

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



June 18th - 25th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“With 60 percent of the world’s uncultivated arable land and low crop yields, Africa is ripe for a “green revolution” like the ones that have transformed agriculture in Asia and Brazil. The barriers to raising production in Africa are well-known and complex, including lack of advanced seeds and other inputs suited to the continent’s ecological conditions; inadequate infrastructure to bring crops to market; pervasive trade barriers and tax incentives; unclear land rights; and lack of technical assistance and finance for farmers. But if Africa could overcome these barriers—and some countries are creating credible plans to do so—we estimate that agricultural output could increase from \$280 billion per year today to as much as \$880 billion by 2030.”*—McKinsey & Company, [“Lions on the Move: The Progress and Potential of African Economies,”](#) June 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.
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010, United Nations, June 2010

The number of people who are undernourished has continued to grow, while slow progress in reducing the prevalence of hunger stalled—or even reversed itself—in some regions between 2000-2002 and 2005-2007. About one in four children under the age of five are underweight, mainly due to lack of food and quality food, inadequate water, sanitation and health services, and poor care and feeding practices.

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202010%20En%20r15%20-low%20res%2020100615%20-.pdf>

See Also: UN Says Poor Nations on Track to Cut Poverty, *Associated Press*, June 23, 2010

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j5fNYt-EGproCMvtTILL52-cQ2FgD9GH7B502>

See Also: Millennium Development Goals Hit by Crisis But Still Achievable, UN Says, *Deutsche Welle*, June 23

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5723220,00.html>

Muskoka Accountability Report, G8, June 2010

For over thirty years, leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) have met annually to discuss and take bold, definitive action to address some of the world's most pressing economic, security, environmental and development challenges. Assessing progress in implementing those commitments is central to keeping the G8 on track and demonstrates its ongoing commitment to transparency and the accountability process. The Muskoka Accountability Report reflects the desire of Leaders to provide a candid assessment on what the G8 has done.

http://g8.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/muskoka_accountability_report.pdf

See Also: Muskoka Accountability Report, Annex Five: G8 Member Reporting, Food Security, G8, 2010

http://g8.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/mar_annex55.pdf

See Also: Promises, Promises..., *Erin Thornton, Global Policy Director, ONE Campaign, Huffington Post*, June 25

It's fantastic that the G8 has put accountability front and center on their agenda. To the optimist, it could mean that the days of empty promises are nearing an end. If this report ushers in a new era of annual reviews, and if the criteria suggested in the report mean that promise-making will now be done in a way that removes the wiggle room for future dodging, then developing countries can look forward and plan for a real partnership with donor countries going forward.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/erin-thornton/promises-promises_b_625420.html

Lions on the Move: The Progress and Potential of African Economies, *McKinsey Global Institute, June 2010*

Africa's agriculture holds enormous potential for companies across the value chain. With 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land and low crop yields, Africa is ripe for a "green revolution" like the ones that have transformed agriculture in Asia and Brazil. The barriers to raising production in Africa are well-known and complex, including lack of advanced seeds and other inputs suited to the continent's ecological conditions; inadequate infrastructure to bring crops to market; pervasive trade barriers and tax incentives; unclear land rights; and lack of technical assistance and finance for farmers. But if Africa could overcome these barriers—and some countries are creating credible plans to do so—we estimate that agricultural output could increase from \$280 billion per year today to as much as \$880 billion by 2030.

http://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/publications/progress_and_potential_of_african_economies/pdfs/MGI_african_economies_full_report.pdf

See Also: Executive Summary, *McKinsey Global Institute, June 2010*

http://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/publications/progress_and_potential_of_african_economies/pdfs/MGI_african_economies_ExecSumm.pdf

See Also: Report Optimistic on African Economies, *New York Times*, June 23

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/24/world/africa/24africa.html>

Millennium Development Goals Report Card: Learning from Progress, *Overseas Development Institute, June 2010*

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have provided an important motivational force and measuring rod for progress on poverty reduction and human development. This summary is part of initial findings from an ongoing review of development progress, which will include a set of 'MDG indicators to construct league tables' highlighting progress on these indicators. It focuses on progress towards three MDGs and some of the

factors contributing to that progress: Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), Goal 4 (reduce child mortality), and Goal 5 (improve maternal health). The key message from many years of working towards the MDGs is that progress is possible. In every aspect of development, a significant number of countries have made real achievements. The challenge for the remaining five years until the 2015 MDG deadline is to learn from, and build upon, the progress made.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4908.pdf>

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Partners Announce Inaugural Grants, *U.S. Department of the Treasury, June 23*

Partners in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a new fund to tackle global hunger and poverty, this week announced that five developing countries will receive the fund's first grants totaling \$224 million. The grants – approved for Bangladesh, Haiti, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo – will help each country increase food security, raise rural incomes and reduce poverty. These investments will help transform the lives of more than two million people in rural areas.

<http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/tg758.htm>

See Also: Five Countries Receive Food Security Support through Multi-Donor Fund, *World Bank, June 23*

<http://go.worldbank.org/K2SEZNTP0>

Recovery at the Crossroads: Roles and Implications for Developing Countries, *Background paper prepared by staff of the World Bank for G20 Summit in Canada, June 2010*

Dealing with bottlenecks that have constrained agricultural sector growth, hampered efforts to promote food security, and stranded millions of rural residents in poverty is also critical. Balance needs to be struck between the need for increasing production, improving productivity in an environmentally sustainable way, building supply chains, and working on innovative ways to reduce risk and vulnerability, particularly for small-scale farmers.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/G20.pdf>

The Role of Markets and Trade in Food Security, *Charlotte Hebebrand, Kristin Wedding, Center for Strategic and International Studies, June 2010*

Global food security requires a multi-pronged strategy. Usually less emphasized but equally crucial for boosting productivity and availability of food is the existence of markets. Markets and trade also contribute to achieving global food security by increasing *access* to food. The U.S. commitment to promoting global food security is strong, and emphasizing the importance of open trade in enhancing global food security is a logical extension of U.S. policy. This report outlines four priority areas in which the United States can take concrete actions to strengthen markets and trade—trade capacity building, support for regional integration, and reform of the international agricultural trade system and domestic U.S. policies.

http://csis.org/files/publication/100622_Hebebrand_RoleOfMarkets_WEB.pdf

See Also: Pulling Agricultural Innovation and the Market Together, *Kimberly Ann Elliott, Center for Global Development, June 2010*

Feeding an additional three billion people over the next four decades, along with providing food security for another one billion people that are currently hungry or malnourished, is a huge challenge. Meeting those goals in a context of land and water scarcity, climate change, and declining crop yields will require another giant leap in agricultural innovation. The aim of this paper is to stimulate a dialogue on what new approaches might be needed to meet these needs and how innovative funding mechanisms could play a role.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424233_file_Elliott_Ag_Innovation_FINAL.pdf

Farming First's Guide to Food Security Initiatives, *Farming First, June 2010*

The Farming First coalition is launching a new food security guide ahead of the G8 summit later this week (25-27 June). This resource guide reviews all of the major global and regional food security initiatives since the food crisis erupted in 2008.

http://www.farmingfirst.org/downloads/FarmingFirst_Guide_FoodSecurity.pdf

Our Agenda for the G-20, *Op-Ed, Timothy Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury, and Lawrence Summers, director, National Economic Council, Wall Street Journal, June 23*

We need to make progress on other global challenges that are essential to the future security and prosperity of the world. Alongside our efforts to lay a new foundation for economic growth, we must follow through on our common commitment to raise living standards across developing countries and to make smarter investments in areas like agricultural development and food security.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704853404575322791729932502.html>

Big Action for Small Farmers, *Sylvia Matthews Burwell, president of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Development Program, June 25*

At a time when donors and developing countries alike seek the greatest return on development dollars, supporting small farmers is one of the best tools we have to reap broad-based development rewards. Helping smallholder farmers grow more food and get it to market means higher incomes, improved nutrition, better health, and women's empowerment too. But to realize these gains, we need a commitment of resources and a commitment to results.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sylvia-mathews-burwell/big-action-for-small-farm_b_625754.html

World Looks to Us to Lead, *Op-Ed, Dan Glickman, cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Miami Herald, June 21*

Today, there are 42 million people displaced by conflict and crisis around the world. These women, men and children often struggle just to survive, enduring a shortage or lack of clean water, food, sanitation, shelter, health care and protection from violence and abuse. They live in refugee and internal displacement camps Africa, Asia, the Middle East. Even more live in urban areas where they struggle to earn money for food and shelter, have little access to humanitarian assistance and education, and are often mistreated by local authorities.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/06/21/1691440/world-looks-to-us-to-lead.html>

A Glimpse of Feeding the Future, *Roger Thurow, senior fellow, Global Agriculture & Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, June 24*

Rwanda has emerged as the model country for the food security initiative because it was the first to challenge the G8 to make good on its pledges. The G8 said it was interested in country-led agriculture investment strategies, and Rwanda had a plan ready to go, with priorities such as irrigation, soil conservation, local seed research and extension services to advise farmers. The world needs to share Rwanda's ambition and urgency. For Rwanda illustrates the consequences of our neglect of agriculture development over the past three decades, and the potential for a reversal – the goal of Feed the Future.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/06/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-glimpse-of-feeding-the-future.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

US Announces Major Reform in AID Agency, *Voice of America, June 18*

In a speech at the National Press Club Friday, U.S. AID director Rajiv Shah said the entrepreneurial actions of his staff in the weeks after the earthquake ensured that Haiti's most urgent needs were met. Rather than rely on food brought in from the U.S., he said emergency teams purchased from local stockpiles - and together with the World Food Program they fed around three and a half million people. He called it the largest feeding program ever

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/usa/US-Announces-Major-Reform-in-AID-Agency-96695684.html>

See Also: Reinventing USAID to Meet 21st Century Development and Security Challenges, *Remarks by Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, National Press Club, June 18*

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

See Also: USAID Chief Rajiv Shah: "I'm Not Running for President", *Cable (blog), Foreign Policy, June 18*

Shah also promised that both of the administration's major reviews on development policy -- the State Department's Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) and the White House's Presidential Study Directive on Global Development (PSD-7) -- will be released to the public. The PSD-7 will come first, sometime this summer, and the QDDR will be released this fall, Shah said.
http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/06/18/rajiv_shah_im_not_running_for_president

A New Approach to Advancing Development, *The White House, June 25*

At the London G20 Summit in 2009, President Obama announced a global food security initiative that has the support of the world's major and emerging donor nations, includes strong roles for our multilateral institutions, and is led by partner countries that are ready and willing to develop comprehensive plans and commit their own resources to agricultural and market development. Secretary Clinton launched the comprehensive U.S. strategy -- "Feed the Future" -- to implement this groundbreaking effort in May 2010. To date, the United States has led international efforts to review nine comprehensive country strategies, commit new resources in support of those strategies, collaborate in the establishment and initial capitalization of the World Bank-led Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, and launch a new research and development program.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/a-new-approach-advancing-development>

See Also: The G-8 Muskoka Summit: A Historic Commitment to Accountability, *The White House, June 25*

In 2009, through United States leadership, the G-8 helped put sustainable agricultural development and food security on the global development agenda after years of neglect. The United States has committed to using the improved approach to assistance agreed by Leaders in L'Aquila to allocate the U.S. pledge of \$3.5 billion over three years to a comprehensive food security initiative built on core principles of aid effectiveness, including an emphasis on making investments in regional and country-led plans. U.S. leadership has also helped to launch an innovative multilateral trust fund to scale up agricultural assistance in low-income countries.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/g-8-muskoka-summit-a-historic-commitment-accountability>

United States, Russia Reach Agreement to Resume Poultry Exports to Russia, *Office of the United States Trade Representative, June 24*

United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack welcomed the announcement that the United States and Russia have reached an agreement to permit the resumption of U.S. poultry exports to Russia.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/june/united-states-russia-reach-agreement-resume-pou>

See Also: Remarks by President Obama and President Medvedev of Russia at Joint Press Conference, *White House, June 24*

"To deepen Russia's integration into the global economy, I reaffirmed our strong commitment to Russia's ascension to the World Trade Organization. Today we've reached an agreement that will allow the United States to begin exporting our poultry products to Russia once again. And I want to thank President Medvedev and his team for resolving this issue, which is of such importance to American business, and which sends an important signal about Russia's seriousness about achieving membership in the WTO."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-obama-and-president-medvedev-russia-joint-press-conference>

See Also: Russia to Lift Ban on U.S. Chicken Meat, Obama Says After Medvedev Talks, *Bloomberg, June 24*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-24/russia-agrees-to-lift-ban-on-u-s-poultry-imports-after-meeting-with-obama.html>

See Also: Lincoln, Chambliss Call on President Obama to Address Russia Trade Barriers with President Medvedev, *Office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, June 21*

<http://lincoln.senate.gov/newsroom/2010-6-21-1.cfm>

How the UN Can Contribute to International Cooperation on Climate Change, *Remarks by Maria Otero, Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, U.S. Department of State, June 23*

“The UN is also actively addressing climate change impacts on food security. Climate change amplifies existing stresses on food availability, so it is crucial that we build resilience and efficiency where changing environmental conditions may otherwise create further insecurity for the world’s hungry and malnourished populations. As part of our new food security initiative, the United States is working with a range of UN agencies to help achieve the hunger and poverty-related Millennium Development Goals. In addition, the United States is looking forward to working with the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which, among other things, we see as an important forum to promote greater UN interagency cooperation and sharing of best practices and approaches by members.”

<http://www.state.gov/g/143563.htm>

A USDA Regional Roadmap to Meeting the Biofuels Goals of the Renewable Fuels Standard by 2022,

U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 23, 2010

Over the last 60 years, the percentage of the U.S. population directly involved in production agriculture in America has gone from 15 percent to less than two percent, but the average farmer produces food for 155 people today, as compared to his counterpart 60 years ago who produced food for only 25 people. This increase in efficiency in agriculture and farming, and the resulting sharp decrease in the number of hands needed to meet a growing demand, by its very nature, requires that the rural economy diversify. Growing a domestic biofuels market is part of overall USDA rural strategy to help rebuild rural America.

http://www.usda.gov/documents/USDA_Biofuels_Report_6232010.pdf

See Also: New USDA Report Provides Roadmap to Achieve America's Renewable Energy Goals,

U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 23

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack released a report outlining both the current state of renewable transportation fuels efforts in America and a plan to develop regional strategies to increase the production, marketing and distribution of biofuels.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/!ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMj8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_2CbEdFAEU0joE!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/06/0335.xml

U.S. Farmers May Face Reduced Subsidies on Budget Deficits, Peterson Says, *Bloomberg, June 24*

Growers of corn, cotton and other crops may have to accept reduced subsidies in the next farm bill as budget-cutting becomes necessary to contain record deficits, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson said. “We’re not going to have any new money; we’ll probably have less money,” the Minnesota Democrat said at a hearing in Washington of the House Agriculture subcommittee that oversees commodity programs. “We’re going to have to make it work,” he said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-24/u-s-farmers-may-face-reduced-subsidies-on-budget-deficits-peterson-says.html>

Lawmakers Tell Vilsack Not to OK Biotech Crop, *Des Moines Register, June 23*

Six Democratic senators and 50 House member are urging Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack not to approve the commercialization of Monsanto Co.’s genetically modified alfalfa. The Supreme Court this week cleared the way for Vilsack to permit the sale of the biotech seed again by lifting a judge’s nationwide ban on the crop.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/06/23/lawmakers-tell-vilsack-not-to-ok-biotech-crop/>

See Also: Letter to Secretary Vilsack, *Office of Senator Patrick Leahy, June 21*

<http://leahy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/AlfalfaLetter.pdf>

Hearing on the U.S. – China Trade Relationship: Finding a New Path Forward, *United States Senate Committee on Finance, June 23*

<http://finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=60d8f31a-5056-a032-5232-b21ff7bd6801>

See Also: Testimony of Ambassador Ron Kirk, *United States Senate Committee on Finance, June 23*

“More recently, thanks to China’s strong recovery from the global recession, we have seen double digit growth in a variety of export sectors, ranging from high-end manufactured goods and chemical

products to agricultural goods like soybeans. Top priority concerns with China include addressing indigenous innovation and other discriminatory industrial policies that are often intended to benefit state-owned enterprises and that limit our exports, improving enforcement of intellectual property rights, ending non science-based regulations that block U.S. agricultural exports and obtaining increased services market access.”

<http://finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/062310rktest.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever

Date: June 29th, 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>

1st Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium

Date: July 13th, 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 13th, 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.

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

Sub-Saharan Africa Food Security Technologies Reverse Trade Mission

Date: August 2nd – 13th, 2010

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

This Reverse Trade Mission will focus on state-of-the-art U.S. technologies, equipment, and services, as well as policies, regulations, and financing mechanisms that can support the implementation of large-scale food production and process projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Delegates will include public and private sector representatives from sub-Saharan Africa's agribusiness sector. The visit will include a Business Briefing at an AGOA-related event in Kansas City, MO. The visit will also feature meetings with U.S. industry and U.S. government agencies, as well as site visits, in Kansas City, MO, and other U.S. cities yet to be determined.

<http://www.ustda.gov/news/events/2010/SubSaharanAfrica/SubSaharanAfricaFoodSecurityTechnologiesRTM.asp>

Soy Innovation Africa 2010: Cultivating Potential in Emerging Markets

Date: August 26th – 27th, 2010

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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

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

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th – 12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

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

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

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Halving Hunger: Meeting the First Millennium Development Goal through "Business as Unusual",

Shenggen Fan, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010

In 2000, the world's leaders set a target of halving the percentage of hungry people between 1990 and 2015. This rather modest target constitutes part of the first Millennium Development Goal, which also calls for halving the proportion of people living in poverty and achieving full employment. However, the effort to meet the hunger target has swerved off track, and the world is getting farther and farther away from realizing this objective. The goal of halving hunger by 2015 can still be achieved, but business as usual will not be enough. What is needed is "business as unusual"—a smarter, more innovative, better focused, and cost-effective approach to reducing hunger.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/pr22.pdf>

See Also: Policymaker Statement, *Shenggen Fan, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/pr22policymakerstatement.pdf>

See Also: G8 Warned about Increasing World Hunger, *Voice of America, June 24*

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-g8-ifpri-24jun10-97053494.html>

Making the Most of Agricultural Investment: A survey of business models that provide opportunities for smallholders,

Sonja Vermuelen, Lorenzo Cotula, International Institute for Environment and Development, June 2010

Drawing on a literature review, this report explores the range of business models that can be used to structure agricultural investments in lower- and middle-income countries, and that provide an alternative to large-scale land acquisitions.

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/12566IIED.pdf>

See Also: Small-Scale Farmers Can Benefit by Working with Agriculture Investors – UN Report, *UN News Centre, June 22*

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35104&Cr=fao&Cr1>

See Also: Alternatives to Large Land Acquisitions in Developing Nations, *Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, June 22*
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/43128/icode/>

Strengthening Agricultural Extension and Advisory Systems, *Burton E. Swanson, Riika Rajalahti, World Bank, June 2010*

The purpose of this book is to provide information on how to transform and strengthen pluralistic agricultural extension and advisory systems in moving toward the broader goal of increasing farm income and improving rural livelihoods.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/Stren_combined_web.pdf

Mountains, Global Food Prices, and Food Security in the Developing World, *Kamiljon T. Akramov, Bingxin Yu, Shenggen Fan, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

This study explores the differences between mountain and non-mountain countries in food security and its determinants. Econometric analysis shows that mountain regions are likely to have lower food security. The findings suggest that people in mountain countries are especially affected by external shocks such as surges in global food prices.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00989.pdf>

Designing and Implementing Agricultural Innovation Funds, *World Bank, May 2010*

Many countries are using innovation funds in the agricultural sector to support innovators and their links to public institutions, private entrepreneurs, and other actors, such as groups of rural producers. These funds create platforms for innovative activity by providing incentives for quality and collaboration. This report synthesizes experience with the two main innovation funds that the World Bank has used to fund agricultural innovation—competitive research grants and matching grants—and offers lessons and guidelines for designing and implementing them.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/InnovationFunds10_web.pdf

Innovations in Land Rights Recognition, Administration, and Governance, *Klaus Deininger, Clarissa Augustinus, Stig Enemark, Paul Munro-Faure, World Bank, April 2010*

The need for good land governance is reinforced by three broad global trends. Increased and more volatile commodity prices, population growth, and the resulting increased demand for rural and urban land make it more important to define and protect land resources. Climate change is likely to have particularly pernicious effects on areas traditionally considered to be hazardous or marginal. Adequate land use planning together with land-information based geospatial tools to manage disasters can help mitigate these effects. Global programs that provide resources for environmental protection are more likely to accomplish their objectives if local land rights are recognized and resources are allocated appropriately.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/0..contentMDK:22560754~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:336682,00.html>

Dynamic Agricultural Supply Response under Economic Transformation, *Bingxin Yu, Fengwei Liu, Liangzhi You, International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

China has experienced dramatic economic transformation and is facing the challenge of ensuring steady agricultural growth. This study examines the crop sector by estimating the supply response for major crops in Henan province from 1998 to 2007.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00987.pdf>

Rapid Agricultural Supply Chain Risk Assessment, *Steven Jaffee, Paul Siegel, Colin Andrews, World Bank, 2010*

This paper describes the methodology for a Rapid Agricultural Supply Chain Risk Assessment (RapAgRisk), developed by the Agricultural Risk Management Team (ARMT) of the World Bank. The primary objective of RapAgRisk is to help decision makers understand the risk exposure of agricultural supply chain participants and to improve risk management strategies for selected commodity systems.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/RapApRisk_combined_web.pdf

Media Articles:

Unclear Land Policies Threaten Food Security - Report, *Reuters, June 24*

Lack of a clear government policy on land ownership in developing countries is a threat to global food security, head of South African grocer chain Pick 'n Pay said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/southAfricaNews/idAFLDE65N0A320100624>

Researchers Seek to Show Kenyan Farmers Benefits of Potatoes over Maize, *Voice of America, June 22*

Kenyans love to eat maize. It's the country's favorite food. But researchers at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute are looking for ways to change that. Is this what's in Kenya's future -- plants grown without soil, and in this case not maize, but the humble potato? Researchers from the Peru-based International Potato Center and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute are conducting experiments on harvesting seeds from potato plants grown using aeroponic technology.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/east/Researchers-Seek-to-Show-Kenyan-Farmers-Benefits-of-Potatoes-over-Maize-96918214.html>

Fish Farming Set to Grow as Demand for Food, *Reuters, June 23*

Despite two decades of hardship, war and a loss of markets, Matko Jasprica has kept his Croatian fish farm alive and now hopes to start exporting sea bass and sea bream to the European Union. It's just as well, because officials and researchers say fish farming, known as aquaculture, is set to become the world's main source of seafood over the next 20 years.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65M37N20100623>

Brazil Govt Plans to Limit Foreign Land Purchases, *Associated Press, June 23*

Brazil's government wants to tighten restrictions on foreign ownership of farm lands in Latin America's biggest country, the Agrarian Development Ministry said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ggYTMTbNOrnfdteETaMXMHLT9P8wD9GGGINO3>

In Bid to Boost Food Security, China's Agricultural Guru Vows to Finish Work on New Hybrid Rice in 2012, *Xinhua, June 22*

Yuan Longping, known as the "father of hybrid rice", said that his team was working on a new version of high-yield hybrid rice and might complete it in 2012.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-06/20/c_13359672.htm

Global Grain Surplus Sows Trouble, *Wall Street Journal, June 21*

Two years after the global food crisis peaked, grain shortages are turning into surpluses that could create their own problems. Some traders and economists are speculating that if the U.S. and world economies don't heat up soon, surpluses could turn into price-depressing gluts. While cheap grain is good news for consumers and livestock producers, excessive supplies increase a government's cost for farm subsidies and tend to ignite trade fights between the big farming powers.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703438604575314833883953898.html>

How Can African Agriculture Be More Productive?, *Katine Chronicles (blog), Guardian, June 21*

Better roads and irrigation would help, but there is no one silver bullet to improve the lives of smallholder farmers in Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/jun/21/agriculture-africa>

India's Agriculture Growth Key to Food Security: PM, *Agence France-Presse, June 19*

India faces a challenge to ensure food security for its fast-growing population of over one billion people, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said. "We must endeavour to raise our agricultural growth rate from around two per cent per annum to four per cent," Singh told a convocation ceremony at an agricultural university in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100619/wl_sthasia_afp/indiafarmeconomy

See Also: PM's Convocation Address at the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, *India Press Information Bureau, June 19*

“Our growth processes have put a huge pressure on our resources, particularly on natural resources. Policy makers and scientists, therefore, need to put their heads together and work towards developing and implementing sustainable technologies that can produce more from less: particularly in the background of the new challenges of global warming and climate change. Ecological and agricultural sustainability go hand in hand and we must follow the three fundamental principles of sustainable agriculture; a live soil, protection of biodiversity, and precision farming and nutrient cycle.”

<http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=62683>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Media Articles:

G-8 finalizes \$10B aid venture amid criticisms, *Washington Post, June 25*

As the world's major industrialized nations gathered for a round of summit meetings, Canada announced a multibillion-dollar effort to combat infant mortality and improve maternal health around the globe. The initiative could amount to as much as \$10 billion, but some skeptical aid groups argued that it merely reshuffles funds from earlier promises that have not been kept.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/25/AR2010062502903.html>

See Also: G8 Nations to Take Stock of Development Needs, *Reuters, June 25*

Rich countries came up short on fund-raising promises for poor nations and will meet to figure out how to direct aid resources at a time when their own budgets are squeezed.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6500NJ20100625>

Canada Invites 10 Developing Countries to G8 Summit, *Financial Times, June 24*

Canada is seeking to reinvigorate the Group of Eight industrial countries by inviting ten African, Caribbean and Latin American nations to take part in the group's summit in Ontario this weekend. Canadian government officials said that the invitations to Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Ethiopia, Malawi, Colombia, Haiti and Jamaica were designed to refocus the G8 towards issues relating to development, peace and security.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/439a2f86-7f34-11df-84a3-00144feabdc0.html>

The Best Ways to Deliver Overseas Aid Are Often Not Easy to Measure, *Guardian, June 23*

David Cameron's plans risk diverting help away from where it's really needed.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/23/aid-developing-world-corruption-money>

Bid to Shake off Dependence on Aid, *Special Report on Mozambique, Financial Times, June 22*

New developments raise the prospect that Mozambique, one of Africa's poorest and aid-dependent societies, may reduce and eventually eliminate its dependence on foreign assistance.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6b6a43e6-7ccf-11df-8b74-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: The Economy: Effort to Speed Up Pace of Development, *Special Report on Mozambique, Financial Times, June 22*

Although the government has raised investment spending, there are still yawning gaps, particularly in rural infrastructure. The economy is narrowly based, highly dependent on aluminium exports, with low productivity in most of its agriculture, which involves three-quarters of the population.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6690dbc8-7ccf-11df-8b74-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Social Policy: Mixed Results in Poverty Rankings, *Special Report on Mozambique, Financial Times, June 22*

In Marracuene, there is no irrigated agriculture, and fertilisers are considered too costly. Alberto Matine, president of a local smallholders' co-operative, sees numerous barriers to a more commercial kind of farming. “The central problem,” he decides, “is a lack of means.”

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/75c11c5c-7ccf-11df-8b74-00144feabdc0.html>

Red Cross Buys Starving Cattle to Feed Malians, *Agence France-Presse, June 22*

In single file, hundreds of residents of Toya wait patiently for meat distributed by the Red Cross who bought up thousands of starving animals to feed Mali's drought-stricken population. With containers in hand they await the meat from four cows slaughtered in the village in the north-west of the country last week which had lost too much weight from lack of grazing and water.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h7JUIXry2mZmbD0k9TO3d3e1i7dA>

Preventing Tomorrow's Wars, *Op-Ed, Micah Zenko, fellow, & Rebecca R. Friedman, research associate, Council on Foreign Relations, Baltimore Sun, June 21*

Of course, good policy does not always make good politics. Politicians and policymakers take credit for wars won, but praise is scant for a conflict prevented — a success defined by the absence of an event. But if Congress is willing to trust the Pentagon's assessment of its own budgetary needs and allocate the full \$708 billion requested (not to mention supplemental funding), Congress should be equally accepting of the military leadership's plea to fund President Obama's foreign affairs budget with the full \$58.5 billion requested.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-diplomacy-20100621.0.6169681.story>

Urgent Assistance for 2.8 Million Farmers and Pastoralists in Niger, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, June 21*

FAO is stepping up support to farmers and pastoralists in Niger as part of its response to the alarming food situation in the Sahel, with new operations benefiting an estimated 2.8 million people. According to FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), the food situation in parts of the Sahel is of grave concern, with over 10 million people at risk of hunger.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/43385/jcode/>

See Also: Help for Drought-Displaced Pastoralists, *IRIN, June 21*

With more and more drought-affected pastoralists in the self-declared republic of Somaliland seeking alternative livelihoods in urban areas, aid organizations and the government are instituting measures to not only check the rural-urban migration but also support those remaining in rural areas.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89559>

Ghana Agriculture-Industry Projects to Get \$100 Million from World Bank, *Bloomberg, June 21*

Ghana's agricultural industry will receive \$100 million from the World Bank this year to fund projects aimed at boosting production in the West African nation, the Finance Ministry said. The money, which may be handed out in July, will be used for road-building in farming communities, irrigation projects and farm equipment, said Gladys Gharthey, director of the World Bank unit at the Accra-based ministry.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-21/ghana-agriculture-industry-projects-to-get-100-million-from-world-bank.html>

Tories Fall Short on Aid Despite G8 Maternal Health Plan, Groups Say, *Toronto Star, June 21*

Canada says it earned an A for doubling aid to Africa, but development agencies quietly question whether it deserves an F for freezing future spending.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/826568--tories-fall-short-on-aid-despite-g8-maternal-health-plan-groups-say>

UN Distributes Food Aid in Drought-Hit Syria, *Agence France-Presse, June 20*

The World Food Programme said that it has begun handing out food to almost 200,000 people in severely drought-stricken northeast Syria.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gcICh8huOKOHntUsNTX5Ce4PC8HA>

UN Food Agency Reopens Office Destroyed at Height of Sri Lankan Civil War, *UN News Centre, June 18*

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) officially reopened an office in the key northern Sri Lankan town of Kilinochchi, two years after it was destroyed during heavy fighting in the country's protracted civil war.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35076&Cr=sri+lanka&Cr1=>

Project Aims to Boost Cameroon's Food Production, *Voice of America, June 18*

Cameroon is generally considered a potential breadbasket in Central Africa. But farmers are cultivating less than 20 percent of the country's arable land and are complaining of the low market prices for their produce. In an ongoing effort to improve the value of food crops, the government is introducing a project to help farmers sell their produce on national and sub-regional markets.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Project-Aims-to-Boost-Camerouns-Food-Production-96679349.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

State of Watershed Payments, Tracy Stanton, Marta Echavarria, Katherine Hamilton, and Caroline Ott, *Ecosystem Marketplace*, June 22, 2010

And how do we ensure that humans – and the plants and animals on which we depend – have access to the quantity and quality of water that they need to survive? This question – at its core – is what this publication is about. It is about one of the tools that can (and will increasingly) be used to resolve our water problems: Payments for Watershed Services (PWS). While PWS may not be the only solution, this document shows that in some parts of the world it can be part of the solution. In some cases it can help change the way we value water, and it can generate the resources needed to remediate and protect our watersheds.

http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/dynamic/resources.library.page.php?page_id=7599§ion=our_publications&eod=1

See Also: Water-Resources Market Expands With U.S., Chinese Measures, Study Reports, *Bloomberg*, June 22

China, the U.S. and Jordan are some of the countries spending more money to protect water, about 70 percent of which is traditionally used by agriculture. Two-thirds of the world will face water shortages by 2025, the International Union for Conservation of Nature estimates. National and regional governments spent most of the \$9.3 billion on payments for farmers and other landowners to encourage land-use practices that protect watersheds and water flows.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-22/water-environmental-market-expands-on-u-s-china-measures-study-reports.html>

Adaptation to Climate Extremes in Developing Countries: The Role of Education, Brian Blankespoor, Susmita Dasgupta, Benoit Laplante, David Wheeler, *World Bank*, June 2010

Global climate models predict a rise in extreme weather in the next century. To better understand future interactions among adaptation costs, socioeconomic development, and climate change in developing countries, observed losses of life from floods and droughts during 1960-2003 are modeled using three determinants: weather events, income per capita, and female education. The analysis reveals countries with high female education weathered extreme weather events better than countries with equivalent income and weather conditions.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/06/21/000158349_20100621113123/Rendered/PDF/WPS5342.pdf

Media Articles:

A Crucial Week for Monsoon Watching, *India Realtime (blog)*, *Wall Street Journal*, June 24

Since their onset, the seasonal rains have stuttered and stopped twice this month due to an Arabian Sea cyclone and other unfavorable conditions, delaying their progress by six or seven days to the breadbasket northern region of India, as well as parts of the oilseeds-growing central and northwestern region.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2010/06/24/a-crucial-week-for-monsoon-watching/>

As Ethanol Booms, Critics Warn of Environmental Effect, *New York Times*, June 24

Ethanol advocacy groups are pressing for more government support for the biofuel industry, but critics warn of the fuel's effects on the environment.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/25/business/energy-environment/25iht-rbogeth.html>

See Also: Net Benefits of Biomass Power Under Scrutiny, *New York Times*, June 18

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/19/science/earth/19biomass.html>

Africa's Water Most Precarious, Iceland Best – Study, *Reuters*, June 24

A "water security risk index" of 165 nations found African and Asian nations had the most vulnerable supplies, judged by factors including access to drinking water, per capita demand and dependence on rivers that first flow through other nations. Somalia, where just 30 percent of the population has clean drinking water, topped the list above Mauritania, Sudan, Niger, Iraq, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Turkmenistan and Syria.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE65N02220100624>

See Also: New Maplecroft Index Rates Pakistan and Egypt among Nations Facing "Extreme" Water Security Risks, *Maplecroft*, June 24

<http://www.maplecroft.com/about/news/water-security.html>

UN Climate Panel Names New Authors after Criticism, *Associated Press*, June 23

The U.N. science body on climate change, accused of ignoring its critics and allowing glaring errors to creep into its work, announced that a broader range of experts will write its next report on global warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change included more women and scientists from developing countries, but also selected authors with a wider range of backgrounds than previously — partly in response to recent criticism that earlier groups refused to address dissenting views.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h5W-ZIy-HO0peznbwExAG6aPDpRwD9GH30T01>

Drought Threatens Cambodia, Thailand Rice Output, *Voice of America*, June 23

A drought in Southeast Asia is threatening rice production in Cambodia and Thailand, the world's biggest rice exporter. The concern about production comes as rice prices have sunk to a two-year low, hurting farmers' incomes.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/asia/Drought-Threatens-Cambodia-Thailand-Rice-Output-96982289.html>

UN Climate Chief Departs an Optimist Despite Setbacks, *Guardian*, June 22

Even after the failure to reach agreement on binding CO2 cuts in Copenhagen last December, UNFCCC executive director Yvo de Boer is confident that the world is making progress on global warming.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jun/22/un-climate-chief-optimist>

Raising Water Productivity to Increase Food Security, *Inter Press Service*, June 22

With water shortages constraining food production growth, the world needs an effort to raise water productivity similar to the one that nearly tripled land productivity over the last half-century.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=51912>

International Projects Aim to Curb Lebanon's Water Crisis, *Lebanon Daily Star*, June 22

Lebanon has been gradually depleting its water resources through mismanagement, pollution or simply wasting in into the sea, with the Energy and Water Ministry estimating 1.5-billion square meters of rainwater gets washed into the sea each year. The IFAD money will go toward funding the "The Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development Project," which is intended to help smallholder farmers and rural communities in Akkar, North Baalbek and Hermel, South and Lower Litani and Mount Lebanon, address the problem of increasing water scarcity.

http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=116229#axzz0rWypZLEI

Roundup Resistant Weeds Pose Environmental Threat, *Associated Press*, June 21

When the weed killer Roundup was introduced in the 1970s, it proved it could kill nearly any plant while still being safer than many other herbicides, and it allowed farmers to give up harsher chemicals and reduce tilling that can contribute to erosion. But 24 years later, a few sturdy species of weed resistant to Roundup have evolved, forcing farmers to return to some of the less environmentally safe practices they abandoned decades ago.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jhIU9-B0h4pfKJVIDadwRUYkY_wgD9GFGSV02

As Tiny UAE's Water Tab Grows, Resources Run Dry, *Reuters, June 21*

The Gulf Arab nation's oil income has allowed it to subsidize extravagant water use for Emiratis, either those in gated communities sporting pristine pools and evergreen golf courses or for farmers clinging to ancient irrigation practices. Environmentalists warn the country, already reliant on costly desalination plants powered by its lucrative fossil fuels, must cut consumption by its 8.2 million people or risk depleting groundwater resources in 50 years.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65K3MK20100621>

India and Pakistan to Arbitrate Water Feud, *Financial Times, June 18*

India and Pakistan are establishing an arbitration panel to address an intensifying dispute over rival hydro-electric projects, highlighting the growing importance of water in the tensions between the dry but nuclear-armed neighbours. Tensions have been rising as both countries face deepening water crises, the result of rampant over-use of water for agriculture and growing demand from industry.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2587c9b4-7aba-11df-8549-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Thirsty Pakistan Gasps for Water Solutions, *Reuters, June 18*

Pakistan is facing a "raging" water crisis that if managed poorly could mean Pakistan would run out of water in several decades, experts say, leading to mass starvation and possibly war.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65H2T520100618>

Afghanistan Pins Hopes on Dams for Power and Crops, *Reuters, June 18*

Afghanistan will ask the international community to invest in a \$12 billion dam construction programme in an attempt to raise power generation to boost irrigation, its economy minister said. Landlocked Afghanistan has had historical disputes with its central and south Asian neighbours over the flow of water from mountain rivers which irrigate most of its crops. It loses about two-thirds of its water from rain and snow annually.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE65H10F>

WOMEN

Media Articles:

Goar: Hunger Is the Biggest Health Threat, *Toronto Star, June 25*

Chronic food insecurity, says Médecins San Frontières, is the largest single health threat in the world. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's maternal and children's health initiative will not succeed, it adds, unless it addresses this treatable and preventable condition.

<http://www.thestar.com/article/828266--goar-hunger-is-the-biggest-health-threat>

See Also: Food Is Life Saver for Millions of Mothers and Babies, *Toronto Star, June 24*

<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/torontog20summit/article/828211--food-is-life-saver-for-millions-of-mothers-and-babies>

Empowering the Mothers of Africa, *Katine Chronicles (blog), Guardian, June 24*

With gender empowerment, you stop to take a breath. You do not quit. There is no one single way to do it. And it is a lifetime commitment, says Grace Mukasa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/jun/24/empowering-women-grace-mukasa>

UN's Ban to Ask G-20 for \$60 Billion to Save Mothers, Children, *Bloomberg, June 24, 2010*

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he will ask the Group of 20 nations this week to fulfill their aid commitments to poor countries and devote an additional \$60 billion over five years to reduce maternal and child mortality.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-24/un-s-ban-to-ask-g-20-for-60-billion-to-save-mothers-children.html>

Broadening the Definition of Security, *Craig and Marc Kielburger, Huffington Post, June 23*

For Rosaline Presence, security isn't about \$1.2 billion. It's about \$10. In South Africa, food security takes precedent over riot police and tear gas for 1.5 million people. Presence, who is in town for the G20 Summit, works with the Women on Farms Project to promote land use based on collectively and equality. Instead she finds women struggling to feed families of 10 on wages of \$10 while working to grow food themselves.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/craig-and-marc-kielburger/broadening-the-definition_b_622178.html

Report: Over 115 Million Widows Live in Poverty, *Associated Press, June 23*

At least 245 million women around the world have been widowed and more than 115 million of them live in devastating poverty, according to a new study launched by Cherie Blair, wife of the former British prime minister.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gNgKvVIH_8PRBJMtkMkfBHe1-fQD9GGR8N00

Bright Potential for Women's Empowerment, *Isobel Coleman, Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy, Council on Foreign Relations, Huffington Post, June 18*

Solar also has the potential to revolutionize agriculture in the world's poorest villages. Another organization presenting at the CFR conference this spring was the Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF). In Benin and Malawi, SELF is piloting village-level systems combining solar-powered water pumps with micro-drip irrigation. Early results show that these systems can cost-effectively improve agricultural productivity in hard to reach rural areas where the nearest paved roads and electrical grids are 100 kilometers away.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/isobel-coleman/bright-potential-for-wome_b_617772.html

Girl Up: Helping Girls around the Globe Help Each Other, *Nourishing the Planet (blog), Worldwatch Institute, June 15*

In the United States most adolescent girls lead very different lives than girls in Ethiopia or elsewhere in the developing world. Most are not married and raising families. And most— unlike the 600 million girls growing up in developing countries all around the world— have access to education, basic health care, clean drinking water, and proper nutrition. In order to help connect these two very different groups of young girls, the United Nations Foundation (UNF) recently started the Girl Up campaign.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/girl-up-helping-girls-around-the-globe-help-each-other/>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Price Surges in Food Markets, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, June 2010*

The drastic increase of food prices in the period 2006-2008 spurred fears of global food insecurity. Apart from actual changes in supply and demand of some commodities, the upward swing might also have been amplified by speculation in organized futures markets. However, limiting or banning speculative trading might do more harm than good.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/al296e/al296e00.pdf>

See Also: Some Regulation of Food Markets Desirable, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, June 23*

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/43412/icode/>

See Also: Futures-Trading Curbs May Hurt Commodities, UN Says, *Bloomberg, June 23*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a1PkmGtXE6wo>

The Impact of Index and Swap Funds on the Commodity Futures Market, *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, June 2010*

While the increased participation of index fund investments in commodity markets represents a significant structural change, this has not generated increased price volatility, implied or realised, in agricultural futures markets. Based on new data and empirical analysis, the study finds that index funds did not cause a bubble in commodity futures prices. There is no statistically significant relationship indicating that changes in index and swap fund positions have increased market volatility. The evidence presented here is strongest for the

agricultural futures markets because the data on index trader positions are measured with reasonable accuracy.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/16/59/45534528.pdf>

See Also: Study Rules Out Speculation as Cause of Agricultural Price Bubble, *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, June 24, 2010*

Financial market speculation did not cause the price bubble in agricultural futures markets in 2007-08, according to a preliminary study prepared by two US academics for the OECD.

http://www.oecd.org/document/34/0,3343,en_2649_37401_45534370_1_1_1_1.00.html

Examining the Dynamic Relationship Between Spot and Future Prices of Agricultural Commodities, *Manuel Hernandez, Maximo Torero, International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

This study examines the dynamic relationship between spot and futures prices of agricultural commodities. We first briefly discuss what the non-arbitrage and asset pricing theory has to say about the relationship between spot and futures markets. Next, using recent price data for corn, wheat, and soybeans, we perform Granger causality tests to empirically uncover the direction of information flows between spot and futures prices.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00988.pdf>

World Bank's Palm Oil Development Strategy Should Focus on Economic Freedom, *James Robley, Heritage Foundation, June 21, 2010*

Heritage Foundation trade and economics expert James Roberts explains why the World Bank should design its new strategy to uphold its principles of alleviating poverty while encouraging economic growth, and adopt a pro-growth strategy that continues to support palm oil investment in developing countries. It is free-market principles, not protectionism, that elevate living standards and reduce poverty.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/06/World-Banks-Palm-Oil-Development-Strategy-Should-Focus-on-Economic-Freedom>

Media Articles:

Coffee Futures Swing to 12-Year Peak, *Financial Times, June 24*

Speculators betting on lower coffee prices suffered large losses for the second time this month on Thursday as futures prices in New York swung violently to a 12-year peak, prompting fears that roasters will need to increase retail prices soon.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e685352-7fc8-11df-91b4-00144feabdc0.html>

White Sugar Premium Hits Highest in 22 Years, *Financial Times, June 24*

A global scramble to rebuild depleted sugar inventories has pushed the price difference between refined and raw sugar to its highest in at least 22 years, forcing consumers in emerging countries to pay top dollar for the sweetener.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c104b736-7fb9-11df-91b4-00144feabdc0.html>

Canada First to Secure Market Access to China for Beef and Tallow, *Market Wire, June 24*

Canada has secured a breakthrough agreement with China to allow staged market access for beef and tallow, becoming the first country to resume trade with China following a case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS224738+24-Jun-2010+MW20100624>

Farm Trade Safeguard Would Have Limited Impact – Study, *Reuters, June 23*

A controversial plan to allow developing countries to raise tariffs temporarily to cope with a destabilising flood of food imports or drop in food prices would actually have little impact on trade flows, a new study shows.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-49567620100623>

See Also: Simulations on the Special Safeguard Mechanism, *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, April, 2010*

This paper aims to provide policy-makers, negotiators and other stakeholders with a clear technical assessment of how the December 2008 draft modalities and the accompanying working document could affect the functioning of the proposed special safeguard mechanism, and, in particular, accessibility of the mechanism and its effectiveness.

http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/06/raul_montemayor_web_2.pdf

U.S. Urged to Save Doha Trade Round from Oblivion, *Reuters*, June 23

The United States should try to save world trade talks from a fatal plunge into oblivion by offering deeper cuts in politically-sensitive farm subsidies and tariffs, Jeffrey Schott, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-49575720100623>

Fear as a Bar to Progress, *Op-Ed, Temba A. Nolutshungu, Washington Times*, June 22

EU restrictions on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have led to a ban on such technologies by many African governments wishing to protect their farming exports to the EU. Africans pay a price for this in lower crop yields and malnutrition while North Americans happily consume vast quantities of GMOs with no known harm.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jun/22/fear-as-a-bar-to-progress/>

Brazil Lobbyist Urges U.S. to Scrap Ethanol Tariff, *Financial Times*, June 22

If President Barack Obama is serious about reducing US reliance on oil and moving towards cleaner energy, he should remove a tariff on imported ethanol that protects the US maize-based industry and locks out sugarcane-based ethanol, according to Marcos Jank, president of the Brazilian sugarcane industry association.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3828e2ec-7e16-11df-8478-00144feabdc0.html>

Australia Probes U.S. Biodiesel Dumping, *Reuters*, June 22

Australia is investigating complaints of U.S. dumping of biodiesel on the domestic market, the nation's customs agency said, a move that could see Canberra follow Europe in imposing anti-dumping duties. U.S. subsidies of biodiesel, commonly made from food crops and sold as a green alternative to petroleum, have boosted cheap global supplies of the fuel, leading the European Union last year to slap importers with duties."

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE65L0S220100622>

Agbank IPO Will Boost China-Middle East Trade, *Gulf News*, June 21

Chinese investors understand the Middle East growth story. They see many parallels with their own spectacular rise over the last 20 years: thriving urban centres spurring development, strong public financing, infrastructure-driven economy and markets that are young and hungry. This growing synergy between Middle East and China will get a boost when the Agricultural Bank of China (Agbank) launches one of the most sensational initial public offers (IPO) of recent times in Hong Kong and Shanghai next month.

<http://gulfnews.com/business/markets/agbank-ipo-will-boost-china-middle-east-trade-1.643919>

See Also: Mideast Funds Line Up Behind Agricultural Bank of China, *Financial Times*, June 21

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/148aa71e-7d60-11df-a0f5-00144feabdc0.html>

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Media Articles:

The Other Oil Spill, *Economist*, June 24

Palm oil is a popular, cheap commodity, which green activists are doing their best to turn into a commercial liability. Companies are finding them impossible to ignore.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16423833>

Justices Back Monsanto on Biotech Seed Planting, *New York Times*, June 21

In its first-ever ruling on genetically modified crops, the Supreme Court overturned a lower court's ban on the planting of alfalfa seeds engineered to resist Monsanto's Roundup herbicide.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/22/business/22bizcourt.html>

See Also: Monsanto in Alfalfa Seed Victory, *Financial Times*, June 22

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b045c7b4-7d8e-11df-a0f5-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Monsanto Wins as Supreme Court Backs Alfalfa Seed Planting, *Bloomberg*, June 21

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-21/monsanto-wins-supreme-court-ruling-on-lifting-modified-alfalfa-seed-ban.html>

See Also: US Supreme Court Rules Farmers May Sue Over Harms Caused by GMOs, *Regina Weiss, Huffington Post*, June 21

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/regina-weiss/us-supreme-court-rules-fa_b_620377.html

Corn Products Intl. enters Fortune 500 territory, *Chicago Tribune*, June 21

Illinois is getting another Fortune 500 company, and the Fortune 500 is getting another woman chief executive. Dutch paintmaker Akzo Nobel NV said Monday it has agreed to sell its National Starch unit to Westchester-based Corn Products International for about \$1.3 billion. National Starch had 2009 revenue of \$1.2 billion, 2,250 employees and operates plants in eight countries. Corn Products had annual revenues of \$3.67 billion in 2009. Combined, the companies would have placed 428 on the Fortune 500 list in 2009 assuming revenues of \$4.87 billion.

<http://chicagobreakingbusiness.com/2010/06/corn-products-to-buy-akzo-nobel-starch-business.html>

ADM 'Disappointed' in EPA Ethanol Blend Ruling Delay, *Reuters*, June 18

U.S. ethanol producer Archer Daniels Midland Co said it was disappointed that the Environmental Protection Agency has delayed for a second time a ruling on higher blends of ethanol in the U.S. fuel supply.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1815860820100618>

Tyson, Meat Companies Face New USDA Rule Aimed at Boosting Competition, *Bloomberg*, June 18

Tyson Foods Inc., Smithfield Foods Inc. and other large meatpackers would be barred from buying animals from each other and limits would be set on their exclusive contracts with livestock suppliers, under a rule proposed by the government to address antitrust concerns.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-18/tyson-meat-companies-face-new-usda-rule-aimed-at-boosting-competition.html>

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