



June 5th - June 12th, 2009

For more information on the Global Agricultural Development Project and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, please visit www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.

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KEY ARTICLES

Global Food Insecurity and Price Increase, *USAID Situation Report #1, May 22*

Despite an improved global cereal supply resulting from increased cereal production in 2008 and an associated decline in international prices, food prices remain high in most developing countries. According to an April FAO report, domestic food prices in 78 percent of 58 developing countries surveyed remained above early 2008 price levels. Increased food prices continue to negatively affect food access for significant numbers of low-income, vulnerable populations, contributing to ongoing food emergencies in 31 countries worldwide, including 20 African nations.

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/foodcrisis/documents/052209_foodcrisis_sr1.pdf

Purdue scientist wins World Food Prize, *Des Moines Register*, June 11

A scientist who grew up in a thatch hut in Ethiopia and later learned how to conquer a weed that plagues African agriculture is this year's winner of the World Food Prize. Gebisa Ejeta, a long-time agronomist at Purdue University, developed a variety of sorghum resistant to Striga, or witchweed, a parasitic plant that often destroys the vital food crop. Earlier, Ejeta came up with a high-yielding, drought-resistant version of sorghum.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090611/BUSINESS01/90611011/-1/LIFE04>

See Also: **INTERVIEW-Plant breeder hopes African development takes root**, *Reuters*, June 11

<http://www.reuters.com/article/everything/idUSN11502970>

Concerns mount over fresh rise in food costs, *Financial Times*, June 10

After a year worrying about the piggy bank, the world economy is turning its attention to the cupboard. Almost unnoticed, agricultural commodities prices have returned to levels last seen at the start of the 2007-2008 food crisis, prompting concerns about a fresh rise in food costs.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7c788cc6-5555-11de-b5d4-00144feabdc0.html?nclick_check=1

Cairns Group Working on 'Mechanism' to Help Conclude Doha Round, *Bloomberg*, June 8

A group of farm-exporting countries is working on a "mechanism" to resolve differences between World Trade Organization members and help clinch a global deal on cutting agricultural subsidies and tariffs. The 19-nation Cairns Group, which accounts for a quarter of the world's farm trade, is trying to prepare a way to resolve disagreements between WTO members that have stalled talks.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601081&sid=anOcKidZOFac&refer=australia>

See Also: **U.S. India to Revive Trade Talks**, *AFP*, June 8

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090608/pl_afp/wtotradefarmcairnsusindia4thlead_20090608105216

G8's promise to Africa is likely to be broken, warns campaign group, *The Guardian* (U.K.), June 11

The G8 group of leading industrial nations looks set to break its promise to eradicate poverty in Africa because of a poor performance by France and especially Italy, aid campaigners warned today. The One campaign group, which fights poverty and disease in Africa, said that the G8 had only delivered one third of the additional assistance it had promised to Africa by the end of next year.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/11/g8-aid-to-africa>

Response: Investment can help African farmers grow their way out of poverty: Entrepreneurial aid schemes should focus on rural businesses as much as urban ones, *The Guardian* (U.K.), June 10

The "charity" approach to aid is disempowering and disrespectful. Treating people as passive "beneficiaries" has not had a sustainable impact on poverty. Rather, listening to poor people, learning about their lives and investing in viable businesses that respond to their needs has potential in urban and rural Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jun/10/response-africa-aid-development-farming>

Poor nations need \$142 billion a year in climate fight, *Reuters*, June 5

Poor countries will need to be given about 100 billion euros (\$142 billion) a year by 2020 to help them cut emissions in the fight against climate change, a draft report for European Union finance ministers shows.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE55425020090605?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews>

Lower grain supplies could mean higher food prices, *LA Times*, June 11

Crop prices could rise this year because of dwindling supplies of U.S. corn and soybeans, a prospect that raises fears of grain shortages and higher food costs. Reserve grain supplies from last year's harvest are at low levels -- with soybeans at their shallowest level in more than 25 years -- the Agriculture Department said Wednesday.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-crops11-2009jun11.0.74598.story>

Farm Futures: Bringing Agriculture Back to U.S. Policy, *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2009

By Dan Glickman and Catherine Bertini

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

conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs showed that the American public feels aid to poor farmers overseas should play a more prominent role than any other form of U.S. development assistance.
<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/FA.pdf>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Secretaries Clinton and Vilsack Announce New U.S. Approach to Ending Global Hunger

Remarks at the 2009 World Food Prize Laureate Announcement Ceremony

The effects of chronic hunger cannot be overstated. Hunger is not only a physical condition, it is a drain on economic development, a threat to global security, a barrier to health and education, and a trap for the millions of people worldwide who work from sunup to sundown every single day but can barely produce enough food to sustain their lives and the lives of their families.

Most of all, hunger belies our planet's bounty. It challenges our common humanity and resolve. We do have the resources to give every person in the world the tools they need to feed themselves and their children. So the question is not whether we can end hunger, it's whether we will.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/06/124659.htm>

See also: Fact Sheet – Promoting Food Security Worldwide: A U.S. Commitment -

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/scp/fs/2009/124698.htm>

Secretary Clinton Identifies Seven Principles to Support Sustainable Agriculture Worldwide

- Increase agricultural productivity by expanding access to quality seeds, fertilizers, irrigation tools, and the credit to purchase them and the training to use them.
- Stimulate the private sector by improving the storage and processing of foods and improving rural roads and transportation so small farmers can sell their fruit, the fruits of their labor, at local markets.
- Maintaining natural resources so that land can be farmed by future generations and that it help – that includes helping countries adapt to climate change.
- Expand knowledge and training by supporting R&D and cultivating the next generation of plant scientists
- Increase trade so small-scale farmers can sell their crops far and wide.
- Support policy reform and good governance.
- Support women and families.

U.S. Representatives Jim McGovern and JoAnn Emerson introduce “Roadmap to End Global Hunger and Promote Food Security Act of 2009.” This legislation:

- States that it shall be the policy of the United States to reduce global hunger, advance nutrition, increase food security and ensure that federal programs respond effectively both to emergency needs and longer-term agricultural development and food security (Section 3).
- Establishes a White House Office on Global Hunger and Food Security and a Coordinator of that Office and authorizes funding for its establishment, staff and duties (Section 4).
- Requires the Office and the Coordinator to develop and ensure the implementation of a comprehensive government-wide strategy to address global hunger and food security across the various departments and agencies of the Federal Government (Section 4).
- Requires the Coordinator to report annually to the President and the Congress on the implementation of the comprehensive strategy (Section 4).

- Requires the GAO to provide an assessment report every two years to Congress on the design, implementation and federal coordination of the comprehensive strategy (Section 4).
- Establishes a Permanent Joint Select Committee on Hunger (Section 5).
- States that it is the sense of Congress that no less than \$50.36 billion should be made available for the five-year period of FY 2010 – FY 2014 for federal programs addressing global hunger and food security, using as guidance the amounts described for each of those fiscal years in the February 24, 2009, report entitled, “Roadmap to End Global Hunger.” (Section 6)

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS

Wheat Facts and Futures 2009, *International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)*, June 2009

For nearly half a century, the international wheat breeding system has delivered improved high yielding varieties of wheat that created (along with rice) the Green Revolution and underpinned strong growth in wheat productivity in irrigated and rainfed, developed and underdeveloped, regions. This document lays out in relevant detail key issues and trends in wheat-based agriculture, with special emphasis on the developing world, as well as market and science prospects for addressing challenges to meet the world’s wheat demand. <http://www.cimmyt.org/english/docs/facts/whtfacts09.pdf>

Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade, *USDA Economic Research Service, May 2009*

The forecast for fiscal 2009 agricultural exports is \$96 billion. An improved outlook for soybeans and products more than offsets a downward adjustment for wheat. Fierce competition remains in global grain markets with the grains sector accounting for nearly all the expected annual decline in bulk commodity shipments. The outlook for the global economy has weakened further since February. U.S. wheat exports are lowered \$1 billion, as abundant global supplies and increased competition reduce shipments and lower unit value.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/cmp/outlook/2009/May-09/AES-05-28-2009.pdf>

Carrots and sticks : the political economy of nutrition policy reforms, *World Bank, 2009*

The World Bank and other development partners have been involved in the implementation of nutrition programs for over 30 years. While a number of these programs have become successful and sustainable large-scale operations, many others have been hindered by political and administrative obstacles. Drawing from the political economy literature, this paper presents two frameworks for understanding how to undertake action to put nutrition on the agenda and move it forward, as well as insights on how and why political factors derail reforms and how to keep that from happening.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/04/28/000333038_20090428020943/Rendered/PDF/482870WP0Carro10Box338893B01PUBLIC1.pdf

Revenue effects of participation in smallholder organic cocoa production in tropical Africa: a case study, *Danish Institute for International Studies Working Paper*, June 2009

This paper examines the revenue effects of certified organic contract farming and of use of organic farming methods in a tropical African context. These are compared with ‘organic by default’ conventional farming systems without contractual relations. The analysis finds that there are positive revenue effects for the certified crops from both participation and, more modestly, from using organic farming techniques.

<http://se2.isn.ch/serviceengine/FileContent?serviceID=ESDP&fileid=F90851D3-2691-D325-B0D1-A032BB48777D&lng=en>

A Special Safeguard Mechanism for Agricultural Imports and the Management of Reform, *World Bank, May 2009*

The records of traditional safeguard provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organization provides useful information about how a special agricultural safeguard might be made

effective. The success of existing safeguard or flexibility provisions to sustain long-run liberalization programs stems from their requiring objective, transparent, and participatory decisions on the application of the import restrictions they allow.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/05/11/000158349_20090511085856/Rendered/PDF/WPS4927.pdf

Swimming against the tide : how developing countries are coping with the global crisis, *World Bank*, March 2009

The sharp global contraction is affecting both advanced and developing countries. Many institutions that have provided financial intermediation for developing country clients have virtually disappeared. Developing countries are likely to face higher spreads, and lower capital flows than over the past 7-8 years, leading to weaker investment and slower growth in the future.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/03/19/000333038_20090319022115/Rendered/PDF/477800WP0swimm10Box338866B01PUBLIC1.pdf

Adapting to Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia, *World Bank*, June 2009

The climate is changing and Europe and Central Asia (ECA) is already experiencing the consequences: increasing variability, warmer temperatures, changing hydrology, and more extremes—droughts, floods, heat waves, windstorms, and forest fires.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ECAEXT/Resources/258598-1243892418318/ECA_CCA_Full_Report.pdf

New Report Says Climate Change May Cause Human Population Migrations, *CIESIN*, June 11

A new report says climate change may cause vast human migrations on an order not previously experienced. The report, *In Search of Shelter: Mapping the Effects of Climate Change on Displacement and Migration*, was written by researchers at CIESIN, the United Nations University, and CARE International.

http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/documents/clim-migr-report-june09_final.pdf

Africa: Key Findings and Recommendations of the Africa Progress Panel, *AllAfrica.com*, June 10

The Africa Progress Panel, a top-level international group formed to monitor whether the world's leaders are meeting their commitments to Africa, has issued the following series of recommendations to African and international leaders on how to help the continent through the current global economic crisis.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906100449.html>

Full Report:

<http://africanprogresspanel.socialmediarelease.co.za/files/africanprogresspanel/pdf/APP-ANNUAL-REPORT%202009-FULL%20VERSION%20ENGLISH.pdf>

The bioeconomy is key to tackling many future global challenges, *OECD*, June 8

Biotechnology has the power to improve human health, address environmental challenges, and change the way the world does business. A new OECD report, *The Bioeconomy to 2030: Designing a Policy Agenda*, examines the role of biotechnology in the global economy over the next two decades and outlines policies that could maximize its benefits.

http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en_2649_37437_42953484_1_1_1_1,00.html

Investing in Carbon Capture and Storage Nature's Way, *UNEP*, June 5

Boosting investments in the conservation, rehabilitation and management of the Earth's forests, peatlands, soils and other key ecosystems could deliver significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and avoid even more being released to the atmosphere, a new report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) says.

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=589&ArticleID=6206&l=en&t=long>

Beyond mitigation : potential options for counter-balancing the climatic and environmental consequences of the rising concentrations of greenhouse gases, *World Bank*, May 2009

Global climate change is occurring at an accelerating pace, and the global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are forcing climate change continue to increase. With significant reductions in emissions (mitigation) likely to take decades, and with the impacts of projected climate change—even with proactive adaptation—likely

to be quite severe over the coming decades, additional actions to offset global warming and other impacts have been proposed as important complementary measures. Although a number of possible geoengineering approaches have been proposed, each has costs and side effects that must be balanced against the expected benefits of reduced climate impacts.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/05/19/000158349_20090519141020/Rendered/PDF/WPS4938.pdf

See Also: Cognitive and behavioral challenges in responding to climate change, World Bank, May 2009

Climate scientists have identified global warming as the most important environmental issue of our time, but it has taken over 20 years for the problem to penetrate the public discourse in even the most superficial manner. This paper summarizes international and national differences in levels of knowledge and concern regarding climate change, and the existing explanations for the worldwide failure of public response to climate change, drawing from psychology, social psychology and sociology.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/05/19/000158349_20090519142931/Rendered/PDF/WPS4940.pdf

Global Trade Barriers –Q1 2009 Report, Grail Research, April 2009

The troubled economy has been driving concern that governments will increase protectionist measures. Grail Research undertook an analysis of all major trade barrier announcements by G20 members and the EU as a trade body during the period January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009. The analysis indicates that while the number of trade barriers has continued to increase, the pace at which new measures are being announced has actually decreased slightly in the last two quarters. This study provides a detailed readout of the analysis and shares expert commentary about why the data may or may not accurately measure the extent of global protectionism.

http://grailresearch.com/pdf/ContenPodsPdf/Grail_Research_Global_Trade_Barrier_Tracker.pdf

Fisheries and Aquaculture in a Changing Climate, FAO, June 2009

In this policy brief issued in advance of UNFCCC talks in Bonn, Germany, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, the WorldFish Center and 11 other organizations warn that millions of fishers, fish farmers and coastal inhabitants will experience less stable livelihoods, changes in the availability and quality of fish for food, and heightened risks to their health, safety and homes as a result of climate change.

ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/brochure/climate_change/policy_brief.pdf

Addressing China's water scarcity : recommendations for selected water resource management issues, World Bank, 2009

This report reviews China's water scarcity situation, assesses the policy and institutional requirements for addressing it, and recommends key areas for strengthening and reform.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/01/14/000333037_20090114011126/Rendered/PDF/471110PUB0CHA0101OFFICIAL0USE0ONLY1.pdf

Low carbon, high growth : Latin American responses to climate change - an overview, World Bank, 2009

While the greenhouse effect is a natural process without which the planet would probably be too cold to support life, most of the increase in the overall concentration of GHGs observed since the industrial revolution has been the result of human activities, namely the burning of fossil fuels, changes in land use (conversion of forests into agricultural land), and agriculture (the use of nitrogen fertilizers and live stock related methane emissions).

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/02/27/000334955_20090227082022/Rendered/PDF/476040PUB0Low0101Official0Use0Only1.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

From Poverty to Productivity: How to Feed the World's Hungry

Speakers: **Robert Thompson**, Gardner Chair in Agricultural Policy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; **Jerry Hagstrom**, National Journal; **Roger Thurow**, foreign reporter, Wall Street Journal; **Scott Kilman**, agriculture reporter, Wall Street Journal; **Marv Baldwin**, president, Foods Resource Bank

Date: **June 17, 2009**

Time: **6:00 p.m.**

Location: Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, IL

For more than 40 years, humankind has had the knowledge, tools, and resources to end chronic hunger worldwide. Yet at the start of the twenty-first century, 25,000 people a day – and nearly six million children a year – die of hunger, malnutrition, and related diseases. Malnutrition kills more Africans than AIDS and malaria combined. In this compelling investigative narrative, Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman, award-winning writers on Africa, development, and agriculture, explain through vivid human stories how the agricultural revolutions that transformed South America and Asia stopped short in Africa. They argue passionately and convincingly that this generation is the one that could finally end the scourge that has haunted the human race since its beginning.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago_council_event_corporate_detail.php?eventid=2087

Climate Change -- Adaptation and Poverty

Speakers: Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (Bangladesh); Raul Montemayor, General Secretary, Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives Inc. (Philippines); Camilla Toulmin, Director, International Institute for Environment and Development (United Kingdom).

Chair: Joachim von Braun

Date: June 25, 2009

Location: International Food Policy Research Institute, 2033 K Street, NW, Washington, DC, Fourth Floor Conference Facility

Climate change threatens poor people, especially farmers, in developing countries. They will need help to adapt to climate change, a daunting task as droughts and floods stress agricultural systems, water sources become more variable and uncertain, and competition over natural resources accelerates. And if agricultural interests, particularly small farmer interests, are not properly included in the international climate change negotiations, resulting climate change policies could also threaten the poor. The panelists will reflect on challenges and opportunities for helping the poor to adapt to climate change.

<http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2009/20090625climate.asp>

Joint International Agricultural Conference

Date: July 6-8, 2009

Location: Droevendaalsesteeg 2, 6708 PB Wageningen, Netherlands

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

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

Farm Foundation Forum

Date: July 14, 2009

Location: Washington, DC

Topic: Carbon Policy Issues and Implications for Agriculture

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

International ISHS/ProMusa Symposium Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges

Date: September 14-18, 2009

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

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

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

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

Date: October 14-16, 2009

Location: Des Moines, IA

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

<https://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009.htm>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

President Mahinda Rajapaksa seeks new thrust for agriculture in North, *Daily News (Sri Lanka)*, June 11
President Mahinda Rajapaksa sought the need for a new thrust in the agricultural development of the North, as the people are resettled and they return to their traditional livelihoods, mainly agriculture. He sought the assistance of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, who is considered the Father of the Indian Green Revolution to help in the agricultural development of the North, which has been devastated by the recent war with the LTTE and the livelihoods of the people there shattered.

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/06/11/news02.asp>

U.S. \$ 65 Million Earmarked for Agro Development on Continent, *AllAfrica.com*, June 9

Norwegian agricultural firm Yara International has embarked on a US \$ 65 m project for the development of agriculture in the Agricultural Growth Corridors of Africa, which will be located in Southern and Eastern Africa and will support the fast tracking of the development of agriculture to enhance economic growth in the regions.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906090332.html>

Foundation Launches First Project Funds in Malawi, *VOA*, June 8

In Malawi, the US African Development Foundation (USADF) has launched a five-year project worth US \$7.5 million. It's an agency of the US government dedicated to expanding economic opportunity in Africa. It says the project goal is to reduce poverty in rural communities at the grassroots level in Africa.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-06-08-voa35.cfm>

Africa's small farms hold the key to riding out the recession, says IFAD President, *IFAD*, June 8

Unleashing the potential of Africa's small farms – the mainstay of food production – is more essential than ever as the continent grapples with the impact of the global economic crisis, according to the President of the UN's rural poverty agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2009/30.htm>

FAO Director General calls for stronger anti-hunger system, *FAO*, June 6

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf called today for a strengthened global governance system for world food security. Those aspects of the international trade system that have resulted in more hunger and poverty also have to be changed, he said.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/20452/icode/>

The new Africa starts here: how to make the people prosper, *Times Online*, June 6

For decades African elites have ignored small-scale agriculture because it is assumed that it is only for the uneducated. But much of Africa is represented by that woman farmer on the hillside. Clearly African governments need to invest in making small-scale farmers more productive, especially as the effects of climate change intensify and growing sufficient amounts of food becomes even more challenging.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/article6436725.ece>

Scientists call for increased funding for livestock research, *LA Times*, June 6

A bullish group of agricultural scientists says that farm animals have been vastly underrated as a resource for improving human health -- and they're vying for some of the billions of dollars the government invests in biomedical research. The U.S. Department of Agriculture allocated \$32 million to university scientists studying livestock in fiscal year 2007. That's dwarfed by the roughly \$24 billion that the NIH makes available to outside scientists for biomedical research.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/la-sci-farm-animals6-2009jun06.0.4389934.story>

Nigeria: Food Insecurity - 90 Million Citizens at Risk, *AllAfrica.com*, June 5

The President, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Dr Abdullahi Adamu, said yesterday in Abuja that more than 90 million Nigerians were under the threat of food insecurity. Adamu noted that the development of agriculture was necessary for the country to meet the Vision 20-2020, President Umaru Yar'Adua's 7-point agenda and other food security and poverty alleviation programmes.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906050137.html>

New Thinking on New Human and Livestock Disease Threats, *CGIAR*, June 2009

Livestock scientists have a vital role to play in helping to predict, prevent and control zoonotic diseases, which are all those transmitted between animals and people. Remarkably, zoonoses make up more than 60 percent of all human infectious diseases and more than 70 percent of all emerging infectious diseases. These diseases occur most frequently in Asia and Africa, where people tend to live in close proximity to their livestock and limited resources hinder both surveillance and response.

<http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/june2009.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Agencies complain of Pakistan delays, *Financial Times*, June 10

International charities, led by Oxfam, have complained that United Nations red tape is impeding distribution of desperately needed aid money to organisations helping some of the estimated 2.5m Pakistanis who have fled fighting in the Swat valley. The complaint comes as the UN is struggling to raise \$543m (£330m, €390m) to aid the fleeing families sheltering in schools and tent camps, with relatives or in communities. So far, just \$138m, or 25 per cent of requirements, has been raised.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/42f105f2-55df-11de-ab7e-00144feabdc0.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Report Suggests Water Woes for India, *Green Inc, New York Times*, June 10

Unless the Indian government makes serious changes to the way it prices and manages water, increased consumption by the nation's farms, factories and growing population will push drinking water supplies to critical limits by 2050, according to a new report from [Grail Research](http://grailresearch.com), a market research firm in Cambridge, Mass., that specializes in developing countries. <http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/06/10/report-suggests-water-woes-for-india/?scp=2&sq=India&st=cse>

See Also: **Water: The India Story**, *Grail Research*, March 23

<http://grailresearch.com/pdf/ContentPodsPdf/Water-The India Story.pdf>

Uganda: Climate Change is Undermining, *AllAfrica.com*, June 9

Farmers in developing countries like Uganda are hard hit by the impact of climate change, yet according to the Global Humanitarian Forum 2009, these countries contribute less than 1% to global warming.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906100467.html>

Indian farmers to insure themselves against climate change crop failure, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, June 8
For more than half a million farmers in rural India the age old fear of crops failing due to bad weather could soon be banished, thanks to an innovative insurance scheme that UN negotiators gathering in Bonn this week are considering as a central component of climate change adaptation measures in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jun/08/farming-india>

China and U.S. Seek a Truce on Greenhouse Gases, *The New York Times*, June 7
Without the full participation of the United States and China, most negotiators believe that any agreement is doomed to fail. The Obama administration has pledged to be a leader in the talks that culminate in December in Copenhagen, although it is far from clear that Congress has the will to approve emissions targets and furnish enough aid to developing countries to satisfy the Europeans, Chinese, Indians, Brazilians and other major participants.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/08/world/08treaty.html? r=1>

Agriculture is essential for facing climate change, *FAO*, June 3
Agricultural mitigation in developing countries can make farming more resilient to the vagaries of climate change and can also reduce hunger and poverty, the FAO said.
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/20243/icode/>

GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

1.7 trillion bailout plan unveiled, *Daily News (Tanzania)* June 11
President Jakaya Kikwete yesterday unveiled a bailout 1.7 trillion shillings - plan to rescue economic sectors affected by the global economic meltdown. On agriculture, the president said that under the 'Agriculture First' strategy, the government would disburse 20bn shillings - to farmers to improve the farming sector "which has been neglected for years".
<http://www.dailynews.co.tz/home/?n=2479>

16 million Africans Made Poor By Meltdown, *AllAfrica.com*, June 11.
As the 19th World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa opened yesterday in Cape Town, South Africa, Managing Director of the World Bank, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, said the global economic meltdown had further thrown a staggering 53 million people into poverty around the world. Sixty per cent of that figure is in Africa, she said.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906110005.html>

Downturn Creates Both Challenges and Opportunities, Says President Zuma, *AllAfrica.com*, June 10.
The impact of the global economic downturn is being felt in every economy worldwide. While in many parts of the developed countries scores are losing their jobs, rich governments are able to respond with stimulus packages and deploy existing social welfare systems. For most African countries, that are still highly indebted and dependent on aid for their revenues, the continuation of the current crisis will mean increased starvation, poverty and child mortality. We must cushion our people against the impact of the crisis as best we can, but we also need to respond in the spirit of planning for a recovery.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906100793.html>

WOMEN

ILO: Global Financial Crisis Could Lead to More Child Labor, *VOA*, June 10

The International Labor Organization, or ILO, warns that the global financial crisis could push more children, particularly girls, into child labor. The new ILO report finds that nearly half of the 218 million child laborers around the world are girls.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-06-10-voa49.cfm>

Full report "'Give Girls a Chance: Tackling child labour, a key to the future":

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/IBRN-7SVJC9/\\$file/ILO_jun09.pdf?openelement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/IBRN-7SVJC9/$file/ILO_jun09.pdf?openelement)

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Protectionism is back, *Weekly Times Now* (Australia), June 10

Seventeen of the world's top 20 industrialized countries have resorted to trade protectionism in the face of the global economic crisis. The findings of the World Bank analysis came as farm leaders from 19 free-trading agricultural countries called for new efforts to free up world farm trade at a meeting in Bali - and condemned the US and EU for reinstating dairy export subsidies.

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/article/2009/06/10/85201_latest-news.html

US Partners 14 Nigerian Banks, Agencies, *AllAfrica.com*, June 10

The United States Government has concluded plans to partner with 14 Nigerian banks and six US agencies towards the development of the Nigerian agricultural sector.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906100042.html>

Major Agricultural Countries Agree to Restart Doha Round Trade Talks, *VOA*, June 9

Major agriculture exporting nations have agreed to revive negotiations for the Doha Development Round at a meeting in Indonesia. The commitment to finalize a framework for the eventual elimination of export subsidies and import tariffs has been praised as a breakthrough by member countries.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-06-09-voa29.cfm>

Boosting trade from Helmand airfield, *UK Department for International Development*, June 3

DFID has announced £4.5 million of aid to boost trade from Helmand's renovated airfield, which was officially opened today. DFID funding will build on USAID work, and will pay for access roads, security fencing and a new administration block for a business centre alongside the airfield.

The centre will be the focus of food processing so that farmers' produce from the fertile Helmand valley can be prepared for food markets around the country. The new developments will strengthen counter narcotics work by giving farmers a further incentive to plant legal food crops rather than illegal poppy.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2009/Boosting-trade-from-Helmand-airfield/>

AGRIBUSINESS

Agriculture an Underestimated 'Safety Net', *IRIN*, June 9

Investment in agriculture in developing countries, where most of the workforce consists of small-scale farmers, is akin to beefing up a "safety net" as the world struggles to limit the impact of the economic crisis, a UN agency head told IRIN ahead of the three-day World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Cape Town.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84777>

Nigeria: Stakeholders Chart Course for Improved Rice Production, *AllAfrica.com* June 5

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and major stakeholders in the Agriculture sector yesterday urged the Federal government to as a matter of urgency bring up modalities that would increase the competitiveness of agro business especially in the face of the present global economic meltdown.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906050343.html>

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