

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“Let me say at the outset that I firmly believe that results and impact are what count. I have said it on previous occasions and I will say it again now: declarations, commitments, and speeches don’t feed hungry people.”* - Speech by IFAD President Kanayo Nwanze, “Shaping the Future of Agriculture Together: The case for enhanced support to ARD,” Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development, Montpellier, France, March 28, 2010.

**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](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
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### KEY ARTICLES

**An EU Policy Framework to Assist Developing Countries in Addressing Food Security, *European Commission, March 31***

The right to adequate food is realised when every man, woman and child have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement. The rights-based approach to food security is based on the recognition that poverty, social exclusion and a lack of participation in political decision-making processes are the main causes of food insecurity. Economic development does not necessarily lead to a reduction of hunger, and can even increase problems of access to food due to greater inequalities.

[http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/SEC2010\\_379\\_EN.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/SEC2010_379_EN.pdf)

**See Also: Food Security: Tackling Hunger in Developing Countries, *European Public Health Alliance, March 31***

The European Commission adopted two new EU policy frameworks to help developing countries address the issue of food security, both in emergency and long-term situations. The policy framework objective is to ensure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal related to the elimination of poverty and hunger (MDG 1), including increasing the effectiveness of humanitarian support in areas with food insecurity.

<http://www.eph.org/a/3873>

**Action Plan for National Recovery and Development**, *Government of the Republic of Haiti, March 2010*  
Challenges to agriculture, livestock farming, fishing and food weigh heavily on the social and economic situation and the country's future. Today, agriculture remains the most important sector in terms of the number of jobs in Haiti: it accounts for more than 50 percent of the workforce. It is therefore one of the pillars of the country's stability, an essential axis of its development.

[http://haiticonference.org/Haiti\\_Action\\_Plan\\_ENG.pdf](http://haiticonference.org/Haiti_Action_Plan_ENG.pdf)

**See Also: Donors Pledge Billions in Aid for Haiti**, *Wall Street Journal, March 31*

But a host of challenges stand in the way, including some erected by the international community. In agriculture, for instance, the country is now a major importer of U.S. subsidized rice, at prices that make the creation of a domestic rice industry difficult.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304252704575156292562229962.html>

**See Also: Key to Success: Boosting Agriculture**, *Miami Herald, March 30*

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/03/30/1554334/key-to-success-boosting-agriculture.html>

**See Also: \$5.3 Billion Pledged Over 2 Years at U.N. Conference for Haiti Reconstruction**, *Washington Post, April 1*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/31/AR2010033101359.html>

**See Also: Britain Comes Up Short on Haiti Aid**, *Foreign Policy, March 31*

But not everyone dug into their treasury to help pay for the rebuilding of Haiti. Traditional donors, including Britain and Austria, pledged nothing for reconstruction, according to a donor list produced by the European Union, which provided a total of \$1.6 billion to the effort.

[http://turtlebay.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/31/europe\\_comes\\_up\\_short\\_on\\_haiti\\_aid](http://turtlebay.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/31/europe_comes_up_short_on_haiti_aid)

**Out of the Spotlight**, *Op-Ed, Dan Glickman, President of Refugees International and Co-Chair of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Politico, April 2*

We are at a pivotal moment. The Obama administration and Congress have restored the world's faith in America as a moral leader. Now we must continue to earn that faith. Recent events have shown how quickly people can be uprooted. The earthquake in Haiti left more than 700,000 people homeless. A further 600,000 people have fled Port-au-Prince. USAID's foreign disaster assistance office has already spent on Haiti more than 40 percent of its annual budget. But the U.S. effort is far from complete. Millions of Haitians are still desperate for food, water, shelter and protection from abuse and exploitation.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0410/35313.html>

**The Hungry Can't Eat Words**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, April 2*

A blunt reminder of the task at hand came from Europe this week, aimed at the powers-that-be in the Group of Eight leading industrial countries, also known as the G8: "Declarations, commitments and speeches don't feed hungry people." Kanayo Nwanze, president of the International Fund for Agriculture Development, was speaking to more than 1,000 researchers, policymakers, farmers, donors and humanitarians from around the world gathered in Montpellier, France.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/04/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-hungry-cannot-eat-words.html>

**Foreign Aid: Women's Progress is Human Progress, and Human Progress is Women's Progress**, *Op-Ed, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Globe and Mail, March 29*

Women are central to our effort to elevate development as a pillar of our foreign policy alongside diplomacy and defence. As those who grow the world's food, collect the water, gather the firewood and wash the clothes – and, increasingly, as those who work in the factories, run the shops, launch new businesses and create jobs – women are powerful forces for economic growth and social progress. Our global food security program is a

\$3.5-billion commitment to strengthen the world's food supply and its ability to reach markets, so farmers can earn enough to support their families and food can get to all people everywhere – and it is focused on supporting women, who are the majority of farmers in the developing world.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/foreign-aid-womens-progress-is-human-progress-and-human-progress-is-womens-progress/article1516116/>

**Renewal, Not Restoration, Should Be the Goal for Haiti**, *Op-Ed, Ban-Ki Moon, UN Secretary General, Washington Post, March 29*

If Haiti is to flourish, social infrastructure and economic development must be dispersed from Port-au-Prince to regions and cities throughout the country. That is why Haiti's national plan contains ample provision for environmental recovery, land reform, and new investment in fisheries and agriculture.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/28/AR2010032802352.html>

**See Also: Getting Haiti Upright**, *Editorial, Washington Post, March 29*

An immediate focus must be alleviating the misery of those left homeless by the quake. That means swiftly building modest homes and channeling funds into agriculture, rural jobs and development projects that will encourage those displaced from the capital to remain in the provinces.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/28/AR2010032802336.html>

**A Message to GCARD from USAID Administrator, Dr. Rajiv Shah**, *Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development Blog, March 31*

“In his inaugural address, President Barack Obama pledged that the United States would work as a partner with farmers in the developing world to make their fields flourish. The President is following through on his commitment. There is global agreement that it will take a larger and more integrated approach to solve the scourges of hunger and poverty. And in this global vision, agricultural science and technology plays a prominent role alongside empowering small scale producers with better tools and knowledge, enabling them to access market, helping governments make informed and strategic decisions, and sustaining growth through judicious management of our natural resources. All of these are essential to reaching our goals of accelerating progress to cut hunger and poverty.”

<http://gcardblog.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/a-message-to-gcard-from-usaid-administrator-dr-rajiv-shah/>

**See Also: Historic Dialogue Between Agricultural Scientist, Farmers, Policymakers, and Other Key Development Actors Charts New Path**, *Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development, March 31*

Failure to prioritize agriculture and rural development at the same level as other sectors like health and education has left many developing countries with gaps in capacity needed to meet the Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger and poverty. It has also left them unprepared for coping with rapid climate change and a population explosion expected to occur by 2050, according to experts at the close of the first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD).

<http://gcardblog.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/final-press-release/>

**See Also: Global Food Reserve Needed to Stabilize Prices, Researchers Say**, *Business Week, March 28*

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-28/global-food-reserve-needed-to-stabilize-prices-researchers-say.html>

**See Also: Global Agricultural Conference Hears Calls for Greater Research and Investment**, *Voice of America, March 29*

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/science-technology/decapuqa-gcard-ifad-29mar10-89399497.html>

**Shaping the Future of Agriculture Together: “The Case for Enhanced Support to ARD,”** *Speech by IFAD President Kanayo Nwanze to the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development: GCARD, March 28*

“Agriculture and rural development hold the key. GDP growth generated by agriculture has been shown to be at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as growth in other sectors. Agriculture – spanning crop production, fishing, livestock, forestry and pasture – has driven economic growth through the centuries, from 18th century England, to 19th century Japan, to 20th century India, to Brazil, China and Viet Nam today. But if

agriculture has an important role to play in poverty reduction, let's not forget that it also plays an important role in exacerbating – and falling prey to – climate change.”

<http://www.ifad.org/events/op/2010/gcard.htm>

**BRIC Ministers Reach Agreement on Promoting Global Food Security**, *Kaiser Family Foundation, March 29*

Brazil, Russia, India and China, collectively known as BRIC, have reached an agreement to promote global food security. Meeting in Moscow last Friday, Brazil Agrarian Development Minister Guilherme Cassel, Russian Agriculture Minister Elena Skrynnik, Indian Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar and Chinese Agriculture Minister Han Changfu "said that they ... resolved to address the problem of food production and hunger without delay in a comprehensive manner through resolute action by governments and relevant international agencies.”

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/March/29/GH-032910-BRIC.aspx>

**Food and Agricultural Policies for a Sustainable Future**, *OECD Agriculture Ministerial Meeting, February 2010*

In the years ahead, the global food and agriculture system will have to provide sustainably for billions more people and meet greater demands on quality, affordability and availability. Farming will be competing with other sectors for land, water and investment, while climate change adds new pressures.

[http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/harvest-2050/OECD-Ministerial-Agriculture%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/harvest-2050/OECD-Ministerial-Agriculture%20(2).pdf)

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**RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**U.S. Department of the Treasury, International Programs Budget Justification for Appropriations, FY2011 Budget Request**, *U.S. Department of Treasury, March 2010*

As part of the President's commitment to address global hunger and food security, Treasury has designed and launched a new multi-donor trust fund to provide financial support for poor countries committed to addressing their internal food security needs. In support of the U.S. effort to increase food security, Treasury is also seeking continued support for the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

<http://www.treas.gov/offices/international-affairs/intl/fy2011/FY%202011%20CPD%20for%20web.pdf>

**USTR Steps Up Enforcement Focus with First-Ever Reports on Agricultural, Technical Barriers to U.S. Exports**, *United States Trade Representative, March 2010*

U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk transmitted to Congress the 2010 National Trade Estimate (NTE), which describes significant barriers to U.S. trade and investment faced in the last year as well as the actions being taken by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to address those barriers. In addition, Ambassador Kirk delivered two new, related reports focusing specifically on sanitary and phytosanitary barriers and technical barriers to trade that harm the ability of America's agricultural producers and manufacturers to export around the world.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/march/ustr-steps-enforcement-focus-first-ever-reports-agri>

**See Also: Key Sanitary and Phytosanitary Barriers to American Exports**, *United States Trade Representative, March 2010*

U.S. exports of biotech corn and soybeans, as well as other agricultural products that contain - or may contain - biotech-derived ingredients, continue to face a multitude of trade barriers. For example, some U.S. trading partners have continued to employ restrictive measures or impose bans on certain biotech products even though repeated risk assessments have shown no health or environmental safety concerns and these biotech products have proven safety records. The United States is actively engaged with trading partners in seeking to remove these unwarranted trade barriers, and more broadly, in efforts to share experiences related to biotechnology development, regulation, and trade.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/fact-sheets/2010/march/key-sanitary-and-phytosanitary-barriers-american-export>

**See Also: The 2010 National Trade Estimate Report: Key Elements**, *United States Trade Representative, March 2010*

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/fact-sheets/2010/march/-2010-national-trade-estimate-report-key-elements>

**See Also: Sen. Chambliss Statement on National Trade Estimate**, *Senate Committee Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, April 1*

"The three reports released today highlight barriers to U.S. trade and investment. The reports on sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers to trade are particularly important to U.S. agriculture since farmers and ranchers are disproportionately the target of these measures."

[http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2031&Itemid=71](http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2031&Itemid=71)

**Remarks by President Obama and President Karzai of Afghanistan After Meeting**, *The White House, March 28*

Obama: "And I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts -- all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-obama-and-president-karzai-afghanistan-after-meeting>

**Remarks at the International Donors conference: Towards A New Future for Haiti**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, March 31*

"So let us say here, with one voice, we will pass this test for us. To that end, the United States pledges \$1.15 billion for Haiti's long-term recovery and reconstruction. This money will go toward supporting the Government of Haiti's plan to strengthen agriculture, energy, health, security, and governance. We are committed to working with the people and organizations throughout Haiti, including civil society groups, private businesses, NGOs, and citizens. And I'm very glad to see so many of them represented here today."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/03/139313.htm>

**Remarks by President Obama and President Sarkozy of France During Joint Press Availability**, *The White House, March 30*

Obama: "We agreed that sustained and balanced growth includes rejecting protectionism. France is one of our largest trading partners. And we need to expand global commerce, not constrain it. With that regard, we think it's important that Doha trade negotiations move forward this year, and we need all interested parties to push for a more ambitious and balanced agreement that opens global markets."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-obama-and-president-sarkozy-france-during-joint-press-availabilit>

**See Also: U.S., France Working to Sustain Global Recovery**, *Reuters, March 30*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN3018132720100330>

**Remarks with G-8 Foreign Ministers After Their Ministerial Meetings**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, March 31*

Clinton: "I think the situation in Afghanistan about which we spoke at some length during our meeting in the last two days is cause for both optimism and caution. On the optimism side, I believe that we are employing a strategy that is working. It is working on both the military and the civilian front. The recent military action in Marjah, which was immediately followed by civilian development experts, reconstruction, governance, rule of law, agriculture, education, and so much more, is exactly the kind of combined approach that we believe has the best chance for success."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/03/139287.htm>

**Remarks at Women's Business Enterprise National Council Awards Ceremony**, *Robert D. Hormats, Under Secretary for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, March 25*

"We also know that 'at the macroeconomic level, female education is a key source of support for long-term economic growth. It has been linked to higher productivity, higher returns to investment; higher agricultural

yields, and a more favorable demographic structure. The economic growth that results from higher education feeds a virtuous cycle, supporting continued investments in education and extending the gains to human capital and productivity.’ In support of the efforts of the Office of Global Women’s Issues, my office is helping to advocate for many of your business around the world. This will pave the way for more women-owned enterprises to access new markets and collaborate with other companies internationally.”

<http://www.state.gov/e/rls/rmk/2010/139271.htm>

**U.S. House May Pass Cuba Farm Export Bill in April, *Bloomberg, March 31***

The U.S. House of Representatives may pass a bill next month that would ease restrictions on agricultural exports to Cuba and lift a ban on travel to the Communist island, the measure’s sponsor said. Congressman Collin Peterson, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, said he needs backing from one more lawmaker to assure the panel will approve the legislation.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aGbEnn3WjT7Q>

**How Obama Sold the Farm, *The Atlantic, April 1***

The Obama administration’s schizophrenic approach to agriculture policy—making PR gestures toward sustainable farming with one hand while nudging ahead the agendas of agribusiness giants like Monsanto and Dow Chemical with the other—was on full display this weekend when the President used a recess appointment to install Islam Siddiqui as the chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/food/archive/2010/04/how-obama-sold-the-farm/38288/>

**USDA Announces Availability of Research, Education and Extension Grants to Address Major Societal Challenges, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, March 23***

USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) released information about its request for application process that will ultimately award \$262 million in competitive grant funding from the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). AFRI’s request this week is seeking proposals related to five “societal challenge areas” in which NIFA leaders believe research can contribute to “significant and measurable outcomes”. These areas include childhood obesity prevention, climate change, food safety, global food security and sustainable bioenergy.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0146.xml>

**Lowenstein New SFRC Staff Director, *Politico, March 29***

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) has named Frank Lowenstein as the new staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and committee investigations chief, and former journalist, Douglas Frantz as the deputy staff director.

[http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0310/Lowenstein\\_new\\_SFRC\\_staff\\_director.html?showall](http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0310/Lowenstein_new_SFRC_staff_director.html?showall)

**T. Charles Cooper Named MCC Vice President for Congressional and Public Affairs, *Millennium Challenge Corporation, March 31***

The U.S. Government’s Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Chief Executive Officer Daniel W. Yohannes announced that T. Charles Cooper will join MCC as Vice President for Congressional and Public Affairs (CPA). As Vice President for CPA, Mr. Cooper will lead the department that manages MCC’s relationships with the U.S. Congress, the media, universities, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, the private sector, and other groups interested in MCC’s mission to reduce poverty through economic growth.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-033110-tcharlescooper.shtml>

**See Also: Andrew J. Mayock Joins MCC As A Deputy Vice President for Compact Implementation, *Millennium Challenge Corporation, March 29***

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Chief Executive Officer Daniel W. Yohannes announced that Andrew J. Mayock has joined MCC as a Deputy Vice President for Compact Implementation.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-032910-andrewjmayock.shtml>

**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](#)**

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## **NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS**

### **2010 Economic Report on Africa, UNECA, March 2010**

A major challenge facing Africa is climate change. The report states that agricultural output is expected to decrease by 50 per cent in Africa, resulting in severe undernourishment as a result of unchecked climate changes. The health burden and conflicts will increase as populations fight over dwindling resources. The need for Africa to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies cannot be overemphasized. The costs of adaptation and mitigation are, however, extremely high and beyond the means of African countries. It is estimated that the cost of adaptation could be anywhere between 5 and 10 per cent of continental GDP. It is therefore important for the international community to help in financing the cost of climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa.

[http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Publications/books/era2010/ERA10\\_Book.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Publications/books/era2010/ERA10_Book.pdf)

#### **[Overview](#)**

*Chapter 1:* **[Developments in the World Economy and Implications for Africa](#)**

*Chapter 2:* **[Economic and Social Conditions in Africa in 2009 and Prospects for 2010](#)**

*Chapter 3:* **[Selected Current and Emerging Development Issues for Africa in 2009](#)**

*Chapter 4:* **[The Critical Drivers and Enablers of High Levels of Sustainable Growth](#)**

*Chapter 5:* **[Growth-Employment-Poverty Reduction Linkages: A Framework for Recovery and Accelerated Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals](#)**

*Chapter 6:* **[Selected Country Experiences from Africa](#)**

**See Also: [Africa Has 27 Million More People in Poverty Following Crisis](#), Bloomberg, March 30**

The global economic crisis pushed 27 million more people into poverty in Africa, putting the continent in a "precarious situation," the African Union said. AU finance officials agreed to boost spending on agriculture, improve regional trade and create continent-wide lenders, such as the African Investment Bank, to help improve economic growth, according to a draft statement.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aDO3B25qCJLU>

### **Pulling Agricultural Innovation Into the Market, Center for Global Development, March 2010**

Feeding three billion additional people over the next four decades and improving food security for one billion people who are currently hungry or malnourished—all in an era of worsening land and water scarcity, climate change, and declining crop yields—is a dire challenge. Meeting it will require a giant leap in agricultural innovation in developing countries, similar to the 1960s Green Revolution.

<http://www.cgdev.org/userfiles/foodandag/Pulling%20Agricultural%20Innovation%20into%20the%20Market.pdf>

*Please note: The authors of the paper are accepting comments on the above paper. Comments received by April 14 will be considered for incorporation into a revised draft to be shared with potential funders.*

*Provide comments at:* [http://www.cgdev.org/section/topics/food\\_and\\_agriculture/incentivesforaginnovation](http://www.cgdev.org/section/topics/food_and_agriculture/incentivesforaginnovation)

### **A Draft Strategy and Results Framework for the CGIAR, CGIAR, March 2010**

The threats to the lives and livelihoods of millions of poor people presented by global crises in food, finance, climate and the environment are well documented and growing. The CGIAR group of international research centers and partners is well positioned to help address those challenges by means of coordinated, science-based, technological, economic and policy approaches. It is judged that the CGIAR will be better equipped to help address these challenges with a new, results-oriented strategy and an improved organizational design. The change process within CGIAR has produced an optimized organizational and funding structure, agreed at its meeting in December 2009. Part of that process has entailed building a strategic framework. This paper sets out the draft version of that new framework.

<http://alliance.cgxchange.org/strategy-and-results-framework-and-mega-programs/SRF20March2010.pdf>

**See Also: [Future Funding for Agricultural Research Uncertain](#), Nature News, March 31**

Financial donors to a global network of 15 agricultural research centres want changes to the way the influential group plans to reshape its research programme. The tensions, voiced at a conference in Montpellier, France, raise questions over future funding for the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR), which supports thousands of scientists working on agriculture and food security in developing countries.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100331/full/news.2010.165.html>

**Haiti: A Once-In-A-Century Chance for Change**, *Oxfam, March 2010*

The rainy season coincides with the beginning of the planting season for rice and the height of Haiti's 'lean' season, and urgent action is needed to support the majority of Haitians who depend on subsistence farming. Although agriculture accounts for only 28 per cent of gross domestic product, it employs two-thirds of the workforce. The earthquake caused riverbanks to collapse and damaged irrigation works, compounding the effects of years of neglect and impoverishment in the agricultural sector. It is undercapitalized and inefficient, and has undergone little technological innovation.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/haiti-reconstruction-paper-03-26-10.pdf>

**Global Trade and Environmental Impact Study of the EU Biofuels Mandate**, *ATLASS Consortium, March 2010*

This report is one of four studies commissioned by the European Commission in response to the Council and Parliament's request to examine the indirect land use change effects of biofuels. It is positive on the emission reduction effects of biofuels, and on the environmental benefits of trade opening in biofuels. Indirect land use change effects do indeed off-set part of the emission benefits but are not a threat at the currently estimated volume of 5.6% of road transport fuels required to meet the 10% renewable energy mandate by 2020. The findings are subject to uncertainties because of gaps in available data and the lack of complete empirical validation. Nevertheless, this study makes progress towards a better understanding of the environmental and economic effects of biofuels.

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2010/march/tradoc\\_145954.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2010/march/tradoc_145954.pdf)

**The Economics of Food: How Feeding and Fueling the Planet Affects Food Prices**, *Patrick Westhoff, Author of "The Economics of Food", Published March 2010*

In recent years, food prices have soared--and plummeted. As crops are increasingly shifted to biofuel production, will prices soar again? What are the hidden relationships between the food on your plate and the gas in your car? Will economic recovery lead directly to massive inflation in both food and energy? What do food prices have to do with world hunger?

<http://www.ftpress.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0137006101>

**See Also: Sample Chapter**, *The Economics of Food, March 2010*

Everyone eats, and billions of people around the world work in agriculture and related industries. Food prices are important to everyone and literally a matter of life and death for some. The prices we pay at the grocery store depend on everything from the weather in Iowa and India to the types of fuel we put in our cars in London and Los Angeles. Economic growth in China affects the price of a pizza in Chicago. Understanding why food prices rise and fall can help us anticipate and react to future market developments. It can also help us make important decisions as a society about how best to feed and fuel the planet.

<http://www.ftpress.com/articles/article.aspx?p=1552966>

**More Than Eco-Efficiency is Required to Improve Food Security**, *Crop Science, March 2010*

Agricultural eco-efficiency is promoted as a means of increasing agricultural production and improving the security of food systems in response to climate change. The rationale is that economic and environmental resources will be used more efficiently, enabling increased amounts of food to be produced from the same amount or fewer inputs. The authors used (i) a quantitative literature analysis to examine current usage of the eco-efficiency concept to assess strategies aimed at improving food security under climate change, and (ii) a wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) simulation experiment to consider possible tradeoffs between economic benefits of agricultural intensification, environmental performance, and social impacts.

<http://www.crops.org/files/publications/crop-science/abstracts/50-2/c09-10-0566.pdf>

**See Also: Eco-Efficient Agriculture: Concepts, Challenges, and Opportunities**, *Crop Science*, March 2010

Eco-efficiency in the simplest of terms is about achieving more with less—more agricultural outputs, in terms of quantity and quality, for less input of land, water, nutrients, energy, labor, or capital. This paper explores the multidimensionality of the eco-efficiency concept as it applies to agriculture across diverse spatial and temporal scales, from cellular metabolisms through to crops, farms, regions, and ecosystems.

<https://www.crops.org/files/publications/crop-science/abstracts/50-2/c09-10-0594.pdf>

**The Impact of the Global Crisis on South Asia**, *Asian Development Bank*, March 2010

Monetary policy successfully stabilized the financial sector from the initial impact of the global crisis. But the effectiveness of monetary policy to support growth by lowering the cost of borrowing was mixed. Given the inflation risks arising out of recent global oil price movements and potentially weak domestic food production in South Asia, exit strategies from the accommodative monetary policy should be carefully considered while balancing fiscal accommodation to avoid jeopardizing preliminary signs of economic recovery.

<http://www.adb.org/documents/papers/south-asia-working-paper-series/Global-Crisis-Impact.pdf>

**Biotechnology and Food Security in Developing Countries**, *Nyerhovwo J. Tonukari and Douglasson G. Omotor*, March 2010

Food security is a necessity for every individual, home, community and nation. In developing countries, food security could be substantially improved by increased investment and policy reforms. Biotechnology's ability to eliminate malnutrition and hunger through production of crops resistant to pests and diseases, having longer shelf-lives, refined textures and flavours, higher yields per units of land and time, tolerant to adverse weather and soil conditions, and generate employment, cannot be over-emphasized. This technology can be applied to improve agriculture in order to improve food production for the human population in an environmentally sustainable manner. However, there is need for government and public-private collaborations to invest in agricultural biotechnology-based companies, research, or initiatives, in order to make the gene revolution beneficial to developing countries.

<http://www.academicjournals.org/bmbr/PDF/Pdf2010/Feb/Tonukari%20and%20Omotor.pdf>

**Decadal Variations in NDVI and Food Production in India**, *NASA*, March 2010

In this study the authors use long-term satellite, climate, and crop observations to document the spatial distribution of the recent stagnation in food grain production affecting the water-limited tropics (WLT), a region where 1.5 billion people live and depend on local agriculture that is constrained by chronic water shortages. Overall, their analysis shows that the recent stagnation in food production is corroborated by satellite data. One quarter of the statistically significant declines are observed in India, which with the world's largest population of food-insecure people and largest WLT croplands, is a leading example of the observed declines.

<http://ecocast.arc.nasa.gov/pubs/pdfs/remotesensing-02-00758.pdf>

**Sustainability and Global Seafood**, *Science*, March 2010

Although seafood is the most highly traded food internationally, it is an often overlooked component of global food security. It provides essential local food, livelihoods, and export earnings. Although global capture fisheries production is unlikely to increase, aquaculture is growing considerably. Sustaining seafood's contributions to food security hinges on the ability of institutions, particularly in developing countries, to protect and improve ecosystem health in the face of increasing pressures from international trade.

[http://www.cobi.org.mx/publicaciones/2010-smith\\_et\\_al\\_sust\\_seafood-sciencemag-org.pdf](http://www.cobi.org.mx/publicaciones/2010-smith_et_al_sust_seafood-sciencemag-org.pdf)

**Rural Road Investment Efficiency: Lessons from Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Uganda**, *World Bank*, March 2010

Based on data collection from various sources in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Uganda, the authors aim to demonstrate that from a cost-benefit perspective, the additional cost of extending an all-weather road 2 more km to the farmer's door outweigh the benefits in most cases.

<http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821382141>

**The Global Financial Crisis and Developing Countries**, *Overseas Development Institute, March 2010*

When the global financial crisis broke out in earnest in September 2008, it quickly became clear that developing countries would also be affected, but that the impacts would vary markedly. The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) coordinated a multi-country study over January-March 2009 involving developing country teams in 10 countries. This showed that, while the transmission mechanisms were similar in each (trade, private capital flows, remittances, aid), the effects varied by country, and much was not yet visible.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4784.pdf>

**The (Indispensable) Middle Class in Developing Countries; or, The Rich and the Rest, Not the Poor and the Rest**, *Nancy Birdsall, Center for Global Development, March 2010*

Inclusive growth is widely embraced as the central economic goal for developing countries, but the concept is not well defined in the development economics literature. Since the early 1990s, the focus has been primarily on pro-poor growth, with the “poor” being people living on less than \$1 day, or in some regions \$2 day. The idea of pro-poor growth emerged in the early 1990s as a counterpoint to a concern with growth alone and is generally defined as growth which benefits the poor as much or more than the rest of the population. The author argues that the concept of inclusive growth should go beyond the traditional emphasis on the poor (and the rest) and take into account changes in the size and economic command of the group conventionally defined as neither poor nor rich, i.e., the middle class.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423994\\_file\\_Birdsall\\_Indispensable\\_Middle\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423994_file_Birdsall_Indispensable_Middle_FINAL.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Open Markets for the Poorest Countries: Trade Preferences That Work**

*Date:* April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Please join us for the launch event of the CGD working group report on global trade preference reform, *Open Markets for the Poorest Countries: Trade Preferences That Work*. Working group chair and CGD senior fellow Kimberly Elliott will present the report’s recommendations, and CGD president Nancy Birdsall will moderate a panel discussion with working group members William Lane and Gawain Kripke on how trade policies can better support development objectives.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/calendar/detail/1423995/>

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

*Date:* April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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

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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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>

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference**

*Date:* April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Arlington, Virginia

Hosted by Informa Economics Inc. For more information, contact [Theresa Stephens](mailto:Theresa.Stephens@informaecon.com)  
[http://www.informaecon.com/Washington\\_Conference.asp](http://www.informaecon.com/Washington_Conference.asp)

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

*Date:* April 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 27<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>, 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>

### **Water for Food: Growing More with Less**

*Date:* May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*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/>

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

*Date:* May 4<sup>th</sup>, 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/ccaafs-launch-conference.php>

### **World Economic Forum on Africa**

*Date:* May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* 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>

### **Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever**

*Date:* June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Copenhagen, Denmark

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

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

### **2010 Borlaug Dialogue - "Take It to the Farmers": Reaching the World's Smallholders**

*Date:* October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup> – November 12<sup>th</sup>, 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>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### **India's Double Digit Growth Fantasy, Op-Ed, Kunal Kumar Kundu, Financial Times, April 1**

The neglect of the agricultural sector, on which a majority of India's population depend upon, is also widely known. Lack of capacity building haunts this sector and even more than 60 years after independence, food security remains a concern. A large number of rural population lives under abject poverty at less than \$2 per day. In this background, how can India reap the supposedly rich (read young population) demographic dividend is anybody's guess.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cfb729e2-3d76-11df-bdbb-00144feabdc0.html>

### **A Search for Regulators and a Road Map to Deliver GM Crops to Third World Farmers, New York Times, March 31**

In the transgenic crop fight, the foot soldiers on either side have been dug in for years. But despite the doubts about the necessity of GM, farmers have been voting with their seeds. The acreage where transgenic crops are planted has been increasing. Developing nations and small farming operations are the newest adopters of GM crops. By 2015, the European Commission predicts that there will be 120 commercial crops worldwide, up from the 30 currently grown.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/03/31/31climatewire-a-search-for-regulators-and-a-road-map-to-de-53658.html>

**See Also: A Race to Introduce GM Corn Before Africa's Climate Worsens, New York Times, March 30**

Two new varieties of corn, also known as maize, are coming to sub-Saharan Africa. One of them is conventionally bred; the other, better-yielding variety is genetically modified. Both are drought-tolerant and the seeds are royalty-free. Together with other agricultural interventions, they have the potential to feed some of the 300 million people for whom the plant is a staple.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/03/30/30climatewire-a-race-to-introduce-gm-corn-before-africas-c-40010.html>

### **Dairy Skills Exported to Africa, BBC, March 31**

Dairy farming expertise from southern Scotland is to help tackle poverty and aid economic growth in Malawi.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/scotland/south\\_of\\_scotland/8595301.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/south_of_scotland/8595301.stm)

**Interview: Dr. Pedro Arraes Pereira, President of Embrapa, IFPRI Forum, March 30**

IFPRI Forum talks with Dr. Pedro Arraes Pereira about the future of agriculture, biotechnology, and climate change in developing countries.

<http://ifpriforum.wordpress.com/2010/03/30/interview-arraes-pereira/>

**Commentary: Putting Agricultural Extension Back on the Development Agenda, IFPRI Forum, March 30**

Agricultural extension (also known as agricultural or rural advisory services) plays a crucial role in promoting productivity, increasing food security, improving rural livelihoods, and promoting agriculture as an engine of pro-poor economic growth. Though it fell off the development agenda for a number of years, a recent confluence of factors—such as rising food prices, renewed government and donor interest in agriculture and advisory services, and a broad commitment to restructure global agricultural development institutions—has led to a resurgence of interest.

<http://ifpriforum.wordpress.com/2010/03/30/commentary-putting-agricultural-extension-back-on-the-development-agenda/>

**Sonia Gandhi Takes Cabinet Role, Financial Times, March 30**

Sonia Gandhi, the leader of India's Congress party, has been formally elevated to the rank of cabinet minister, as she assumes charge of a policy advisory council expected to push for a social welfare agenda. Legislation expected to get a boost from her direct involvement includes a food security bill, which would give families below the poverty line the right to receive 25kg of highly subsidised grains each month, and a law to reserve 33 per cent of parliamentary seats for women.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/99e9907c-3c11-11df-b40c-00144feabdc0.html>

**African Farmland Deals Need Rules, Grass-Roots Warn, Reuters, March 30**

Large-scale foreign leases of African farmland risk driving conflict and fuelling corruption in the region without regulation, regional experts told a conference on agricultural development. If rules for responsible foreign land investment can be drafted and followed, leases could provide a much-needed cash infusion for African agriculture, which has struggled to find investment elsewhere.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE62T0C820100330>

**See Also: WFP Advises Caution on Africa Land Lease Plans, Reuters, March 30**

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE62T0D220100330>

**White Zimbabwe Farmers Win South Africa Property, BBC News, March 30**

A group of white farmers who had their land seized in Zimbabwe are attempting to claim property owned by the Zimbabwean government in South Africa.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8594479.stm>

**Agricultural Prices, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, March 30**

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/AgriPric/2010s/2010/AgriPric-03-30-2010.pdf>

**Let's Hear It for Urban Agriculture, Op-Ed, Sara Franklin, Global Post, March 29**

Rural farmers forced to migrate to urban areas in the developing world in search of work have long turned to their agricultural skills as a way of feeding themselves and their families when all else fails. It is only recently that urban agriculture has garnered attention in the first world, something many attribute to the growing popularity and romanticizing of small-scale organic farming.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/worldview/100326/favelas-brazil-urban-agriculture>

**Day of the Grasshopper Looms, Wall Street Journal, March 29**

Farmers and ranchers across the West are bracing for a grasshopper infestation that could devastate millions of acres of crops and grazing land.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052702304434404575150060526201230.html>

**Iraqi Children's Growth Stunted by War, Says Study. BBC News, March 28**

Iraqi children born in the most violent areas are shorter than those born in other parts of the country, UK researchers have found. The team looked at data from Iraq's central statistics office and said under-fives from these areas were on average 0.8cm (0.3in) shorter. Low height can be linked to poor diet and sanitation.  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8589734.stm>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### **Overtures to China May Signal Opening of North Korea's Economy**, *Washington Post*, April 2

Squeezed by food shortages and financial sanctions, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il appears to be reaching out to China and Chinese investors in a way that could mark an extraordinary opening in the insular nation's shuttered economy. Inside North Korea, food shortages have worsened because of botched currency reform, which disrupted the private markets that feed most of the country's 22.5 million people. In addition, large-scale food aid from South Korea has been stopped until Pyongyang agrees to junk its nuclear weapons.  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/01/AR2010040101244.html>

### **In U.S. Plan for Haiti, Rebuilding Government Is Key**, *Washington Post*, March 31

An internal Obama administration assessment concludes that the U.S. government has provided \$4 billion in aid to Haiti since 1990 but "struggled to demonstrate lasting impact," according to a summary of the review, which has not been publicly released.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/30/AR2010033003586.html>

**See Also: Foreign Aid A Blessing, Curse for Struggling Haiti**, *National Public Radio*, March 30

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125343322>

**See Also: Haiti Frets Over Aid and Control of Rebuilding**, *New York Times*, March 30

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/31/world/americas/31haiti.html>

**See Also: Clinton to Co-Chair Haiti Rebuilding Authority**, *Washington Post*, March 31

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/30/AR2010033003811.html>

### **Humanitarian Need in Niger Growing**, *Voice of America*, March 31

Relief officials say Niger needs at least \$150 million in international assistance to meet emergency food needs brought on by poor harvests. That estimate is up from \$123 million just weeks ago. With half of Niger's 15 million people already vulnerable to food shortages, relief officials are preparing an emergency action plan to address both general food security and malnutrition among especially vulnerable groups including children and pregnant women.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Humanitarian-Need-in-Niger-Growing-89612882.html>

### **Mandela's Wife: Recession Could Be Good for Africa**, *Associated Press*, March 31

Nelson Mandela's wife says decreased aid to Africa due to the global recession could be a good thing for the continent. Former Mozambican first lady Graca Machel advocated for industrialization and regional integration on the continent as an approach to developing a "win-win" situation for African countries and their trading partners. Machel was speaking on the sidelines of a nutrition conference in South Africa.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/31/AR2010033102220.html>

### **Seeds and Tool Kit Delivered to 68,000 Households in Haiti**, *UN Food and Agriculture Organization*, March 31

FAO has distributed seeds and tool kits to 68,000 farming families in the earthquake zones of Haiti, the first step in the agency's response to the catastrophe that hit the Caribbean nation.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41058/icode/>

### **Why We Should Give More**, *Op-Ed*, Bill Holbrook, *Haiti Country Director for Mercy Corps*, *Baltimore Sun*, March 31

Today, Haiti must resurrect a middle economy that was lost many years ago. This would offer hundreds of thousands of decent-paying jobs - transforming a largely unskilled work force stuck at the bottom of the economic pyramid into a skilled work force. But Haitians need international assistance to make this possible.

Industries such as apparel production, agriculture and tourism should be nurtured in both the provinces and the capital city so that Haitians can participate formally in a growing, vibrant grass-roots economy.  
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bal-op.haiti31mar31.0.5429355.story>

**A Plan to Spur Growth Away from Haiti's Capital**, *New York Times*, March 30

"You need to restore a balance," said Leslie Voltaire, an urban planner and a special envoy to the United Nations, in an interview. "If we don't do anything, Port-au-Prince is expected to grow to 6,000,000 in the next 15 years. It will become an incubator for further crime and violence. Our economic advantage is in agriculture and tourism, and these are by nature decentralized."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/31/arts/design/31planning.html>

**See Also: Beyond Haiti Relief, UN Looks at Building Outside Port-au-Prince**, *Christian Science Monitor*, March 29

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2010/0329/Beyond-Haiti-relief-UN-looks-at-building-outside-Port-au-Prince>

**Courting Pakistan**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 28

The United States and Pakistan is the world's oddest couple, with an on-again, off-again friendship that has survived since the 1950s. Last week both sides completed a "strategic dialogue" in Washington amid fears that they were headed for another break-up. Those fears can only be countered if both the U.S. and Pakistan keep the larger goal in mind: the development of a stable, secure and prosperous Pakistan. Last week's dialogue reiterated common goals on some key issues, including energy, infrastructure, agriculture and trade.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303737704575148383698453038.html>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**Water Shortages Put World's Supply At Risk**, *Dallas News*, April 2

Water shortages and inefficient irrigation threaten the world's ability to feed a growing population, said David Molden, deputy director-general for research at the International Water Management Institute. The grain-growing regions of northern China, India and Australia's Murray Darling Basin, as well as farming areas in the western United States, Mexico and Pakistan, face "really tight" water situations, Molden said.

[http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/world/stories/DN-water\\_02int.ART.State.Edition1.4cfbd95.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/world/stories/DN-water_02int.ART.State.Edition1.4cfbd95.html)

**Countries Blame China, Not Nature, for Water Shortage**, *New York Times*, April 2

In southern China, the worst drought in at least 50 years has dried up farmers' fields and left tens of millions of people short of water. Farmers and fishermen in countries that share the Mekong River with China, especially Thailand, have lashed out at China over four dams that span the Chinese portion of the 3,000-mile river, despite what appears to be firm scientific evidence that low rainfall is responsible for the plunging levels of the river, not China's hydroelectric power stations.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/02/world/asia/02drought.html>

**Arab States Urged to Be Open on Water Scarcity**, *Times of India*, April 2

People in the Arab world need fuller and freer information about shrinking water supplies but their governments are withholding it for fear of fuelling unrest, a United Nations expert said. Arable land makes up just 4.2 percent of the Middle East and North Africa and is expected to shrink due to climate change -- a potential source of political instability, analysts say, in a region where economic privation has sometimes sparked conflict.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/Arab-states-urged-to-be-open-on-water-scarcity/articleshow/5754774.cms>

**A Transparency Agreement for International Climate Finance – Addressing the Trust Deficit**, *Overseas Development Institute*, March 2010

As new climate change funding initiatives appear, principles to assess their worth have been proposed under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). However, there has been little emphasis on

how these principles might fit together in a coherent framework by which compliance with the principles could be assessed. This Opinion proposes a transparency agreement for international climate finance that could rebuild the trust that was eroded at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in December 2009.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4798.pdf>

**Britain Brandishes Olive Branch to Restart Global Climate Talks**, *Guardian*, March 31

Britain brandished a diplomatic olive branch as it tried to restart global climate change negotiations with an initiative to heal the rift between rich and poor countries following the failure of the Copenhagen summit. Climate secretary Ed Miliband conceded considerable ground, offering to sign a new Kyoto treaty as developing countries' demand, but while also requiring that those nations enshrine their commitments to tackling global warming in international law.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/mar/31/ed-miliband-restart-climate-change-talks>

**U.N. Official Says Climate Deal Unlikely Until 2011**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 31

A new legal agreement committing nations around the world to curb greenhouse-gas emissions is unlikely to be completed until the end of 2011, two years later than originally envisioned, the top U.N. climate official said. Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the U.N. climate-change secretariat, said countries need to restore confidence in U.N. negotiations following the dismal results of the Copenhagen summit in December, which ended in a vague agreement of principles and a pledge of finances for poor countries most threatened by climate change.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304252704575155401087430006.html>

**Geoengineering: We All Want to Change the World**, *Economist*, March 31

Dealing with climate change might mean tinkering with the oceans and the atmosphere. Those who could do so would like the regulations to be clear.

[http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=15814427](http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15814427)

**New Program Aims to Mitigate Climate Threats to Food Security**, *International Research Institute for Climate and Society*, March 2010

A new multimillion dollar research program by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research aims to alleviate climate-related threats to the food security, livelihoods and environment of people living in the developing world. One of the key intellectual forces behind this initiative has been the International Research Institute for Climate and Society's Jim Hansen. He'll be leading efforts within the program to look at how managing current climate risks will help farming communities adapt to longer term climate change.

[http://portal.iri.columbia.edu/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=699&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=0&mode=2&in\\_hi\\_userid=2&cached=true](http://portal.iri.columbia.edu/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=699&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=0&mode=2&in_hi_userid=2&cached=true)

**A Prescription for the Ocean's Ailing Health**, *Op-Ed*, Dr. Greg Stone, *CNN*, March 30

Conservation International is promoting policies and actions to stop unsustainable exploitation of fisheries, habitat-destructive industrial fishing techniques, and fisheries practices that threaten the food security of millions of coastal residents who depend entirely on subsistence fisheries.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/03/29/plastiki.conservation.international/>

**Pakistan Steps Up Water Dispute**, *Financial Times*, March 29

Pakistani leaders have elevated a dispute over water resources to the top of Islamabad's points of contention with India, a move that could politicise a highly sensitive issue in the drought-prone region. New Delhi fears that water from the Himalayas could emerge as a new populist dispute, on a par with the contested territory of Kashmir, between the two nuclear-armed rivals that have fought three wars over the past 63 years.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e0e21dd0-3b46-11df-b622-00144feabdc0.html>

**See Also: India and Pakistan Feud Over Indus Waters**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 29

After years of tense negotiations, India and Pakistan signed the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960 with the help of the World Bank. As part of the treaty—which is widely viewed by water experts as a model of how water conflicts can be managed—each side got unrestricted use of three rivers and rights to use the others for nonconsumptive purposes such as flood control, navigation and bathing. India was

granted limited agricultural usage of Pakistan's rivers, plus the right to build hydroelectric projects, as long as they don't store or divert large amounts of water.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304370304575151591013994592.html>

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## WOMEN

### **EU raises the bar on food assistance**, *IRIN*, April 2

The new EU policy aims to strengthen the four pillars of food security in developmental as well as emergency settings, said a press release: (i) increasing availability of food, (ii) improving access to food, (iii) improving quality and ensuring people eat nutritious food, (iv) boosting the effectiveness of crisis prevention and management. It called for a special focus on small-scale farmers and women.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=88666>

### **Afghan Women Flex Economic Muscle**, *Asia Times*, April 1

Makai is so engrossed at the clattering sewing machine that she barely notices as visitors enter her new workplace. The 35-year-old is one of 2,500 female members of the Agriculture and Handicrafts Association of Parwan Province, a unique organization that she and others say has helped pull their families out of poverty. The search is under way for funding for that project and for two others planned for the coming years: a chain of poultry farms where women participants will get 200 eggs to sell at market per day, and agricultural cooperatives to improve livestock breeding.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/LD01Df01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/LD01Df01.html)

### **A solution to hunger and climate change? Try vegetables**, *Reuters*, March 31

How can Africa ease hunger, improve women's lives and adapt to climate change all in one stroke? By growing vegetables, researchers believe.

[http://www.alertnet.org/db/an\\_art/60714/2010/02/31-131708-1.htm](http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/60714/2010/02/31-131708-1.htm)

**See Also: Vegetable farming helps poor women of W. Africa**, *Commodity Online*, March 30

<http://www.commodityonline.com/news/Vegetable-farming-helps-poor-women-of-W-Africa-27006-3-1.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### **China Offer on Free-Trade Talks with India**, *Financial Times*, April 2

China has offered to accelerate free trade agreement talks with India in a bid to balance a burgeoning trade relationship between two of Asia's largest economies that is heavily skewed in Beijing's favour. India has appealed for China to open up its market to Indian goods and companies, complaining that they face considerable non-tariff barriers and seldom win state contracts. Among other measures, New Delhi wants Beijing to end restrictions on Indian exports of information technology, Bollywood films and fresh food.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/26608e22-3e4a-11df-a706-00144feabdc0.html>

**See Also: Indian Visit to Boost China Ties Improved by Trade**, *Reuters*, April 1

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSSGE62S09I20100401>

### **New Japan Leadership Presents Beef 'Opportunity'**, *Bloomberg*, March 30

New leadership in Japan may provide an "opportunity" to resolve a dispute that has limited beef trade with the Asian nation for seven years, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. The government of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, which took office in September, may begin to revisit restrictions put in place in 2003 when mad cow disease was found in the U.S., Vilsack told reporters in Washington.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=anSYXa9KV6kA>

### **Rebound in World Trade Is Seen**, *New York Times*, March 26

Led by economic growth in China and India, world trade is projected to expand by 9.5 percent this year after shrinking by 12.2 percent last year in the sharpest contraction since World War II, the World Trade Organization said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/27/business/global/27wto.html>

**See Also: Trade to Expand by 9.5% in 2010 After a Dismal 2009, WTO Reports**, *World Trade Organization*, March 26

After the sharpest decline in more than 70 years, world trade is set to rebound in 2010 by growing at 9.5%, according to WTO economists.

[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres10\\_e/pr598\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres10_e/pr598_e.htm)

**See Also: Some Say Trade Numbers Don't Deliver the Goods**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 27

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748703312504575141790705775672.html>

**Food Dependency Is Poverty Trap for Quake-Hit Haiti**, *Reuters*, March 26

Laborers at Haiti's only working sugar mill, the Jean Leopold Dominique de Darbonne, chew on sugar cane stalks to sustain themselves as they prepare the factory for another grinding season. But it is foreign imported sugar and rice, besides dirt-poor subsistence farming, that sustains Haiti's nearly 10 million population -- an underdevelopment dilemma that has been highlighted as the Caribbean nation struggles to rebuild after the devastating earthquake in January.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62P2EU20100326>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**A Victory for Democracy – Another Blow to Monsanto**, *Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of the Center for Food Safety*, *Huffington Post*, April 1

It's finally happened. At last a government agency has rejected a genetically modified crop on the basis of a lack of conclusive scientific evidence that it is safe for consumers and the environment. The moratorium on the genetically engineered (GE) product also came about, in no small measure, as a prudent response to overwhelming public concerns regarding GE crops. The only twist is that this crop, Bt eggplant, was not rejected by the U.S. government, but by the government of India.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-kimbrell/a-victory-for-democracy\\_b\\_521505.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrew-kimbrell/a-victory-for-democracy_b_521505.html)

**See Also: Seeds of Antitrust Destruction**, *Editorial*, *Wall Street Journal*, March 29

An antitrust assault against Monsanto and the broader farm industry will do nothing to advance the competition that Mr. Holder claims to protect. Federal interventions against market leaders typically target companies most likely to innovate and create products that drive progress. Those who invest in research and development have a right to reap what they sow.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703625304575115700008483206.html>

**Bigger Kraft Faces Tough Task Ahead**, *Financial Times*, March 31

Irene Rosenfeld's leap into the big league was underlined this week when the chief executive of Kraft Foods overtook her counterparts at PepsiCo and Coca-Cola to become one of the best-paid consumer goods chief executives in the US. Having spent recent months slogging it out to secure Cadbury, Ms Rosenfeld has been richly rewarded. She was awarded \$26.3m last year for "exceptional" leadership during Kraft's \$19.1bn takeover of the British confectioner as well as for Kraft's improved performance on completion of a three-year turnaround plan.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b63cd0b4-3cec-11df-bbcf-00144feabdc0.html>

**Lo-Sweet, Lo-Fat, Lo-Salt, Editorial**, *Editorial*, *New York Times*, March 31

PepsiCo has an intriguing new approach to salt. It has reportedly designed a powdery salt crystal that dissolves more efficiently on the tongue, releasing more of its saltiness before it's swallowed. The company hopes that that will allow it to reduce by a quarter the amount of salt it puts on its Lay's potato chips.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/31/opinion/31wed4.html>

**As Patent on Genes Is Invalidated, Taking Stock**, *New York Times*, March 30

Many biotechnology stocks fell as investors struggled to understand the impact of a ruling that threw out parts of two gene patents and called into question thousands more. Eventually, if the judge's reasoning is upheld on appeal, the invalidation of genetic patents could hit diagnostics companies, agricultural

biotechnology companies and perhaps even traditional drug makers, though drugs are often protected by patents on their own chemical composition.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/31/business/31gene.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y>

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