

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



March 5th – March 11th, 2011

Quote of the Week: "It's [foreign aid] really important, obviously, for people to realize that it is a very small percentage, only 1 percent of our total economy, of our total budget, and I think that's important for people to know. Diseases don't respect borders. You know, just at the edge of the American border, that isn't the edge of diseases. We need to be sure that we're looking worldwide. And it is in our security interest, as well as our moral interest, to pay attention to the rest of the world." - Mrs. Laura Bush, Former First Lady of the United States, PBS News Hour Interview, March 9 2011.

For more information:

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

Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development, *FAO, March 2011*

The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11, FAO's major annual flagship publication, provides comprehensive data and analysis of the costs of the gender gap faced by rural women in access to land, livestock, education, financial services, extension, fertilizers, tools and employment opportunities. The report provides compelling empirical estimates of the production and food security gains that could be achieved simply by closing the gender gap in agricultural input use.

<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/en/>

SEE ALSO: U.N. Says World Vulnerable to Food Crises, *Wall Street Journal, March 7*

The Food and Agriculture Organization said while world food prices fell after spiking in 2008, they remain elevated and volatile, a situation likely to continue owing to rising production costs, growing

demand from biofuels and pressure on supplies from a rapidly-expanding population.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703386704576185944194748916.html>

SEE ALSO: Women Could Feed Millions More People if Given Access to Means of Production, *UN News Center*, March 7

Women in rural areas have the potential to raise agricultural production to levels that would feed up to 150 million more of the world's hungry people if they had equal access to the means of production. Giving women the same access as men to agricultural resources could increase production on women's farms in developing countries by 20 to 30 per cent

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37694&Cr=fao&Cr1=>

Speech Before the UN General Assembly on the Importance of Diversification, Agriculture, Trade, *Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations*, March 11

For too long now, we have ignored investments in agriculture. In the past decade, the cost of importing food in least developed countries has tripled. Global food prices have just reached record levels, and least developed countries face a real prospect of a new food crisis. Millions of people have been pushed into poverty by the latest food price rises.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2011/sgsm13438.doc.htm>

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testifies before the House Appropriations Committee, *Department of State*, March 10

Global food prices are approaching an all-time high. Three years ago, this led to protests and riots in dozen countries. We have worked now very closely with our agricultural experts to come up with proposals that will actually over time move people from food recipients to food producers. And we do believe that strengthening countries against droughts, floods and other weather disasters, promoting clean energy, and preserving tropical forests help us with our own security and our own challenges here at home.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/03/158004.htm>

Africa's once-and-future food crisis, *Opinion, John Simon and Susan Sechler, Politico*, March 9

The food crisis is happening again. Global food prices are now at all-time highs — higher than in 2008, when the global food price crisis saw more people hungry than at any time in history. Given how much the cost of food depends on the price of oil, turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East is almost guaranteed to drive food prices still higher. This crisis - threatening millions - could be among the worst tragedies of recent years, particularly in Africa. But it should not be a surprise.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0311/50918.html>

Preventing the next global food crisis, *Opinion, Chris Policinski and Ritu Sharma, Politico*, March 8

Feeding a global population of seven billion, amid unpredictable weather, rising transportation costs and uneven productivity is an increasing challenge. Yet from our different viewpoints, the most important element of any global solution is the small farmer. Growing crops on plots the size of an American three-car garage, small-scale farmers in developing countries are key to ending this "feast-or-famine" cycle — because they are the world's chief food producers.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0311/50832.html>

Catherine Bertini and Dan Glickman to travel to Tanzania and Mozambique, *March 12-20, 2011*

Catherine Bertini and Dan Glickman, co-chairs of The Chicago Council's Global Agricultural Development Initiative will be traveling to Africa to conduct a fact-finding visit on agricultural development and food security projects. From March 12-20, the co-chairs will be visiting project sites in Tanzania and Mozambique hosted by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, the World Food Programme, and the U.S. Agency for International Development's Feed the Future Initiative. Our co-chairs will be sharing their experiences from the ground through daily comments and photos. Follow them LIVE on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Starved Bodies, Hungry Minds, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog*, March 11

Feed my family. Pay school fees. They are the same priorities. The link between these expressions of ambition and hope is Feed the Future, the presidential initiative to reverse the international neglect of

agriculture development that has evolved from those 30 words on Inauguration Day. Feed the Future seeks to create the conditions for the world's poor smallholder farmers, particularly in Africa, to be as productive as possible, to feed themselves and their communities and hopefully have surpluses to boost their incomes, which can mean better education for their children.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/03/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-starved-bodies-hungry-minds.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Secretary of Treasury Timothy Geithner testifies before the House Appropriations Committee,

Department of Treasury, March 9

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program is helping to connect small farmers to markets, it is building rural infrastructure, and increasing agricultural productivity. Similarly, U.S. investment in the International Fund for Agricultural Development supports projects that are improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the poorest rural areas around the globe. If small farmers can grow more, they can earn more, and can lift themselves out of poverty.

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1098.aspx>

SEE ALSO: Geithner: Increase Foreign Aid, or Lose Ground to China, *National Journal, March 9*

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner asked a House Appropriations subcommittee on Wednesday to increase foreign aid -- or else face the risk of losing ground to China. Geithner urged the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs to increase foreign development lending to \$3.4 billion

<http://nationaljournal.com/geithner-increase-foreign-aid-or-lose-ground-to-china-20110309>

Interview with Honorable Kay Granger, U.S. House of Representatives, PBS News Hour, March 10

What we're saying is, at this time, we're going to have to make some cuts that are going to be painful cuts, but they're cuts, whether it's some of the climate change priorities of this administration, in some cases food security. And we're saying, right now, at this time, and probably in the next few years, we can't spend at that level in foreign aid for some of those programs.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/world/jan-june11/foreignaid_03-10.html

Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testifies before the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, March 10

Farmers and ranchers are an essential part of our economy. They give us food, fiber, and fuel. The innovators in American agriculture deserve great credit for the significant steps they've taken to protect the environment while feeding millions of people.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/ebc9cf14b126fb318525784f006af60b!OpenDocument>

SEE ALSO: PA Administrator Lisa Jackson Backs Agriculture, *Yahoo News, March 11*

She began by emphasizing the accomplishments of the agricultural industry, specifically that farmers and ranchers are a vital part of the American economy. She commented that the EPA is working to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, but that agricultural production is exempt from this point.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ac/20110311/pl_ac/8037094_epa_administrator_lisa_jackson_backs_agriculture

SEE ALSO: House Panel Votes to Strip E.P.A. of Power to Regulate Greenhouse Gases, *New York Times, March 10*

A House subcommittee voted on Thursday to strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its power to regulate greenhouse gases. Many Republicans also argue that global warming is an unproven theory and that no action is needed to combat it.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/11/science/earth/11climate.html>

Ag Chairman Lucas: Farm Subsidies on the Table in 2012, *Wall Street Journal, March 9*

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R., Okla.) represents what he calls one of the largest agricultural areas in the nation. But on Wednesday, he said that "everything is on the table" for spending cuts

in 2012 - including farm subsidies. Congress sets farm subsidies every four years in a farm bill that lawmakers traditionally do not alter until the next farm bill.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2011/03/09/ag-chairman-lucas-farm-subsidies-on-the-table-in-2012>

Buying friends creates more enemies, *Opinion, Ron Paul, U.S. House of Representatives, The Hill, March 7*

The costs of trying to run the world are unsustainable, and we simply don't have the money. Morally, it is inexcusable for the US to pick sides in such conflicts overseas, no matter how odious either side may be. Financially, it is no longer possible. The 2012 budget request from the administration for "international affairs," which is code for "foreign aid", is two and a half times larger than it was just nine years ago!

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/147847-buying-friends-creates-more-enemies>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development

Date: March 15th, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

The FAO report makes a strong "business case" for addressing gender issues in agriculture and rural employment. Women make significant contributions to the rural economy of all developing country regions. Their roles vary widely by country and context, yet one finding is strikingly consistent: women in all regions face gender-related constraints that reduce their productivity and impose real costs on society.

<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/en/>

2011 Capitol Hill Forum

Date: March 15th, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

Despite years of progress in hunger alleviation, at the end of 2010, FAO estimated that 925 million people suffered from hunger, with the problem being exacerbated by the global economic crisis and food price volatility in many countries. This year's AIARD forum will include presentations by Dr. Steve Radelet, Chief Economist, USAID; the Honorable Mwanaidi Sinare Maajar, Ambassador to the United States from Tanzania; and Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Africa Director, International Food Policy Research Institute.

<http://www.aiard.org/meetings/2011forum/index.htm>

COMESA Investment Forum 2011

Date: March 23rd - 24th, 2011

Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The conference will provide an interactive platform to find out first-hand about the opportunities in the region, where investors and business leaders are putting their money, and how they are going about generating high long-term returns. The agenda will focus on 5 key sectors: Trade, Finance, Logistics, Agriculture/Agribusiness and Infrastructure.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/comesa-investment-forum-2011>

Agriculture 2.0

Date: April 11th - 12th, 2011

Location: San Francisco

This event will be the 5th installment in the conference series and for the first time we are adding several tracks to a multi-day format. This expansion will facilitate the creation of a commercial marketplace for the industry—a first of its kind, one-stop shop not only for venture capitalists and early stage companies, but also for senior decision makers in agribusiness and farmland funds, commodities experts, growth stage and institutional investors, key industry insiders, and policy makers. They all come together at Agriculture 2.0 with one intent - to catalyze and capitalize on this rapidly evolving industry.

[https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520\(1\)&utm_content=&step=start](https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520(1)&utm_content=&step=start)

Climate, Climate Change, and Public Health Workshop

Date: April 12th – 14th, 2011

Location: Baltimore, MD

This workshop will focus on the emerging public health issues arising from recent changes in the Earth's climate, such as: new patterns in diseases, the availability and quality of water, and adaptation strategies.

<http://gaia.jhuapl.edu>

19th Annual Food and Ag Policy Conference

Date: April 13th – 14th, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

<http://www.informaecon.com/WashMarkCalendar2011.pdf>

CropLife America National Policy Conference: Lost in Translation? Deciphering the Discourse on Modern Agriculture

Date: May 12th, 2011

Location: Washington, DC

The CropLife America National Policy Conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of agriculture, food safety and security, agricultural technology and policy to offer highly diverse perspectives and engage in frank discussions on all issues facing modern agriculture. Our Master of Ceremonies will again be Marc Gunther, contributing editor at FORTUNE magazine and a senior writer at Greenbiz.com who has appeared on NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/nationalpolicyconference>

Measuring the effects of Agri-Health interventions: An international workshop

Date: May 12th – 13th, 2011

Location: London, England

This workshop in London will bring together health and agricultural specialists to explore development of common tools and methods for the evaluation of "agri-health" interventions. This event is organized by the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)'s Agriculture and Health Research Platform as well as 2020 Vision Initiative.

http://www.lcirah.ac.uk/conference.php?event_id=5

International Conference and Exhibition on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa

Date: May 13th – May 15th, 2011

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The aim of the conference is to: 1) provide sound scientific knowledge on issues related to technology transfer and capacity building; 2) identify more efficient ways and means of building capacity and developing sustainable and useful institutions; 3) present lessons learned and identify success factors regarding biotechnology knowledge transfer and capacity building; and 4) serve as a forum for cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary dialogue between scientists and policy makers on issues related to the development, use, and application of biotechnology.

<http://www.issdet.org/>

Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies

Date: June 2nd – June 5th, 2011

Location: Tufts University, Medford, MA

Humanitarian crises and the responses they trigger are evolving rapidly. This conference looks at the opportunities and threats for addressing these crises, as well as at the strengths and weaknesses of the actual responses. The conference provides a unique forum for both scholars and practitioners to present research and debate these issues. In particular, the conference focuses on four broad themes: emerging from protracted crises; new directions in policy; innovations in humanitarian practice; and advances in public health and food security in crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

Cracking the Nut Conference: Overcoming Obstacles to Rural and Agricultural Finance

Date: June 21st – 22nd, 2011

Location: Washington, DC

Rural and Agricultural Finance have long been considered tough nuts to crack. The Cracking the Nut Conference will unite the world's leading rural and agricultural finance leaders in a collaborative pursuit of learning, leverage and large scale change. To share about your work and what you have been doing to crack these nuts, please [submit a proposal](#) to lead a session at the conference. The deadline for submitting a proposal is Monday, February 28, 2011. This conference is aimed at practitioners, private sector professionals, policymakers, funders, researchers, and other rural and agricultural finance professionals. For more information visit: www.crackingthenutconference.com or email Rashmi Ekka, rekka@azmj.org

Agricultural Value Chain Finance Training

Date: June 22nd-23rd, 2011

Location: The QED Group , Washington, D.C.

Farmers, suppliers, processors, buyers and others need access to finance to operate and develop their businesses. Also, bankers often struggle to contain their risks and costs in financing agriculture. At the Agricultural Value Chain Finance Training, lead by Calvin Miller, FAO and Stephanie Charitonenko you will learn about developing commercially attractive financial services that meet the needs of the various actors in the value chain and how a value chain focus can result in market growth and reduced credit risk.

<http://www.cvent.com/events/cracking-the-nut-conference-overcoming-obstacles-to-rural-and-agricultural-finance/custom-19-4a76ee2bb48b423b9d98c50ddae38904.aspx>

Food Security, Health and Impact Conference

Date: June 22nd – June 24th, 2011

Location: Leeds, United Kingdom

The Africa College, a research partnership between IITA, ICIPE and University of Leeds is holding an international conference to share lessons on translating research results into impact for food security, nutrition and human health. The conference includes knowledge brokering sessions and workshops and is asking two questions: How can the results of basic science and inter-disciplinary research lead to increased impact on food security and human health?; and, How can partnerships between research and development organisations deliver innovation and impact? Sponsorship for African participants is available. For more details see: <http://www.africacollege.leeds.ac.uk/>

World Food Prize 25th Anniversary

Date: October 12th – 14th, 2011

Location: Des Moines, IA

Twenty-five years ago, Norman Borlaug's dream of creating an annual award to recognize and inspire breakthrough achievements in increasing the quality, quantity and availability of food came true. The World Food Prize was founded. This year, we are thrilled to announce that the events will also include the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a permanent home for the World Food Prize and an event center and educational facility to honor humanitarian heroes and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders.

<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/>

SPECIAL COVERAGE: 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

U.S. Government:

Interview with Melanne Verveer, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issue, *Huffington Post*, March 10

If we want to enhance agricultural productivity, if we really want to make certain that more food is being produced and reaching the people who have the most to gain from it, then we must ensure that extension programs, credit programs, engagement in local decision-making, and land rights include women.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rahim-kanani/melanee-verveer-us-ambassador-at-large_b_833073.html

President Obama on 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, *The White House, March 8*

On this 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, we celebrate the extraordinary gains made by women over the past century — and the women pioneers who made them possible — and we reaffirm our unwavering support for the rights, security, dignity and opportunity of all women around the world.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/08/statement-president-100th-anniversary-international-women-s-day>

The 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, *Honorable Hillary Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, March 7*

At the 1995 Beijing conference, I was so humbled by the positive response to my message that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights. But 16 years later, women still bear the brunt of poverty, war, disease, and famine. And when it comes to the boardroom meetings, government sessions, peace negotiations, and other assemblies where crucial decisions are made in the world, women are too often absent.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/03/157647.htm>

Secretary of State Clinton Launches "100 Women Initiative: Empowering Women and Girls Through International Exchanges", *U.S. State Department, March 7*

Today, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton launched the "100 Women Initiative: Empowering Women and Girls through International Exchanges," a year-long series of events bringing 100 women leaders from 92 countries to the United States.

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/100_women_initiative

Mozambique Scientists Out to Prove Women Can Set a New Course for Agriculture in Their Country and Beyond, *USAID, March 2011*

Eleven women scientists in Mozambique were selected from among hundreds of applicants from 10 sub-Saharan countries as fellows of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development project. The project strengthens scientists' research and leadership skills to build up the talent pool of highly skilled African women in agricultural research and development.

http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/fl_feb11/FL_feb11_WMoz.html

Reports:

Celebrating Women in Agriculture, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, March 2011*

This special edition newsletter celebrates the centenary of International Women's Day. This issue highlights two young scientists who are working to empower women farmers. We would also like to honour the six other women we've highlighted so far in this series.

<http://ictkm.cgiar.org/2011/03/08/celebrating-women-in-agriculture>

Key Dates in International Women's History, *United Nations Foundation, March 2011*

International Women's Day was first celebrated on March 8th, 1911. A look back at the last century illustrates the overwhelming progress that women around the world have made.

<http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/key-dates-in-international-womens-history.pdf>

Report on the U.S. Global Health Initiative's Women, Girls, and Gender Equality, *Kaiser Family Foundation, March 2011*

The health of women and girls was a top priority on the U.S. global health policy agenda. However, many questions remain regarding how this principle will be operationalized, reflected in programs on the ground, and ultimately impact the health outcomes of women and girls around the world.

<http://www.kff.org/globalhealth/upload/8128.pdf>

Media Articles:

Nyanza Women's Co-Ops Given Cows, *Allafrica.com, March 10*

Thirty five Friesian cows were distributed among four women cooperatives in Nyanza District during the International Women's Day celebrations. "The role of women in national building is not only farming or getting a pen to write but to responsibly raise children to become better citizens," said the Minister of Agriculture, Agnes Kalibata.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201103100026.html>

Interview with Laura Bush, Melinda Gates, and Helene Gayle, *PBS News Hour, March 9*

In recognition of International Women's Day this week, Judy Woodruff speaks with former first lady Laura Bush, Melinda Gates of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and CARE President Helene Gayle about issues facing girls and women around the world, and how programs to address those issues fit into the U.S. foreign aid picture.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/world/jan-june11/bushgatescare_03-09.html

SEE ALSO: Laura Bush Admonishes House GOP on Cuts to Foreign Aid, *The Hill, March 11*

Former first lady Laura Bush admonished congressional Republicans against slashing key foreign aid programs in their thirst for spending cuts. Laura Bush and the former first daughters, Jenna and Barbara, have been advocates for global programs both during their time in the White House, and since they've left.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/148927-laura-bush-admonishes-house-gop-on-cuts-to-foreign-aid>

WFP Hails Work of Women in Fight Hunger, *UPI, March 8*

Women are the "secret weapon" in the global fight against hunger as they make up most of the world's farming workforce. WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran marked the 100th International Women's Day by noting that farming remains a labor-intensive but vital ingredient in the fight against hunger.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2011/03/08/WFP-hails-work-of-women-in-fighting-hunger/UPI-75351299594960/

How Dry Wastelands and Science are Changing Women's Lives in the Sahel, *Relief Web, March 8*

If the husband passes away his closest family or his male children inherit his possessions. If a woman starts a vegetable garden and it proves successful, the husband can expel his wife from the garden and take it over. The degraded lands however are communal lands owned by the village under the authority of the village chief. He can allot the "waste land" to organized women groups resulting in women ownership of land.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/1ARR-8ERJ2V?OpenDocument>

Women Farmers: Voiceless Pillars of African Agriculture, *Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, President, FANRPAN, March 8*

It is unfortunate that it is only those women that have a space and platform in academics, science, economics and politics that are celebrated and yet in Africa there is a deserving group of extraordinary women that still have no voice – the African women farmers. Women farmers are the pillars of African agriculture.

<http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/blogs/100-years-of-international-womens-day/women-farmers-voiceless-pillars-of-african-agriculture>

Equal Access to Education for Women in Rural Cambodia, *Asia Foundation, March 2*

This year marks the centennial celebration of International Women's Day, and its theme – promoting equal access for women to education, training, and science and technology – resonates personally for Chroeung Sok Vorn, a rice farmer from Cambodia. The need for increased access to and better quality of education is especially critical in Cambodia, a country where nearly 60 percent of the population is under the age of 25.

<http://asiafoundation.org/in-asia/2011/03/02/equal-access-to-education-for-women-in-rural-cambodia/>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Why World Food Prices May Keep Climbing, *Earth Policy Institute, March 2011*

In February, world food prices reached the highest level on record. Soaring food prices are already a source of spreading hunger and political unrest, and it appears likely that they will climb further in the months ahead. As a result of an extraordinarily tight grain situation, this year's harvest will be one of the most closely watched in years.

http://www.earth-policy.org/plan_b_updates/2011/update92

SEE ALSO: Food Prices May Soar to Crisis Levels, *Huffington Post*, March 9

Aquifer depletion, severe soil erosion and rising temperatures are causing instability in grain production worldwide. Three of the world's big four wheat producers--China, the United States, and Russia--are currently experiencing severe drought and potentially low yields.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robyn-griggs-lawrence/food-prices-may-soar-to-c_b_833736.html

Agroecology and the Right to Food, *Olivier De Schutter, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, United Nations*, March 2011

The reinvestment in agriculture, triggered by the 2008 food price crisis, is essential to the concrete realization of the right to food. This report explores how States can and must achieve a reorientation of their agricultural systems towards modes of production that are highly productive, highly sustainable and that contribute to the progressive realization of the human right to adequate food.

http://www.srfood.org/images/stories/pdf/officialreports/20110308_a-hrc-16-49_agroecology_en.pdf

Time for Next Agricultural Revolution?, *Wall Street Journal*, March 8

As leaders debate how to combat record food prices and producers struggle to meet rapidly-growing demand, the world is looking for a new agricultural revolution. And some are beginning to question whether last century's approach was, in fact, green enough.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/03/08/time-for-the-next-agricultural-revolution/>

Eco-Farming Feeds the World, *Huffington Post*, March 9

For years now, the most-asked question by detractors of the good food movement has been, "Can organic agriculture feed the world?" According to a new United Nations report, the answer is a big, fat yes.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paula-crossfield/un-ecofarming-feeds-the-world_b_833340.html

Food Security and Nutrition Analysis, *FAO*, March 2010

The findings of the FSNAU indicate that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia has increased by 20 percent to 2.4 million.

<http://www.fsnau.org/downloads/FSNAU-Post-Deyr-2010-11-Technical-Report.pdf>

SEE ALSO: A crisis in numbers, *IRIN News*, March 7

One in three people in Somalia needs humanitarian assistance as a severe water crisis, linked to the La Niña weather phenomenon, takes hold across much of the country after failed seasonal Deyr rains and amid continuing armed conflict.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=92123>

Media Articles:

Illegal Crop Is Swapped for Legal One in Mexico, *Wall Street Journal*, March 10

Opium poppy farmers throughout Mexico and other countries, such as nearby Colombia, are uprooting their stalks and planting coffee in its place now that the beans trade at 14-year highs. Wary of escalating drug violence and government crackdowns, these farmers say they see coffee as an opportunity to dedicate themselves to a more honest business.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704623404576187264138169734.html?KEYWORDS=agriculture>

Food Security Must Be "Deeply Improved," *AllAfrica.com*, March 10

Mozambique's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Limbau, said in Maputo on Thursday that the country's food and nutritional security must be "deeply improved". All the stakeholders in Mozambican agriculture must have available, in good time, accurate statistical information that can support them in making decisions.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201103101136.html>

Tanzania Set to Benefit from UN Loan to Boost Rural Economic Activity, *UN News Center, March 9*

The United Nations fund tasked with combating rural poverty has extended a \$90 million loan to Tanzania to strengthen access to rural financial services and markets, and promote private sector development in the East African country. The new programme will support the implementation of the agricultural sector development strategy.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37718&Cr=IFAD&Cr1=Tanzania>

We Need to Stick to Farming, *Business Standard (India), March 9*

Coming out strongly against the idea of moving people out of agriculture, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) director general has called for bringing a 'profit-prestige partnership' model to farming through innovation and entrepreneurship. "We need to stick to farming," he said, stating that agriculture is directly connected to food, nutrition, health and environment of 52 percent of Indian population.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/%5Cwe-need-to-stick-to-farming%5C/427818/>

National Guard's Afghan Agriculture Mission Blooms, *Journal & Courier, March 8*

Composting, chicken raising and irrigation. That is some of what 60 members of a Indiana National Guard unit are teaching in Afghanistan. The unit is the third of its kind from Indiana deployed to the country with the goal of strengthening the bond between the local people and the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan through agriculture-based initiatives and helping jump-start a legal, agriculture based economy.

<http://www.jconline.com/article/20110308/NEWS/103080329/National-Guard-s-Afghan-agriculture-mission-blooms>

One for the World, *Cattle Network, March 7*

In the past few years, the stark reality of food production has become familiar. Against this backdrop, the World Food Prize has emerged as the foremost international award recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development. The prize is closely connected with Dr. Norman E. Borlaug.

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/cattle-news/latest/Commentary-One-for-the-world-117517838.html>

U.S. Farmers Head into Key Stretch for Harvests, *Wall Street Journal, March 7*

The world is consuming grains faster than farmers are growing them, draining reserves and pushing prices to the levels that fueled food riots in poor countries three years ago. The U.S.'s role in keeping a global food shortage at bay hinges in large measure on harvests over the next several months as farmers in the U.S.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703867704576182922704152088.html>

Brazil in Quest to Seize Farming Opportunity, *Financial Times, March 6*

Today, Brazil stands on the brink of becoming an agricultural superpower. It is one of the few countries in the world with the climate, technology, farming practices and the sheer quantity of land to be able to satisfy the surging global appetite for food in the coming decades.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/01d622fc-481b-11e0-b323-00144feab49a.html>

In New Food Culture, a Young Generation of Farmers Emerge, *New York Times, March 5*

For years, Tyler Jones, a livestock farmer here, avoided telling his grandfather how disillusioned he had become with industrial farming. Now, Mr. Jones, 30, and his wife, Alicia, 27, are among an emerging group of people in their 20s and 30s who have chosen farming as a career.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/06/us/06farmers.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Heading Toward Retirement or a Fragile Lease on Life?, *Center for Global Development, March 2011*

The International Development Association (IDA) has provided long-term interest-free loans to the world's

poorest countries for over 50 years. However, looking to the future, IDA's operations will likely be substantially altered by the transformation of its membership.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424903>

Editorials / Commentaries:

Cuts That Kill: The Senate Must Restore Global Health Funding, *Opinion, Joanne Carter, Executive Director of RESULTS, Huffington Post, March 10*

Last week Congress approved a two-week extension of federal funding to avoid a looming government shutdown. The vote postpones -- but does not resolve -- potentially devastating cuts to global health programs. These cuts are destructive because they would be measured in human lives.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joanne-carter/global-health-cuts-are-ir b 830532.html>

Surprise! Americans Want to 'Slash' Foreign Aid – to 10 Times its Current Size, *Opinion, Ken Hackett, President, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Science Monitor, March 7*

Americans think foreign aid is 25 percent of the budget and want it to be 10. It's actually 1 percent. This is just one of many misconceptions about foreign aid – seen as an expensive handout that doesn't work. But foreign aid does work. And it works as a safeguard investment for America, too.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2011/0307/Surprise!-Americans-want-to-slash-foreign-aid-to-10-times-its-current-size>

Why Foreign Aid Matters to Women, *Opinion, Ruth Messinger, President, American Jewish World Service, Huffington Post, March 8*

International Women's Day is another chance to recognize the challenges and impact of women, like Monica Oguttu, and all women and girls living with hunger, disease and violence. We cannot turn our back on them now. The U.S. government has the power to do more.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ruth-messinger/why-foreign-aid-matters-t b 832980.html>

For Want of a Nail: Foreign Aid Cuts Will Harm U.S. Influence, *Opinion, Michael Lieberman, Huffington Post, March 8*

The Obama administration, for its part, has taken this lesson to heart. The GOP, to save the cost of a few nails, has taken a different tack. The folly of their proposals, as offered for the recent stopgap budget measure, speaks for itself, and indicates their misplaced priorities as a full 2012 budget is negotiated in the next few weeks.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-lieberman/the-gop-offers-american-i b 832563.html>

U.S. Foreign Aid Hinders More Than It Helps, *Opinion, Doug Bandow, Cato Institute, March 7*

No doubt some projects in some countries have provided some benefits. But there is no correlation between aid and growth. Indeed, generous financial transfers to corrupt dictators often have impeded necessary reforms. Washington and other industrialized nations, like Japan, should reconsider the aid business.

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=12845

Media Articles:

Obama says US Ready to Aid Japan Quake Victims, *The Daily Caller, March 11*

President Barack Obama pledged U.S. assistance to help the country recover. Hundreds were dead or missing in Japan following Friday's 8.9 magnitude earthquake - the largest in Japan's history - and the accompanying tsunami. The military was preparing to offer aid to Hawaii and the West Coast.

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/03/11/obama-offers-to-assist-earthquake-stricken-japan/>

Kerry, McCain, Lieberman Push Funds for Egypt, Tunisia, *Politico, March 10*

Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) announced Thursday they plan to introduce a bill that would allocate up to \$80 million in "enterprise funds" for Egypt and Tunisia. The senators said they hope the money will attract private investment in the countries, similar to programs initiated in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

[http://www.politico.com/blogs/glennthrush/0311/Kerry McCain Lieberman push funds for Egypt Tunisia.html#](http://www.politico.com/blogs/glennthrush/0311/Kerry_McCain_Lieberman_push_funds_for_Egypt_Tunisia.html#)

Aid Groups Struggle with Rising Tide of Refugees, *Inter Press Service*, March 7

The international community is ramping up efforts to alleviate the growing humanitarian crisis in Libya, which has affected over 200,000 people. The U.N. refugee agency was able to deliver a total of 53 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the port city of Tubruq. The United Nations estimates that between 600 and 2,000 peaceful protesters and innocent bystanders have been killed.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=54747>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

The Poverty Impacts of Climate Change, *The World Bank*, March 2011

Over the last century, the world has seen a sustained decline in the proportion of people living in poverty. However, there is an increasing concern that climate change could slow or possibly even reverse poverty reduction progress. This note surveys the results of recent research on climate change impacts on poverty.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTPREMNET/Resources/EP51_v4.pdf

Media Articles:

Drought Parches Four Zimbabwean Provinces, Devastating Harvest Hopes, *VOA News*, March 11

Agricultural experts and food officials say maize crops in the Zimbabwean must be written off due to insufficient rains in the past month or so with the harvest period coming up fast. Maize fields in particular have been reduced to dust bowls in such areas, dashing hopes of generous harvests.

<http://www.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/Drought-Grips-Four-Zimbabwe-Provinces-Devastating-Harvest-Hopes-117823903.html>

Greenland, Antarctica Ice Sheets Shrinking Fast, *VOA News*, March 11

Ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are losing mass at an accelerating rate, based on nearly two decades of satellite measurements and regional climate models. Ice sheets that cover huge land masses are diminishing three times faster than those from the smaller ice caps and mountain glaciers.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/environment/Greenland-Antarctica-Ice-Sheets-Shrinking-Fast-117808269.html>

How Not to Run Environmental Policy, *Opinion*, Neil O'Brien, *Wall Street Journal*, March 10

Despite the vast sums EU countries have devoted to reducing carbon emissions, Europe's carbon consumption is actually rising more quickly than America's. The end result has been that while the official measure of carbon produced in the EU has fallen since 1990, the EU's total carbon consumption rocketed by some 47% between 1990 and 2006. In the U.S., meanwhile, total carbon consumption rose by 20%.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703386704576186480593374152.html>

Heat Damages Colombia Coffee, Raising Prices, *New York Times*, March 9

On the last few years, coffee yields have plummeted here and in many of Latin America's other premier coffee regions as a result of rising temperatures and more intense and unpredictable rains, phenomena that many scientists link partly to global warming. At the new, higher temperatures, the plants' buds abort or their fruit ripens too quickly for optimum quality.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/10/science/earth/10coffee.html>

Airlines to Spend Estimated €1.4bn on Carbon Permits in 2012, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, March 8

Airlines in Europe are likely to pay about €1.4bn next year for carbon permits under the European Union's emissions trading scheme. Companies will have to pay for the carbon dioxide they emit, and the number allocated to them for free was set by the EU on Monday.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2011/mar/08/carbon-emissions-climate-change>

Climate Change, Biofuels Threaten Food Security, *Reuters, March 7*

Climate change bringing floods and drought, growing biofuel demand and national policies to protect domestic markets could drive up global food prices and threaten long-term food security. Periods of price volatility are not new to agriculture, but recent price shocks triggered by extreme weather and increasing use of grains to produce energy have caused great concern.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE72616C20110307>

Rain and Snowfall Ease Drought in China, *New York Times, March 7*

Rain and snow during the past two weeks, together with a huge irrigation effort, appear to have saved much of the wheat crop in northern China from drought. Winter in China's wheat belt is usually fairly dry. But this winter was so dry that it provoked considerable concern, from government offices in Beijing to the grain markets of Chicago.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/08/business/global/08drought.html?scp=17&sq=agriculture&st=nyt>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Media Articles:

Quake in Japan Rattles U.S. Agricultural Markets, *Wall Street Journal, March 11*

A severe earthquake and tsunami in Japan rattled U.S. agricultural markets Friday, as traders tried to assess the potential impact on import demand for such commodities as pork and corn. Japan is the largest international customer for U.S. pork based on total sales, with the country spending nearly \$1.65 billion on imports in 2010 and accounting for more than 34% of total U.S. export sales.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703597804576194612603392274.html>

Vilsack Urges Adoption of Korean Trade Pact, *Food Safety News, March 11*

Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack outlined the benefits of the U.S.-Korea Foreign Trade Agreement (KORUS). This reduction in tariffs is expected to lead to the doubling of American exports over the next 5 years, and to create at least 70,000 new jobs. The agreement would increase agricultural exports by \$1.8 billion per year.

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/vilsack-urges-adoption-of-us-korean-trade-agreement/>

UN Conference on Rising Asia Food Prices Agrees to Avoid Past Mistakes, *VOA News, March 11*

Representatives attending a United Nations conference in Asia have agreed to avoid restrictive measures that could lead to a food price crisis. Representatives also agreed that countries should put in place safety nets to help women, children, the poor and others vulnerable to rising food prices. They also pledged to better support investment in agriculture.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/asia/UN-Conference-on-Rising-Asia-Food-Prices-Agrees-to-Avoid-Past-Mistakes-117792508.html>

Korea Purchases 30,000 Hectares in Mongolia to Initiate Agricultural Cooperation, *Korea Times, March 11*

The head of the agricultural branch, Chang Young Chang unveiled plans to carry out eco-friendly agriculture and livestock breeding on approximately 816,880 acre land by building a Kory Plantation. The plot of land that will become the Kory Plantation has great agricultural potential.

<http://www.koreaitimes.com/story/13469/korea-purchases-30000-hectares-mongolia-initiate-agricultural-cooperation>

USDA Edges up Outlook on Global Grain Supplies, *Wall Street Journal, March 11*

U.S. government forecasters eased concerns over low grain supplies, slightly increasing estimates for global supplies of corn, wheat and soybeans, while leaving projected domestic supplies mostly unchanged.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704823004576192501798382540.html?KEYWORDS=agriculture>

U.S. Farmland Boom May Carry Long-Term Risk, *Reuters*, March 10

The steep rise in U.S. farmland prices creates the potential for agricultural credit problems if there is a sharp downturn in the sector. Federal Reserve officials said recently they were watching to see if the land market is becoming overheated, or if a price bubble is forming.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/10/us-fdic-farmland-idUSTRE72968T20110310>

US Chamber of Commerce Sees Investment Opportunities in Africa, *VOA News*, March 10

Ethiopia, Kenya and Ghana all have investment opportunities for the U.S. business community. Domestically, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is working to improve trade with Africa by renewing the authorization of the 15-year-old Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/US-Chamber-of-Commerce-Sees-Investment-Opportunities-in-Africa--117744403.html>

Global Food Prices Will Probably Be Sustained at Record This Year, *Bloomberg*, March 9

Record food prices are likely to be sustained this year because of high crude oil costs and smaller crops. World food production will have to increase by 70 percent by 2050 to meet increasing demand from an expanding global population, which is projected to rise to 9.1 billion by 2050 from 6.9 billion at present.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-09/record-food-prices-likely-to-be-sustained-fao-says-correct.html>

Investing Abroad to Secure Food at Home, *Gulf News*, March 9

Arab countries account for more than five percent of the world's population but less than one percent of global water resources. The UAE and the other GCC states are following in the footsteps of China and investing heavily in agricultural land abroad.

<http://gulfnews.com/business/features/investing-abroad-to-secure-food-at-home-1.773464>

Cattle Prices Climb on Strong Export Demand, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, March 9

Cattle futures rose Wednesday on expectations that export demand will grow stronger this year even as supplies of cattle in feedlots decline. Much of the gain is due to strong sales to other countries. About 66 percent of the exports went to Mexico, Canada, Japan and Korea.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9LRUOB80.htm>

Negotiating Trade Agreements Must not Jeopardize EU's Agriculture, *European Parliament*, March 8

When negotiating international trade agreements, the European Commission must stop making concessions that can adversely affect European farmers, says a European Parliament resolution approved on Tuesday.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20110308IPR15030/html/Negotiating-trade-agreements-must-not-jeopardise-EU%27s-agriculture>

SEE ALSO: Full Text of the Resolution: European Parliament Resolution

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0083+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

Wheat Drops for a Second Day on Steady Winter-Crop Conditions in the U.S., *Bloomberg*, March 8

Wheat fell for a second day in Chicago after a government report showed steady or improved winter-crop conditions in major U.S. growing areas. Corn slid for a third day, while rice and soybeans also declined.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-08/wheat-extends-drop-as-u-s-winter-crop-conditions-steady-corn-soy-fall.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Agriculture Industry Seeks To Restore Its Image, *NPR*, March 9

Farmers and the groups that represent them are wincing from a steady stream of bad publicity. So big

agriculture companies - and some smaller operators - are trying to get together in defense to present a united farm front. Foundations have been established to help farm families perk up their advocacy on Facebook and Twitter.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/03/09/134263421/agriculture-industry-seeks-to-restore-its-image>

Monsanto Backs Algae Startup Sapphire Energy, *Reuters, March 8*

Agriculture and genetics giant Monsanto has made its bet on algae. Monsanto announced that it has made an equity investment in, and developed a partnership with, algae startup Sapphire Energy. The deal between Monsanto and Sapphire is also another example of how corporate investors, particularly in the biofuel sector, will be crucial to helping startups scale and reach commercialization.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/08/idUS83048293820110308>

Ellen Kullman of DuPont on how the company has to keep reinventing itself, *Wall Street Journal, March 7*

Few businesses are as deeply involved in as many environmental issues as DuPont Co. The company's focus on chemicals, specialty plastics and industrial materials places it in the forefront of research and innovation in fields ranging from genetically modified crops and solar energy to plastics increasingly used in automotive powertrains.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703580004576180183375640192.html>

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