

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



July 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** – *"America, to be a leader in the world, to have influence, to help stabilize countries, to create opportunity for people so they don't breed terrorists, or create huge refugee flows and so forth, it is smart for us to make a very modest investment in foreign aid. It is a force multiplier, and it is something that even in tough fiscal times America needs to continue to do as part of our role as a global leader."* – President Barack Obama, Twitter "Town Hall", White House, July 6, 2011

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](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
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### CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

[Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

[Environment \(Water/Climate\)](#)

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**World Economic and Social Survey 2011, UN Economic & Social Affairs, July 2011**

The world faces important decisions on how we generate energy and manage our natural assets - choices with implications that will reverberate for generations to come. Against a backdrop of a rising global population and unceasing pressure on the natural environment, this 2011 edition of the World Economic and Social Survey can guide our collective efforts to achieve a much-needed technological transformation to a greener, cleaner global economy.

[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess\\_current/2011wess.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_current/2011wess.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: UN calls for Greener Food Production to Feed World in 2050**, *Washington Post*, July 5  
World food production will have to increase by up to 100 percent by 2050 and focus on greener methods to sustain an expected 9 billion population. The Survey called for governments to invest nearly \$2 trillion a year to help small-scale farming and to reduce environmental harm. Only a fraction of the small investment goal has been reached so far.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia-pacific/un-calls-for-greener-food-production-to-feed-world-in-2050/2011/07/05/gHQAVnlqyH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia-pacific/un-calls-for-greener-food-production-to-feed-world-in-2050/2011/07/05/gHQAVnlqyH_story.html)

**FAO Food Price Index**, *UN FAO*, July 2011

The index averaged 234 points in June 2011, 1 percent higher than in May and 39 percent higher than in June 2010. The FFPI hit its all time high of 238 points in February. A strong rise in international sugar prices was behind much of the increase in the June value of the index. International dairy prices rose slightly in June, while meat prices were stable. Of all the major cereals, prices of wheat fell most and rice increased. Among the oils and fats, prices of soybean oil were steady but palm oil weakened.

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/foodpricesindex/en/>

**SEE ALSO: Food Prices Near Record Highs**, *Wall Street Journal*, July 7

The price index, which covers prices of a basket of commodities, rose 1% to 234 points last month, up 39% compared with the same time last year and just below the record 238 points hit in February.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303365804576431380189369202.html>

**SEE ALSO: World Food Prices near Record High**, *BBC*, July 7

The price of sugar rose by 14% last month, as a result of high demand and lower production in Brazil. The sugar price rise fuelled most of the increase, cancelling out falls in prices of wheat, corn and soya.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-14062360>

**The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011**, *United Nations*, July 2011

More than 10 years have passed since world leaders established goals and targets to free humanity from extreme poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease. Further and faster movement towards achievement of the MDGs will require a rejuvenated global partnership, expeditious delivery on commitments already made, and an agile transition to a more environmentally sustainable future.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/11\\_MDG%20Report\\_EN.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/11_MDG%20Report_EN.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: UN Reports Progress towards Poverty Alleviation, Urges Increased Support for the Poorest**, *UN News Center*, July 7

Despite significant setbacks caused by the global economic crisis that plunged much of the world into recession and the high food and energy prices, the world is still on track to achieve the MDGs. The report stressed that efforts need to be intensified especially among the most vulnerable members of the global population who continue to be marginalized as a result of sex, age, ethnicity or disability.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38965&Cr>

**Excessive Food Price Variability Early Warning System**, *IFPRI*, July 2011

The tools presented in this section provide a visual representation of historical periods of excessive global price volatility from 2000-present, as well as a daily volatility status. This status can alert policymakers when world markets are experiencing a period of excessive food price volatility; this information can then be used to determine appropriate country-level food security responses, such as the release of physical food stocks.

<http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/policy-analysis-tools/excessive-food-price-variability-early-warning-system>

**SEE ALSO: Predicting Food Price Volatility**, *IRIN News*, July 6

The early warning tool is based on sophisticated economic modeling, which provides daily price variability ratings for four major crops - hard wheat, soft wheat, maize and soya beans - and aims to help analysts predict price volatility.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93163>

**Investing in Youth on Continent Will Foster a Green Agricultural Revolution**, *Opinion*, Dr. Namanga Ngongi, *AllAfrica*, July 1

The viability of African agriculture relies on the action of people at all levels. But Africa's leaders should do more to spur private-sector participation in farms of different sizes as well as in agro-processing and support

services such as finance and machinery-rental services. It is not tenable that agriculture that employs 70 per cent of Africa's population, accounts for some 35 per cent of GDP and 40-50 per cent of exports receives barely 2 per cent of commercial bank lending.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201107040243.html>

**An African Adventure, and a Revelation**, *Opinion, Nicholas Kristof, New York Times, July 1*

So, yes, foreign aid has myriad problems, and global poverty is far too persistent — but four million lives saved a year is an extraordinary achievement. And the Obama administration deserves real credit for its Feed the Future aid initiative. This isn't sexy or well known, but it bolsters African agriculture and nutrition as a cheap and effective way to chip away at global poverty and disease.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/03/opinion/sunday/03kristof.html>

**Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security**, *Kristin Dailey, Initiative for Global Development, June 17*

The Council's Global Agricultural Development Initiative co-chair Dan Glickman said "We're witnessing the start of an exciting new phase of U.S.-supported agricultural development. Even though many of these initiatives and programs are just getting off the ground, we can see how new partnerships, technologies and farmer-support systems are bringing benefits to developing country farmers."

<http://blog.igdleaders.org/index.php/symposium-on-global-agriculture-and-food-security/>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**EPA Reduces Smokestack Pollution**, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, July 7*

The EPA finalized additional Clean Air Act protections that will slash hundreds of thousands of tons of smokestack emissions that travel long distances through the air leading to soot and smog, threatening the health of hundreds of millions of Americans living downwind. The rule will protect over 240 million Americans living in the eastern half of the country, resulting in up to \$280 billion in annual benefits.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/cedd944b946fdc5f852578c60055e818!OpenDocument>

**SEE ALSO: E.P.A. Issues Tougher Rules for Power Plants**, *New York Times, July 7*

The agency said the regulations, which will take effect in 2012, would reduce emissions of compounds that cause soot, smog and acid rain from hundreds of power plants by millions of tons at an additional cost to utilities of less than \$1 billion a year.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/08/science/earth/08epa.html>

**SEE ALSO: EPA finalizes rules for Cross-state Air Pollution**, *The Hill, July 7*

The states covered by Thursday's rule will work with power plants to install technology to reduce SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, which contribute to ozone and fine-particle pollution.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/170165-epa-finalizes-rules-for-cross-state-air-pollution>

**DOE Offers Conditional Commitment for a \$105 Million Loan Guarantee for First-of-its-Kind Cellulosic Bio-Refinery in Iowa**, *USDA, July 7*

U.S. Energy Secretary announced the offer of a conditional commitment for a \$105 million loan guarantee to support the development of the nation's first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant. Project LIBERTY will produce up to 25 million gallons of ethanol per year and will be located in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/07/0294.xml>

**SEE ALSO: DOE offers a \$105 Million Loan Guarantee for Cellulosic Ethanol**, *Agri-Pulse, July 7*

This is the first loan guarantee for the Energy Department, but USDA Rural Development announced its first \$80 million similar loan guarantee for Range Fuels in 2009, to make cellulosic biofuel from wood chips and another \$405 million in loan guarantees in January 2011.

[http://www.agripulse.com/DOE\\_offers\\_cellulosic\\_loan\\_guarantee\\_POET\\_07072011.asp](http://www.agripulse.com/DOE_offers_cellulosic_loan_guarantee_POET_07072011.asp)

**SEE ALSO: U.S. Backs Project to Produce Fuel From Corn Waste**, *New York Times, July 7*

If cellulosic ethanol could be produced in an economical fashion, it would vastly increase the American potential to make motor vehicle fuel and reduce use of fossil fuels. It could reduce the use

of corn in the manufacture of ethanol as a motor fuel, which is criticized for reducing food supplies for people and animals.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/07/business/energy-environment/us-backs-plant-to-make-fuel-from-corn-waste.html>

**William Lynn, Pentagon's No. 2 civilian, will Leave Post**, *Washington Post*, July 7

The Pentagon's second-highest-ranking civilian that he plans to leave his post later this summer or early fall. Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III is resigning at a time when senior officials in the department are weighing how to best cut more than \$400 billion from the defense budget over the next 12 years.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/national-security/william-lynn-pentagons-no-2-civilian-will-leave-post/2011/07/07/gIQAxv7g2H\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/national-security/william-lynn-pentagons-no-2-civilian-will-leave-post/2011/07/07/gIQAxv7g2H_story.html)

**NSF and USAID Launch International, Interagency PEER Program to Advance Science Collaboration With the Developing World**, *USAID*, July 7

Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research capitalizes on competitively-awarded investments to support and build scientific and technical capacity in the developing world. Six USAID-funded pilot projects through PEER explore research challenges related to ecosystems, climate change, seismology, hydrology and biodiversity in Tanzania, Bagladesh, Mali, Kenya and Burkina Faso and are linked with NSF investments.

[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=121003](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=121003)

**Biotech Addresses Food Security, Climate Change: Potential Economic Growth Engine**, *Opinion*, *Jose Fernandez*, *Assistant Secretary, Department of State*, July 6

Biotechnology has created an array of tools to improve agricultural productivity, efficiency and nutrition over the last decade, from tissue culture to marker-assisted selection to genetic engineering, and concurrently reduced agriculture's environmental footprint. It offers great potential to help developing countries reduce crop losses due to pests and disease, increase the nutrient content of crops and mitigate the effects of climate change.

<http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/rls/rm/2011/167839.htm>

**Secretary Clinton's Remarks at Closing Luncheon for TechWomen Initiative**, *Department of State*, July 6

Being a woman in the field of technology is not always easy. Being a woman in any field is not always easy but there are so many opportunities in technology that we just have to forge ahead, and we're doing so around the world because we want to make sure that all the tools that technology has made available are just as open to women as they are to men.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/07/167699.htm>

**SEE ALSO: Clinton launches TechGirls for Young Muslims**, *UPI*, July 6

The women were paired with 24 leading, U.S. technology companies in Silicon Valley and the greater San Francisco area, including giants Google, Facebook and Intel, for a project-based professional mentorship.

[http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Energy-Resources/2011/07/06/Clinton-launches-TechGirls-for-young-Muslims/UPI-12881309988915/](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2011/07/06/Clinton-launches-TechGirls-for-young-Muslims/UPI-12881309988915/)

**President Obama nominated Wendy Sherman as Under Secretary for Political Affairs**, *Department of State*, *White House*, July 1

Wendy R. Sherman served as Counselor for the State Department, while also serving as President Clinton's Policy Coordinator on North Korea from 1997 to 2001. Ambassador Sherman was President and CEO of the Fannie Mae Foundation. From 1993 to 1996, she was Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/07/01/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts>

**SEE ALSO: Sherman Nominated as Undersecretary of State**, *Foreign Policy*, July 1

Sherman played a major role in Clinton's nomination preparation and transition teams. She served as an agency review lead for the State Department's transition.

<http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/07/01/its-official-sherman-nominated-as-undersecretary-of-state>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Conservation Science and Policy**

*Date:* July 17th – 20th, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The theme of the meeting is, "Conservation Science and Policy: Global Perspectives and Applications." The focus for this year's meeting is exploring ways to improve the linkages among conservation science, policy, and application at local, national, and international scales. Secretary Glickman will share his thoughts and personal experiences on the long-term implications of food and agricultural policy on conservation in the United States and around the world.

<http://www.swcs.org/>

### **Climate Change and its Global Implications for People, Ethics and Equity**

*Date:* July 21-22, 2011

*Location:* Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

The Climate Change Conference is for any person with an interest in, and concern for, scientific, policy and strategic perspectives in climate change. It will address a range of critically important themes relating to the vexing question of climate change.

<http://on-climate.com/conference-2011/>

### **A Federal Clean Energy Standard: Understanding Important Policy Elements**

*Date:* July 27

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

RFF's Center for Climate and Electricity Policy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are co-hosting a one-day workshop to present current analysis of CES policies—drawn upon recent empirical modeling and conceptual thinking by RFF, other independent and government research institutions, as well stakeholders.

<http://www.rff.org/Events/Pages/A-Federal-Clean-Energy-Standard-Understanding-Important-Policy-Elements.aspx>

### **World Food Prize 25th Anniversary**

*Date:* October 12th – 14th, 2011

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

The World Food Prize will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this fall during the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium and the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. The topic of the symposium this year is "The Next Generation" and will focus on future leaders, challenges and technologies in the fight against hunger. This year, events will also include the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a permanent home for the World Food Prize and an event center and educational facility to honor humanitarian heroes and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders. Stay tuned and learn more at

[www.worldfoodprize.org](http://www.worldfoodprize.org).

### **American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting**

*Date:* October 16th – 19th, 2011

*Location:* San Antonio, TX

The American Society of Agronomy, together with the Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America, will host their International Annual Meetings, which brings together 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and students. The theme of the this year's meeting is "Fundamental for Life: Soil, Crop, & Environmental Sciences," and features the symposium, "Feed the Future -- Global Food Security," one of hundreds of symposia and sessions that will be presented throughout the week. For more information, visit

[www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org)

### **Future-Proof Farming**

*Date:* November 9, 2011

*Place:* Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy needs to meet growing challenges that range from food security and

safety to ecological sustainability and climate change. Meanwhile, Europe's farmers face a variety of ecological challenges, yet agriculture can contribute much to the creation of an environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy. Representatives from the farming sector will go into discussion with EU policymakers and experts from academic circles and civil society to debate the challenges facing European agriculture, European farmers and the role a reformed CAP should play in solving the world's food challenges. <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/Contentnavigation/Events/Eventsoverview/tabid/1187/EventType/EventView/EventId/1066/Futureprooffarming.aspx>

### **World Biofuels Markets**

*Date:* March 13th – 15th, 2012

*Location:* Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will share their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

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

### **Jobs, Food & Farming**

*Date:* March 19-21, 2012

*Location:* Accra, Ghana

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: 1) Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agri-food sector in Africa; 2) The dynamics of change in different components of the agri-food sector and the implications of these dynamics for young people; 3) The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agri-food sector. The conference will be co-hosted by the Future Agricultures Consortium based at the Institute of Development Studies and the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research.

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/index.php>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Media Articles:

#### **The Importance of MyPlate**, *Opinion, Marshall Matz, Agri-Pulse, July 7*

The release last month of the "My Plate" comes not a moment too soon. Obesity has reached an epidemic proportion in the United States. Our children have accelerated disease patterns and are getting diabetes at earlier and earlier ages. "MyPlate," as the Secretary said, "is an uncomplicated symbol to help remind people to think about their food choices in order to lead healthier lifestyles."

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/The\\_importance\\_of\\_myplate\\_7012011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/The_importance_of_myplate_7012011.asp)

#### **Food Deserts: If You Build It, They May Not Come**, *The Economist, July 7*

A new website from the USDA shows that 10% of the country is now a "food desert". The Food Desert Locator is an online map highlighting thousands of areas where low-income families have little or no access to healthy fresh food. Food deserts have come to epitomize urban decay.

<http://www.economist.com/node/18929190>

#### **\$170 Million Research Program to Help Maize Farmers Worldwide**, *AllAfrica, July 6*

CGIAR announced a US\$170 million global alliance and program to expand and accelerate research into maize, the preferred staple food source for more than 900 million people in 94 developing countries.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201107061512.html>

#### **Cameroon's Agriculture at Crossroads**, *VOA News, July 6*

Cameroon's dependence on food imports has skyrocketed over the last three decades. The Ministry of Finance says last year alone, the country spent about \$1.1 million on imports of rice, fish, flour, sugar and other products. That's about five percent of the national budget. But the government allocates less than 2.5 percent of the national budget to rural development.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Camerouns-Agriculture-at-Crossroads-125071684.html>

**Where's the beef? Michigan State Aims to Find Out**, *Seattle PI*, July 4

A small herd of cattle from Michigan State University was recently slaughtered with two goals: boosting the amount of locally produced food on campus and creating a system of tracking beef from the farm to the plate. Animal scientists at the East Lansing-based school are working on the state-funded projects starting with 10 steer and barcode tags on the beef that comes from them.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Where-s-the-beef-Michigan-State-aims-to-find-out-1451616.php>

**Agricultural Policy Key to EU Inflation**, *Wall Street Journal*, July 4

While the recent surge in oil prices added an estimated quarter of a percentage point to euro-zone inflation, experts are warning that the agricultural crisis threatens to increase overall inflation levels in Europe by another half a percentage point. Short-term action by individual governments is not the answer—the sector needs a long-term vision and a united European front. Collaboration is vital if European agriculture is to cope with an even-greater threat to its survival: the competition from Latin America and China.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304803104576423893039347666.html>

**Fingerprint Technology to Help Feed India's Poorest**, *BBC News*, July 4

In most places, families are given paper "ration books" that record how much food has been purchased and by whom. But this scheme in Chandigarh is doing away with the old system. The credit card-sized biometric smart cards stores the fingerprints, photograph and other personal details of the head of the family.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-13965768>

**FAO Conference Approves Budget Increase**, *FAO*, July 2

FAO's governing Conference has unanimously approved a regular program budget of \$1,005.6 million for the Organization for the 2012-13 biennium, equivalent to a 1.4 percent increase over the current biennium. In addition, FAO expects some \$1.4 billion of voluntary contributions from members and partners over the next biennium.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/81403/icode/>

**Uganda: Agriculture is the Way Out for Country**, *AllAfrica*, July 2

The first is agricultural financing that can lead to large-scale production. Most of the agriculture in Uganda takes place on small-scale (subsistence). This cannot even be enough for household needs. There is need to streamline the land market to provide ample land for large-scale production. We should allocate our resources bearing in mind that our competitiveness as a nation in the international market is in agriculture.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201107041699.html>

**China makes Significant Contributions to Global Food Security**, *China Daily*, July 2

China is playing a positive role in improving the agricultural production and food production capacity of developing countries. China has built more than 20 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Asia, Africa, Latin America and other regions, and dispatched more than 1,100 agricultural experts and technicians to other developing countries to help them train agricultural talent.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2011-07/02/content\\_12822170.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2011-07/02/content_12822170.htm)

**Biotech Crucial for Food Security**, *Opinion, Ram Kaundinya, Business Line*, June 30

Genetically improved seeds were introduced in the world in 1996. In 2010, a record 15.4 million farmers in 29 countries planted 148 million hectares of biotech crops, with 90 per cent, or 14.4 million being small and resource-poor farmers in developing countries. This share has been growing very rapidly in the last five years as the acceptance of GM crops has gone up substantially.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/article2144947.ece>

## Media Articles:

### **Obama Defends US Foreign Aid**, *Business Standard*, July 8

Obama argued that to be a leader in the world, to have influence, to help stabilize countries and create opportunity for people so that they don't breed terrorists or create huge refugee flows and so forth, it's smart for the US to make a very modest investment in foreign aid. "It's a force multiplier and it's something that even in tough fiscal times America needs to continue to do as part of our role as a global leader," he said.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/obama-defends-us-foreign-aid/140549/on>

### **Foreign Aid keeps America Safe**, *Opinion, James Kunder, The Daily Caller*, July 7

Congress must get serious about responding to the military's long-deferred request for an adequate civilian partner by rebuilding the USAID. Investments in our "civilian surge" capacity today will reap significant returns for U.S. national interests down the road — generating taxpayer savings, economic growth and greater national security. USAID must be empowered to respond to crisis situations and, more importantly, to strengthen underdeveloped and fragile states to prevent them from becoming terrorist safe havens.

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/07/07/foreign-aid-keeps-america-safe/>

### **OECD must Invite Newcomers to the Table**, *Guardian*, July 7

Atwood's call for a rethink of the world's "aid architecture" development cooperation comes at a time when China, India and Brazil have emerged as aid donors in their own right. The debate on Dac might seem relevant only to policy wonks, but a lot of money is at stake. Total aid from OECD countries came to \$128bn last year and taxpayers want to know where their money is going and whether it is well spent.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jul/07/aid-effectiveness-oecd-dac-shift>

### **Moving From Policy to Practice**, *Opinion, Ambassador Mark Green, Modernize Aid*, July 6

President Obama's Policy Directive on Global Development elevates the role that development programs play in our international relations. Secretary Clinton's first-ever Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review makes a number of administrative moves to try to better coordinate development policy. Finally, Administrator Shah has laid out plans to make stronger monitoring and evaluation a cornerstone of his leadership at USAID. But now, it's Capitol Hill's turn.

<http://www.modernizeaid.net/2011/07/06/modern-legislation-moving-from-policy-to-practice/>

### **Africa and the Aid Conundrum**, *Christina Patterson, Huffington Post*, July 6

Aid has become an ideological issue. The Left has been too tolerant of what doesn't work. The Right has been too mean. But there are some things that really ought to be beyond ideology. It's nothing less than an abomination that human beings are still dying of hunger at a time when we can send a space probe to Mars. We can't solve all the problems of bad people, and bad climates, and bad governments. But at least we can say that we're citizens of a country that tried.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/christina-patterson/uk-aid-africa\\_b\\_891186.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/christina-patterson/uk-aid-africa_b_891186.html)

### **US to Test al-Shabab's Willingness to Allow Food Aid to Somalia**, *Voice of America* July 6

Drought conditions in Somalia and parts of Ethiopia and Kenya are being compared to those of the early 1990s. At the time, large amounts of international aid were commandeered by Somali warlords to help fuel the country's civil war. There is concern among Western governments and aid groups that al-Shabab, which is battling Somalia's Transitional Federal Government, might do the same.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/US-to-Test-al-Shababs-Willingness-to-Allow-Food-Aid-to-Somalia-125101299.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Somalia Islamists lift Aid Ban to Help Drought Victims**, *BBC News*, July 6

Somalia's militant Islamist group al-Shabab has lifted a ban on foreign aid agencies, as the region is hit by its worst drought in 60 years. It now says all charities, whether "Muslims or non-Muslims", can give emergency aid as long as they have "no hidden agenda".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14046267>

**Overseas Aid: One Good cause doesn't justify ever-rising Spending**, *Editorial, The Telegraph, July 6*

David Cameron said in the Commons yesterday that the famine in the Horn of Africa "once again" made the case for increasing spending on overseas aid, which this year will top £9 billion. What is worse is the Government's unquestioning belief that aid must always be a good thing in itself. The statistics suggest otherwise. Without economic growth, there will never be an escape from poverty.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8621591/Overseas-aid-One-good-cause-doesnt-justify-ever-rising-spending.html>

**Libya: UN introduces Regular Vessel to Ferry Aid from Benghazi to Misrata**, *UN News Centre, July 5*

The United Nations WFP has launched the first ship with a regular schedule to ferry relief supplies and aid workers from the Libyan city of Benghazi to Misrata, which has seen some of the heaviest fighting since an uprising broke out in the North African country four months ago. The vessel will make one or two trips each week between the two cities this month, the agency said in an update of its operations in Libya

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38940&Cr=libya&Cr1>

**In Praise of Nation-Building**, *Opinion, Max Boot, Los Angeles Times, July 5*

The U.S. is engaged in nation-building not only in Iraq and Afghanistan but also, on a smaller scale, in Chad, the Philippines, Colombia and Mexico. The problem isn't that we are engaged in nation-building. The problem is that we do it so poorly. The U.S. military hasn't fully embraced it as a part of its mission, and neither has the State Department. The job often falls to the USAID, but it is so under-resourced that it has become little more than a contract-oversight office.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-boot-isolationism-20110705.0.320875.story>

**Rubio makes the case for Foreign Aid**, *Foreign Policy, July 5*

"Foreign aid is important. If it's done right, it spreads America's influence around the world in a positive way," Rubio responded. Rubio praised the Bush administration's effort to provide HIV medicine and relief to Africa as a prime example of a successful foreign aid program. He said the program had not only saved lives but had increased U.S. popularity throughout the continent.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/07/05/rubio\\_makes\\_the\\_case\\_for\\_foreign\\_aid](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/07/05/rubio_makes_the_case_for_foreign_aid)

**David Cameron dismisses Critics of International Aid as 'Hard-Hearted'**, *Guardian, July 5*

David Cameron has dismissed critics within his own party opposed to his pledge to increase spending on aid at a time of severe cuts in public expenditure. Cameron has pledged that the coalition will meet the UN target of 0.7% of GDP being allocated to international aid by 2013. It currently stands at 0.52% of GDP.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/jul/05/david-cameron-dismisses-international-aid-critics>

**Struggling for Power in Afghanistan**, *Opinion, Glenn Zorpette, New York Times, July 5*

The military isn't supposed to do long-term development overseas. But weigh those objections against the record: USAID's performance in Afghanistan's electrical sector has been so poor for so long that we can expect many millions of dollars to be wasted unless the administration acts now to give a vast new project a better chance of succeeding before only the aid agency is left in Afghanistan to struggle with the job.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/06/opinion/06zorpette.html>

**Departing U.S. Envoy Sees Progress in Afghanistan, and Pitfalls Ahead**, *New York Times, July 4*

An estimated 95 percent of the country's economic activity is derived from foreign aid and Western military expenditures, and Mr. Eikenberry warned of an economic collapse in Afghanistan as donors begin to reduce their spending here. This year foreign aid from the US peaked at \$4 billion, but in the next fiscal year only \$2.5 billion is planned for Afghanistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/05/world/asia/05afghanistan.html>

**European Union to Send Food Aid to North Korea**, *New York Times, July 4*

Responding to the growing threat of a humanitarian crisis in North Korea, the EU announced that it will provide about \$14.5 million in emergency aid to feed more than some 650,000 North Koreans. The per-

person ration, which had been 400 grams of cereals per day, about 14 ounces, was reduced to 150 grams, about 5.3 ounces, in June. That is a fifth of the daily average nutritional requirement.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/05/world/europe/05union.html>

**SEE ALSO: Europe to Send Urgent Food Aid to North Korea**, *Guardian*, July 4

The money will be used to buy food, through the World Food Program and Save the Children, which will be directed to 650,000 children in hospitals and care homes, breastfeeding women, hospital patients and the elderly.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jul/04/north-korea-european-commission-food-aid>

**Let's Not Linger in Afghanistan**, *Opinion*, U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley, Rand Paul, Tom Udall, *New York Times*, July 4

The President's plan would not remove all regular combat troops until 2014. We believe the US is capable of achieving this goal by the end of 2012. America would be more secure and stronger economically if we recognized that we have largely achieved our objectives in Afghanistan and moved aggressively to bring our troops and tax dollars home.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/05/opinion/05merkley3.html>

**Americans sense a Decline and Look Inward**, *Christian Science Monitor*, July 3

Obama is focused on addressing the national security threats emanating from places like Yemen and Somalia, Robert Zarate adds, but he says the president should do more to explain to the American people why a US role in those places and elsewhere is necessary – a process he says might also act as an antidote to Americans' isolationist tendencies.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2011/0703/Independence-Day-blues-Americans-sense-a-decline-and-look-inward>

**The Number of Contractors Barred by USAID has More than Doubled This Year**, *Washington Post*, July 3

The agency has halted new contracting and grants with 39 entities this year, more than twice the 18 suspended or debarred last year. USAID spent \$5.1 billion on contracts in fiscal 2010. The agency does business with 3,500 companies and 300 nonprofit groups - known as "implementing partners" - in 90 countries.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/the-number-of-contractors-barred-by-usaid-has-more-than-doubled-this-year/2011/06/30/AGHUPuwH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/the-number-of-contractors-barred-by-usaid-has-more-than-doubled-this-year/2011/06/30/AGHUPuwH_story.html)

**Insufficient Funds hit Horn of Africa Aid Efforts**, *Reuters*, July 2

Donor fatigue following recurrent humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa has left aid agencies short of funds to carry out their work. For Kenya, aid agencies have appealed for \$525 million, but only received 55 percent so far, and for Somalia they have appealed for \$529 million, and only received 50 percent.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE76106G20110702>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction**, *ISDR*, July 2011

The ISDR provides a framework to coordinate actions to address disaster risks at the local, national, regional and international levels. The Hyogo Framework for Action for Action 2005-2015, endorsed by 168 UN member states at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan in 2005, urges all countries to make major efforts to reduce their disaster risk by 2015.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2011/en/home/download.html>

**SEE ALSO: Lack of Data on Droughts hampers Risk Reduction Efforts**, *SciDev*, July 4

Droughts pose a "hidden risk" as they are poorly understood and lack reliable data that could inform mitigation strategies

<http://www.scidev.net/en/news/lack-of-data-on-droughts-hampers-risk-reduction-efforts.html>

## Media Articles:

### **Abu Dhabi hosts Africa Meeting on Renewable Energy**, *Forbes*, July 8

African governments should consider investing in renewable energies like wind, solar and hydro power to help feed the continent's growing energy demands and combat threats of climate change. Until now, African has largely been left on the sidelines of discussions about climate change, mostly because its poor nations only use 5 percent of the world's energy.

[http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/07/08/general-ml-africa-renewable-energy\\_8555134.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/07/08/general-ml-africa-renewable-energy_8555134.html)

### **Once More unto the Abyss**, *Economist*, July 7

After the worst drought in 60 years, more than 10m people in the Horn of Africa need emergency food aid. Livestock have been annihilated. Hundreds of thousands of people are streaming into refugee camps in search of help. Malnutrition rates in some areas are five times more severe than the threshold aid agencies use to define a crisis. Many children are already dying of starvation.

<http://www.economist.com/node/18929467>

#### **SEE ALSO: Worst Drought in 60 years: 12 million Africans face 'Fight for Survival'**, *MSNBC*, July 7

The UN believes that it might lead to a "human tragedy of unimaginable proportions" - a grave warning indeed. Charities say that the world must act now to avoid a catastrophe.

<http://worldblog.msnbc.msn.com/news/2011/07/07/7031757-worst-drought-in-60-years-12-million-africans-face-fight-for-survival>

#### **SEE ALSO: Africa Drought Endangers Millions**, *New York Times*, July 5

In April officials estimated that up to 8 million people in the region will be in need of emergency food aid. That number has now been increased to 10 or 11 million in urgent need.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/07/05/05climatewire-africa-drought-endangers-millions-22493.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Fleeing to find food: Drought, Hunger batters Millions in Horn of Africa**, *Washington Post*, July 6

Oxfam - which hopes to raise \$80 million, its largest ever appeal for Africa - says 12 million people are affected by hunger. At least 500 Somalis are known to have died from drought-related diseases.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/fleeing-to-find-food-drought-hunger-batters-millions-in-horn-of-africa-refugee-camps-fill/2011/07/06/gIQAYoyZ0H\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/fleeing-to-find-food-drought-hunger-batters-millions-in-horn-of-africa-refugee-camps-fill/2011/07/06/gIQAYoyZ0H_story.html)

#### **SEE ALSO: Starvation Returns to the Horn of Africa**, *The Independent*, July 3

In the Horn of Africa, unseen as yet by the world's television cameras, a pitiful trek of the hungry is taking place.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/starvation-returns-to-the-horn-of-africa-2306001.html>

### **Climate Change will increase Threat of War**, *Guardian*, July 6

Climate change will lead to an increased threat of wars, violence and military action against the UK, and risks reversing the progress of civilization, the energy and climate secretary Chris Huhne will say. He will warn that climate change risks reversing the progress made in prosperity and democracy since the industrial revolution.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/06/climate-change-war-chris-huhne>

### **Australia Cuts Relief to China, India in Aid Revamp**, *VOA News*, July 6

The Australian government says it is planning to phase out direct aid to China and India as part of sweeping reforms to the country's overseas aid budget. Australia spends around \$5 billion on foreign aid each year. That figure is expected to rise to \$8 billion by 2016, which represents half a percent of national income.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Australia-Cuts-Relief-to-China-India-in-Aid-Revamp-125066539.html>

### **UK Government claims it has Exceeded its Own Carbon Reduction Target**, *Guardian*, July 6

Central government emissions were cut by 14% in the past year, compared to the 10% reduction that had been promised. David Cameron applauded the effort but said he wanted to go further, pledging a 25%

reduction in carbon from central government by the end of this parliament.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/06/uk-government-carbon-reduction>

**Wooing Voters (or Not) With a Climate Pitch**, *New York Times*, July 6

Presenting a green-minded position on climate change to constituents, however, appears to be beneficial for politicians. Democrat and Independent voters were much more likely to vote for a candidate who took a green position than for a candidate who took no position. Among the Republicans surveyed, the likelihood of whether a respondent indicated that he would vote for a candidate was not significantly affected by either a green position or a not-green position.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/06/wooing-voters-or-not-with-a-climate-pitch/>

**E.P.A. Chief Stands Firm as Tough Rules Loom**, *New York Times*, July 5

In the next weeks and months, Lisa P. Jackson is scheduled to establish regulations on smog, mercury, carbon dioxide, mining waste and vehicle emissions that will affect every corner of the economy. The new rules will roll out just as President Obama's re-election campaign is getting under way, with a White House highly sensitive to the probability of political damage from a flood of government mandates that will strike particularly hard at the manufacturing sector in states crucial to the 2012 election.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/06/science/earth/06epa.html>

**Evo Morales plays a Double Game on Bolivia's Environment**, *Guardian*, July 4

Morales is seen as a champion and one of the most vocal supporters of the environment. He hosted a climate change conference in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba, and Bolivia was the only dissenting country against the deal reached at international climate change talks in Cancún, whose terms it said were equivalent to "ecocide and genocide". Look closer to home, however, and a different picture emerges.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jul/04/bolivia-evo-morales-hypocrisy-environment>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Reports:

**Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice**, *UN Women*, July 2011

UN Women's first major report recognizes the positive progress made – 139 countries and territories now guarantee gender equality in their constitutions, for example – but also shows that too often, women continue to experience injustice, violence and inequality in their home and working lives.

<http://progress.unwomen.org/pdfs/EN-Report-Progress.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: U.N. Women's Agency Publishes Sobering Report on Lack of Gender Equality**, *New York Times*, July 6

Among countries that have still not formally outlawed domestic violence are two members of the European Union and among those still not explicitly criminalizing marital rape are a dozen more, including pioneers of gender equality like Norway and Britain.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/07/world/07iht-women07.html>

**SEE ALSO: Women's Battle for Justice**, *Opinion*, Michelle Bachelet, July 6

Women across the world enjoy greater opportunities and freedoms than ever before. It is a peaceful revolution underpinned by an extraordinary transformation of legal rights. Despite advances, there remains an immense gap between these welcome legal guarantees and everyday life for women.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jul/06/un-women-justice-report-michelle-bachelet>

**SEE ALSO: Key Facts from the Report**, *Trust Law*, July 5

<http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/news/factbox-womens-rights-in-todays-world-un-women>

**State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2011**, *Minority Rights Group International*, July 6

In the year that saw the establishment of UN Women minority and indigenous women continued to face violence, discrimination and marginalization, stemming both from their identity as women and as members

of disadvantaged minority groups. This year's edition of State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples presents an overview of the situation of minority and indigenous women today.

<http://www.minorityrights.org/10848/state-of-the-worlds-minorities/state-of-the-worlds-minorities-and-indigenous-peoples-2011.html>

**SEE ALSO: Afghanistan's Women are at the Sharp End of War**, *Guardian*, July 6

Afghan women face a bleak future unless women's rights are included as a non-negotiable element of any future political settlement.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/jul/06/afghanistan-minority-women-sharp-end-of-war>

#### Media Articles:

**Women in Egypt Face Serious Harassment Every Day**, *New York Times*, July 6

According to human rights and women's rights organizations, surveys suggest that hundreds of thousands of Egyptian women are everyday victims of sexual harassment. A 2008 study of the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights, a nongovernmental group, found that 83 percent of Egyptian women reported sexual harassment, and 62 percent of Egyptian men admitted that they had harassed women.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/06/world/europe/06iht-letter06.html>

**U.S. condemns Congo Sexual Violence after Soldiers Rape 248**, *Washington Times*, July 6

The United States condemned sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spurred by sexual attacks on 248 women and children by government troops last month in the same region as a mass rape by rebels last year. Congolese government troops attacked women and children in three villages from June 11 to 13, only a year after rebel soldiers sexually assaulted 387 in the same region.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/6/us-condemns-congo-sexual-violence-after-soldiers-r/>

**Men, hit Hardest in Recession, are Getting Work Faster than Women**, *Washington Post*, July 6

The recession was hard on men, who saw construction and manufacturing jobs dry up, but the recovery is proving much kinder. In a rare turnabout, men are outpacing women in getting jobs as the economy struggles back to life — and they're doing it partly by taking work in fields long dominated by women.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/jobs-market-men-hit-hardest-in-recessionaregettingworkfasterthanwomen/2011/07/06/gIQAbGxH1H\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/jobs-market-men-hit-hardest-in-recessionaregettingworkfasterthanwomen/2011/07/06/gIQAbGxH1H_story.html)

**How Health Cuts are Killing Women**, *Guardian*, July 5

Between 2003 and 2007, the average maternal mortality rate – defined by deaths that occur within 42 days of childbirth – has risen to 13 deaths per 100,000 live births, approximately double the low of 6.6 deaths per 100,000 live births recorded in 1987. Today, the US ranks 41st in the world for maternal mortality, one of the worst records among developed countries.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2011/jul/05/maternitypaternityrights-women>

**Women Keen to Ease Greenhouse Effect on Their Ability to Provide**, *IPS*, July 4

A successful entrepreneurial programme in the north of Namibia that infuses farming practices with gender-responsive environmentalism may serve as a model for other countries on the African continent. With a handful of other women Marie Johansson started Creative Entrepreneur Solutions in 2007. She helped poor women in the townships to strengthen their small informal enterprises, or start new ones.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56344>

**Open Letter to Hillary Clinton**, *Tom Arnold, Concern Blog*, July 1

I recently met with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington, D.C. We were both there to speak about nutrition for mothers and children in the world's poorest countries. The meeting highlighted important developments in nutrition, including the Scaling Up Nutrition framework. This framework highlights the importance of good nutrition during the 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child reaching two years of age.

<http://www.concern.net/news-blogs/tom-arnolds-blog/open-letter-hillary-clinton>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2011**, *UNEP and Bloomberg, July 2011*

With investments of \$72 billion in utility-scale renewable energy projects and companies, for the first time more has been spent on renewable energy in developing countries than in developed economies. This is the central and exciting investment story of the Global Trends Report 2011. China has led this surge, with nearly \$50 billion invested in 2010, making it by far the largest source of, and destination for, clean energy investment globally.

[http://www.enea.it/it/enea\\_informa/documenti/rapporto-uneep](http://www.enea.it/it/enea_informa/documenti/rapporto-uneep)

#### **SEE ALSO: Green Energy Investment hits Record Global High**, *BBC, July 7*

Global investment in renewable energy sources grew by 32% during 2010 to reach a record level of US\$211bn. The main growth drivers were backing for wind farms in China and rooftop solar panels in Europe.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-14030849>

### Media Articles:

#### **Poor Countries Seen Likely to Be 'Hammered' by Food Costs, Water Shortages**, *Bloomberg, July 8*

Developing economies will be "hammered" as declining water supply adds to problems confronting farmers who are already struggling to meet food demand, pushing prices even higher. Countries in short supply of water including China will continue to boost food imports, draining resources in some of the largest agricultural producers including the U.S. and Brazil, said Lee McIntire, chairman and chief executive officer.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-08/poor-countries-seen-likely-to-be-hammered-by-food-costs-water-shortages.html>

#### **Mexico cuts Tariffs on U.S. products**, *Hagstrom Report, July 8*

The government of Mexico officially reduced by half the retaliatory tariffs it had imposed on 89 U.S. products in the dispute over Mexican long haul trucks' access to the United States. Under an agreement announced earlier this week between Mexico and the United States, the other 50 percent of the tariffs will be removed when the agreement goes into effect.

[www.thehagstromreport.com](http://www.thehagstromreport.com)

#### **SEE ALSO: List of the Products and the New Tariff Levels**, *USTR, July 8*

[http://www.ustr.gov/webfm\\_send/2968](http://www.ustr.gov/webfm_send/2968)

#### **Ethanol Subsidies Imperiled**, *Wall Street Journal, July 8*

The nation's \$6 billion subsidy program for ethanol producers would be eliminated under a proposed deficit-reduction deal, but corn-state senators negotiated for more than \$600 million to help promote sales of ethanol-blended gas at service stations. The proposal would end the decades-old subsidy by July 31. It now gives gasoline retailers an excise tax credit of 45 cents for each gallon of ethanol they blend with their motor fuel. A tax of 54 cents a gallon on imported ethanol would also be retired at the end of the month.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303544604576431750420430450.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Farm-State Senators Agree to End Ethanol Tax Breaks in July**, *Bloomberg, July 7*

The lawmakers said the proposal would reduce the federal budget deficit by \$1.33 billion.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-07/farm-state-senators-agree-to-end-ethanol-breaks-feinstein-says.html>

#### **India Food Prices Edge Higher**, *Wall Street Journal, July 7*

Food prices in India edged up in the week ended June 25, underscoring stubbornly high inflation in Asia's third-largest economy that could mount pressure on the central bank to continue tightening monetary policy. Food prices have been easing slowly in recent months but still reign at worrisome levels as growing affluence in the country boosts demand for protein-rich foods such as meat and milk.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303544604576431291963475336.html>

**Europe paves way for GM Crop Bans, *Guardian*, July 6**

The European Parliament backed plans to let member states choose whether to ban the cultivation of GM crops on their territory. The House voted to amend European Commission proposals for an EU regulation that would allow member states to restrict or ban the cultivation on their territory of GM crops, which have been given safety approval at EU level.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/06/europe-gm-crop-bans>

**Brazilian Sugar Output Set to Slide, *Financial Times*, July 6**

Sugar output in Brazil, the world's biggest exporter, is set to fall for the first time in five years, raising the possibility of a sharp rise in prices that would stoke fears over food security. The impact of a lower Brazilian crop on the global market is magnified by the fact it is the only large grower selling sugar during the northern hemisphere summer.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/67e9f9a2-a7c9-11e0-a312-00144feabdc0.html>

**In Her First Week at the I.M.F., a New Leader Stresses Diversity and Respect, *New York Times*, July 6**

Ms. Lagarde has said that she needed time to study I.M.F. policies before offering her own opinions. But she sounded a note of caution, saying that she supported a move toward "comprehensive" measures of efficacy, but that the fund "should not become a specialized boutique to reduce unemployment." Ms. Lagarde said that increasing the diversity of the fund's staff would be a priority.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/07/business/in-first-week-on-the-job-lagarde-stresses-diversity.html>

**SEE ALSO: Lagarde, taking over IMF, vows to Diversify Board, *Associated Press*, July 6**

The new chief of the IMF must convince the developing world she will make the institution a more open place for non-Western nations. At the same time, she'll have to persuade her fellow Europeans to take painful steps to avoid a default by Greece.

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US\\_IMF\\_LAGARDE](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IMF_LAGARDE)

**Wary Investors Pull Back on Commodities, *Financial Times*, July 5**

Investors appear to have lost their appetite for commodities. Today, in spite of economic worries in almost every part of the world, consumption of most commodities continues to grow— in some cases, strongly. And yet investors have turned tail. Their positioning in US commodity futures, as reported by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, is the least bullish since July last year.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/2eaec40-a6fd-11e0-a808-00144feabdc0.html>

**Food Security the Fear as Foreign Investors Rush In, *The Australian*, July 4**

The peak farmers group has warned that increased global demand for food is leading to a new wave of foreign investment in Australian agriculture that could stifle competition and compromise national food security. Canberra moved to map out foreign ownership of agricultural assets, commissioning the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corp. to conduct a study.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/food-security-the-fear-as-foreign-investors-rush-in/story-fn59niix-1226086714579>

**Food Security: A Global Task, *Agweek*, July 4**

Annan's statement was remarkable, as rising food prices since 2008 have led many advocates and institutions such as the World Bank to switch their concern from farmers to consumers, particularly in developing countries. Annan did not propose specific help for the urban poor, such as the U.S. food stamp program, but said there is a need "for improved social protection schemes against price spikes to protect the poorest."

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/18702/>

**Russian Exporters Forced to Drop Grain Prices, *Financial Times*, July 4**

The cool reception to the prospect of fresh wheat exports from Russia, which before last year's ban was the world's third-largest supplier to the world market, has helped to drive down global wheat prices. "There is practically no demand for Russian grain," said Arkady Zlochevsky, the president of the Russian Grain Union.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/ac1314fa-a653-11e0-ae9c-00144feabdc0.html>

**Secret sale at Southern Sudan, *Courier Mail*, July 4**

A week before Southern Sudan's independence, investors have already bought up nearly a tenth of the new nation. Foreign companies, governments and individuals investing in agriculture, biofuels and forestry have signed leases for at least 2.6 million hectares in the most fertile parts of the country.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/secret-sale-at-southern-sudan/story-fn6ck55c-1226086818084>

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## **AGRIBUSINESS**

### Media Articles:

**Banking on Africa, John Deere Foundation gives \$2.5 million to Opportunity International**, *Agri-Pulse*, July 6

Opportunity International, a global non-profit microfinance organization, will receive a \$2.5 million grant from the John Deere Foundation to expand access to financial services for farmers and other entrepreneurs in Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda, through its "Banking on Africa" initiative.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Banking\\_on\\_Africa\\_John\\_Deere\\_grants\\_07062011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Banking_on_Africa_John_Deere_grants_07062011.asp)

**Cargill to Shut Down Joint Venture in Northwest US**, *Forbes*, July 5

Agribusiness companies Cargill and Louis Dreyfus Commodities said that they will end a joint venture that operates grain shipment facilities in the Pacific Northwest. The company shipped grain to Asia, with products including different varieties of wheat.

[http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/07/05/business-us-cargill-joint-venture\\_8550273.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/07/05/business-us-cargill-joint-venture_8550273.html)

**Bayer CropScience to pay up to \$750 million to Settle US Suits over GM Rice**, *Chicago Tribune*, July 1

Bayer CropScience agreed to pay up to \$750 million to settle several lawsuits with U.S. farmers who claimed a strain of the company's unapproved GM rice contaminated the food supply and hurt their crop prices. The settlement applies to long-grain rice, the kind used in pilaf or typically mixed with beans.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-ap-us-bayer-rice-settlement,0,7991295.story>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*