

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



March 19th – 26th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *"Seventy percent of the world's water use is devoted to agriculture, and the outcome of our work to promote global food security depends in part on having a successful water policy and sound water management. Floods and droughts can wipe out crops, and decimate economies that depend on agriculture. We are also working to empower women around the world, because depending upon which continent we're talking about, the average is 60 percent of the farmers are women. In addition to that, women who gain access to sanitation, who are freed from the burden of walking for hours each day just to locate and carry water, will find it."* – Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Remarks on World Water Day at the National Geographic Society, March 22

For more information:

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

U.S. Sees Food Security as Next Big Africa Push, *Reuters*, March 22

The Obama administration will put food security at the heart of its Africa policy, as it seeks to enhance ongoing U.S. efforts on trade, investment and HIV/AIDS on the continent, a top U.S. diplomat said. "We want to see the food security initiative take on greater momentum as more African countries are drawn into this program," said Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson, the administration's top official for Africa.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE62L0SL20100322>

See Also: *Budget, Transition, Coups Slow US AID to Africa*, *Voice of America*, March 23

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Budget-Transition-Coups-Slow-US-Aid-to-Africa-88950332.html>

BRIC Farm Ministers Pledge to Tackle World Hunger, *Reuters, March 26*

Agriculture ministers from Brazil, Russia, India and China, which together have a third of the world's arable land, agreed on Friday to pool resources to combat famine that affects more than 1 billion people globally.
<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/03/26/world/international-uk-agriculture-bric.html>

Remarks on World Water Day, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, March 22*

"Seventy percent of the world's water use is devoted to agriculture, and the outcome of our work to promote global food security depends in part on having a successful water policy and sound water management. Floods and droughts can wipe out crops, and decimate economies that depend on agriculture. We are also working to empower women around the world, because depending upon which continent we're talking about, the average is 60 percent of the farmers are women. In addition to that, women who gain access to sanitation, who are freed from the burden of walking for hours each day just to locate and carry water, will find it easier to invest time and energy in their families and communities."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/03/138737.htm>

See Also: Statement from USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah on the Occasion of World Water Day, *USAID, March 22*

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/ps100322.html>

See Also: The Coca-Cola Company and USAID Expand Global Water Partnership, *USAID, March 22*

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100322.html>

Supplemental Budget Request Submitted by the President to the Congress, *President Barack Obama, Office of Management and Budget, March 24*

"I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendments to Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 proposals in my FY 2011 Budget. Included are amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, State, and the Treasury, as well as the United States Agency for International Development and the Broadcasting Board of Governors. These amendments would provide for costs associated with relief and reconstruction support for Haiti following the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010, including reimbursement of obligations that have already been incurred by these agencies."

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/budget_amendments/amendment_03_24_10.pdf (key articles? administration?)

See Also: FY2010 Haiti Supplemental Funding Fact Sheet, *Department of State and USAID, March 24*

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp_uploaded_documents/20100325_haiti_supp.pdf

Helping People Help Themselves, *Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, Huffington Post, March 26*

Today I will sign an agreement on behalf of USAID with the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to work together to issue joint credit guarantees to financial institutions in developing countries around the world. This partnership will leverage each organization's comparative advantage and allow credit to flow to more businesses in more countries. USAID and Sida will soon issue joint guarantees in Bosnia and Haiti, and we plan to design more guarantees to mobilize private investment in sectors such as climate change, post-disaster reconstruction, food security, and health.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rajiv-shah/helping-people-help-thems_b_514445.html

See Also: USAID and Sida to Launch a New Collaboration on Joint Credit Guarantees, *USAID, March 24*

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/mediaadvisories/2010/ma100324.html>

Africa Can Feed Itself, *Op-Ed, Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, BusinessDay, March 22*

Africa is the only continent unable to feed itself. Agricultural productivity has failed to keep pace with a growing population. Hunger has never been worse. Around 300 million people will not have enough to eat today. Despite millions of hectares of unused cultivated land, Africa spends \$20 billion dollars each year buying food. This is simply not sustainable, economically nor politically.

http://www.businessdayonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9422:africa-can-feed-itself&catid=96:columnists&Itemid=350

With Cheap Imports, Haiti Can't Feed Itself, *Washington Post*, March 20

There have been some efforts to restore Haiti's agriculture in recent years: The U.S. Agency for International Development has a five-year program to improve farms and restore watersheds in five Haitian regions. But the \$25 million a year pales next to the \$91.4 million in U.S.-grown food aid delivered just in the past 10 weeks. President Barack Obama's administration has pledged to support agriculture in developing nations. U.S. Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana has sponsored legislation to create a White House Global Food Security coordinator to improve long-term agriculture worldwide, with a budget of \$8.5 billion through 2014.

See Also: A Look at Haiti's Earthquake-Shattered Economy. *Miami Herald*, March 18

About two-thirds of Haiti's workers make a living from agriculture, but the country produces less than half its needed food supply.

http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/03/18/1535838_a-look-at-rebuilding-haitis-earthquake.html

See Also: Haiti's Misery, *Editorial*, *New York Times*, March 25

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/26/opinion/26fri1.html>

All Efforts Great and Small, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog*, March 26

After the passage of the health care bill, doing the big and historic is again possible in politics. On the international front, the equivalent is President Obama's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, popularly known as Feeding the Future. Ending hunger through agriculture development, particularly in Africa, would be both very big and supremely historic.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/03/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-great-and-small.html>

See Also: Hunger the Common Enemy of All Millennium Development Goals, *Media Global*, March 19

Roger Thurow, a speaker at the conference and a senior fellow of global agriculture and food policy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs eloquently said "Hunger is the common enemy to all [the MDGs]." Thurow pointed out that unlike other epidemics like HIV or cancer, hunger is "one great world problem that we have the power and know how to solve."

<http://www.mediaglobal.org/article/2010-03-19/hunger-the-common-enemy-of-all-millennium-development-goals>

For Africa, Water is Life, *Joaquim Chissano, Former President of Mozambique, Huffington Post*, March 22

We need to increase our food production by half in the next twenty years. How will we achieve this without reducing the amount and quality of the remaining water resources which we will need for drinking and sanitation? The introduction of new forms of irrigation pioneered by African scientists and research institutions has the potential to transform the way staple foods are cultivated. Today, only 10% of Africa's cultivated land is irrigated. Imagine what we can do if this percentage is increased in a way which also does not overburden our water supplies.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joaquim-chissano/world-water-day_b_508348.html?view=print

Time for Africa to Get Serious about Investment, *Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone, Huffington Post*, March 22

Yet this investment barely scratches the surface of the commercial potential in Sierra Leonean agriculture. We have more than 4 million hectares of rich arable land not yet under cultivation, and soils and climate well suited to growing everything from rice and fruit to oil palm and cocoa. We are also attracting interest in our fisheries sector, in the development of hydro energy and in improving our tourist infrastructure.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ernest-bai-koroma/time-for-africa-to-get-se_b_508463.html?view=print

Closing the Gap: Examining an Alternative Future, *Global Harvest Initiative Symposium*, March 2010

The Global Harvest Initiative's 2010 Symposium, *Closing the Gap: Examining an Alternative Future*, brought together agriculture, conservation, hunger and food security experts who discussed policy solutions to meeting the agricultural challenges of the next several decades.

<http://ow.ly/1noTg>

2010 Presentations:

[Agriculture by 2050](#)

[Opportunities and Challenges to Raising Global Agriculture Productivity](#)

[Meeting the Demand for Agricultural Commodities in 2050](#)

[Modern Agriculture and Its Benefits: Trends, Implications and Outlook](#)

[Modern Agriculture and Human Welfare](#)

[The Instability Risks of Food Insecurity](#)

Webcast: http://video.vdat.com/playmedia_embed2.asp?sid=121618&aid=122992

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

An Overview of U.S. Policy in Africa, *Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, March 24*

http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1168

Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

"The United States is committed to supporting a new Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, which builds upon the model of the African-led Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) to partner with countries and other development partners to reduce hunger, poverty and under-nutrition. The President's commitment of at least \$3.5 billion over three years to agricultural development will help us work with African farmers to employ new agricultural methods and technologies, and help them deliver their production to markets."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/car032410.pdf>

Earl Gast, USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa

"GHI's nutrition programs will work in coordination with the Administration's new Feed the Future Initiative, a groundbreaking effort aimed at significantly and sustainably reducing hunger and poverty in the developing world. Feed the Future will help countries achieve a permanent solution to food insecurity, where every person in a society has access, at all times, to enough food for an active and healthy life."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/gas032410.pdf>

Princeton N. Lyman, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations, March 24

"The President set the tone, in his visit to Ghana and in Secretary Clinton's visit across the continent, that this administration would emphasize good governance and democracy in its relations in Africa. But the nature of U.S. aid to Africa, i.e. heavily concentrated on HIV/AIDS and emergency food, leaves the U.S. little leverage on these issues when governments in those recipient countries are determined on amassing and keeping power through limited or rigged elections and repressive acts."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/lym032410.pdf>

Dr. Witney W. Schneidman, President of Schneidman & Associates International

"AGOA continues to be the essential framework for U.S.-African economic and commercial relations. Nevertheless, in the ten years since it was passed into law, its promise as a stimulus to the creation of light-industrial manufacturing and job creation remains to be fulfilled. For example, according to the Commerce Department, AGOA textiles and apparel imports declined by 10.4 percent between 2008 and 2009, while AGOA agricultural products declined by 7.9 percent during this same time frame."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/sch032410.pdf>

Gregory B. Simpkins, VP for Policy and Program Development, The Sullivan Foundation, March 24

"There are many causes for this lack of agricultural production, including a diversion of attention to oil production, a lack of modern agricultural techniques, poor soil due to overuse, the diversion of crops to create alternative fuels and a dearth of investment in African agriculture."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/sim032410.pdf>

U.S. Department of the Treasury International Programs, Hearing before the Subcommittee on State Foreign Operations and Related Programs FY 2011 U.S. Department of Treasury International Programs, March 25

Opening Statement, Nita M. Lowey

“There are a number of key issues that I would like you to address. First is coordination on key U.S. priorities, including poverty reduction and economic growth; food security; climate change and the environment; debt relief; and technical assistance. How are these programs coordinated within the U.S. government, among bilateral and multilateral organizations, and on the ground? I am especially interested in the new food security trust fund and the climate investment funds administered by the World Bank. How will Treasury coordinate with State and USAID? Who has the lead within the U.S. government? Why was the decision made to house these funds at the World Bank, and will we have enough oversight of implementation?”

http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Lowey_Opening_Statement.3.25.10.pdf

Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of Treasury

“At the G-8 Summit in Italy last year, President Obama pledged greater focus on reducing global hunger and extreme poverty by increasing investments in the agricultural sector, including a new multilateral trust fund. For this trust fund, which will be administered by the World Bank, the U.S. will contribute \$408.4 million from the FY 2011 Budget Request, and \$66.6 million from the already approved FY 2010 USAID budget. We expect this fund to have a 10-year time horizon, which will provide predictable financing to support country-owned agriculture plans. We expect total initial contributions to the fund to exceed \$1 billion once sizeable investments from other donors, such as Canada, Spain, major foundations and other countries, are included.”

http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness_testimony/SFOPS/Secretary_Geithner.3.25.10.pdf

Testimony Before the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Committee on Appropriations USHR, Gloria Steel, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health, March 23

“One of the key lessons learned from our decades of work in nutrition is that improving undernutrition at a large scale requires a comprehensive effort that involves all sectors, and this is the approach we will be pursuing as part of the USG Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative (GHFSI). As part of this initiative and the Global Health Initiative, USAID will work with countries with a high burden of undernutrition to bring high-impact, evidence-based nutrition interventions to scale and to refine and test innovative approaches such as biofortification.”

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/ty100323.html>

Clinton’s Remarks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi After Their Meeting, U.S. Department of State, March 24

“We are cooperating to boost economic development on a number of tracks. We are taking concrete steps to help Pakistan boost exports of agricultural products and to improve agricultural infrastructure. As the foreign minister said today in our opening dialogue, 60 to 70 percent of the people of Pakistan rely on agriculture. And therefore, we ignore agriculture at our peril. You cannot have prosperity if you do not go to where the people live and work, how they make an income, how they feed themselves and their families.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/03/138996.htm>

See Also: Clinton’s Remarks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi At Reception for U.S. – Pakistani Dialogue, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Special Representative Richard Holbrooke, March 24

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/03/138997.htm>

See Also: Dialogue Seeks to Strengthen U.S.-Pakistani Ties, American Forces Press, March 23

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=58447>

See Also: Pakistan Says It Is ‘Satisfied’ with U.S. Pledges on Aid Delivery, Fiscal Times, March 25

Most of the agreements announced after the one-day meeting had been decided earlier, including disbursement of a new \$7.5-billion, five-year U.S. aid package for Pakistan's energy, water, agricultural and education sectors.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/24/AR2010032403090.html>

FY2011 Budget Hearing for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Agriculture, rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, March 25
Opening Statement, Rosa L. DeLauro

"I also am concerned about the flat funding of the PL 480 Title II program and the McGovern-Dole program in the 2011 budget. At a time when over a billion people are now going hungry or are ill-fed and the world is looking to us for moral leadership, I do not believe we should be turning away from our strong bipartisan commitment to international food aid."

http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Delauro_Opening_Statement.3.25.10.pdf

James Miller, Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

"USDA estimates that every \$1 billion of agricultural exports generates \$1.4 billion in economic activity throughout the American economy. Therefore, the Department, with the FFAS mission area in the forefront, has an important role to play in removing agricultural trade barriers, developing new markets in both the near and long term, and enhancing the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in the world marketplace."

http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness_testimony/AG/James_Miller.3.25.10.pdf

John D. Brewer, Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service

"Food insecurity affects over 1 billion hungry people worldwide. The problem is exacerbated by the current global economic downturn. Food aid alone is not enough – availability is also about increasing trade and in-country production. The biggest contributing factors to insufficient in-country production are chronic under-investment in agriculture, inefficient inputs and markets, and poor governance."

http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness_testimony/AG/John_Brewer.3.25.10.pdf

See Also: USDA Seeking Proposals to Provide Assistance to Haiti and Afghanistan Through the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, USDA, March 24

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0147.xml>

A New Era of Partnerships: Report of Recommendations to the President, President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, March 2010

A deep commitment to reduce global poverty and promote sustainable development characterizes the work around the world of many U.S. faith-based and civil society organizations. Many members of the Council, as well as the organizations and institutions to which we are connected, are a vibrant part of this sector. The President's Advisory Council lays out recommendations that seek to help the U.S. Government build a constituency for development aid and seek a more balanced relationship with the U.S. Government.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ofbnp-council-final-report.pdf>

Statement Before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, March 25

"Our \$2 billion request for Afghanistan supports efforts like those in Marjah which we are ramping up quickly and which need additional assistance and operational funding in 2010. New assistance will help Afghans provide for their families and revitalize the agricultural sector, which is crucial to reducing poppy cultivation and drawing insurgents back into society."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/03/139064.htm>

See Also: Petraeus: Can't Kill Your Way Out of War, Salt Lake Tribune, March 25

Now, in Afghanistan -- where Petraeus leads an effort to stem the violent resurgence of insurgents and Taliban rebels -- "one of our efforts has to be to help Afghans achieve legitimacy" in the crops they farm, by providing seed, fertilizer and know-how. But that, he lamented, is a job ill-suited for the military. Although the National Guard has fielded agriculture development teams, he said, the U.S. Department of Agriculture should be given greater resources so that it can contribute manpower and expertise.

http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_14760837

Agreements Promise Boon for Agriculture, Op-Ed, Rep. Frank Lucas, The Hill, March 18

Each and every American can benefit from opening markets for our exports. American farmers and ranchers are so efficient they are able to produce more than enough food to feed this nation. As one of the most trade-dependent industries, our agricultural producers work hard to find new customers abroad.

<http://thehill.com/special-reports/trade-march-2010/87743-agreements-promise-boon-for-agriculture>

Address at Special Session on Haiti at World Urban Forum V, *Esther Brimmer, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, March 23*

“Another challenge is providing food security. Working with the UN, the Haitian government is taking steps to move from emergency food aid – the direct provision of food – to a Haitian Government solution to help Haiti feed itself. Beyond food security, shelter, hygiene and sanitation, there is a need as President Obama recently said, “to ensure that assistance to Haiti not simply delivers relief for the short term, but builds up Haiti’s capacity to deliver services and provides for the Haitian people over the long term.”

<http://www.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/2010/138992.htm>

See Also: Shah Says USAID In 'All-Out Rush' To Help Haiti, *National Public Radio, March 24*

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125128152>

FY2011 Budget Request for Peace Corps, *Hearing before the House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, March 18*

Aaron S. Williams, Director, Peace Corps

“Throughout our history, the Peace Corps has adapted and responded to the issues of the times. Peace Corps priorities should reflect current global realities and the development priorities of our host countries. In FY 2011, Peace Corps growth will continue to focus on sectors such as education, food security, health and HIV/AIDS, environment, and renewable energy.”

http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness_testimony/SFOPS/Aaron_Williams.3.18.10.pdf

See Also: Peace Corps Association Launches 'Africa Rural Connect' to Help Farmers, *Voice of America, March 26*

The U.S. National Peace Corps Association has launched a unique Internet-based program that could revolutionize development planning by emphasizing the bottom-up approach. The program, “Africa Rural Connect”, is an online global collaboration network where knowledgeable people, including African farmers, work together to communicate and respond to the needs of African farmers.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Butty-U-S-Peace-Corps-Africa-26march10-89244687.html>

State Department Policy Review? Not Until April, *Foreign Policy, March 19*

Hey, wasn't the State Department's preliminary report on its comprehensive strategic review supposed to come out this week? Well, looks like it's going to be another couple of weeks, at least, the official leading the review at the State Department told some people. Anne Marie Slaughter, policy-planning chief at State and executive director of the review, know as the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR), emailed some interested parties to give them a QDDR update.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/19/state_department_policy_review_not_until_april

Charting a More Sustainable Future, *U.S. Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan, Huffington Post, March 22*

That's why this week, leaders from around the world will meet in Brazil at the World Urban Forum -- a unique venue to listen and share best practices and find opportunities for partnership that will lift the standard of living for billions of people, promote democracy and human rights, and enhance global health, food security, energy efficiency, clean construction and green jobs.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shaun-donovan/charting-a-more-sustainab_b_509205.html

USDA, DOE & NSF Agree to Joint Climate Change Prediction Research Program, *USDA, March 22*

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) created a joint research program that designates nearly \$50 million to develop climate system models that provide insights on climate variability and impacts on ecosystems.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0141.xml>

Pomeroy, Shimkus Introduce Bill to Preserve American Energy Jobs, *Office of Congressman Earl Pomeroy, March 25*

Congressman Earl Pomeroy and Congressman John Shimkus unveiled legislation that would extend tax incentives that are critical to the nation's ethanol industry and the preservation of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

<http://pomeroy.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=178643>

See Also: Coming Up Empty, *Economist*, March 25

America will have trouble meeting its ambitious goals for biofuels.

http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15773820

See Also: Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Responds to Introduction of Pomeroy-Shimkus Legislation That Taxes Clean, Renewable Energy, *UNICA*, March 25

<http://english.unica.com.br/releases/show.asp?rlsCode={DC465D8A-F313-47A8-8BE4-9457CF3F4EB1}>

Moran and Blunt Support Increased Access to U.S. Beef in Japan, *Office of Congressman Jim Moran*, March 2010

Congressman Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Congressman Roy Blunt (R-MO) recently introduced a resolution to support increased market access for exports of U.S. beef and beef products to Japan.

http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1723%3A3252010-moran-and-blunt-support-increased-access-to-us-beef-in-japan-&catid=1&Itemid=103

Skipp Orr to the Asian Development Bank, *Foreign Policy*, March 23

Obama announced his intention to name Robert "Skipp" Orr, the former president of Boeing Japan and a former Hill and USAID staffer, an executive director of the Asian Development Bank, headquartered in Manila.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/23/names_skipp_orr_to_the_asian_development_bank

Names: Lynne Weil to Join USAID, *Foreign Policy*, March 19

Lynne Weil confirms that she'll be moving on from her post as communications director for the House Foreign Affairs Committee and its chairman Howard Berman to take over the press shop at USAID. We're also told that Maura O'Neill is now counselor and chief innovation officer at USAID. She was with Shah at USDA and remains a key figure in his circle.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/19/names_lynne_weil_to_join_usaid

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](#)

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

Transforming Agricultural Research for Development, *Global Authors' Team*, March 2010

Many of the world's poor people make a living from the land. Pressure on land, water, fuelwood and genetic resources has increased in the regions which contain the greatest poverty. It is likely to get worse if urgent action is not forthcoming. Compounding these problems, the poorest of the poor tend to live in remote inaccessible rural areas. Agriculture (to mean crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry, fruits, vegetables among others) tends to be only one of several strategies the poor deploy to diversify their livelihood to reduce risks.

<http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//273759/GAT%20Report%20for%20GCARD%202010%20-%20Version%2011.0.pdf>

See Also: Executive Summary

<http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload//273761/Executive%20Summary%20and%20Road%20Map%20-%20GAT%20REPORT%20FINAL.pdf>

See Also: Big Food Push Urged to Avoid Global Hunger, *BBC*, March 25

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8585504.stm>

See Also: Report Calls for Radical Changes on Eve of Global Agricultural Conference, *Voice of America News*, March 25

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-global-agriculture-report-25mar10-89102967.html>

Clearing the Waters, A Focus on Water Quality Solutions, UNEP, March 2010

Every day, millions of tons of inadequately treated sewage and industrial and agricultural wastes are poured into the world's waters. Every year, lakes, rivers, and deltas take in the equivalent of the weight of the entire human population— nearly seven billion people – in the form of pollution. Every year, more people die from the consequences of unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war. And, every year, water contamination of natural ecosystems affects humans directly by destroying fisheries or causing other impacts on biodiversity that affect food production. In the end, most polluted freshwater ends up in the oceans, causing serious damage to many coastal areas and fisheries and worsening our ocean and coastal resource management challenges.

http://www.unep.org/PDF/Clearing_the_Waters.pdf

Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, UN FAO, March 2010

The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010) examines the current status and recent trends for about 90 variables covering the extent, condition, uses and values of forests and other wooded land, with the aim of assessing all benefits from forest resources. Information has been collated from 233 countries and territories for four points in time: 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010. The results are presented according to the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management. The main report will be released in October 2010.

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/static/data/fra2010/KeyFindings-en.pdf>

See Also: Global deforestation: Wood through the trees, Economist, March 26

Global deforestation decreases, but still remains high.

http://www.economist.com/daily/news/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15772178

Africa Competitiveness Report 2010, World Economic Forum, March 2010

The publication of this year's Africa Competitiveness Report comes against the backdrop of the most significant global economic crisis in generations. In Africa, where impressive growth rates and increasing levels of FDI supported an economic resurgence over the past decade, the recent global economic turmoil has raised questions about the sustainability of its growth performance over the medium run.

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Africa%20Competitiveness%20Report%202009.pdf>

Sick Water? The Central Role of Wastewater Management in Sustainable Development, UNHABITAT, March 2010

The world is facing a global water quality crisis. Continuing population growth and urbanisation, rapid industrialisation, and expanding and intensifying food production are all putting pressure on water resources and increasing the unregulated or illegal discharge of contaminated water within and beyond national borders. This presents a global threat to human health and wellbeing, with both immediate and long term consequences for efforts to reduce poverty whilst sustaining the integrity of some of our most productive ecosystems.

http://www.grida.no/res/site/file/publications/sickwater/SickWater_screen.pdf

See Also: Waste Water kills Millions of Children, Pollutes Sea, Reuters, March 22

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE62L05V20100322>

The Costs and Benefits of Duty-Free, Quota-Free Market Access for Poor Countries: Who and What Matters, Center for Global Development, March 2010

This paper examines the potential benefits and costs of providing duty-free, quota-free market access to the least developed countries (LDCs), and the effects of extending eligibility to other small and poor countries. The main goal of this paper is to highlight the role that rich and emerging countries could play in helping poor countries to improve their trade performance and to assess the distribution of costs and benefits for developing countries and whether the potential costs for domestic producers are in line with political feasibility in preference-giving countries.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423986_file_Bouet_et_al_DFQF_FINAL.pdf

The U.S. Aid “Surge” to Pakistan: Repeating a Failed Experiment?, *Center for Global Development, March 2010*

During the 1990s, the World Bank and several donor partners provided a “surge” in external aid to support Pakistan’s social sectors. Despite the millions of donor dollars spent, the program failed. Poverty was higher in Pakistan in 2004 than it was a decade earlier when the antipoverty program began. This working paper re-releases a CGD analysis of the World Bank’s program, which was prepared in 2005 by CGD researchers Nancy Birdsall, Milan Vaishnav, and Adeel Malik. A new preface by Nancy Birdsall and Molly Kinder identifies the key lessons from this massive donor experiment that are relevant today, as the United States and other donors prepare to increase their assistance to Pakistan to historic levels.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423965_file_Birdsall_Kinder_WB_lessons_FINAL.pdf

See Also: Our Money in Pakistan, *Foreign Policy, March 17*

Richard Holbrooke is getting serious blowback for his efforts to radically reshape U.S. aid programs in South Asia's most dangerous state. But maybe he's onto something.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/03/17/our_money_in_pakistan?print=yes&hidecomments=yes&page=full

Constraints on Trade in the MENA Region, *International Monetary Fund, February 2010*

In this paper the authors estimate gravity models to see whether trade volumes of countries in the MENA region are significantly lower than what would be expected given their economic, cultural and geographical characteristics. Results show that specific variables, in particular transport constraints and inefficiencies in customs clearance processes, are important in explaining the MENA region's underperformance in trade.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2010/wp1031.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Africa Rice Congress 2010

Date: March 22nd – 26th, 2010

Location: Bamako, Mali

Africa Rice Congress 2010 will have as its main theme: ‘Innovation and partnerships to realize Africa’s rice potential’. The Congress will bring together representatives from the public and private sector, civil society organizations, farmer associations and research and extension communities engaged in the development of Africa’s rice sector.

<http://www.africarice.org/AfricaRiceCongress2010/index.html>

Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD)

Date: March 28th - 31st, 2010

Location: Montpellier, France

The GCARD process will address the below questions: What are the development needs where AR can play its best role? How best do we turn research in development impacts at scale? How can more effective pathways be developed to create impact for the poor? What investments, institutions, policies and capacities are necessary?

<http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard>

Women in Finances Symposium

Date: March 29, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The symposium will bring together senior administration officials, private sector leaders, university presidents and women entering the field for a series of panel discussions to recognize the contributions of women and to discuss the best means to foster success among future generations of women in the public and private finance sectors.

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/tg613.htm>

Global Pulse

Date: March 29th -31st, 2010

Location: Online

Global Pulse 2010 is a 3-day, online collaboration event, that will bring together individual socially-engaged participants and organizations from around the world. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is sponsoring the Global Pulse 2010, in partnership with the Departments of State, Education, Commerce, and Health and Human Services.

<http://www.globalpulse2010.gov/>

AGRA Middle East 2010

Date: March 29th – 31st, 2010

Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

AGRA Middle East 2010 is one of the biggest consumer markets for agribusiness, poultry & livestock, fishing & aquaculture and flower & garden in the region. AGRAME is a leading regional platform which offers immense opportunities for regional agribusiness professionals, international manufacturers and service providers involved in the agribusiness industry. The event co-locates four distinct yet closely linked vertical exhibitions at one comprehensive and powerful B2B platform, providing opportunities for agribusiness professionals from all over the world.

<http://www.tradechakra.com/events/dubai-United-arab-emirates/agra-middle-east-2009-311.php>

Do Millennium Development Goals Miss the Point in Africa?

Date: April 1, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The financial crisis, climate change, political and social instability, and persistent inequality have worsened the odds that Africa—and others in the developing world— will meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). As the world prepares to debate MDG progress in the upcoming meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, the possibility of failing to meet the adopted targets in Africa and elsewhere raises renewed questions. How should the MDG goals be treated? What happens when the goals are not achieved by the 2015 deadline? How can the UN speed up development in Africa and other lagging regions and countries?

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/events/?fa=eventDetail&id=2846>

Alleviating the Worst of Poverty with Water, Resilience, and Innovation

Location: International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.

Date: April 7th, 2010

The CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) aims to increase the resilience of social and ecological systems through better water management for food production. In its second research phase, from 2009-2013, it focuses on key water-for-food development challenges within large river basins of key importance for smallholder water and food security.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/alleviating-worst-poverty-water-resilience-and-innovation>

U.S. Grains Council Global Food Security Symposium

Date: April 7th, 2010

Location: Tokyo, Japan

The Symposium will gather U.S. and Japanese government, agribusiness and biotechnology leaders for a first-ever, day-long examination of how international cooperation, policy and technology can be used to feed a burgeoning world population. The keynote speaker will be U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

<http://www.grains.org/news-events/2247-us-grains-council-announces-upcoming-global-food-security-symposium>

18th Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference

Date: April 21st – 22nd, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

Hosted by Informa Economics Inc.

For more information, contact [Theresa Stephens](#)

Informa Economics - 18th Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference

Date: April 22nd-23rd, 2010

Location: Arlington, Virginia

http://www.informaecon.com/Washington_Conference.asp

2010 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group

Date: April 24th – 25th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The 2010 World Bank and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings will be held on April 24 and 25 in Washington, DC. All CSO representatives interested in participating in the Spring Meetings must obtain individual accreditation. Representatives are encouraged to apply for accreditation which will open on Monday, March 8 and close on Monday, April 12. Those interested will be able to apply online for accreditation, and the link will be posted here on March 8.

<http://go.worldbank.org/D56FCO900>

2010 U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference

Date: April 27th – April 29th, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

This year's conference, which is themed "Building Dynamic Growth in Africa," focuses on key economic sectors in Africa, including information and communication technology, alternative energy, and human security. The effects of climate change on Africa are also a focus, along with available instruments for project finance. Immediately following the World Bank spring 2010 meetings, the conference brings together senior U.S. and African private sector and government officials; key decision makers from leading U.S. infrastructure companies; financial institutions; and international organizations with a vested interest in infrastructure investment and growth on the continent.

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S,M3,f2a576ef-3b24-4af2-81ed-33bf7d9b760b>

Building Food Security in the Face of Climate Change – CCFAS Launch Conference

Date: May 4th, 2010

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

The CCAFS Launch Conference is a one day event that will bring together the research and development community, policy makers, public and private research organizations, donors, and development agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.

<http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org/ccafs-launch-conference.php>

World Economic Forum on Africa

Location: May 5th – 7th, 2010

Dates: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The economic crisis has led to a reassessment of the systems governing global cooperation, financial architecture and policies linked to trade and climate change, and is a wake-up call to speed up implementation of long-discussed reforms. In this complex and evolving landscape, emerging markets, including those from Africa, are among the first to show signs of a recovery and are forecast to increasingly contribute to global growth in the next decade. How are leaders rising to the challenge and using the crisis as an opportunity to redesign a sustainable roadmap for Africa's future within the new global economy?

<http://www.weforum.org/en/events/WorldEconomicForumonAfrica2010/index.htm> (please add to and format for "Events" section)

Water for Food: Growing More with Less

Date: May 2-5

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Growing more food for a rapidly increasing population with limited water supplies is one of the greatest challenges facing the global community. The second international Water for Food conference will bring together experts from around the world to discuss this challenge and potential paths to solutions.

<http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/2010/>

Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

Date: June 29th, 2010

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>

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 – November 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

Shell Venture Yields Petrol from Sugar, *Financial Times*, March 26

Royal Dutch Shell is turning sugar and water into small quantities of synthetic petrol at a joint venture with a US technology company, it has announced. Virent Energy Systems, based in Wisconsin, has been producing about two thirds of a barrel per day of its "biogasoline" from a demonstration plant. Converting sugar into petrol has advantages over standard biofuel production, which makes ethanol. Petrol has a higher energy content and can be used in existing fuel infrastructure, unlike ethanol which needs to be transported separately because it attracts water.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/be25ccd4-3839-11df-8420-00144feabdc0.html>

Nigeria Plans to Increase Rice Production Fourfold in 10 Years, *Bloomberg*, March 26

Nigeria, Africa's third-biggest rice producer, plans to boost production of the grain fourfold over the next decade to save more than \$500 million spent annually on imports, the Agriculture Ministry said.

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

Small Seed Packets Open Donors for African Farmers, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa*, March 25

Taking a lead from the success of fast-moving consumer products in rural areas, local African seed companies and NGOs are reducing the size of packets of seeds and fertilizers to help smallholder farmers take the first steps to scale-up production.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1138>

Death of Coral Reefs Could Devastate Nations, *Associated Press*, March 25

Coral reefs are part of the foundation of the ocean food chain. If the reefs vanished, experts say, hunger, poverty and political instability could ensue.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h00FEqYmsZFmix6qyOrSXF0x2YEAD9ELQ4E83>

U.S. Works to Win Support of Poppy Farmers, *USA Today*, March 25

Coalition and Afghan forces are developing plans to provide jobs or financial assistance to opium poppy farmers who lost their buyers when a joint U.S.-Afghan offensive drove the Taliban from Marjah last month. Expanding cash-for-work plans in which Afghans are paid for activities other than poppy cultivation are effective, but only if they're combined with programs aimed at developing alternative crops, James Bever,

head of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Afghanistan-Pakistan task force, told Congress this month.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/afghanistan/2010-03-24-opium_N.htm

See Also: U.S. Turns a Blind Eye to Opium in Afghan Town, *New York Times*, March 20

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/21/world/asia/21marja.html?th=&emc=th&pagewanted=print>

S. Africa Firms Launch \$408 Mln Farmland Fund, *Reuters*, March 24

Two South African asset management firms launched a 3 billion rand farmland investment fund that is expected to help boost agricultural development in Africa's biggest economy.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE62N0KR20100324>

See Also: Beltone to Launch \$1 Bln Suban Agriculture Fund, *Reuters*, March 23

Egypt's Beltone Private Equity and Sudan's Kenana Sugar Company will launch a \$1 billion agricultural investment fund next week, Beltone said on Tuesday. Gulf and other Arab countries have been investing in a range of farming projects in Sudan, Africa's biggest country by area and long viewed as having huge agricultural potential.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE62M13620100323>

Angola Approves Biofuel Law, *AFP*, March 25

Angola's parliament has approved a law meant to support biofuel production, as the government tries to diversify the economy which currently depends on oil. Agriculture Minister Afonso Pedro Kanga noted concerns that developing biofuels could harm Angola's efforts to revive food crops, after most of the nation's farms were abandoned during the 27-year civil war that ended in 2002. He told the lawmakers that only "marginal" lands would be allowed to produce biofuels, saying the most fertile lands would be reserved for food production.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ijIWsvO6s8HcxbAO4mb2u65sUXbg>

S. Africa Draft Land Policy to Limit Ownership, *Reuters*, March 24

South Africa's government has drafted a new land policy that proposes limits to land ownership by its own citizens and foreigners, its Rural Development and Land Reform Minister said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE62N1XW20100324>

Too-Busy Bees, *Op-Ed, Marcelo Aizen and Lawrence Harder*, *New York Times*, March 24

Overall, about one-third of our worldwide agricultural production depends to some extent on bee pollination, but less than 10 percent of the 100 most productive crop species depend entirely on it. If pollinators were to vanish, it would reduce total food production by only about 6 percent. This wouldn't mean the end of human existence, but if we want to continue eating foods like apples and avocados, we need to understand that bees and other pollinators can't keep up with the current growth in production of these foods.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/25/opinion/25harder.html>

Ahluwalia: Must Cap Food, Fuel Subsidies, *Reuters India*, March 23

India must raise prices of fuel, fertiliser and food sold under welfare schemes to keep its subsidy bill at targeted levels, the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, said.

<http://in.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=INIndia-47156720100323>

See Also: India Food Prices to Remain High, *Wall Street Journal*, March 22

The Indian government hopes the arrival of winter-sown crops on the market from April will help lower soaring food prices in the country, but the harvest may not provide much relief beyond a few days even as analysts expect a bumper wheat crop and the federal government will likely release more wheat from its stockpile

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704117304575137471985798194.html?KEYWORDS=agriculture#printMode>

Africa: Region, India to Boost Agricultural Technology Cooperation, *All Africa*, March 22

Africa and India will boost cooperation in agricultural technologies for smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a view to achieving food security by 2015.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/201003230567.html>

The Berlin Declaration on Water and World Food Security, *Humboldt Forum for Food and Agriculture*, March 22

Agriculture withdraws about 70% percent of all fresh water. In the past, agricultural production growth has always been paralleled by increasing water withdrawals for farming. Therefore, future food production growth is increasingly constrained by water. Humboldt Forum for Food and Agriculture (HFFA) released a declaration on "Water and World Food Security" on the 2010 World Water Day.

http://www.humboldtforum.org/fileadmin/docs/HFFA_BerlinDeclaration_E_032010.pdf

Record South American Soybean Harvests Likely, *Wall Street Journal*, March 22

With the soybean harvest in full swing or kicking off across South American fields, fears of damage from too much rain are fading fast, and farmers are gearing up to deal with record crops.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704534904575132042795267812.html?KEYWORDS=agriculture#printMode>

Colonialism Lives in Biotech Seed Proposal for Africa, *Op-Ed*, Dennis Keeney and Sophia Murphy, *Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy*, *Des Moines Register*, March 20

Bill Gates and the biotech juggernauts are doing their best to keep Africa dependent on imported technology, just like in the bad old days of colonialism. Gates, Monsanto and Pioneer have joined the long list of those believing they know best how the continent should grow its food. If the history of colonialism and subsequent development practice have taught us anything, it is that all interventions must strengthen resilience, encourage diversity and be locally appropriate. The biotech seed proposal for Africa fails on all three counts.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/fdcp/?1269373920992>

Common Pesticide Tied to Development Delays in Kids, *Business Week*, March 19

The pesticide chlorpyrifos is associated with delays in the physical and mental development of young children, a new study shows. The product is banned in U.S. households but is widely used as an agricultural pesticide on fruits and vegetables. The agricultural use of chlorpyrifos is currently under review by the Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://www.businessweek.com/print/lifestyle/content/healthday/637169.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Vietnam to Help Chad Improve Food Security, *UN FAO*, March 26

Vietnamese experts will help Chad implement a series of activities aimed at improving the African country's food security under a tripartite South-South Cooperation agreement.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/40998/icode/>

See Also: Chad Seeks Withdrawal of UN Peacekeepers Protecting Food Distribution, *Voice of America*, March 23

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Chad-Wants-Withdrawal-of-UN-Peacekeepers-Protecting-Food-Distribution-88911452.html>

See Also: Severe Food Shortages in Western Chad Lead to Rising Malnutrition in Children, *UNICEF*, March 24

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/chad_53158.html

Food for Naught, *Newsweek*, March 24

The World Food Programme's Somalia problem is only the latest in a string of scandals.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/235385>

See Also: 'No Evidence' WFP's Somalia Food aid Diverted, *BBC*, March 25

The UN World Food Programme has denied a claim that up to half the food aid to Somalia was being diverted to Islamist militants and corrupt contractors.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8588061.stm>

See Also: UN Official Slams Report on Somalia Food Diversion, *Associated Press*, March 25

A report alleging widespread corruption in Somali food deliveries lacks evidence and is endangering lifesaving assistance to the impoverished African country, the U.N.'s aid chief in Somalia says.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jtjQzZhZxq3-K7MCkuYsLtZkjl-gD9ELL5SG0>

See Also: Somalia Says Rebels Extorting Money from Farmers, *Reuters*, March 23

Somali insurgent group al Shabaab is extorting money from farmers, causing a fall in production, the country's agriculture minister said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLDE62M02H>

US Willing to Resume Food Aid to North Korea, *AFP*, March 24

The United States would consider resuming food aid to North Korea if Pyongyang moves to lift a year-old refusal of humanitarian assistance, the State Department said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hr-pv0s9w235EedDZ81gelliWE A>

See Also: North Koreans Fear Another Famine Amid Economic Crisis, *Los Angeles Times*, March 25

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-korea-famine25-2010mar25.0,261133.story>

Food Shortages Could Affect Millions in Niger, *Voice of America*, March 24

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is appealing for nearly \$1 million to mitigate the effects of last year's bad harvest in Niger. An assessment conducted by the Niger government finds more than half of the country's 15 million people are facing food shortages due to irregular and poor rainfalls.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/Millions-of-Hungry-People-in-Niger-Need-Help-88998992.html>

Obama Seeks \$2.8 Billion for Earthquake-Ravaged Haiti, *McClatchy*, March 24

President Barack Obama is asking Congress for \$2.8 billion in aid for earthquake-wracked Haiti, jump-starting a global push to raise billions of dollars for the country's reconstruction. The package doesn't include direct budget support to Haiti's government, as Haitian President Rene Preval had requested in a visit to the White House earlier this month. There is, however, \$219 million in debt relief and \$433 million for housing, infrastructure and help restoring the country's energy, agriculture and industrial sectors.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/03/24/91022/obama-seeks-28-billion-for-earthquake.html>

As War in Yemen Ends, Humanitarian Crisis Grows, *Voice of America*, March 23

Last week, Yemen's government announced the end to six years of war with the Houthi rebel militia. But with a quarter of a million displaced people, and rapidly disappearing funds, aid agencies say they do not know how they will feed the civilian victims of the war.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/middle-east/As-War-in-Yemen-Ends-Humanitarian-Crisis-Grows-88935872.html>

The Re-Foundation of Haiti: Building a Strong Base with Education, *Anda Adams and Rebecca Winthrop*, *Brookings Institution*, March 23

Just prior to the earthquake, the State Department decided to terminate USAID investments in education in Haiti, as part of its new aid strategy. Cheryl Mills, chief of staff to Secretary of State Clinton, has been a primary architect of this plan, which would be "a comprehensive and integrated approach to achieve long-term stability and economic growth." The new plan focuses on security, agriculture, electricity and health, despite the demonstrated success of its out-of-school youth livelihood initiative and basic education reform program. Not funding the education sector where U.S. leadership is desperately needed, especially in terms of the technical expertise it can bring, could ultimately hamper the long-term success of its crucial work in health, electricity, security and agriculture.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0323_haiti_education_winthrop.aspx

Red Cross Calls for Aid to Combat Severe Food Crisis in Niger, *Voice of America*, March 22

The International Federation of the Red Cross is asking for \$1 million in international assistance to head off a severe food crisis in Niger that threatens more than seven million people.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Red-Cross-Calls-for-Aid-to-Combat-Severe-Food-Crisis-in-Niger-88836647.html>

Darfur Donor Meeting Eyeing \$2 Billion Opens in Cairo, *Reuters, March 21*

Investment in infrastructure, health, education and agriculture is vital to ending conflict in Sudan's Darfur region and nurturing the relative peace from recent ceasefire deals, Egypt said at a donor meeting.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE62K0GR20100321>

See Also: Darfur Donor Conference Falls Short of Expectations, *Agence France-Presse, March 21*

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100321/wl_africa_afp/sudanconflictdarfurreconstructionegypt/print

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Take A Global View of Climate Change, *Op-Ed, Raymond C. Offenheiser, President, Oxfam America and Mark Tercek, president and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, Politico, March 24*

But why should Americans care about these far-off communities and the climate threats they face? The fact is, their plight is our plight. Already, more frequent droughts, floods and other climate-related disasters in the most vulnerable countries are forcing entire communities to flee their homes. Military experts predict that conflicts over shrinking food and water supplies will destabilize already shaky governments and economies around the world.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0310/34877.html>

UN Body to Look at Meat and Climate Link, *BBC, March 24*

UN specialists are to look again at the contribution of meat production to climate change, after claims that an earlier report exaggerated the link.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8583308.stm>

See Also: Meat, Dairy Diet Not Tied to Global Warming, *Washington Times, March 22*

Forget all that indecorous talk of animal flatulence, cow burps, vegetarianism and global warming. Welcome to Cowgate. Lower consumption of meat and dairy products will not have a major impact in combating global warming — despite persistent claims that link such diets to more greenhouse gases. So says a report presented before the American Chemical Society.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/mar/23/meat-dairy-diet-not-tied-to-global-warming/>

Obama Keeps Africa in the Dark, *Op-Ed, Roy Innis and Niger Innis, Washington Times, March 24*

And yet Mr. Obama told his Ghanaian audience last July that Africa is gravely "threatened" by global warming, which he argues "will spread disease, shrink water resources and deplete crops," leading to more famine and conflict. Africa, he says, can "increase access to power while skipping - leapfrogging - the dirtiest phase of development," by using its "bountiful" wind, solar, geothermal and biofuels energy. The president made these remarks before the scandalous "Climategate" e-mails were made public and headline-grabbing claims about melting glaciers, burning Amazon rain forests and disappearing African agriculture were shown to be mere speculation and exaggeration from climate activists.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/mar/24/obama-keeps-africa-in-the-dark/>

Water: The Risks to Business, *Forbes, March 22*

Revocation of operating licenses, due to increasing regulation and/or community pressure. Coca-Cola, for instance, had to close a plant in India when its heavy water use came into conflict with local agricultural needs. Many companies are now factoring in water availability when deciding where to locate new facilities.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/03/19/scarcity-pepsico-conservation-technology-ecotech-water.html?boxes=Homepagechannels>

See Also: Water Scarcity and Climate Change: Growing Risks for Business Investors, *CERES and the Pacific Institute, March 2010*

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/business_water_climate/full_report.pdf

Wishing Well, *Economist*, March 22

The glass is more than half full: according to the World Health Organisation, some 5.9 billion people, or 87% of the world's population, enjoyed access to drinking water from an "improved" source in 2008. Yet in some parts of the world, notably in Africa, great improvements in water supply are still needed. Some 884m people are still not using an improved water source, more than a third of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

http://www.economist.com/daily/news/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15758798&

WOMEN

Protecting Children and Mothers Against Vitamin A Deficiency, *ONE Campaign*, March 23

In Mozambique, sweet potato is one of the most important traditional food and cash crops. It ranks third in production, after maize and cassava. The government of Mozambique selected sweet potato as one of the most significant crops for mitigating food insecurity and malnutrition among its 21 million people. Sweet potato in Africa is widely consumed mainly in rural areas hence the widespread consumption of orange-fleshed sweet potato could significantly reduce vitamin A deficiency, which threatens an estimated 43 million children under age 5 in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Mozambique Vitamin A deficiency accounts for 69% of the total children.

<http://www.one.org/blog/2010/03/23/protecting-children-and-mothers-against-vitamin-a-deficiency/>

Rural Women Managing Households Are Real-Life CEOs, *IFAD*, March 23

Ahead of the MDG3- Conference: 'Women's Empowerment and Employment' on 25 March, 2010 in Copenhagen, Yukiko Omura, Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) called women small farmers the 'CEOs of rural areas'. Prior to the conference, describing the critical role of women as small farmers and traders, food producers and home managers, Omura said, "Women farmers grow, buy, sell, cook food and feed their children. They perform the majority of the agricultural work and, on a global scale, women cultivate more than half of all the food that is grown."

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2010/24.htm>

See Also: Rural Women Key to Economic Growth, Says UN Official, *UN News Centre*, March 23

Women farmers are often the chief executives of their rural areas and supporting their economic development is crucial for economic growth and poverty reduction, a senior United Nations official said ahead of an international conference on women's empowerment.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34165&Cr=agriculture&Cr1>

World Water Day Address, *Ellen Johnson, President of Liberia, Water Aid America*, March 22

"Our observance of World Day of Water allows us to reflect on the progress we've made toward ensuring that everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. We've come a long way. However let us not underestimate the challenges that millions of people, particularly women, face every day in the world's poorest countries. The many miles they are forced to walk to fetch water and the water and sanitation-related diseases that are spread by unsafe water sources. Today, as we celebrate the 8th World Water Day, the theme of which is "water quality," highlighting the message, "Clean water for a healthy world," more than two dozen diseases are triggered by unsafe water, poor sanitation and hygiene."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BteBjDV98hc>

Bring Back the Kitchen Mamas, *Isobel Coleman, Senior Fellow for US. Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, Huffington Post*, March 17

According to a UN report presented to the Security Council on March 16, as much as half of Somalia's food aid is siphoned away from needy people by corrupt aid workers, officials, and contractors. The solution is to enlist local women. Using local kitchens to feed the population without resorting to large, vulnerable convoys would remove one of al-Shabab's main buttresses. Without stolen food to sell, militants will have less cash to buy weapons, in turn diminishing their ability to dominate the land.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/isobel-coleman/bring-back-the-kitchen-ma_b_502582.html

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

India to Boost Basmati Exports, *Wall Street Journal*, March 26

India aims to increase its exports of basmati rice by at least 20% next financial year by selling to two new countries and growing shipments to existing buyers. India, the world's largest producer of the aromatic, superior rice variety, is heading for record exports of around 2.7 million tons in the financial year that ends March 31. Exports are likely to rise next fiscal year as Mexico has opened up its market to Indian basmati and China is expected to follow suit.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704100604575145210547646410.html>

China Last Nation to Lift Ban On US Pork as Swine Flu Fears Ease; Farmers See Market Improve, *Los Angeles Times*, March 26

Nearly a year after nations banned U.S. pork over fears about swine flu, China has become the last one to lift its embargo and is expected to accept shipments by early next month. It's a move welcomed by an industry that has suffered several years of losses, but some experts caution farmers shouldn't expect to see a surge in exports.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-food-and-farm-pork-exports.0,203890.story>

See Also: China Becomes Last Nation to Lift Ban on US Pork, *Associated Press*, March 26

Nearly a year after nations banned U.S. pork over fears about swine flu, China has become the last one to lift its embargo and is expected to accept shipments by early next month.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100326/ap_on_bi_ge/us_food_and_farm_pork_exports

Proposals to Limit Trading of Fish Rejected at Global Conference, *Washington Post*, March 26

The night before officials from 175 countries in Doha, Qatar, were to decide whether the world should stop trading Atlantic bluefin tuna to halt its precipitous decline, the Japanese ambassador hosted a reception for a select group of delegates at his residence. On the menu was one of his nation's most coveted delicacies: bluefin sushi and sashimi. And the next day, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) voted to allow trading of bluefin tuna to continue across the globe, unchecked.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/25/AR2010032500782.html>

See Also: The Fishing Lobby Wins Again, *Editorial*, *New York Times*, March 20

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/20/opinion/20sat2.html>

Sourball, *Editorial*, *Washington Post*, March 22

For better or worse, sugar is one of the most pervasive ingredients in the American food supply. When its price spikes, as it has recently, costs go up for food processors and grocery bills go up for consumers. Recent fluctuations in the price of sugar somewhat reflect supply disruptions in countries such as India and Brazil. And if sugar were getting more expensive because of the free play of supply and demand, our advice would be to grin and bear it -- or maybe cut down on snacks and sodas. But the price of sugar does not only reflect market forces. In fact, wasteful government policies are deeply implicated in the latest surge.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/21/AR2010032102633_pf.html

U.S. Must Make First Move to Jump-Start Doha: EU, *Reuters*, March 22

The European Union cannot make more concessions on farm trade to restart stalled world trade talks and the United States must make the first move, the EU's new trade chief, Karel de Gucht, said.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE62L5QL20100322>

See Also: Doha Trade Talks Not At Their Expected Stage – Anand Sharma, *Reuters*, March 20

<http://in.reuters.com/article/topNews/idINIndia-47077620100320>

See Also: Lamy Opens Stocktaking Week with Hope for Strong Signal on Concluding the Round, *World Trade Organization*, March 22

http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news10_e/tnc_dg_stat_22mar10_e.htm

Doha, Development and the Agriculture Issue: Let's Get Real!, *Open Democracy*, March 18

Of course, the developed world maintains very high agricultural tariffs and subsidies relative to barriers against trade in manufactures. And these distortions are, without doubt, especially burdensome to the poorest countries, who have a comparative advantage in labour-intensive farming, and where around two-

thirds of employment is in rural areas. One study estimates that the agricultural policies of OECD countries cause about US\$40 billion in annual welfare losses for developing countries. But, sadly, almost nothing is ever said about the reform of agricultural tariffs in the developing world itself.

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/charles-barclay-roger/doha-development-and-agriculture-issue-lets-get-real>

AGRIBUSINESS

Taking the Challenge, *Economist*, March 25

Indra Nooyi, the boss of PepsiCo, wants her firm to be “seen as one of the defining companies of the first half of the 21st century”, a “model of how to conduct business in the modern world.” To that end, on March 22nd she unveiled a series of targets to improve the healthiness of Pepsi’s wares. By 2015 the firm aims to reduce the salt in some of its biggest brands by 25%; by 2020, it hopes to reduce the amount of added sugar in its drinks by 25% and the amount of saturated fat in certain snacks by 15%. Pepsi also recently announced that it would be removing all its sugary drinks from schools around the world by 2012.

http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15772138

See Also: PepsiCo Unveils Global Nutrition Environment and Workplace Goals, *PepsiCo Press Release*, March 22

PepsiCo, the world's second-largest food and beverage company, announced new global goals in the areas of nutrition, the environment, and workplace practices at its investor conference.

<http://www.pepsico.com/PressRelease/PepsiCo-Unveils-Global-Nutrition-Environment-and-Workplace-Goals03222010.html>

See Also: Pepsi Pledges Healthier Foods, *Financial Times*, March 21

Pepsico will pledge to cut levels of salt, sugar and saturated fats in its top-selling products by a quarter during the coming decade amid rising pressure from governments to encourage healthier eating.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/ee1d609a-351a-11df-9cfb-00144feabdc0,dwp_uuid=280781be-a525-11dd-b4f5-000077b07658,print=yes.html

Cargill Considers Dropping Palm Oil Supplier, *Financial Times*, March 24

Cargill, the world’s largest trader of agricultural commodities, has become the third company to reconsider its relationship with a top Indonesian palm oil supplier over allegations it is tearing down protected forests to make way for plantations.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/841681e0-376d-11df-9176-00144feabdc0.html>

States Look to Join Agricultural Antitrust Fight, *BusinessWeek*, March 22

Montana is leading a 16-state effort to save small farmers and ranchers by urging the federal government to use antitrust weapons and enlist the states' help to fight increasing consolidation in agriculture.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9EJNUV01.htm>

Supreme Court Considering GM Alfalfa Case, *Lincoln Journal Star*, March 20

The Supreme Court is considering overturning a court order that has blocked Monsanto Co. from selling alfalfa seeds that are genetically modified to resist its Roundup weed killer.

http://journalstar.com/business/local/article_69854e0c-339d-11df-be34-001cc4c03286.html

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