

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



June 11<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“In his inaugural address, President Obama pledged that the United States would stand alongside people in developing nations to, and I quote, ‘to help their farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds.’ We know food security facilitates stable communities and resilient nations. We know agricultural development growth is more effective at reducing poverty than general economic growth. And we know children need nutrition to learn and grow, especially in those critical early years of their lives. President Obama followed up his inaugural address with a promise to commit at least \$3.5 billion over three years to food security and agriculture assistance. This program which we call Feed the Future, represents our renewed commitment to combat chronic hunger and poverty. It represents our availability to bring the entire United States Government together to partner in a new and different way.”—Dr. Rajiv Shah, Opening Remarks, ECOWAS Food Security Business Meeting, Dakar, Senegal, June 14, 2010*

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

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

**For more information:**

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
- Background information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, can be found on the Initiative’s website: [www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**Remove the Barriers, Remove the Fear of Sharing**, *Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, USAID Administrator Raj Shah, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, June 16*

CLINTON: "We know historically that farmers have innovated since the earliest times of agriculture, domesticating crops through persistent experimentation – crops we still plant thousands of years later. Certainly, the innovations from the Green Revolution, which saved millions of lives and transformed whole nations and regions. And as Dr. Borlaug never tired of telling us, a lot of the answers to hunger lie in science and research and technology, and better adaptation that can be made available to people who are willing to work hard from sunup to sundown but often don't have the right tools."

SHAH: "Today's announcement is one example of the concrete actions and steps the U.S. Government is taking to really win the war against hunger. In announcing this program, we're doing a number of things differently in how we fund and how we partner with other countries in making agricultural technologies accessible to some of the smallest and most vulnerable production communities in the world."

VILSACK: "But because of the leadership of Secretary Clinton and Administrator Shah, we see the opportunity here to leverage the resources and expertise of USDA with the extraordinary leadership and development of USAID. Let us remove the barriers and the silos and the bureaucratic barriers that exist to sharing information and knowledge amongst ourselves so we are in a position to more effectively share it with the rest of the world."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/06/143226.htm>

**See Also: United States Identifies Science and Innovation as Critical Drivers to End Global Hunger**, *U.S. Agency for International Development, June 16*

Feed the Future will leverage the expertise and resources of USAID and USDA to establish the Norman Borlaug Commemorative Research Initiative. The Borlaug Initiative will span the USDA's research agencies, increasing its relevance and impact on problems and opportunities faced by both US farmers and smallholder farm families in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This expanded relationship will add to USDA and USAID's partnerships with U.S. universities, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the private sector, and research organizations in developing countries.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100616.html>

**See Also: Strengthening Every Link in the Fight Against Global Hunger**, *William E. Craft, Jr., deputy assistant secretary for trade policy and programs, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, DipNote blog, June 16*

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/strengthening\\_every\\_link](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/strengthening_every_link)

**OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2010-2019**, *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, June 2010*

Farm commodity prices have fallen from their record peaks of two years ago but are unlikely to drop back to their average levels of the past decade, according to the annual joint report from the OECD and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

<http://www.agri-outlook.org/dataoecd/13/13/45438527.pdf>

**See Also: Higher Average Farm Prices Expected, Food Security Concerns Persist, Say OECD and FAO**, *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, June 15*

[http://www.oecd.org/document/29/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34487\\_45430045\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/29/0,3343,en_2649_34487_45430045_1_1_1_1,00.html)

**See Also: Food Commodity Prices to Rise**, *Financial Times, June 15*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/68f8d2b8-77d3-11df-82c3-00144feabdc0.s01=1.html>

**See Also: Food Prices Forecast to Rise This Decade on Population, Diets**, *BusinessWeek, June 15*

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-15/food-prices-forecast-to-rise-this-decade-on-population-diets.html>

**The \$20 Billion Question: Has the G8 Delivered on Its Hunger Promises**, *ActionAid, June 2010*

ActionAid has released new evidence that the G8 has been frittering desperately needed money to fight hunger on dubious projects that include bird flu control, patrol boats in Nicaragua and biofuels production in South Africa, despite promises at last year's G8 to mount 'decisive action to free the world from hunger'. ActionAid released its research just one week before the G8 summit in Canada, where world leaders are expected to report back on last year's \$20 billion pledge to tackle the global food crisis.

<http://www.actionaid.org/assets/docs/ActionAid-G8-MediaBrief.doc>

**World Food Prize Names Hunger Fighters as Laureates**, *Des Moines Register*, June 17

This year's World Food Prize will go to an former economist who mobilizes churchgoers to lobby for anti-hunger programs and a former state government executive whose fundraising and business skill turned Heifer International into a global leader in agricultural aid.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100617/BUSINESS01/6170350/1030/World-Food-Prize-names-hunger-fighters-as-laureates>

**See Also: 2010 Laureates: David Beckmann & Jo Luck**, *World Food Prize*  
<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/index.cfm?nodeID=25500&audienceID=1>

**European Agricultural Development Assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa**, *Imperial College, London*, May 2010

In sub-Saharan Africa, over 200 million people are undernourished. Africa is home to 15 of the 16 countries where the prevalence of hunger has exceeded 35%. This review seeks to create an online tool for better understanding European donor support for agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa. It is an initial attempt to map the activities, political and financial commitments of fourteen different European donors.

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/africanagriculturaldevelopment/resources/europeanactivity>

**See Also: European Donor Review: Background and Rationale**, *Imperial College, London*, May 2010

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/africanagriculturaldevelopment/resources/europeanactivity/ourproject>

**See Also: European Donor Review: Donor Institution and Initiatives**, *Imperial College, London*, May 2010

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/africanagriculturaldevelopment/resources/europeanactivity/donorprofiles>

**See Also: European Donor Review: Agricultural Assistance Data**, *Imperial College, London*, May 2010

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/africanagriculturaldevelopment/resources/europeanactivity/donorfinancial>

**See Also: A Preliminary Analysis of European Assistance to Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *Imperial College, London*, May 2010

<http://workspace.imperial.ac.uk/africanagriculturaldevelopment/Public/Preliminary%20Analysis%20of%20European%20Assistance%20to%20Agriculture%20in%20SSA%20FINAL.pdf>

**Why Is Feeding the Hungry So Controversial?**, *IRIN News*, June 14

The US Senate is expected to pass the Global Food Security Act, new legislation that would significantly expand the government's commitment to combating hunger worldwide with a broad range of measures and more money, and a special coordinator, or "food czar", to oversee implementation of these provisions across agencies. However, some organizations have objected to a sentence in the bill sponsored by Senators Richard Lugar and Robert Casey, which mandates funding for "research on biotechnical advances appropriate to local ecological conditions, including genetically modified [GM] technology".

<http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89467>

**What Will It Take to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals?: An International Assessment**, *United Nations Development Programme*, June 2010

At the same time that the share of poor people is declining, the absolute number of the poor in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa is increasing. Countries that achieved rapid reductions in income poverty are not necessarily making the same progress in gender equality and environmental sustainability. MDG progress is also threatened by the combination of high food prices and the impact of the international financial and economic crisis. Economic growth declined in many countries, along with a reduction in foreign direct investment, remittances, as well as a fall in exports and tourist numbers, which led to significant job losses. Sustained poverty and hunger reduction is at risk because of vulnerability to climate change, particularly in the area of agricultural production.

[http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset\\_id=2615341](http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=2615341)

**See Also: UNDP Unveils Agenda to Spur Anti-Poverty Goals**, *Inter Press Service*, June 17

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=51865>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### ***Feed the Future E-Newsletter, Issue #1 - June 15***

Feed the Future (FTF) is the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative. This newsletter is designed to inform development partners and stakeholders about the U.S. government's efforts to address the underlying causes of hunger and food insecurity.

[http://www.feedthefuture.gov/ftfnews/ftfnews\\_01\\_061510.pdf](http://www.feedthefuture.gov/ftfnews/ftfnews_01_061510.pdf)

### **Opening Remarks at ECOWAS Food Security Business Meeting, Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, June 14**

"And across all that we do, we must remember that women are at the center of our work. Women in this region are responsible for half of the world's food production and in countries in West Africa, produce between 60 and 80 percent of all food. They produce in West Africa more than 70 percent of agricultural labor. We must collectively measure our success and the success of the African agriculture plans that are developed by our ability to drive resources, benefits, extension services and technical support to these women producers. And we need more women in significant leadership roles."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100614.html>

**See Also** "Partnering with West African Countries to Fight Global Hunger, Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, *IMPACT* blog, June 14

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/06/partnering-with-west-african-countries-to-fight-global-hunger/>

### **U.S. Priorities for Sub-Saharan Africa, Johnnie Carson, assistant secretary of state, Bureau of African Affairs, June 14**

"We are actively working to promote economic growth and development, including through our new \$3.5 billion dollar food security initiative, Feed the Future, which will assist 12 African focus countries that are engaged in growing and modernizing their agricultural sectors. The Obama Administration will continue to work with our African partners to maximize the opportunities created by the African Growth and Opportunity Act--AGOA. We will also continue to actively explore ways to promote African private sector growth and investment, especially for small and medium-sized businesses."

<http://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/rm/2010/143144.htm>

### **Diplomacy Briefing Series: Conference on Sub-Saharan Africa, Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, June 14**

"I attended the Africa Growth and Opportunities Act conference last year in Nairobi to underscore our commitment to helping to grow the economies. And central to that is revitalizing agriculture and enhancing its value-added returns for African farmers. We also are committed to investing in women. Women are the principal farmers on the continent of Africa, producing food not only for themselves and their families, but reinvesting the profits in benefits for their children and future generations."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/06/143134.htm>

**See Also: Clinton: Africa Must Launch Tough Economic Reforms, Reuters, June 15**

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE65E01S20100615>

### **Reinventing USAID to Meet 21st Century Development and Security Challenges, Remarks by Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, National Press Club, June 18**

"The President's recently published National Security Strategy set an ambitious agenda for USAID. It calls on us to 'help prevent conflict, spur economic growth, strengthen weak and failing states, lift people out of poverty, combat climate change and epidemic disease, and strengthen institutions of democratic governance.' That's a tall order. But it's what animates our team. President Obama and Secretary Clinton have made it my mission to remake USAID into the world's premiere development agency to meet the security and development challenges of the 21st century. Today I will discuss how we hope to achieve that goal and why it's so vital."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100618.html>

**USAID Helps Drought-Affected Niger with First Award Under the Emergency Food Security Program,**  
*Press Release, U.S. Agency for International Development, June 17*

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has made its first award under the new Emergency Food Security Program. This nearly \$5 million grant to Mercy Corps, a U.S. non-governmental organization, will help them assist 130,000 individuals affected by drought by providing them with locally purchased food and vouchers for the purchase of food in local markets.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/usaids-helps-drought-affected-niger-with-first-award-under-the-emergency-food-security-program-96585879.html>

**U.S. Government Support for Global Health Efforts,** *U.S. Department of State, June 18*

The U.S. government continues to lay the groundwork for efforts under the U.S. Global Health Initiative (GHI), announcing the first round of "GHI Plus" countries, as well as the program's governance structure. GHI is a six-year, \$63 billion initiative to help partner countries improve measurable health outcomes by strengthening health systems and building upon proven results. It places a particular focus on improving the health of women, newborns and children. Pursuing a comprehensive approach, GHI includes programs addressing HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, nutrition, family planning and reproductive health, and neglected tropical diseases. These U.S. global health investments are an important component of our national security "smart power" strategy, critical to national security as well as our common security.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/06/143307.htm>

**See Also: Eight Nations Picked as Health-Aid Labs,** *Wall Street Journal, June 18*

The countries tapped to receive technical assistance and other resources are Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Mali, Malawi, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Guatemala, according to administration officials familiar with the plan.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703650604575313141116594782.html>

**See Also: Obama Plan Helps Countries Create Health Systems,** *NPR, June 17*

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=127897677>

**Hearing on Women as Agents of Change: Advancing the Role of Women in Politics and Civil Society,**  
*U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, June 9*

[http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing\\_notice.asp?id=1188](http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1188)

**Testimony of Melanne Vermeer,** *Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues*

"Today, investing in women is at the very heart of U.S. foreign policy. We know that women's participation is essential to addressing virtually every challenge we face as nations and as a community of nations. We are implementing policies and programs to grow women's leadership capacity in all areas of political participation and decision-making. Women are also at the center of the U.S. Government's development work, including the Food Security Initiative and the Global Health Initiative. Women are also integral to our national security. The 2010 U.S. National Security Strategy Report that the Obama Administration just released notes that 'experience shows that countries are more peaceful and prosperous when women are accorded full and equal rights and opportunity.'"

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/ver060910.pdf>

**Testimony of Dr. Esther Brimmer,** *Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs*

"The United States along with UN Member states believe that the new gender entity should emphasize field work in order to bring about concrete improvements to the lives of women and girls. Examples of valuable work in the field include providing women with political, legal and jobs skills training; setting up centers to help rape or domestic violence victims or to help women entrepreneurs; setting up or making improvements to schools for girls; and providing help to women who depend on agriculture for their livelihood."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/brim060910.pdf>

**Testimony by Kenneth Wollack,** *President, National Democratic Institute*

"Women's leadership and conflict resolution styles often embody democratic ideals in that women have tended to work in a less hierarchical, more participatory and more collaborative way than male colleagues. Women are also more likely to work across party lines, even in highly partisan environments. Since assuming 56 percent of the seats in the Rwandan parliament in 2008, women have been

responsible for forming the first cross-party caucus to work on controversial issues such as land rights and food security.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/wol060910.pdf>

**Lincoln, Chambliss Urge Administration to Resolve Issues, Delays of Agriculture Exports, *Office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, June 15***

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln, (D-Ark.), and Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss, (R-Ga.), sent a letter to Richard A. Lidinsky, Jr., Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, expressing concern with reports that U.S. agricultural exporters are experiencing serious service issues with the foreign-flagged ocean carrier industry. The Senators noted that while the administration has outlined admirable goals to increase U.S. exports, the chain of trade must function fairly and efficiently for American shippers to get agricultural products to key overseas markets.

<http://lincoln.senate.gov/newsroom/2010-6-16-1.cfm>

**Hearing on Horn of Africa: Current Conditions and U.S. Policy, *U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, June 17***

[http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing\\_notice.asp?id=1191](http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1191)

**Testimony of Leslie Lefkow, *Senior Researcher, Africa Division, Human Rights Watch***

“The Obama administration should also support an independent evaluation of the humanitarian response, including the distribution of food aid, in affected regions of Ethiopia. Serious allegations about potential diversion and manipulation of aid in the region by the military remain.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/lef061710.pdf>

**Testimony of Sadia Ali Aden, *Human Rights Advocate & Freelance Writer***

“Moreover, there are nearly 3.5 million civilians out of a total population of about 8 million are on the verge of starvation and their daily survival is dependent on aid coming from the international donor countries. And, whenever fightings intensifies, the flow of essential foods to the affected population stops; sometimes for months as in early 2010 when the World Food Programme (WFP) decided to suspend its delivery and distribution of emergency food in south and central Somalia.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/ade061710.pdf>

**Remarks by Ambassador Demetrios Marantis at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual World Trade Day, *Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, June 16***

‘Made in America’ stands for reliable, high tech manufactured goods, safe and delicious agriculture products, and cutting edge services. Our current challenge is to best position U.S. exporters to take advantage of the competitive opportunities in the world’s most dynamic region – the Asia-Pacific. Even given the deteriorating global economy, in 2009 U.S. goods exports to the Asia-Pacific region exceeded \$600 billion, agriculture exports topped \$70 billion, and U.S. services exports to the region grew to nearly \$200 billion.”

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/june/remarks-ambassador-demetrios-marantis-25th-annu>

**MCC Board Focuses on Poverty Reduction Results and Future Country Partners, *Millennium Challenge Corporation, June 16***

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Board of Directors met to review the progress of its global partnerships to reduce poverty. “The MCC Board is committed to ensuring that every MCC project delivers results. For MCC, fighting global poverty means investing in results for both the world’s poor and American taxpayers,” said Daniel W. Yohannes, MCC Chief Executive Officer. To date, MCC-funded project results include: over 1,500 kilometers of roads contracted, over 109,500 farmers trained, over 44,400 hectares of land under production, and over 45,000 rural parcels of land mapped.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-061610-mccboardfocuses.shtml>

**MCC Approves Liberia and Timor-Leste Threshold Programs, *Center for Global Development, June 9***

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Board of Directors recently approved new threshold programs in Liberia and Timor-Leste. These approvals come just ahead of the board’s quarterly meeting during which the MCC’s policy team will present a threshold program review.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/06/mcc-approves-liberia-and-timor-leste-threshold-programs.php>

**NIFA Releases Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Synopsis for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative,**  
*National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 8*

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) released the first Annual Synopsis for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program, which awarded more than \$176 million in 470 research, education and extension grants in fiscal year 2009. In March 2010, NIFA released the fiscal year 2010 AFRI request for applications, which made available \$262 million that will address five societal issues: global hunger and food security, childhood obesity, food safety, climate change, and sustainable energy.

[http://nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2010news/060810\\_afri\\_synopsis.html](http://nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2010news/060810_afri_synopsis.html)

**See Also: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: 2009 Annual Synopsis,** *National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 2010*

[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/pdfs/2009\\_afri\\_synopsis.pdf](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/pdfs/2009_afri_synopsis.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Successes in African Agriculture**

*Date:* June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

There is a new consensus today that investing in African agriculture is fundamental for reducing poverty and food insecurity on the continent. But how can this be done without repeating many of the mistakes of the past that led to widespread disappointment and pessimism about African agriculture, and a precipitous decline in donor support during the past two decades? Drawing on a set of studies of past successes rather than failures in African agriculture, this seminar will discuss the kinds of investments strategies that are more likely to be successful, and the implications for donors and governments.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/successes-african-agriculture-0>

### **Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever**

*Date:* June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Copenhagen, Denmark

The right technological solutions combined with the right policy directions for the future can effectively contribute to a sustainable and equitable global food system. A new global food system should assure that *everybody has access to sufficient food* and that *poverty should be reduced significantly without doing damage to the natural environment*.

<http://www.atv.dk/index.php?c=536&lang=2>

### **1<sup>st</sup> Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium**

*Date:* July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* London

This unique private-sector focused business and biodiversity conference, supported by Defra and BIS, will see the launch of the highly anticipated 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB) report from study leader Pavan Sukhdev. The TEEB for Business report, will offer attendees an insight into how business and enterprise have a huge role to play in how we manage, safeguard and invest in our natural capital. The report provides practical guidance to businesses on the issues and the opportunities created by the inclusion in mainstream business practices of ecosystem and biodiversity related considerations.

<http://www.businessofbiodiversity.co.uk/>

### **CropLife America National Policy Conference**

*Date:* July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The daylong conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of agriculture, technology and policy, who will offer highly diverse perspectives and engage in frank discussions on all issues facing modern agriculture. Panelists will discuss the essential role of technology to produce more food while using fewer natural resources, barriers to and opportunities for progress and innovation, and the ethics behind who decides agriculture policy. Speakers and panelists include Michael Specter, *New Yorker* staff writer and author of *Denialism*, Marc Gunther, contributing editor at *FORTUNE* magazine, and Robert Kenner, producer of *Food, Inc.* For additional information on the 2010 National Policy Conference, please contact Francesca Joyce at 202-872-3898 or [fjoyce@croplifeamerica.org](mailto:fjoyce@croplifeamerica.org).

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/National-Policy-Conference-2010>

### **Soy Innovation Africa 2010: Cultivating Potential in Emerging Markets**

*Date:* August 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Cape Town, South Africa

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

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

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

*Date:* October 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

### **The International Rice Congress 2010**

*Date:* November 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Hanoi, Vietnam

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

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

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Reports:

#### **R&D Investment in National and International Agricultural Research: An Ex-Ante Analysis of Productivity and Poverty Impact**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

This paper estimates required investment and its allocation among different regions to maximize agricultural output gains and poverty reduction. The analysis uses a social welfare function to simulate the optimal allocation of research and development (R&D) investment across developing regions (1) to maximize agricultural growth or (2) to maximize poverty reduction at the global level.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00986.pdf>

#### **Assessing Food Security in Yemen: An Innovative, Integrated, Cross-Sector, and Multilevel Approach**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

The lack of updated information about food security is of concern to many countries, especially during and after economic crises, natural disasters, and conflicts. In this paper the authors present an analytical framework for assessing the effects of such crises on food security. This methodology can compensate for the lack of recent data in the aftermath of various crisis situations and thus provide important information to

policymakers. They apply this methodology to Yemen, a country where the recent food price crisis and global economic recession have been especially damaging.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00982.pdf>

**Food Security and Economic Development in the Middle East and North Africa: Current State and Future Perspectives**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

A rapidly changing world combined with mounting domestic challenges is prompting many Middle East and North African (MENA) countries to rethink their development models and to initiate economic and social reforms. Taking this new momentum as a starting point, this paper uses the concept of Food Security to identify the region's challenges along four major themes: economic growth and incomes, trade and infrastructure, agriculture and water, and health and education. The paper concludes with a list of priority research areas to identify key actions to be taken on regional, national and sub-national levels to foster development and food security.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00985.pdf>

**Sustaining Security: How Natural Resources Influence National Security**, *Center for New American Security, June 2010*

According to the World Food Programme, almost one billion people are not getting enough food. Ironically, the undernourished are concentrated in rural areas of agriculturally-based economies, which highlights the complexity of today's problems of land and food. These problems are partly related to who has access to food, as well as to the technologies – such as irrigation – that can improve food production and land use. As a recent World Bank report noted, “agriculture's ability to generate income for the poor, particularly women, is more important for food security than its ability to increase local food supplies.”

[http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS\\_Sustaining%20Security\\_Parthemore%20Rogers.pdf](http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_Sustaining%20Security_Parthemore%20Rogers.pdf)

**Improving Resources Allocation and Incomes in Vietnamese Agriculture**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

This paper uses data collected in an extensive survey of farm costs in the Dong Nai River Basin of Vietnam to estimate the parameters of production functions for rice, vegetables, and coffee. These estimates are then combined with price information to estimate marginal value products for irrigation, fertilizer, labor, and other farm inputs. Comparing marginal value products of the various inputs across crops and with factor prices suggests there may be potential for improving resource allocation and farm incomes. One novel contribution is the consideration of water and irrigation—a concern of considerable interest amidst rising water scarcity in the region.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00984.pdf>

**Driving Under the Influence: Corn Ethanol & Energy Security**, *Environmental Working Group, June 2010*

Claims that corn ethanol is making a major contribution to America's security and energy independence by reducing oil imports are wildly exaggerated, an analysis by Environmental Working Group (EWG) shows. Between 2005 and 2009, taxpayers spent a whopping \$17 billion to subsidize ethanol. In return, they got a reduction in overall oil consumption equal to an unimpressive 1.1 mile-per-gallon increase in overall fuel economy.

<http://www.ewg.org/files/EWG-corn-ethanol-energy-security.pdf>

Media Articles:

**West Africa Coordinating Agricultural Production to Improve Food Security**, *Voice of America, June 17*

The Economic Community of West African States is working to better coordinate agricultural production to increase profits for farmers and distribute food to areas affected by drought. West African leaders have a comprehensive agriculture development program to support private sector investment in family farms, make those goods more competitive on international markets, and better guarantee food security.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/-West-Africa-Coordinating-Agricultural-Production-to-Improve-Food-Security-96564074.html>

**StanChart Closes on Agricultural Bank Stake**, *Financial Times*, June 17

Standard Chartered is set to take a stake in Agricultural Bank of China and is forming a strategic alliance with the Chinese lender, which is seeking to raise more than \$23bn in the world's biggest initial public offering.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/93e632fe-79d1-11df-9871-00144feabdc0.html>

**See Also: StanChart, AgBank to Tap Asia-Africa Flows**, *Reuters*, June 17

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJ0E65G06D20100617>

**Brazil Rainforest Logging Increases Malaria Rates**, *Agence France-Presse*, June 17

Logging of tropical forests can boost the incidence of malaria in the surrounding area by nearly 50 percent, according to new research tracking deforestation in Brazil's Amazon.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ghAZO7wPNRTxk6XQGrnBrpXFed6Q>

**Coffee Growers Warn of Rise in Narcotics Crops**, *Financial Times*, June 16

Latin American coffee growers have warned that illegal drug cultivation could rise if a small commodities exchange makes technical changes to a futures contract, highlighting the link between financial markets and farmers.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5b977220-7975-11df-b063-00144feabdc0.html>

**Maize Grown on Trees**, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research*, June 15

Green fertilizers gain ground in Malawi as affordable and sustainable improvers of soil health, crop yields and food security.

[http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/june\\_15\\_2010.html](http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/june_15_2010.html)

**Andrew Mitchell Urged to Support Poor Farmers**, *Katine Chronicles blog*, *The Guardian*, June 15

NGOs set to lobby the international development secretary, Andrew Mitchell, over support for agriculture and poor farmers in developing countries.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/jun/15/support-smallholder-farmers>

**Essay Contest on Achieving African Food Security Launched**, *Voice of America*, June 14

Kevin Quigley of the National Peace Corps Association says the essay is open to anyone with ideas how to improve agriculture in Africa.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Butty-Africa-Food-Security-Contest-Quigley-14june10-96274683.html>

**New Saudi Company Leases Asia Land for Rice**, *Financial Times*, June 13

As Saudi Arabian investors accelerate efforts to farm land overseas, a group of leading businessmen said that they were launching an agricultural company to grow rice under contract with growers in Asia.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/af2191f6-76e0-11df-ba79-00144feabdc0.html>

**Better Rice through Fungi**, *Science*, June 10

More than 80% of plant species make friends with a common fungus. In return for sugar, the fungus helps the plants extract nutrients from the soil. But rice plants, a primary food source for billions of people, don't have this special relationship—and thus they don't receive the extra boost the fungi give other plants. A new study suggests that with a little help from researchers, however, the fungus will bond with rice, increasing the plant's growth rate by up to five times.

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2010/06/better-rice-through-fungi.html>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

**A Pillar's Progress: How Development's History Shapes U.S. Options in the Present**, *Harvard Kennedy School*, May 2010

With the attacks of September 11, 2001, and the "War on Terror" that followed, development aid was shoved back into the spotlight. "Nation building" in Afghanistan and Iraq, along with a hope that development would

stifle the appeal of extremist ideologies and the movements that they stirred, has returned development to a prominent place in U.S. grand strategy. David Ekbladh reviews development's history and explains how that history underpins views and perspectives that still shape the debate.

<http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/ekbladh-pillars-progress.pdf>

**Supporting Local Ownership & Building National Capacity**, *Save the Children, May 2010*

The traditional U.S. government aid model, relying on international contractors and NGOs for the vast majority of implementation, can achieve quick results and reduce the donor's risk of financial and program mismanagement. However, making the government and civil society in partner countries directly responsible for managing resources has greater potential for enhancing country ownership, strengthening institutional capacity, and sustaining program activities. A better mix of aid models is needed.

<http://www.savethechildren.org/get-involved/advocacy/Save-the-Children-Aid-modalities-for-country-ownership-May-2010.pdf>

**Building on Early Gains in Afghanistan's Health, Nutrition, and Population Sector: Challenges and Opportunities**, *World Bank, May 2010*

This title gives advice on policy options for the Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health (MOPH). The guiding principles of these options are consistency with the Ministry's vision and feasibility on implementation. These policy options tell a story with the central theme of expanding service coverage and what the Ministry needs to do to make that happen.

<http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821383353>

Media Articles:

**World Wakes to African Hunger – Late Again?**, *Reuters, June 18*

In a slow-motion disaster predicted months ago by aid agencies, Africa's Sahel region is lurching towards a food crisis which the world has only weeks left to avert. Yet even if more aid is pledged right now, the obstacles in getting succour to the most vulnerable and remote communities on the planet mean hundreds of thousands of children in Niger and Chad are already facing life-threatening hunger.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE65F22G.htm>

**G8 Needs to Account for Its Broken Promises: Critic**, *Vancouver Sun, June 16*

If the G8 summit leaders don't make good on a litany of broken multi-billion-dollar pledges to help the world's poor, the credibility of the annual gathering of industrialized countries will be shot, renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs said. His comments came as G8 officials prepared to release an "accountability" report, expected Sunday, in which summiteers come clean on dozens of empty or unfulfilled promises from past summits, ranging from doubling aid for Africa to establishing a food security fund for small farmers.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/needs+account+broken+promises+Critic/3163274/story.html>

**See Also: G8 Leaders Urged to Fulfill Funding Pledges**, *Voice of America, June 16*

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/pan/decapua-g8-issues-16jun10-96486629.html>

**Workfare Helps Yemen Cope with Food Crisis**, *World Bank, June 15*

High in the hills of rural Yemen, Ghaleb Ahmed sat his young daughter on his knee and prepared to eat lunch. He was taking a break from his job building a new rock and cement road in the village of Hababa—one of many places in the country where jobs are scarce and people struggle to put food on the table. "The village was in need of a road, and when the project came we got a road and we also got money for building it. So, we are able now to buy household basics like flour," Ahmed said in December. The project was among several in the country designed to help poor communities cope with higher food prices by employing large numbers of people to build or repair local infrastructure.

<http://go.worldbank.org/Q2WT8YA9T0>

**UN to Shutdown Critical Air Service to West Africa**, *Voice of America, June 15*

The World Food Program says it will have to shut down the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service in the west African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia because it has run out of cash.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/UN-to-Shutdown-Critical-Air-Service-to-West-Africa-96399134.html>

**EU Countries 'Must Honour Aid Promises,'** *Department for International Development, June 14*

International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell has called on EU nations to maintain their commitment to international aid, despite the financial crisis.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/EU-countries-must-honour-aid-promises/>

**Community Action Helps Niger Respond to Crises,** *World Bank, June 14*

Last fall, residents of Agadez, Niger, awoke to a loud noise. Rains, unusual at any time, but especially during the dry season, had fallen on the mountains to the north. The water moved south, rolling over the sand unchecked. In farming villages, gardens of tomatoes, cabbages, peppers, and maize were quickly submerged. Mud brick houses were destroyed and livestock washed away. The World Bank-financed Community Action Program (CAP), already working in Agadez, provided immediate assistance to villagers. Commune leaders came together to evaluate immediate needs, and with the help of the CAP, secured pumps, cattle, seeds and fertilizer, as well as tools.

<http://go.worldbank.org/LUVR2YPAE0>

**World's Richest Want Better Health for Latam Poors,** *Reuters, June 14*

Carlos Slim and Bill Gates, the world's richest men with a combined fortune of over \$100 billion, announced a joint effort that will bring basic preventive health care to poor people in southern Mexico and Central America. The five-year program will target indigenous communities -- particularly women and children -- from Mexico across the Central American isthmus to Panama.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1415624220100614>

**See Also: Top Billionaires Gates, Slim Launch Health Program for Poor,** *Agence France-Presse, June 15*

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gqF4F\\_UbI\\_DLuQ\\_5exL1\\_E6WwANQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gqF4F_UbI_DLuQ_5exL1_E6WwANQ)

**Out of Africa: The Ibrahim Prize Implies that the Continent Needs Investment, Not Just Aid,** *Editorial, Sunday London Times, June 14*

His foundation says that the continent's governance is slowly improving. But the prize should prompt the West to think again about how to help Africa. Much of the aid channeled by state agencies like Britain's Department for International Development goes in the form of grants to governments, with all the attendant concerns about propping up tyrannical regimes. But trade and investment offer much greater opportunities for lasting economic growth.

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading\\_article/article7150052.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading_article/article7150052.ece)

**Vitamin A Handouts Boost Polio Vaccine Acceptance,** *IRIN News, June 14*

Campaigns to distribute Vitamin A supplements to reduce high rates of child mortality and morbidity in northern Nigeria have had the unexpected side-effect of encouraging heavily stigmatized polio immunizations in the region.

<http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89470>

**Africa's Toughest Challenge Is About to Enter Overtime,** *Stephan B. Tanda, managing board member, DSM, Huffington Post, June 14*

If only the rich world saw the investment potential in providing effective solutions to bring the most disadvantaged out of extreme poverty and hunger. The World Bank has calculated that it would cost \$10 billion per year to deliver an evidence-based, cost effective intervention program to prevent and treat malnutrition - a problem that has vast health and socio economic implications - among children from zero to 24 months. This figure might seem like a lot, but it is not if you consider that the per capita cost of providing life-saving food fortification programs is between ten cents and one dollar per year.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephan-b-tanda/africas-toughest-challeng\\_b\\_610825.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephan-b-tanda/africas-toughest-challeng_b_610825.html)

**U.N. Distributes Food in Drought-Hit Eastern Syria,** *New York Times, June 13*

The World Food Programme has begun distributing rations to 190,000 people in Eastern Syria but another 110,000 in the drought-hit region still require emergency food aid, the U.N. body said. Droughts over the last three years and mismanagement of water resources have reduced large swathes of Eastern Syria to a wasteland, forcing up to one million people to flee to the outskirts of Damascus and other cities. That has put further pressure on already stretched infrastructure in Syria, a major farm and commodities player in the Middle East until droughts forced the government to stop exporting wheat in 2007.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/06/13/world/international-uk-syria-food-aid.html>

**Analysis: Donor Cuts Add Pressure to World Bank Aid Drive**, *Reuters, June 13*

The World Bank will need to get creative in raising funds to help the poorest countries now that the richest ones are feeling pinched themselves.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65C11S20100613>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Greenhouse Gas Mitigation by Agricultural Intensification**, *National Academies of Sciences, May 2010*

As efforts to mitigate climate change increase, there is a need to identify cost-effective ways to avoid emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Agriculture is rightly recognized as a source of considerable emissions, with concomitant opportunities for mitigation. Although future agricultural productivity is critical, as it will shape emissions from conversion of native landscapes to food and biofuel crops, investment in agricultural research is rarely mentioned as a mitigation strategy. Here we estimate the net effect on GHG emissions of historical agricultural intensification between 1961 and 2005. Our analysis indicates that investment in yield improvements compares favorably with other commonly proposed mitigation strategies. Further yield improvements should therefore be prominent among efforts to reduce future GHG emissions.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/06/14/0914216107.full.pdf+html>

**See Also: High-Yield Agriculture Slows Pace of Global Warming, Say FSE Researchers**, *Program on Food Security and the Environment, Stanford University, June 14*

[http://foodsecurity.stanford.edu/news/highyield\\_agriculture\\_slows\\_pace\\_of\\_global\\_warming\\_say\\_fse\\_researchers\\_20100614](http://foodsecurity.stanford.edu/news/highyield_agriculture_slows_pace_of_global_warming_say_fse_researchers_20100614)

**Rethinking Agriculture in the Greater Mekong Subregion**, *International Water Management Institute, 2010*

Agriculture in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) is shifting from traditional subsistence to modern commercial farming. Countries in the region are following a path of intensification, specialization, increased agrochemical use and mechanization, at varying paces. Agricultural production has increased steadily during the past 20 years, as a result of farmers adopting 'green revolution' technologies. Trends observed in the more developed nations, such as Thailand and China, are likely to emerge in less developed countries in the future.

[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Other/PDF/Summary-Rethinking\\_Agriculture\\_in\\_the\\_Greater\\_Mekong\\_Subregion.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Other/PDF/Summary-Rethinking_Agriculture_in_the_Greater_Mekong_Subregion.pdf)

**Fighting Sand Encroachment: Lessons from Mauritania**, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States, June 2010*

FAO marks World Day to Combat Desertification with the publication of a manual that shows how a project in Mauritania successfully fixed dunes and stopped sand encroachment. It will serve as a useful blueprint for similar projects in Africa. Sand encroachment is what happens when grains of sand are carried by winds and collect in dunes on the coast, along watercourses and on cultivated or uncultivated land. As the dunes move, they bury villages, roads, oases, crops and irrigation channels and dams, causing major economic damage and increasing poverty and food insecurity.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1488e/i1488e.pdf>

**See Also: Holding Bank the Sand**, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States, June 17*

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/43305/icode/>

**Land and Water Resources Management for Upland Farms in Southeast Asia: Some Lessons Learned**, *International Water Management Institute, 2010*

Current policies on upland agriculture need reviewing in light of recent research that shows that slash-and-burn farming systems are not only more sustainable than other systems but could also play a better role in sustaining downstream hydropower and river delta rice-bowls.

[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Water\\_Policy\\_Briefs/PDF/WPB33.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Water_Policy_Briefs/PDF/WPB33.pdf)

Media Articles:

**Extreme Climate Conditions: How Africa Can Adapt**, *McKinsey Quarterly, June 2010*

Africa's climate already poses grave risks to the continent's people and economies, and global warming promises to intensify the problem. A factual risk-management solution can help.

[http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Energy\\_Resources\\_Materials/Environment/Extreme\\_climate\\_conditions\\_How\\_Africa\\_can\\_adapt\\_2616](http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Energy_Resources_Materials/Environment/Extreme_climate_conditions_How_Africa_can_adapt_2616)

**Confronting South Africa's Water Challenge**, *McKinsey Quarterly, June 2010*

South Africa faces a growing gap between water supply and demand. The most effective solutions will cater to the specific agricultural, industrial, and domestic needs of the country's different basins.

[http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Energy\\_Resources\\_Materials/Environment/Confronting\\_South\\_Africa's\\_water\\_challenge\\_2617](http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Energy_Resources_Materials/Environment/Confronting_South_Africa's_water_challenge_2617)

**The Impact of Climate Change on the World's Marine Ecosystems**, *John F. Bruno, Huffington Post, June 18*

The impacts of climate change on the world's oceans include decreased ocean productivity, altered food web dynamics, reduced abundances of habitat-forming species, shifting species distributions, and a greater incidence of disease. Further change will continue to create enormous challenges and costs for societies worldwide, particularly those in developing countries.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-f-bruno/the-impact-of-climate-change\\_616759.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-f-bruno/the-impact-of-climate-change_616759.html)

**Enhancing Soils Enhances Life**, *United Nations Secretary Ban Ki-Moon, message on the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, June 17*

"Almost three-quarters of rangelands show symptoms of desertification. Over the past 40 years, nearly one third of the world's cropland has become unproductive, often ending up abandoned. The unremitting stress of drought, famine and deepening poverty threatens to create social strains, in turn creating the potential for involuntary migration, the breakdown of communities, political instability and armed conflict. Indeed, human, environmental and social vulnerability come together with unusual force and symmetry in the world's drylands. Climate change will only exacerbate such pressures."

<http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2010/unisgsm199.html>

**IFAD Launches a New US\$16.64 Million Programme to Address Rural Poverty and Water Scarcity in Lebanon**, *International Fund for Agricultural Development, June 17*

To tackle water scarcity, a major development constraint in Lebanon, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) launched a new US\$ 16.64 million rural development programme.

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2010/39.htm>

**Afghanistan's Woeful Water Management Delights Neighbors**, *Christian Science Monitor, June 15*

Thirty years of war have left Afghanistan's irrigation canals clogged and pitted, and farmers are beginning to feel the weight of decades of neglect. Aside from erosion, farmers lack the resources to build the canals capable of irrigating large swathes of land – and this in a country where agriculture employs more than three quarters of workers. In order to develop, Afghanistan must revamp its water infrastructure, but doing so could spark tension with neighbors who've come to rely on excess water flowing from Afghanistan.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2010/0615/Afghanistan-s-woeful-water-management-delights-neighbors>

**Food Security Further Undermined by Climate Disasters**, *Inter Press Service, June 15*

Adverse climatic conditions and weather-related disasters are damaging crops in El Salvador and neighbouring countries in Central America, aggravating the food vulnerability that the region already faces. In late 2009, for the first time ever, Guatemala was included on a worldwide list of countries in crisis requiring external assistance, compiled by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).  
<http://alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ips/1263c17990e19ce7ee8a9294426ebcfe.htm>

**Tensions Rise Over Access to the Nile River**, *Global Post*, June 13

A war of words is threatening to erupt into real fighting as African countries face off against one another in a battle for access to the life-giving waters of the Nile. The Nile Basin spreads across 10 countries, all of them poor, all of them vulnerable to climate change bringing drought, crop failure and flood, and all of them with populations growing at 2 to 3 percent a year.  
<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/africa/100611/tensions-rise-over-access-the-nile-river>

**The Environment: Further Clouded**, *Financial Times*, June 13

As Bonn's low, heavy skies pelted delegates with rain, much of the rest of the talk during the long sessions was of technical matters such as the measurement of greenhouse gases. But in quiet conversations in the corridors, in cafes over hurried coffees or while scurrying between thunderstorms, the deeper question some officials were asking was whether there was indeed any point in continuing with this type of negotiation, which had failed for 20 years. Could the UN climate talks be reformed – or were they just too broken to fix?  
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f9e7e574-7716-11df-ba79-00144feabdc0.html>

**Vital River Is Withering, and Iraq Has No Answer**, *New York Times*, June 12

The salt water of the gulf now pushes up the Faw peninsula. Last year, for the first time in memory, it extended beyond Basra, Iraq's biggest port city, and even Qurna, where the two rivers meet. It has ravaged fresh-water fisheries, livestock, crops and groves of date palms that once made the area famous, forcing the migration of tens of thousands of farmers.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/13/science/earth/13shatt.html>

**Himalayan Climate Impacts 'Cannot Be Generalised'**, *BBC News*, June 11

Changes to the flow of meltwater as a result of global warming is likely to have a "severe" impact on food security in some areas, say scientists. Yet people living elsewhere are likely to see food productivity increase, they added in a paper published in *Science*.  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science\\_and\\_environment/10288943.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science_and_environment/10288943.stm)

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## WOMEN

### Reports:

**The MDGs and Gender**, *Overseas Development Institute*, June 2010

Gender issues cuts across all eight of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Progress on the MDGs requires a coordinated policy approach that is sensitive to gender-specific discrimination and risks. This Policy Brief, which draws on previous ODI Briefing Papers, argues that social protection could support progress towards the MDGs, but only if gender equality is seen as critical for programme effectiveness.  
<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4900.pdf>

### Media Articles:

**Former Executive Director Catherine Bertini Focuses on Food, Education for Girls**, *Friends of the World Food Programme*, June 17

While birthdays are often celebrated with cake and presents, Catherine Bertini, former Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), took a different approach to marking her 60th birthday in May: she encouraged friends and family to support education for girls in the developing world.  
[http://www.friendsofwfp.org/site/c.hrKJIXPF1qE/b.6089877/k.3B81/Former\\_Executive\\_Director\\_Catherine\\_Bertini\\_Focuses\\_on\\_Food\\_Education\\_for\\_Girls.htm](http://www.friendsofwfp.org/site/c.hrKJIXPF1qE/b.6089877/k.3B81/Former_Executive_Director_Catherine_Bertini_Focuses_on_Food_Education_for_Girls.htm)

**Beyond the Baby Factory for Women in the Developing World, *Guardian, June 13***

The burning issue on maternal health in the world's poorest countries is for women to take control of their own bodies.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/13/maternal-health-baby-factory>

**The Abooman Women's Group: Working Together to Improve Livelihoods, *Worldwatch Institute, June 7***

The Abooman Women's Group in southern Ghana, "started off as a mixed group," of women and men, says Fatima Addy, the Group's leader. But today the group consists mainly of women working together to help one another. And says Fatima, "the women's group performs better than the men's group" by getting higher incomes from their products, especially in the off season. The Abooman women have worked with the Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ECASARD) and Heifer International to learn how to raise and care for dairy cows, make yoghurt, and pasteurize for milk for sale to the local community and for sale to schools. Some of the women also raise bees.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/the-abooman-womens-group-working-together-to-improve-livelihoods/>

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**MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES**

Reports:

**How Would a Trade Deal on Cotton Affect Exporting and Importing Countries?, *International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development, May 2010***

This paper assesses the likely implications for exporting and importing countries from a trade deal in cotton. The study estimates the price, production and trade effects of reforming cotton subsidies and tariffs under alternative scenarios, with a primary focus on the WTO Doha Round. For a variety of scenarios, the model simulates the prices and quantities that would have obtained in a base year had the policy reforms implied by the given scenario been retroactively applied to that year. Simulations cover ten base years (1998-2007) that not only provide a wide variance in prices and subsidy levels but also reflect recent trends in supply and demand.

[http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/06/m\\_jales\\_web3.pdf](http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/06/m_jales_web3.pdf)

**Reforming Trade Preferences for LDCs, *Overseas Development Institute, June 2010***

A recent report by a Working Group on Global Trade Preference Reform convened by the Center for Global Development proposes a series of recommendations aimed at making trade preferences work more effectively for the LDCs. These include not only the expansion of the duty free quota free (DFQF) scheme to all exports from all LDCs, but extending the pool to some advanced developing countries (chosen by CGD). They also recommend the modification of existing rules of preference programmes, and call for a reduction in the costs of regulatory requirements in preference-giving countries and efforts to tackle supply-side constraints in poor countries. While it is difficult to deny the advantages of these measures for LDCs' exports, there are conceptual and political challenges for the implementation of some of these measures, which may undermine some of the proposed reforms.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4899.pdf>

Media Articles:

**N. Korea Lifts Ban on Private Markets to Prevent Famine, *Washington Post, June 18***

Bowing to reality, the North Korean government has lifted all restrictions on private markets -- a last-resort option for a regime desperate to prevent its people from starving.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/18/AR2010061802837.html>

**Brazil to Suspend Action in US Cotton Dispute, *Financial Times, June 18***

Brazil said that it would suspend sanctions on US imports in retaliation for illegal American cotton subsidies, temporarily defusing one of the most contentious disputes in international trade. Cotton has been one of the

most contentious areas in the so-called "Doha round" of trade talks. Four west African cotton growers, which have limited ability to threaten the US with trade sanctions through the WTO, have led a campaign demanding cotton subsidies be cut sharply as part of any deal. But the US has refused to deal with the issue separately from the rest of the agricultural talks in Doha.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4fbf54c0-7a71-11df-9cd7-00144feabdc0.html>

**See Also: Brazil Suspends Retaliation in U.S. Cotton Row**, *Reuters*, June 17

Brazil suspended retaliatory measures against U.S. goods over a cotton subsidy dispute, freezing until 2012 a long-running row that has demonstrated the South American nation's trade clout.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100617/pl\\_nm/us\\_brazil\\_us\\_trade](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100617/pl_nm/us_brazil_us_trade)

**Brazil to Lead Agriculture Boom as Europe Imports**, *Associated Press*, June 15

The rising economies of Brazil, China, and India will see strong growth in their agricultural sectors in the next decade as output remains stagnant among big importers in Western Europe, international experts forecast.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hgAm4zjS1QGlmhPyAlVbImLSBaQAD9GBKHFO0>

**Continent Drives a Harder Bargain**, *Financial Times*, June 14

A growing number of African policymakers are wary of becoming too dependent on or indebted to China, and see virtue in diversity. Even Angola – where Beijing pioneered a strategy of swapping cheap finance and infrastructure for crude oil and other resources – is now back in the arms of the IMF. Chris Alden, a British Sino-Africa expert, argues that the Chinese have nevertheless been supple in adapting to changing African realities. Moreover, in many instances, there is a convergence of interests between the two. He cites agriculture as an example. Chinese efforts to raise productivity could enhance rural African livelihoods, at the same as time addressing the growing problem of food security in China itself.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/85632536-74ed-11df-aed7-00144feabdc0.html>

**Price Jump Shocks Coffee Speculators**, *Financial Times*, June 13

Speculators in commodities suffered multimillion-dollar losses last week after the cost of robusta coffee jumped nearly 20 per cent in just three days. Robusta coffee is traditionally a sleepy niche commodity market, largely handled by producers of instant coffee and trading houses such as Louis Dreyfus of France. Recently it has become a playground for hedge funds.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/642da230-7702-11df-ba79-00144feabdc0.html>

**See Also: Coffee Prices Rise 20% in a Week**, *Guardian*, June 14

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/jun/14/commodities-coffee-prices-rising-sharply>

**What the Editorial on Cotton Subsidies Missed**, *Letter to the Editor*, Gary Adams, vice president of economics and policy analysis, National Cotton Council of America, *Washington Post*, June 12

The June 3 editorial "[Cotton brawl](#)" was quick with inflammatory adjectives but short on facts. The editorial cited historical cotton program spending but failed to note that spending on the disputed programs will likely be zero for the 2010 crop. The editorial did not mention the export credit programs, even though the vast majority of possible trade retaliation is associated with these programs.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/11/AR2010061106025\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/11/AR2010061106025_pf.html)

**Disease Threatens Japan's Beef Trade**, *New York Times*, June 11

It is a calamity for this quiet cattle community. A prized black calf born last fall will soon be killed, part of the mass destruction of livestock in Japan's battle against its worst foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in at least a century.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/12/business/global/12beef.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**US Biodiesel Industry Suffers Setback in Senate Subsidy Vote**, *Dow Jones Newswire*, June 16

U.S. producers of soyoil-based biodiesel hoping Congress will revive a \$1-per-gallon government tax incentive suffered a setback when the Senate rejected a spending bill that contained the biodiesel subsidy.

<http://www.cmemarkets.com/v3/2010/06/16/dj-us-biodiesel-industry-suffers-setback-in-senate-subsidy-vote/>

**Sara Lee's Chief Is Recovering from Stroke**, *Wall Street Journal*, June 15

Nearly a month after Sara Lee Corp. announced that its top executive was taking a temporary leave of absence due to medical issues, the company disclosed that Chief Executive Brenda Barnes had a stroke.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704324304575306450410209496.html>

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