

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



July 30th – August 6th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“The Feed the Future Initiative is an example of the Obama Administration’s new focus on local solutions and greater regional integration. It is a comprehensive effort to address the root causes of hunger and poverty by investing in country-led plans such as those in Rwanda and Ghana that are completing the African Union’s comprehensive agriculture development program process. Regional integration makes it easier to shift food from areas that have a surplus to those with shortages, increasing availability and reducing volatility of prices. And greater regional market access for things like seeds, fertilizers, and crops also increases producers’ incentives to make sustained investments in agricultural technologies. So through Feed The Future, we are supporting efforts such as ECOWAS’s regional agriculture development and food security investment plan, while working with you to streamline trade corridors in Western Africa. We will make additional investments in other country and regional plans that prioritize the expansion of intra-regional trade so these benefits can be more widely shared.”* – U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Remarks at the 2010 AGOA Forum on U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation, August 3, 2010

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

Remarks by the President at Town Hall with Young African Leaders, President Barack Obama, White House, August 3

“And so I think that your generation is poised to ask those questions, ‘Why not?’ Why shouldn’t Africa be self-sustaining agriculturally? There’s enough arable land that if we restructure how agriculture and markets work in Africa, not only could most countries in Africa feed themselves, but they could export those crops to

help feed the world. Why not? If farmers have so many middlemen to get their crops to market that they're making pennies when ultimately their crops are being sold for \$10, over time that stifles agricultural development in a country. So what we want to do is make sure that in our interactions with your governments, we are constantly emphasizing this issue of good governance because I have confidence that you'll be able to figure out what changes need to be made in your country."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-town-hall-with-young-african-leaders>

See Also: Fact Sheet: The President's Engagement in Africa, *White House, August 3*

Feed the Future: In 2009, President Obama announced a \$3 billion global food security initiative that has the support of the world's major and emerging donor nations. To date, the United States has led international efforts to review nine comprehensive country strategies, commit new resources in support of those strategies, collaborate in the establishment and initial capitalization of the World Bank-led Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, and launch a new research and development program.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/fact-sheet-presidents-engagement-africa>

Remarks at the 2010 AGOA Forum On U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation,

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, Ronald Reagan Building, August 3

"The Feed the Future Initiative is an example of the Obama Administration's new focus on local solutions and greater regional integration. It is a comprehensive effort to address the root causes of hunger and poverty by investing in country-led plans such as those in Rwanda and Ghana that are completing the African Union's comprehensive agriculture development program process. Regional integration makes it easier to shift food from areas that have a surplus to those with shortages, increasing availability and reducing volatility of prices. And greater regional market access for things like seeds, fertilizers, and crops also increases producers' incentives to make sustained investments in agricultural technologies. So through Feed The Future, we are supporting efforts such as ECOWAS's regional agriculture development and food security investment plan, while working with you to streamline trade corridors in Western Africa. We will make additional investments in other country and regional plans that prioritize the expansion of intra-regional trade so these benefits can be more widely shared."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/08/145647.htm>

See Also: Clinton Rues Africa Corruption, Trade Barriers, *Reuters, August 4*

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE67301X20100804>

Russia, Crippled by Drought, Bans Grain Exports, *New York Times, August 5*

Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin banned all exports of grain after millions of acres of Russian wheat withered in a severe drought, driving up prices around the world and pushing them to their highest level in two years in the United States.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/06/world/europe/06russia.html>

See Also: Russia grain export ban sparks price fears, *Financial Times, August 6*

Wheat prices extended their rally on Friday, surging another 6 per cent, after Russia on Thursday imposed a ban on grain exports, triggering panic in commodities markets and sending wheat prices to their highest level since the 2007-08 global food crisis. Wheat prices were heading towards a 25 per cent increase on the week, opening the door to a sharp increase in the price of everyday staples such as bread and flour.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b064cd1c-a129-11df-bdea-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Wheat Rots in India as World Prices at 2 Year High, *Associated Press, August 6*

A wheat stockpile in India that could feed 210 million people for a year is starting to spoil because the government lacks enough warehouses to store it — a lightning rod for local discontent that could send ripples through the world market for the grain. According to a government estimate obtained by The Associated Press, 17.8 million metric tons of wheat are exposed to the elements — stored outdoors, under tarps in India's pounding monsoon rains. The wheat could alleviate hunger in a nation where one in two children are malnourished. Instead it is going to the dogs. As it wastes, it promises to drive global wheat prices, up 78 percent since June, even higher.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gmtN3s8IhJLFMkAHedGBIE0JMRqwD9HE09S80>

See Also: Heat Wave and Drought Shrivels Harvests Across Europe, *Wall Street Journal, August 4*

The scorching temperatures and dry skies threatening Russia's wheat harvests have also been beating down on Western Europe, which is forecasting lower output of crops from French wheat to Italian tomatoes.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703545604575406744149559092.html>

See Also: Russia to Ask Kazakhstan, Belarus to Freeze Grain Exports, *International Business Times*, August 5

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/41272/20100805/russia-to-ask-kazakhstan-belarus-to-freeze-grain-exports.htm>

See Also: Bad Russian Wheat Harvest Boosts US Farmers, *Associated Press*, August 3

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iRQmzLG9AP1gPvHix66NrUd8Rt_QD9HBK_U2G0

See Also: Russia Bans Grain Exports Because of Fire and Drought, Sending Prices Soaring, *Washington Post*, August 6

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/05/AR2010080502470.html>

Food Fund to Release \$120 mln in October – Official, *Reuters*, July 31

A global fund to boost agricultural investment in the world's poor countries will release about \$120 million in October to states who qualify, a senior U.S. Treasury said. Treasury Under-Secretary Lael Brainard said more than 25 countries are expected to ask for funding from under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE66U04320100731>

See Also: Europe Asked to Step Up to the Plate in Hunger Fight, *Agence France-Presse*, August 4

European nations were urged to step up to the plate and contribute to a new fund tackling global hunger and poverty following increased demand for assistance. The call came as envoys from more than a dozen African countries discussed prospective aid from the fund, known as the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP).

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jX7boT6k_WPEdGmN7ynFWCVqLk0g

Investing in Game Changers, *Rajiv Shah, Administrator, US Agency for International Development and John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, Huffington Post*, August 4

President Obama understands the importance of science, technology, and innovation for global development, and he has provided much-needed leadership in this area. The President's forthcoming global development policy directive will support investment in game-changing innovation for health, green energy, agriculture, and other development applications. And the Administration's signature development initiatives - the Global Health Initiative and the Feed the Future food security initiative - include strong applied research and innovation components, which can be powerful force multipliers to accelerate progress toward reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rajiv-shah/investing-in-game-changer_b_670538.html

The Chronically Hungry Deserve Support to Achieve Food Security, *Professor Sir Gordon Conway, Imperial College London, Financial Times*, August 5

African governments are increasing their own pledges under the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) to allocate 10 per cent of national budgets to agricultural development, and some 22 countries have signed CAADP compacts outlining development plans. They deserve support, not least because agricultural gross domestic product has grown in recent years in many African countries and there are numerous stories of successful agricultural development projects in Africa. They cannot achieve food security alone, but with help they can.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/166f130e-a023-11df-81eb-00144feabdc0.html>

Investing in Girls' and Women's Education: A Smart Strategy for Development in Africa, *Robert Hormats, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs, Huffington Post*, August 3

Educating women isn't just a moral imperative; it makes good business sense. The more education a woman has, the more likely she is to be more productive in her work -- and, one hopes, to start her own business. A good education increases the chances that women entrepreneurs will make the transition from start-ups to established businesses. Having lived in East Africa and having traveled throughout the continent, I have seen

the hard work women in Africa do on their farms and in the market. Education enables women to better fulfill their aspirations in whatever they do. And, after educating them, we need to provide them with opportunities for skills enhancement and networking so they continue to advance to higher positions.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bob-hormats/investing-in-girls-and-wo_b_668658.html

Food for Thought in the Sahel, *Op-Ed, Raymond C. Offenheiser, president, Oxfam America, The Hill, July 30*

Today, she is one of the 10 million people across Niger, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and parts of northern Nigeria facing devastating hunger. Farmers everywhere know that any year could be a bad year. Sometimes they are lucky, other times they are not. Last year's harvest was particularly bad in the region, known as the Sahel. In this crisis as in others, children under the age of 5 are the most vulnerable, with thousands suffering from hunger so severe that it often ends in death. Despite plenty of warnings of a looming crisis, aid has been too little and too slow to arrive. Donors have so far provided only 25 percent of what aid agencies estimate is needed. The U.S. is leading the way, so far providing \$100 million to meet emergency food needs in the region.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/111841-food-for-thought-in-the-sahel->

See Also: International Aid Group Calls for Urgent Action in Niger Food Crisis, *Voice of America, July 30*

The U.N. World Food Program has extended food aid to eight million people in Niger, but aid workers say the program still needs funding and assistance may come too late for some families hit by severe food shortages.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/International-Aid-Group-Calls-for-Urgent-Action-in-Niger-Food-Crisis-99627264.html>

Safe Farming, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, August 6*

One of the most debilitating consequences of the neglect of agriculture development over the past three decades is that African farmers, alone among farmers of the world, have been left to bear 100% of the risk of a very risky business. If a crop fails in the U.S. or in much of the rich world, someone – the government or an insurance company – writes a check. If a crop fails in Africa, people die.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/08/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-safe-farming.html>

Can Science Feed the Future?, *Nature, August 2010*

<http://www.nature.com/news/specials/food/index.html#features>

How to feed a hungry world

Producing enough food for the world's population in 2050 will be easy. But doing it at an acceptable cost to the planet will depend on research into everything from high-tech seeds to low-tech farming practices.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v466/n7306/full/466531a.html>

The growing problem

World hunger remains a major problem, but not for the reasons many suspect. Nature analyses the trends and the challenges of feeding 9 billion by 2050.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100728/full/466546a.html>

Inside the hothouses of industry

Feeding the world is going to require the scientific and financial muscle of agricultural biotechnology companies. Natasha Gilbert asks whether they're up to the task.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100728/full/466548a.html>

An underground revolution

Plant breeders are turning their attention to roots to increase yields without causing environmental damage. Virginia Gewin unearths some promising subterranean strategies.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100728/full/466552a.html>

The global farm

With its plentiful sun, water and land, Brazil is quickly surpassing other countries in food production and exports. But can it continue to make agricultural gains without destroying the Amazon?

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100728/full/466554a.html>

Monitoring the world's agriculture

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/full/466558a.html>

Regulation must be revolutionized

Unjustified and impractical legal requirements are stopping genetically engineered crops from saving millions from starvation and malnutrition, says Ingo Potrykus.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v466/n7306/full/466561a.html>

Fears over Europe's GM crop plan

A proposal to let nations opt out of growing European-approved GM varieties is under fire from all sides.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100728/full/466542a.html>

See Also: Poverty and Lack of Research Block Path to a Well-Fed World, *New York Times*, August 5

I'm catching up with a great package of reports, commentary and analysis in the July 28th edition of the journal *Nature* on the challenging, but entirely doable, task of feeding roughly 9 billion people by midcentury (and doing so without using up the last patches of arable land). One of the best things about the package is that most of the content is freely accessible, as was the case with [an important paper on feeding the world](#) in the competing journal *Science* in February.

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/05/poverty-and-lack-of-research-block-path-to-a-well-fed-world/>

Agricultural Prices, *National Agricultural Statistics Service*, July 30

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/AgriPric//2010s/2010/AgriPric-07-30-2010.pdf>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks at the President's Forum with Young African Leaders, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, Loy Henderson Auditorium, August 3*

"We want to help you modernize how you deliver and create clean energy, how you get more value for agriculture which is still the life blood and the source of income for most people in sub-Saharan Africa. We want to support women and girls to be full participants in their communities and countries. We want to respond to food scarcity and soaring food prices and growing populations with a multi-billion dollar initiative to help eradicate hunger and achieve food security. We want to join with you to fight against climate change, which will be devastating to Africa."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/08/145623.htm>

Remarks by Ambassador Kirk on AGOA and U.S. Investment in Sub-Saharan Africa, *Ambassador Ron Kirk, Office of the United States Trade Representative, August 2*

"To complement the market access provided by AGOA, the United States has invested substantial support for trade capacity building and technical assistance to help African nations make the most of AGOA. Since 2001, the U.S. trade capacity building assistance to sub-Saharan Africa has totaled \$3.3 billion, including \$733 million in FY2009 alone. In addition, the President has pledged at least \$3.5 billion over three years for investment in sustainable agricultural development under the 'Feed the Future' food security initiative. The United States will also continue to work toward a market-opening conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/august/remarks-ambassador-kirk-agoa-and-us-investmen>

See Also: African Exporters Seek a Connection in U.S., *Op-Ed, Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Kansas City Star, August 2*

The United States recognizes Africa's growing strategic importance in agriculture and will be providing assistance under the president's Feed the Future agricultural initiative to help a dozen African countries develop their production and distribution capacity. This will mean opportunities

for American companies to sell seed, fertilizer, specialized farm machinery and agricultural processing equipment. It is also an opportunity for large American agricultural-industrial companies to make strategic trade and investment relationships. Given Africa's limited road and rail infrastructure, transportation is another sector that has enormous potential for growth.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2010/08/02/2124046/african-exporters-seek-a-connection.html>

See Also: U.S.-African Trade Profile, *U.S. International Trade Administration, July 2009*

http://www.agoa.gov/build/groups/public/@agoa_main/documents/webcontent/agoa_main_002890.pdf

See Also: U.S. Trade with Sub-Saharan Africa, January-December 2009

http://www.agoa.gov/build/groups/public/@agoa_main/documents/webcontent/agoa_main_002917.pdf

See Also: U.S. Trade with Sub-Saharan Africa, U.S. Imports and Exports, 2010

http://www.agoa.gov/agoa_main_002916.asp

See Also: United States, West African Economic and Monetary Union Hold Sixth Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council Meeting, *Office of the United States Trade Representative, August 4*

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/august/united-states-west-african-economic-and-monetary-un>

USAID and African Union Sign Assistance Agreement, *Press Release, US Agency for International Development, August 3*

As part of President Obama's commitment to partner with and strengthen African institutions, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the African Union signed their first long-term assistance agreement to advance prosperity, peace, and stability in Africa. The agreement extends through 2013 and covers programs worth approximately \$5.8 million through FY 2011. USAID and the AU are working together in several sectors, including democracy and governance, as well as support for agriculture and food security through the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), one of USAID's key partners in the Feed the Future Initiative.

http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100803_3.html

Agriculture Key to Food Security, *James Miller, Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA Blog, August 5*

Public-private partnerships provide farmers technical assistance to form cooperatives, improve production, or storage and handling, and these practices and information can be passed on to future generations and larger groups. Through sustainable food programs that continue years after U.S. funding has ended, such as USDA's McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program, the U.S. will increasingly seek new ways of using private money, businesses and trade to help struggling countries become self-sufficient in feeding their people.

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2010/08/05/agriculture-key-to-food-security/#more-28134>

See Also: U.S. Official: Poor Nations Must Learn to Grow Food, *Associated Press, August 5*

A top U.S. agriculture official says governments and international aid organizations need to do more than just give food to the world's hungry. Agriculture Department Undersecretary James Miller says it's crucial to help people in poor countries develop the means to feed themselves consistently.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gO5nc-IHnpfWQa0TRvsNZLoz5j7gD9HCR9UG4>

See Also: Agriculture, Food Security Are Major Focus of AGOA 2010, *U.S. Department of State, July 30*

Agriculture is closely linked to economic growth and development in sub-Saharan Africa, says Jim Miller, the under secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Miller said USDA is coordinating with other federal agencies to improve U.S.-Africa trade under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and increase food security, economic growth and development throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.america.gov/st/develop-english/2010/July/20100730140546SztiwomoD0.1583521.html>

Briefing On Pakistan Flooding, *Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, August 4*

ADMINISTRATOR SHAH: "In the area of providing food, we're working with the World Food Program and others to provide up to 150,000 families two to three months of immediate food support and relief, as part of what will be a larger scale effort in addition to the short-term effort to provide halal meals ready-to-eat through our military. We're providing water units that will reach more than 60,000 families immediately, and it is important to note that we believe the establishment of a disease early warning system to track and make sure that we do not have subsequent public health spread – public health diseases that spread in this critical time period is important as part of an effort to protect the Pakistani people."

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/08/145693.htm>

Promoting Agricultural Exports: Reviewing U.S. Agricultural Trade Policy and the Farm Bill's Trade Title, *Hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee, August 4*

<http://ag.senate.gov/site/calendar.html>

Ron Kirk, U.S. Trade Representative: "Despite the recent global economic downturn, U.S. agricultural exports have continued to expand, more than doubling from about \$50 billion in fiscal year 2000 to a projected \$105 billion for fiscal year 2010. Last year, America exported \$97 billion in agricultural products, supporting a \$23 billion agricultural trade surplus. Every \$1 billion in agriculture exports supports roughly 8,000 jobs in the United States. The Obama Administration is committed to strengthening American agricultural exports and supporting the jobs that come with them."

http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=201

See Also: Long-Term Jobs, Economic Growth, *Senate Agriculture Committee, August 4*

U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, D- Ark., Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, underscored the need to create thousands of long-term jobs and expand U.S. agricultural exports by relaxing trade and travel restrictions with Cuba.

http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2113&Itemid=2

See Also: Sen. Chambliss: Robust Trade Agenda Benefits American Agriculture, *Senate Agriculture Committee, August 4*

"The Doha Round is at an impasse and has been for some time," said Sen. Chambliss. "It is due in no small part to what Ambassador Kirk notes as the continued resistance of some members to engage in sustained and meaningful negotiations. Let me state unequivocally that the deal on the table is insufficient and unbalanced from the perspective of the Congress."

http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2111&Itemid=71

See Also: Trade, Travel with Cuba the Right Policy, Right Now, *Op-Ed, Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), chairman, House Agriculture Committee, The Hill, July 29*

This bill is essential and timely because Cuba relies on agricultural imports for the majority of its food needs. Between 2000 and 2006, these imports almost doubled. U.S. producers can reach Cuban ports in one day or less, compared to the more than 25 days it takes Brazil, whose exports to Cuba have nearly tripled since 2005, and European countries. Exports from Canada and New Zealand have each doubled. It is time we get out of our own way and boost the U.S. economy with new markets for the agricultural products we produce best.

<http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/111741-trade-travel-with-cuba-the-right-policy-right-now>

USAID Needs Full Leadership Team Now, *Op-Ed, Sarah Jane Staats, Global Post, August 5*

More than a year-and-a-half after United States President Barack Obama was sworn into office, 12 management jobs at the U.S. Agency for International Development still require Senate confirmation. To date, only one official — USAID Administrator Raj Shah — has been confirmed. While Shah has skilled and capable leaders in his front office and throughout the agency, several of whom have been doing yeoman's work in acting positions, it is unconscionable that all remaining management seats remain unfilled 18 months into this administration. Shah cannot captain the USAID ship without a crew.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/worldview/100805/USAID-global-development-barack-obama>

See Also: USAID Getting Staffed Up – Finally, *The Cable (blog), Foreign Policy, August 5*

More than a year and a half into Barack Obama's administration, the leadership of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is taking shape, with another top official named this week.

President Obama announced his intention to nominate Nancy Lindborg to be assistant administrator

for USAID's Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Affairs Bureau. Meanwhile, two other assistant secretary nominees for USAID also moved forward in the confirmation process this week. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the nominations of Mark Feierstein and Nisha Desai Biswal to be assistant administrators for Latin America and Asia, respectively.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/08/05/usaid_getting_staffed_up_finally

See Also: President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts, *White House, August 5*

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/08/05/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts-8510>

Communique from the 10th AGOA Civil Society Forum, *U.S. Civil Society Coalition for African Trade and Investment, July 30*

U.S.-Africa agriculture trade has expanded from US\$508 million in 2000 to US\$770 million in 2009 and shows tremendous potential to expand more if supportive policies and programs were put in place. For example, current U.S. policy maintains tariff rate quotas (TRQs) on key agricultural products, including sugar, tobacco and peanuts, and thereby limits trade in products that hold immediate trade potential for a number of countries. Modest expansion in agricultural trade also has come despite the fact that there is confusion over which U.S. government agency to consult in gaining the information necessary to navigate U.S. government regulations concerning agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture trade. Additionally, private sector and government support for agricultural exports are considered vital to successfully surmounting current obstacles such as a lack of clean water, consistent power, viable road systems, international air and sea linkages and cold storage facilities.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201008030195.html>

U.S. Commitment to Africa: AGOA and Beyond, *Daniel Yohannes, CEO, Millennium Challenge Corporation, August 3*

“It is our hope that—at this AGOA forum here in Washington and, for the first time, in Kansas City—participants will propose fresh innovations for improving Africa’s ability to compete in the global market and increase its share of regional and world trade. The only sector in which AGOA trade has increased over the past decade is agriculture, and we believe there is potential for even greater trade in this area. That is why we are linking Africa’s agriculture and transportation entrepreneurs with their U.S. counterparts in Kansas City, in America’s agricultural heartland. The move to Kansas City is both symbolic and practical. We need to generate new ideas and facilitate deeper links between African and U.S. commercial sectors.”

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/speeches/speech-080310-dwyatagoa.shtml>

Remarks With Nigerian Foreign Minister Henry Odein Ajumogobia, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, August 5*

“When I visited Nigeria last year, I saw firsthand the strength and determination of the Nigerian people, their absolute commitment to achieving a stable and democratic future even amidst a lot of challenges. The Nigerian people deserve a responsible government that rejects corruption, enforces the rule of law, respects human rights, and works on behalf of the betterment of the Nigerian people. That is the driving principle behind the U.S.-Nigerian Binational Commission. We are focusing on four critical areas: good governance and transparency, energy reform and investment, regional security and the Niger Delta, and food security and agriculture.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/08/145738.htm>

See Also: Nigeria’s Multifaceted Problems Challenge U.S. Policy, *Center for American Progress, August 5*

Climate change impacts are particularly severe given Nigeria’s urgent need for development, and the fact that agriculture is still the dominant employment sector. Climate change is already impacting Nigeria in significant ways. Desertification is driving farmers and herders south from the Sahel and into cities as roughly 1,350 square miles of Nigerian land turns to desert each year. Agriculture makes up 40 percent of Nigeria’s GDP and 75 percent of employment, and has shrunk since the petroleum industry boom in the 1980s. The United States and Nigeria launched a new Binational Commission in April 2010. The agreement looks to increase Nigeria’s food security and agricultural development.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/08/nigeria_problems.html

State Department Budget Could Benefit after Lew Moves to White House, *The Cable (blog), Foreign Policy*, August 5

Deputy Secretary of State Jack Lew's departure from Foggy Bottom was initially seen as a loss for the State Department, but in his next role as White House budget director, he could be in an even better position to help State get the increased funding he believes it needs.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/08/05/state_department_budget_could_benefit_after_lew_moves_to_white_house

Niger's Independence Day, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State*, August 3

"Niger has warmly welcomed our Peace Corps volunteers for nearly 50 years, and we are proud that more than 3,000 Americans have partnered with the people of Niger to build cultural bridges and strengthen Niger's capacity for development. The United States has assisted Niger in overcoming food security deficits and addressing periodic humanitarian challenges, and we will remain a reliable partner for these efforts."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/08/145626.htm>

See Also: Niger Marks Independence by Focusing on Famine, *Agence France-Presse*, August 3
Niger on Tuesday celebrated its 50th anniversary of independence after the military ruler called for agricultural reforms under the shadow of a famine that threatens the lives of millions. After a long drought, the poor sub-Saharan country in west Africa is again confronted with a food crisis that threatens seven million people, or almost half the population.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j_k89iRC1JhiCFDbMMaKaRnRjvkw

USTR Kirk Confident of Trade Pact Progress This Year, *Reuters*, August 2

The Obama administration's top trade official said "real progress" could be made in the long-stalled Doha round of world trade talks by the end of 2010. Political changes will help spur momentum for the World Trade Organization talks, now in their ninth year, said Ron Kirk, who has insisted large developing countries like Brazil, China and India must do more to open their markets to U.S. farm and manufactured goods.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFN0225352920100802>

Afghan Aid Chief Steps Down, *FrontLines, US Agency for International Development*, July 2010

After 14 months heading the largest USAID office in Agency history—in Afghanistan— managing more than \$2 billion a year in programs during a war, Bill Frej is stepping down from a long career in foreign assistance. "We have completely transformed the aid program and made agriculture the number one priority," said Frej in an interview in Washington.

http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/fl_jul10/p01_aid100703.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

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/>

African Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change

Date: September 6-8, 2010

Location: Addis Ababa (Adis Abeba), Ethiopia

This meeting is organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), African Union Commission (AUC), Ethiopia, Netherlands, Norway and Germany.

<http://climate-l.org/2010/08/02/event-african-conference-on-agriculture-food-security-and-climate-change/>

U.S. Global Leadership Coalition – 2010 Washington Conference

Date: September 28-29, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Join us at our September conference as we bring you informative and timely sessions with today's leading foreign policy luminaries, including addresses by David Gregory of NBC News' Meet the Press and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah.

<http://www.usglc.org/2010/08/05/2010-wash-conferenc/>

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>

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change

Date: October 31st – November 5th, 2010

Location: The Hague, The Netherlands

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change aims to develop a roadmap with concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments, policies, and measures with the transition to climate smart growth.

<http://www.afconference.com/>

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>

Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

Date: February 10 - 12, 2011

Location: New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people's nutrition and health, and people's nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people's nutrition and health. This conference will inform, influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world's poor people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Do Health Investments Improve Agricultural Productivity, *Paul McNamara, John Ulimwengu, Kenneth Leonard, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

Determining the causality between health measures and both income and labor productivity remains an ongoing challenge for economists. This review paper aims to answer the question: Does improved population health lead to higher rates of agricultural growth?

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01012.pdf>

Investigating the Role of Poultry in Livelihoods and the Impact of Avian Flu on Livelihoods Outcomes in Africa, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

In this paper the authors investigate the role of poultry in households' livelihoods portfolios and the impact of supply-and-demand shocks that may be caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on households' various livelihoods outcomes in four Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01011.pdf>

Constraints to Fertilizer Use in Nigeria, *Afua Banful, Ephraim Nkonya, Victor Oboh, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

Fertilizer consumption rates in Nigeria remains among the lowest in the world despite decades of aggressive subsidization. The extension service in Nigeria has a double-edged impact on fertilizer use in the country; not only can their activities increase farmers' demand for fertilizer, but also the organizational framework of the service, Agricultural Development Programs, is the major source of fertilizer for farmers. To provide insights on the reasons for the low fertilizer use in Nigeria, this paper presents an analysis of the extension service as well as some perspectives of village extension agents.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01010.pdf>

Media Articles:

African Ministers to Tour Missouri Farm, *Associated Press, August 6*

Almost three dozen African ministers of trade, economics and agriculture were heading to a small western Missouri town to learn about modern farming practices.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/08/06/african-ministers-tour-missouri-farm/>

North Africa Crops in Line with Forecast Declines, *Reuters, August 6*

Grain harvests in Morocco and Algeria, north Africa's main cereal producers, are broadly in line with forecast declines, while Tunisia's crop is smaller than predicted, officials and farming groups said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJ0E67509N20100806>

Innovations in Access to Land: Land Grab or Agricultural Investment?, *Danielle Nierenberg, Bernard Pollack, Huffington Post, August 5*

There has been a documented trend in recent years of foreign governments and private firms investing and acquiring large tracts of land in other countries for the purpose of agricultural production and export. While the trend is global, increasingly the countries where these deals are taking place are in largely under or undeveloped regions in Asia and Africa. The investments are spurred by concerns over food security and growing populations, as well as the expanding market for bio-fuels. Governments and private investors alike are brokering deals for large swaths of fertile land, sometimes in exchange for promises of investments in infrastructure or education, and sometimes for what amounts to pennies.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-nierenberg/innovations-in-access-to_b_671773.html

Senegal Power Outages May Cut Rice Crop, Agriculture Ministry Adviser Says, *Bloomberg, August 5*

Energy shortages in Senegal may reduce this season's rice crop, which had more than doubled since the 2007-08 season after the government started an initiative to boost local output, an Agricultural Ministry official said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-05/senegal-power-outages-may-cut-rice-crop-agriculture-ministry-adviser-says.html>

Clones: Is It Safe to Eat Dairy or Beef From a Cloned Cow?, *Telegraph, August 4*

Following the revelation that meat or dairy products from the offspring of cloned cows has entered the food chain, two experts give their opinion on whether it is safe.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/7897078/Clones-is-it-safe-to-eat-dairy-or-beef-from-a-cloned-cow.html>

See Also: Cloned Livestock Gain a Foothold in Europe, *New York Times, July 29*

Many Europeans recoil at the very idea of cloning animals. But a handful of breeders in Switzerland, Britain and possibly other countries have imported semen and embryos from cloned animals or their progeny from the United States, seeking to create more consistently plump and productive livestock.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/30/business/global/30cloning.html>

Links Between Health and Farming Have to Be Acted on Before It's Too Late, *Katine (blog), Guardian, August 4*

The strong and complementary connections between agriculture and health seem obvious: farms should grow nutritious produce to improve health, and healthy employees make better farm labourers. But these links have long been neglected during discussions on global trade and international development. Today the realities of the interactions between agriculture and health across the world are often perverse.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global/2010/aug/04/katine-health-farming-diet>

Demand for Malaria Drug Soars, *Nature News, August 3*

Farmers and scientists struggle to keep up with needs of ambitious medicine-subsidy programme.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100803/full/466672a.html>

China's Farmers Mount Movement against Land Grab, *Reuters, August 3*

But China's farmers do not directly own their land. It is collectively owned by villages, which parcel out long-term leases to farmers. In practice, local officials control the villages and thus also the land. As China's urbanization express builds up steam, the contest for land is setting local governments against villagers demanding more control of their land and the wealth it can untap.

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE6721DW20100803>

See Also: China's Worst Floods Since 1998 to Cut Farm Output, Lift Prices, *Bloomberg, August 3*

China's worst flooding in more than a decade may cut production of rice, cotton and pork in the largest producer, boosting prices and hampering government efforts to keep inflation under 3 percent, analysts said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-03/china-s-worst-floods-since-1998-to-cut-farm-output-lift-prices.html>

Food Security Law Could Double Food Bill, *Reuters, July 30*

India's proposed food security act could nearly double to as much as \$23 billion the food subsidy bill from targeted levels, Farm Minister Sharad Pawar suggested, potentially spooking plans to cut the fiscal deficit. The proposal, to provide cheap foodgrains to the poor, has been backed by the ruling Congress party's powerful chief Sonia Gandhi. The government went back to the drawing board after she suggested the entitlements under the law be widened.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-50520420100730>

Tweet Medvedev: Stop the Destruction of the Future of Food!, *Cary Fowler, Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust, July 26*

Outside of St. Petersburg, Russia, the Pavlovsk Station houses a huge collection of unique and diverse apples, strawberries, cherries, raspberries, currants and many more -- more than 5,000 varieties in all. Today, the Pavlovsk station is facing bulldozers. Over the protests of scientists at the Pavlovsk Station, the government is poised to convert the land to a housing development. This is nothing short of an environmental disaster -- and one that is easily avoidable.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cary-fowler/kremlinrussia-stop-the-de_b_659123.html

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Aid for Trade: An Action Agenda Looking Forward, *Bernard Hoekman, John Wilson, World Bank, August 2010*

The current postcrisis environment—and fragile economic recovery—increases the importance of aid for trade. Global rebalancing and tightened fiscal budgets in the short to medium term also place renewed emphasis on aid effectiveness. This note identifies four options to enhance the effectiveness of the multilateral aid for trade initiative: (i) expanding market access for least-developed countries (LDCs) through leadership by middle-income G-20 members; (ii) creating a mechanism to identify good practices in domestic regulation of service markets and other “behind-the-border” trade-related policies; (iii) leveraging the dynamism and knowledge of the private sector to improve trade facilitation and build capacity; and (iv) making a concerted effort to expand data collection and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of aid for trade.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP25.pdf>

Media Articles:

Floods from Pakistan to North Korea Strain Aid as Global Food Costs Soar, *Bloomberg, August 6*

Floods sweeping through a swath of Asia from Pakistan to North Korea have killed thousands, left millions homeless and may stretch aid efforts as crops are destroyed at a time of soaring wheat prices.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-06/floods-from-pakistan-to-north-korea-strain-aid-as-global-food-costs-soar.html>

Ethiopia, 25 Years Later, *Political Bookworm (blog), Washington Post, August 4*

The image most of us retain of Ethiopia is one of mass starvation and a glittery rock concert intended to ease the suffering. That famine and concert was 25 years ago, and Ethiopia has tried to move on. But just as the world at first overlooked the famine, it is now not aware of progress in the country. Economic and political strides have been made, but still many Ethiopians struggle just a bad drought or flood away from disaster. Peter Gill, who covered the famine and wrote “A Year in the Death of Africa,” now looks at Ethiopia over the

past 25 years in "Famine and Foreigners: Ethiopia Since Live Aid," out this month from Oxford University Press.

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/political-bookworm/2010/08/the_image_most_of_us.html

Large Gaps in Asia-Pacific Development Goals: UN, Agence France-Presse, August 4

South Asia is lagging behind the Asia-Pacific region in poverty and hunger reduction, and is in danger of missing these key targets in the UN's millennium development goals, a UN official said. Ministers from around the region gathered at a review of the millennium goals (MDGs) heard that despite significant progress, large gaps remain in the crucial measure of poverty reduction. Senior officials told delegates from dozens of countries that global food, energy and financial crises in recent years had jeopardised progress toward achieving the goals set for 2015.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jC1HnBSyLrMaYPDtPczxFD0GqnIw>

Food Crisis in the Sahel: Unlearned Lessons, Guardian, August 3

Millions in the eastern Sahel are facing famine, just as they did in 2005 - yet the response from some major aid donors has been no swifter than it was then.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/aug/03/eastern-sahel-food-crisis-aid>

UN Appeals for Increased Aid to Zimbabwe, Agence France-Presse, August 3

The United Nations launched an appeal for 478 million dollars (362 million euros) in aid to Zimbabwe, 100 million dollars more than in 2009, saying the country was at crossroads. "The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe still remains fragile due to the prevailing degradation of infrastructure in the basic sectors of health, water and sanitation, and food security," the UN said in its 2010 Consolidated Appeal for Zimbabwe, released in the capital, Harare.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gh1B9azxdkOb0LqkHga_KczIbq7g

See Also: Consolidated Appeal for Zimbabwe 2010, United Nations, 2010

<http://ochaonline.un.org/humanitarianappeal/webpage.asp?Page=1826>

Brazil Can Boost African Agriculture, Op-Ed, Stephanie Hanson, Director of Policy and Outreach, One Acre Fund, Global Post, August 3

In recent years, Brazil has quietly accelerated its foreign aid. It is also an agriculture powerhouse. As African governments try to facilitate a Green Revolution in Africa, Brazil is uniquely positioned to help.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/africa/100802/brazil-aid-lula-agriculture>

National Guard's New Mission: Agriculture, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 30

It might sound odd to send veterinarians, agronomists and horticulture experts to war, but if the goal is to turn swords into ploughshares, a newly formed Wisconsin National Guard unit will help farmers in Afghanistan improve the health of their livestock and boost crop yields.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/99671619.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Strategies for Adapting to Climate Change in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010

The ten ASARECA member countries (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) have adopted, or are planning to adopt, a range of climate change adaptation strategies in agriculture. Of the 26 strategies mentioned, only two are common to all 10 countries, while five more are common to five or more. The strategies common to all member countries include the development and promotion of drought-tolerant and early-maturing crop species and exploitation of new and renewable energy sources. Most countries have areas that are classifiable as arid or semiarid, hence the need to develop drought-tolerant and early-maturing crops.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01013.pdf>

Media Articles:

Floods Destroy Pakistan Farmers' Livelihoods, *Agence France-Presse, August 4*

Devastating floods have swept away farmland and devastated livestock in Pakistan's northwest, costing farmers millions of dollars and sparking demands for government compensation. The land was some of the most fertile in the country: rich soil nurtured sugarcane, maize, tobacco and vegetables, fed communities and carpeted a lush landscape watered by gushing rivers and framed by mountains.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ginje0mTnYTjBDhDtYkw-pkpAfGQ>

See Also: Pakistan: Floods Send Prices Higher, *IRIN News, August 4*

Women outside a store in the town of Mianwali, in the northwestern part of Punjab Province, stand in mud up to their shins - mud left behind by floodwater which has now begun to recede - waiting to buy wheat flour, but are annoyed by the small quantities being doled out. "They are selling just two kilos at a time. That will take us nowhere. I have 10 people to feed at home, and it is more expensive to buy in such small amounts," said Bilquis Bibi, 45. Shopkeepers were keeping back stock in the hope prices would rise, and a 20kg sack of flour which cost Rs 560 (US\$6.5) a few days ago was now being sold at Rs 650 (\$7.6) or more, she said.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90058>

See Also: Devastating Pakistan Floods Now Threaten Food Crisis, *Reuters, August 4*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSSGE67309J.CH.2400>

U.S. Keeps Climate Goal Despite Senate Setback, *Reuters, August 3*

The United States stands by its 2020 target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions despite the Senate's failure to pass legislation to fight climate change, said Todd Stern, the top U.S. climate envoy.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINTRE6714SK20100802>

See Also: Stern Says U.S. Bargaining Position for Cancun Remains Unchanged, *New York Times, August 3*

The United States still stands by its promise to slash global warming pollution despite the Senate's decision to abandon climate legislation this year, U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/08/03/03climatewire-stern-says-us-bargaining-position-for-cancun-65142.html>

See Also: US Inaction on Climate Troubles Global Talks, *Washington Post, August 1*

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/01/AR2010080100563_pf.html

U.N. Climate Czar Issues Call to Action, *United Press International, August 3*

The international community must take firm measures to overcome the potential effects of climate change, a U.N. official told delegates in Germany. Christiana Figueres, the newly appointed executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, told delegates at a climate conference in Bonn, Germany, that world governments must make an ambitious effort to protect the environment.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/08/03/UN-climate-czar-issues-call-to-action/UPI-47181280843874/

See Also: 'Clear Proof' Is Needed \$30 Billion in Climate Aid Was Disbursed, UN Says, *Bloomberg, August 2*

Developed countries must give "clear proof" they've started disbursing \$30 billion of climate aid that they pledged last year to poorer nations, the new United Nations climate chief said. Evidence of payment will be needed at the UN's annual end-of-year climate negotiations in Cancun in November and December,

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-02/-clear-proof-is-needed-30-billion-in-climate-aid-was-disbursed-un-says.html>

Study Claims Conventional Ag Limits Greenhouse Gas, *Associated Press, August 2*

Advances in conventional agriculture have dramatically slowed the flow of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, in part by allowing farmers to grow more food to meet world demand without plowing up vast

tracts of land, a study by three Stanford University researchers has found. The study, which has been embraced by many agricultural groups but criticized by some environmentalists, found that improvements in technology, plant varieties and other advances enabled farmers to grow more without a big increase in greenhouse gas releases. Much of the credit goes to eliminating the need to plow more land to plant additional crops.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hh5ZbFUDPI6qLpiqb_U_Kg3CXdawD9HB6V005

See Also: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation by Agricultural Intensification, Jennifer Burney, Steven Davis, David Lobell, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, May 4, 2010

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/06/14/0914216107.abstract>

Cheap Ways to Adapt to Less Water, Or More, *IRIN News*, July 30

Floods have got bigger, droughts more intense and threats posed by waterborne diseases a bit too much to handle for poor countries trying to use their limited resources to adapt to a moodier climate.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90023>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Media Articles:

Gender Bias Holds Back Africa Women Agricultural Researchers, *Business Daily Africa*, August 6

A report released in June 2010 by ActionAid International shows that small holder farmers, majority of whom are women, are responsible for 90 percent of food grown in Africa and produce about a half of the world's food supply. Yet the women scientists are rarely involved in scientific agricultural research or leadership positions in that field.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Gender%20bias%20holds%20back%20Africa%20women%20agriculture%20researchers/-/539552/971744/-/4b2yd2z/-/>

See Also: Developing More Top African Women Research Scientists, *Inter Press Service*, August 2

In a tiny village near Kisumu city in Kenya, scientific researcher Mary Anyango Oyunga spends most of her time educating women about something they have always done – grow sweet potatoes. But Oyunga's message to the female farmers in Kisian village is new, even though it is based on her scientific research findings published in 2009 in the refereed African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development. For Oyunga this implementation of her research findings is just as important as conducting the research was: "Conducting a study is one important step. But making it real by using the findings as a tool to improve livelihoods of people on the ground is what makes it complete." And how to go about doing this is one of the skills she acquired after winning a fellowship with the African Women in Agriculture Research and Development (AWARD) programme. The programme brings together African female agricultural research scientists based on intellectual merit from 20 different agricultural science disciplines.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=52353>

WHO Says Mothers Milk Is Best for Babies, *Voice of America*, August 1

The World Health Organization says breast-feeding is key to saving children's lives. During this year's World Breast-feeding Week, WHO and other health agencies are highlighting 10 steps to successful breast-feeding.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/WHO-Says-Mothers-Milk-Is-Best-for-Babies-99715749.html>

Thirty-Four African Businesswomen Attending AGOA Forum, *U.S. Department of State*, July 28

Thirty-four African women entrepreneurs are participating in the 2010 U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum — better known as the AGOA Forum — and the African Women's Entrepreneurship Forum to further enhance the U.S.-Africa trade relationship by expanding their businesses and increasing economic growth in their own countries.

<http://www.america.gov/st/business-english/2010/July/20100728143730SztiwomoD0.5936548.html>

Africa Must Focus on Maternal Health: Ex-Irish President, *Agence France-Presse*, July 28

Ex-Irish president Mary Robinson urged African leaders to boost support for maternal health, during a visit to Sierra Leone where mortality rates are among the highest in the world.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h8VrTVBPpXdEepmWSr5isdaxLifg>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

AGOA at 10: Challenges and Prospects for U.S.-Africa Trade and Investment Relations, *Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution, July 2010*

This year's Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, held on August 2-3, 2010 in Washington, DC, recognizes 10 years of trade and development cooperation between the United States and Africa. The forum brings together senior government trade officials from 38 African nations with senior leadership in the U.S. government to discuss "New Strategies for a Changing World." AGOA has thus far been a significant step in encouraging African reform efforts and prompting greater investment and growth for Africa; however, critics charge that AGOA could do more to benefit more diverse sectors of African economies and needs to be greatly extended beyond its 2015 expiration date. Experts from the Brookings Africa Growth Initiative examine the current AGOA framework and the progress made over the past 10 years and provide recommendations on how African and U.S. policymakers should strengthen and extend AGOA in order to realize greater positive gains.

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

See Also: AGOA and the African Agricultural Sector, *Emmanuel Asmah, Olumide Taiwo, Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution, July 2010*

Emmanuel Asmah and Olumide Taiwo investigate the demand-side constraints affecting AGOA agricultural exports and discuss the potential for U.S. and African policymakers to encourage greater growth in this vital sector for Africa's overall development.

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

Placing the 2006/08 Commodity Price Boom into Perspective, *John Baffes, Tassos Haniotis, World Bank, July 2010*

This paper concludes that a stronger link between energy and nonenergy commodity prices is likely to be the dominant influence on developments in commodity, and especially food, markets. Demand by emerging economies is unlikely to put additional pressure on the prices of food commodities. The paper also argues that the effect of biofuels on food prices has not been as large as originally thought, but that the use of commodities by financial investors (the so-called "financialization of commodities") may have been partly responsible for the 2007/08 spike. Finally, econometric analysis of the long-term evolution of commodity prices supports the thesis that price variability overwhelms price trends.

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2010/07/21/000158349_20100721110120/Rendered/PDF/WPS5371.pdf

Media Articles:

US Farmers Hope To Soon Sell More Corn To China, *CBS News, August 6*

China could be about to increase its corn imports, offering American farmers a chance for greater profits but making it likely U.S. meat producers who use the grain for feed would have to raise their prices. U.S. farmers said they're cautious but hopeful about doing more business with China, which needs more corn to feed the expanding livestock herds that supply meat to its growing middle class.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/08/06/ap/business/main6748436.shtml>

See Also: China's Corn Buys Stir Up A Debate; Beijing Stays Mum, *Wall Street Journal, August 6*
China's first big purchases of U.S. corn in more than a decade have triggered a debate over whether exports of America's biggest crop are entering a new golden era. But the one party that could potentially settle the question—China's government—is hardly talking. Farmers, traders, and

agricultural economists are divided over the implications of this surge. Some see it as the arrival of a long-anticipated age of big corn exports to China to feed its increasingly wealthy population. Others think it probably is a short-term blip caused by recent droughts.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704657504575411290872015132.html>

Indian Farmers Plan to Invest in Zambia: Government, *Reuters, August 5*

Indian commercial farmers plan to invest in a new model farm in Zambia, according to the government, which seeks to diversify the economy by promoting agriculture as an alternative to copper and cobalt mining. Zambia's ministry of foreign affairs said on Thursday that Indian farmers were interested in investing in the 155,000-hectare Nansanga model farm bloc, where the government had built roads and dams to attract investors to grow export crops.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE6740GH20100805>

Russia Has "Issues" With New US Poultry Deal, *Reuters, August 3*

Russia has raised "further issues" with a trade agreement that was supposed to have restarted U.S. poultry exports to that country after a six-month ban, U.S. chicken industry sources said. Industry and government sources did not specify the issues raised. The matter has reached Washington where U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said he was "concerned" and monitoring the situation.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0318387220100803>

See Also: USTR Kirk "frustrated" with Russia on poultry, *Reuters, August 4*

The top U.S. trade official voiced frustration that Russia has not resumed imports of U.S. poultry, despite an agreement to do so, and said the countries were working to iron out the latest rift.

<https://research.tdwaterhouse.ca/research/public/Markets/CommoditiesNews?documentKey=1314-N04259863-1>

Boost Cross-Border Trade for Food Security, *Inter Press Service, August 3*

Small-scale traders on either side of the Mwami Border Post between Zambia and Malawi are key to meeting local demands that larger importers do not.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=52363>

Kenyan Corn Prices Halve as Domestic Grain Production Increases, USDA Says, *Bloomberg, August 2*

Corn prices in Kenya, East Africa's biggest economy, have fallen as much as 60 percent in recent months as grain production climbs, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Service said. Corn prices in Kenya jumped last year as drought drove up the price of staple foods.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-02/kenyan-corn-prices-halve-as-domestic-grain-production-increases-usda-says.html>

See Also: Kenya Corn Update Report, *US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, July 27, 2010*

<http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Kenya%20Corn%20Update%20Report%20Nairobi%20Kenya%207-27-2010.pdf>

India, Argentina Ink Pact for Cooperation in Agriculture, *Economic Times, August 2*

India and Argentina signed a joint agreement agreeing to develop technical and professional cooperation in the agricultural sector and foster the trade of plants and animal products between the two nations.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/India-Argentina-ink-pact-for-cooperation-in-agriculture/articleshow/6247774.cms>

Niger's Markets Are Full Yet Famine Shadows the Dusty Roads, *Guardian, August 1*

Expensive imports and aid remain out of reach for 12 million people facing country's worst food crisis in years.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/aug/01/niger-famine-food-crisis>

Media Articles:

Kraft Boosted by Cadbury Purchase, *Financial Times*, August 6

Kraft reported a 13 per cent rise in second- quarter earnings as contributions from its recently acquired Cadbury unit helped it overcome weak North American results.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/adc2b170-a0d2-11df-badd-00144feabdc0.html>

PepsiCo Announces Creation of Agricultural Development Center of Peru, *Press Release, PR Newswire*, August 4

Indra K. Nooyi, chairman and CEO of PepsiCo, Inc., visited Peru this week to announce that the company is investing USD \$3 million over the next three years to create the Agricultural Development Center of Peru (CEDAP). The Center, which is the first of its kind in Latin America, will focus on the development of new varieties of potatoes and other tubers and roots.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pepsico-announces-creation-of-agricultural-development-center-of-peru-99931784.html>

ADM Benefits in Emerging Markets, *Financial Times*, August 3

Archer Daniels Midland, the US-based agricultural trading house, said it expected strong demand from emerging markets to continue as it reported a 15 per cent increase in annual profits.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/dc3c4694-9eff-11df-931a-00144feabdc0.html>

Tate & Lyle Heads for Hoffman Estates, *Crain's Chicago Business*, August 2

The London-based maker of Splenda sweetener and other food ingredients is poised to move its U.S. headquarters to the northwest suburbs from Downstate Decatur, bringing hundreds of jobs to the Chicago area.

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20100731/ISSUE01/307319977>

U.S. Department of Agriculture and DuPont Collaborate on New Test for Hard to Detect Foodborne Pathogens, *Press release, PRWeb.com*, August 2

DuPont and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have agreed to collaborate on the development of a new test for detecting hard-to-identify strains of toxin-producing E. coli that are not currently regulated and have been causing increased instances of food contamination and illness.

http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/dd_u-s-department-of-agriculture-and-dupont-collaborate-on-new-test-for-hard-to-detect-foodborne-patho-1081571.html

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