

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** –“Right now it’s more urgent than ever that those of us who believe in robust American leadership step up and articulate the dangers of American retrenchment. Many question whether we can afford foreign aid and development investments, but the reality – however hard to swallow – is that we can’t afford not to. Energetic global leadership is a strategic imperative for America, not a favor we do for other countries. It amplifies America’s voice and extends our reach.” – Senator John Kerry in “*Amid Budget Crisis, a Defense of Foreign Aid*”, Washington Post, August 3, 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).
- To receive *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please register [here](#).
- To unsubscribe from *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please click [here](#).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

---

### CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

**[CONTINUING SPECIAL COVERAGE: DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA](#)**

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

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

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

---

### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**Ending Starvation in the Horn of Africa, and Worldwide**, *Opinion, Ritu Sharma, The Hill, August 4*

Over three million people are on the brink of starvation in Somalia alone. Failed crops, dead livestock and thousands streaming across borders in search of food, water and safety. In the past few weeks, as the debt ceiling debate has hogged the headlines, the crisis in the Horn of Africa has become a steadily noisier roar. If we simply turn our backs on sustainable interventions in these times of economic hardship, we run the risk of continually responding to disasters.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/175499-ending-starvation-in-the-horn-of-africa-and-worldwide>

**Agriculture Research Provides a Strong Rate of Return**, *Marshall Matz, Agri-Pulse, August 3*

Agriculture research provides the basic foundation for our food and agriculture economy. Agriculture research is the key to higher yields, product innovation and energy independence. Agriculture must be a very high priority in the new budget reality. Agriculture research is an investment in the future. Reducing our investment in agriculture research would jeopardize our leadership and hurt the U.S. economy.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/AGRICULTURE\\_RESEARCH\\_08022011\\_matz.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/AGRICULTURE_RESEARCH_08022011_matz.asp)

**John Kufuor Helps Transform Ghana into a Model for African Agriculture**, *Dana Drugmand, CS Monitor, August 3*

Kufuor found agriculture to be a catalyst for these solutions. Agriculture is critical to Ghana's economy, as some 60 percent of the country's population depends directly on rural agriculture. Kufuor's administration worked to harness an agriculture transformation to strengthen the nation's economy. Under Kufuor's administration, cocoa production in Ghana doubled between 2002 and 2005.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/Change-Agent/2011/0803/John-Kufuor-helps-transform-Ghana-into-a-model-for-African-agriculture>

**Support for Farmers in Africa Dried Up Long Before Somalia's Famine**, *Robert Paarlberg, The Atlantic, August 2*

In Somalia today, there are ominous parallels with 1992: pervasive fighting among rival clans, far too little rain, and an inability among international peacekeeping forces to restore order or ensure that food aid reaches those in need. Nineteen years ago, the result was the death by starvation of 300,000 Somalis. It doesn't have to happen again. Everything depends on how the world responds.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2011/08/support-for-food-aid-in-africa-dried-up-long-before-somalias-famine/242960/>

**SEE ALSO: In Pictures: Hunger in the Horn of Africa**, *The Economist, August 4*

Never again, said the world after the horror Ethiopia's famine in 1984. And for years famine seemed to have departed Africa. But after the worst drought in 60 years, it has returned.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2011/08/pictures>

**Food Price Volatility Map**, *Oxfam International, August 1*

Oxfam's new interactive map shows how poor communities across the world are being hurt by high and volatile food prices. This 'food price pressure points map' provides a global snapshot of the impacts of the global food price crisis

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/grow/food-price-volatility-map>

**SEE ALSO: The Global Food Crisis, Mapped**, *Justin Gillis, New York Times, August 3*

Once you've loaded the map, you can click and drag your mouse to see any part of the world. The pop-up narratives by country are the main feature, but don't miss the links at the bottom to statistics and photos about the crisis.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/08/03/the-global-food-crisis-mapped/>

**Hope for Ending Hunger in Our Lifetimes**, *Opinion, Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the UN World Food Program, Reuters, August 2*

To connect farmers who are marginalized and disconnected from markets, particularly women, WFP has launched an initiative called Purchase for Progress in 21 countries. With support from Howard Buffett and Bill Gates, and many donor nations, WFP is empowering small holder farmers, many of whom were once dependent on food aid, with training in improved production, post-harvest handling and other key agribusiness skills. Already over \$57 million has been purchased from small-holder farms through P4P.

<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2011/08/02/hope-for-ending-hunger-in-our-lifetimes/>

**Making sense of a Senseless Famine**, *Opinion, Alastair Summerlee, Global and Mail, July 22*

The scenes I have witnessed outside of the Kenyan town of Dabaab, a mere 100 kilometres from the Kenyan-Somali border, defy description. Nothing could prepare me for what is unfolding before my very eyes. I am

trying to make sense of something so senseless. I want to compel my fellow citizens, especially those from that part of the world where I come from, Canada, to take action. We can make a difference.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/making-sense-of-a-senseless-famine/article2105498/>

**Harvest and Hunger – Part 2**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, August 5*

The Biketis are members of the One Acre Fund and one of the families I have been following this year.

Through the One Acre Fund, they received seeds and fertilizer on credit and farming advice about planting, weeding, harvesting and storage. The timely delivery of seeds, the little bit of fertilizer, the financing and the knowledge are all things that have been largely unavailable to Africa's smallholder farmers. This has resulted in woeful underproduction on Africa's farms and the horrible, oxymoronic phrase "hungry farmers."

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/08/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-harvest-and-hunger-part-2-.html>

---

## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Hearing: Responding to Drought and Famine in the Horn of Africa**, *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, August 3*

"I understand it is important that the administration and our country do everything they can to prohibit U.S. aid getting into terrorist hands, and that is one of the reasons for some of the restrictions. But when you do reach a crisis point in a humanitarian problem like this, it seems like there ought to be expedited procedures, or else the people you are trying to help are going to be dead." – Sen. Johnny Isakson

**SEE ALSO: Testimony of Nancy Lindborg, Assistant Administrator, USAID**

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Lindborg%20testimony.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Testimony of Donald Yamamoto, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State**

[http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Yamamoto\\_Testimony.pdf](http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Yamamoto_Testimony.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Testimony of Reuben Brigety, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State**

[http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Brigety\\_Testimony.pdf](http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Brigety_Testimony.pdf)

**Amid Budget Crisis, a Defense of Foreign Aid**, *Opinion, Senator John Kerry, Washington Post, August 3*

Right now it's more urgent than ever that those of us who believe in robust American leadership step up and articulate the dangers of American retrenchment. Many question whether we can afford foreign aid and development investments, but the reality – however hard to swallow – is that we can't afford not to. Energetic global leadership is a strategic imperative for America, not a favor we do for other countries. It amplifies America's voice and extends our reach.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/amid-budget-crisis-a-defense-of-foreign-aid/2011/08/03/gIQABVFdrI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/amid-budget-crisis-a-defense-of-foreign-aid/2011/08/03/gIQABVFdrI_story.html)

**Senate Confirms Multiple State Department Officials**, *Foreign Policy, August 3*

David Shear is on his way to Vietnam to take up his post as ambassador there. Earl Wayne was confirmed as the U.S. envoy to Mexico. Derek Mitchell was confirmed as the first-ever special envoy to Burma. David Adams was confirmed as the replacement for Richard Verma as assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/03/out\\_of\\_purgatory\\_senate\\_confirms\\_multiple\\_state\\_department\\_officials](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/03/out_of_purgatory_senate_confirms_multiple_state_department_officials)

**USAID to Stand Up New Geospatial Intelligence Center**, *Nextgov, August 3*

A new Geospatial Intelligence Center at the USAID aims to mash together satellite imagery and on-the-ground surveys. Project workers focused on food security, for example, can map data on conflict, economic development and population movements with satellite-based maps of agricultural production, roads and weather patterns to predict where food shortages are most likely to occur and focus resources there.

[http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng\\_20110803\\_7070.php?oref=topnews](http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20110803_7070.php?oref=topnews)

**Senate Panel Approves CFTC Nominee Wetjen**, *Reuters, August 2*

The Senate Agriculture Committee approved the nomination of a Democratic commissioner to the U.S. futures

regulator, an appointment that if confirmed could prove pivotal in the implementation of some far-reaching Wall Street reforms.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/02/us-financial-regulation-wetjen-idUSTRE7710BF20110802>

**Background Briefing on Somalia and Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance**, *State Department, August 2*

We are taking all of the necessary steps. We're doing everything we can to provide assistance to Somalis in need. The U.S. Government has never prohibited aid to people in need inside of Somalia. Our concern has been fixed on precluding terrorist organizations, armed groups, including al-Shabaab, from profiting from our humanitarian assistance. So I think that's an important distinction to make.

<http://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/spbr/2011/169479.htm>

**SEE ALSO: State Department Reassures Groups Aiding Somalia in Food Crisis**, *New York Times, August 2*

The administration sought to assure aid groups that they could deliver desperately needed food to famine-stricken parts of Somalia without fear of prosecution, even if some assistance is diverted to extremists linked to Al Qaeda.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/03/world/africa/03somalia.html>

Editorials/Commentaries:

**Security Spending in the Deficit Agreement**, *Opinion, Jack Lew, Office of Management and Budget, The White House, August 4*

A key part of the recent deficit reduction agreement is that the approximately \$1 trillion in discretionary cuts are spread across the security and non-security parts of the budget. In the President's view, security encompasses not only the Department of Defense, but also funding that is used to protect America at the Departments of Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs, State and other international programs, and parts of the Department of Energy. The agreement would cut approximately \$420 billion over 10 years.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/08/04/security-spending-deficit-agreement>

**Horn of Africa Drought: Immediate Crisis Requires Long-Term Solutions**, *Opinion, Paul Weisenfeld, State Department Blog, August 3*

In the eastern Horn of Africa, a massive drought has left over 11 million people vulnerable to severe food insecurity and in need of emergency assistance. The USAID is working with the international community to ensure that critical assistance is mobilized to support those in need. But emergency assistance alone cannot solve the underlying causes of food insecurity in the Horn of Africa.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/horn\\_africa\\_drought\\_immediate\\_crisis\\_long\\_term\\_solutions](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/horn_africa_drought_immediate_crisis_long_term_solutions)

**Sustainable Assistance for Afghanistan**, *Opinion, J. Alexander Thier, Assistant to the USAID Administrator, State Department Blog, August 3*

By committing ourselves to promote sustainable development in support of transition, USAID will be directly contributing to the United States' national interest to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan and to prevent its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future. Long-term development in Afghanistan requires patience and stability, a popular will to change, and respect for sustainable and legitimate governance.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/sustainable\\_assistance\\_afghanistan](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/sustainable_assistance_afghanistan)

**Prevention at the Heart of Keeping Women Healthy**, *Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, White House Blog, August 1*

Everyone wants their family to be healthy. A key component of this is ensuring that mothers, daughters, and sisters have access to the preventive services they need. When it comes to health, women are often the sole decision maker for their families and the trusted source in circles of friends – and they are also key consumers of health care. HHS is adopting a new comprehensive set of guidelines for women's preventive services that builds on and fills the gap in existing preventive services recommendations for women's health.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/08/01/prevention-heart-keeping-women-healthy>

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **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).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Global Harvest Initiative GAP Report™ Announcement Luncheon**

*Date:* October 12, 2011

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

The Global Harvest Initiative will release its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Global Agricultural Productivity Report™ (GAP Report™) at the 2011 World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa on October 12, 2011. The GAP Report™ serves as a benchmark of agricultural productivity and measures the difference between the current rate of agricultural productivity growth and the pace required to sustainably meet the future agricultural needs of the nine billion people expected to inhabit the Earth by 2050. Learn more and RSVP at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1963977309>

### **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)

### **2011 Africa Prize for Leadership**

*Date:* October 22, 2011

*Location:* New York, NY

The Africa Prize honors a distinguished African man or woman who has exhibited exceptional leadership in bringing about the sustainable end of hunger at the national, regional or continent-wide level. The 2011 Annual Fall Event will include the awarding of The Hunger Project's Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. The laureates for the 2011 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger: President of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika and Liberian Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Florence Chenoweth.

[http://www.thp.org/what\\_we\\_do/key\\_initiatives/honoring\\_africa\\_leadership/2011](http://www.thp.org/what_we_do/key_initiatives/honoring_africa_leadership/2011)

### **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/Event>

[View/EventId/1066/Futureproofing.aspx](http://www.futureproofing.org/View/EventId/1066/Futureproofing.aspx)

### **Agricultural R&D: Investing in Africa's Future**

*Date:* December 5-7, 2011

*Location:* Accra, Ghana

ASTI, together with the International Food Policy Report Institute, and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, is convening a conference on agricultural R&D in Africa focused on the following themes: 1. Levels and Stability of Agricultural R&D Investments; 2. Human Resource Development of Agricultural R&D; 3. Aligning and Rationalizing Institutional Structures; and 4. Measuring and Improving the Effectiveness of R&D Systems.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/agricultural-rd-investing-africa-s-future>

### **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>

### **Job Announcement: Communications Director, Edesia Global Nutrition Solutions, August 2011**

The Communications Director is responsible for further developing and implementing the communications strategy to advance the mission of Edesia and the PlumpyField Network. S/he is tasked with guiding public awareness and advocacy for Edesia's research, programmatic initiatives and partnerships, as well as advocating for the advancement of US policy related to nutrition.

<http://www.edesiaglobal.org/images/pdf/communicationsdirector.pdf>

---

## **CONTINUING SPECIAL COVERAGE: DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA**

### Media Articles:

#### **The Toxic Politics of Famine, *Opinion, Tom Flanagan, Globe and Mail, August 5***

The underlying problem is not global warming or global capitalism or the Harper government's attempt to refocus our foreign aid on Latin America. The underlying problem is the fanatical politics of men whose messianic visions place no value on human life.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/the-toxic-politics-of-famine/article2119982/>

#### **29,000 Somali Children Under 5 Dead In Famine: U.S. Official, *Huffington Post, August 4***

The drought and famine in Somalia have killed more than 29,000 children under the age of 5 in the last 90 days in southern Somalia alone, according to U.S. estimates. The U.N. says 640,000 Somali children are acutely malnourished, suggesting the death toll of small children will rise.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/04/somalia-famine-children-dead\\_n\\_917912.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/04/somalia-famine-children-dead_n_917912.html)

#### **Somalia's Hunger: A Man-Made Crisis Requires Action, *Editorial, New York Times, August 2***

The only durable answer to Somalia's famine is the establishment of a government that can control the entire

country and that respects basic human rights. Sadly, there is little prospect of that. But the United States and other Western governments must do what they can to prevent mass starvation.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/somalias-hunger-a-man-made-crisis-requires-action/2011/08/02/gIQA3sCTqI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/somalias-hunger-a-man-made-crisis-requires-action/2011/08/02/gIQA3sCTqI_story.html)

**Somalis' Fear Exposes Politics Behind Famine**, *Financial Times*, August 3

Already the Kenyan camp hosts 374,609 Somalis, who began arriving during the 1991 civil war. For 20 years, international military intervention, aid deliveries and diplomacy have failed to stem the crisis. In a further indication that al-Shabaab may be deliberately stemming the exodus. Yet few aid agencies are willing to discuss the political factors underlying the crisis.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/2a52d77c-bdc6-11e0-babc-00144feabdc0.html>

**A Climate Scientist's View of a Famine's Roots**, *Andrew Revkin*, *New York Times*, August 3

Chris Funk has a compelling commentary on the roots of the famine in southern Somalia. He says improved climate information, increased agricultural productivity, better storage for grain and water and integrated African markets could boost resilience in the region.

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/08/03/a-climate-scientists-view-of-a-famines-roots/>

**Somalia Famine Spreads to New Areas**, *VOA News*, August 3

The UN says three more areas of Somalia have slipped into famine. The famine is expected to spread further. Famine is a technical designation that means at least 30 percent of the population is malnourished, households are lacking access to food and that there have been deaths from hunger.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Somalia-Three-More-Parts-Declared-Famine-stricken-126704428.html>

**SEE ALSO: Red Cross Calls for More Aid as Supplies reach Somali Victims**, *Guardian*, August 1

According to the UN 3.7 million Somalis, about half the population, need food aid. Most are in the al-Shabab-dominated south, including 1.5 million who face famine. A further 8.2 million people require food aid in Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/aug/01/red-cross-aid-somali-famine>

**Escaping from Somalia's Famine into a Perilous Refuge**, *Samuel Loewenberg*, *Time*, August 2

The current wave of attention from the media and international donors is leading to commitments of millions of badly needed dollars, but this is a long-term crisis that the world has only just woken up to. U.S. aid officials admit their frustration at the current chaos and say that longer-term development efforts are needed to prevent the same thing from happening again.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2086611,00.html>

**Aid for the Food Crisis in the Horn of Africa – Get the Data**, *Claire Provost*, *Guardian*, August 1

The UN has estimated that \$2.5bn is needed for the humanitarian response in the Horn of Africa, particularly to tackle famine in Somalia. This link shows weekly updates of which countries have donated funds so far – and where the money's going.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/01/drought-food-crisis-africa-data>

**Somalis Waste Away as Insurgents Block Escape From Famine**, *New York Times*, August 1

The Shabab Islamist insurgent group, which controls much of southern Somalia, is blocking starving people from fleeing the country and setting up a cantonment camp where it is imprisoning displaced people who were trying to escape Shabab territory. Western aid agencies are trying to work through Islamic and local organizations as much as possible, but the Somali partners do not usually have as much technical expertise.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/02/world/africa/02somalia.html>

**SEE ALSO: Six Killed in Offensive to Protect Somalia Relief Efforts**, *Wall Street Journal*, July 30

Heavy fighting erupted in Somalia's capital, killing at least six people, as African Union peacekeepers launched an offensive aimed at protecting famine-relief efforts from attacks by al Qaeda-linked militants. Al-Shabab has sent 300 reinforcement fighters to Mogadishu in recent days.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903635604576474043903394586.html>

**Ethiopia Plans Ambitious Resettlement of People buffeted by East Africa Drought**, *CS Monitor*, August 1  
Ethiopia's government is enacting a resettlement program that it hopes will be a long-lasting solution to a longstanding burden. In its far-flung regions, including the vast east, populated mostly by ethnic Somali pastoralists, Ethiopia wants to group its scattered semi-nomadic peoples into permanent settlements.  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2011/0801/Ethiopia-plans-ambitious-resettlement-of-people-buffed-by-East-Africa-drought>

---

## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### Reports:

**Private-Sector Agricultural Research and Innovation in Senegal**, *IFPRI*, July 2011

The results provide a comprehensive overview of the private sector's role in generating and introducing new and improved agricultural technologies for Senegal's farmers and processors, as well as the policy considerations that need to be addressed if private technology generation is to be facilitated and enhanced.  
<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/private-sector-agricultural-research-and-innovation-senegal>

**Power and Promises**, *Battelle*, July 2011

This report highlights the fact that agriculture and modern agbiosciences represent a scientific and economic sector of central importance to the future of the United States. In the "BioCentury" that is the 21st Century, land-grant universities, and their experiment stations and extension services, are on the frontline of sustaining and securing America's leadership and competitiveness in what is, and will be, the key macroeconomic sector of our time.  
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/nceea/documents/battellefull2.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Report Flexes Ag Muscle**, *Dan Piller, Des Moines Register*, August 3

A new report commissioned by land grant universities pictures American agriculture, shows that 12 Midwest states – North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio – produce 45 percent of all agricultural exports in the U.S. and 80 percent of agricultural exports and 80 percent of grains and meats.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/08/03/report-flexes-ag-muscle/>

### Media Articles:

**Food Safety In The 21st Century**, *Susan Blumenthal, Huffington Post*, August 5

Greater attention to reducing food-related infections would save lives and contribute to reducing health care costs as well. Today's world of agricultural practices in a global food supply chain requires a modern system of food safety inspection. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is a long-awaited step towards improving our country's food safety system.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-blumenthal/food-safety\\_b\\_918282.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-blumenthal/food-safety_b_918282.html)

**USDA National Farmers Market Directory Reveals 17 Percent Growth**, *USDA*, August 5

More than 1,000 new farmers markets have been recorded across the country, according to results released today in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2011 National Farmers Market Directory. The annual report indicates a total of 7,175 farmers markets operate throughout the United States.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/08/0338.xml>

**Gingrich: Why we need a 21st century Food and Drug Administration**, *Newt Gingrich, Des Moines Register*, August 4

Agriculture will continue its two-century-long march to greater productivity and greater capability. In order to take advantage of this new knowledge, however, we need a new 21st century Food and Drug Administration. The current obsolete, adversarial, inefficient, and obstructive FDA is a dangerous obstacle to life-saving innovations and dynamic American job creation.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011308050033>

**Cargill Recall: Is Your Ground Turkey on the List?** *Lauren Belsie, CS Monitor, August 4*

Food giant Cargill is recalling some 36 million pounds of ground turkey meat, which may be infected with a drug-resistant strain of salmonella. The cases are spread across 26 states and the recall is nationwide.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Business/2011/0804/Cargill-recall-Is-your-ground-turkey-on-the-list>

**Peterson: Food stamps, CRP would be Exempt from Sequestration,** *Hagstrom Report, August 3*

Under the Budget Control Act of 2011, Congress is supposed to cut \$900 billion over 10 years in an immediate process and another \$1.2 trillion by December through the work of a special joint congressional super committee composed of six Democrats and six Republicans, who will recommend the changes by Nov. 23.

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

**Farmers turn European Support into Profit,** *FAO, August 3*

The EU's investment in agricultural rehabilitation in Togo has led to benefits that are almost double their cost. The Organization used EU funding to help Togolese farmers cope with high food prices and climatic adversities. FAO estimates that the total value of what they have produced - 9,634 tons of maize, 675 tons of rice, 85 tons of sorghum, 3,522 tons of tomatoes, 350 tons of onions and 85 tons of green chillis — is €4.7 million, nearly double the amount invested by the EU.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/82932/icode/>

**Strengthening Crop Insurance through Conservation,** *Opinion, Bruce Knight, Agri-Pulse, August 3*

Now may be the right time to consider re-linking a commitment to protect highly erodible land with the purchase of crop insurance. Over the past 15 years, the public's investment in crop insurance has grown significantly-to a high of \$7.3 billion in FY09. A recent CRS report projected that over the next 10 years, federal spending on crop insurance would outpace spending on traditional commodity programs by about one-third.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Cropinsurance\\_knight\\_082011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Cropinsurance_knight_082011.asp)

**Farm Bill in Hands of 'Super Committee,'** *Dan Piller, Des Moines Register, August 2*

Farm interests are nervous about the creation of a bipartisan committee of U.S. House and Senate members that is supposed to come up with more cuts to the federal budget by the end of November. The committee will begin work amidst what is a rising consensus that farm programs should be cut or eliminated.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/08/02/farm-bill-in-hands-of-super-committee/>

---

## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Editorials/Commentaries:

**The Right Way to Trim,** *Opinion, Joseph S. Nye, New York Times, August 4*

The debt deal will slash the defense budget over the next decade. And if Congress can't agree on an additional \$1.5 trillion in cuts, the law's "trigger mechanism" will lead to deeper reductions in military spending. The initial cuts will not imperil America's national security, but the deeper cuts could. Opponents of defense cuts are raising the specter of isolationism and the weakening of American power. But there is a middle way.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/05/opinion/the-right-way-to-trim-military-spending.html>

**Why Defense Spending Should be Cut,** *Opinion, Fareed Zakaria, Washington Post, August 3*

It is not unprecedented for defense spending to fall substantially as we scale back or end military actions. Defense budget cuts would also force a healthy rebalancing of American foreign policy. Since the Cold War, Congress has tended to fatten the Pentagon while starving foreign policy agencies.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-defense-spending-should-be-cut/2011/08/03/gIQAsRuqsl\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-defense-spending-should-be-cut/2011/08/03/gIQAsRuqsl_story.html)

**With Famine in Somalia, a Case of Leadership (not compassion) Fatigue,** *Opinion, Astier M. Almedom, Washington Post, August 3*

We have inadequate and incoherent bureaucratic international humanitarian systems, and beneath them equally inadequate and incoherent sub-systems. The crude famine criteria cited by Mark Bowden in a slow, deliberate, killing tone indicate leadership fatigue, not compassion fatigue – and with each devastating photo or story out of Somalia, it's this that should scandalize the compassionate American public.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/with-famine-in-somalia-a-case-of-leadership-not-compassion-fatigue/2011/08/03/gIQAulkerI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/with-famine-in-somalia-a-case-of-leadership-not-compassion-fatigue/2011/08/03/gIQAulkerI_story.html)

**A Famine in Somalia, and a Chronic Political Failure on Humanitarian Aid**, *Opinion, Bill Shore, Washington Post, August 3*

Humanitarian organizations have become skilled in the art of moving individuals to contribute in the immediate aftermath of an earthquake, tsunami or famine. But the greater need is for national leaders willing to use some political capital to marshal support for the long-term efforts that might prevent disaster in the first place. It is our political leaders that are in the best position to educate citizens on the relationship between this long-term development and our economic and national security interests.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/a-famine-in-somalia-and-a-chronic-political-failure-on-humanitarian-aid/2011/08/03/gIQAPaOgrI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/a-famine-in-somalia-and-a-chronic-political-failure-on-humanitarian-aid/2011/08/03/gIQAPaOgrI_story.html)

**US Must Learn from Britain and Not Cut Foreign Aid**, *Opinion, Samuel A Worthington, Guardian, August 1*

Foreign aid, and in particular development assistance, is an easy target. Some of the deepest cuts put forward by House of Representatives appropriators would hack USAID and the state department development assistance funding by 18% compared with last year's level. USAID's operating expenses would be slashed by 27% and contributions to multilateral efforts to combat climate change would be cut to zero.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/01/us-foreign-aid-cuts>

**Investing Globally for Virginia's Security, Economy**, *Opinion, Pete Osman and Barry DuVal, Pilot Online, July 31*

Engaging in the global economy brings real economic benefits, and our commonwealth has reaped those rewards over the past five years as exports from Virginia companies have increased 56 percent. From our collective experience, we know that one of the best ways to do this is with a strong and effective U.S. international affairs budget.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2011/07/investing-globally-virginias-security-economy>

**Spending Cuts that Threaten our Influence Abroad**, *Opinion, Daniel Serwer, Washington Post, July 29*

How Congress and the president deal with the debt will affect U.S. relations with other countries and our national security for years to come. The economical way to protect American national security is to anticipate problems and prevent them from growing worse using all available instruments of projecting national power, civilian as well as military. We can do far better if we act early. This will mean enhancing our civilian capacities, not cutting them to the bone.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/spending-cuts-that-threaten-our-influence-abroad/2011/07/29/gIQA8XH9hI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/spending-cuts-that-threaten-our-influence-abroad/2011/07/29/gIQA8XH9hI_story.html)

Media Articles:

**China to Give \$14 million in Aid to Africa**, *China Daily, August 5*

China will provide about \$14 million in humanitarian assistance to drought affected areas in the Horn of Africa, including more than \$7 million to Ethiopia, the Chinese ambassador to Ethiopia said earlier this week.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/05/content\\_13054203.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-08/05/content_13054203.htm)

**U.S. House Targets World Bank Funds**, *Wall Street Journal, August 4*

A House appropriations subcommittee last week moved to slash funding for the institutions as part of a broader Republican effort to rein in foreign aid. The White House is seeking to boost the combined annual funding for a pool of aid money, part of which goes to development bank programs for the poorest nations, to \$3.7 billion from \$2.3 billion, while Republicans want to reduce it by almost a third to \$1.6 billion.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903885604576486431304568022.html>

**U.S. Aid Plan for Pakistan becomes New Flash Point in Ties**, *Washington Post*, August 4

In 2009, Congress passed a five-year, \$7.5 billion aid plan intended to prove Washington's long-term commitment to Pakistan's weak civilian government. But two years later, only \$500 million has been spent as the program has run into bureaucratic delays, disagreements over priorities and fears about corruption.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/civilian-aid-program-to-pakistan-faces-cuts/2011/07/29/gIQAQY59uI\\_story\\_1.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/civilian-aid-program-to-pakistan-faces-cuts/2011/07/29/gIQAQY59uI_story_1.html)

**US Budget cuts 'Could Reverse USAID's Gains'**, *Alert Net*, August 4

The DAC's report of US aid efforts suggested that the country should do more to incorporate and reflect the goals of the countries it assists, but it was generally positive about the reform efforts within the USAID. But the report's release has coincided with bitter political fighting over the future of the US budget, with foreign aid already in the firing line for major cuts that observers fear could reverse the progress of recent years.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/us-budget-cuts-could-reverse-usaids-gains>

**A New Strategy for Solving America's Foreign Aid Problem**, *Opinion*, Robert Goodwin, *Washington Post*, August 3

One of the greatest strengths of the United States is the compassion of the American people. We are the most generous nation on earth in our support of helping those in need, from the earthquake in Haiti to famine in Somalia. When channeled correctly, this compassion can be an incredible force for good. When spent correctly, the benefits of foreign aid can be enormous.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/a-new-strategy-for-solving-americas-foreign-aid-problem/2011/08/03/gIQAy9vyrl\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/a-new-strategy-for-solving-americas-foreign-aid-problem/2011/08/03/gIQAy9vyrl_story.html)

**U.S. Foreign Aid: Business Skills Needed**, *Stuart Diamond*, *Washington Post*, August 3

Skilled business leaders know that a key to gaining opportunities is minimizing the risk. This requires risk-reward estimates and return on investment calculations before a project is funded. If returns were routinely part of foreign aid proposals to Congress by the State Department, projects would be less vulnerable to failure or criticism. It's no longer sufficient to say, "It's the right thing to do." One has to make the case that the foreign aid will not only help other countries, but the United States as well.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/us-foreign-aid-business-skills-needed/2011/08/03/gIQA9DZirI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/us-foreign-aid-business-skills-needed/2011/08/03/gIQA9DZirI_story.html)

**Budget Cuts by Hatchet or Scalpel?**, *PBS*, August 2

By cutting assistance agencies like USAID - Congress can cut from development assistance programs and say it is reducing national security spending. This change is damaging in that it furthers the militarization of civilian aid programs. Just because USAID can serve a national security function, it doesn't automatically mean the international affairs budget should be militarized, or even considered part of the security budget.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/need-to-know/voices/budget-cuts-by-scalpel-or-hatchet/10848/>

**SEE ALSO: Debt Deal Pits Pentagon Against Other Security Agencies**, *Shaun Waterman*, *Washington Times*, August 2

Congressional officials told *The Washington Times* that the State Department and Homeland Security would likely be hit the hardest next year because of spending increases already built into their budgets.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/aug/2/debt-deal-pits-pentagon-against-other-security-age/>

**Against the Grain**, *Foreign Policy*, July 29

The drought that has been unfolding across the Horn of Africa over the last two years is now showing us its worst face. The world is in need of a global agreement to ensure a minimum level of food assistance to the most vulnerable. Such a pact could improve our humanitarian response and ensure that sufficient aid is provided to help mitigate the worst effects of famines and droughts like the one currently unfolding on the Horn of Africa. A pact meant to serve this very purpose already exists: the Food Aid Convention.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/07/29/against\\_the\\_grain](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/07/29/against_the_grain)

---

## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

#### **The Cost of Delay**, *Hal Harvey and Sonia Aggarwal, Climate Works, July 2011*

The physics of Earth's natural systems show that a delay—of even a decade—in reducing CO2 emissions will lock in large-scale, irreversible changes. If carbon dioxide emissions do not begin to trend down this decade, it will be nearly impossible to stabilize the climate at any acceptable level.

<http://www.climateworks.org/news/item/?id=719ba5a6-4040-7c00-6791-e7789df81ca9>

#### **Facing the Storm: Indian Tribes, Climate-Induced Weather Extremes, and the Future for Indian Country**, *National Wildlife Federation, July 2011*

The report details how climate change is adversely and disproportionately affecting Indian Tribes in North America, people who rely on a healthy environment to sustain their economic, cultural and spiritual lives.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Global-Warming/2011/08-03-11-Climate-Change-Hurts-Indian-Tribes-Disproportionately.aspx>

**SEE ALSO: Climate Change an Extra Burden for Native Americans**, *John Broder, New York Times, August 3*

American Indians and Alaska natives are more dependent than most other Americans on natural resources and on the bounty of oceans and rivers and thus are particularly at risk from the effects of a warming planet.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/08/03/climate-change-an-extra-burden-for-native-americans-study-says/>

### Media Articles:

#### **Drought Worsens in Midwest; Parched Plains in Bad Shape**, *Michael Hirtzer, Reuters, August 4*

Drought worsened in the Midwest during the last week as record-high temperatures stressed the developing corn and soybean crops, while cotton and pastures eroded amid a historic drought in the southern Plains. Nearly 45 percent of Iowa, the top corn and soybean growing state, was "abnormally dry" and roughly 19 percent of Indiana was now suffering from "moderate drought."

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/04/drought-worsens-in-midwes\\_n\\_918613.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/04/drought-worsens-in-midwes_n_918613.html)

#### **Putting the Chic in Chicken Coop**, *Jemima Sissons, Wall Street Journal, August 5*

There is a growing trend of city dwellers seeking to live sustainably in an urban environment, while remaining stylish. In response to this demand, companies are producing a range of products from beehives to bird houses that look good and are easy to use in small gardens and even small apartments.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303406104576444252188194580.html>

#### **IFC Promotes Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Bangladesh, Helping Ensure Food Security**, *IFC News, August 3*

IFC will partner with the state-run Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, International Rice Research Institute, and Lal Teer Seed Ltd. to promote climate-resilient agricultural practices in Bangladesh, helping rice farmers weather the harmful impact of climate change and ensure national food security. Agriculture accounts for 20 percent of Bangladesh's gross domestic product and employs 65 percent of the country's labor force.

<http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/media.nsf/content/SelectedPressRelease?OpenDocument&UNID=D2F67E1C03286BA2852578E20021E46D>

#### **La Niña, Climate Change Impact East African Drought**, *Steve Baragona, VOA News, August 3*

Experts say the Pacific Ocean phenomenon known as La Nina is partly to blame for the drought ravaging the Horn of Africa. But while the latest La Niña episode has ended, climate scientists are concerned about what the next few months will bring and the intensifying effects of a changing global climate. La Niña and El Niño are natural cycles that happen every 3 to 5 years or so.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Experts-La-Nina-Climate-Change-Impact-East-African-Drought->

[126656438.html](#)

**Want Fresher Produce? Leave Dirt Behind**, *Glen Collins, New York Times, August 2*

The sleek garden that has improbably touched down on the roof of a huge two-story former bowling alley and light-manufacturing space is one of the largest commercial-scale hydroponic greenhouses in urban America providing pristine, sustainable produce for restaurants and high-end retailers. Advocates for urban greenhouse produce have long touted the benefits of proximity, freshness, quality and job creation. Not everyone agrees.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/03/dining/hydroponic-produce-gains-fans-and-flavor.html>

**SEE ALSO: Farms Crop Up in the Bronx**, *Sophia Hollander, Wall Street Journal, August 1*

The 2.5-acre plot is actually a working farm in the heart of the Bronx called La Finca del Sur, yielding 30 pounds of produce a week at peak harvest. The Bronx still has a long way to go to catch up with Brooklyn, which leads all boroughs with about 290 school and community gardens and farms, along with rooftop vegetable plots and quirky backyard chicken coops. Manhattan is next with 165.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904888304576476302775374320.html>

**Durban Talks Unlikely to Strike Climate Deal**, *Reuters, August 2*

Major climate talks in South Africa at year-end will be unlikely to strike agreement on a new pact, but will be important in determining the shape of long-term efforts to tackle climate change. Global negotiations have faltered because of a gulf between developed and developing countries about who should shoulder the burden of reducing emissions blamed for stoking global warming.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/02/us-climate-talks-un-idUSTRE7710N820110802>

---

## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Reports:

**Weathering the Storm: Adolescent Girls and Climate Change**, *PLAN U.K. and UKAID, June 2011*

The gender dimension of climate change is gaining a greater profile in the global debate. Yet the double jeopardy brought by gender and age remains largely ignored. The young woman quoted above speaks for countless others living on the frontline of climate change in many countries across the world.

<http://www.plan-uk.org/resources/documents/35316/>

**SEE ALSO: Girls Bear Brunt of Climate Change**, *The Daily Beast, August 2*

As if adolescent girls didn't already have enough on their plates, a new study suggests climate change will make life harder for young women in developing countries. The nonprofit Plan U.K. and the DFID issued the report, which zooms in on 500 million adolescent girls in the developing world.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/cheats/2011/08/02/study-girls-bear-brunt-of-climate-change.html>

**Gender-Responsive Strategies on Climate Change**, *Bridge, June 2011*

Gender equality is an important pre-condition for successful climate change adaptation, and transition to low-carbon alternatives in developing countries. In order for this transition to be effective, climate change adaptation and low-carbon efforts need to be gender-responsive taking into account the specific needs of men and women and the gendered inequalities that may compound the impacts of climate change.

<http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/vfile/upload/4/document/1107/Gender%20responsive%20strategies%20on%20climate%20change%20progress%20and%20ways%20forward%20for%20donors.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Gender-Responsive Strategies on Climate Change: Recent Progress and Ways Forward for Donors**, *Institute of Development Studies, August 3*

Gender equality is both pathway to and potential goal of successful climate-resilient and low-carbon development. Yet, the crucial linkages between gender equality and climate change adaptation and low-carbon development processes too often remains unrecognized. Gender-blindness is prevalent in most climate change policy and programming.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/news/gender-responsive-strategies-on-climate-change-recent-progress-and-ways-forward-for-donors>

## Media Articles:

### **Is Camel Milk the Future for Drought-Stricken Kenya?**, *Emily Wither, CNN, August 5*

For years in the hot, arid region of Isiolo, central Kenya, the Anolei women's group has been making money and feeding their families by milking camels. Like the region's other pastoralists, the Anolei women have been hit by the drought and are having to constantly move to new locations in search of food and water for their camels. But some say camel milk is well suited to their harsh environment.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/08/05/kenya.camel.milk/>

### **Multi-use Engines Drive Women's Empowerment in 1,000 Mali villages**, *UNDP, August 4*

With its multiple uses, the easy-to-maintain engine helps to stimulate the economy of the entire community, serving about 1,500 people in the village and beyond. The latest phase of the project began in 2008 and will run until 2012. With a budget of US\$4.43 million, it aims to provide at least 200 more engines to fight poverty by helping women to run small-scale enterprises in rural Mali.

[http://www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home/ourwork/womenempowerment/successstories/engines\\_drive\\_womensempowermentinmali.html](http://www.beta.undp.org/undp/en/home/ourwork/womenempowerment/successstories/engines_drive_womensempowermentinmali.html)

### **Bananas: The Seeds of Hope Find Fertile Ground on a Zambian Banana Plantation**, *Opinion, Anne Goddard, The Huffington Post, August 4*

Chongwe's new plantation will help feed the local population. That's important. But it is not the most notable byproduct of this initiative. As a commercial enterprise, it is teaching 50 of the town's once-neglected youth how to start and run a business. Watch them on their cheap cell phones checking daily commodity prices. They get it.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anne-goddard/bananas-the-seeds-of-hope\\_b\\_893239.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anne-goddard/bananas-the-seeds-of-hope_b_893239.html)

### **Nudging Gender-Balanced Money Management in the Household**, *Payal Pathak, The New America Foundation Blog, August 4*

Money management, especially the ability to accumulate money for productive investments, is a critical component to upgrading agricultural value chains. However for many women, social norms, inaccessibility of financial services, lack of knowledge, or the unequal distribution of household income, can prevent them from controlling money and subsequently engaging in the upgrading process.

[http://assets.newamerica.net/blogposts/2011/nudging\\_gender\\_balanced\\_money\\_management\\_in\\_the\\_household-55894](http://assets.newamerica.net/blogposts/2011/nudging_gender_balanced_money_management_in_the_household-55894)

### **Costs Mean Women Wait to Start, Expand Family**, *Paula Rogo, Reuters, August 3*

The survey of 1,035 women follows the release of data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in June that showed it costs a middle-income family on average \$226,920 to raise a child born in 2010 to age 18, excluding college. Forty three percent of mothers waited to have a child until they were financially prepared and two out of three admitted the economy would have an impact on the size of their family.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/03/us-children-costs-idUSTRE7725KN20110803>

### **Horn of Africa shows Family Planning Need**, *Reuters, August 2*

The lack of welfare systems across much of Africa and high infant mortality foster cultures in which high birth rates and large families are seen by many parents as a way of ensuring that some children survive to support them in old age. Yet that can also make it harder to ensure individual children within a family get enough food and access to the schooling which could break the vicious circle of poverty.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/02/us-africa-family-un-idUSTRE7713UB20110802>

### **Independent Women lead Social Change in Japan**, *Washington Times, August 2*

Women are increasingly at the forefront of movements for social evolution in Japan, where men vastly outnumber women in boardrooms, in government and especially in the nuclear power industry.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/aug/2/independent-women-lead-social-change-in-japan/>

### **Up Your Game**, *Opinion, Nell Merlino, Huffington Post, August 2*

To be successful, women business owners need to never give up, to be fearless, creative, innovate and strong. Constant vigilance is exhausting, true, but it's also exhilarating and the only way to move forward. I think of the women I know who are constantly pushing for more.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nell-merlino/up-your-game\\_b\\_915534.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nell-merlino/up-your-game_b_915534.html)

**Maternal Deaths Focus Harsh Light on Uganda**, *New York Times*, July 29

As the United States and other donors have given African nations billions of dollars to fight AIDS and other infectious diseases, helping millions of people survive, most of the African governments have reduced their own share of domestic spending devoted to health, shifting to other priorities. For every dollar of foreign aid given to the governments of developing nations for health, the government decreased their own health spending by 43 cents to \$1.14, the University of Washington found in a 2010 study.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/30/world/africa/30uganda.html>

---

## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

**Price Volatility and Food Security**, *The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition*, July 2011

The contemporary relevance of this report will be clear from the fact that in spite of all the efforts of international organizations and national governments, the targets of the UN Millennium Development Goal 1, namely reducing hunger and poverty by half by 2015, is still proving to be a difficult one to achieve.

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/hlpe/hlpe\\_documents/HLPE-price-volatility-and-food-security-report-july-2011.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE-price-volatility-and-food-security-report-july-2011.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: The Truth about the Global Demand for Food**, *Guardian*, August 2

The report contains a careful assessment of both the actual trends and the various attempts to explain the price changes. In the process, it blows the myth about increased consumption from developing countries leading to higher global demand and, therefore, higher grain prices.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/02/global-demand-for-food>

### Media Articles:

**China Food Safety: Big Crackdown, but Big Concerns Remain**, *Austin Ramzy, CNN*, August 5

Chinese authorities have arrested 2,000 suspects and closed 4,900 businesses in the latest crackdown on food safety violations. While the arrest of 2,000 suspects will surely help make China's consumers safer in the short term, the steps needed to carry out such an operation show just how hard it will be for the authorities to ensure quality food production over the long term.

<http://globalspin.blogs.time.com/2011/08/05/china-food-safety-big-crackdown-but-big-concerns-remain>

**Chasing the Commodities Boom**, *Eric Bellman, Wall Street Journal*, August 4

High food and commodity prices have hobbled poor consumers and triggered riots in emerging markets this year. But in commodity-driven economies like Indonesia, the rising prices are lifting millions of farmers and miners out of poverty—and creating opportunities for global companies.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304793504576432090397556856.html>

**Senate Leaders in Agreement on Trade Deal Votes**, *Washington Post*, August 4

Congressional approval is by no means guaranteed, but passage of the deals would fulfill a plank of President Obama's economic policy. Obama has worked hard to secure labor union support for the trade deals, arguing that companies in Colombia, South Korea and Panama already have open access to U.S. markets and that the deals would offer the same opportunity to U.S. companies.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/senate-leaders-in-agreement-on-trade-deal-votes/2011/08/04/gIQAgapuI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/senate-leaders-in-agreement-on-trade-deal-votes/2011/08/04/gIQAgapuI_story.html)

**Eating Healthy Food Costs more Money in U.S.**, *Anna Yukhananov, Reuters*, August 4

Eating healthier food can add almost 10 percent to the average American's food bill -- and that is just to boost a single nutrient like potassium. The researchers reported that eating more potassium, the most expensive of the four nutrients, can add \$380 to the average person's yearly food costs.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/04/us-food-costs-idUSTRE7734L620110804>

**Egypt Faces Food Supply Worries**, *Neena Rai, Wall Street Journal, August 4*

Heavy rains have left as much as 60% of Ukraine's wheat exports unfit for human consumption, providing a boon to the animal-feed sector but threatening to push up food prices in countries like Egypt. Ukraine won't run out of wheat for domestic consumption; the biggest impact of the damage will be on its exports to the rest of the world, and in particular Egypt, which is its biggest customer.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903454504576486060224802624.html>

**Vegetables Push India Food Inflation Higher**, *Wall Street Journal, August 4*

India's food inflation turned higher in the week ended June 23 due to costlier fruits and vegetables, underscoring expectations that stubborn price pressures won't fade anytime soon and firming expectations of continued monetary policy tightening.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903366504576487591043453576.html>

**Food Laws Aim to Make Eating Out Safe**, *Vibhuti Agarwal, Wall Street Journal, August 4*

India's comprehensive new food safety rules, approved five years ago, are finally taking effect. The new legislation requires the food authority to issue licenses to food vendors only after ensuring their products are safe and hygienic. Those whose products are judged unhygienic or unsafe will face monetary penalties.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2011/08/04/food-laws-aim-to-make-eating-out-safe>

**The Truth about the Global Demand for Food**, *Guardian, August 3*

Ever since the global food crisis of 2007-08, a perception has persisted in many parts of the world that one of the main underlying reasons for the price spikes in major food items – especially food grain – is the increased demand from countries such as China and India. If anything, this perception has become even more widespread since prices started rising again, especially since early 2010.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/02/global-demand-for-food>

**Note From Zambia: Increasing Access to Inputs for Smallholder Farmers Through Agro-Dealers and Zambikes**, *KDID, August 3*

Over three years, CARE has developed a network of over 600 rural agro-dealers in Zambia. The network has sold over \$5 million in inputs to more than 90,000 smallholders in 3 regions. One key innovation contributing to CARE's success has been a partnership with local bicycle manufacturer Zambikes to address smallholder barriers to access and improve agro-dealer marketing.

<http://microlinks.kdid.org/learning-marketplace/notes/note-zambia-increasing-access-inputs-smallholder-farmers-through-agro-dea>

**Grain Futures Surge on Corn-Crop Warning**, *Tom Polansek, Wall Street Journal, August 3*

U.S. grain futures soared on renewed concerns about hot weather reducing the size of the coming corn harvest. The warnings sparked fears of tightening grain supplies, driving corn and wheat prices sharply higher at the Chicago Board of Trade.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903341404576484503303241430.html>

**Egypt, Europe, and the Seeds of a Crisis**, *Daniel Korski and Mark Leonard, New York Times, August 2*

Egyptians have been protesting outside the European Commission headquarters in Cairo and the much-discussed partnership is in danger of being driven off track. The cause is neither a coup nor a counterrevolution, but an avoidable dispute over a humble plant: Egyptian fenugreek, the seeds of which are often used in spices and salads.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/03/opinion/03iht-edkorski03.html>

Media Articles:

**John Deere Joins Effort to Enhance Public Trust in Agriculture**, *Agri-Pulse*, August 4

John Deere and the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance announced the company's membership to USFRA's Premier Partner Advisory Group. USFRA, which leads a national effort to strengthen the image of agriculture and enhance public trust in today's agricultural production practices, requires its PPAG members to make an annual commitment of at least \$500,000.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Deere\\_USFRA\\_8042011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Deere_USFRA_8042011.asp)

**Breaking Up Is the Thing to Do**, *New York Times*, August 4

The announcement that Kraft Foods plans to split into two, separating its North American packaged foods business from its global snacks group, is part of a growing wave of such moves in the US food industry. Worldwide, spinoffs are now at their highest level of activity since 2008, with 139 deals worth \$82.29 billion, more than double the \$33.5 billion volume in the same period a year ago.

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/08/04/breaking-up-is-the-thing-to-do/>

**Cargill, CHS in talks to Expand US Grain Export Venture**, *Reuters*, August 4

U.S. agribusiness giant Cargill Inc and CHS, the largest farm co-op in the United States, said they are in discussions to expand their joint venture Temco LLC, an export facility in the Pacific Northwest.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/04/grains-cargill-chs-idUSN1E7731A420110804>

**ADM Says Earnings Offset by Surge in Taxes**, *Javier Blas, Financial Times*, August 2

Booming agricultural crop prices and grain shortages helped to lift full-year earnings at Archer Daniels Midland, one of the world's top commodities traders – but the company's quarterly results fell short of Wall Street's expectations after a sharp surge in taxes.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/f0e9effa-bd1d-11e0-9d5d-00144feabdc0.html>

**Chicken Glut Humbles Pilgrim's Pride**, *Ian Berry and Marshall Eckblad, Wall Street Journal*, July 30

Pilgrim's Pride Corp. set plans to shut a Texas chicken-processing plant, highlighting the problems facing U.S. food producers as they wrestle with high grain costs and a tough pricing environment. The second-largest U.S. poultry producer by revenue lost \$128 million in the second quarter.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903635604576476243821871156.html>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*