farmers recover, a U.N. official said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE66Q0M020100727>

UN Agency Chief Pledges Support for Africa's Efforts to Boost Food Security, *UN News Centre, July 27*

The United Nations is committed to helping African nations combat hunger and malnutrition as well as enabling the continent to feed itself, the head of the World Food Programme (WFP) has pledged. Addressing leaders gathered in Kampala, Uganda, for the African Union summit, WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran stressed the many benefits offered by food-based social protection programmes.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35443&Cr=wfp&Cr1=>

On the Front Lines of the War against Hunger in Niger, *Louis Belanger, Oxfam International Huffington Post, July 27*

As a result of severe drought, the 2009 harvest in Niger produced less than a quarter of the country's annual needs. This meant that the hunger gap -- the period between harvests -- began in April this year, instead of June as is usually the case. Now half of all Nigeriens do not have enough food. A recent national food security survey found that 7.1 million people, or half the population, suffer from food insecurity, of which 3.3 million suffer from severe food insecurity. Yet another survey found that the nutritional status of children had severely deteriorated; as much as 16.7% is acutely malnourished, far exceeding the high alert levels. As many as 455 000 children were found to be suffering from severe malnutrition. To address the food crisis, Oxfam and its partners have implemented a destocking humanitarian program in the most vulnerable agri-pastoral and pastoral areas. Weakened animals are purchased at above-market prices and then slaughtered. The meat is then distributed to vulnerable households.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/louis-belanger/on-the-front-lines-of-the_b_659893.html

Aid Agencies in Africa: Applaud Achievers but Keep Wannabes in Check, *Katine Chronicles (blog), Guardian, July 26*

Regulation, accountability and closer monitoring of a number of well-meaning but often misguided and ignorant aid organisations is vital to prevent them hindering rather than supporting efforts to eradicate poverty in Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/jul/26/aidanddevelopment-uganda>

Every Penny We Give in Aid to Africa Must Be Made to Count, *Guardian, July 26*

International development secretary Andrew Mitchell has a budget ringfenced against cuts – but he will be under intense pressure to deliver results.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/jul/26/aid-africa-international-development>

Hope and Progress in the Developing World, Despite Daunting Challenges, *Op-Ed, Danielle Nierenberg, Molly Theobald, Seattle Times, July 23*

Since the 1980s, international investment in agriculture has decreased significantly. These cuts have impacted women and children the most. But in addition to making sure we reverse these trends, we need to ensure that funding is used effectively — reaching the farmers who need it most. Who better to consult — and to equip with the tools to help out — in the global effort to combat hunger than the youth, women and farmers who will most benefit from it?

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2012434607_guest24theobold.html

Grant Signing Ceremony: Agriculture Development Fund Remarks: Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Asif Rahimi, U.S. Department of State, July 21

“The Afghan Government has long recognised the need of farmers for affordable credit, and now USAID is providing \$150 million dollars to help us take the first steps along that long road. Everywhere in the world, farmers lead economically unpredictable lives affected by weather, changing commodity prices and more. Everywhere they need credit to borrow against the next harvest. Virtually every country that is economically successful has government-assisted agricultural credit. With credit, Afghan farmers will be able to invest in better seed or fertiliser. Some will borrow to rent more farmland or to help their family through a short-term crisis. With credit, farmers can afford to modernize via new technology, improved irrigation, mechanization, storage and processing and, finally, deliver goods to markets.”

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

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Climate Change and Trade Policy: From Mutual Destruction to Mutual Support, Patrick Messerlin, World Bank, July 2010

The paper focuses on two key problems. First, the way carbon border taxes are defined has a huge impact on the joint outcome from climate change, trade, and development perspectives. Second, the multilateral climate change regime could easily become too complex to be manageable.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/07/26/000158349_20100726084354/Rendered/PDF/WPS5378.pdf

East Asia and the Pacific Confront the “New Normal”, World Bank, July 2010

Developing East Asia is leading the global economic recovery, although performance varies across the region. In some countries, the monetary stance is already being tightened in light of emerging inflationary pressures; but it is premature to withdraw the fiscal stimulus until the global recovery is on a firmer footing. To ensure that the momentum of the recovery transitions into sustainable and inclusive growth over the medium term, the governments in the region must once again focus their attention on medium-term structural reforms. This means different policy priorities in different countries—especially given the diversity of the region. In addition, the region faces two common priorities— regional economic integration and climate change. Making progress on both fronts will be critical to the region’s medium-term prospects.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP24.pdf>

Linkages among Climate Change, Crop Yields and Mexico-US Cross-Border Migration, Shuaizhang Feng, Alan Krueger, Michael Oppenheimer, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, June 24, 2010

Climate change is expected to cause mass human migration, including immigration across international borders. This study quantitatively examines the linkages among variations in climate, agricultural yields, and people’s migration responses by using an instrumental variables approach.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/07/16/1002632107.full.pdf+html>

See Also: Climate Change Linked to Possible Mass Mexican Migration to U.S., Los Angeles Times, July 26

Lower crop yields and agricultural production could drive as many as 6.7 million across the border by 2080, a study finds.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-immig-climate-20100727,0,1362570.story>

State of the Climate in 2009, *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, 2010

The 2009 *State of the Climate* report draws on data for 10 key climate indicators that all point to the same finding: the scientific evidence that our world is warming is unmistakable. More than 300 scientists from 160 research groups in 48 countries contributed to the report, which confirms that the past decade was the warmest on record and that the Earth has been growing warmer over the last 50 years.

<http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/bams-sotc/climate-assessment-2009-lo-rez.pdf>

Media Articles:

Research Says Climate Change Undeniable, *Financial Times*, July 28

Current changes to the climate are “undeniable” and show clear signs of “human fingerprints”, researchers have shown in the first major new piece of scientific research since the “climategate” scandals.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6d1fd25c-9a69-11df-87fd-00144feab49a.html>

Africa Looks to Vast Forests for Carbon Credits, *Los Angeles Times*, July 27

Logging bans don't directly address forest loss from other threats, such as agriculture, but officials are hoping that a potential money spinner — carbon offsets — will.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-adfg-africa-forests-20100727.0.5756955.story>

Pakistan's Woes Compounded by Severe Water Crisis, *Associated Press*, July 26

Besides grappling with insurgents, suicide bombers and deep poverty, Pakistan is facing a severe crisis as a ballooning population and inefficient farming combine to reduce the availability of water. At least 90 percent of Pakistan's water is used for farming, and around 25 percent is wasted by farms that use flood irrigation.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/25/AR2010072501237.html>

Activists in India Cry Foul Over New Rules Regarding Public Interest Litigation, *Washington Post*, July 26

Vivek Bhide is a mango grower in this lush, sleepy coastal region of fruit and cashew trees. Four years ago, he also took on the role of environmental crusader for his community when a company began building a thermal power plant nearby. Fearing that the plant's fumes would reduce crop yields, Bhide wrote countless letters to officials, met with politicians and organized protests calling for the project to be scrapped. When those efforts failed, he and his friends turned to one of the most powerful legal tools available to Indian citizens: They filed a public interest litigation, forcing the project's delay.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/25/AR2010072502773.html>

Russia's Heat Wave Wilts Crops, Nation, *Voice of America*, July 23

Russia's worst drought in 130 years became a political issue as the Kremlin held an emergency meeting to combat the impacts of a month long heat wave that is shriveling crops, forcing up food prices, and causing hundreds of drownings as Russians jump into rivers to escape heat funneled up from North Africa.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/europe/Russias-Heat-Wave-Wilts-Crops-Nation-99125084.html>

WOMEN

Reports:

Girls Speak: A New Voice in Global Development, *Margaret Greene, Laura Cardinal, Eve Goldstein-Siegel, International Center for Research on Women*, 2010

Girls have a fundamental right to be heard, valued and respected. Moreover, by listening to girls' voices, policymakers and program managers can help bridge the gaps between girls' aspirations and their actual experiences. In this report, the authors outline six themes that arise from girls' aspirations, including the desire to be healthy and educated with viable livelihoods and career opportunities, financial security and independence; and to marry and have children at the appropriate time. Underlying all the themes is one universal: a shared inability to make decisions about their own lives even though they know what they need.

<http://www.icrw.org/files/publications/Girls-Speak-A-New-Voice-In-Global-Development.pdf>

Fight Hunger: Invest in Women Farmers, Fact Sheet, Oxfam America, July 2010

Hunger is about power. Its roots lie in inequalities in access to education and resources. And women—who produce most of the world's food—face the greatest inequalities of all.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/oxfam-fight-hunger-factsheet.pdf>

Media Articles:

Deputy Prime Minister Outlines Vision for International Development, Press Release, UK Department for International Development, July 27

A pledge to put women at the "front and centre" of aid with a new emphasis on girls' education and family planning is a key element of a new reform plan to achieve the Coalition Government's objectives on international development, the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/Deputy-Prime-Minister-outlines-vision-for-international-development/>

AWARD Fellowship Highlights Critical Role of African Women in Agricultural Research, Press Release, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, July 27

A passion fruit pathologist, a catfish breeder, and a pigeon pea researcher are among the 60 outstanding women agricultural scientists from 10 African countries who received a fellowship from African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD). The fellowship will help these top researchers strengthen their research and leadership skills, and enhance their contributions to poverty alleviation and food security across the continent.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-07/bc-afh072810.php

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

The Impact of Infrastructure Spending in Sub-Saharan Africa, Jean-Francois Perrault, Luc Savard, Antonio Estache, World Bank, July 2010

The authors constructed a standard computable general equilibrium (CGE) model to explore the economic impact of increased spending on infrastructure in six African countries: Benin, Cameroon, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda. The basic elements of the model are drawn from EXTER, adjusted to accommodate infrastructure externalities. Seven sectors were considered: food crop agriculture, export agriculture, mining and oil, manufacturing, construction, private services, and public services.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/07/28/000158349_20100728140341/Rendered/PDF/WPS5386.pdf

Biofuels: Markets, Targets and Impacts, Govinda Timilsina, Ashish Shrestha, World Bank, July 2010

This paper reviews recent developments in biofuel markets and their economic, social and environmental impacts.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/07/19/000158349_20100719162226/Rendered/PDF/WPS5364.pdf

Aid for Trade: Building Progress Today for Tomorrow's Future, Bernard Hoekman, John Wilson, World Bank, July 2010

Since 2005, donors and development agencies have increased the overall value of aid for trade and put in place several mechanisms to channel such aid and to ensure that it targets national priorities. This paper reviews recent trends in the allocation of aid for trade and analyses of its effectiveness.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/07/19/000158349_20100719153619/Rendered/PDF/WPS5361.pdf

India: Latin America's Next Big Thing?, *Inter-American Development Bank, July 2010*

India could become a fast-growing market for Latin American and Caribbean commodities but governments in this region must foster closer ties with the South Asian giant and reduce trade costs to tap into that opportunity. With 1.1 billion people and a scarcity of natural resources, relative to other continent-size nations, India has the potential to be a large buyer of agricultural and mineral goods, Latin America's main exports. In order to boost trade, both India and Latin America must lower tariffs and trade barriers, the study concludes. India's average tariff on Latin American agricultural goods is 65 percent, more than five times China's 12.5 percent tariff.

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=35239272>

See Also: Latin America Should Embrace India Trade - IADB, *Reuters, July 27*

Argentine Agriculture Minister Julian Dominguez will go to India, the world's biggest importer of edible oils, next week to discuss potential for continued soy oil and sunflower oil sales. Rengaraj Viswanathan, India's ambassador to Argentina, said there is enormous demand for edible oils in his country and suggested Indian tariffs on agricultural goods are not proving a problem for exporters from Latin America.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2622533520100727>

Actions to Increase U.S. Agriculture Exports, *American Farm Bureau Federation, the Coalition of Service Industries, and the National Association of Manufacturers, July 2010*

The goal of the National Export Initiative to double U.S. exports will only be achieved by completing specific actions that increase markets for U.S. goods and services. U.S. agriculture can increase its level of exports and contribute even more to reducing the U.S. trade deficit by the aggressive action of the U.S. government to expand markets and reduce barriers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasts fiscal year 2010 agricultural exports at \$104.5 billion, with agricultural imports for fiscal year 2010 at \$76.5 billion. The resulting \$28 billion trade surplus depends on continuing strong world demand for the products from U.S. agriculture. The U.S. must act to increase its economic competitiveness and reduce foreign government barriers that hinder U.S. agricultural exports.

<http://www.fb.org/newsroom/nr/nr2010/07-26-10/TradeActions-4.doc>

U.S. Tariff Rate Quotas and AGOA Market Access, *International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council, 2010*

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) provides preferential access to the U.S. market for qualifying Sub-Saharan African countries above and beyond that provided under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). As noted in the 2009 Policy Brief, "AGOA and Agriculture," agricultural products covered by tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) are excluded from GSP and AGOA preferences.¹ The exclusion applies to "any agricultural product ...that is subject to a tariff-rate quota, if entered in a quantity in excess of the in-quota quantity for such product."² This Policy Brief explains what the last statement means and its implications for AGOA market access.

<http://www.agritrade.org/Publications/documents/USTRQsandAGOApolicyfocus.pdf>

Cooperatives for Staple Crop Marketing: Evidence from Ethiopia, *International Food Policy Research Institute, 2010*

Rural producer organizations, such as farmers' organizations or rural cooperatives, offer a means for smallholder farmers in developing countries to sell their crops commercially. They hold particular promise for Sub-Saharan Africa, where small-scale farming is the primary livelihood but commercialization of foodcrops is very limited. Using the experience of smallholders in Ethiopia as a case study, this research monograph identifies the benefits of rural producer organizations for small farmers, as well as the conditions under which such organizations most successfully promote smallholder commercialization.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rr164.pdf>

Media Articles:

Iceland Defies EU Fishing Rules as Bid Talks Open, *BBC News, July 28*

Iceland has kicked off its EU accession negotiations saying it will not tolerate competition from rival fishing fleets in its waters. Iceland's foreign minister said his country must keep control of its vast, exclusive

economic zone in the Arctic. Fish accounts for nearly half of Iceland's exports, Ossur Skarphedinsson told EU foreign ministers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-10786144>

U.S. Farmers Urge Sanctions against EU's GM Crop Ban, *Reuters*, July 28

The largest U.S. farm group has urged the Obama administration to begin steps towards imposing sanctions on the European Union in a longrunning dispute over the EU's treatment of genetically modified crops. The American Farm Bureau Federation, in comments given to the administration, complained the EU still has not complied with a 2006 World Trade Organization ruling against its "de facto" moratorium on approving new varieties of biotech crops for sale in the 27-nation bloc.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-50441920100727>

Lamy Sees "New Dynamic" Emerging in Negotiations, *World Trade Organization*, July 27

Director-General Pascal Lamy reported to an informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 27 July that "after some months of impasse in negotiations, my own sense is that we are beginning to see signs of a new dynamic emerging". He called on negotiators to "build on the new dynamic by expanding the small groups discussion to all areas," adding that "somewhere around mid-October would be a good time to evaluate our progress".

http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news10_e/tnc_dg_stat_27jul10_e.htm

Australia to Gain from China's Growing Food Demand, *MarketWatch*, July 27

Australian food producers will be major beneficiaries of growing demand from China, though whether wheat will be included in that remains to be seen, analysts said. China will import some higher protein and niche wheat grades, but with government policy aimed at maintaining food security in rice and wheat, China will produce as much of these grains as possible.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/australia-to-gain-from-chinas-growing-food-demand-2010-07-27>

Opposition Protests Disrupt India Parliament, *Financial Times*, July 27

India's parliament was repeatedly disrupted by opposition protests at high food price inflation on Tuesday. On the first day of business of the 24-day monsoon season session, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party demanded an urgent debate on government efforts to control spiralling prices. In the current session, Mr Singh's government hopes to pass 24 pending and nine new bills. Pending legislation includes rules to protect the intellectual property rights of seed companies, seen as crucial to the development of a commercial seed industry and boosting agriculture productivity.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/74367a46-99a1-11df-a852-00144feab49a.html>

Australia's Wheat Production May Expand on La Nina, *AgResource Says*, *Bloomberg*, July 26

Wheat production in Australia, the fourth-largest shipper, may expand as crops benefit from rainfall in the country's west and the development of the La Nina weather pattern, according to AgResource Co.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-27/australian-wheat-output-may-expand-as-la-nina-boosts-crop-agresource-says.html>

For Sake of Farmers, Lift Cuba Ban, *Op-Ed*, *Bob Stallman*, *President*, *American Farm Bureau Association*, *Houston Chronicle*, July 26

This scene remains a hopeful vision for America's farmers and ranchers: American tourists strolling down the paving-stone streets, browsing the colorful shops and enjoying the rustic cantinas of Old Havana. Why, you may ask, would a Texas rice and beef producer care? The answer can be summed up in three words — enhanced agricultural trade. A bill moving through the U.S. House would lift America's last travel ban on Cuba, and in the process, lead to more agricultural exports to the island.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/editorial/outlook/7124571.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

DuPont Profit Nearly Triples, *New York Times*, July 27

The DuPont Company, the chemical maker, said that its net income nearly tripled in the second quarter as revenue surged in most of its businesses and it raised prices.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/28/business/28dupont.html>

Kraft Foods on Health Kick, Boosting Whole Grains in Snacks, *Associated Press*, Jul 26

Kraft Foods Inc. says it will more than double the amount of whole grain in many of its Nabisco crackers, becoming the latest food maker to respond to consumer and health advocates' demands for improved nutrition from packaged foods. Kraft will increase the whole grain in more than 100 products over the next three years.

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?id=38988>