

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



June 4th – 11th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“What we must do is use our full complement of powers — defense, development and diplomacy — to help troubled nations build stable governments and address the needs of their people; not just for food, water and shelter but also for health, education and the opportunity to learn marketable skills. To do this, we have to invest in our future by bolstering the nation’s international affairs budget. This is something the two of us — and Democrats and Republicans as a whole — agree on.”* – Former Senators Tom Daschle and Bill Frist, Op-Ed, *Politico*, June 7, 2010.

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

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

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Surging Costs Hit Food Security in Poorer Nations, *Associated Press*, June 6

Families from Pakistan to Argentina to Congo are being battered by surging food prices that are dragging more people into poverty, fueling political tensions and forcing some to give up eating meat, fruit and even tomatoes. With food costing up to 70 percent of family income in the poorest countries, rising prices are

squeezing household budgets and threatening to worsen malnutrition, while inflation stays moderate in the United States and Europe. Compounding the problem in many countries: prices hardly fell from their peaks in 2008, when global food prices jumped in part due to a smaller U.S. wheat harvest and demand for crops to use in biofuels.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g-PV1ijxWc4KqE-gLaWEOIMQs-RQD9G5RK900>

See Also: 10 Mln Fear Worst as Sahel Faces New Food Crisis, *Agence France-Presse, June 11*

Only five years after a severe food shortage north-central Africa is again fearing the worst before the September harvest, with 10 million people threatened in this arid region known as the Sahel. In Niger alone, the country hardest hit, more than seven million residents -- nearly half the population -- are in need of food, and both Niger and neighboring Chad have declared states of emergency.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jkwK9tMjtOVDmgPzwy3J0y9g91EA>

Rajiv Shah, USAID Director, on Tackling Global Hunger and Why Women Lead the Way, *Washington Post, June 7*

The number of people suffering from hunger has now topped 1 billion globally -- the highest since 1970, according to the United Nations. U.S. foreign-aid director Rajiv Shah, 37, recently presented the Obama administration's strategy to tackle the food crisis. "Feed the Future" will focus on improving the agricultural systems of at least 20 countries. It's part of an international effort that could benefit 40 million poor people over a decade, officials say. Shah, a medical doctor who heads the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, came to agriculture through a circuitous route. In a former job at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, he analyzed high-impact ways to help the poor. That led him to focus on farming. He didn't just crunch numbers, though; he spent time working on a Montana farm "to get my boots dirty." "I fell in love with it," he said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/06/AR2010060603941.html>

New Defense Strategy for a New World, *Op-Ed, Tom Daschle, former U.S. Senator, and Bill Frist, former U.S. Senator, Politico, June 7*

What we must do is use our full complement of powers — defense, development and diplomacy — to help troubled nations build stable governments and address the needs of their people; not just for food, water and shelter but also for health, education and the opportunity to learn marketable skills. To do this, we have to invest in our future by bolstering the nation's international affairs budget. This is something the two of us — and Democrats and Republicans as a whole — agree on.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0610/38173.html>

African Economic Outlook 2010, *African Development Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, May 2010*

The African Economic Outlook 2010 investigates how public resource mobilisation can help Africa reduce its dependence on aid and other external financial flows to finance its own development agenda; it reviews best practices in tax administration and multilateral agreements as well as policy options for meeting future challenges.

http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/fileadmin/uploads/aeo/Resources/MS_ENG_AEO2010.pdf

See Also: AfDB/OECD/UNECA Report Forecast Africa's Growth to Rebound in 2010, *African Economic Outlook, May 24*

An uneven recovery across the continent. Southern Africa, which was hardest hit in 2009, will recover more slowly than other regions with an average growth of almost 4% in 2010/2011. East Africa, which best weathered the global crisis, is projected to again achieve the highest growth with more than 6% on average in 2010/2011. North and West Africa should both grow at around 5% and Central Africa at 4% during the same period.

<http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/news-events/article/afdb-oecd-unece-report-forecast-africas-growth-to-rebound-in-2010-56/>

See Also: African Economic Outlook

<http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, to WFP Executive Board, *U.S. Agency for International Development, June 7*

“We know that food aid can save lives but if we are not careful, we also know it can have unintended consequences such as distorting local markets and discouraging local production. In the United States and at USAID we, like you, are taking careful steps to make sure this does not happen. Although in-kind food assistance will remain the major source of US food aid, we will expand our cash vouchers and grant assistance, especially for local and regional procurement under the emergency food security programme that we launched earlier this year. In 2009 this programme represented about US\$95 million of activity for the United States and we expect that to be 300 million in 2011 per this administration's request to Congress.”
<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100607.html>

See Also: Inside the World Food Programme's Board Meeting in Rome, USAID Impact Blog, June 9

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/06/inside-the-world-food-programmes-board-meeting-in-rome/>

Gates Foundation Signals New Focus on Maternal, Child Health, Wall Street Journal, June 7

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said it will spend \$1.5 billion over the next five years on maternal and child health, family planning and nutrition in developing countries, a pledge that signals a new focus for the foundation known for concentrating on vaccines and AIDS. Melinda Gates said the foundation was taking the lead to jumpstart a global effort.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703303904575293490779968742.html>

See Also: Gates Contribution to Women and Children's Health, Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, June 7

“I applaud the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the announcement of \$1.5 billion for women and children's health. We share their commitment to making maternal, newborn and child health a priority. Focusing on women is not only the right thing to do, but it is also the smart thing to do, because investing in the health of women also improves the health of their families and communities. That is why the Obama Administration has developed the Global Health Initiative to strengthen programs that serve women and girls. The Initiative integrates and coordinates our health and development programs -- including family planning, maternal and child health, and nutrition -- in order to build health systems and reach ambitious new targets.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/06/142810.htm>

See Also: Gates Effort to Focus on Mother and Child, New York Times, June 7

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/08/health/08maternal.html>

See Also: Gates Foundation to Direct Funds to Women and Girls, Forbes, June 4

<http://blogs.forbes.com/work-in-progress/2010/06/04/gates-foundation-to-direct-funds-to-women-and-girls/>

Seeing the World Differently, Economist, June 10

Earlier this year, Bob Zoellick, the president of the World Bank, grandly declared that “2009 saw the end of what was known as the third world”—that is, the end of a distinct, separate section of humanity that is poor, aid-dependent and does not matter very much. Is he right?

<http://www.economist.com/node/16329442>

The Final Frontier, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, June 11

Africa. It is agriculture's final frontier. The continent that is home to many of the world's hungry, is poised to make the greatest gains in food production. It is in that position because Africa's agriculture development has been so badly neglected in recent decades. Innovations that have fueled farming booms elsewhere are still rare in Africa. The U.S. Department of Agriculture notes that sub-Saharan Africa as a whole uses less fertilizer than the single country of Bangladesh. Only a small percentage of corn grown on the continent comes from hybrid seeds – the conventionally bred seeds that have multiplied yields across the developed world. Much of the continent's water resources – such as the great Blue Nile River in Ethiopia – remain underutilized as the vast majority of farms remain rain fed.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/06/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-the-final-frontier.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reports:

Next-Generation Biofuels Near-Term Challenges and Implications for Agriculture, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 2010*

This report assesses the short-term outlook for production of next-generation biofuels and the near-term challenges facing the sector. Next-generation U.S. biofuel capacity should reach about 88 million gallons in 2010, thanks in large measure to one plant becoming commercially operational in 2010, using noncellulosic animal fat to produce green diesel. U.S. production capacity for cellulosic biofuels is estimated to be 10 million gallons for 2010, much less than the 100 million gallons originally mandated by the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act. Near-term sector challenges include reducing high capital and production costs, acquiring financial resources for precommercial development, developing new biomass supply arrangements, many of which will be with U.S. farmers, and overcoming the constraints of ethanol's current 10-percent blending limit with gasoline.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/BIO0101/BIO0101.pdf>

Media Articles/Remarks/Congressional Testimony:

Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, to InterAction Forum 2010, *U.S. Agency for International Development, June 2*

"In our major food security initiative, we are deeply prioritizing investing in women farmers. We are looking at several decades of history where development efforts have essentially prioritized providing services to men. And we're asking our partners to hire female extension workers to collect gender-disaggregated data and to invest in women's producers' networks so we can disproportionately drive more of that investment to women."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100602.html>

State Keeping Key Development Report Under Wraps, *Cable (blog), Foreign Policy, June 4*

Administration sources confirmed to *The Cable* that the State Department's first-ever Quadrennial Diplomacy and Defense Review is chugging along toward its target completion date in September. The review will set policy for all sorts of important issues relating to the way that the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) operate. But although State repeatedly promised outside groups interested in the QDDR that they would get a public report halfway through the process, back in April the decision was made not to release an interim report at all.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/06/04/state_keeping_key_development_report_under_wraps

Women as Agents of Change: Advancing the Role of Women in Politics and Civil Society, *Remarks by Melanne Verwee, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues before the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, June 9*

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

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2010/142953.htm>

USAID's Policy-Planning Shop Takes Shape, *Cable (blog), Foreign Policy, June 7*

Even though the administration's two major policy reviews on development are missing in action and the U.S. Agency for International Development is still full of senior vacancies, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah is moving ahead with his promise to give the agency back its capability to think strategically by building an official policy planning staff. "This new bureau, bolstered by the agency's many technical assets, represents an

essential step toward achieving President Barack Obama's and Secretary Clinton's vision of regaining USAID's status as a premier development agency," Shah wrote in an email to all USAID employees.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/06/07/usaids_policy_planning_shop_takes_shape

See Also: USAID Seeks a Voice – and Policy Staff, *National Journal*, June 8

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/defense/2010/06/usaids-seeks-a-voice-and-policy.php>

Afghanistan Strategy Focuses on Civilian Effort, *New York Times*, June 8

Instead, the emphasis has been placed on strengthening provincial reconstruction teams, once run by Canadians, with American employees — from the embassy, the Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture — in six crucial districts around Kandahar. The program for agricultural vouchers alone has been given a quarter of a billion dollars to spend in southern Afghanistan, \$90 million of that in Kandahar. "It's huge," said one official. "We've employed 40,000 people in cash for work."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/09/world/asia/09kandahar.html>

First USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to Iraq Arrives in Baghdad, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, June 7

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is leading a trade mission of nearly 20 U.S. companies in Iraq to meet with more than 100 Iraqi entrepreneurs and buyers to develop business ties and explore opportunities for joint ventures. "As part of our ongoing efforts to stabilize the Iraqi economy, we are committed to fostering new economic partnerships and opportunities," said Vilsack. "The partnerships we are developing with the Iraqis will be critical to providing the agricultural commodities and food products necessary to meet the demands of Iraq's growing population, and this mission provides tremendous opportunities for all parties to benefit."

http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/PressRelease/pressrel_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0129-10

See Also: USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to the Republic of Iraq, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, June 7

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/FINAL%20USDA%20Iraq%20Trade%20Mission%20write-up%20for%20FAS%20website%205-26-10.pdf>

Anti-Castro Cuban Leaders Endorse Legislation Opening Ag Trade and Travel to Cuba, *U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture*, June 10

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson released a letter signed by more than 70 pro-democracy Cuban leaders that strongly encouraged passage of H.R. 4645, the Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act introduced by House Agriculture Committee Collin Peterson (D-MN). "When the strongest pro-democracy activists in Cuba say that the current travel and agriculture trade restrictions only support the Castro regime, you have to ask yourself why we would keep these restrictions in place," Chairman Peterson said.

http://agriculture.house.gov/list/press/agriculture_dem/06102010Cuba.html

World Environment Day, *Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, June 5

"This year's commemoration is more important than ever as we face unprecedented environmental challenges that threaten our planet's natural resources and biodiversity. Today, the United States is learning firsthand how fragile our ecosystems are and how quickly a treasured landscape can become endangered. As President Obama recently stated, protecting the earth's biodiversity, be it in the Gulf of Mexico or elsewhere, is a responsibility all of us share."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/06/142737.htm>

Remarks by Vice President Biden in a Statement to the Press with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki,

White House, June 8

PRESIDENT KIBAKI: "We have also expressed our appreciation for the U.S. support in many areas of cooperation, especially in health, agriculture, and security. We have requested that assistance be extended to other sectors, including transport, housing, energy, and water."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-vice-president-biden-a-statement-press-with-kenyan-president-mwai-kibaki>

U.S., EU Sign Agreement Designed to Settle Bananas Dispute, *Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, June 2010*

United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk announced that the United States and the European Union (EU) have signed an agreement designed to lead to settlement of a longstanding dispute over the EU's bananas trading regime.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/june/us-eu-sign-agreement-designed-settle-bananas-dispute>

See Also: Agreement on Trade in Bananas between the United States of America and the European Union, *Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, June 2010*

http://www.ustr.gov/webfm_send/1958

FOR MORE SUMMARIES OF AND LINKS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND RESOURCES ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND FOOD SECURITY, PLEASE VISIT OUR [AG & FOOD POLICY LIBRARY](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Maximizing Nutritional Benefits from Agricultural Interventions

Date: June 14th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Join IYCN for a seminar on building positive nutritional impact into agriculture and food security interventions. The seminar will highlight key aspects of agricultural interventions that influence food security, and specific project elements that can help to maximize nutritional benefits. This seminar takes place from 5:30-7:30pm during the Global Health Council's 37th Annual International Conference.

<http://www.icycn.org/InfantandYoungChildNutritionProjectEvents.php#ghc>

Innovation, Sustainability, Development: A New Manifesto

Date: June 15th, 2010

Location: London

Meeting the interlinked global challenges of poverty reduction, social justice and environmental sustainability is the great moral and political imperative of our age. Science, technology and innovation of many kinds have essential roles to play in this. But along with many others, the STEPS Centre believes that this imperative can only be fulfilled if there is a radical shift in how we think about and perform innovation.

<http://anewmanifesto.org/news/manifesto-launch-15-june/#more-1872>

Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever

Date: June 29th, 2010

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

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

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

1st Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium

Date: July 13th, 2010

Location: London

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

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

CropLife America National Policy Conference

Date: July 13th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

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

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:

Bioenergy and Food Security: The BEFS Analysis for Tanzania, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, May 2010*

The report, 'Bioenergy and Food Security: The BEFS Analysis for Tanzania' represents the implementation of the BEFS Analytical Framework in Tanzania. The BEFS framework is comprised of five core analytical components: biomass potential, biofuel supply chain production costs, the agriculture markets outlook, economy wide impacts and household level food security.

<http://www.fao.org/bioenergy/foodsecurity/befs/63299/en/>

Media Articles:

A Potato Remade for Industry Has Some Swedes Frowning, *New York Times, June 10*

Although inedible, Amflora is a kind of miracle potato on two counts: for one, there is its starch content, which makes it precious to the starch industry, a major employer in Sweden; and then there is its feisty resilience in surviving some 25 years of tests, regulations, rules, ordinances and applications for approval by both Sweden and the European Union, of which Sweden is a member.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/11/world/europe/11sweden.html>

Malaysia Targets 45-Day Rice Stockpile, Food Security, *Bloomberg, June 10*

Malaysia's goal adds to signs governments are increasing their focus on food availability after rice prices surged to a record in 2008, triggering unrest in poorer states and calls from world leaders to address a food crisis. Malaysia produces enough rice to meet about 70 percent of its needs.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-10/malaysia-targets-45-day-rice-stockpile-food-security-update1-.html>

Africa Could Feed Itself, Says Soil Scientist, *ABC Science Online, June 10*

Africa has good soils and could easily feed itself if more money was spent on fertiliser and seed rather than food aid, says one soil scientist. World Food Prize Laureate Dr Pedro Sanchez laid out his argument to a recent agricultural research symposium at the University of Sydney.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/10/2923356.htm>

Sudan Must Diversify before Oil-Rich South Vote, Hassan Says, *Bloomberg, June 10*

Sudan must ease its dependence on oil by investing in agriculture and new industries before a January vote on independence by the southern region where most of the crude is produced, said central bank Governor Sabir Hassan.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-10/sudan-must-diversify-before-oil-rich-south-vote-hassan-says.html>

Is Ethanol a Scam?, *Globe and Mail, June 10*

Last year, there was a record corn crop in North America with 14 billion bushels grown. From that 47 billion litres of ethanol was produced, which is roughly the same quantity of gasoline used in Canada in a year. However, the corn crop also produced millions of tonnes of high fructose corn syrup – which goes into soft drinks and other obesity related goodies – plus it fed all the cattle and chickens and pigs, which would be better off eating grass. After feeding all that there was still 1.9 billion bushels of corn exported, half of it as foreign aid. The United Nations has objected to our corn exports because farmers in Africa who are trying to grow corn to make a living are going broke because governments are giving away too much of the stuff.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-drive/green-driving/news-and-notes/is-ethanol-a-scam/article1599406/>

Fresh Farm Raids in Zimbabwe: Union, *Agence France-Presse, June 9*

At least 16 white farmers in Zimbabwe have come under attack over the last week, including several South African nationals and a farm owned by Malaysian investors, the farmers' union said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gbLpRK9zHvnqE956pyleUHsp-V7A>

Agriculture: In Poor Countries, Experts Set Up Shop to Help Farmers Handle Plants and Insects, *New York Times, June 7*

Many poor countries offer no agricultural services to subsistence farmers and have little or no money for cars and fuel that would let agents journey to rural areas to offer help. Now a development organization based in Britain wants to step into the breach by expanding a program of plant-health clinics in many more countries.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/08/health/08glob.html>

World Cup and South Africa's Unmet Goals, *Princeton N. Lyman, Adjunct Senior Fellow for Africa Policy Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, June 7*

Another unsolved problem is land reform. A legacy of apartheid, the confinement of blacks to only 13 percent of the land, and marginal land at that, led to a decline in agricultural experience and a focus on urban and industrial employment that continues today. In 1994, 87 percent of rural land was owned by whites who dominated South Africa's highly successful but heavily subsidized commercial agriculture. Efforts to buy back this land for black farmers have largely failed, in part because of the cost, but also because land so transferred has not been put to agricultural use.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/22340/world_cup_and_south_africas_unmet_goals.html

Brazil to Create 100 Billion-Real Farming Package, Valor Says, *Bloomberg, June 7*

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced a 100 billion-real (\$54 billion) credit package to support agricultural production for the next crop season.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=abcb7DSMYRz4>

GM Food Deserves Better than this Witch-Hunt, *Colin Blakemore, professor of neuroscience, University of Oxford, The Guardian, June 6*

We desperately need a solution to the problem of food security. GM might not be the answer but it is an option, with a clear scientific rationale, which we ought to consider. It would be irresponsible to reject scientific assessment of the risks and potential benefits of GM and to accept without challenge the unsubstantiated horror stories about GM and uncritical praise for organic farming from the ideological opponents of GM.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/06/colin-blakemore-gm-foods>

Biofuels and Food Prices: An Update, *Patrick Westhoff, author of "The Economics of Food: How Feeding and Fueling the Planet Affects Food Prices," Huffington Post, June 6*

Food price inflation slowed dramatically in 2009, to just 1.8 percent, and it currently appears that 2010 food inflation will only be slightly higher. What happened? And what does it imply for the debate about the effect of biofuels on food prices? In short, almost everything that pushed food prices sharply higher from 2005 to 2008 reversed course to result in slower food price inflation in 2009. The global recession resulted in weaker demand for meat, dairy products, and many other types of food. The dollar strengthened, oil prices fell, more favorable weather resulted in record world grain crops, and many speculators abandoned commodity markets.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/patrick-westhoff/biofuels-and-food-prices_b_602258.html

Chinese Bank IPO Set to Fall Short, *Financial Times, June 6*

Agricultural Bank of China's initial public offering is likely to raise much less than the \$30bn record-setting total it had hoped for when it sells shares in Hong Kong and Shanghai as early as next month.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8ea1c77a-7195-11df-8eec-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: China to Review Agricultural Bank IPO, *Dow Jones, June 7*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704183204575287950425226806.html>

Farming Hailed as Key to Rebuilding Haiti – from the Soil Up, *Montreal Gazette, June 5*

The key to Haiti's salvation, says the man who would be president of the nation that has languished in terminal poverty for generations, is a "no-brainer." "There are three million farming families in Haiti," says Charles Henri Baker, a leading candidate in Haiti's coming elections. "The textile sector, to which I belong . . . could create 100,000, maybe 200,000 jobs. Agriculture can create three million jobs, bring down the cost of living and decentralize the four million people living in and around Port-au-Prince. . . . They could go back to their villages and lead positive lives, rather than stay in Port-au-Prince and just barely make a living."

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/Farming+hailed+rebuilding+Haiti+from+soil/3117801/story.html>

EA Community to Approve 11 Cassava, Potato Standards, *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, June 5*

Standards for cassava and potato products in the five East African Community countries have been recommended for approval for implementation. The process towards regional root crops standards, focusing on cassava and sweet potato, was spearheaded by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) in 2006.

<http://www.caadp.net/news/?p=718>

Unlocking Cassava Potential for Food and Industrial Use to Benefit Smallholder Farmers in East Africa, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, June 4*

Recognizing the potential of cassava as the 'poverty and drought fighter' crop in Africa, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and Farm Concern International have launched a 3 year program that will help 30,000 small holder farmers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania increase cassava for food and industrial use by processing it at village level.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1154>

A New Green Revolution: Challenges and Opportunities in Linking Smallholder Farmers, *Remarks by Dr. Namanga Ngong'i to the Global Child Nutrition Forum, June 1*

“Millions of smallholder farmers are poised to deliver long-term solutions to chronic hunger and poverty across the region. They have the land, their energy, the experience and the will to grow the food that Africa needs to end the undernourishment that affects more than one in three Africans. To realize that potential, we must catalyze change across the agricultural system that enables smallholder farmers to significantly boost their yields and income.”

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1155>

Towering Success, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, May 27*

People displaced by war in Sri Lanka enrich their diets by planting vertical vegetable gardens that are resource efficient, cheap to establish and even portable.

http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/may_27_2010.html

'Land Grab' and its Discontents, *Consortium on Non-Traditional Studies in Asia, May 2010*

In the last two years, there has been a proliferation of acquisitions of farmland in resource-rich but capital-starved countries in the Global South. International reports attribute this trend to governments who are driven by long-term food security concerns, and who have lost faith in the market system as a consequence of the 2008 global food crisis, which saw food exporting nations imposing export restrictions when faced with global 'food shortages' and rising prices. What are the implications of these 'land grab' deals on the affected communities? This month's second issue of the NTS Alert discusses the opposing views on 'land grab', and offers recommendations on how governments and business corporations can protect their investments while preserving the human rights of affected communities.

<http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/HTML-Newsletter/alert/NTS-alert-may-1002.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Leveraging World Bank Resources for the Poorest: IDA Blended Financing Facility Proposal, *Center for Global Development, June 2010*

With the Millennium Development Goals deadline only five years away, the international donor community faces significant challenges due to the global economic crisis, record government deficits, and simultaneous funding requests from nearly every multilateral development institution. This paper proposes a new World Bank financing model for creditworthy emerging economies, such as India and Vietnam, which currently receive billions of dollars in IDA assistance. In contrast to the current IDA-centric financing model, the IBRD would provide the same loan volumes to qualifying emerging economies while IDA would provide grant subsidies to buy down the concessionality level of these IBRD loans. As such, these countries would be held harmless both in terms of aid volumes and lending terms.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424197_file_Leo_IDA_Blended_Financing_Facility_Proposal_FINAL.pdf

See Also: Proposal for an IDA Blended Financing Facility, *Center for Global Development, May 25*

How can the World Bank increase lending at a time when wealthy donor-countries continue to struggle with record budget deficits and remain nervous about the impact of financial turmoil in Europe? A new memo by CGD research fellow Ben Leo urges the World Bank's two lending arms, the International Development Association and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to rebalance their loans to low- and middle-income countries. The proposal could provide \$7.5 billion in new finance to the poorest countries.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424196_file_IDA_Policy_Memo.pdf

The Washington Consensus: Assessing a Damaged Brand, *Center for Global Development, June 2010*

In this paper the authors analyze the Washington Consensus, which at its original formulation reflected views not only from Washington but also from Latin America. The authors trace the life of the Consensus from a Latin American perspective in terms of evolving economic development paradigms. The authors document the extensive implementation of Consensus-style reforms in the region as well as the mismatch between reformers' expectations and actual outcomes, in terms of growth, poverty reduction, and inequality. The

authors then present an assessment of what went wrong with the Washington Consensus-style reform agenda.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424155_file_Birdsall_Torre_Caicedo_Assessing_the_WC_FINAL.pdf

Economic Growth and the MDGs, *Overseas Development Institute, June 2010*

The link between economic growth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) lies in how the opportunities and benefits created by growth support the human development of the poorest people. This Briefing Paper argues that equitable distribution of the benefits of growth, in the form of progressive taxation and pro-poor public spending on health, education and social protection, is an essential part of how growth contributes to the MDGs.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4892-4-page-briefing-paper.pdf>

Information: Let Countries Know What Donors Are Doing, *Oxfam America, June 2010*

The Ownership in Practice policy briefs reflect perspectives from the field on the kinds of reforms that would improve the usefulness of US foreign aid on the ground, as well as insights from policymakers in Washington as to possible policy options that would put this vision into practice.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/information-let-countries-know-what-donors-are-doing.pdf>

Contracting in Conflicts: The Path to Return, *Richard Fontaine and John Nagl, Center for New American Security, June 2010*

The U.S. contracting cadre is truly multinational. It has become common, for example, to see in battlefield dining facilities cooks from one country working with servers from another to dispense food to citizens of a third – perhaps in a facility partially constructed by locals and guarded by foreigners. In this sense, then, the United States has achieved with its contractors precisely the kind of multinational coalition effort that has at times eluded it when it comes to actual combat operations. In Iraq today, third-country nationals comprise the largest share of U.S. contractor personnel.

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_Contracting%20in%20Conflicts_Fontaine%20Nagl.pdf

Media Articles:

How Foreign Aid Hurts Haitian Farmers, *National Public Radio, June 11*

L'Artibonite, a Haitian town two hours north of Port-au-Prince, wasn't damaged in this year's earthquake. But the foreign aid that flowed into Haiti after the quake has been a blow to the area. Most of the people in l'Artibonite earn their living by growing and selling rice, Haiti's staple food. But the influx of foreign food aid has meant that many Haitians can now get rice for free. As a result, the price of rice in Haiti has plummeted.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2010/06/10/127750586/how-foreign-aid-is-hurting-haitian-farmers>

'EU Should Not Halt Good Aid to North Korea', *Korea Times, June 11*

The European Union should not halt food aid programs to North Korea in response to its alleged sinking of the warship Cheonan, despite Pyongyang's rebuff of an EU delegation for cancelling its visit to the isolated state, Christian Ehler, the head of the delegation, said in Seoul.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2010/06/113_67485.html

Helping Farmers of Southern Sudan, *Editorial, Voice of America, June 10*

Norman Borlaug, U.S. agronomist, humanist and Nobel Laureate, who is considered the father of the Green Revolution, once said that "you can't build a peaceful world on empty stomachs and human misery." And so, any country intent on improving its economy, stability and security must first develop its agricultural sector.

That is why the U.S. Government, acting through the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, recently launched a new agricultural program in partnership with the Government of Southern Sudan.

<http://www1.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Helping-Farmers-Of-Southern-Sudan-95891559.html>

New Cash Urged to Curb Poverty by 2015- UN Draft, *Reuters, June 9*

Rich nations will have to step up aid to reach U.N. goals of cutting poverty by 2015 with funds lagging especially in Africa, according to the draft conclusions of a U.N. summit due in September. A 14-page U.N. text, distributed to governments last week and obtained by Reuters, outlines a new drive to meet goals set in 2000 including halving extreme poverty, halting the spread of AIDS and ensuring primary education for all children.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE65826L.CH.2420>

Foreign-Aid Policies Hinder Recovery, *Op-Ed, Don Slesnick, mayor of Coral Gables, Miami Herald, June 9*
Crafting a clear, modern strategy and framework for our foreign-aid system can reduce such contradictions in our efforts to help the poor. A better system will result in more of the aid getting through to effectively address local needs in a meaningful manner. An overhaul of the nation's approach to foreign aid is not only good for efficient philanthropy, it's good for world stability and it's good for local business. A 21st-century system of foreign aid would truly help struggling nations within our hemisphere help their people have a more abundant life and would lay a better foundation for their commercial institutions.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/06/09/1670457/foreign-aid-policies-hinder-recovery.html>

Aid Review Targets Multilateral Agencies, *Guardian, June 9*

Development secretary warns international organisations that £3bn funds will be distributed based on value for money.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jun/09/aid-review-targets-multilateral-agencies>

Tony Blair Urges 'Tough Love' Approach to Aid, *Guardian, June 8*

Five years on from Gleneagles G8 summit, former PM stresses importance of better government in Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jun/08/tony-blair-aid-gleneagles-g8>

Aid Squeeze May Put Africa on Firmer Footing, *Reuters, June 7*

The dire state of rich countries' public finances is likely to squeeze aid to Africa in the next few years, although it may be the bitter pill the fast-growing continent needs to wean itself off handouts.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE64U0L0.CH.2420>

Europe Increases Support for Global Food Security, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, June 4*

The European Union (EU) has added €13.2 million to its funding of FAO's efforts to boost agricultural production in developing countries worst hit by high food prices. This brings the total amount of the EU "Food Facility" funds channeled through FAO to an unprecedented €228 million.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/42872/icode/>

Food Security and Peacebuilding in Conflict-Affected Regions, *U.S. Institute of Peace, May 2010*

As President Barack Obama outlines how the U.S. will address current and future security threats in his National Security Strategy, USIP's Raymond Gilpin discusses why hunger is relevant to our concerns, and why providing humanitarian aid is not necessarily the best solution.

<http://www.usip.org/resources/food-security-and-peacebuilding-in-conflict-affected-regions>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Agricultural Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Developing Countries, *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, May 2010*

Climate has obvious and direct effects on agricultural production. Greenhouse gas (GHG) implications of agriculture are also obvious and large. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reported that agriculture is responsible for over a quarter of total global greenhouse gas emissions. Given that agriculture's share in global gross domestic product (GDP) is about 4 percent, these figures suggest that agriculture is highly GHG intensive. This paper describes the potential role innovative agricultural practices

and technologies can play in climate change mitigation and adaptation and aims to address the question: what policy and institutional changes are needed to encourage the innovation and diffusion of these practices and technologies to developing countries? The authors focus on developing countries in general with some specific references to Africa.

<http://ictsd.org/i/publications/77118/>

Climate Change and China's Agricultural Sector, *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, May 2010*

Despite the sizeable amount of greenhouse gases emitted by and the environmental impact of China's agriculture sector, it also offers important and efficient mitigation opportunities. To combat low fertilizer use efficiency in China, the government in recent years has begun promoting technology aimed at calibrating fertilizer dosages according to the characteristics of soil. In addition, conservation tillage (CT) has been considered as a potential way to create carbon sinks. Over the last decade, China's government has promoted the adoption of CT and established demonstration pilot projects in more than 10 provinces. Finally, extending intermittent irrigation and adopting new seed varieties for paddy fields are also strategies that have been supported and promoted as part of the effort to reduce GHG emissions.

<http://ictsd.org/i/publications/77110/>

Media Articles:

West African Rue Rising Seas as Climate Talks Stall, *Reuters, June 11*

In populated coastal West Africa, rising sea levels linked to the melting of the polar ice caps are conspiring with coastal erosion to slowly submerge communities.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/nigeriaNews/idAFLDE6582LX20100611>

Damascus Enacts Irrigation Law, *UPI, June 11*

The Syrian president issued a law that creates a high committee on modern irrigation co-chaired by the Syrian prime minister of the drought-ridden republic.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/06/11/Damascus-enacts-irrigation-law/UPI-64041276263477/

Study: Shrinking Glaciers to Spark Food Shortages, *Associated Press, June 10*

Nearly 60 million people living around the Himalayas will suffer food shortages in the coming decades as glaciers shrink and the water sources for crops dry up, a study said. But Dutch scientists writing in the journal *Science* concluded the impact would be much less than previously estimated a few years ago by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gdO8w00ET0PFVeSPHqxlSIs-XgaQD9G8IKN00>

See Also: Climate Change Will Affect the Asian Water Towers, *Science, June 11*

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/328/5984/1382>

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

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science_and_environment/10288943.stm

UN's New Climate Chief Says Final Deal Unlikely in Her Lifetime, *Bloomberg, June 9*

Christiana Figueres, a Costa Rican who on July 8 will take the helm of the United Nations body that organizes global climate-change treaty talks, said an all-encompassing deal is unlikely to happen in her lifetime.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=anM03WjMmALI>

Using Primeval Methods to Fight Modern Abuses of Agricultural Lands, *New York Times, June 7*

The destruction of healthy soil by compaction, overgrazing and toxic levels of manure that poison the earth and emit climate-warming methane are some of the reasons raising livestock has traditionally been discouraged as an environmentally conscious farming technique.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/06/07/07climatewire-using-primeval-methods-to-fight-modern-abuse-51190.html>

Lack of Water Threatens Iraq's Long-Term Stability, *Reuters, June 6*

Abdullah Hasan blames chronic water shortages for ruining his crops and has little faith a new government will be able to revive Iraq's agriculture sector, shattered by war and starved of investment.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6550GV20100606>

Biodiversity: The E.U.'s Next Challenge, *New York Times*, June 6

Even as nations struggle to curb emissions of greenhouse gases, the European Union is taking on a potentially more complicated environmental challenge: preserving the world's biodiversity.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/07/business/energy-environment/07iht-green.html>

Insuring the World's Poor Against Climate Change, *UPI*, June 4

For people living on a few dollars a day, timeliness is key. If a payout doesn't come quickly, they'll miss the chance to buy and plant new seeds before the next rains come or they'll be forced to sell their crop at a low price in order to put food on the table that day. And whereas many communities traditionally provide safety nets for each other -- sharing food and money when a family member dies or a crop fails -- weather-related disasters stretch that net since they tend to hit the whole community.
http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/06/04/Insuring-the-worlds-poor-against-climate-change/UPI-15391275653730/

Storm to Worsen Guatemala Food Crisis – Aid Agencies, *Reuters*, June 4

The number of Guatemalans going hungry is set to rise as the Central American nation faces more food shortages after devastating floods washed away crops, aid agencies say.
http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/59877/2010/05/4-110836-1.htm

Disaster in the Amazon, *Op-Ed*, *Bob Herbert*, *New York Times*, June 4

What's not in dispute is that Texaco operated more than 300 oil wells for the better part of three decades in a vast swath of Ecuador's northern Amazon region, just south of the border with Colombia. Much of that area has been horribly polluted. The lives and culture of the local inhabitants, who fished in the intricate waterways and cultivated the land as their ancestors had done for generations, have been upended in ways that have led to widespread misery.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/05/opinion/05herbert.html?th&emc=th>

WOMEN

Reports:

Gender-Sensitive Social Protection and the MDGs, *Overseas Development Institute*, June 2010

This Briefing Paper argues that policy dialogue on the MDGs must recognise that the goals are linked by the gender dynamics of power, poverty and vulnerability. It says that gender-sensitive social protection can contribute to the goals, but only if gender equality is seen as critical to programme effectiveness. Advances in gender-sensitive programme design are being made but more investment is needed to build the capacity of programme staff and participants to strengthen implementation outcomes.
<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4855.pdf>

Media Articles:

Keeping the Pressure on to Invest in Women's Health, *Inter Press Service*, June 9

Men, women, NGOs, governments, the Gates Foundation. Everyone agrees – women are awesome. More importantly, protecting the health of the people that make up more than half of the human population and do far more than half of the work to sustain it should be everyone's priority.
<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=51777>

South Africa's Female Tribal Chiefs Often Rule in Fear, *Time Magazine*, June 7

Outside the Great Place of Chief Nokhakha Jumba, a crowd waits beneath clouds that hang damp and heavy over the South African village of Tabase. The tin-roofed hut is packed with 30 men squatting on low benches,

all seeking the council of the chief. The topic: whether the area's agricultural co-operatives will join under one umbrella group. As the debate grows more heated, the chatter outside subsides as everyone strains to listen. Then the men in the hut go quiet, as the chief slowly and softly summarizes the discussion before taking a break. Minutes later, a tall woman, her hair wrapped in a leopard-print turban, steps out. She is Nokhakaha, chief of the Jumba clan.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1994210,00.html>

Every Mother Counts, *Christy Turlington, Huffington Post, June 7*

We are at a critical moment. The G8 Summit is just a few weeks away and maternal and child health is at the center of its agenda. This provides the perfect opportunity for the U.S to build on the momentum of the last few years and help ensure a global commitment that will deliver. I remain cautiously optimistic and hope that our global leaders seize this opportunity to keep this issue where it belongs development agenda, because EVERY MOTHER COUNTS.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christy-turlington/every-mother-counts_b_603264.html

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Potential Implications of a Special Safeguard Mechanism in the WTO, *World Bank, June 2010*

The Special Safeguard Mechanism was a key issue in the July 2008 failure to reach agreement in the World Trade Organization negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. It includes both price and quantity-triggered measures. This paper uses a stochastic simulation model of the world wheat market to investigate the effects of policy makers implementing policies based on the Special Safeguard Mechanism rules. As expected, implementation of the quantity-triggered measures is found to reduce imports, raise domestic prices, and boost mean domestic production in the Special Safeguard Mechanism regions. However, rather than insulating countries that use it from price volatility, it would actually increase domestic price volatility in developing countries, largely by restricting imports when domestic output is low and prices high.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/06/06/000158349_20100606235900/Rendered/PDF/WPS5334.pdf

Emergence of Sri Lanka in European Fish Trade: Is There Cause for Concern in the Lake Victoria Region (East Africa)?, *International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

This paper examines European Union (E.U.) demand for chilled fish fillets assuming product heterogeneity due to country of origin and assesses the structural adjustment in demand as indicated by the increase in imports from Sri Lanka since the tsunami in December 2004.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00978.pdf>

Media Articles:

Chad Government Ends Ban on Fish Exports, *IRIN News, June 10*

The Chad government has lifted a ban on the export of fish from Lake Chad, acknowledging the damage done to the local fishing industry.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89436>

S. Africa Sees South-South Trade Opportunities, *Reuters, June 9*

South Africa sees growing opportunities for trade with other developing countries as new economic powerhouses emerge and Europe is engulfed by economic and currency weakness, its trade chief said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE65810X20100609>

Millennium Development Goals: Profit Has a Place at the Base of the Pyramid, *Financial Times, June 7*

However, achieving the development goals is not only about giving poor consumers the products and services they need. Success will also mean finding ways to include the poor in global supply chains, giving them the

chance to become economically independent and to generate sufficient income to feed and educate their families. In India, a service from Thomson Reuters, the financial information company, helps farmers become more productive by giving them access to customised data on things such as crops, markets and weather, delivered via mobile phone. Reuters Market Light has sold subscriptions to 180,000 farmers across the states of Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1f9efd00-6f76-11df-9f43-00144feabdc0.html>

Vietnam to Hold Coffee, Rice Export Volumes Steady, *Bloomberg*, June 6

Vietnam, the world's second-largest rice exporter and second-biggest producer of robusta coffee, aims to maintain its current export volumes of both commodities during the next decade, the country's minister of agriculture and rural development said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601080&sid=a1w0FX4uOVfI>

AGRIBUSINESS

Coffee Prices Soar on Lack of Availability, *Financial Times*, June 11

Robusta coffee spiked to its highest price in a year as tightness in the physical market left funds scrambling to cover their short positions.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3e0c1b88-7539-11df-a7e2-00144feabdc0.html>

Rise in Ethanol Production Lifts Corn Prospects, *Financial Times*, June 10

Corn futures emerged from the doldrums after the US government said a rise in ethanol production would draw down old grain in silos and storage bins, tempering the effects of a potential bumper crop this summer. US ethanol refiners had notched up record output this year, helping increase corn demand, the US Department of Agriculture said in a report. The agency lowered its estimate of this year's corn stockpiles 8 per cent to 1.6bn bushels.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/29313398-7470-11df-b3f1-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: ADM Says Ethanol Market Saturated, Appeals to EPA, *Des Moines Register*, June 7

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/06/07/adm-says-ethanol-market-saturated-appeals-to-epa/>

Food and Farming: Innovation Helps Agricultural Sector Build on Traditional Strengths, *Financial Times*, June 9

East Anglia is often described as England's bread basket, so it is no surprise that Norfolk is a centre of food production and home to many food manufacturing, processing and packaging companies. These include Heinz, Colman's (part of Unilever), Kettle Foods, Masterfoods (part of Mars), British Sugar, Hain Frozen Foods (brands include Linda McCartney and Ross), Pinguin Foods, a frozen foods specialist, along with Bernard Matthews Farms, the turkey farmer and producer, which employs 2,000 people and farms more than 7m turkeys a year.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/59369e86-71d5-11df-8eec-00144feabdc0.html>

BASF Sees Growth, Opportunity, in Its Crop Units, *Reuters*, June 9

BASF, one of the world's largest chemical companies, is investing more in its biotech crop technology unit, pushing a raft of new products to market that should start contributing earnings to the BASF bottom line within the next couple of years, company officials said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0914944020100609>

EU Moves on GMO Crops a "Big Step": DuPont Executive, *Reuters*, June 8

Moves by the European Union to overhaul its approval system for genetically modified crops is a "big step forward." but it is likely to be some time before the bloc is open to wide-spread cultivation of key crops, a leading DuPont executive said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6575UU20100608>

See Also: What Happens If EU Relaxes GMO Rules?, *Reuters*, June 4

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE6530CV20100604>

DuPont Wins USDA Approval for New Soy Bean, *Wall Street Journal*, June 8

DuPont said the United States Department of Agriculture approved its Plenish high oleic soybean for cultivation in the United States. "This is a significant milestone as we work to develop biotech traits that provide direct consumer benefits and solid results in the fields," DuPont said.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/dupont-wins-usda-approval-for-new-soy-bean-2010-06-08>

See Also: DuPont Wins US Clearance for New Soybean Trait, *Associated Press*, June 8

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9G76F580.htm>

Syngenta and CIMMYT Partner to Help Farmers Combat Crop Losses, *Farming First*, June 7

The Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA) in 2009 developed a two-year public-private partnership between Syngenta and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) to rapidly identify and map genetic markers for use in wheat resistance breeding against Ug99 stem rust, a fungal disease which can cause devastating crop losses.

<http://www.farmingfirst.org/2010/06/syngenta-and-cimmyt-partner-to-help-farmers-combat-crop-losses/>

Crop Squeeze to Lift Orange Juice Price, *Financial Times*, June 6

The price of orange juice will rise in coming months as Brazil's citrus crop, the world's largest, sees its worst harvest in seven years because of bad weather and diseases, according to Cutrale of Brazil, the leading orange juice producer.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ffb6a9f8-7195-11df-8eec-00144feabdc0.html>

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