

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



July 24<sup>th</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

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### KEY ARTICLES

**Farmers Can Feed the World**, Norman Borlaug, *Op-Ed, The Wall Street Journal, July 30*

Investments like those announced by the G-8 leaders will most likely help to place current tools—like fertilizer and hybrid seeds that have been used for decades in the developed world—into the hands of small-holder farmers in remote places like Africa with the potential for noted and measured impact. That investment will not continue to motivate new and novel discoveries, like drought-tolerant, insect-resistant or higher-yielding seed varieties that advance even faster. To accomplish this, governments must make their decisions about access to new technologies, such as the development of genetically modified organisms—on the basis of science, and not to further political agendas. Open markets will stimulate continued investment, innovation and new developments from public research institutions, private companies and novel public/private partnerships.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203517304574304562754043656.html>

**World Falling Short on Emergency Food Aid: U.N. Body**, *Reuters, July 29*

The Obama administration will roll out more details in the next several months of its agricultural development aid plan, a senior administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development told a gathering of Capitol Hill staffers, lobbyists and diplomats. The plan, tentatively called the "Seeking a World Without Hunger" initiative, will invest in boosting farmers' productivity and improving storage, processing

and transportation infrastructure in coordination with recipient countries and other donors, said Franklin Moore of USAID's Africa bureau. The plan will not mean the U.S. government steps back from emergency food aid, Moore said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN29291818?sp=true>

**The Market Maker**, *PBS Wide Angle*, July 22

Eleni Gabre-Madhin is a woman with a dream. The charismatic Ethiopian economist wants to end hunger in her famine-plagued country. But rather than relying on foreign aid or new agricultural technology, she has a truly radical plan. She has designed the nation's first commodities exchange, which she hopes will revolutionize an ancient market system whose inefficiencies have been partly responsible for the country's persistent food shortages. In April 2008 and after more than a decade of planning, the starting bell rang on the trading floor for the first time. Gabre-Madhin has been running frantically ever since. She attempts to maintain the machinery that keeps her country fed while facing powerful special interests, antiquated farming practices, poor infrastructure, and an unpredictable climate. Not to mention a global economic crisis.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/uncategorized/the-market-maker-introduction/5000/>

**Monetization of Food Aid: Reconsidering U.S. Policy and Practice**, *Emmy Simmons (Global Agricultural Development Project Experts Committee Member)*, *Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa*, July 2009

A transition from food aid-supported programming to dollar-supported programming would be complex. It would require significant leadership from the administration, Congressional approval coupled with a shift in oversight and appropriation responsibilities within the Congress, and a commitment by the U.S. Government to the Cooperating Sponsors to protect their role in providing community-based assistance for food security.

<http://www.africanhunger.org/uploads/articles/588208328eedc22ec503757b276553a9.pdf>

**African Growth and Opportunity Act: A Case of Vanishing Benefits**, *Mwangi S. Kimenyi*, *Brookings Institution*, July 2009

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is a centerpiece of U.S. trade, aid and investment policy in Sub-Saharan Africa that provides for duty and quota free access to U.S. markets for designated products, especially textiles and apparels. In addition to market access provisions, AGOA provides for trade facilitation and technical assistance to African producers.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0730\\_agoa\\_kimenyi.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0730_agoa_kimenyi.aspx)

**Senate may modify foreign aid policy**, *Agweek*, July 27

As part of a move to increase the U.S. role in agricultural development in poor countries, the Senate is considering a modification of the Bumpers Amendment, the 1986 measure that forbids the U.S. government from using taxpayer dollars to help develop crops in other countries that could compete with U.S. production. A Senate Agriculture Committee aide told the American Soybean Association July 23 that the Senate Agriculture and Foreign Relations committee staffs are trying to write a modification of the Bumpers amendment that would allow USAID to help develop crops in the poorest countries as identified by the World Bank, but would require that the aid stop if the country becomes a commercially competitive exporter in that crop. **Earlier this year, a Chicago Council on Global Affairs report called for the repeal of the Bumpers Amendment.**

[http://www.agweek.com/articles/?id=5212&article\\_id=14726&property\\_id=41](http://www.agweek.com/articles/?id=5212&article_id=14726&property_id=41)

**India damps hopes of new Doha talks**, *Financial Times*, July 29

A top Indian official damped hopes of a revival of global trade talks, saying the economic downturn had damaged the will for a deal. Rahul Khullar, India's commerce secretary, said agreement at the Doha round of talks at the World Trade Organisation was out of reach while the world's political leaders faced public anger in their countries over job losses and lack of economic growth.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0ca83bec-7c5d-11de-a7bf-00144feabdc0.html>

*See Also: Trade secretary sees Doha breakthrough by end 2009*, *Reuters*, July 24

India expects a breakthrough in the Doha round of trade talks by the end of 2009, even though it is not changing its stance, as the stalled negotiations are expected to gain momentum from September, trade secretary Rahul Khullar said.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/topNews/idINIndia-41288220090724?sp=true>

*See Also: Doha round: G-8 pledge to get a deal meets reality of negotiators struggling to make process, Chicago Tribune, July 24*

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-eu-wto-trade-talks.0.2128713.story>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's Travel to Africa, U.S. Department of State, July 27**

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will begin a seven-nation trip to Africa on August 5 at the 8th U.S. – Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (known as the AGOA Forum) in Nairobi, Kenya. This trip will highlight the Obama administration's commitment to making Africa a priority in U.S. foreign policy. This will be the earliest in any U.S. administration that both the President and the Secretary of State have visited Africa. While in Kenya, Secretary Clinton will discuss new approaches to development, including an emphasis on investment and broad-based economic growth. The Secretary will be joined in Kenya by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, and Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Johnnie Carson. During the visit to Kenya, the Secretary will deliver a speech at the Ministerial Opening Ceremony for the AGOA Forum, participate in bilateral meetings with Kenya's senior leaders, discuss global hunger and agricultural issues at a major research institute, and engage with Kenyan citizens.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/july/126522.htm>

*See Also: Clinton must strike right tone in Africa, Reuters, July 31*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed1/idUSN30389437>

*See Also: Agenda for the 8th U.S. – Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, July 30*

<http://www.agoaforumkenya.go.ke/images/stories/AGOA-Ministerial-Forum-Program-30-July-2009.pdf>

**Kerry, Lugar, Menendez, Corker Introduce Legislation To Reform Foreign Aid, Press Release, July 28**

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) and Ranking Member Dick Lugar (R-IN), along with Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Bob Corker (R-TN) introduced legislation ("The Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act of 2009, S.1524") aimed at initiating the foreign aid reform process. Senators James Risch (R-ID) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), also members of the Committee, joined as original cosponsors.

*Summary of The Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act of 2009, S.1524:*

- restores strategic thinking to USAID by reestablishing a bureau for policy and strategic planning;
- calls for strengthening the coordination of U.S. foreign aid in the field under the guidance of the USAID mission director;
- increases accountability and transparency of U.S. foreign aid programs by establishing an independent Council in the executive branch – the Council on Research and Evaluation of Foreign Assistance (CORE) – to objectively evaluate the impact and results of all development and foreign aid programs undertaken by the U.S. Government;
- strengthens personnel at USAID by mandating a comprehensive review of all aspects of human resources and establishing a high-level task force to advise on critical personnel issues.

<http://kerry.senate.gov/cfm/record.cfm?id=316356>

*See Also: Kerry offers bill to revamp foreign aid, Boston Globe, July 29*

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/07/29/kerry\\_offers\\_bill\\_to\\_revamp\\_foreign\\_aid/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/07/29/kerry_offers_bill_to_revamp_foreign_aid/)

**Holbrooke Says U.S. End to Afghan Drug Eradication Gets Results, Bloomberg, July 30**

The Obama administration's decision to stop eradicating drug crops in Afghanistan and increase funding for agricultural development is the "most well-received change of American policy" in the region, Richard Holbrooke said. Holbrooke said farmers had begun to understand that the U.S. was plowing hundreds of millions of dollars into developing the cultivation of lucrative legal crops and roads to marketplaces, providing alternatives that would allow them to abandon poppy cultivation.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=aqmxssVg5ji8#>

**U.S. and China sign memorandum on climate change,** *Reuters, July 28*

The United States and China, the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases, signed an agreement that promises more cooperation on climate change, energy and the environment without setting firm goals.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE56R4W320090728>

*See Also: U.S.-China Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment, U.S. Department of State, July 28*

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/july/126592.htm>

*See Also: U.S., China Progress on Climate Too Slow, Kerry Says, Bloomberg, July 29*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601130&sid=aSDsWpW9WSsI>

**"From L'Aquila to Copenhagen: Climate Change and Vulnerable Societies,"** *U.S. House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, July 23*

[http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing\\_notice.asp?id=1103](http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1103)

**"Climate Change and National Security,"** *Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment & Public Works, July 30*

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing\\_id=a9b14e35-802a-23ad-4c3f-77bca7f663e0](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_id=a9b14e35-802a-23ad-4c3f-77bca7f663e0)

The Honorable John Warner, United States Senator (Retired):

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=c8fd0cae-f523-4041-8325-7e3410265e8d](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=c8fd0cae-f523-4041-8325-7e3410265e8d)

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

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=1909f092-e750-4b29-b526-378ee5db1423](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=1909f092-e750-4b29-b526-378ee5db1423)

Jonathan Powers, Chief Operating Officer, Truman National Security Project:

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=d02d0aaa-3b6d-4747-8e3c-96e53eb551eb](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=d02d0aaa-3b6d-4747-8e3c-96e53eb551eb)

David B. Rivkin, Partner, Baker Hostetler:

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=a84ba74e-0b9d-4924-8ac5-ce156e9b931b](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=a84ba74e-0b9d-4924-8ac5-ce156e9b931b)

**"Toward A Comprehensive Strategy For Sudan,"** *Hearing for the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, July 30*

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/2009/hrg090730a.html>

Major General Scott Gration, USAF (Ret.), Special Envoy to Sudan:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/GrationTestimony090730a.pdf>

Earl Gast, Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/GastTestimony090730a.pdf>

The Honorable David Shinn, Adjunct Professor, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University: <http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/ShinnTestimony090730a.pdf>

Mohammed Ahmed Eisa, M.D., Sudan Organization for Rights and Peace-Building:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/EisaTestimony090730a.pdf>

Susan Page, Regional Director, Southern and East Africa Programs, National Democratic Institute:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/PageTestimony090730a.pdf>

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## NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

**Priorities for Realizing the Potential to Increase Agricultural Productivity and Growth in Western and Central Africa,** *Alejandro Nin-Pratt, Michael Johnson, Eduardo Magalhaes, Xinshen Diao, Liang You, and Jordan Chamberlin, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2009*

Authors identify a set of development priorities for agriculture that cut across West Africa, at both the country and the regional level, to achieve economy-wide growth goals in the region. Results indicate that the greatest agriculture-led growth opportunities in West Africa reside in staple crops (cereals as well as roots

and tubers) and livestock production. Rice is the commodity with the highest potential for growth and the one that could generate the greatest benefits for many countries.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00876.pdf>

**Origins of the Food Crisis in India and Developing Countries**, *Monthly Review*, July 2009

India has had a growing problem with food output and availability for the mass of the population since the inception of neoliberal economic reforms in 1991. A deep agricultural depression and rising unemployment rates resulting from “reform” policies have made the problem especially acute over the past decade. There has been a sharp decline in per capita grain output as well as grain consumption in the economy as a whole.

<http://www.monthlyreview.org/090727patnaik.php>

**Economywide Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *Alvaro Calzadilla, Tingju Zhu, Katrin Rehdanz, Richard S.J. Tol, and Claudia Ringler, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2009*

Two possible adaptation options to climate change for Sub-Saharan Africa are analyzed under the SRES B2 scenario. The first scenario doubles the irrigated area in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050, compared to the baseline, but keeps total crop area constant. The second scenario increases both rainfed and irrigated crop yields by 25 percent for all Sub-Saharan African countries. The efficacy of the two scenarios as adaptation measures to cope with climate change is discussed. Due to the limited initial irrigated area in the region, an increase in agricultural productivity achieves better outcomes than an expansion of irrigated area. Even though Sub-Saharan Africa is not a key contributor to global food production or irrigated food production, both scenarios help lower world food prices, stimulating national and international food markets.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00873.pdf>

**Fertilizer Subsidies in Africa: Are Vouchers the Answer?**, *Nicholas Minot and Todd Benson, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2009*

In the 1970s and 1980s, most African countries sold fertilizer at subsidized prices through state-owned enterprises. In response to the fiscal cost and ineffective implementation of these subsidies, as well as pressure from international financial institutions, almost all of these countries liberalized their fertilizer markets to some degree as part of structural adjustment programs carried out in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Now several factors have stimulated renewed interest in fertilizer subsidies in Africa. The fertilizer and seed subsidy program of the government of Malawi is credited with contributing to significant increases in that country’s maize harvest. African policymakers came together in 2006 at the African Fertilizer Summit and resolved that member states should grant “targeted subsidies in favor of the fertilizer sector.”

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/ib/ib60.pdf>

**Rebuilding Global Fisheries**, *Science*, July 31

After a long history of overexploitation, increasing efforts to restore marine ecosystems and rebuild fisheries are under way. Here, we analyze current trends from a fisheries and conservation perspective. In 5 of 10 well-studied ecosystems, the average exploitation rate has recently declined and is now at or below the rate predicted to achieve maximum sustainable yield for seven systems. Yet 63% of assessed fish stocks worldwide still require rebuilding, and even lower exploitation rates are needed to reverse the collapse of vulnerable species.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/325/5940/578>

**SEE ALSO: Fish will still be on the menu in 2048, if we are careful**, *The Times (U.K.)*, July 31

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6734078.ece>

**Broadening the Bilateral Seizing the Opportunity for Meaningful U.S.-China Collaboration on Climate Change**, *U.S. Committee on Foreign Relations*, July 21

The report recommends that the Obama administration pursue a robust climate change agreement with China during the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) this week. The content of the report outlines the latest climate change science, reviews domestic actions in China, identifies current areas of U.S.-China energy collaboration, and addresses ways to move the bilateral relationship forward.

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/docs/Opportunity%20for%20Meaningful%20US-China%20Collaboration%20on%20Climate%20Change.pdf>

**See Also: US, China must improve climate cooperation**, *The Washington Post*, July 23  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/23/AR2009072300147.html>

**A Green Process for Producing Biodiesel from Feather Meal**, *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, July 2009

This paper describes a new and environmentally friendly process for developing biodiesel from commercial feather meal, a waste product of the poultry industry. In this work, we have extracted fat from the feather meal in boiling water (70 °C) and then transesterified the fat into biodiesel using KOH and methanol; 7–11% biodiesel (on a dry basis) is produced in this process.

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/jf900140e>

**SEE ALSO: A Recipe for Biodiesel, Plucked From Poultry**, *The New York Times*, July 27

Those researchers in the department of chemical and materials engineering at the University of Nevada in Reno are at it again. Last year they showed the world that it was possible to make biodiesel fuel from coffee grounds. This time, it's chicken feathers.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/28/science/28obfeathers.html>

**The Corn and Climate Report: An overview of climate science in the service of Midwestern agriculture**, *U.S. Climate Science Program and the Iowa State University Climate Initiative*, July 2009

Unprecedented pressures now are being exerted on the productive potential and sustainable use of Midwest landscapes. Demands for more food, livestock feed, biobased feedstocks for manufacturing, and biobased alternatives to fossil fuels raise questions about increased production of traditional crops and introduction of new ones. And looming in the background is the prospect of climate change—both within the region and globally. Of particular interest to producers in the Midwest is the prospect for climate change or increased climate variability in regions producing commodity crops similar to those grown in the central US. This region clearly is important to the future of the nation in areas of food security, energy independence, and availability of fresh water.

<http://www.gpisd.net/vertical/Sites/{1510F0B9-E3E3-419B-AE3B-582B8097D492}/uploads/{1BED3562-05F9-4B43-B2AD-ED849D5157DD}.PDF>

**U.S. Agriculture: Retail Food Prices Grew Faster Than the Prices Farmers Received for Agricultural Commodities, but Economic Research Has Not Established That Concentration Has Affected These Trends**, *U.S. Government Accountability Office*, June 30

Over the past 25 years, farmers have received a decreasing share of the consumer food dollar. Some analysts and farm interest groups are concerned that this decline can be attributed, in part, to increasing concentration in agriculture. They believe that firms in highly concentrated markets may be able to exert market power by raising retail food prices while also depressing prices farmers receive for agricultural commodities. Others have argued that concentration has facilitated changes, such as technological innovations, that have improved productivity and served to lower food prices while increasing some farm incomes.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09746r.pdf>

**Soil and Water Conservation Technologies: A Buffer against Production Risk in the Face of Climate Change?**, *Edward Kato, Claudia Ringler, Mahmud Yesuf, and Elizabeth Bryan, International Food Policy Research Institute*, June 2009

This study investigates the impact of different soil and water conservation technologies on the variance of crop production in Ethiopia to determine the risk implications of the different technologies in different regions and rainfall zones. Given the production risks posed by climate change, such information can be used by decision makers to identify appropriate agricultural practices that act as a buffer against climate change.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00871.pdf>

**Juice From Concentrate: Reducing Emissions with Concentrating Solar Thermal Power**, *World Resources Institute*, May 2009

In a world of rising energy prices, security concerns, and climate change, the production of energy will need to change in fundamental ways. In the electricity sector, certain renewable energy sources appear ready for the mainstream, offering not just a solution to these challenges but an exciting opportunity for investment,

innovation, and job creation. This report examines Concentrating Solar Thermal power (CST), a renewable energy resource that presents policy-makers and investors with a significant potential for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector.

[http://pdf.wri.org/juice\\_from\\_concentrate.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/juice_from_concentrate.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

*Date:* September 14-18, 2009

*Location:* Guang Dong, China,

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

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

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

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

*Date:* October 14-16, 2009

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

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

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

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### **Report highlights hunger in India, *BBC News, July 31***

India is emerging as the world centre of hunger and malnutrition, a report by Indian campaign group, the Navdanya Trust, says. The trust says that there are more than 200 million people - or one-in-four Indians - going without enough to eat. The prominent environmentalist Vandana Shiva, who runs the trust, said there were now more hungry people in India than in sub-Saharan Africa.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8178072.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8178072.stm)

### **Disease Threatens Afghan Wheat Crop, *Inter Press Service, July 30***

Agronomists and crop experts fear that an aggressive disease that attacks wheat crops could soon reach Afghanistan, potentially threatening food security and initiatives to curb the cultivation of illicit crops. The Ug99 fungus, so named for its identification in Uganda in 1999, is a strain of black stem rust, a fungus that kills plants by leeching water and nutrients from them. Ug99 has devastated crops in Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan, and has more recently traveled to the Middle East, where its presence has been confirmed in Yemen and Iran.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47902>

### **Feeding Africa, *Editorial, The Guardian (U.K.), July 29***

Slowly the great World Bank tanker has been redirected to a new course. As much of sub-Saharan Africa faces drought, a failed harvest and hunger, the organization has come to recognize the urgency of investment in global agricultural productivity and, after two decades of neglect, the importance of governments in delivering it.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jul/29/world-bank-africa-agriculture>

**Scientists seek new tools to fight malnutrition**, *The Washington Post*, July 29

Three internationally known organizations based in St. Louis - the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, the Washington University School of Medicine and St. Louis Children's Hospital - have formed the Global Harvest Alliance. The partnership's aim is to create inexpensive, nutritionally complete food to help the world's hungry and undernourished. Alliance researchers will look broadly at the best approaches to fight malnutrition and focus on a few of them. They'll seek to improve enriched foods already used to treat malnourishment.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/29/AR2009072900527.html>

**A big chance for smallholders**, *Jeffrey Sachs, Op-Ed, The Guardian (U.K.)*, July 29

The G8's \$20bn initiative on smallholder agriculture, launched at the group's recent summit in L'Aquila, Italy, is a potentially historic breakthrough in the fight against hunger and extreme poverty. With serious management of the new funds, food production in Africa will soar. Indeed, the new initiative, combined with others in health, education and infrastructure, could be the greatest step so far toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed effort to reduce extreme poverty, disease and hunger by half by 2015.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jul/26/g8-agriculture-smallholding-aid>

**Chinese Agricultural Boom 'Holds Lessons for Continent'**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 29

Africa can learn lessons from China about how technology can make better use of fertile agricultural land to feed people, according to a new report. Technologies have driven this agricultural boom, says the report, and many of these are appropriate for Africa, particularly water-saving technologies and soil-related techniques such as tillage and planting methods and mulching. Chinese aquaculture methods could also be used in Africa.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907300721.html>

**Meager Monsoon Threatens Indian Growth**, *Wall Street Journal*, July 28

An unusually dry start to India's monsoon season is threatening to hurt agricultural output in an economy still hugely dependent on rural areas for growth. After India's driest June in 83 years, four of 28 provinces have declared drought, and many farmers don't have enough water to grow a full crop. More than half of Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state and a key rice and sugar cane-growing area, is suffering from drought. A poor crop yield could push up food prices, straining the government's budget and complicating the central bank's efforts to revive the economy without letting inflation get out of hand.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124867275575083055.html>

**'Pro-poor growth strategies must for food security'**, *Daily Times (Pakistan)*, July 28

Pakistan is gripped by poverty crisis, which has already driven people to acts of desperation and increasing food production alone will not ensure food security unless the destitute have enough income to buy the food they need, former minister, Sartaj Aziz, said this while delivering a lecture on "Food Security for the Poor" organized by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF).

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\07\28\story\\_28-7-2009\\_pg5\\_7](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\07\28\story_28-7-2009_pg5_7)

**Agriculture Can Lead Poverty Reduction**, *Inter Press Service*, July 28

The urban population has grown significantly over the last 30 years, creating new market opportunities as well as new challenges for agricultural production. Despite this, 41 percent of the overall population in West and Central Africa is classified as poor. Seventy-four percent of these – roughly 90 million - live in the rural areas. According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) small farmers have little say in the major decisions affecting their lives, and they are rarely consulted on key policy orientations or investments. Mohamed Béavogui, Director Western and Central Africa division at IFAD spoke to IPS about the uneven economic growth in the region and how to address the problem of agricultural production.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47854>

**India Developing Seeds That Can Withstand Extreme Weather**, *The Wall Street Journal*, July 27

India is developing gene varieties for rice and other seeds that can withstand extreme weather fluctuations such as droughts or floods lasting as long as two weeks, according to a senior scientist at the state-run Indian Council for Agricultural Research. This can potentially reduce the country's dependence on annual monsoon rains which are the only source of water for nearly 60% of India's farmlands and its vulnerability in times of excessive rains.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124869355684483463.html>

**Countries Join Initiative to Improve Their Prospects for Agricultural Development**, *The World Bank*, July 27

Delegations from eight developing African countries arrived in Addis Ababa this spring with a common goal – they wanted better results for their investments in agriculture. They left with a plan to measure the effectiveness of programs with the help of a new initiative that aims to find out what works on the ground, and what doesn't. The recent G8 meeting in Italy reiterated the importance of food security and expressed concern about the impact of financial crisis and high food prices in developing countries, as well as the longstanding underinvestment in agriculture.

<http://go.worldbank.org/85CT2ZASZ0>

**Donors reiterate support for food security in Yemen**, *Yemen News Agency*, July 27

The World Bank, the UN, the European Commission, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Britain, the United States and Japan also said they would support Yemen's efforts in establishing food security through conditional food materials for the poor as well as implementing food-for-labor programs in an attempt to assimilate large numbers of workers.

<http://www.sabanews.net/en/news190051.htm>

**Silent Food Crisis Crippling Kenya Slum**, *VOA News*, July 23

As international headlines draw attention to the political bickering among Kenya's leaders, a crisis almost entirely hidden from view is ravaging Nairobi's Kibera slum. A window into the lives of Kibera's schoolchildren reveals how the silent food crisis in Africa's largest slum is threatening an impoverished generation's future. Food prices have more than doubled in the past year, making the always-difficult survival of Kibera's population more challenging.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-07-23-voa38.cfm>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**President Obama's Agenda Needs Greater Focus on Global Development**, *Homi Kharas, Johannes F. Linn, Noam Unger, Brookings Institution*, July 2009

Given these challenges, it seems unfair to expect the Obama administration to add another priority to the agenda, but one item is critical: the international development agenda. A fractious Europe and an indecisive U.S. have left global development issues adrift. Progress on a range of topics like the Doha trade round and even climate change depends on restoring trust between developed and developing countries, but global leadership must come from the United States. Yet, there remain questions about whether the new administration is willing to attack bureaucratic and political obstacles to improved engagement with the developing world.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0722\\_obama\\_global\\_development\\_linn.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0722_obama_global_development_linn.aspx)

**In Fighting Radical Islam, Tricky Course for U.S. Aid**, *The Washington Post*, July 30

USAID does provide funds for faith-based organizations -- mostly Christian groups -- in instances in which it says the aid is strictly for secular purposes. But the line between secular and religious is often blurry. Last week, the USAID inspector general's office raised concerns about the agency spending more than \$325,000 to repair four mosques and adjoining buildings in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which was once an insurgent hub. USAID argued that most of the money went to repair facilities that provided jobs, social services, food and other basics for the needy. The agency noted that it had withheld payment of more than \$45,000 for mosque repairs because the contractor could not demonstrate that the work served a secular purpose.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/29/AR2009072903515.html>

**World falling short on emergency food aid, Reuters, July 29**

The world is falling far short in feeding its most critically hungry, pledging only \$3.7 billion of the \$6.7 billion needed to fund the World Food Programme for 2009, the head of the United Nations relief agency said. The agency has so far received only \$1.8 billion and has had to cut back rations and programs to the 108 million people it serves, said Josette Sheeran, its executive director.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN29291818>

**Germany injects over \$1 mln to Cambodia, Laos for fighting against hunger, Xinhua (China), July 29**

Fearing with the continued impact by global economic crisis, the government of Germany has provided another 1.3 million Euros (approximately 1.8 million U.S. dollars) to Cambodia and Laos to fight against hunger. The fund will help improve immediate food security and nutritional status of the Cambodian people while enhancing social stability through interventions in three priority areas: education, health and nutrition, and disaster risk reduction.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/29/content\\_11792996.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/29/content_11792996.htm)

**IMF Backs New Package To Support World's Poorest During Crisis, International Monetary Fund, July 29**

The IMF's Executive Board approved the package of measures that will sharply increase the loan resources available to low-income countries. The resources—including from the planned sale of IMF gold—are expected to boost the Fund's concessional lending to up to \$17 billion through 2014, including up to \$8 billion over the next two years. In addition, the IMF announced zero interest payments up to the end of 2011 for all concessional loans to low-income members and lower interest rates on a permanent basis thereafter. A new set of lending instruments will underpin this increased support.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2009/POL072909A.htm>

**SEE ALSO: IMF Says It Plans to Add Loan Aid to Poor Countries, The Wall Street Journal, July 30**

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124891705622892355.html>

**Douglas Alexander announces more support to Afghan government, DFID, July 27**

Douglas Alexander today outlined a total of £255m of UK development support for the Afghan government, spread over the next four years, at a press conference in Kabul. Douglas Alexander announced an immediate UK contribution of £60m to the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) for 2009 - 2010. He also announced £30m over 4 years towards the Afghan government's Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development Facility (CARD).

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2009/Douglas-Alexander-announces-more-development-support-to-Afghan-government/>

**In Defense of Aid, David Kambf, Op-Ed, The Epoch Times, July 25**

The effects of the Great Recession are not confined to rich countries. Developing countries—the governments often least able to provide domestic stimulus packages—are expecting remittances and foreign direct investment to fall. The United States can help. Foreign assistance that saves lives, alleviates hunger, fights diseases, and creates opportunities is in everyone's interest. Today's humanitarian concerns are often tomorrow's disasters, and aid costs less before crises erupt.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/20109/>

**China Fund To Expand Africa Ties, The Wall Street Journal, July 24**

The China-Africa Development Fund, which was founded by state-owned lender China Development Bank Corp., plans to raise \$2 billion by November to help expand business links between Africa and China, CDB Vice Governor Li Jiping said. Separately, China's Communist Party leaders vowed on Thursday to continue their focus on steady economic growth, carrying on with an active fiscal policy and moderately loose monetary policy in the second half.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124837830890476779.html>

**Land hunger eats into Kenya's fragile forest**, *Financial Times*, July 29

All three - cash crops, rivers and wildlife- are crucial to Kenya's long-term viability. But they are being starved of moisture because of the degradation of the Mau forest that serves as the drainage basin at the country's ecological heart. Its destruction by subsistence farmers is creating the kind of threat to development - slow-burning but potentially catastrophic - that Kenya's coalition government was formed to tackle after the country's violent post-election crisis last year.

[http://www.ftd.de/karriere\\_management/business\\_english/:Business-English-Land-hunger-eats-into-Kenya-s-fragile-forest/545382.html](http://www.ftd.de/karriere_management/business_english/:Business-English-Land-hunger-eats-into-Kenya-s-fragile-forest/545382.html)

**Rich Nations Vulnerable to Water Disasters**, *Inter Press Service*, July 28

The growing shortage of water - a perennial problem in the world's poorer nations - is expected to eventually reach the rich nations in the Western world. The United States, Spain, Australia and the Netherlands are likely to face the consequences of climate change resulting in water-related disasters, including droughts, floods, hurricanes and sea-level rise. "Even the world's richest nations are not immune," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47850>

**The EPA Opens the Door to Algae**, *The Wall Street Journal*, July 28

The renewable energy and law blog of Stoel Rives LLP, a big law firm in the western U.S, reports that the Environmental Protection Agency will count algae as an advanced biofuel under Renewable Fuel Standard rules being developed. Biofuels such as cellulosic ethanol, sugar-cane ethanol and even biodiesel were envisioned in the RFS - but algae was absent. Why do EPA's steps towards including algae matter? Because when Congress created its mandate to blend advanced biofuel into the fuel pool, it created a big market for these fuels. By 2012, the law mandates that two billion gallons of these advanced biofuels be blended, a figure that rises by tenfold by 2022.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/environmentalcapital/2009/07/28/really-green-fuel-the-epa-opens-the-door-to-algae/>

**India seeks help building low-CO2 future**, *Reuters*, July 28

India's booming economy has huge potential to shift to a low-carbon future but needs a little hand-holding by rich nations to keep it on the right path, a top Indian climate change negotiator said. About 500 million Indians, or about half the population, do not have access to electricity and relying on fossil fuels such as coal to expand the power grid was unsustainable and unwise, Dinesh Patnaik told Reuters in an interview. India needed to follow a different development path than rich nations' heavy reliance on coal, oil and gas.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE56R0F320090728>

**Human activity is driving Earth's 'sixth great extinction event'**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, July 28

Earth is experiencing its "sixth great extinction event" with disease and human activity taking a devastating toll on vulnerable species, according to a major review by conservationists. Much of the southern hemisphere is suffering particularly badly, and Australia, New Zealand and neighbouring Pacific islands may become the extinction hot spots of the world, the report warns.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/28/species-extinction-hotspots-australia>

**Acciona Wants in on Desertec Solar Project**, *The Wall Street Journal*, July 28

Europe's plan to tap the Sahara sun for clean electricity may still be just a notion—but it's an increasingly attractive one for some companies. Spain's Acciona, a big clean-energy player, said yesterday it wants to get into the Desertec Industrial Initiative, a \$500 billion project to put solar- and wind-power plants in North Africa to bring lots of clean energy to Europe.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/environmentalcapital/2009/07/28/desert-sun-acciona-wants-in-on-desertec-solar-project/>

**Kenya to build Africa's biggest windfarm**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, July 27

One of the hottest places in the world is set to become the site of Africa's most ambitious venture in the battle against global warming. Kenya's electricity is already very green by global standards. Nearly three-quarters of

KenGen's installed capacity comes from hydropower, and a further 11% from geothermal plants, which tap into the hot rocks a mile beneath the Rift Valley to release steam to power turbines.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/27/kenya-wind-farm>

**Failure of seasonal rains leads to hardship and malnutrition in Madagascar**, *Relief Web, July 27*

Almost every farmer in the three drought-affected regions of southern Madagascar has lost crops. In the last 20 years, the average annual rainfall here has fallen from 111 ml to a mere 27.5 ml. While droughts used to be the exception, occurring perhaps once every 10 years, now they're the norm – and so is malnutrition among thousands of children throughout the drought affected area.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-7UCSVJ?OpenDocument>

**Water crisis uproots Syrian farmers**, *Reuters, July 27*

Syria's worst drought in decades has displaced hundreds of thousands of people and raised calls for a coordinated water policy for the Middle East as the region faces a dryer climate and water supplies depleted by damming and water well drilling. Mohammed Okla is among an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 Syrian farmers and their families who in the past three years have been forced to abandon their land due to drought, according to a recent United Nations study.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE56Q1T820090727>

**A New Strategic and Economic Dialogue with China**, *Secretaries Hillary Clinton and Timothy Geithner, Op-Ed, The Wall Street Journal, July 27*

A second priority is to make progress on the interconnected issues of climate change, energy and the environment. Our two nations need to establish a true partnership to put both countries on a low-carbon pathway, simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions while promoting economic recovery and sustainable development. The cross-cutting nature of our meetings offers a unique opportunity for key American officials to meet with their Chinese counterparts to work on the global issue of climate change. In the run-up to the international climate change conference in Copenhagen in December, it is clear that any agreement must include meaningful participation by large economies like China.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204886304574308753825396372.html>

**The Pentagon Strives to Tuck in Its Long Logistics 'Tail'**, *The New York Times, July 27*

Electricity from garbage, water from exhaust fumes: These could be the future fuel and drink of U.S. military combat soldiers. The ultimate goal is a "zero footprint" camp that would leave no waste behind and would reduce water and fuel coming in.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2009/07/27/27climatewire-the-pentagon-strives-to-tuck-in-its-long-log-39016.html>

**Spotlight on Russia's Role in Climate Control**, *The New York Times, July 26*

Russia's energy intensity — an economic concept used to describe, roughly, the amount of energy a country burns through to achieve a unit of gross domestic product — is double that of the United States, more than double the world's average, and three times as much as in Japan and most countries in Europe. And yet, for all that, Russia has remained rather out of view amid the furious global hunt for an agreement — any agreement — on just how to fairly distribute the economic burden of greenhouse gas reduction and, perhaps, curb the steady march of global warming.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/27/business/energy-environment/27iht-green27.html>

**Revealed: the secret evidence of global warming Bush tried to hide**, *The Guardian (U.K.), July 26*

Graphic images that reveal the devastating impact of global warming in the Arctic have been released by the US military. The photographs, taken by spy satellites over the past decade, confirm that in recent years vast areas in high latitudes have lost their ice cover in summer months. The pictures, kept secret by Washington during the presidency of George W Bush, were declassified by the White House last week.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/26/climate-change-obama-administration>

**EU considers billions for poor before climate talks**, *Reuters, July 25*

Rich countries should immediately mobilize billions of dollars in development aid to the poorest nations to win their trust in the run-up to global climate talks in Copenhagen, a draft EU report says. OECD countries should also fulfill their existing commitments on overseas aid, which would more than double those aid flows to poor nations to around \$280 billion annually by 2015, it added.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idINTRE56000U20090725>

**Waning Pacific Clouds Suggest Global Warming Feeds Upon Itself**, *Bloomberg*, July 24

fewer clouds dot the Pacific skies than a half-century ago, allowing the sun to beat down on the sea and raise temperatures, according to scientists who say the discovery means our planet may heat up more than forecast. A self-perpetuating cycle, triggered by global warming, has appeared in weather data gathered from 1952 to 2007 over a 3 million-square-kilometer (740,000 square-mile) expanse of ocean off Mexico, Amy Clement of the University of Miami and colleagues wrote in this week's edition of *Science*.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601130&sid=a6EvbLkU1w6w>

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## GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

**World Bank warns of growing risks in poor countries**, *Reuters*, July 28

The global economic crisis could have a "disastrous" impact on health and school projects in the developing world unless rich nations spend a tiny fraction of stimulus measures to help the poor, a World Bank official said. Marwan Muasher, the World Bank's senior vice president for external affairs, said that although there were some signs in global markets the economic meltdown might be bottoming out poor nations were now starting to feel the worst of the crisis. Muasher said the crisis had pushed 90 million more people into poverty worldwide, most of them in the developing world, and that 30 million jobs had been lost.

<http://alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LS535306.htm>

**Top UN Asia-Pacific official pushes for pooling of fiscal resources to beat recession**, *UN News Service*, July 28

Large-scale government stimulus packages are closed off to many nations across Asia and the Pacific, the top United Nations official for the region told a gathering of senior finance and central bank representatives, promoting a cooperative approach to jump-starting economies out of the global recession.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31609&Cr=escap&Cr1=pacific>

**Developing nations shine in the crisis gloom**, *Financial Times*, July 27

It has been a good year for emerging markets. That may seem an odd statement, given the severity of the global recession and the uncertainty – in spite of recent rallies – that still hangs over the financial markets as the second anniversary of the credit crisis approaches.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e22cc8c2-7ac9-11de-8c34-00144feabdc0.html>

**South Africa council workers strike, services crippled**, *The Washington Post*, July 27

Thousands of South African council workers went on strike on Monday to press for wage hikes, crippling public services in Africa's biggest economy and piling political pressure on new President Jacob Zuma. The industrial action is being seen as more muscle flexing from the ruling ANC government's labor union allies, who have called for increased social spending to cushion workers from the country's first recession in 17 years.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/27/AR2009072700423.html>

**African Economic Outlook 2009**, *AllAfrica.com*, July 27

The collapse of commodity prices and plummeting demand from OECD countries will have an adverse effect on Africa's budget balances, with the regional budget deficit for 2009 predicted to be around 5.5 per cent of GDP compared to a surplus of 3.4 predicted in the AEO one year ago. On a positive note, the 2009 AEO notes that Africa is better positioned to weather the crisis than it was ten years ago. Many countries have undergone prudent macroeconomic reforms in the past few years which have strengthened fiscal balances and reduced inflation to single-digit levels.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200907271262.html>

## WOMEN

**The Effects of Political Reservations for Women on Local Governance and Rural Service Provision: Survey Evidence from Karnataka**, Katharina Raabe, Madhushree Sekher, and Regina Birner, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, July 2009

This paper aims to qualify and quantify the role of political reservation policies for women as a determinant of rural service provision and local governance and seeks to identify the social, economic, and institutional factors that constrain effective local governance and rural service provision beyond the women's reservation effect.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00878.pdf>

**Call for women to play greater role in agriculture**, *The Irish Times*, July 30

More must be done here to improve the representation of women in the decision-making process for agriculture and rural policy, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers conference in Dublin has been told. Mary Sherry, chairwoman of the farm family and social affairs committee of the Irish Farmers' Association, told delegates that Irish women were also under represented in farm ownership, despite playing a vital role in the workforce.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/0730/1224251670147.html>

**Moves to Improve Enrolment of Girls in School**, *Graphic Ghana (Ghana)*, July 29

The Girls Education Unit of the Ghana Education Service (GES) has adopted a number of strategies and programmes to improve girls' enrolment and retention in school. The strategies are being implemented in collaboration with the country's development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to "increase access of girls to the full cycle of education".

<http://www.graphicghana.com/news/page.php?news=3168>

**80,000 destitute women being made self reliant through training and cash**, *The New Nation (Bangladesh)*, July 28

Eighty thousand destitute rural women are under the process of becoming self reliant through "Vulnerable Group Development for Ultra-Poor (VGDUP) project" providing food security, cash support and livelihood trainings. The initiative was taken by the Department of Women Affairs under the Ministry of Women and Children affairs through one of its project styled 'Vulnerable Group Development for Ultra-Poor (VGDUP) with the financial support of European Commission. The two-year project, started from May this year, is being implementing at 36 upazilas in eight districts.

<http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2009/07/28/news0151.htm>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**Why is the Doha Development Agenda Failing? And What Can be Done? A Computable General Equilibrium-Game Theoretical Approach**, Antoine Bouët and David Laborde, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, July 2009

The authors use a world Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model to simulate 143 potential trade reforms and seek solutions to the issues hampering progress in the Doha Development Agenda (DDA).

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00877.pdf>

SEE ALSO: **Agricultural Trade Liberalization and Poverty in Brazil**, Joachim Bento de Souza Ferreira Filho, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, July 2009

This paper addresses the potential effects of a world agricultural trade liberalization scenario on poverty and regional income distribution in Brazil, using an interregional applied general equilibrium (AGE) and microsimulation model of Brazil, tailored for income distribution and poverty analysis.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00874.pdf>

**New Underwater Cable Expected to Boost African Development**, *VOA News*, July 28

Last week brought good news to Internet users in East and Southern Africa: a new optic fiber cable came on line connecting South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique not only to each other, but also to Europe and India. Plans are underway to include Rwanda and Ethiopia and eventually countries in the interior of the continent. The new system could help boost trade and other ties with African countries and with other parts of the developing world, say Seacom officials.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-07-28-voa22.cfm>

**What Works, What Doesn't, In Rural Finance**, *Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Op-Ed, The Wall Street Journal*, July 27

Typically, all our franchisees are people whose families have resided in the area for several generations and who know most of the people residing in the village and are also known to people in the surrounding areas. This strategy helped us achieve financial inclusion of the rural masses while creating a new breed of local entrepreneurs who could bring financial products and services closer to the villagers. With continuous training, we converted our local partners into our brand ambassadors, advising locals on financial investments and selling them appropriate financial products in an extremely beneficial manner.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124866998516583063.html>

**A Humane Trade Reform**, *Michael Gerson, Op-Ed, The Washington Post*, July 24

Fortunately, after a fling with union-pleasing protectionism during his campaign, President Obama has largely adopted the pro-trade consensus of his predecessors. He has signaled support for bilateral trade agreements with South Korea and Panama, and openness to a pact with Colombia. At the recent Group of Eight meeting in Italy, he joined other leaders in calling for the conclusion of a global trade deal in 2010 to comprehensively reduce tariffs and quotas. But even in the absence of a global trade agreement, America has a responsibility to fix its tariff system -- a system that often punishes the poor.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/23/AR2009072302631.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**Biotechnology could hold the key to the country's food security**, *Business World*, July 30

In a speech during the Food Industry Summit in Makati, Emil Q. Javier, president of the National Academy of Science and Technology, said that biotechnology is an essential tool that can help the government and private sectors clinch food security. Biotechnology is defined as any biology-based technology that uses microorganisms or their parts to make or modify products or improve plants, animals and microorganisms.

<http://www.bworldonline.com/BW073009/content.php?id=121>

**Agriculture planting seeds in fertile investment soil**, *Business Times (New Zealand)*, July 25

Agriculture is predicted to become the investment favorite of the future as the world recovers from its economic slump and global food security becomes a major concern for both developed and emerging countries. Standard Bank believes the increased interest will bring fresh potential investment possibilities to the sector — especially as land is a tangible asset, as opposed to a virtual one, he said. As the world recovers from the crisis, all countries will have to increase investment in agriculture to help rebuild economies.

<http://www.thetimes.co.za/Business/BusinessTimes/Article1.aspx?id=1039382>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*