

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



March 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“I believe we have an opportunity in the coming months to achieve something close to a consensus and pass a global food bill that would have major benefits for international health and stability, as well as for U.S. foreign policy.”* – Senator Richard Lugar, Opening Statement, “Building on Success: New Directions in Global Health,” Hearing before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, March 10

**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

**Congressional Budget Justification for FY 2011 Foreign Operations Request**, *U.S. Department of State, March 2010*

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/137936.pdf>

**See Also: U.S. State Department’s Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations: Funding Summary for the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative**, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, March 2010*

<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Newsletter/STATE%20CBJ%20FOREIGN%20OPS.pdf>

**Global Food Security: U.S. Agencies Progressing on Governmentwide Strategy, But Approach Faces Several Vulnerabilities**, *U.S. Government Accountability Office, March 2010*

The administration is making progress toward finalizing a governmentwide global food security strategy—expected to be released shortly—but its efforts are vulnerable to data weaknesses and risks associated with the strategy’s host country-led approach. To enhance U.S. efforts to address global food insecurity, GAO recommends that the Secretary of State (1) develop an operational definition of food security that is accepted by all U.S. agencies, establish a methodology for consistently reporting comprehensive data across agencies, and periodically inventory agencies’ food security-related programs and funding; and (2) collaborate with other agency heads to finalize a governmentwide strategy that delineates measures to mitigate the risks associated with the host country-led approach.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10352.pdf>

**See Also: Hearing- Global Food Security, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, March 11**

[http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub\\_ardf.shtml](http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_ardf.shtml)

**Opening Statement, Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, Chair, March 11**

“This is one reason why I am concerned about the flat funding levels in the USDA’s proposed budget for the PL 480 Title II program and the McGovern-Dole program. Now, when the world needs our help and is looking to us for moral leadership, now is not the time to forsake our commitment to funding food aid. After all, it is no hyperbole to say that helping to feed the world in this manner also helps to keep our troops safe.”

[http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Delauro\\_Opening\\_Statement.3.11.10.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Delauro_Opening_Statement.3.11.10.pdf)

**Testimony, Thomas Melito, Director International Affairs and Trade Team, March 11**

“While the U.S. government supports a wide variety of programs and activities for global food security, it lacks comprehensive data on funding. We found that it is difficult to readily determine the full extent of such programs and activities and to estimate precisely the total amount of funding that the U.S. government as a whole allocates to global food security.”

[http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness\\_testimony/AG/Thomas\\_Melito.3.11.10.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness_testimony/AG/Thomas_Melito.3.11.10.pdf)

**Building on Success: New Directions in Global Health, Hearing before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, March 10**

[http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/20100310\\_2/](http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/20100310_2/)

*Opening Statement from Ranking Member Richard Lugar*

“As efforts on global health move forward, it is vital that they be accompanied by effective assistance to improve agricultural productivity and food security. The connection between under-nourishment and health has long been established. When Secretary of State Clinton testified before us last month, we noted the strong convergence between her Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative and the Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act, which has been passed by this Committee. I believe we have an opportunity in the coming months to achieve something close to a consensus and pass a global food bill that would have major benefits for international health and stability, as well as for U.S. foreign policy.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/LugarStatement100310a.pdf>

*Testimony from Bill Gates, co-founder, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

“With proposed Fiscal Year 2010 supplemental spending taken into account, the President’s FY2011 International Affairs Budget would be 2.8 percent above FY2010 amounts. These increases would fulfill the President’s historic G-20 commitments on global food security and provide resources to America’s first Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative. The Gates Foundation has devoted nearly \$1.5 billion to increasing global food security, and we are thrilled with the President’s proposals in this area. I know that they would not be possible without the leadership that Ranking Member Lugar, Senator Casey, and others have shown on this issue, and that they will require Congressional resolve to bring to fruition.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/GatesStatement100310a.pdf>

**See Also: Gates warns Obama at risk of falling short on global health pledge, The Hill, March 10**

<http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/85997-gates-warns-obama-at-risk-of-falling-short-on-global-health-pledge>

**The Neglected Crisis of Undernutrition: DFID’s Strategy, UK Department for International Development, March 2010**

The nutrition strategy sets out a range of immediate and longer-term measures to reach young children in the critical first 1,000 days from conception. This is the key window in which malnutrition has to be tackled -

beyond a child's second birthday, harmful effects cannot be reversed. The strategy sets out short-term measures to directly address malnutrition including vitamin and mineral supplements for pregnant women; promotion of breastfeeding for babies; and providing vitamin A supplements to infants and young children, as well as using zinc to reduce the harmful effects of diarrhoea and promoting better hygiene and hand washing.  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/nutrition-strategy.pdf>

**See Also: The Neglected Crisis of Undernutrition: Evidence for Action**, UK Department for International Development, March 2010

This paper reflects the type of evidence that informs DFID's and others' policy formulation and the major findings.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/nutrition-evidence-paper.pdf>

**Food Security**, *OECD Observer*, February 2010

Can global agriculture and food systems provide for the predicted 9 billion people living in the world in 2050? Predictions of global famine are not new, but recent setbacks in the fight to eradicate hunger have brought agriculture back to centre stage in international discussions.

[http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/3212/Food\\_security.html](http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/3212/Food_security.html)

**See Also: Water in Agriculture: Improving Resource Management**, *OECD Observer*, February 2010

World agriculture faces an enormous challenge over the next 40 years: to produce almost 50% more food up to 2030 and double production by 2050. With pressure from increasing urbanisation, industrialisation and climate change also rising, proper water management will be vital.

[http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/3217/Water\\_in\\_agriculture:\\_Improving\\_resource\\_management.html](http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/3217/Water_in_agriculture:_Improving_resource_management.html)

**See Also: Climate Change and Agriculture**, *OECD Observer*, February 2010

Agriculture not only contributes to climate change and is affected by it, it also forms part of the solution. Coherent and effective policies are needed.

[http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/3213/Climate\\_change\\_and\\_agriculture.html](http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/3213/Climate_change_and_agriculture.html)

**Something New Out of Africa: A Global Player**, *Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, Huffington Post*, March 10

This country has long been seen as the growth hub in the south and eastern part of the continent. But this past year, as a member of the G-20 group of nations, South Africa has come to be seen as much more -- an emerging market, yes. And now also an influence on how global decisions are shaped. This is a new role for Africa in the world -- and a new way for Africa to be seen by the world.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dominique-strausskahn/something-new-out-of-afri\\_b\\_494123.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dominique-strausskahn/something-new-out-of-afri_b_494123.html)

**See Also: IMF Director Praises Africa's Fiscal Policies**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 8

Africa's economic engines are emerging quickly from a global recession, powering better-than-expected growth for the bulk of the continent, said the International Monetary Fund's managing director.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704706304575107642759660932.html>

**See Also: IMF Unveils Plan for Climate-Change Fund**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 8

The International Monetary Fund unveiled plans for an African "green fund," an effort that would move the group outside its traditional mandate to address what its director said is an unfilled need to help poorer nations cope with climate change.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704869304575109311867255200.html#printMode>

**See Also: The IMF in Africa: Going Green**, *Economist*, March 11

[http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=15679939](http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15679939)

**Women and Girls Are Key to Security**, *Op-Ed, Ann Lewis, director of communications for President Bill Clinton and president of NoLimits.org, and Susan Molinari, former Congresswoman from New York, Politico*, March 8

The news from Haiti in January is a powerful reminder of what a difference U.S. help can make. We can be proud that American assistance over the years — from vaccines to food aid to clean water — has saved millions of lives and improved living conditions for millions more. Spending on human and economic development now — on education, basic health and infrastructure — is a smart investment. That's why

Democrats and Republicans agree that more resources are needed for these programs, including funds for agricultural development, health and women and girls.

<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=3A59B084-18FE-70B2-A8DEEF85B0B26640>

**See Also: Empowering Women and their Communities through Nutrition Security**, *Stephan B. Tanda, Managing Board Member, DSM, Huffington Post, March 8*

Across the developing world, women are disproportionately affected by malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency or "hidden hunger". Hidden hunger leads to impaired cognitive and physical development, increase mortality rates, and leaves the individual more prone to chronic illnesses.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephan-b-tanda/empowering-women-and-their\\_b\\_490303.html?view=print](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephan-b-tanda/empowering-women-and-their_b_490303.html?view=print)

**How Banks Can Help the World's Poor**, *Op-Ed, Alexander Friedman, former chief financial officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Financial Times, March 7*

These days, it has become something of a trend to demonise capitalists and praise philanthropists. But if we are to make true progress in tackling our most pressing social problems and live up to our moral obligation to help those in extreme poverty, these two seemingly polarised groups need to come together in fundamentally new ways. We need to stop separating investment decisions from philanthropic giving; the building and giving away of wealth should not be seen as disparate sets of skills. The world's problems cannot be solved either by unfettered markets or by limited pools of philanthropic dollars.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/98952da6-2a1b-11df-b940-00144feabdc0.html>

**U.N. to End Some Deals for Food to Somalia**, *New York Times, March 11*

The United Nations World Food Program announced that it would not give any new contracts to three Somali businessmen who have been accused of diverting food aid to Islamist militants and that the agency would welcome an independent investigation into its Somalia operations.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/12/world/africa/12somalia.html?th&emc=th>

**See Also: UN Agency Acts on Somali Food-Aid Claims**, *BBC, March 11*

The UN's food agency has blacklisted three contractors named in a UN report which alleged that food aid in Somalia was being diverted.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8562097.stm>

**See Also: Somalia Food Aid Bypasses Needy, U.N. Study Says**, *New York Times, March 9*

As much as half the food aid sent to Somalia is diverted from needy people to a web of corrupt contractors, radical Islamist militants and local United Nations staff members, according to a new Security Council report. The report, which has not yet been made public, outlines a host of problems so grave that it recommends that Secretary General Ban Ki-moon open an independent investigation into the World Food Program's Somalia operations. It suggests that the program rebuild the food distribution system — which serves at least 2.5 million people and whose aid was worth about \$485 million in 2009 — from scratch to break what it describes as a corrupt cartel of Somali distributors.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/10/world/africa/10somalia.html?pagewanted=print>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Transcript of Remarks by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack 2010 Commodity Classic, Anaheim Convention Center Anaheim, CA**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, March 5*

"In order for us to expand trade globally, I think we have to think differently about trade. In the past we've thought about individual countries, and we've basically approached trade with a one-size-fits-all approach. The President has announced the National Export Initiative which has charged the USDA with beginning to think strategically about trade. We need to do one other thing in trade. We need to focus on the need for expansion and a better understanding of biotechnology, and a greater acceptance of biotechnology. The reality in the world today is that the population of the world continues to grow, and the amount of land available to produce farm products to raise food and fiber and fuel continues to shrink as communities expand and develop around the world."

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B/.cmd/ad/.ar/sa.retrievecontent/c/6.2.1UH/.ce/7.2.5JM/.p/5.2.4TQ/.d/1/th/I.2.9D/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?PC.7.2.5JM.contentid=2010/03/0121.xml&PC.7.2.5JM.parentnav=TRANSCRIPTS.SPEECHES&PC.7.2.5JM.navid=TRANSCRIPT>

**See Also: Secretary Vilsack Outlines USDA Efforts to Revitalize Rural America and Increase Agricultural Exports**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, March 5

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0105.xml>

**International Women's Day**, *Secretary of State Hillary Clinton*, March 8

"March 8th is International Women's Day—a day to reflect on the progress the world has made in advancing women's rights, and to recognize what work remains to be done. We have made great progress, but there is a long way to go. Women are still the majority of the world's poor, unhealthy, underfed, and uneducated."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/03/137841.htm>

**Remarks by the President at the Export-Import Bank's Annual Conference**, *White House*, March 11

"So we're going to continue to work towards an ambitious and a balanced Doha agreement -- not just for the sake of any agreement, but for one that enhances market access for American agriculture and goods and services."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-export-import-banks-annual-conference>

**See Also: Obama's Ambitious Export Plan May Rekindle Free-Trade Battle**, *Washington Post*, March 11

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/11/AR2010031100739.html>

**Remarks at the National Press Club**, *U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk*, March 9

"We are working to achieve a balanced and ambitious conclusion to the Doha Round that promotes meaningful market access for all nations and enhances economic development among the world's poorest nations."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/march/remarks-united-states-trade-representative-ron>

**See Also: Deal in WTO Doha Round Doubtful In 2010: Kirk**, *New York Times*, March 9

The top U.S. trade official expressed doubt on Tuesday that negotiators could reach a deal this year in long-running world trade talks despite a goal set by President Barack Obama and other leaders.

[http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/03/09/us/politics/politics-us-usa-doha-kirk.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/03/09/us/politics/politics-us-usa-doha-kirk.html?_r=2)

**House Agriculture Committee Hears From Producers about Benefits of Expanding Agricultural Trade with Cuba**, *U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture*, March 11

Located only 90 miles from the United States, Cuba relies on imports for most of its food needs, but current U.S. policies hinder American agricultural producers who want to sell their products in Cuba. "The restrictions on agricultural trade with Cuba have failed to achieve their stated goal, and instead they have hand-delivered an export market in our own backyard to the Brazilians, the Europeans, and our other competitors around the world," Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin C. Peterson said.

[http://agriculture.house.gov/list/press/agriculture\\_dem/03112010cubaagtrade.html](http://agriculture.house.gov/list/press/agriculture_dem/03112010cubaagtrade.html)

**See Also: Lincoln, Cantwell Call for Opening Agricultural Trade with Cuba**, *U.S. Senate Agricultural Committee*, March 12

U.S. Senators Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, and Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., said relaxing restrictions on agricultural trade with Cuba is key to creating jobs and expanding exports from the U.S. agricultural sector.

[http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2020&Itemid=2](http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2020&Itemid=2)

**See Also: King: Cuba Needs 'Biological Solution'**, *Des Moines Register*, March 11

An effort is underway in Congress again to ease restrictions on trade with Cuba to boost U.S. farm exports.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/03/11/king-cuba-needs-biological-solution/>

**Lawmakers Look to Trade for Boost to Haiti's Recovery**, *CQ Politics*, March 9

Senate Finance Committee members are working with their House counterparts on tariff-lowering legislation designed to boost Haiti's apparel industry as part of the effort to help the Caribbean nation recover from the devastating January earthquake.

[http://www.cqpolitics.com/frame-templates/print\\_template.html](http://www.cqpolitics.com/frame-templates/print_template.html)

**U.S. and Russia Agree on Reopening Russian Pork Market to U.S.**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, March 5*  
The United States and Russia have reached an agreement to reopen the Russian market to U.S. pork and pork products, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/03/0103.xml>

**See Also: Smithfield, Tyson Pork-Plant Bans Ended by Russia, USDA Says**, *Bloomberg, March 11*  
Smithfield Foods Inc. and Tyson Foods Inc. pork plants may resume shipments to Russia, after the government in Moscow ended bans on the processors, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=azih4qQMvtSU>

**Ethiopia-Born Businessman Runs U.S. Aid Program**, *National Public Radio, March 4*

Daniel Yohannes, who left his home country of Ethiopia when he was 17 to make a new life in the United States, says he's happy to give back to his adopted country, by serving in the Obama administration. Yohannes runs a multibillion dollar aid program that started under the Bush administration to fight poverty and promote good governance.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=124328719>

**Video: Ten Minutes with Rajiv Shah**, *New York Times-Caucus Blog, March 12*

"This is a very difficult economic time," Mr. Shah said. "Our humanitarian activities are not the costliest of our foreign assistance efforts, but they are an important chance to show, as the president noted, our common humanity."

<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/12/video-ten-minutes-with-rajiv-shah/>

**The International Financial Institutions: A Call for Change**, *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, March 2010*

As the world struggles to emerge from the worst economic crisis since World War II, it is an appropriate time to ask whether the [International Financial Institutions] are performing optimally and doing the jobs they should be doing. The crisis should not be used as an excuse to win increases that could not otherwise be justified. As the requests for capital are negotiated with the international donor community, there is a window of opportunity for significant reform.

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/55285.pdf>

**See Also: Lugar: No More Money for Development Banks until Reform**, *Foreign Policy, March 10*

"Does the world really need the IMF, World Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and Inter-American Development Bank today? Can they be changed to better address our needs? How should we re-design them?" the report asks.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/10/lugar\\_no\\_more\\_money\\_for\\_development\\_banks\\_until\\_reform](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/10/lugar_no_more_money_for_development_banks_until_reform)

**Ex-Generals Urge Congress to Fund Obama Int'l Affairs Budget**, *Politico, March 10*

Joining recent calls by Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen to expand U.S. civilian capacities to reduce dependence on the military, some 50 former three and four star generals and flag officers have written Congress urging them to pass the Obama administration's \$58.5 billion FY 2011 international affairs budget.

[http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0310/Exgenerals\\_urge\\_Congress\\_to\\_pass\\_Obama\\_intl\\_affairs\\_budget.html](http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0310/Exgenerals_urge_Congress_to_pass_Obama_intl_affairs_budget.html)

**See Also: Military Leaders Letter to Congress**, *U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, March 10*

The International Affairs budget remains "under-funded, representing just 1.4 of the entire federal budget and less than 7% of total national security funding."

[http://www.politico.com/static/PPM154\\_nsac\\_letter.html](http://www.politico.com/static/PPM154_nsac_letter.html)

**Kerry and Lugar Take Sides in Holbrooke Aid Fight**, *The Cable (blog), Foreign Policy, March 12*

Last week, Senate Foreign Relations chiefs John Kerry, D-MA, and Richard Lugar, R-IN, sent a letter to both Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, calling into question whether the administration is using congressionally authorized aid money "in a manner that most effectively improve[s] the daily lives of the people of Pakistan."

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/12/kerry\\_and\\_lugar\\_take\\_sides\\_in\\_holbrooke\\_aid\\_fight](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/03/12/kerry_and_lugar_take_sides_in_holbrooke_aid_fight)

**USAID Announces New Personnel**, *USAID, March 11*

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100311.html>

**Former AED and USAID Official Patrick C. Fine Named MCC Vice President for Compact Implementation**, *Millennium Challenge Corporation, March 12*

As the Vice President for CI, Mr. Fine will lead the staff responsible for managing MCC's relationship with compact partner countries, including overseeing and supporting countries implementing compact projects; providing technical expertise in specific sectors, such as education, finance, infrastructure, agriculture, and health; and ensuring that MCC compacts meet MCC quality standards for procurement, financial management, environmental and social impact, and integrating gender considerations.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-031210-formeraedand.shtml>

**Treasury Announces Confirmation of Three Key International Financial Institution Posts**, *U.S.*

*Department of the Treasury, March 11*

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that Walter C. Jones was confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as the U.S. Executive Director to the African Development Bank (AFDB).

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/tg584.htm>

**Johanns Presses Japanese Ambassador On Lifting U.S. Beef Ban**, *Office of Senator Mike Johanns, March 5*

In a meeting with Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, Sen. Mike Johanns continued to push for Japan to lift its partial ban on U.S. beef.

[http://johanns.senate.gov/public/?p=PressReleases&ContentRecord\\_id=72584c4c-4a53-4281-9532-aa96e5a99691&ContentType\\_id=bc82adff-27b4-4832-8fd6-aecbe3e7d8e3](http://johanns.senate.gov/public/?p=PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=72584c4c-4a53-4281-9532-aa96e5a99691&ContentType_id=bc82adff-27b4-4832-8fd6-aecbe3e7d8e3)

**Republican Bunning Stirs Anger with WTO Block**, *Reuters, March 10*

Senator Jim Bunning, a Kentucky Republican, has delayed the Senate from approving Michael Punke to be ambassador to the WTO in Geneva.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6295FA20100310?type=politicsNews>

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**NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS**

**Report on G20 Trade and Investment Measures**, *World Trade Organization, March 8*

The latest report by the WTO, OECD and UNCTAD on G20 trade and investment measures, submitted on 8 March 2010, said that high unemployment rates and uncertainties on global growth point to the need for G20 governments "to remain vigilant in opposing protectionism". The three agencies urged the G20 leaders to undertake "a clear and stronger commitment to open markets and make concrete their many calls to bring the Doha Round to a rapid conclusion". At a time when governments are constrained in offering further fiscal or monetary stimulus, open trade can give the global economy a much-needed lift and provide valuable opportunities for job creation.

[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news10\\_e/trim\\_report\\_08mar10\\_e.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news10_e/trim_report_08mar10_e.doc)

**See Also: Despite Fears, Big Powers Resist Trade Wars**, *Washington Times, March 9*

Fears that the deep global recession would fuel protectionist measures have not been borne out, a major survey found. Commissioned by the Group of 20 leading industrial powers, the study found that the United States and its major trading partners have cut back sharply on trade-killing restrictions since September, despite strong political pressures at home.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/mar/09/despote-fears-big-powers-resist-trade-wars//print/>

**Training for Rural Development: Agricultural and Enterprise Skills for Women Smallholders**, *City & Guilds Centre for Skills Development, December 2009*

The literature review highlighted common challenges women face internationally in accessing and applying appropriate training for rural livelihoods. Based on these findings, the review of practice examined the strategies past projects used to address these challenges, analysing a broad cross-section of evaluations of projects conducted by aid agencies such as the World Bank, the FAO, USAID and Danida that delivered training for rural women. The review explored common challenges associated with agricultural and enterprise training for women smallholders, and drew out methods of addressing them that have proved successful in different contexts and on different continents.

<http://t4rd.skillsdevelopment.org/PDF/Training%20for%20Rural%20Development-%20FINAL.pdf>

**Incomplete Markets and Fertilizer Use, Evidence from Ethiopia**, *World Bank, March 2010*

While the economic returns to using chemical fertilizer in Africa can be large, application rates are low. This study explores whether this is due to missing and imperfect markets. Results based on a panel survey of Ethiopian farmers suggest that while fertilizer markets are not altogether missing in rural Ethiopia, high transport costs, unfavorable climate, price risk, and illiteracy present formidable hurdles to farmer participation.

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/03/10/000158349\\_20100310104103/Rendered/PDF/WPS5235.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/03/10/000158349_20100310104103/Rendered/PDF/WPS5235.pdf)

**The Business Case for Foreign Aid Reform**, *Initiative for Global Development, March 2010*

America's economic health and security are inextricably linked with the prosperity and stability of the rest of the world. The expansion of economic growth and opportunity worldwide is in our country's best interest – and it is also of critical concern to U.S. business. Most U.S. companies, regardless of their size, view themselves as players in a global system. Whether they are selling products and services into the international marketplace or sourcing their inputs from overseas, companies today are far more engaged globally than their predecessors. U.S. business has a core interest in the economic health of the rest of the world.

Increasingly, this includes the economic development of people in poor countries.

[http://www.igdleaders.org/documents/IGD\\_business-case\\_aid-reform.pdf](http://www.igdleaders.org/documents/IGD_business-case_aid-reform.pdf)

**See Also: So What's Business Got to Do with Foreign Aid?**, *U.S. Global Leadership Coalition blog, March 2*

<http://www.usglc.org/2010/03/02/so-whats-business-got-to-do-with-foreign-aid/>

**The Impact of Roads on Poverty Reduction: A Case Study of Cameroon**, *The World Bank, February 2010*

Many investments in infrastructure are built on the belief that they will ineluctably lead to poverty reduction and income generation. This has entailed massive aid-financed projects in roads in developing countries. However, the lack of robust evaluations and a comprehensive theoretical framework could raise questions about current strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Using the second Cameroonian national household survey and the Cameroon case study, this paper argues that investing uniformly in tarred roads in Africa is likely to have a much lower impact on poverty than expected.

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/02/16/000158349\\_20100216134203/Rendered/PDF/WPS5209.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/02/16/000158349_20100216134203/Rendered/PDF/WPS5209.pdf)

**The Potential Role of Non-Traditional Donors' Aid in Africa**, *International Centre for Trade and Economic Development, March 2010*

South-South cooperation is by no means a new phenomenon. Indeed, after a decline in the 1980s and 1990s South-South cooperation has regained momentum. China and India are the largest southern donors, but other developing countries like Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and South Africa have an important and increasing role in development assistance in Africa, as well as in other developing countries.

<http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/03/the-potential-role-of-non-traditional-donorse28099-aid-in-africa.pdf>

**Kenya – Food Insecurity Situation Report #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010**, *US Agency for International Development, March 2010*

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-83E3AW/\\$File/full\\_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-83E3AW/$File/full_report.pdf)

**Somalia, A New Approach**, *Council on Foreign Relations, March 2010*

Bronwyn Bruton argues that the best way for the United States to fight terrorism and promote stability in Somalia is a policy of “constructive disengagement,” focusing primarily on increasing humanitarian aid and promoting development.

[http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Somalia\\_CSR52.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Somalia_CSR52.pdf)

**U.S. Baseline Briefing Book: Projections for Agricultural and Biofuel Markets**, *Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, March 2010*

The Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) provides analysis of agricultural and biofuel markets and policies for Congress and other decision makers. This report presents a summary of ten year baseline projections for US agricultural and biofuel markets.

[http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2010/FAPRI\\_MU\\_Report\\_01\\_10.pdf](http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2010/FAPRI_MU_Report_01_10.pdf)

**See Also: Farm Economy Follows Lead of U.S. Recovery, Says Annual FAPRI Baseline Report to Congress**, *Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, March 9*

The livestock sector can lead the agricultural economy to higher net farm income, assuming the farm economy benefits from a recovering general U.S. economy.

[http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/press\\_releases/2010/FAPRI\\_PR\\_3-9-10.pdf](http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/press_releases/2010/FAPRI_PR_3-9-10.pdf)

**Energy Use in the U.S. Food System**, *USDA, March 2010*

Energy is an important input in growing, processing, packaging, distributing, storing, preparing, serving, and disposing of food. Analysis using the two most recent U.S. benchmark input-output accounts and a national energy data system shows that in the United States, use of energy along the food chain for food purchases by or for U.S. households increased between 1997 and 2002 at more than six times the rate of increase in total domestic energy use.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR94/ERR94.pdf>

**Less Smoke, More Mirrors: Where India Really Stands on Solar Power and Other Renewables**, *Center for Global Development, March 2010*

Until recently, India’s intransigent negotiating posture has conveyed the impression that it will not accept any carbon emissions limits without full compensation and more stringent carbon limitation from rich countries. However, the author’s assessment of India’s proposed renewable energy standard (RES) indicates that this impression is simply wrong.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423937\\_file\\_Less\\_Smoke\\_More\\_Mirrors\\_FINAL\\_030810.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423937_file_Less_Smoke_More_Mirrors_FINAL_030810.pdf)

**Assessing the Financial Vulnerability to Climate-Related Natural Hazards**, *World Bank, March 2010*

National governments are key actors in managing the impacts of extreme weather events, yet many highly exposed developing countries -- faced with exhausted tax bases, high levels of indebtedness, and limited donor assistance -- have been unable to raise sufficient and timely capital to replace or repair damaged infrastructure and restore livelihoods after major disasters. Such financial vulnerability hampers development and exacerbates poverty. Based on the record of the past 30 years, this paper finds many developing countries, in particular small island states, to be highly financially vulnerable, and experiencing a resource gap (net disaster losses exceed all available financing sources) for events that occur with a probability of 2 percent or higher.

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/03/03/000158349\\_20100303092429/Rendered/PDF/WPS5232.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/03/03/000158349_20100303092429/Rendered/PDF/WPS5232.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **FamilyFarmed EXPO**

*Date:* March 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* UIC Forum, Chicago, Illinois

FamilyFarmed EXPO is a three day gathering of Chicago-area fans of locally grown and responsibly produced food and artisanal goods. Thursday and Friday feature business-to-business connections. Saturday features cooking demos, interactive seminars and a busy Kids Corner. There will also be over 120 exhibitors offering a wide selection of local food, gifts and lots of useful information that will help you eat healthy year-round, while supporting local, family-run businesses.

<http://www.familyfarmedexpo.com>

### **Global Harvest Initiative 2010 Symposium**

*Date:* March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The Global Harvest Initiative has commissioned a four-part study to provide additional perspective on the difficulty of the agricultural challenges ahead, as well as the global consequences of not closing the productivity gap. This work will be presented by the authors at a symposium on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/events.php>

### **Fostering Growth and Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia and Latin America**

*Date:* March 22<sup>nd</sup> - March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Swissotel, Lima, Peru

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/fostering-growth-and-reducing-poverty-and-hunger-asia-and-latin-america>

### **Africa Rice Congress 2010**

*Date:* March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 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>

### **AGRA Middle East 2010**

*Date:* March 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 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>

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, DC

Hosted by Informa Economics Inc.

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

### **Informa Economics - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference**

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

*Location:* Arlington, Virginia

[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>

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

*Date:* May 4, 2010

*Location:* Nairobi, Kenya

The CCAFAS 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>

## **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**

### **Mobile Phones Bring Insurance to Kenyan Farmers, Reuters, March 12**

Kenyan farmers can now insure some of the costs of growing crops against bad weather by using mobile phone technology that links solar-powered weather stations to an insurance company. Farmers can cover the cost of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides at local agricultural supply shops by paying an extra 5 percent of their value. If their harvest fails due to bad weather they are reimbursed and can plant again.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE62502R20100312>

### **New Website to Provide Essential Fertilizer Information to Africa's Farmers, Media Global, March 11**

Food insecurity on the African continent is severely aggravated by a depletion of nutrients in the soil that leads to a decrease in soil productivity. A remedy to this problem is the increased use of fertilizers, yet many African farmers cannot afford or access this agricultural input that farmers on other continents have used in abundance to dramatically increase food production. A new Website, AfricaFertilizer.org, is using the power of information technology to help spread vital information about fertilizers in Africa with the hopes of invigorating the market and improving the livelihoods of small farmers.

<http://mediaglobal.org/article/2010-03-11/new-website-to-provide-essential-fertilizer-information-to-africas-farmers>

### **India Food-Inflation May Slow After Near 18% Gain, Bloomberg, March 11**

India's food-inflation rate stayed at around 18 percent for a sixth week, a sign that farm prices may have peaked and will start declining soon.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aF4DJtnc7f00>

### **Antibiotics Benefit Farm Animals (and People), But at What Cost? USA Today, March 11**

Should we just say "no" to antibiotics for farm animals?

[http://www.usatoday.com/life/lifestyle/pets/2010-03-10-dolittler11\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/life/lifestyle/pets/2010-03-10-dolittler11_N.htm)

### **Tribal India Battles Big Business Over Land, Financial Times, March 10**

Battles over forcible acquisition of agricultural land for industry are raging across India. But nowhere are they as fraught as in India's tribal belt, where long-neglected indigenous animist tribes, known as *adivasis*, have upset the plans of corporate groups such as Vedanta, Tata Steel, Essar Steel and National Mineral Development Corp to tap mineral riches.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c9ce1394-2be5-11df-8033-00144feabdc0.html>

### **Arctic Seed Vault Becomes World's Most Divers Collection of Crop Diversity, Press Release, March 10**

Days after celebrating its second anniversary, the Svalbard "Doomsday" Global Seed Vault is receiving this week thousands of new seeds that will push its collection to more than half a million unique samples, making it the most diverse assemblage of crop diversity ever amassed anywhere in the world.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2010-03/bc-asv030810.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-03/bc-asv030810.php)

**See Also: Searching for the Wildest Strawberries to Save Crop Diversity**, *New York Times*, March 11

It has been a long journey for the latest shipment of seeds to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. The vault, built into a Norwegian mountain near the North Pole, is the final defense for agriculture in the face of growing populations, a changing climate and rising threats to food security. And the vault now contains the world's most diverse collection of crops as the shipment, which included a wild strawberry species painstakingly collected from a remote Russian archipelago, brought its numbers to more than half a million.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/03/11/11climatewire-searching-for-the-wildest-strawberries-to-sa-98913.html>

**Benin Cotton Output May Double on Increased Plantings, Support**, *BusinessWeek*, March 10

Benin plans to more than double cotton output this year through increased plantings and government support for the industry, Agriculture Minister Gregoire Akofodji said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-10/benin-cotton-output-may-double-on-increased-plantings-support.html>

**Is Europe Finally Ready for Genetically Modified Foods?**, *TIME*, March 9

It's hard to work up an appetite when other diners brand what you're about to eat "Frankenstein food." For many Europeans, that evocative label has told them all they need to know about genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Opponents of GM foods have managed to paint them as the freakish products of a dangerous technology created by hubristic scientists. But the European Union may have reached a tipping point in its awkward relationship with GMOs.

<http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1970471,00.html?xid=rss-topstories>

**Post-Quake Revitalization Plans Collide in Haiti's Breadbasket**, *New York Times*, March 8

The farm economy here and elsewhere in rural Haiti has been in a 20-year nose dive. A nation that once easily fed itself has become dependent on imports and food aid for 75 percent of its needs, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Haitian government has long ignored its rural areas, leaving once-vital roads to turn into something resembling parched riverbeds. Farmers here say transportation is so difficult and costly that they long ago stopped shipping produce to the capital, Port-au-Prince, which is about 50 miles away to the southwest. Meanwhile, farms often flood as tropical downpours wash mud waves from deforested hillsides into cultivated fields.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/03/08/08greenwire-post-quake-revitalization-plans-collide-in-hai-15994.html?pagewanted=print>

**See Also: Haiti Rebuilding Plan Expected This Week**, *Reuters*, March 7

Government planners and international experts are racing to produce a blueprint this week to reconstruct Haiti's economy after the earthquake that killed up to 300,000 people and devastated its infrastructure. Another will look at how to improve the agricultural sector to provide an alternative livelihood for the thousands who have fled the capital, which was overcrowded prior to the earthquake.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62616P20100307>

**FAO's Top American Pledges to Stay in Job**, *Italian Insider*, March 7

The most senior American official at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), James Butler, has denied that he is contemplating resigning from his post as Deputy Director General, saying he is "strongly committed" to continuing his work at the Rome-based agency including coordinating its current reform programme.

<http://www.italianinsider.it/?p=1221>

**Deals Can Be Good News When Not Made Behind Closed Doors**, *Guardian*, March 7

An Observer investigation reveals how rich countries faced by a global food shortage now farm an area double the size of the UK to guarantee supplies for their citizens.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/mar/07/food-water-africa-land-grab>

**See Also: How Food and Water are Driving a 21<sup>st</sup> – Century African Land Grab**, *Guardian*, March 7

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/mar/07/food-water-africa-land-grab/print>

**Wheat Rust Threat Rising**, *IRIN*, March 7

Experts say it is only a matter of time before wind carries a deadly wheat stem pathogen into Pakistan, the ninth largest wheat producing nation in the world. Known as Ug99, the disease could potentially decimate the country's highly vulnerable wheat crop and cause a huge food security problem.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=88340>

**The Spread of Superbugs**, *Nicholas D. Kristof, New York Times*, March 6

Agricultural use of antibiotics produces cheaper meat but is widely seen as a major reason for the rise of superbugs. The agribusiness lobby is heading off efforts at reform.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/07/opinion/07kristof.html>

**Katine Farmers Research Ways to Improve Crop Yields**, *Guardian*, March 5

As rains begin to fall heavily in Katine sub-county, farmers are equally busy opening up their gardens for the first season planting. Nearly everyone can now be seen working on their garden, desperately hoping there will not be a repeat of last year, when a serious drought in the region wiped out harvests and left many people facing serious food shortages. In some parts of the Teso region, where Katine sits, people died of starvation.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/2010/mar/05/new-farming-techniques/print>

**Agriculture Is a Business and a Powerful Tool to Eradicate Poverty**, *International Fund for Agricultural Development*, March 5

On the eve of the Abuja High-level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa, IFAD President Kanayo Nwanze urged strengthening public-private partnerships in Africa, stating, "Africa has the potential – both in terms of its human and natural resources – to lay the ground for a vibrant agricultural sector that can meet its own food and raw material needs as well as the needs of other regions of the world."

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2010/19.htm>

**See Also: Keynote Address by IFAD President at the High-Level Conference on Development of Agri-Business and Agro-Industries in Africa**, *International Fund for Agricultural Development*, March 10

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

**Conference on Agricultural Biotechnologies Stresses Role of Smallholders**, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations*, March 4

Agricultural biotechnologies in developing countries should address the specific needs of smallholders and, to do so, should encourage their participation and that of all stakeholders in the decision making process, the participants of an international technical conference held in Guadalajara, Mexico stated.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/40482/icode/>

**Feeding Mouths and Minds**, *International Educator*, March 2010

Students and faculty at colleges and universities are battling one of the world's most challenging international development issues: hunger.

[http://www.nafsa.org/ /File/ /marapr10\\_cover\\_hunger.pdf](http://www.nafsa.org/ /File/ /marapr10_cover_hunger.pdf)

**See Also: Hunger Activism by Example**, *Association of International Educators*, March 2010

Some universities have long incorporated hunger awareness activism into their activities. One is Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, a 1,500-student liberal arts college that targets students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and requires them to work 10 to 15 hours per week in exchange for economic support.

<http://www.nafsa.org/publications/default.aspx?id=18803>

**More than 60 Percent of Niger Facing Food Insecurity**, *Voice of America*, March 12

Niger says it needs \$123 million of international assistance to make up for food shortages this year.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/More-Than-60-Percent-of-Niger-Facing-Food-Insecurity-87455907.html>

**Haiti, Two Months Later**, *Editorial, New York Times*, March 11

United Nations and foreign countries and aid organizations have dispatched tents, tarps, food, water, medicine and doctors, as they should. But after nearly two months, it's not enough. In hundreds of crowded settlements around the country, like the ones sheltering more than 600,000 in Port-au-Prince, food, water, medical care and security remain spotty.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/12/opinion/12fri1.html>

**See Also: Haiti Quake Response Largely a Success**, *Los Angeles Times*, March 12

Medical care and food supplies arrived quickly, heading off the potential for widespread unrest, officials say. Progress on sanitation and shelter has been slower, posing the threat of a new crisis.

<http://www.latimes.com/la-fg-haiti-report-card12-2010mar12,0,1384217.story>

**Japanese Groups Creep Into Africa**, *Financial Times*, March 11

Aid for agriculture and infrastructure projects has long been Japan's defining presence in Africa. Although the sums are down from a peak in 1997, they are rising and already come close to the target for 2012 of \$1.8bn, according to Japan's foreign ministry. But having followed a model of engagement not dissimilar to the west for many years, Japan is reorienting its strategy to become more competitive and aid is getting less emphasis than before as attention turns to the private sector.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/87bf6b0e-2d3b-11df-9c5b-00144feabdc0.html>

**Africa Still Hungry despite Annual \$3 Billion of Aid and \$33 Billion in Food Imports – UN**, *UN News Centre*, March 11

One in three Africans is chronically hungry, despite \$3 billion spent on food aid for the continent annually and \$33 billion in food imports, the director of the food security at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has warned.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34050&Cr=&Cr1>

**Haitian President Renews Call for Direct Aid from U.S.**, *Washington Post*, March 11

Haitian President René Préval pleaded Wednesday for U.S. help plugging a multimillion-dollar budget gap caused by the Jan. 12 earthquake but said he got a cool reception from congressional leaders wary of handing over cash.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/10/AR2010031001901.html>

**See Also: Haitians Get Food 'Surge'**, *Agence France-Presse*, March 6

Aid groups in Haiti's shattered capital Port-au-Prince began handing out heavy bags of rice to thousands of post-quake homeless on the first day of a food "surge" designed to feed 1.9 million people for a month.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gpy8U\\_CnGy41vWlWG50hK89\\_6lQ8Q](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gpy8U_CnGy41vWlWG50hK89_6lQ8Q)

**See Also: Haitian President Moves to Shore Up Aid, New Future**, *Washington Post*, March 10

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/09/AR2010030903653\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/09/AR2010030903653_pf.html)

**See Also: Bill Clinton and George W. Bush Put Together Team to Oversee Haiti Aid Fund**, *Washington Post*, March 9

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2010/03/bill-clinton-and-george-w-bush.html>

**Red Cross Says 2.2 Million Zimbabweans Need Food Aid as Poor Harvest Looms**, *Voice of America*, March 11

The Red Cross said about 2.17 million Zimbabweans are in dire need, and this number is growing because of drought in some areas and excessive rain in others, devastating maize crops across Zimbabwe.

<http://www1.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/food-agriculture/Experts-Paint-Grim-Picture-Of-Zimbabwe-Food-Situation-11Mar10-87366907.html>

**Millions of Yemenis Starving as Donors Fail to Meet Pledges, Says UN, *Guardian, March 11***

Millions of Yemenis are starving while the international community focuses on security issues and tackling al-Qaida, according to the United Nations. Vital deliveries of food deliveries and assistance is being cut because of a near-total absence of funding.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/mar/11/millions-yemenis-starving-donors-un>

**Shower of Aid Brings Flood of Progress, *New York Times, March 8***

In the past five years, life in this bushy little patch of western Kenya has improved dramatically. Agricultural yields have doubled; child mortality has dropped by 30 percent; school attendance has shot up and so have test scores, putting one local school second in the area, when it used to be ranked 17th; and cellphone ownership (a telltale sign of prosperity in rural Africa) has increased fourfold.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/09/world/africa/09kenya.html?pagewanted=print>

**African Farmers Take Advantage of Niche Sectors in International Markets, *UN FAO, March 9***

Nearly 5,000 West African farmers are now able to take advantage of the growing popularity of organic foods in industrialized countries thanks to a \$2.4 million German-backed FAO programme that has helped them meet necessary certification and other requirements.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/40551/icode/>

**Abusive Congolese Colonel Got Aid, *Washington Post, March 9***

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in eastern Congo provided food, fuel and logistical support to a Congolese colonel overseeing soldiers accused of gang rapes, massacres and other abuses, months after U.N. human rights investigators included him on a list of the army's most abusive commanders and in further internal warnings.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/09/AR2010030900279\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/09/AR2010030900279_pf.html)

**Efficient Irrigation Method Holds Promise for Iraq, *U.S. Army, March 8***

Even as the U.S. hands more and more responsibility for the future of Iraq back to the Iraqi people, projects continue to ensure that the people are set up for success in every possible way. As part of these efforts, Soldiers, from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, and the 1411th Civil Affairs Company, met with Babil Province Director General of Agriculture, Hassan Housoui, Feb. 14, 2010, to assess the progress of drip irrigation projects funded by micro-grants in the province. The agricultural base is a key area of the province's economy that officials have concentrated on developing.

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/03/08/35495-efficient-irrigation-method-holds-promise-for-iraq/>

**World Cocoa Foundation Launches Cocoa Livelihoods Program in Nigeria, *PR Newswire, March 8***

At a ceremony held in Osogbo, Osun State, the World Cocoa Foundation launched the Cocoa Livelihoods Program (CLP) in Nigeria. The program initially announced in February 2009, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and 14 chocolate industry companies, is expected to significantly improve the livelihoods of nearly 30,000 cocoa farmers in Nigeria by 2014.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/world-cocoa-foundation-launches-cocoa-livelihoods-program-in-nigeria-86846552.html>

**Billions for Haiti, a Criticism for Every Dollar, *Associated Press, March 6***

The world's bill for the Haitian earthquake is large and growing — now \$2.2 billion — and so is the criticism about how the money is being spent. USAID paid at least \$160 million of its total Haiti-related expenditures to the Defense Department, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, two local U.S. search and rescue teams and, in at least two instances, itself. Tens of millions more went to U.S.-based aid groups. While much of that bought food and other necessities for Haitians, it often did so from U.S. companies — including highly subsidized rice growers whose products are undercutting local producers, driving them out of business.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5idZiVQhHcyG1gpBjzXaAmmk4\\_OtAD9E8MF085](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5idZiVQhHcyG1gpBjzXaAmmk4_OtAD9E8MF085)

**See Also: Global Aid Is No Relief for Small Haitian Businesses, *Wall Street Journal, March 3***

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704486504575097783544905868.html>

**See Also: Haiti: A Long-Term Development Need, *U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, March 3***

<http://www.usglc.org/2010/03/03/haiti-a-long-term-development-need/>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### **Thai Rice Output May Drop on Drought as El Nino Parches Region**, *Bloomberg*, March 11

Rice production in Thailand, the world's largest exporter, may decline as drier-than-normal weather curbs yields, adding to signs that an El Nino may be hurting farm output across the region.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aualfZnoIW14>

### **Review of U.N. Panel's Report on Climate Change Won't Reexamine Errors**, *Washington Post*, March 11

An outside review of a U.N. panel -- promised after flaws were uncovered in the panel's most recent report on climate change -- will not recheck that report's conclusions and will instead focus on improving procedures for the future, officials said Wednesday.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/10/AR2010031002891.html>

### **Villagers Fight the Rural Exodus in Senegal**, *Voice of America*, March 10

Dia says in countries like Senegal, rural exodus is a result of how little money can be made from agriculture. Just under 60 percent of villagers live off their crops, but with climate changes this is becoming more difficult. The irony, says Dia, is that the cities don't often have viable work alternatives for these migrants.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Villagers-Fight-the-Rural-Exodus-in-Senegal-87218832.html>

### **Trading Down**, *Economist*, March 9

Looking at the carbon emissions associated with a country's consumption, rather than its production, does not change the general outline of what is going on in the world: rich people still emit more carbon dioxide than poor people do. But it does heighten the contrast. Rich countries which import manufactured goods from poorer ones end up with even higher emissions; poor countries that export a lot of manufactured goods with lower ones.

[http://www.economist.com/daily/columns/greenview/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=15656961](http://www.economist.com/daily/columns/greenview/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=15656961)

### **Climate Goal Is Supported by China and India**, *New York Times*, March 9

China and India formally agreed to join the international climate change agreement reached in December in Copenhagen, the last two major economies to sign up.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/10/science/earth/10climate.html>

### **Uganda Plans to Resettle 500,000 over Mudslide Risk**, *BBC News*, March 8

Half a million people will need to be moved from their homes in mountainous areas of Uganda because of the risk of mudslides, the government has said. Uganda has one of the highest population growth rates in the world but, as more people settle on the mountains, the trees have been felled to make way for agriculture - making mudslides and flooding more common.

<http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8556669.stm?ad=1>

### **EU Climate Chief Delivers Treaty Blow**, *Financial Times*, March 8

The world will almost certainly fail to draw up a new treaty on climate change this year, the minister in charge of last year's Copenhagen summit has admitted, delivering a heavy blow to the barely flickering hopes for a swift global settlement. Connie Hedegaard, the Danish minister who masterminded the summit of world leaders on global warming last year and is now the European commissioner for climate change, told the *Financial Times* negotiations were not progressing fast enough for a treaty to be signed soon.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d4fe86d0-2ace-11df-886b-00144feabdc0.html>

### **Global Climate Battle Plays Out in World Bank**, *Reuters*, March 7

The United States and Britain are threatening to withhold support for a \$3.75 billion World Bank loan for a coal-fired plant in South Africa, expanding the battleground in the global debate over who should pay for clean energy.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6260GW20100307>

**Rains Bring 'Drastic' Change in Ethiopia Food Outlook**, *Voice of America*, March 5

It's raining in Ethiopia. After three consecutive years of drought, weather watchers say this year's early season rains are promising. But Ethiopia's farmers are looking forward to a bumper crop that could ease the country's severe food shortage.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Rains-Bring-Drastic-Change-in-Ethiopia-Food-Outlook-86664627.html>

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**WOMEN**

**Wominnovation**, *Economist*, March 9

Two recent innovations have garnered a lot of attention for the way they empower women. One is microcredit, a system of lending to very poor people, the majority of whom are female microentrepreneurs who are thus helped to climb out of poverty. The other is the mobile phone, which among other things has led to the emergence of an army of "telephone ladies" in countries such as Bangladesh, who earn a decent living by buying a phone and renting it out to other villagers. That said, some innovations have been harmful to women, especially in the developing world.

[http://www.economist.com/business-finance/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=15656289](http://www.economist.com/business-finance/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=15656289)

**See Also: Gendercide**, *Economist*, March 4

[http://www.economist.com/printedition/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=15606229](http://www.economist.com/printedition/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=15606229)

**Nothing Can Stop the African Woman... Ask Agathe**, *World Bank*, March 8

Women have grown cocoa here for decades, but on farms owned by their husbands or male partners. Agathe wants to put an end to traditions that make access to land a "men's affair". Coffee-cocoa farms owned by women, not only extend their involvement in agriculture beyond growing foodstuffs but ensure that women become business partners, not the "slaves" or "property" of their spouses and in-laws. While women comprise more than 50 percent of the world's population, they own only one percent of the world's wealth and, in Africa, get only one percent of total credit going to agriculture.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/CDIVOIREEXTN/0,,print:Y~isCURL:Y~contentMDK:22492218~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:382607,00.html>

**See Also: Women See Great Progress, But Obstacles to Equality Remain**, *World Bank*, March 8

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,print:Y~isCURL:Y~contentMDK:22491495~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

**Marking International Women's Day**, *Voice of America*, March 8

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon says the world's goals for peace, security, and sustainable development are at risk until women and girls are freed from poverty and injustice. More than one billion people in the world live in extreme poverty. And the United Nations says the majority are female.

<http://www1.voanews.com/learningenglish/home/Marking-International-Womens-Day-86995067.html>

**Shaping a Better Future for Women**, *Op-Ed*, Dana Perino, former White House press secretary, *Politico*, March 8

Today, I remember the women I met during a recent trip to Ghana and Sierra Leone — women living in extreme poverty, who are quietly transforming their countries' economic and social conditions. In Ghana, we met women who are small-holder farmers in a rice cooperative. These women combined resources to create a co-op, so they can earn an income by selling their produce in local markets. They sell to buyers collectively, which allows them to get a fair price and avoid being undersold. The income earned provides their families with food and health care and sends their children to school — laying the groundwork for a better life.

<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=3A4FAB07-18FE-70B2-A8B26E643E334CB7>

**International Women's Day: A Time to Focus on Adolescent Girls**, *Ann M. Veneman*, UNICEF Executive Director, March 7

Millions of adolescent girls live in poverty, experience gender discrimination and inequality, and are subject to violence, abuse, and exploitation. The result is not only the suffering of girls themselves, but a continuing cycle of oppression and abuse.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ann-veneman/international-womens-day\\_b\\_489069.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ann-veneman/international-womens-day_b_489069.html)

**Women: The “Secret Weapon” Against Hunger and Poverty**, *Reuters*, March 7

Worldwide, women and girls bear the brunt of poverty, hunger and discrimination, comprising more than 60 percent of the world’s chronically hungry – now charted at a record one billion people. Inherited hunger – when malnourished mothers give birth to malnourished children – is a huge obstacle to development, from Afghanistan to Haiti.

<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate-uk/2010/03/07/women-the-secret-weapon-against-hunger-and-poverty/>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**Talks to Address Tuna and Ivory**, *New York Times*, March 12

Marathon negotiations on protecting the planet’s endangered species open on Saturday in Qatar with tensions bubbling over efforts to ban trade in bluefin tuna and to reopen exports of elephant ivory from Africa.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/12/science/earth/12species.html>

**Dairies Sour on Trade Talks**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 11

U.S. dairy farmers are pleading for protection from their counterparts in New Zealand as President Barack Obama's trade negotiators begin talks on a regional agreement in Australia next week.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704655004575113981823941268.html#mod=todays\\_us\\_page\\_one](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704655004575113981823941268.html#mod=todays_us_page_one)

**Lula Asks Obama to ‘Quickly’ End Cotton ‘Fighting’**, *Bloomberg*, March 10

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva asked U.S. President Barack Obama to “quickly” negotiate the end to a trade dispute over cotton subsidies that led him to raise tariffs on over 100 U.S. goods this week.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=aGlTf.gWniS0>

**See Also: USTR Statement on Awards in Brazil Cotton Dispute**, *U.S. Trade Representative*, March 9

"We are disappointed to learn that Brazil's authorities have decided to proceed with countermeasures against U.S. trade in the WTO Cotton dispute," said spokeswoman Nefeterius McPherson. "USTR is working to reach a solution to the issues in this dispute without Brazil resorting to countermeasures and we continue to prefer a negotiated solution."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/march/ustr-statement-awards-brazil-cotton-dispute>

**See Also: Lincoln-Chambliss Statement on Brazil Retaliation Efforts Aimed at U.S. Cotton**, March 8

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.), and Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), expressed disappointment after Brazil announced it is moving forward on retaliation for injuries due to the U.S. cotton program and the export credit guarantee program (GSM-102). The retaliation list totals 102 products including both agricultural and industrial goods.

<http://lincoln.senate.gov/newsroom/2010-3-8-4.cfm>

**See Also: Brazil: Trade Retaliation against US to Stand during Talks**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 9

Brazil is open to modifying retaliatory measures against the U.S. in a dispute over cotton subsidies but won't change its proposed tariff increases unless bilateral talks advance significantly, a top trade official said. Brazilian Trade and Development Minister Miguel Jorge said meetings with U.S. trade officials yielded "no new U.S. proposals." He said Brazil needs to maintain its tough position on tariffs in order to reinforce its negotiating position until it sees signs of flexibility.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100309-714685.html#printMode>

**See Also: Picking a Fight**, *Economist*, March 9

How serious is the decision by Brazil's government to raise duties on a number of American-made imports?

[http://www.economist.com/business-finance/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=15656630](http://www.economist.com/business-finance/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=15656630)

**See Also: Brazil Raises Tariffs on U.S. Goods, to Break Patents**, *Bloomberg*, March 8

Brazil will raise tariffs on 102 U.S. exports, including wheat, cars, boats and chewing gum, and break patents worth \$238 million in a bid to force the U.S. to end subsidies to cotton producers. The sanctions, which take effect in 30 days, represent \$591 million in trade with wheat goods the largest target, Carlos Marcio Cosendey, head of Foreign Ministry's economic department told reporters.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aJMAFN.M8g2k>

#### **War over Fries**, *The Hill*, March 10

Mexican tariffs on U.S. french fries are no small potatoes. Export of frozen french fries and other frozen potato products to Mexico dropped in value by 50 percent from April to December 2009 after Mexico imposed a 20 percent tariff on frozen potatoes and other U.S. exports.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/85813-war-over-fries>

**See Also: Mexico Tops List of Trade Issues Facing White House**, *Wall Street Journal*, March 10

The Obama Administration's top trade negotiator Tuesday said the U.S. was working quickly to resolve a damaging trade spat with Mexico, one of several obstacles to the president's goal of doubling U.S. exports within five years.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704784904575112032142899068.html>

#### **WTO Members Behind in Providing Farm Subsidy Data**, *Reuters*, March 10

Most members of the World Trade Organization are years behind in providing data about farm subsidies, essential to see whether they are sticking to agreements, an internal WTO document shows.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-46801820100310>

#### **China to Keep Grain Stockpiles, May Boost Soy Imports**, *BusinessWeek*, March 8

China, the world's biggest grain consumer, will keep high levels of stockpiles to ensure food security and may increase imports of soybeans, said Bao Kexin, president of China Grain Reserves Corp.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-08/china-grain-stockpiling-to-ensure-food-security-update1-.html>

#### **China Defends Growing Links with Africa**, *Agence France-Presse*, March 7

China rejected foreign concerns over its growing energy links with Africa on Sunday, saying it benefits African nations by bringing badly needed trade and infrastructure development.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hzw6tulXJ29YhTvLLkaxbMSe6qbQ>

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## **AGRIBUSINESS**

#### **Rising Food Prices May Start with Seeds**, *Los Angeles Times*, March 12

Farmers say consolidation in the industry means they're forced to buy more costly seeds. But Monsanto, the world's largest seed firm, says competition 'is alive and flourishing.'

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-food-monopoly12-2010mar12.0.6101989.full.story>

**See Also: Monsanto's Seed Patents May Trump Antitrust Claims, Lawyers Say**, *Bloomberg*, March 12

Monsanto Co., facing antitrust probes into its genetically modified seeds, may benefit from previous court rulings in which intellectual property rights trumped competition concerns, antitrust lawyers say.

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

**See Also: Monsanto 7-State Probe Threatens Profit From Gene in 93% of Soy**, *Bloomberg*, March 10

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aCK4Q3XZCpyw>

**See Also: Justice Set to Hear U.S. Seed Industry Complaints**, *Reuters*, March 12

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0924837420100309?type=marketsNews>

**Agribusiness in India: Green Shoots**, *Economist*, March 11

State governments once took it upon themselves to spread know-how, market intelligence and the fruits of agricultural research to smallholders. But the agricultural extension system is now in some disrepair. Public investment in agriculture has stagnated over the past few years as the government's subsidy bill for food, fertiliser and fuel has risen. In the absence of public investment, Indian agriculture is increasingly dependent on private outlays, which now account for three-quarters of total investment in the sector.

[http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=15663767](http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15663767)

**Monsanto Chief Technology Officer to Discuss Company's Research and Development Efforts to Increase Farm Productivity**, *Monsanto*, March 10

Innovation in agriculture has brought improved productivity and new value to farmers, Monsanto Company's Robb Fraley will tell investors at the Credit Suisse Global Agrochemicals Conference in London. That value will continue to translate to opportunity for both Monsanto and its farmer customers, Fraley will say.

<http://monsanto.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=814&printable>

**African Leaders Support Agribusiness Plan at UN-Backed Conference**, *United Nations*, March 10

High-level representatives from 44 African countries wrapped up a United Nations-backed conference in Nigeria with the approval of an ambitious plan to generate employment, income and food security across the continent through agribusiness. The scheme provides a framework and financial mechanisms for public and private sectors investors to finance development of the agricultural industry in Africa, whose population could double by 2050 to reach 2 billion people. Sub-Saharan Africa alone will need \$940 billion of cumulative investment over the next 40 years – most of it for agribusiness capital outlays – to feed its people, according to the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/printnews.asp?nid=34032>

**See Also: UNIDO to Work Close with Ecobank on Promoting Economic Growth in Africa**, *United Nations Industrial Development Organization*, March 10

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI), a leading pan-African banking group, will work together to promote economic growth in Africa through sustainable and industrial development. UNIDO and Ecobank Transnational Incorporated plan to focus, among others, on agribusiness and agro-industry, including food, leather, textiles, wood, agro-machinery; on renewable energy, including bio-energy initiatives, on hydro power projects, and other environmentally sustainable projects; as well as on clean technologies.

[http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7881&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=453&cHash=33cdb3c3c7](http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=7881&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=453&cHash=33cdb3c3c7)

**Pioneer Anxiously Awaits Approval of Latest Hybrid Corn**, *Des Moines Register*, March 6

Executives at Pioneer Hi-Bred answer their phones quickly these days, hoping the next call bears news from Washington of approval of its new AcreMax hybrid corn seeds.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/fdcp/?1268341331008>

**Large Agribusiness Hurting Small Landholders, Says UN Rights Expert**, *UN News Centre*, March 5

In an increasingly globalized food sector dominated by large transnational corporations, small landowners are getting a smaller portion of the food dollar, the independent United Nations expert on the right to food warned. "Agribusiness can play a key role in realizing the right to food. But States have to give more support to their small producers and push corporations to change their pricing and standards policies," said Special Rapporteur Olivier De Schutter, presenting his second annual report to the UN Human Rights Council now underway in Geneva.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33984&Cr=agriculture&Cr1>

**See Also: Agribusiness and the Right to Food**, *Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, UN Human Rights Council*, March 2010

[http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/20100305\\_a-hrc-13-33\\_agribusiness\\_en.pdf](http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/20100305_a-hrc-13-33_agribusiness_en.pdf)

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