



June 19th – June 26th, 2009

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KEY ARTICLES

Boost agriculture aid, *Catherine Bertini and Dan Glickman, Op-Ed, The Wichita Eagle, June 21*
Americans are generous in a crisis, both here and abroad. No nation is swifter to respond, and no people are more giving than Americans when a tragedy strikes. Today, a silent tragedy is sweeping the global south. More than 1 billion people are hungry because of a shortage of food. Most of those people are small farmers and their families living in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
<http://www.kansas.com/opinion/story/861598.html>

US Official Sheds Light on Possible Upcoming Obama Africa Policy, *VOA News, June 24*
The new U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Johnnie Carson, said the Obama administration plans to invest substantial amounts of money over the coming years in agricultural development to promote food security in Africa.
<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-06-24-voa3.cfm>

Will the “Green Revolution” Ever Hit Africa?, *The New York Times, June 19*

Despite the nostalgia many Americans feel for the image of a farm in the country with a red barn, only 2% of Americans are still classified as farmers by the government's fairly lenient standards. The picture in Africa could not be more different. Approximately two-thirds of Africa's population labors on small, dusty farms, frequently failing to produce enough food to feed their families.

<http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/06/19/will-the-green-revolution-ever-hit-africa/>

U.S. Pursues a New Way To Rebuild in Afghanistan, *Rajiv Chandrasekran, Washington Post, June 19*

The consequences of the Bush approach have been most evident in U.S. efforts to help resuscitate Afghanistan's agricultural economy, which has been severely degraded by years of war. Instead of emphasizing programs to help meet domestic food needs by increasing farm yields, U.S. aid officials focused much of their resources on countering the growth of opium-producing poppies through projects that encouraged other ways to make a living in rural areas. The projects often had little to do with agriculture and did not address the root causes of why farmers became part of the drug trade.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/18/AR2009061804135.html?hpid=topnews>

Smallholder Agriculture and Food Security in the 21st Century: The growing demand for land – risks and opportunities for smallholder farmers, *International Fund for Agricultural Development, May 2009*

The number of poor and hungry people has been increasing, and the world now faces a major economic downturn. Climate change, growing competition for land, and the volatility of prices for food and inputs are having a negative impact on rural women and men in developing countries, and particularly on the poorer and most vulnerable households. At the same time, all over the world, family farmers, local communities, private enterprises, governments and development partners are bringing new responses to these challenges and new reasons to believe in a future without hunger and poverty.

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/csd-17/csd17_crp_land.pdf

U.S. needs more foreign diplomats, *Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger, Warren Christopher, Madeleine Albright, Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, Politico, June 25*

Providing the personnel and financial resources to manage our diplomacy and development policies is an urgent matter of national security. Fixing the problem will require sustained effort over several years. Some will say that we cannot afford to support the increase, and we recognize the economic crisis facing our country. But the reality is that we cannot afford to fail at this challenge.

<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=14171A4B-18FE-70B2-A84B007B1D7399A3>

Ertharin Cousin Named U.S. Ambassador to United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, *United Press International, June 19*

President Barack Obama named Ertharin Cousin to be the next U.S. ambassador to the Rome-based U.N. Agencies for Food and Agriculture. A long-standing advocate for hunger-relief programs, Ambassador Cousin served Feeding America as a Board Member (2002-2004) and Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer (2004-2006).

<http://www.upi.com/finance/?ChannelID=3197&GUID=9205045&Page=MediaViewer>

Farm Futures: Bringing Agriculture Back to U.S. Policy, *Foreign Affairs, May/June 2009*
By Dan Glickman and Catherine Bertini

It is not easy for Americans to understand the starvation that afflicts much of the developing world. Families in the poorest parts of Africa and Asia spend up to 80 percent of their incomes on food; for the average U.S. household, that would mean an annual grocery bill of \$40,000. Yes, there are hungry Americans in the millions, and the U.S. food-stamp program is operating at record levels. But hunger in the United States does not put tens of thousands of infants into hospitals and require them to be hooked up to feeding tubes. Nor does it lead to stunting, wasting, and debilitating forms of malnutrition, such as kwashiorkor and marasmus. Yet even if Americans strain to comprehend the depth of hunger that plagues much of Africa and Asia, they do care about it. They know that chronic hunger among Afghans, Congolese, or North Koreans can pose a threat to their national security. Surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center have consistently revealed that Americans want to make ending hunger and poverty a priority for U.S. foreign policy. A recent survey conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs showed that the American public feels aid to poor farmers overseas should play a more prominent role than any other form of U.S. development assistance.

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/FA.pdf>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Vote Set on House Climate Bill, *The Washington Post*, June 24

Democratic leaders in the House have scheduled a Friday vote on a climate change bill that would establish a complex cap-and-trade system to limit the nation's greenhouse gas emissions, a priority for President Obama. It features new items such as \$7.5 billion in "green bonds" for a new federal financing agency called the Clean Energy Deployment Administration, extra emission allowances for politically powerful rural electric cooperatives, greater flexibility for states that want to use free allowances for mass transit, and tweaks benefiting a range of companies, including algae-based biofuel producers and major petroleum refiners.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/23/AR2009062303456.html>

Key farm-state lawmaker supports climate bill, *The Associated Press*, June 24

The chairman of the [House Agriculture Committee](#) says farmers can support a proposed Democratic bill to limit greenhouse gases and combat global warming. [Democratic Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota](#) urged support Wednesday for the climate bill after a series of concessions aimed at easing the impact higher energy costs will have on farmers and rural areas of the country.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h5iS14YOIUrpdmPuNylwKcVpSnmAD9914G702>

U.S. grain markets brace for more regulation, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, June 24

A U.S. Senate panel on Tuesday blamed commodity index funds for driving up wheat futures prices so high last year that it became impossible for grain firms to use Chicago Board of Trade contracts to hedge their purchases. The 247-page report was the result of a year-long probe headed by Sen. Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat and chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, the panel's top Republican.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/8575335>

Senate votes to triple non-defense aid to Pakistan, *The Washington Post*, June 24

The Senate voted Wednesday to triple nonmilitary aid to Pakistan in hopes of bolstering economic and political stability there and to help change the negative attitudes of many Pakistanis toward America. The bill approves \$1.5 billion a year over five years in humanitarian and economic aid to

Pakistan. It also recommends a second five-year, \$7.5 billion aid program conditioned on improvements in the political and economic climate in Pakistan.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/24/AR2009062403270.html>

Lugar reintroduces Good Samaritan food bank bill, *The Office of Senator Lugar*, June 22

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar today reintroduced the Good Samaritan Hunger Relief Tax Incentive Extension Act to make permanent provisions that allow farmers and small business owners to receive a tax deduction for donating food products to food banks, pantries and homeless shelters.

<http://lugar.senate.gov/press/record.cfm?id=314862&&year=2009&>

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS

Strategy for an African Green Revolution, *Alliance For a Green Revolution in Africa*, June 2009

Agriculture is at the center of life and economies in Africa. About 80 percent of Africans depend on agriculture for their livelihoods—most of these through small farms of less than two hectares. The very low productivity of these farms fuels the cycles of poverty and hunger in Africa. At the same time, their potential productivity provides the basis for a fundamental transformation of African agriculture—one which would put Africa firmly on the path of prosperity.

http://www.agra-alliance.org/files/936_file_AGRA_Strategy_20090609.pdf

See Also: Taking Advantage of Science and Partnerships To Unlock Growth in Africa's Breadbaskets, Speech by Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, Vice President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Science Forum 2009, Wageningen, The Netherlands, June 17

<http://www.agra->

[alliance.org/files/941_file_AAdesina_Science_Council_Speech_Final_for_PDF.pdf](http://www.agra-alliance.org/files/941_file_AAdesina_Science_Council_Speech_Final_for_PDF.pdf)

Global Development Finance 2009: Charting a Global Recovery, *World Bank*, June 2009

Amidst global economic recession and financial-market fragility, net private capital inflows to developing countries fell to \$707 billion in 2008, a sharp drop from a peak of \$1.2 trillion in 2007. International capital flows are projected to fall further in 2009, to \$363 billion. This report warns that the world is entering an era of slower growth that will require tighter and more effective oversight of the financial system. Developing countries are expected to grow by only 1.2% this year, after 8.1% growth in 2007 and 5.9% growth in 2008.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGDF2009/Resources/gdf_combined_web.pdf

See Also: World Bank slashes growth for developing nations, *Agence France-Presse*, June 22

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hejes634e66PleFHreJkCckXXVuoQ>

Biotechnology Research in the CGIAR: An Overview, *Haruko Okusu*, *CGIAR Science Council Secretariat*, June 2009

Agricultural research at the CGIAR Centers entails various technologies, including biotechnology, and the extent to which modern biotechnology is part of the overall research activity differs greatly from center to center. Drawing examples from two in-house surveys as well as from the outcomes of a recent workshop, the article provides a synopsis of current biotech-related activities conducted in the CGIAR Centers and considers what the CGIAR's role(s) might be in ensuring the safe and responsible use of biotechnology for conducting agricultural research that responds to the needs of developing countries.

<http://agbioforum.org/v12n1/v12n1a07-okusu.pdf>

From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment, *United Nations Environment Programme, June 2009*

Since the end of the Cold War, at least eighteen violent conflicts have been driven by the exploitation of natural resources. While political and military issues remain critical, conceptions of security and conflict have broadened, with environmental degradation now seen as a significant contributing factor to conflict. In this changing security landscape, a radical shift in the way the UN engages in conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction, and peacebuilding is required.

http://www.unep.org/pdf/pcdmb_policy_01.pdf

Investing in Sustainable Infrastructure: Improving Lives in Asia and the Pacific, *Asian Development Bank, June 2009*

Impressive economic gains in Asia and the Pacific have been accompanied by a decline in the region's natural capital and unprecedented levels of air and water pollution. Meanwhile, hundreds of millions of people in the region are still not enjoying the benefits of recent economic expansion. Disparities in incomes and living standards are growing wider, and the worldwide financial crisis will likely amplify these disparities. And due to the impacts of climate change, the region's remaining poor are growing more vulnerable to natural disasters, sea level rise, and droughts.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Reports/Sustainable-Infrastructure/sustainable-infrastructure.pdf>

Understanding and Responding to Climate Change in Developing Asia, *Asian Development Bank, June 2009*

Climate change is a major threat to improving prosperity in Asia and the Pacific. This report summarizes the recommendations of the regional plans and outlines ongoing and planned interventions to help build low-carbon, climate resilient economies in Asia and the Pacific.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Climate-Change-Dev-Asia/Climate-Change.pdf>

Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States, *U.S. Global Change Research Program, June 2009*

The report summarizes the science and the impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future. It focuses on climate change impacts in different regions of the U.S. and on various aspects of society and the economy such as energy, water, agriculture, and health.

<http://downloads.globalchange.gov/usimpacts/pdfs/climate-impacts-report.pdf>

See Also: Greenhouse Gas Legislation: Summary and Analysis of H.R. 2454 as Reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Congressional Research Service, June 2009

<http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/crs-analysis-of-hr-2454-r40643.pdf>

Powering the Poor: Projects to increase access to clean energy for all, *Asian Development Bank, June 2009*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to helping achieve access to energy for all people in the region. The stories in this publication—told through villagers and those helping them on the ground—portray resourceful ways of giving poor and remote communities access to clean and renewable energy. The case studies look at different types of energy projects—solar, micro hydro and biogas—as well as innovative approaches in implementing and financing projects.

<http://www.adb.org/documents/books/powering-the-poor/Powering-the-Poor.pdf>

The Impact of Microcredit on the Poor in Bangladesh: Revisiting the Evidence, *Center for Global Development, June 2009*

The idea that access to small loans can help poor families build businesses, increase their income, and escape poverty has blossomed into a global movement. In this working paper, the authors reevaluate three previous landmark studies that put microfinance to that test in Bangladesh. http://www.cgdev.org/files/1422302_file_Roodman_Morduch_Bangladesh.pdf

Sustainable development and bioeconomic prosperity in Africa: Bio-fuels and the South African gateway, *African Journal of Biotechnology*, June 2009

African countries along with the co-founders of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) must use biotechnology as a valuable tool for socio-economic and sustainable development. High-cost fossil fuel prices and national security concerns have sparked interest in bio-fuels in continental Africa. In brief, Africa is taking the lead in creating its own biotechnology agenda and roadmap to socioeconomic and sustainable development.

<http://www.academicjournals.org/ajb/PDF/pdf2009/3Jun/Pillay%20and%20Da%20Silva.pdf>

Validation of the World Food Programme's Food Consumption Score and Alternative Indicators of Household Food Security, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, June 2009

The objective of this study is to validate the World Food Programme's (WFP) method of establishing the prevalence of food insecurity. WFP's method has two parts: (1) the construction of a Food Consumption Score (FCS) and (2) the classification of food security status based on the FCS. <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00870.pdf>

Medium-Term Strategy 2008-2012, *African Development Bank Group*, June 2009

The last decade has seen unprecedented growth in many African economies with promising reduction of poverty levels. Conditions for sustained growth have been broadly favourable until recently, as the global financial crisis has introduced new pressures and uncertainties. At a minimum, a sharply softer global economy characterized by more difficult credit conditions, coupled with significantly changing international aid architecture, means sharper medium term challenges for the Bank and its Regional Member Country shareholders.

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/MTS%20anglais.pdf>

Political Economy of Agricultural Trade Interventions in Africa, *Robert H. Bates and Steven Block*, *Agricultural Distortions Working Paper 87*, May 2009

This paper uses new data on agricultural policy interventions to examine the political economy of agricultural trade policies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Historically, African governments have discriminated against agricultural producers in general (relative to producers in non-agricultural sectors), and against producers of export agriculture in particular. While more moderate in recent years, these patterns of discrimination persist. They do so even though farmers comprise a political majority.

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/50302/2/Political%20Economy%20of%20Agricultural%20Trade%20Interventions%20in%20Africa-%20Agricultural%20Distortions%20Working%20Paper%2087,%20May%202009.pdf>

Climate Change And Sustainable Development: New Challenges for Poverty Reduction, *Edited by M.A. Mohamed Salih*, *Institute of Social Studies and Department of Political Science, University of Leiden, The Netherlands*, May 2009

This book provides cutting-edge knowledge and analyses of the consequences that climate change will have for sustainable development and poverty reduction within the context of global development. Exploring alternative resource management approaches including federal resource management governance, ecosystem services, digital dematerialization, ecological cities, biofuels

versus food, and children and climate change, this innovative volume provides fresh insights on the human condition with regards to the current debates on climate change.

http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/Bookentry_DESCRIPTION.lasso?id=13474

Food Security Measures During Uncertain Climatic Conditions In Nigeria, *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*, March 2009

Food security is a function of a few variables such as technological input, capital, government policies and environmental (climate) factors. Good control of all these dependent variables except the last, and the thorough understanding of the last can take the nation to food security level. Possible ways of controlling the first three variables (technological input, capital, government policies) are suggested. To have thorough understanding of the climate factors, time series analysis of climate variables precisely temperature and precipitation data in twelve locations covering the various climatic belts of Nigeria were carried out.

<http://www.bioline.org.br/request?nd09015>

Why does famine persist in Africa?, *Stephen Devereux, Food Security*, January 2009

Famines were apparently eradicated from Asia and Europe during the twentieth century, but not from Africa, where three countries—Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger—have suffered mass mortality food crises since 2000. This paper locates the persistence of famine in Africa in simultaneous or sequential failures of food supply, demand for food, and humanitarian responses.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/h4505q2822216533/fulltext.pdf>

Food Security—Risks and Challenges for Modern Agriculture, *Wilhelm Grulssem, Risk Dialogue Magazine*, January 2009

[http://www.centre-for-global-dialogue.net/INTERNET/rschwebp.nsf/vwPagesIDKeyWebLu/CHAR-7NPDUZ/\\$FILE/TOPICARTICLE_Gruisseem.pdf](http://www.centre-for-global-dialogue.net/INTERNET/rschwebp.nsf/vwPagesIDKeyWebLu/CHAR-7NPDUZ/$FILE/TOPICARTICLE_Gruisseem.pdf)

UPCOMING EVENTS

African Union Summit – Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

Date: June 27, 2009

Concept for CAADP Coverage at the AU Summit - [http://www.nepad-caadp.net/pdf/CONCEPT%20NOTE%20FINAL.pdf%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.nepad-caadp.net/pdf/CONCEPT%20NOTE%20FINAL.pdf%20(English).pdf)

An Outlook on Global Agriculture and Food Security – The Honorable Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Date: June 29, 2009

Location: Chicago, IL

The rise in world commodity prices and the food riots of last year have shown how food insecurity can threaten vulnerable populations, and put economic and international stability at risk. In light of this, President Obama has announced plans to double U.S. financial support for agricultural development to more than 1 billion in 2010. In April, a first-ever meeting took place amongst the Group of Eight (G8) Agriculture Ministers, underscoring the transformative role that agriculture can play in reducing poverty, increasing economic growth, and providing global stability. In fact, the G8 ministers have underscored the need to place agriculture at the core of the political agenda. If action is not taken, food insecurity is expected to worsen in years ahead due to the effects of population growth and climate change. Secretary Vilsack, in partnership with Secretary Clinton, is developing a new U.S. food security strategy, which will include boosting food production in the

developing world, improving lesser developed countries' market access, and measures to reduce hunger inside the U.S. borders.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago_council_event_corporate_detail.php?eventid=2098

Joint International Agricultural Conference

Date: July 6-8, 2009

Location: Droevendaalsesteeg 2, 6708 PB Wageningen, Netherlands

The main objective of the joint conference will be to form a platform for cooperation between different fields of research and to provide an opportunity to join forces with representatives from the agricultural industry and policy makers. A second objective will be to exchange research efforts focusing on precision agriculture, precision livestock farming and information technology in agriculture, food and the environment.

<http://www.jiac2009.nl/Home/tabid/362/Default.aspx>

Farm Foundation Forum

Date: July 14, 2009

Location: Washington, DC

Topic: Carbon Policy Issues and Implications for Agriculture

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/webcontent/Farm-Foundation-Forums-363.aspx?z=na&a=363>

International ISHS/ProMusa Symposium Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges

Date: September 14-18, 2009

Location: Guang Dong, China,

ProMusa, in collaboration with the Guang Dong Academy for Agricultural Sciences (GDAAS), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and Bioversity's Banana and Plantain Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific (BAPNET), has announced the "International Banana Symposium: Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges."

http://www.promusa.org/symposium_2009/home.html

http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/fischerboel-hill-event_may-06-09-invite-final-3.pdf

2009 World Food Prize and "Borlaug Dialogue" symposium: Food, Agriculture, and National Security

Date: October 14-16, 2009

Location: Des Moines, IA

The formal awarding of the \$250,000 World Food Prize will be the cornerstone of a week-long series of events that will attract several hundred government officials and policymakers, private-sector and agribusiness executives, academics and scientists, and NGO and development-agency leaders from over 65 countries. The "conversations" of the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium will this year focus on the connection between food and agriculture and national and international security and cooperation, with speakers including renowned global CEOs, agricultural ministers and diplomats, noted intelligence and security experts, and other eminent leaders in agricultural and rural development.

<https://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009.htm> (registration available beginning in June)

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Phosphorus Famine: The Threat to Our Food Supply, *Scientific American*, June 2009

This underappreciated resource--a key component of fertilizers--is still decades from running out. But we must act now to conserve it, or future agriculture could collapse.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=phosphorus-a-looming-crisis&offset=2>

FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to Zimbabwe, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme*, June 2009

High food insecurity persists in Zimbabwe in spite of improvements in agricultural production and a more liberal import policy this year, according to this report issued by FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP).

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/ai483e/ai483e00.pdf>

Nigeria releases first rust-resistant soybean, *International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)*, June 26

As part of efforts to mitigate and stave-off the devastating effects of the Asian soybean rust, which is capable of wiping out up to 80% of affected crops, on its soybean industry, Nigeria has released a new variety that resists the deadly disease. The new rust-resistant soybean is the first of its kind to be made available for cultivation not only in the country but also in West and Central Africa.

<http://www.cgiar.org/newsroom/releases/news.asp?idnews=895>

Fungus threat hangs over world wheat production, *Canwest News Service*, June 24

Scientists in Canada and around the world are racing to find a way to stop a destructive fungus that threatens to wipe out 80 per cent of the world's wheat crop, causing widespread famine and pushing the cost of such staples as bread and pasta through the roof. Canadian officials say that the airborne fungus, known as Ug99, has so far proved unstoppable, making its way out of eastern Africa and into the Middle East and Central Asia. It is now threatening areas that account for more than one-third of the world's wheat production and scientists in North America say it's only a matter of time before the pest hits the breadbasket regions of North America, Russia and China.

<http://www2.canada.com/topics/technology/science/story.html?id=1728850>

Red Locust disaster in Eastern Africa prevented, *FAO*, June 24

An international Red Locust emergency campaign in Eastern and Southern Africa has succeeded in containing a massive locust outbreak in Tanzania, FAO said. It is the first time that biopesticides are being used on a large scale in Africa against locusts. The rapid intervention has markedly reduced Red Locust infestations thereby preventing a full-blown invasion that could have affected the food crops of around 15 million people in the region.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/21084/icode/>

Global Demand, Fluctuating Commodity Prices Worry US Farmers, *Voice of America*, June 24

The United States is the leading producer of corn and soybeans worldwide. According to a study conducted by the University of Illinois, U.S. farmers will spend roughly thirty percent more this year to plant those crops. This comes as demand from countries that import food is slowing. U.S. farmers are bracing for an uncertain year.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-06-24-voa20.cfm>

Let's provide school lunches across the world, *Opinion, Cincinnati Enquirer*, June 23

In Iraq the UN World Food Programme recently announced a school lunch program in eight districts. Will the international community provide the funding, not to mention expand it to reach more children? In Afghanistan how can we expect a stable and peaceful democracy to survive if children are malnourished and cannot attend school?

<http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/AB/20090623/EDIT02/906230351/>

Iraq: The final countdown, *The Independent (U.K.)*, June 23

The waters of the Tigris flowing past the concrete walls and watch towers of the Green Zone have become very shallow. The main reason for this is the dams built in Turkey and Syria on the upper reaches of the Euphrates which are reducing the flow of water to a quarter of what it was 10 years ago. This is devastating for the farmers who live along the banks of the river. They can no longer grow rice because it uses too much water. Fruit is almost all imported from Syria, Jordan and Iran. Apples come from the US. Many farmers are abandoning their lands and moving to the cities.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/iraq-the-final-countdown-1714073.html>

For Missouri National Guard, Afghan fight is for better farming, *McClatchy Newspapers*, June 22

Fertilizer, pesticides, animal breeding skills and water control: tools and talents that seem better suited for a farmer than for a soldier. Except in Afghanistan, where the Missouri National Guard has pioneered a new strategy for countering terrorism. The 61 soldiers and airmen in the Guard's Agri-Business Development Team are battling the Taliban by finding ways for Afghan farmers with little access to fuel to refrigerate their crops and market what they grow.

<http://www.centredaily.com/mcclatchydc/story/1358797.html>

Back to basics: Uganda tries to boost its economy through agriculture, *The Economist*, June 22

Uganda will focus on commercial agriculture as a means of boosting economic growth this year. The government wants Uganda to become the region's food basket and to use its location to develop as a regional trading hub. Simply stated, economic policy initiatives will aim to increase agricultural production and productivity, increase agro-processing and value added, and make the investments in infrastructure and human resources to bring this about.

http://www.economist.com/agenda/displaystory.cfm?story_id=13891595

Africa's sleeping giant: 400 million hectares of Guinea Savannah land ripe for commercial farming, *FAO*, June 22

A vast stretch of African savannah land that spreads across 25 countries has the potential to turn several African nations into global players in bulk commodity production, according to a study just published by FAO and the World Bank.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/20964/icode/>

See Also: Awakening Africa's Sleeping Giant: Prospects for Commercial Agriculture in the Guinea Savannah Zone and Beyond, *FAO/World Bank*, June 2009

<http://extop->

workflow.worldbank.org/extop/e-commerce/catalog/product?item_id=9081348

See Also: African Savannah Is 'Sleeping Giant' of Farming, *FAO Study Says*, *Bloomberg*, June 22

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a4SZRI75afis>

Feeding world is greater challenge than global warming, *Xinhua.com (China)*, June 22

An Australian academic believes that feeding the world is a greater challenge than climate change or the economic crisis. Julian Cribb, from the University of Technology Sydney, told delegates on Monday at the National Farmers' Federation congress in Brisbane that the world's food supply was already precariously balanced and demand would rise by 110 percent by 2050.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/22/content_11582127.htm

In Venezuela, Land 'Rescue' Hopes Unmet, *The Washington Post*, June 20

Chávez's so-called back-to-the-land movement calls for the redistribution of land -- increasingly properties that the state has taken over in what officials term a "rescue" or "recuperation." The

objective is to ensure "food sovereignty," thereby reducing dependence on imports. But nearly five years after the measures were implemented nationwide, farmers and agriculture experts say, Venezuela is not only far from self-sufficient in food, but also more dependent than ever on foreign countries.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/19/AR2009061903400.html>

Africa: Continent Moves to Subsidize Its Own Farmers, *AllAfrica.com*, June 19

Tired of seeing prices for their crops undercut by US and European producers who receive billions of dollars in government subsidies each year, African governments appear to increasingly favour implementing their own subsidies.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906190506.html>

1.02 billion people hungry. One sixth of humanity undernourished - more than ever before.

Food and Agriculture Organization, June 19

World hunger is projected to reach a historic high in 2009 with 1 020 million people going hungry every day, according to new estimates published by FAO today. The most recent increase in hunger is not the consequence of poor global harvests but is caused by the world economic crisis that has resulted in lower incomes and increased unemployment. This has reduced access to food by the poor, the UN agency said.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/20568/icode/>

How to limit bovine burps and keep food production sustainable, *The Irish Times*, June 19

Belching cows have been keeping me up at night recently. It's not the noise that does it, but the unsettling thought of all those burps are enough to make anybody in business toss and turn under the duvet. The greenhouse gases emitted by belching cattle are perhaps the best illustration of the greatest problem – and the greatest opportunity – that anybody in the food industry will face in their lifetimes: the sustainability of our food supply.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/finance/2009/0619/1224249115403.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Food Crisis Hits North Korea, *Radio Free Asia*, June 25

North Korean families are feeling the pinch following Pyongyang's refusal of U.S. food aid earlier this year, with the United Nations saying it already sees a humanitarian crisis in the isolated Stalinist state. The WFP says it is currently able to operate at around only 15 percent of its capacity, feeding fewer than 1.5 million of the 6.2 million people already identified as in need of food aid this year.

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/food-06252009121207.html>

Build consensus on U.S. foreign aid overhaul, *Sun-Sentinel*, June 22

In an era where the United States faces severe fiscal constraints, it is more critical than ever to make sure that every penny allocated to foreign aid is well spent. That's important not just for financial reasons, but for political ones as well, since U.S. public support for sending foreign aid overseas has understandably waned in recent years.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/opinion/sfl-foreign-aid-editorial-m06220sbjun22.0.706198.story>

Good foreign aid helps U.S. taxpayers, *Lorne Craner (President, International Republican Institute and Board Member, Millennium Challenge Corporation)*, *Deseret News*, June 19

In the best of times, most Americans are skeptical of foreign aid. But particularly, in these days of economic distress, if we are truly to make a difference in poor countries, our tax dollars must be spent effectively — with the goal that, ultimately, they will not be needed. Now more than ever, Americans have a right to demand that any of their tax dollars spent abroad be spent well. MCC's smart foreign assistance is beginning to tangibly help some of the world's poorest countries lift themselves up, and that will ultimately benefit taxpayers here at home.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/print/705311431/Good-foreign-aid-helps-US-taxpayers.html>

US agencies eye coordinated Afghan 'civilian surge', Reuters, June 18

The Pentagon and other U.S. government agencies are boosting the number of civilian experts dispatched to Afghanistan in parallel with a large surge of American troops." Accompanying the civilian increase in Afghanistan and the tripling of U.S. aid to Pakistan to \$1.5 billion a year, every USAID contract and program in the two countries would be reviewed to ensure aid reaches the public instead of flowing to foreign contractors.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/featuredCrisis/idUSN18389415>

Congress and the IMF's Power Grab, Opinion, The Wall Street Journal, June 18

The question is whether short-term fixes -- in the form of emergency loans to a flailing government, the sort of assistance the IMF is prepared to offer -- provide a solid foundation for economic growth. Just as overdone fiscal "stimulus" undermines confidence in future prosperity due to its inflationary consequences, it makes no sense to throw money at struggling nations without providing the hope of a more permanent solution that will enable them to meaningfully participate in the global marketplace.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124528391365825649.html>

The 2009 Time 100: Dambiso Moyo, Paul Wolfowitz, Time Magazine, June 2009

Moyo's proposal to phase out all government-to-government aid in five years is probably overstated for effect; she herself is willing to consider a 10-year plan. And her general argument is not without flaws. Unsurprisingly, the development industry doesn't like her critique. But advocates of aid do have to come to grips with Moyo's fundamental question: Why is Africa so much poorer after receiving billions of dollars in assistance? Just as important, how can young African professionals like Moyo be attracted back home, not out of charity but to pursue opportunities?

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1894410_1893209_1893459,00.html?imw=Y

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

ETHIOPIA: Erratic rainfall threatens crop yields, IRIN News, June 26

The late start of Ethiopia's wet season and the unreliability of the rains could affect crop production this year and increase the number of those in need of aid, officials said.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=85021>

Global: The case for agriculture in Copenhagen, IRIN News, June 24

Gerald C. Nelson, a Senior Research Fellow at the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), makes a case for agriculture in the first of a series of commentaries by various experts in the run-up to the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen in December to reach a global accord on cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84983>

India monsoon rain 'below normal', *BBC News, June 24*

Indian officials say that monsoon rains in the country are likely to be "below normal" triggering off fears about crop failure and high food prices. Forecasters say that rainfall is likely to be lower than predicted in April, when they said it would be near normal.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8116377.stm

See Also: Singh's 9% India Growth Target Harder as Rains Falter, Bloomberg, June 24

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601080&sid=a0oOD9gKRx4w>

Russia Isn't Ready to Cope With Climate Change, World Bank Says, *Bloomberg, June 24*

Russia is ill-prepared to cope with climate change because of the legacy of Soviet environmental mismanagement and crumbling infrastructure, the World Bank said. The world's biggest energy exporter is more exposed to the extremes of an evolving climate than European and Central Asian nations, the Washington-based lender said in a report today. The depth of seasonal melting in areas covered by permafrost may increase by as much as 50 percent by 2050, the bank forecast.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601130&sid=adL3Gwp6hZco>

See Also: Russian Economic Report #19, World Bank, June 2009

Contrary to popular perception, Russia faces significant threats from climate change, with a number of the most serious risks already in evidence.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTRUSSIANFEDERATION/Resources/305499-1245838520910/rer19-eng.pdf>

Water key element in Mideast peace, *United Press International, June 24*

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Israel must address the vital issue of water in the West Bank if meaningful peace talks are to take place. Israel's leaders said nothing, but Abbas had touched on one of the most sensitive issues in the seemingly endless negotiations, which have been in abeyance for the last few years, and one on which any expectation of a comprehensive settlement will probably ultimately rest.

http://www.upi.com/Energy_Resources/2009/06/24/Water-key-element-in-Mideast-peace/UPI-56321245865273/

Himalayan glacier studies commence, *BBC News, June 23*

After a long gap, scientists in Nepal have embarked on the first field studies of Himalayan glacial lakes, some of which are feared to be swelling dangerously due to global warming.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8109389.stm>

Clouds over India's Goddess Mountain, *Asia Times, June 23*

Locals blame the weird weather changes on the foolish local governmental policy of allowing plastic-roofed hothouse farming to spread unchecked in the area. These climatic changes are rapidly melting glaciers on Nanda Devi, part of the larger problem of depleting Himalayan glaciers that supply 8.6 million cubic meters of water annually to Asian rivers. Scientists say the population of South Asia and China, comprising 40% of humanity, will face a severe water crisis in 50 years if the current melting rate of Himalayan glaciers continues.

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/KF23Df01.html

Uganda: Droughts Destroy Karamoja Crops, *AllAfrica.com, June 23*

The frail looking 45-year-old Lochoro is one of the Karimojong pastoralists who have given up their nomadic way of life for crop farming. There are over 1,500 farmer groups, comprising 500,000 people out of the 1.13million people in Karamoja. According to the World Food Programme, by

September 2008, drought had caused over 70% crop losses. The region was since declared food insecure.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906240141.html>

See Also: UGANDA: Food crisis feared as subsistence farmers sell produce, IRIN News, June 23

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84915>

Australian Emissions Trading Plan in Trouble, *The New York Times*, June 21

Australia is the world's largest exporter of coal, which pumps billions of dollars into the economy, supplies more than 80 percent of the country's electricity and keeps tens of thousands of people in their jobs. But the carbon dioxide produced from burning coal is also a major contributor to climate change, a problem the center-left Labor government has vowed to address. The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme passed easily through the Labor-controlled House of Representatives this month. But the Senate, which is controlled by conservatives and minor parties, has vowed to defeat the bill.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/22/science/earth/22iht-climate.html>

Ghana's environment refugees, *Financial Times*, June 20

Since 1990, when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that "the gravest effects of climate change may be those on human migration", the prospect of rising seas, spreading deserts and a concatenation of natural disasters has been accompanied by the image of people on the move. The logic is powerful: 10 per cent of the world's population would be inundated by a 1 metre rise in sea levels – possible by the end of this century – while another 30 per cent, more than 2 billion people, live in drylands, like Nandom, that are vulnerable to endemic drought.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/bb6b0efc-5ad9-11de-8c14-00144feabdc0.html>

Brazil to pay Amazon small farmers to plant trees, *Reuters*, June 19

Brazil will pay small farmers to plant trees in deforested Amazon areas to slow rain forest degradation, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said as he unveiled a broad plan to protect the region. The effort may help stave off growing international pressure on Brazil to reduce deforestation that scientists say spurs global warming, providing alternative livelihoods to poor Amazon dwellers who live off timber exploitation.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN19467530?sp=true>

GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

The Whiplash Effect: The ups and downs of 2008 took their greatest toll on the weakest states, *Homi Kharas, Foreign Policy*, June 2009

It was only a matter of time before the global financial crisis—now ravishing developed economies—hit the world's poorest. Major commodity importers such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Pakistan felt a pinch even before 2008 began. In April, the World Bank predicted that 50 million people could be driven into poverty in coming months. The connection between economic instability and political turmoil is real. Economist Paul Collier estimates that the risk of conflict goes up 1 percentage point for each percentage-point decline in economic growth rates.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/06/22/2009_failed_states_index_the_whiplash_effect

FAO says Zimbabwe still faces food insecurity, *Reuters*, June 25

Zimbabwe's agricultural production is estimated to have risen significantly this year but many people still face serious problems finding basic foods, the United Nations said. Liberalisation of the economy this year, and the grain market in particular, has filled the shops with products and reduced prices, the FAO said. However, for most households without access to foreign currency, basic necessities remain out of reach.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE5501P020090625>

UN To Debate Financial Crisis With Eye On Developing World, *Morningstar*, June 24

The UN General Assembly kicked off a three-day high-level conference to weigh measures to help the poorest and most vulnerable countries weather the global financial and economic crisis.

Organizers noted that the World Bank is projecting a finance gap of up to 700 billion dollars in developing countries, resulting in additional deaths of 1.5 to 2.8 million infants by 2015 and more than 100 million people tipping over into extreme poverty each year for the duration of the crisis.

http://news.morningstar.com/newsnet/ViewNews.aspx?article=/DJ/200906240243DOWJONESDI ONLINE000274_univ.xml

Poor nations ask rich for bailout from crisis, *The Associated Press/The Washington Post*, June 24

African, Asian and Caribbean countries complained Wednesday that the global economic crisis which they didn't cause was devastating their countries and urged the rich nations responsible for the meltdown to bail them out. Stepping on to the world stage for the first time since the crisis began in the United States last fall, leaders and ministers from developing countries told a U.N. financial summit that new resources are needed immediately to stem growing poverty and hunger, and prevent social unrest.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/24/AR2009062401830.html>

Too little, too late? The UN and the global financial crisis, *openDemocracy*, June 23

Developing countries are being hit by falls in trade, private-capital flows, remittances and (possibly) in the value of official development assistance (ODA). The implications for poverty are alarming. The crisis is likely to push many households into poverty, far more than would otherwise have been the case: as many as 650,000 in Indonesia, for example; 300,000 in Bangladesh; 233,000 in Uganda; 230,000 in Ghana; and 110,000 in Cambodia. Behind these numbers are countless human miseries: illnesses acquired and untreated, children unable to go to school, families broken or degraded.

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/article/too-little-too-late-the-un-and-the-global-financial-crisis>

Africa: Prices Keep Food On the Shelves, *AllAfrica.com*, June 22

An increasing number of Africans living in urban areas are finding it harder to put enough food on the table, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has warned. "The food crisis and shortages are still there in some African countries," said Adam Elhiraika, ECA economic affairs officer. "We see [a] crisis when we do not have enough income to buy the food we need."

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906220901.html>

Food prices skyrocket in Democratic Republic of Congo, *ReliefWeb/ United Nations Development Programme*, June 19

The economic crisis has significantly increased the price of staple foods in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With the cost of rice, cassava, corn, sugar, fish and bread climbing, daily life is growing very difficult for many.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-7T6LXJ?OpenDocument>

BIOFUELS

Biofuels Information Plan Launched in West Africa, *Voice of America*, June 23

An environmental group has launched an initiative to ensure that communities in West Africa are informed about the possible negative impact that the production of biofuels could have on the region. The environmental group Wetlands International has joined forces with the organization Action Aid and 30 Senegal-based groups to ensure that communities in West Africa are aware of the impact of biofuel development programs.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-06-23-voa59.cfm>

State turns focus on renewable energy, *Business Daily*, June 22

The government has appointed a team to fast-track the generation of clean and renewable energy using sources such as wind, solar, biomass, and biogas. Kenya is planning to commission the use of clean energy by 2012 that will help install an additional power generation capacity of 2,000MW.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Company%20Industry/-/539550/613694/-/u9mzp8z/-/index.html>

Biofuels and greenhouse gas emissions on a collision course, *Ag Marketing Resource Center*, June 2009

The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 (1) requires a gradual increase in the volume of various kinds of biofuels to be blended with U.S. motor fuels in the next several years. At the same time, the EISA – unless modified – requires a one-step adjustment in greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, rather than a gradual phase-in to reflect less than instantaneous technological progress. These two different sets of mandates are now on a collision course.

http://www.agmrc.org/renewable_energy/agmrc_renewable_energy_newsletter.cfm/biofuels_and_greenhouse_gas_emissions_on_a_collision_course_89

WOMEN

Women's groups urged finance ministry to ensure food security, *Times of India*, June 24

Keeping in view the agrarian crisis and the economic downturn, women activists have asked the finance ministry to ensure food security and easier credit for women farmers.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/India/Womens-groups-urged-finance-ministry-to-ensure-food-security-/articleshow/4693760.cms>

Gambia: FAO Boss Impressed With Gambian Women, *AllAfrica.com*, June 24

Dr Babagana Ahmadu, the country representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in The Gambia, has expressed satisfaction over the commitment being demonstrated by rural Gambian women towards the TeleFoods projects. The FAO-sponsored Telefood projects which were launched in six different villages in the past one week, aim at addressing the problems faced by small groups, women associations, women farmers associations and the youths who are having problems in terms of accessing basic farming inputs like fertilizers, seeds and some basic tools.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906240738.html>

Afghanistan: Few rural women use family planning services, *IRIN*, June 24

Family planning services are available in over 90 percent of health facilities across Afghanistan but the number of women using them in rural areas is too low, according to the Ministry of Public

Health (MoPH). Hamida Ebadi, director of MoPH's reproductive health unit, reckoned only 14-15 percent of women in rural and remote regions use family planning services.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84974>

ADB, Japan Support New Livelihood Opportunities For India's Rural Poor, *Asian Development Bank*, June 22

Sharecroppers, women and other marginal groups living in one of India's poorest states will receive new employment and income opportunities under an Asian Development Bank (ADB), Government of Japan-funded project. The project will fund capacity building and skills programs that support the development of new sustainable livelihood and income opportunities in areas like agro-processing, animal husbandry, pisciculture (fish farming), and high value crop production. It will also conduct training and awareness activities for water user groups with the aim of increasing the number of women representatives, and others from marginal groups like sharecroppers and tribal people.

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/12919-indian-rural-developments/>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

How to Cross the Digital Divide, Rwanda-Style, *Washington Post*, June 24

Rwanda is emerging as an interesting test case on how a digital divide is actually being bridged in a methodical, well-thought-out, step-by-step manner. The first step was basic connection to one another and the Web over cell phones. In two years, every district of the country will be connected to each other and the Internet- something the United States can't boast. The country itself is buying 100,000 low-cost laptops in the next year to distribute between teachers and students in the country. So where the hell is all this money coming from in a so-called poor African nation? A lot of it traces back to aid and foreign investment.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/24/AR2009062401533.html>

Mobile money seen as chance for world's poorest, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, June 24

Being able to use a mobile phone for money transfers, bill payments and even savings would give some of the world's poorest people the chance to become part of the financial system, telecom providers and bankers have said. Currently, about 3.5 billion people, more than half the world's population, have no access to banking services. However, 1 billion of those people do have mobile phones and the GSM Association (GSMA) sees that figure rising to 1.7 billion by 2012.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/8574636>

Philippines, Brazil to Boost Agricultural Trade, *Bloomberg News*, June 24

The Philippines plans to increase agricultural trade with Brazil, the world's second-largest soybean meal supplier, a Philippine official said. Bilateral trade of all goods between the two countries rose by more than half to \$1.1 billion in 2008, from \$730 million a year earlier, Gary Olivar, Philippine President Gloria Arroyo's deputy spokesman for economic affairs, said today, without providing a breakdown.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a53tzqMxo.a4>

EU farmers' protest turns violent in Luxembourg, *Agence France-Presse*, June 22

European farmers protesting the fall of milk prices clashed with police outside the venue of an EU farm ministers meeting in Luxembourg. Protesters hurled eggs, cans and bottles at police and security guards and blocked the route to the meeting with some of the 300 tractors they had brought to the demonstration. Others rushed into a nearby supermarket and emerged with pallets

of milk bottles, which they handed out to passers-by or used as missiles against the police. The farmers say a decision to scrap milk quotas is threatening their livelihood.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h7XIAkCZs6uWLiG_kmcRSq1M5hAA

Microlender Targets US Entrepreneurs for Loans, *Voice of America*, June 22

Microfinance is a big focus in the international development world. It's the process of getting small loans and financial services to the poor and underserved. Now, one of the biggest, [Kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org), is allowing users to make microloans to small business owners, like Vika Sinipata, in the United States.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/AmericanLife/2009-06-18-voa52.cfm>

AGRIBUSINESS

Firms target nutrition for the poor, *BBC News*, June 25

Rip the top off a small sachet, the size of a hand, and inside is a delicious, creamy peanut goo that you suck from the packet. It is messy and delicious. And it has already saved the lives of countless children on the brink of death from starvation around the world.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8114750.stm>

Global agribusiness leaders at Agri Vision 2009 identify ways to double food production by 2050, *Asia Corporate News Network*, June 24

Expanding populations and increasing incomes are main drivers of the need to double global food and fuel production by 2050, while halving greenhouse gas emissions. Demand is surging but supplies struggle to keep up as markets are volatile and there are limited supplies of land and water - is it possible?

http://hugin.acnnewswire.com/article.asp?art_id=22566&lang=1

USAID Initiates Grain Warehouse Receipt System, *AllAfrica.com*, June 22

The Agribusiness and Trade Promotion (ATP) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has imitated the Ghana Pilot of the Warehouse Receipts system with a two-day Action Planning Workshop for about 40 stakeholders in Kumasi. The project intends to establish three warehouses certified for the upcoming harvest season. She said the warehouse receipts system allowed producers, traders and exporters to store their crops in approved warehouses that were secure and meet proper conditions, and receive receipts for their deposited goods which can be used at a bank to secure a loan worth a percentage of its value.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906221460.html>

CAADP calls for more private sector involvement, *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme*, June 20

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) brought together representatives of the public and private sectors, including farmer's organizations, development partners and civil society from June 17 to 18, 2009 in Dakar Senegal, to propose a framework for integrating the private sector into the CAADP Agenda.

<http://www.caadp.net/news/?p=194>

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank