

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



June 25th – July 2nd, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Investment in women and girls is also a key pillar of the President’s Feed the Future Initiative, which Secretary Clinton has been leading. The program is a \$3.5 billion commitment to strengthen the world’s food supply, so farmers can earn enough to support their families and food can be available more broadly. It focuses on addressing hunger through greater agricultural productivity, and recognizes that most of the world’s food is grown, harvested, stored and prepared by women. This initiative recognizes that women’s contributions to agricultural production and their specific needs for training, access to financial services, markets, and decision-making must be met in order to enhance agriculture productivity and end hunger. Although women represent the majority of farmers in some areas, they seldom own the land they work. The reform of land tenure rights and property and inheritance laws can help women succeed in farming and help secure the world’s food supply.”*— Remarks by Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, ECOSOC Ministerial, UN Headquarters, June 30, 2010.

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

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

For more information:

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

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

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

[Women](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The G-20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G-20, June 26

“At the Pittsburgh Summit, we recognized the importance of sustained funding and targeted investments to improve long-term food security in low income countries. We welcome the launch of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), which will provide predictable financing for low income countries to improve agricultural productivity, raise rural incomes, and build sustainable agricultural systems. We are particularly pleased that the fund has approved inaugural grants totaling \$224 million for Bangladesh, Rwanda, Haiti, Togo, and Sierra Leone. We also support the development of the private sector window of the GAFSP, which will increase private sector investments to support small and medium sized agri-businesses and farmers in poor countries. We welcome the support already received, and encourage additional donor contributions to both the public and private sector windows of the GAFSP.”

<http://g20.gc.ca/toronto-summit/summit-documents/the-g-20-toronto-summit-declaration/>

See Also: G8 Gets Praise for Re-committing to Food Security, *Voice of America*, June 28

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/science-technology/decapua-g8-farming-first-28jun10-97309954.html>

Remarks by President Obama at G-20 Press Conference in Toronto, Canada, White House, June 27

“Finally, we made progress on a range of global challenges that are critical to shared prosperity. We’re moving forward with the food security initiative that we announced last year, including by launching a special fund at the World Bank, which will strengthen farmers’ productivity in the poorest countries. And we made progress toward a new coordinated approach so that we can invest more than \$20 billion to reduce hunger and promote agricultural development.”

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-obama-g-20-press-conference-toronto-canada>

See Also: The G8-Muskoka Summit: Following Through on Food Security, *White House*, June 27

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/g8_muskoka_food_security_fact_sheet.pdf

See Also: An Improved Approach to Agriculture and Food Security: Rwanda, *White House*, June 27

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/g8_muskoka_food_security-rwanda.pdf

See Also: An Improved Approach to Agriculture and Food Security: Haiti, *White House*, June 27

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/g8_muskoka_food_security-haiti.pdf

2011 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations, Subcommittee Bill, House Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, June 30

http://appropriations.house.gov/images/stories/pdf/sfo/FY2011_State_SummaryTable.pdf

See Also: Statement by Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey, *State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee*, June 30

In light of increased food shortages in many developing countries, which are exacerbated by the global financial crisis, the Committee provides \$1 billion for food security and agricultural development, \$300 million below the request.

http://appropriations.house.gov/images/stories/pdf/sfo/Lowey_Opening_Statement.6.30.10.pdf

See Also: House panel cuts \$4 billion from State and foreign aid budget, *Foreign Policy*, July 1

A House subcommittee cut \$4 billion from the president’s \$56.7 billion request for State Department and foreign operations money, in another setback to the Obama administration’s efforts to increase the funding available for diplomacy and development abroad.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/07/01/house_panel_cuts_4_billion_from_state_and_foreign_aid_budget

2011 Agriculture Appropriations, Subcommittee Bill, House Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, June 30

http://appropriations.house.gov/images/stories/pdf/ardf/AG_FY2011_Summary_for_Subcommittee_-_for_press.pdf

See Also: Statement of Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro, Subcommittee Markup: Fiscal Year 2011 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA Appropriations Bill, House Subcommittee on Agriculture, June 30

Moving to the issue of food access overseas: In keeping with the growing importance of food security efforts in our diplomatic and national security strategies, as underlined by the State Department's new Feed the Future initiative, we have also increased funding for another vital nutrition program – the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

http://appropriations.house.gov/images/stories/pdf/ardf/Delauro_Opening_Statement.6.30.10.pdf

Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, Statesmen's Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C., June 29

“On Feed the Future and the overlap with nutrition, I want to thank you for raising that question. I'll point out, I was at the Department of Agriculture before coming to USAID. I just think this is very, very hard. Population-level nutrition improvement has eluded country after country, and it really does require a rethink on our basic approach. And here's some aspects of that rethink: One is that I think we have to do a better job of building nutrition outcomes into programs across all relevant sectors. So water, sanitation, hygiene programs, health programs and agriculture programs, I think, should all be kind of cross-linked to the other outcomes so that we can start to look at what's the most effective way to improve nutrition. And then I would add that I think one of the things that we don't think or talk enough about are the agriculture-related interventions. And it's why I'm so excited that the Feed the Future effort has a strong nutrition focus.”

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100629.html>

How to secure food security in Africa, Remarks by FW de Klerk, former President, Republic of South Africa, Fortune/Time/CNN Global Forum, June 28

“The first thing we must do is to make full use of developing technology to increase food production. The development of high-yielding grain varieties; the increased use of pesticides, new kinds of fertilisers and the expansion of irrigation systems have all contributed to what has become known as the ‘Green Revolution’. The significantly higher yields in many countries have already gone a long way to ensuring food security in the countries concerned. For example, in India a new variety of rice called IR8 increased rice yields by a factor of almost 10.”

<http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page71619?oid=183812&sn=Detail>

The Challenge of Feeding Hungry People in Hostile Environments, Greg Barrow, Global Media Coordinator, UN World Food Programme, Huffington Post, June 30

Delivering food in dangerous places is challenging, and WFP has been doing it for almost half a century because, without us, nobody else is going to step forward and take up the responsibility of ensuring that the hungriest 100 million around the world get the food they need every year.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-barrow/the-challenge-of-feeding_b_630482.html

Keeping Up the Momentum, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, July 2

“We need to build warehouses! We need markets!” Agnes Kalibata, Rwanda's determined minister of agriculture, carried this emphatic and urgent message to the Kirehe district in the eastern part of the country. The bountiful maize harvest had overwhelmed the district's storage capacity; bags of maize are piled up in farmers' houses, crowding kitchens and bedrooms. It was a good problem to have, so much food after not enough for so many years. But the minister was also seeing the dark side of the situation. Spot prices were falling below the costs of production. The potential of massive spoilage loomed. Farmers' enthusiasm was waning. They needed markets for their produce, and, as the minister told buyers who had been called to a meeting with her, they needed them right now.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/07/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-keeping-up-the-momentum.html>

Agricultural Prices, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 29

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/AgriPric/2010s/2010/AgriPric-06-29-2010.pdf>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks by Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, ECOSOC Ministerial, UN Headquarters, June 30

"Investment in women and girls is also a key pillar of the President's Feed the Future Initiative, which Secretary Clinton has been leading. The program is a \$3.5 billion commitment to strengthen the world's food supply, so farmers can earn enough to support their families and food can be available more broadly. It focuses on addressing hunger through greater agricultural productivity, and recognizes that most of the world's food is grown, harvested, stored and prepared by women. This initiative recognizes that women's contributions to agricultural production and their specific needs for training, access to financial services, markets, and decision-making must be met in order to enhance agriculture productivity and end hunger. Although women represent the majority of farmers in some areas, they seldom own the land they work. The reform of land tenure rights and property and inheritance laws can help women succeed in farming and help secure the world's food supply."

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2010/143882.htm>

Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah Administrator, USAID, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin Annual Convention, June 26

"And I tell this story because the model for it has to do with how our agency, USAID, interfaced with India in the '60s and '70s. In the late 1960s Paul Ehrlich, a social scientist, wrote a book called The Population Bomb that represented a basic idea: that two to three hundred million people in South Asia, most in India and Pakistan, were essentially going to starve to death. And it was an accepted idea; people believed that was going to happen, all the statistics and the scientists were saying this was the likely outcome because you had population growth outpacing our ability to feed the population, and that these were the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable places. But our agency, together with some scientific breakthroughs from an agricultural researcher named Norman Borlaug, together with very strong leadership from the Indian and Pakistani governments, and together with a massive global effort to invest in getting seed and fertilizer and irrigation to Indian farmers, actually did the opposite: We helped create the Green Revolution. Over the 15 years after 1970, India essentially moved two to three hundred million people out of poverty using effective agricultural production and lower pricing of food that gave people more and more access. And today India is a food exporter."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100626.html>

Name a Leader, Not Just Another Coordinator for Feed the Future (And Name Raj Shah!), Nancy Birdsall, Rethinking U.S. Foreign Assistance Blog, June 25

The Obama administration's new Feed the Future initiative awaits the appointment of what is being called a global food security "coordinator." But a "coordinator" is not what this signature U.S. development program needs. It needs a leader: an official with policy and budget authority to execute his or her responsibilities. That leader should be USAID Administrator Raj Shah.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/06/name-a-leader-not-just-another-coordinator-for-feed-the-future-and-name-raj-shah.php>

White House to Push Free Trade Deal With South Korea, New York Times, June 26

The Obama administration announced that it would ask Congress to ratify a long-stalled free-trade agreement with South Korea after the midterm elections in November. A top White House official said the administration was committed to removing two significant obstacles — Korean restrictions on auto and beef imports — to ratification of the agreement.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/27/business/global/27trade.html>

See Also: Remarks by President Obama and President Lee Myung-Bak of the Republic of Korea After Bilateral Meeting, White House, June 26

OBAMA: "One of the other points that we discussed extensively was the issue of commercial and trade ties between our two countries. There has been a lengthy negotiation to arrive at a free trade agreement. The last time I was in Korea, I said that I would be committed to moving this forward."

And today I indicated to President Lee that it is time that our United States Trade Representative work very closely with his counterpart from the ROK to make sure that we set a path, a road, so that I can present this FTA to Congress.”

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-obama-and-president-lee-myung-bak-republic-korea-after-bilateral->

See Also: Smart Trade, *Editorial, Washington Post, June 28*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/27/AR2010062703255.html>

House Panel Votes to Ease Cuba Travel Restrictions, *New York Times, June 30*

The House Agriculture Committee voted to reverse a decades-long ban on United States citizens traveling to Cuba and to ease restrictions on the sale of American commodities there.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/01/world/americas/01cuba.html>

See Also: House Panel Votes to Lift Cuba Travel Ban, *Associated Press, June 30*

The House Agriculture Committee voted 25-20 to allow travel to Cuba and make it easier to sell U.S. agricultural exports there. Farm-state members of Congress have long supported expanding opportunities to sell food to the island.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp->

[dyn/content/article/2010/06/30/AR2010063004247_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/30/AR2010063004247_pf.html)

United States, Angola Hold High-Level Trade and Investment Talks, *USTR, June 28*

U.S. and Angolan trade and development officials met to discuss means for strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties. The meeting was the first held under the United States-Angola Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), which was signed in May 2009. Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa Florie Liser and Angolan Commerce Vice Minister Archer Mangureira co-chaired the day-long meeting, which focused on bilateral trade, implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), investment promotion, the business environment, agri-business prospects and development, and trade-related transportation and infrastructure issues.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/june/united-states-angola-hold-high-level-trade-and-invest>

Lincoln Statement on Plans to Complete Korea Free Trade Agreement, *Office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, June 28*

U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, released the following statement in response to President Obama’s direction to the U.S. Trade Representative to complete the Korea free trade agreement (FTA) this year. South Korea represents the fifth largest market for U.S. agriculture, averaging value of more than \$4 billion annually over the past five years. The top product categories are feed grains, red meats, soybeans and soybean products, wheat, and hides and skins. Once the FTA is implemented, tariffs would disappear immediately for two-thirds of all agricultural products. Estimates show that this FTA would expand U.S. agricultural exports to South Korea by \$1.5 billion annually.

<http://lincoln.senate.gov/newsroom/2010-6-28-3.cfm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.usda.gov/news/events/2010/SubSaharanAfrica/SubSaharanAfricaFoodSecurityTechnologiesR TM.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:

African Land Grabbing: Whose Interests Are Served?, *Brookings Institution, June 25*

The subject of transnational land acquisitions, infamously referred to as land grabbing, has increasingly become an important policy concern in Africa as acquisitions have grown in scale and number. The practice involves the purchase or lease of large tracts of land by foreign nations, companies or individuals for agricultural production. These land acquisitions differ from most foreign agricultural investment of the past because, as the Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) also notes, the investors are resource seeking instead of market seeking. Therefore, they are effectively using the land or water of a country solely for agricultural repatriation and not for commercial export.

http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2010/0625_africa_land_aryeetey.aspx

Impact of Farmer Field Schools on Agricultural Productivity and Poverty in East Africa, *International Food Policy Research Institute, June 2010*

Farmer field schools (FFSs) are a popular education and extension approach worldwide. Such schools use experiential learning and a group approach to facilitate farmers in making decisions, solving problems, and learning new techniques. However, there is limited or conflicting evidence as to their effect on productivity and poverty, especially in East Africa. This study is unique in that it uses a longitudinal impact evaluation (difference in difference approach) with quasi-experimental methods (propensity score matching and covariate matching) together with qualitative approaches to provide rigorous evidence to policymakers and other stakeholders on an FFS project in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The study provides evidence on participation in FFSs and on the effects of FFSs on various outcomes.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00992.pdf>

Media Articles:

Protests at Seizure of German-owned Zimbabwe Farm, *Associated Press, July 2*

Germany's government said it will cut off aid to Zimbabwe unless illegal and violent occupiers are removed from a farm owned by a German national.

http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/07/02/1711840/protests-at-seizure-of-german.html?mitest=A_default

The return of wheat rust: The disease eating away our daily bread, *Economist, July 1*

For decades wheat was protected by a single rust-resisting gene identified by Norman Borlaug, the scientist behind the Green Revolution (in fact the growth in yields that was that revolution's great achievement began with his research into rust). The evolution of rust to overcome this genetic barrier enabled the disease to spread. But in the past few seasons plant breeders have developed new defences. Instead of erecting a single barrier, they now set up several lower defences that reduce rust's harm. By itself, each would be inadequate. Together, however, they offer enough protection—and have the advantage that it is much harder for a disease to defeat four or five separate defences than just one. "Rust never sleeps," Borlaug once said. But it can be sedated.

http://www.economist.com/node/16485348?story_id=16485348

See Also: Wheat rust and world farming: Rust in the bread basket, *Economist, July 1*

It is sometimes called the "polio of agriculture": a terrifying but almost forgotten disease. Wheat rust is not just back after a 50-year absence, but spreading in new and scary forms. In some ways it is worse than child-crippling polio, still lingering in parts of Nigeria. Wheat rust has spread silently and speedily by 5,000 miles in a decade. It is now camped at the gates of one of the world's breadbaskets, Punjab. In June scientists announced the discovery of two new strains in South Africa, the most important food producer yet infected.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16481593>

See Also: Deadly fungus threatens global wheat crop, *Financial Times, July 2*

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that 29 countries in east and north Africa, the Middle East, and central and south Asia, accounting for 37 per cent of global wheat production, are already affected by Ug99 or at risk because it is already in neighbouring countries.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d0203ac4-7221-11df-a0fd-00144feabdc0.html>

Agricultural Bank attracts \$50bn in Hong Kong bids, *Financial Times, July 1*

Institutional investors have placed bids valued at \$50bn for the Hong Kong portion of Agricultural Bank of China's mammoth dual-listing, according to people close to the deal. The high level of institutional demand means that Agricultural Bank remains on track to raise as much as \$23bn in what could be the world's biggest initial public offering.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/26082b0a-8531-11df-9c2f-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: China's Agricultural Bank IPO may net \$23 billion, *Associated Press*, June 29

Agricultural Bank of China capped the price range for its upcoming public offering at a level much lower than expected in response to investors, an executive said Tuesday, but the world's largest share listing is still projected to raise up to \$23.2 billion.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gOznIqfjIp70KEWbcrLu9mnZ4awD9GKVBJ80>

Perennial crops a win for food security, *The Australian*, June 30

All our commercial grain and oilseeds are annuals. But perennial, or longer-lived, crops would need less cultivation, herbicide and fertiliser. They could be grazed by livestock and sequester more carbon, and also increase food supply in a growing, hungry world.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/perennial-crops-a-win-for-food-security/story-e6frgcjx-1225885860575>

Kenya Provides Sharp Increase in Sustainable-Development Spending, *New York Times*, June 30

Kenya is significantly scaling up investments in agriculture, energy and water projects to hasten the nation's recovery from the global recession and a regional drought.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/07/01/01greenwire-kenya-provides-sharp-increase-in-sustainable-d-75880.html>

Antibiotics and Agriculture, *Editorial*, *New York Times*, June 29

The Food and Drug Administration is taking some long overdue but still too timid steps to rein in excessive use of antibiotics in American agriculture. For years now industrial and many smaller-scale farmers have routinely fed antibiotics to their cattle, pigs and chickens to protect them from infectious diseases but also to spur growth and weight gain while using less feed. That may be good for agricultural production, but it is almost surely bad for the public's health.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/30/opinion/30wed3.html?th&emc=th>

Report: Ag Research Too Focused on Food Production, *Associated Press*, June 29

American farmers are producing more food than ever, but agricultural research is too focused on increasing production and needs to do better at considering consequences such as water and air pollution, according to a report issued by a federal advisory group. The National Academies' National Research Council report found that farmers are being asked to produce more and more food to sustain the world's population, but with little focus beyond how many bushels of grain or pounds of vegetables or meat they can generate.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iMJEj5euhKGpVw-bjDARcyBlwaAD9GKVCRO1>

See Also: Toward Sustainable Agricultural Systems in the 21st Century, *National Research Council*, 2010

http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12832

Qatar Aims for Food Goal in Radical Desert Farming Plan, *Financial Times*, June 29

The aim of the Qatar National Food Security Programme is to bring the country as close as possible to food self-sufficiency by 2023. There is even the prospect of farms rising skywards in the form of skyscrapers as Qatar considers introducing hydroponics - soilless agriculture - and "vertical farming".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/88f402e6-831c-11df-8b15-00144feabdc0.html>

Speech for the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union Commission and the International Fertilizer Development Center, *African Union*, June 28

"As you know, land degradation is gaining in severity and magnitude for poor farmers in Africa. Land degradation affects an estimated 485 million people on the continent, resulting in losses of about \$42 billion in income and 6 million hectares of productive land each year. Unfortunately, there are too many similar

statistics that brings us to the conclusion that for African farmers to reverse decades of soil nutrient mining, the increased and judicious use of fertilizers is not an option. It is a necessity.”

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MUMA-86V4T4?OpenDocument>

Bumper Harvest as Professional Farming Takes Hold, *Financial Times*, June 28

The expansion of farming into Mato Grosso and other parts of central Brazil has already created a global agricultural powerhouse. From a middling agricultural country just two decades ago, Brazil has become the world's biggest exporter of beef, chicken, orange juice, green coffee, sugar, ethanol, tobacco and the “soya complex” of beans, meal and oil, as well as its fourth-biggest exporter of maize and pork.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/867b19f8-7d10-11df-8845-00144feabdc0.html>

Drinking Tea Could Boost Food Security, UN Agency Says, *UN News Centre*, June 28

Calling for more people in tea-producing countries to drink tea, the United Nations agriculture agency has spotlighted the potential for the industry to enhance food security by increasing farmers' incomes. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), tea exports cover the entire food import bill of Kenya, the world's largest tea producer after China. Meanwhile, earnings from tea exports constituted half of agricultural export revenue and 60 per cent of food imports in Sri Lanka, another top producer.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35163&Cr=food+and+agriculture+organization&Cr1=>

See Also: Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea, *Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Committee on Commodity Problems, May 2010*

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/019/K8336E.pdf>

Genetically Altered Salmon Get Closer to the Table, *New York Times*, June 25

The first engineered animal for people to eat, salmon that grow faster than normal, may be approved by the F.D.A.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/26/business/26salmon.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Media Articles:

UN Food Agency: Niger Now an 'Emergency Operation', *Associated Press*, July 2

The World Food Program has declared its work in Niger an "emergency operation" after a survey found a sharp rise in malnutrition rates among young children.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iDxaS1JZHMZtoHbYhbMwYANKzYTwd9GMR4T00>

ADB \$40 Million Loan to Boost Food Security, Farm Incomes in Bangladesh, *Relief Web*, July 1

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is extending financial assistance to Bangladesh to grow high-value crops including vegetables, spices, and fruits that will boost incomes for poor farmers and support the nation's food security.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MDCS-86XEVK?OpenDocument> (Foreign assistance)

A Revolution in Global Aid to the Poor, *Aditya Chakraborty*, *Guardian*, June 29

Here's a radical idea to tackle world poverty – give money straight to the poor.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/29/revolution-global-aid-poor>

UN Agency Calls for More Support for Its School Feeding Programmes, *UN News Centre*, June 29

School feeding programmes, which provide meals so that millions of children in poor countries can attend classes, can be broadened to reach even more pupils with the help of donors and partnerships, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said as it called for increased international support.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35189&Cr=mdg&Cr1=>

The Problem With Giving Free Food To Hungry People, *NPR*, June 27

Haiti's earthquake left the nation's rice economy in ruins. That's a big deal, because many Haitians eke out a living distributing and selling rice, the nation's staple food. First, the quake damaged the nation's main port,

disrupting the regular supply of imported rice. Then, aid groups distributed free rice to thousands of people — who stopped buying rice from street vendors. As demand dried up, the street vendors stopped buying from small, local rice wholesalers. That's been a devastating blow to many vendors and small wholesalers.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2010/06/26/128134222/haiti-rice>

See Also: A Tremor for Haiti's Aid Industry, Pooja Bhatia, *Foreign Policy*, June 30

The earthquake was only the latest disaster to capsize the country's already fragile local aid economy. Now outside organizations are threatening to overwhelm it entirely.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/30/a_tremor_for_haitis_aid_industry

G8 Leaders: Support Poor Countries Development G-8 Cornerstone, *Xinhua*, June 27

On Food security, the G8 leaders said that this issue remains an urgent global development challenge, exacerbated by climate change, increasing global food demand, past underinvestment in the agricultural sector, and extreme price volatility which has strong damaging impacts on the most vulnerable.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-06/27/c_13371126.htm

G8 and G20: Where is the Farmer in Debates about Food Security?, *Katine Chronicles (blog)*, *Guardian*, June 26

This weekend, as G8 and G20 leaders gather in Canada to discuss the most pressing global issues, discussions surrounding food security must focus on the need for collaboration, coordination and coherence around food security initiatives. Most importantly, as the primary producer of our food, farmers should play a central role in developing the solutions needed to feed our rapidly expanding global population.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/jun/26/david-king-farmers-food-security>

See Also: Big Action for Small Farmers, Sylvia Matthews Burwell, *President, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Development Program*, June 25

We cannot afford to lose momentum or jeopardize hard-won progress. 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.

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

Canada Forgives Its Share of Haiti's International Debt, *CNN*, June 26

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Friday that Canada has paid off its share of Haiti's debt to all international financial institutions to help the impoverished island nation recover from January's 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/06/25/canada.haiti.debt/?fbid=IMXVuB7g_oS

Seeds for 100,000 Farmers in Burkina Faso, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, June 25

Amid a growing food crisis in the Sahel that is putting millions at risk of hunger, FAO has started providing quality seeds to 100 000 vulnerable farmers in Burkina Faso, as part of an € 18 million operation funded by the European Union (EU).

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/43137/icode/>

See Also: Fighting High Food Costs in Burkina Faso, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, June 25

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/43138/icode/>

Burkinabè Farmers Receive Better Seeds as Part of UN Effort to Bolster Food Security, *UN News Centre*, June 25

The United Nations has begun providing quality seeds to 100,000 vulnerable farmers in Burkina Faso, one of several nations in the Sahel region suffering from a growing food crisis that is putting millions at risk of hunger.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35139&Cr=Sahel&Cr1>

G8 Must Follow Through with Food Security Pledge, *Press Release*, *CropLife International*, June 25

As leaders of the G8 nations meet in Canada, the plant science industry calls for clarification and a reiteration of the pledge to address food security made in L'Aquila last year.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/g8-must-follow-through-with-food-security-pledge-97148309.html>

G8 Needs to See Africa as an Investment, Not a Charity Case, *Editorial, Christian Science Monitor, June 25*
Recent reports show the overall economy in Africa growing and reforming. Foreign investors are recognizing this. Foreign donors, such as the G8, must, too.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2010/0625/G8-needs-to-see-Africa-as-an-investment-not-a-charity-case>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

The Himalayan Challenge: Water Security in Emerging Asia, *Strategic Foresight Group, June 2010*

The agricultural sector will continue to be the major consumer of water in China, Nepal, India and Bangladesh, [although the industrial and domestic sectors will also need more water in the future. In China, agriculture consumes about 65% of water. This proportion will decline to 55% by 2030 before rising again slightly around 2050. In India, agriculture accounts for almost 90% of the water usage but this will decline to 70-75% by 2050. Nepal and Bangladesh presently use more than 95% of their water for agriculture and will continue to do so until 2030.

<http://www.strategicforesight.com/Himalayan%20Challenge%20ES.pdf>

See Also: Dodgy Rains Pose Food Challenge, *India Realtime (blog), Wall Street Journal, June 29*

Predictions of melting glaciers have been controversial in India in the recent past. But this report says that as a result, both India and China will face a drop in the yields of wheat and rice of anywhere between 30%-50% by 2050, because of water scarcity, glacial melting, changing precipitation pattern, desertification as well as pollution, it added.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2010/06/29/dodgy-rains-pose-food-challenge/>

Media Articles:

The Threat of a Water War, *Op-Ed, Robert I. Rotberg, Boston Globe, July 2*

About 300 million people depend on the waters of the Nile. The upstream countries, with still growing populations, believe that their socio-economic development has long been unfairly constrained by Egypt's colonial-era lock on the river. Ethiopia and Uganda have not been able to support agricultural schemes. Nor have they been able fully to harness the river or its tributaries for industry and power. Both have suffered from major hydroelectric shortages in recent years.

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/07/02/the_threat_of_a_water_war/

Ocean acidification: The other carbon-dioxide problem, *Economist, July 1*

But singling out the role of acidification will be hard. Ocean ecosystems are beset by changes in nutrient levels due to run off near the coasts and by overfishing, which plays havoc with food webs nearly everywhere. And the effects of global warming need to be included, too. Surface waters are expected to form more stable layers as the oceans warm, which will affect the availability of nutrients and, it is increasingly feared, of oxygen.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16479264>

The Asian Century Calls for a Rethink on Growth, *Op-Ed, Kevin Brown, Financial Times, June 30*

At least nine countries, including India and China, are officially regarded as "water stressed" because they have access to less than 1,700 cubic metres per person per year. Arjun Thapan, the Asian Development Bank's special adviser on water and infrastructure, says the gap between supply and demand will reach 40 per cent by 2030, as population growth and rising prosperity trigger greater demand from industry and agriculture. Climate change is likely to make the shortage even worse. India, for example, gets much of its water from a short monsoon season. If rain falls more heavily than expected, or in different places, much of it may run off uncollected.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/34701e9e-847a-11df-9cbb-00144feabdc0.html>

Asia Gripped by Water Crisis: Asian Development Bank, *Agence France-Presse, June 29*

Asia is in the grip of a water crisis that could set back the region's robust economic growth if left unresolved, according to a top Asian Development Bank (ADB) official. Arjun Thapan, special adviser to ADB president Harukiko Kuroda on water and infrastructure issues, said governments must start managing the resource better to prevent the problem from worsening.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5hVBSmEJA1GQGOD2obhXqW516GUzA>

Rice Crop in Thailand to be Smallest in Eight Years on Drought, FAO Says, *Bloomberg, June 29*

Rice production in Thailand, the largest exporter of the grain, may drop to the lowest in eight years as drought and the spread of plant hoppers damage crops, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-06-29/rice-crop-in-thailand-to-be-smallest-in-eight-years-on-drought-fao-says.html>

Drought Over but Crops Still Failing, *IRIN News, June 27*

More rain has signalled the end of three years of a devastating drought in Syria's north-eastern region but it is not falling consistently enough to benefit this year's harvests, UN agencies have warned.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89642>

WOMEN

Media Articles:

Getting the Common Market to Benefit the Common Woman, *Inter Press Service, July 1*

July 1 marked the moment when the East African Community common market protocol kicked into operation. But Ugandan women face several obstacles before they will benefit from the boost that the protocol gives to the free movement of goods, labour and capital. Regional integration, which began with the signing of the east African customs union protocol in 2005, has increased export opportunities and expanded production in the agricultural sector where women predominate, cultivating 80 percent of agricultural products taken across borders.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=52032>

U.N. Clears Final Hurdle to Create New Gender Entity, *IPS, July 1*

After several rounds of intense eleventh-hour negotiations last week over the structure and composition of a proposed new "gender entity" and its executive board, the United Nations has cleared the last of the remaining political hurdles towards the creation of a separate and distinct U.N. agency for women.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52024>

G-8 Leaders Agree to \$7.3 Billion Plan for Maternal Health, *Bloomberg Businessweek, June 26*

Group of Eight leaders announced a \$7.3 billion plan to promote child and maternal health in poor countries even as they struggle to maintain old aid pledges. "Leaders made a historic commitment," Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said. "We are committed to moving towards a day when women in developing countries will not die or suffer disabilities from pregnancy or childbirth." Harper, who is chairing a meeting of leaders from the G-8 including President Barack Obama in Huntsville, Ontario, said G-8 countries will contribute \$5 billion, while foundations and other countries, such as New Zealand and the Netherlands, will give \$2.3 billion.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-26/g-8-leaders-agree-to-7-3-billion-plan-for-maternal-health.html>

See Also: Maternal health plan is something of a start, *Editorial, Globe and Mail, June 25*

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/g8-g20/opinion/maternal-health-plan-is-something-of-a-start/article1619014/>

See Also: Aid Groups Slam Lack of Financial Support for Maternal and Infant Health Initiative, *Washington Post*, June 26
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/25/AR2010062502903.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

The Costs and Benefits of Duty Free, Quota-Free Market Access for Poor Countries, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, June 2010

This paper examines the potential benefits and costs of providing duty-free, quota-free (DFQF) market access to the least developed countries and the effects of extending eligibility for DFQF access to other small and poor countries. Using the MIRAGE computable general equilibrium model, the paper assesses the impact of scenarios involving different levels of coverage for products, recipient countries, and preference-giving countries on participating countries, as well as competing developing countries that are excluded.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00990.pdf>

Media Articles:

North Korea Food Crisis Prompts Lifting of Restrictions on Private Markets, *Christian Science Monitor*, July 1

To battle the problem of starvation in North Korea, the government is allowing local markets to stay open longer and sell food without restrictions.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2010/0701/North-Korea-food-crisis-prompts-lifting-of-restrictions-on-private-markets>

African Countries Form a Common Market, *New York Times*, July 1

The world's newest common market was created when a regional bloc of five east African countries freed up the movement of people, products and capital across borders, furthering East Africa's dream of broad political unification.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/02/business/global/02africa.html>

U.N. Warns About Commodities-Trading Rules, *Wall Street Journal*, June 28

As U.S. lawmakers were fine-tuning their financial-regulatory overhaul, the United Nations cautioned against onerous restrictions on speculative investors in commodities markets. Though the surge in food prices globally two years ago "might have been amplified by speculators in organized futures markets," limiting or banning speculative trading—undertaken with the goal of profiting from successful anticipation of price moves—"might do more harm than good," the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization said in a policy brief last week.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704846004575332880243075918.html>

See Also: 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>

G20 Leaders Drop Doha Target, See Smaller Deals, *Reuters*, June 26

World leaders dropped a commitment to complete the troubled Doha trade round this year and vowed to push forward on bilateral and regional trade talks until a global deal could be done.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65P27P20100627>

See Also: China Rebuffs U.S. Trade Criticism, *Reuters*, June 27

China has dismissed U.S. comments that Beijing is blocking a new trade agreement, saying that it was the United States that was stalling progress in the World Trade Organization's long-running Doha round.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65Q0VE20100627>

See Also: Obama Urges Changes to Stalled World Trade Talks, *Reuters*, June 27

President Barack Obama called for significant changes to the long-delayed Doha round of world trade talks, telling Group of 20 leaders that offers on the table were inadequate.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65R0K720100628>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Monsanto Withdraws Argentine Soybean Import Complaint, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, July 1

Monsanto Co., the world's largest seed company, said it withdrew a patent complaint seeking to bar imports of Argentine soybean meal into Europe after settling with Cefetra Ltd. and Alfred C. Toepfer International.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-07-01/monsanto-withdraws-argentine-soybean-import-complaint-update1-.html>

TechnoServe Partners With Cargill to Support Entrepreneurs in Venezuela, *Press Release, PR Newswire*, June 30

The goal of the program in Venezuela is to build a robust network of entrepreneurs whose growing companies could participate in Cargill's supply chain, either as suppliers or distributors. These businesses will create jobs, improve food security for the urban poor, and provide new products and services while serving as role models for other small Venezuelan companies.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/technoserve-partners-with-cargill-to-support-entrepreneurs-in-venezuela-97466394.html>

DSM Claims Biofuel Breakthrough, *Financial Times*, June 27

DSM, the Dutch life sciences and chemicals company, is moving into the embryonic, but potentially huge, market for second-generation biofuels. At this week's world congress on industrial biotechnology in Washington, DSM will announce "a breakthrough in bioconversion." This will improve the efficiency with which fuels can be made from "second generation" sources – agricultural waste such as corn stalks and wheat straw, wood chips and energy crops grown on land that is unsuited to food production.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bd6866b2-8212-11df-938f-00144feabdc0.html>

Danone Expands Its Pantry to Woo the World's Poor, *Wall Street Journal*, June 25

The yogurt is an attempt by French food company Danone SA to fill a worrying gap in its business. Danone has become one of the world's fastest-growing food companies thanks to its high-end healthy products, such as Dannon yogurt, Badoit and Evian water and Bledina baby food. But momentum is slowing in the company's traditional, rich-world markets in North America and Western Europe. So, Danone is among a vanguard of Western multinationals staking much of their future on the world's poor.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703615104575328943452892722.html>

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