

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



July 9th – 16th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Today, more than 40 percent of all Africans live on less than a dollar a day, and one in three of them is malnourished. Indeed, Africa is the only region in the world where the number of malnourished children is expected to increase over the coming decades. By 2025, the population of sub-Saharan Africa will exceed one billion people, more than half of whom will be under age 24, and the ability of each state to respond to its people’s needs will be tested like never before. While the Green Revolution led to dramatic changes in Asia and Latin America, agricultural productivity in Africa continues to lag, nearly a half century later. Today, Asia’s and Latin America’s farms yield nearly three times more cereals than Africa’s farms. As a result, African countries remain the world’s primary recipient of donor assistance in recent years, receiving as much as four times more food and twice as many aid dollars than the rest of the developing world.”*—Remarks by Thomas H. Staal, Mission Director, USAID/Ethiopia by at the SAA Borlaug Symposium 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 13, 2010

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort to make the Global Food for Thought news brief more digestible, we have removed the “New Reports/Books/Policy Briefs” section. Instead, new reports, books, and policy briefs can be found in chronological order within the respective topical section.

Please click on the hyperlinks in the “Contents” section if you would like to drop down to a specific section.

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
- Background information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, can be found on the Initiative’s website: www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.
- To receive *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please register [here](#).
- To unsubscribe from *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please click [here](#).

CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)
[Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[Agricultural Issues](#)
[Foreign Assistance](#)
[Environment \(Water/Climate\)](#)
[Women](#)
[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)
[Agribusiness](#)

KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The Future of USAID, *Former USAID Administrators J. Brian Atwood, Henrietta Holsman Fore, M. Peter McPherson, and Andrew Natsios, Huffington Post, July 14*

For nearly half a century, USAID has brought people out of poverty and built thriving communities. In West Africa, USAID has partnered with businesses and governments to develop a commercial seed industry. Now more than 500,000 small-scale farmers have timely, affordable and reliable access to high-quality seeds and planting material through a network of over 800 agro-dealers in five focus countries further providing increased yields and protecting crops from drought, pests, and disease; lowering costs; and improving nutritional content.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/j-brian-atwood/the-future-of-usaid_b_646603.html

Remarks at USAID Conference on Transforming Development through Science, Technology and Innovation, *Hillary Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, and Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator, U.S. Department of State, July 14*

SECRETARY CLINTON: "Over the last 17 years and particularly in the last year and a half, I've seen that happening. I've seen it happening in Kenya where farmers have had their incomes grow by as much as 30 percent since they started using mobile banking technology. Innovation and technology can do for human development today what the Green Revolution did for agriculture. And we can generate significant yields from very modest inputs."

ADMINISTRATOR SHAH: "So what we hope is that we can develop accountability measures, and I love the idea of using mobile technology to report data back. So it's not just giving out information; it is a means for acquiring information and doing the analysis that flows from that. We did it before. The Green Revolution is the most cited example for a good reason, because it was USAID-funded discoveries in agriculture that really turned the tide on hunger in so many places and provided support for local farmers. It is also true that as we look at the challenges in development today, we have to constantly be assessing the consequences of what we consider to be development."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/07/144668.htm>

Taking It to (and from) the Farmers, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture & Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, July 15*

Meanwhile, in the U.S. capital, politicians were busy taking it away from the farmers. In crafting the fiscal year 2011 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs cut President Obama's request to fund elements of his Feed the Future program. The markup includes \$1 billion for agriculture and food security programs, \$300 million less than the president's request. The cuts also included \$258 million from the request to fund the brand new global agriculture fund (known as the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, or GAFSP). The request was for \$408 million for the fund; the markup was for just \$150 million. The whittling was continuing in the Senate.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/07/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-taking-it-to-and-from-the-farmers.html>

Dear Clinton, Jones and Summers: Five Step Improvement Plan for U.S. Development, *Nancy Birdsall, President, Center for Global Development, Huffington Post, July 15*

On the aid side the MCC has landed on its feet, though is pathetically underfunded with a budget of \$1.105 billion (USAID directly managed about \$17 billion last year--closer to \$25 billion if you included shared USAID/State resources--and PEPFAR's budget was about \$7 billion). The administration has launched two big new initiatives -- for food security and global health, but I can't figure out who's in charge of those. The USAID administrator still has no senior staff appointed. A big effort to spend aid money well in Pakistan is vulnerable to staffing problems and the counter-bureaucracy former USAID administrator Natsios decries. So I fear that short-term diplomatic and security diversions will dominate long-term development investments.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nancy-birdsall/dear-clinton-jones-and-su_b_647350.html

SEE ALSO: What Does Secretary Clinton Really Mean by "Elevating Development", *Todd Moss, vice president for corporate affairs, Center for Global Development, Huffington Post, July 14*

So what exactly does "elevating development" mean in practice? Or rather, what does Secretary Clinton mean? Actually rebuilding USAID is one possible answer.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/todd-moss/what-does-secretary-clint_b_645830.html

SEE ALSO: Angst about USAID's Fate Grows as Development Reviews Stall, *The Cable (blog)*, *Foreign Policy*, July 15

The development community is up in arms about the persistent delays in the administration's two major reviews of development policy, as internal disagreements continue to plague the ongoing efforts to reconcile America's development and foreign-policy goals.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/07/15/angst_about_usaid_s_fate_grows_as_development_reviews_stall

SEE ALSO: Jack Lew's Departure will leave Huge Shoes to Fill at State, *The Cable (blog)*, *Foreign*

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/07/15/jack_lew_s_departure_will_leave_huge_shoes_to_fill_at_state

Aid Reform Within Reach: Time for the President to Lead, *George Ingram, Co-Chairman of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Program*, *Huffington Post*, July 14

To put it bluntly, the United States is falling short in getting the most bang for its development buck. Even our best aid projects often fail to both use resources strategically and maximize the benefits for either effective development or national interests. This is inexcusable, especially since the President and the Secretary of State have articulated that fighting global poverty is at the heart of U.S. moral and strategic interests.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-ingram/aid-reform-within-reach-t_b_644861.html

Humanitarian Appeal 2010 - Mid-Year Review, *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, July 2010

While humanitarian funding requirements overall have changed only slightly since these appeals were launched at the end of 2009, certain appeals have changed significantly. In West Africa, the deepening food and nutrition crisis in Niger necessitates a very urgent request for greater resources for the rest of 2010 (on top of the emergency request in March). Neighbouring Chad, whose eastern population and hosted refugees are already the subject of a major aid operation, now also urgently requires food and nutrition support on a scale similar to Niger in its western regions. Scant rains are also raising food needs in Zimbabwe, while in Kenya, the latest short rains season was good but food insecurity continues to be severe and widespread because of the cumulative effects of a recent succession of poor rain seasons.

[http://ochadms.unog.ch/quickplace/cap/main.nsf/h_Index/MYR_2010_Humanitarian_Appeal/\\$FILE/MYR_2010_Humanitarian_Appeal_SCREEN.pdf?OpenElement](http://ochadms.unog.ch/quickplace/cap/main.nsf/h_Index/MYR_2010_Humanitarian_Appeal/$FILE/MYR_2010_Humanitarian_Appeal_SCREEN.pdf?OpenElement)

SEE ALSO: UN Appeals for \$9.5 Billion in Relief Aid, *Agence France-Presse*, July 15

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hDikUVI4BStfA9xMCUP09vzvzhf6Q>

Millions Wasted on Shipping Food Aid, *IRIN News*, July 13

US taxpayers spend about US\$140 million every year on non-emergency food aid in Africa, and roughly the same amount to ship food aid to global destinations on US vessels; money that could have been used to feed more people says a new study by researchers at Cornell University in the US. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has accounted for more than half of the world's food aid every year for decades, but has been "the last and slowest donor to reform its food aid policies", noted Christopher Barrett, a leading food aid expert, and his colleagues, Elizabeth Bageant and Erin Lentz.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89815>

SEE ALSO: U.S. Food Aid and Agricultural Cargo Preference Policy, *Elizabeth Bageant, Christopher Barrett, Erin C. Lentz, Department of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University*

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/61250/2/AAEA%202010%2010877.pdf>

Finishing Haiti's Unfinished Work, *Op-Ed, Jean-Max Bellerive and Bill Clinton, New York Times*, July 9

For those governments, donors and businesses that have not yet committed to investing in Haiti's economy or aiding relief and reconstruction efforts, we urge them to do so quickly. In addition to short-term needs like rubble removal, there are ample opportunities for investments with longer-term dividends — in agriculture, construction, tourism, manufacturing, service industries and clean energy, especially solar.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/12/opinion/12clinton-1.html>

SEE ALSO: Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti: Achievements, Challenges and Lessons to be Learned, *UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2010*

In the initial stages of the response, the humanitarian community sought to meet immediate needs through the provision of ready-to-eat meals, rice, and full food rations, and by end March, when general food distributions ceased following a Government decision, around 4 million people had received food assistance. Rapid and targeted food assistance was provided to vulnerable communities in hospitals and orphanages, and through mobile distributions and community kitchens. Food-for-Work activities are now being expanded, rations provided to families in relocated camps, and support provided to schools through school feeding and nutritional recovery, channelled through programmes designed to promote longer-term food security and stability among affected households.

[http://ocha-gwapps1.unog.ch/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/EGUA-87CQLK/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://ocha-gwapps1.unog.ch/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/EGUA-87CQLK/$File/full_report.pdf)

SEE ALSO: Devastated Haiti Braces for an Active Hurricane Season, *New York Times*, July 12

Some progress is being made to help Haiti grow its own food, as well, though an estimated 4 million people are still almost completely dependent on food aid or food-for-work systems. About 142,000 rural households have been given agriculture help, mostly seeds and fertilizers. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates more than 1,800 metric tons of rice, bean and corn seeds have been distributed. Farmers have also been handed 100,000 banana plants and 6 million roots and tubers for planting potatoes and other starch crops. The tens of thousands displaced to the countryside have also provided something of a boost to Haiti's degraded environment, with the unemployed put to work planting scores of trees as additional storm barriers. But rural NGO's say the stress of the influx of new people in need is also beginning to take its toll.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/07/12/12greenwire-devastated-haiti-braces-for-an-active-hurricane-11849.html>

Renewing the World Bank Strategy for Africa, *World Bank*, 2010

The World Bank is renewing its strategy for engaging with Africa. The renewed strategy is expected to be finalized by early 2011. The renewal is against the backdrop of changes in the global economy, in Africa itself, and within the World Bank.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRICA/Resources/AAP-consultations_plan_20100601.pdf

SEE ALSO: World Bank Seeks to Renew Support Strategy, *AllAfrica.com*, July 13

Last month, the World Bank started a comprehensive programme to restructure its strategy in Africa, hoping to recapture its relevance in the changing economic landscape. For the World Bank, the realisation that its traditional engagement policy with developing economies, especially Africa, has failed to bring the expected benefits must be a humbling experience. This has pushed it to ditch its previous Washington-led approach to engaging Africa for a newer approach that will allow its economic policies to be determined through country participation.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007130045.html>

SEE ALSO: Enhancing Growth and Reducing Poverty in a Volatile World: A Progress Report on the Africa Action Plan, *World Bank*, September 2009

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRICA/Resources/AAP-Progress_Report_20100601.pdf

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Africa: The Donor View on Development, *Remarks by Thomas H. Staal, Mission Director, USAID/Ethiopia*, July 13

"Today, more than 40 percent of all Africans live on less than a dollar a day, and one in three of them is malnourished. Indeed, Africa is the only region in the world where the number of malnourished children is expected to increase over the coming decades. By 2025, the population of sub-Saharan Africa will exceed one billion people, more than half of whom will be under age 24, and the ability of each state to respond to its people's needs will be tested like never before. While the Green Revolution led to dramatic changes in Asia and Latin America, agricultural productivity in Africa continues to lag, nearly a half century later. Today, Asia's and Latin America's farms yield nearly three times more cereals than Africa's farms. As a result, African countries remain the world's primary recipient of donor assistance in recent years, receiving as much as four times more food and twice as many aid dollars than the rest of the developing world."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100713.html>

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs: FY2011 Budget and Appropriations, *Congressional Research Service, July 2010*

Food security, first addressed as a key issue in the FY2010 budget request, continues to be a priority for the Obama Administration, which requested \$1.64 billion for related programs in the FY2011 budget. This amount does not include P.L. 480 food assistance funds, provided through the Agriculture appropriation. The Administration's new Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative is intended to address root causes of food insecurity and proposes to target funding to countries with widespread hunger, an agriculture-based economy, and comprehensive strategies for food security already in place. The request also emphasizes the benefits of working multilaterally and in partnership with other stakeholders to leverage resources. The request includes \$408.4 million for the new multi-donor Global Food Security Trust Fund, managed by the World Bank, which will support large-scale transportation and irrigation infrastructure, commercial financing, and research.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41228.pdf>

Afghanistan Development: Enhancements to Performance Management and Evaluation Efforts Could Improve USAID's Agricultural Programs, *U.S. Government Accountability Office, July 2010*

Eighty percent of Afghans are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Agricultural assistance is a key U.S. contribution to Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts. Since 2002, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded about \$1.4 billion for agricultural programs to increase agricultural productivity, accelerate economic growth, and eliminate illicit drug cultivation. This report (1) describes the change in U.S. focus on agricultural assistance since 2002, (2) assesses USAID's performance management and evaluation of its agricultural programs, (3) analyzes the extent to which certain programs met targets, and (4) addresses efforts to mitigate implementation challenges.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10368.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Testimony by Charles Johnson, Director, International Relations and Trade, Government Accountability Office, "Oversight of U.S. Civilian Assistance for Afghanistan," *Hearing before the House Appropriations State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee, July 15*

[http://appropriations.house.gov/images/stories/pdf/Charles Michael Johnson 7.15.2010.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/images/stories/pdf/Charles_Michael_Johnson_7.15.2010.pdf)

After Years of Stagnation, U.S. Exports to the EU Strong in 2010, *USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, July 2010*

After several years of slow growth, U.S. agricultural exports to the EU are on the rebound. Shipments have been strong through the first seven months of fiscal 2010 and are forecast for the year at \$8.3 billion, up 9 percent over last year. This is welcome news for a market that has seen slow growth in U.S. exports for many years due to trade barriers and intensified competition. Exports over the second half of the year will be influenced by the European financial situation, strength of the dollar, and competitor supplies.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/EU%20Import%20Market.pdf>

Business Dials up Trade Efforts, *The Hill, July 13*

Free trade advocates are ramping up efforts to win support for deals negotiated by the George W. Bush administration that have been stalled for years. A group of 42 agriculture and food groups sent a letter to House and Senate leaders urging lawmakers to approve and implement all three free trade agreements. They predicted U.S. agriculture would lose exports and thousands of jobs if no action is taken.

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/108605-business-dials-up-free-trade-efforts>

SEE ALSO: The World Isn't Waiting on Free Trade, *Op-Ed, Mike Johanns, U.S. senator from Nebraska, Wall Street Journal, July 12*

Our exporters are losing ground. The president should act on the trade agreements with Colombia and others.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704111704575354781455797618.html>

SEE ALSO: Farm Groups Push Congress to Ease Exports to Cuba, *New York Times, July 13*

The House Agriculture Committee has approved a bill to lift some export limits and remove a longstanding travel ban, and the full House could vote on the bill this summer.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/14/us/politics/14cuba.html>

Ethanol Facing Trouble in Congress, *Green Fields (blog)*, *Des Moines Register*, July 14

The ethanol subsidy is running into trouble in Congress. Citing a congressional study of the cost of the 45-cent-per-gallon tax credit, the chairman of the Senate energy committee issued a statement saying that the subsidy should not be “reflexively” extended when it expires at the end of the year.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/07/14/farmers-warned-that-ethanol-subsidy-could-lapse/>

SEE ALSO: Using Biofuel Tax Credits to Achieve Energy and Environmental Policy Goals,

Congressional Budget Office, July 2010

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/114xx/doc11477/07-14-Biofuels.pdf>

China: What's Next?, *Remarks by Demetrios Marantis, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, Office of the United States Trade Representative*, July 15

“Proliferating industrial policies set unique technology standards to favor Chinese producers; ‘Buy China’ policies cut off access to procurement markets; and arbitrary measures restrict investment flows. In services, China severely limits opportunities for U.S. companies in its telecommunications sector, hampers access for insurance and private pension suppliers, and its new ‘Postal Law’ excludes foreign express delivery companies from a key segment of China’s domestic market. In agriculture, a series of non-science based measures still impede our poultry, pork, dairy, and beef exports. And China’s use of import permits, tariff rate quotas, and value added taxes conspire to restrain agricultural trade.”

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/remarks-ambassador-demetrios-j-marantis-china-whats>

EPA Proposes Cellulosic Ethanol Short of U.S. Goals, *BusinessWeek*, July 12

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed requiring less cellulosic ethanol to be blended into gasoline next year than sought under U.S. law because production of the alternative fuel hasn’t reached commercial scale. Cellulosic ethanol, made from switchgrass, wood chips and agricultural waste such as corn cobs, has been promoted as having a smaller carbon footprint than fuel made from corn because it provides less incentive to cut down trees or plow up prairies to create cropland.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-07-12/epa-proposes-cellulosic-ethanol-requirement-short-of-u-s-goals.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oversight of the Feed the Future Initiative

Date: July 20, 2010

Location: Hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight

http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1193

Accelerating Africa’s Agricultural Development: Leveraging Knowledge, Innovation & Resources through Collaboration

Date: July 27, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

A luncheon panel discussion hosted by The Association of African Agricultural Professionals in the Diaspora (AAAPD)

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/accelerating-africas-agricultural-development-leveraging-knowledge-innovation-resources-thro>

Sub-Saharan Africa Food Security Technologies Reverse Trade Mission

Date: August 2nd – 13th, 2010

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

This Reverse Trade Mission will focus on state-of-the-art U.S. technologies, equipment, and services, as well as policies, regulations, and financing mechanisms that can support the implementation of large-scale food production and process projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Delegates will include public and private sector

representatives from sub-Saharan Africa's agribusiness sector. The visit will include a Business Briefing at an AGOA-related event in Kansas City, MO. The visit will also feature meetings with U.S. industry and U.S. government agencies, as well as site visits, in Kansas City, MO, and other U.S. cities yet to be determined. <http://www.usda.gov/news/events/2010/SubSaharanAfrica/SubSaharanAfricaFoodSecurityTechnologiesR TM.asp>

Soy Innovation Africa 2010: Cultivating Potential in Emerging Markets

Date: August 26th – 27th, 2010

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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

African Green Revolution 2010 Forum

Date: September 2nd–4th

Location: Accra, Ghana

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

<http://agrforum.com/>

2010 Borlaug Dialogue - "Take It to the Farmers": Reaching the World's Smallholders

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

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

Date: Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2010

Location: Long Beach, CA

Plans are underway for the 2010 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, 31 October–3 November in Long Beach, CA. The year's Annual Meetings theme connects attendees to the growing global challenges of "Green Revolution 2.0: Food+Energy and Environmental Security." Consider joining your colleagues in Long Beach! More than 2,700 scientists, professionals, and students will present the latest research and discuss emerging trends in agriculture, energy, climate change, environmental science, and related issues. The Annual Meetings program features keynote and plenary lectures, 2,500 oral and poster presentations, an Exhibit Hall, Career Center, tours, workshops, and plenty of networking events. For additional information on the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, please visit: www.acsmeetings.org

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th –12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

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

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

First Global Conference on Biofortification: From Discovery to Delivery

Date: November 11th – 12th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

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

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Promoting Smallholder Access to Livestock Markets in Developing Countries, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

Rising demands for quality and safety measures in high-value agriculture and livestock markets have necessitated the creation of increasingly complex supply chains to manage the flow of goods and information among channel actors. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can play a key role in strengthening links within the supply chain, particularly where market failures impede access by the poor. This paper examines the potential of PPPs in promoting smallholder access to such supply chains. A conceptual model is presented that highlights the need to generate chain-level benefits for all channel participants in order for PPPs to be sustainable and to adequately address market failures.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01001.pdf>

From Summit Resolutions to Farmers' Fields: Climate Change, Food Security and Smallholder Agriculture, *International Fund for Agricultural Development, June 2010*

During the thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council, CNN anchor Jim Clancy moderated a high-level panel discussion – "From summit resolutions to farmers' fields: Climate change, food security and smallholder agriculture" – with a group of distinguished panelists. The members of the panel were: Mr Mizengo Pinda, Prime Minister of Tanzania; Sir Gordon Conway, Professor of International Development at the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College; Ms Haydée Castillo Flores, Coordinator of the Women's Forum for Central American Integration; Mr Ajay Vashee, President of the International Federation for Agricultural Producers (IFAP); Ms Nahed Mohammed Taher, Founder and CEO of Gulf One Investment; and Mr Kevin Cleaver, Associate Vice-President of Programmes, IFAD.

http://www.ifad.org/events/gc/33/panels/proceedings_web.pdf

Old Problems in the New Solutions?: Politically motivated allocation of program benefits and the "new" fertilizer subsidies, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

Despite their disappointing performance in the recent past, fertilizer subsidies have re-emerged as a tool in the agricultural strategies of many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The new paradigm for fertilizer subsidies calls for use of such mechanisms as vouchers to target benefits to poor smallholders and public-private partnerships to develop private markets. There is some belief that with these innovations, fertilizer subsidy programs will circumvent the deleterious consequences of the programs of the past. However, there has been a glaring lack of innovation in how to prevent politics from dominating the allocation of subsidy program benefits and exacerbating inefficiencies as was the experience in earlier programs. This paper studies how vouchers, which could be used towards the purchase of fertilizer, were distributed amongst districts in Ghana's 2008 fertilizer subsidy program.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01002.pdf>

A Review of Collective Action in Rural Ghana, *International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

With the beginning of the new millennium and the increasing concerns with regard to wild privatization reforms, African governments, international donors and development scholars have been showing renewed interest in collective action. As a result, farmer-based organization (FBOs) and agricultural cooperatives (agri-coops) are back on the policy agenda for Africa as a preferential means to achieve a more equitable,

inclusive and community-driven development of rural areas. The objective of this paper is to provide a snapshot of the patterns and determinants in the development of FBOs and agri-coops in Ghana.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00998.pdf>

Weeding Out Abuses: Recommendations for a Law-abiding Farm Labor System, *Oxfam America, Farmworker Justice, June 2010*

Every day, farmworkers awake at the crack of dawn and head out to the fields to harvest the fruits and vegetables that feed our nation. It's a grueling, backbreaking, seasonal job, one of the most dangerous occupations in the country, and it exacts a heavy toll on the health of farmworkers and their families. The poor conditions for farmworkers in this country exist, in part, because of the fundamental lack of enforcement of basic labor standards. Employers that do not feel threatened by labor law enforcement often take the risk of paying less than the minimum wage to save money. Businesses that wish to comply with the law but compete against such labor law violators feel pressure to violate the law as well or to pay the bare minimum. This spiraling down of labor standards must be thwarted.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/weeding-out-abuses.pdf>

Access, Adoption, and Diffusion: Understanding the long-term impacts of improved vegetable and fish technologies in Bangladesh, *Neha Kumar, Agnes R. Quisumbing, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

This paper assesses long-term impacts of vegetable and polyculture fish production technologies on a variety of measures of household and individual well-being in Bangladesh.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00995.pdf>

Illegal Logging and Related Trade, *Chatham House, July 2010*

The most thorough assessment to date of the global fight against illegal logging finds that a decade of international effort to tackle the problem is having a dramatic and beneficial effect both on forest dependent communities and on the global climate. According to the report, total global production of illegal timber has fallen by 22 per cent since 2002.

http://chathamhouse.files.wordpress.com/2010/07/ch_illegal_logging_paper_embargoed.pdf

Media Articles:

Not a Featherweight, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, July 15*

The erstwhile "orphan crop" pigeonpea is attracting research attention spurred by its versatility, productivity under difficult conditions and high nutritional value.

http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/july_15_2010.html

AgBank Makes Muted Shanghai Debut, *Financial Times, July 15*

The Chinese government has made the successful listing of AgBank – set to be the world's largest-ever initial public offering at \$22.1bn – a political priority, and many market participants believe Beijing ordered large state-controlled investors to intervene in the market to ensure the shares did not fall below their issue price.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/776e6ea4-8fb9-11df-8df0-00144feab49a.html>

The Emerging Politics of Food Scarcity, *Lester Brown, Sustainablog, July 14*

The inability to negotiate long-term trade agreements was accompanied by an entirely new genre of responses among the more affluent food-importing countries as they sought to buy or lease large blocks of land to farm in other countries. As food supplies tighten, we are witnessing an unprecedented scramble for land that crosses national boundaries. Libya, importing 90 percent of its grain and worried about access to supplies, was one of the first to look abroad for land. After more than a year of negotiations it reached an agreement to farm 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres) of land in the Ukraine to grow wheat for its own people.

<http://blog.sustainablog.org/food-security-global-politics/>

Tanzania adopts CAADP compact for agriculture sector development, *CAADP, July 13*

TANZANIA signed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) compact with President Jakaya Kikwete pledging for the country's more commitment to make agriculture a true accelerator of the economic development.

<http://www.caadp.net/news/?p=768>

India Lands in a Mess, *Op-Ed, Barun S. Mitra, Wall Street Journal, July 13*

Today, the labyrinth of bureaucracy makes it hard to realize property values, condemning landowners to poverty and making land artificially scarce. According to a national survey in 2006, about 40% of Indian farmers would like to sell their land and move out to more lucrative occupations, but can't find buyers because of archaic laws. A survey this year found that about 40% of people in urban areas live in slums, also because of restricted land supply.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704518904575364482978111078.html>

SEE ALSO: Land Wars bedevil India's Rush to Industrialize, *Associated Press, July 10*

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9GSA5EG0.htm>

EU Impasse on GM Foods Close to Resolution, *Financial Times, July 13*

A decade-long impasse over the cultivation of genetically modified foods in Europe moved towards resolution after the European Commission dropped its bid to impose a one-size-fits-all approach to the controversial crops. In a rare example of the European Union relinquishing powers back to national governments, Brussels said it would now be up to each member state to decide whether to allow the cultivation of GM crops on its territory. The move is a victory for proponents of genetically modified foods, which barely feature in European agriculture because no EU-wide consensus exists on their impact on health and the environment.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e7b04b4a-8e94-11df-8a67-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: Commission Gambit Could End GMO Impasse, *EU Observer, July 13*

In a potentially risky gamble to break an EU impasse over the cultivation of Genetically Modified Organisms which has lasted more than a decade, the European Commission will propose a plan that both helps anti-GMO member states to ban them and lets those countries that favour the technology to move full-speed ahead with commercial planting.

<http://euobserver.com/9/30468>

Antibiotics in Agriculture are Essential for Animal and Human Health, *Op-Ed, Peter Silley, professor of applied microbiology, University of Bradford, The Hill, July 13*

Antibiotic resistance is a significant global public-health challenge that has created an emotional public response among critics, public-health experts, and animal-health advocates. It involves debate over antibiotic use in both humans and animals, and demands improved monitoring and surveillance, more research and, ultimately, the development of a range of tools that will help reduce reliance on antibiotics.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/108463-antibiotics-in-agriculture-are-essential-for-animal-and-human-health>

Plan to Save Indonesia's Forests Hits Snag, *Wall Street Journal, July 12*

A widely hailed new project to restrict forest-clearing in Indonesia over the next two years is turning out to be more complicated than expected and could leave large areas of the country unprotected, as environmentalists and industry groups fight over terms of the deal before it takes effect in January.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703802404575342632816623268.html>

Red Hot Chili Peppers Arrive in Sub-zero Arctic Seed Vault, *Press Release, July 11*

A new collection of some of North America's hottest foods—an eclectic range of New World chili peppers—were delivered to the cool Arctic Circle environs of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault this week, where their exotic tongue-scorching qualities can be kept safe for centuries. The seeds were delivered to the vault by a seven-person bipartisan delegation from the U.S. Congress, led by Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and including Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dick Durbin (D-IL).

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-07/bc-rhc070910.php

Severed Trees in Orchards Mirror Afghan History, *New York Times, July 10*

Gul Abbas grew up with olive trees in Bati Kot district and spent his life nurturing them. He hopes they can flourish again.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/11/world/asia/11afghan.html>

Haitian Farmers Reaping Hard Times as Hunger Grows, *Agence France-Presse, July 9*

In June thousands protested against a four-million-dollar seed donation by giant multinational Monsanto which sparked debate over the quake-hit nation's aid policies and agricultural future. It highlighted the bitter divisions among all sides involved in Haiti's rural development and the battle to feed the swelling ranks of hungry, estimated by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to be around three million people or almost a third of the population.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iA9IU00yRPc9J4i4p40Am2MxWkmQ>

SEE ALSO: Six Months after Quake, Haiti Boosts its Food Security with UN Help, *UN News Centre, July 8*

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

U.S. Farmers Can't Meet Booming Corn Demands, *Reuters, July 9*

Exporters, livestock feeders and ethanol makers are going through the U.S. corn stockpile faster than farmers can grow the crops, the government said.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE6685B020100709>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Aid to Haiti 6 Months On: A Long Way to Go, *Oxfam, July 2010*

The outpouring of global public support in response to the earthquake enabled Oxfam and other agencies to get aid through to the Haitian people and make a real difference. However, recovery in Haiti is one of the most complex humanitarian and development challenges in modern times. There are no short-term solutions for Haiti.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/oxfam-haiti-brief-july-7-2010.pdf-1>

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: The Road Forward for the U.S., *Oxfam, June 2010*

This paper outlines key recommendations on each of the eight MDGs that Oxfam strongly believes the U.S. Government should include in its promised plan.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/a-mdg-report-0710-2.pdf>

Media Articles:

Multidimensional Poverty Index, *Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative*

OPHI and the UNDP Human Development Report launch the Multidimensional Poverty Index or MPI – an innovative new measure that gives a vivid “multidimensional” picture of people living in poverty. The MPI will be featured in the 20th Anniversary edition of the UNDP Human Development Report and complements income by reflecting a range of deprivations that afflict a person’s life at the same time.

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/>

SEE ALSO: ‘More Poor’ in India than Africa, *BBC News, July 13*

Eight Indian states account for more poor people than in the 26 poorest African countries combined, a new measure of global poverty has found. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measures a range of "deprivations" at household levels.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10609407>

Haiti: Six Months on, Agriculture Needs More Support, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, July 15*

While timely food assistance and agricultural inputs helped avert a post-earthquake food crisis in Haiti, insufficient funding for agriculture continues to hamstring efforts to improve food security, local food production and provide income opportunities in rural areas six months after the devastating quake.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44069/icode/>

UN Rural Development Arm Helping Respond to Niger Food Crisis, *UN News Centre, July 15*

The United Nations rural development arm is helping to improve agricultural programmes in West Africa's Sahel region, especially in Niger, which is currently in the throes of a growing food crisis. Recurrent food shortages have impacted the Sahel, a narrow band south of the Sahara desert also including Burkina Faso, Chad, Eritrea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35328&Cr=niger&Cr1=food>

North Korea Facing Health and Food Crisis, Says Amnesty International, *Guardian, July 15*

A desperate picture of the health of North Korea's population is painted by a report describing a country of stunted children, where the hungry eat poisonous plants and pigfeed, amputations are conducted without anaesthetic and doctors are paid in cigarettes. Almost two decades after it was hit by a famine that killed an estimated 2 million people, North Korea again faces widespread food shortages and is unable to provide even basic healthcare for its people, according to the report, published today by Amnesty International.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/15/north-korea-health-crisis-amnesty>

Mali: More Aid Needed for the North, *IRIN News, July 14*

Aid agencies are struggling to meet the food and water needs of people and their livestock in drought-hit Mali, with potentially "catastrophic gaps" in the humanitarian response, according to Oxfam's country head, Gilles Marion.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89822>

Good Fortune, *PBS, July 13*

Over the past 50 years, the West has sent some \$2.3 trillion in aid to Africa, the poorest of the world's continents. It would be difficult to find anyone who believes that money has significantly reduced poverty or succeeded in promoting social stability on the continent. Many, both inside and outside the international development community, are asking how so much money could be spent to so little effect. A more explosive question might be why some communities in Africa are not only disillusioned by the aid projects, but even fighting to stop them.

http://www.pbs.org/pov/goodfortune/film_description.php

Helping Rural Nepalese Grow More Food, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, July 13*

In 2008, as the cost of foodstuffs reached record levels, FAO launched a series of input supply projects to help farmers grow more food and earn more money, via its Initiative on Soaring Food Prices. In Nepal - a country reeling from a decade-long conflict and struggling with drought-induced food shortages - this effort helped generate more resources. One such project, funded by the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund, has helped keep thousands of vulnerable Nepalese farmers from falling deeper into poverty and hunger.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/43594/icode/>

Nurse Who Inspired 'Live Aid' Recalls Ethiopian Famine, *BBC News, July 13*

A nurse whose story inspired Live Aid 25-years-ago has been recalling her experiences in Ethiopia during its devastating famine.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/essex/hi/people_and_places/history/newsid_8807000/8807623.stm

Inside the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, *Guardian, July 12*

But Steiner and his colleagues are probably more aware of their limitations. There is a problem with the Gates foundation that its staff, for the time being, appear to grasp better than its critics. For all the charity's resources and connections, for all the attendant risks of over-confidence and over-mightiness, on the ground in Africa or Asia the foundation's immense-sounding grants are a miniscule fraction of what is required to create a fairer world. "In agriculture," says Steiner, "the problem's this big" - he throws out his long arms - "and our resources are this big" - he pinches an inch of air between a finger and thumb. With an ex-

management consultant's preciseness, he concludes: "We estimate we can probably be 3-5% of the overall solution."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/12/bill-and-melinda-gates-foundation>

Hunger Rates for Niger's Children Reach 'Alarming' Levels, *Voice of America, July 12*

Relief workers in Niger say malnutrition rates for children under age five have reached emergency levels. A deepening food crisis in the eastern Sahel threatens nearly half of Niger's 14 million people.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/Hunger-Rates-for-Nigers-Children-Reach-Alarming-Levels-98235609.html>

Afghans Want Foreign Aid Spent on their Priorities, *Associated Press, July 12*

The Afghan government wants foreign donors to start focusing 80 percent of the billions of dollars flowing into the country on priority projects that it believes are key to pulling their country out of poverty and turmoil, Afghan officials said. One draft of the conference communique, obtained by *The Associated Press*, said the Afghans will be proposing programs to train civil servants; appoint civilian officials based on merit, not patronage; combat corruption; conduct audits of key ministries; offer literacy training for adults; provide legal aid services in provinces; improve new roads, dams and irrigation systems; increase farm production; and start mining the nation's vast mineral wealth.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hvWEqwg3CrRvaQCmt21MfoYhjZIQD9GTMlRO5>

Africa's Untold Story is of a Booming Continent and a Growing Middle Class, *Guardian, July 11*

The Ethiopian famine that inspired Bob Geldof's Live Aid concert 25 years ago this week was the defining image of a war-torn continent, eternally hungry, helpless and dependent on foreign aid. But the ADB is the latest voice to argue that Africa is poised to become a serious global player. Many argue that, after failed socialist experiments, it is now embracing capitalism and reaping the rewards.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/jul/11/africa-recovery-global-recession>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Report for Business, *G8, 2010*

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a global study, initiated by the G8 and five major developing economies and focusing on 'the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation'. TEEB makes the case for integrating the economics of biodiversity and ecosystem services in decision-making.

<http://www.teebweb.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ubcryE00Ubw%3d&tabid=924&language=en-US>

SEE ALSO: The Green Suits: The Economics of Biodiversity and Business, *Economist, July 14*

The latest brick in this wall is a report on biodiversity and business released at the Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium in London on July 13th. One of the themes of the report, and the conference it was launched at, is the recent trend for recasting debates about nature conservation in terms of "ecosystem services"—valuable things that nature does for which no one at the moment pays, such as providing fresh water, regenerating soil, insect pollinators and suchlike. This approach provides a mind set, and to some extent metrics, with which to measure both risks and opportunity, and thus could open up new ways for businesses to approach the environment.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16587949>

Potential of Carbon Markets for Small Farmers, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

While agriculture accounts for an estimated 10 to 14 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions, its role as a mitigating force is receiving increasing attention. This discussion paper provides a quick overview of the literature on the climate change mitigation potential of agriculture, the regulatory and voluntary frameworks under which such a contribution could be rewarded, and the economic literature that focuses on agriculture's participation in climate change mitigation efforts.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01004.pdf>

Impacts of Climate Change Legislation on US Agricultural Markets: Sources of Uncertainty, *Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, University of Missouri, July 2010*

Climate change legislation could have important effects on US agriculture. The impacts depend on the particular features of any final legislation, how it is implemented and how individuals and firms respond. http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2010/FAPRI_MU_Report_06_10.pdf

Media Articles:

State Aid Pledged as Heat Hits Farmers, *Moscow Times, July 13*

The government will support drought-stricken parts of the country with loans and subsidies, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said, as farmers struggled through a sweltering heat wave that has led 14 regions to declare states of emergency. Putin also ordered the Agriculture and Economic Development ministries to make sure that no one was trying to cash in on the drought, which has already destroyed 9.3 million hectares of crops. Officials were forced to contend with speculation that Russia — the world's fourth-largest grain exporter — could be forced to import this year to meet domestic needs following a number of reports in the media. <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/state-aid-pledged-as-heat-hits-farmers/410281.html>

Arid Australia Sips Seawater, But at a Cost, *New York Times, July 11*

The country is still recovering from its worst drought ever, a decade-long parching that the government says was deepened by climate change. With water shortages looming, other countries, including the United States and China, are also looking to the sea. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/11/world/asia/11water.html>

A Climate Change Corrective, *Editorial, New York Times, July 11*

Perhaps now we can put the manufactured controversy known as Climategate behind us and turn to the task of actually doing something about global warming. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/11/opinion/11sun2.html>

Millions Face Starvation as Niger Prays in Vain for Rain, *Independent, July 9*

To the north of Niger, the creeping Sahara; to the south, oil rich and agriculturally lush Nigeria – this nation straddles the Sahel – dry, hot and cruel. It has suffered catastrophic droughts – 1974, 1984 and 2005. And now, another. Five times the size of the United Kingdom, Niger is one of the poorest nations on earth with child mortality worse than Afghanistan. The absence of regular rainfall throughout 2009 has led to poor harvests, lack of grazing for animals and food reserves exhausted. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/millions-face-starvation-as-niger-prays-in-vain-for-rain-2022190.html>

WOMEN

Reports:

Investing in Gender Equality: Looking Ahead, *World Bank, July 2010*

The financial crisis of 2008-09 has highlighted the need for greater attention to gender, both to address the vulnerability of countries to global shocks and to reach growth and poverty reduction goals. Investments in girls and women need to be scaled up substantially in response to this and other recent crises and, looking ahead, to alleviate demographic stresses and harness demographic opportunities for growth. This is the case because the fate of women and girls, especially in low-income countries and low-income households, is closely linked to the economic prospects of these countries and these households. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP22.pdf>

Understanding Gender Differences in Agricultural Productivity in Uganda and Nigeria, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

Authors investigate gender differences in agricultural productivity using data collected in 2005 from Nigeria and in 2003 from Uganda. Results indicate that lower productivity is persistent from female-owned plots and female-headed households, accounting for a range of socioeconomic variables, agricultural inputs, and crop choices using multivariate Tobit models.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01003.pdf>

Media Articles:

Lure of Cash Aids India's Efforts to Reduce Number of Women Dying in Childbirth, *Washington Post*, July 15

So the government decided to lure Rawat -- and millions of other village women -- to give birth in the cleaner, safer environment of a hospital with the most effective enticement it can think of: a cash payment of \$30, or several weeks' wages for her farming family. And it seems to be working.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/14/AR2010071406023.html> (women)

Making 2010 a Turning Point for Women's Health, *Inter Press Service*, July 8

As the international community readies to commemorate World Population Day Sunday, the United Nations is reviewing the state of the world's women - and how they stack up against the risks of maternal mortality and the lack of universal access to reproductive health.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52094>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

AGOA Countries: Considerations in Exporting Horticultural Products to the United States, *International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council and the Partnership to Cut Hunger & Poverty in Africa*, July 2010

Congress, the Administration, and other stakeholders continue to be involved in serious efforts to improve upon the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA), which was first signed into law a decade ago, on May 18, 2000. To meet its objective of enhancing U.S. market access for sub-Saharan African countries that are pursuing market reforms measures,¹ the AGOA preferential trade legislation was designed to encourage and support countries in this region -- that are taking often difficult but critical steps necessary to create more open, market and growth-oriented economies.

<http://www.agritrade.org/Publications/documents/AGOA-HorticulturalProductImportstotheU.S..pdf>

Eight Years of Doha Trade Talks: Where Do We Stand?, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, June 2010

In eight years, the ambition of the formula to reduce agricultural market access tariffs has increased, but flexibilities added to accommodate domestic political constraints have offset delivered market access. The December 2008 package would reduce these average tariffs by 25 percent, a reduction very close to the one implied by the Harbinson and Girard proposals of 2003. This has to be compared with the 73 percent reduction in world agricultural protection by the very ambitious 2005 U.S. proposal. The December 2008 package implies a reduction of agricultural protection by 6 percentage points in high-income countries and 0.5 percentage points in middle-income countries. Different scenarios imply losses for developing countries, reflecting eroding preferences and rising terms of trade for imported commodities, including food products. The authors study how this trade reform can be more development-friendly.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00997.pdf>

Price, Inventories, and Volatility in the Global Wheat Market, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, June 2010

The study estimates a conditional mean model for international wheat prices and inventories. Endogenous price volatility and exogenous shocks in the price and inventory series are controlled for in estimation. Redressing the empirical linkage between volatility, prices, and inventories is important because volatility increases returns to inventories, which in turn may imply prices. The problem is also important from the

regulator perspective, because publicly funded inventory programs have been traditional measures in stabilizing prices and improving food security by providing a buffer against adverse yield shocks and stock-outs. The structural model underlying the estimating equations is based on a dynamic inventory optimization problem.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00996.pdf>

Sales Location and Supply Response among Semisubsistence Farmers in Benin, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

In much of rural Africa, high transaction costs limit farmers' market participation and thus their potential for income growth. Transaction costs can affect not only whether a farmer sells product but also whether sales occur at the farm gate or at a market. If production behavior is related to a chosen sales location, then analysis of interventions can be improved by explicit consideration of the decision of where to sell. This paper develops a double-selection model that explains consumption and production decisions by semi-subsistence farmers who first decide whether to be a seller and then whether to sell at the farm gate or at an off-farm location before deciding on production and consumption.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00999.pdf>

Media Articles:

Milestone for commodity exchange traded products, *Financial Times, July 16*

Commodity related exchange traded products marked a milestone in their development at the end of the second quarter as their assets surpassed the investment holdings in commodity indices for the first time ever, according to data from Barclays Capital.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cea5d7d6-90d9-11df-85a7-00144feab49a,dwp_uuid=d8e9ac2a-30dc-11da-ac1b-00000e2511c8.html

Cocoa Soars on Strong Demand Data, *Financial Times, July 14*

Cocoa prices jumped to a near-33-year high as better-than-expected data on demand for the bean used to make chocolate initiated a squeeze in the market ahead of the expiry of a key contract.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f2d38a48-8f28-11df-a4de-00144feab49a.html>

Cereal Export Ban Lifted in Ethiopia, *IRIN News, July 13*

Ethiopia has lifted a two-year ban on the export of cereals such as maize and sorghum, following a good harvest which has led to surpluses, according to a government official.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89811>

S. African Fruit, Vegetable Prices May Rise on Frost, *Businessweek, July 13*

South African fruit and vegetable prices may jump because of "severe" frost during the past three weeks in the country's Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces, according to agricultural trade association Agri SA.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-07-13/s-african-fruit-vegetable-prices-may-rise-on-frost.html>

SEE ALSO: S. Africa Food Prices Rise Due to Frost, Input Costs, *Reuters, July 13*

Poor weather and higher input costs have lifted food prices in South Africa by up to 205 percent -- in the case of tomatoes -- with further increases expected later this year, farmers' groups said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE66C0FW20100713>

Bangkok Buys Sugar for First Time in 30 Years, *Financial Times, July 13*

Thailand, the world's second-largest sugar exporter, bought sugar for the first time in three decades, in a bid to ease a severe domestic shortfall.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/508e30b2-8e60-11df-964e-00144feab49a.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Food for Thought on Agricultural Stocks, *Wall Street Journal*, July 16

Will agriculture prove the hot new sector of the 21st century? With an estimated 9.2 billion mouths to feed by 2050, up from 6.8 billion now, and growing demand from wealthier emerging-market consumers for a high-protein diet, the challenge of feeding the world looks daunting. In theory, that should provide a huge secular boost to agribusiness stocks over the coming years. But it will still require investors to have an appetite for risk

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704913304575370773890291224.html>

Subsidy Proposal Splits Ethanol Industry, *Green Fields (blog)*, *Des Moines Register*, July 15

The ethanol industry is split over what should be done with the subsidy for the biofuel.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/07/15/subsidy-proposal-splits-ethanol-industry/>

USDA: Animal Drug Use 'Likely' Linked to Human Problems, *Des Moines Register*, July 14

President Obama's administration says there is a clear link between the use of antibiotics in livestock and drug resistance in humans, a position sharply at odds with agribusiness interests.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/07/14/usda-animal-drug-use-likely-linked-to-human-problems/>

SEE ALSO: Hearing on Antibiotic Resistance and the Use of Antibiotics in Animal Agriculture, *United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health*, July 12

http://energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2071:hearing-on-antibiotic-resistance-and-the-use-of-antibiotics-in-animal-agriculture&catid=132:subcommittee-on-health&Itemid=72

Land O'Lakes Praised for Work Overseas, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, July 11

The Philippines government has recognized Land O'Lakes International Development for long-term programs that have developed the country's dairy industry and improved nutrition among its children.

<http://www.startribune.com/business/98148389.html>

The Unholy Alliance: Monsanto, DuPont & Obama, *Ronnie Cummins, Founder and Director, Organic Consumers Association*, *Huffington Post*, July 11

President Obama knows that agribusiness cannot be trusted with the policy and regulatory powers of government. But, starting with his choice for USDA Secretary, the pro-biotech former governor of Iowa, Tom Vilsack, President Obama has let Monsanto, Dupont and the other pesticide and genetic engineering companies know they'll have plenty of friends and supporters within his administration.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ronnie-cummins/the-unholy-alliance-monsa_b_642385.html

Coke Says to Double Annual Africa Investment, *Reuters*, June 26

Coca-Cola Co plans to double its annual investment in Africa to \$1 billion starting this year, to ramp up capacity on the fast-growing continent, the head of its South Africa unit told Reuters.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-49677520100626>

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank