

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



May 14<sup>th</sup> – May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“It is very clear to us that agriculture has the potential to become a major source of employment, most especially for the thousands of our citizens, especially women and youth who, as casualties of the war, lack essential skills, but who can learn to farm the land. Our objective is to consolidate them into a productive and dynamic entity for national development. Jobs in the farming sector is one of the means of accomplishing that aim.”*— Statement by Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia at the Chicago Council Symposium on Agriculture and Food Security, Washington, DC, May 20, 2010

To View the Special Edition of Global Food for Thought Devoted to The Chicago Council’s Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security, [please click here](#).

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- 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

**2010 Technology and Innovation Report: Enhancing Food Security in Africa through Science, Technology and Innovation**, *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, May 2010 2010*

The 2010 Technology and Innovation Report focuses on the challenges of improving agricultural performance in Africa and the role of technology and innovation in raising agricultural production and incomes of all farmers, including smallholder farms. The report argues that the main challenge is to strengthen the innovation capabilities of African agricultural systems as a means of addressing poverty, improving food security and achieving broader economic growth and development.

[http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/tir2009\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/tir2009_en.pdf)

**See Also: Africa Needs “Green Revolution” for Food Security – U.N., Reuters, May 19**

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-48632720100519>

**Successes in African Agriculture: Lessons for the Future**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

Agricultural growth offers a potentially powerful tool for spearheading broad-based poverty reduction in Africa. In a continent where 70 percent of the poor work in agriculture, an upsurge in farm productivity contributes directly to broad increases in rural income. In addition, a prosperous agriculture generates powerful growth linkages to the rest of the economy, providing cheap food, raw materials, and a growing demand for nascent processing and service industries. Even the urban poor, who spend the majority of their income on food, see their real incomes rise when growing agricultural productivity and output enable reductions in staple food prices. Consequently, growing agricultural productivity attacks poverty from three different directions. It increases the productivity and incomes of the majority of Africa’s poor, who work primarily in agriculture. It reduces food prices, which govern real incomes and poverty in urban areas, and generates important spill-overs to the rest of the economy.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ib63.pdf>

**Breakthrough American Foreign Policy May Finally Give a Break to the World’s Hungry**, *Dan Silverstein, managing member, Heuristic Management, Huffington Post, May 24*

The United States government took a bold step forward last week in addressing the horrifying upward spiral in the number of people throughout the world who go hungry, and, because they are hungry, they suffer from stunted growth, find it difficult to learn, spend every day of their lives just trying to grow enough food to eat, and often die of starvation.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-silverstein/breakthrough-american-for\\_b\\_586235.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-silverstein/breakthrough-american-for_b_586235.html)

**For want of a drink**, *Special Report on Water, The Economist, May 20*

Farmers’ increasing demand for water is caused not only by the growing number of mouths to be fed but also by people’s desire for better-tasting, more interesting food. Unfortunately, it takes nearly twice as much water to grow a kilo of peanuts as a kilo of soyabeans, nearly four times as much to produce a kilo of beef as a kilo of chicken, and nearly five times as much to produce a glass of orange juice as a cup of tea. With 2 billion people around the world about to enter the middle class, the agricultural demands on water would increase even if the population stood still.

[http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=16136302](http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=16136302)

**Other Articles in Special Report:**

[Managing water](#)

[The need for clean water](#)

[Business begins to stir](#)

[The Singaporean way](#)

[Tubewells in India](#)

[How China saves water](#)

[The ups and downs of dams](#)

[Making tight supplies go further](#)

[How to avoid water wars](#)

[The necessary changes](#)

**McAleese Visit to US to Focus on Fighting Hunger**, *Irish Times, May 21*

For decades, the fight against hunger has mistakenly concentrated on food donations rather than promoting local agriculture, says Roger Thurow, who heads global agriculture and food policy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. The 2003 famine in Ethiopia and food riots in Indonesia, Mexico, Senegal, Egypt and Haiti in

2008 were wake-up calls, he says. Donors are beginning to correct the flawed policies that decimated agriculture in Haiti and much of Africa, in part thanks to the Chicago Council's 2008 report on ending poverty through agricultural development.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2010/0521/1224270806092.html>

**See Also: Global Security Depends on Tackling World Hunger**, *Op-Ed, Peter Power, Minister of State for Overseas Development; David Nabarro, special representative of the UN secretary general for food security and nutrition; and Tom Arnold, chief executive of Concern Worldwide, Irish Times, May 17*  
Ireland and the US are building a strategic partnership to tackle the ongoing scandal of world hunger, a foreign policy priority of both governments. Next September, the US and Ireland will co-host a high-level event during the millennium development goals summit in New York, bringing together world leaders to highlight the importance of agriculture in reducing hunger and improving nutrition. The Irish and US governments have signed a three-year partnership to co-operate on combating hunger in Malawi, prioritising support to small farmers, efforts to increase soil fertility and adapt to climate change.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2010/0517/1224270548434.html>

**From Pledges to Progress: Measuring Agricultural Development Assistance**, *Sir Gordon Conway, professor of international development, Imperial College London, and Laura Kelly, director of policy, ONE Europe, Global Food for Thought Blog, May 20*

When engaging in the complex, interdisciplinary world of agricultural development, we need a better detailed understanding of what works. By investing time and money in better aid data now, governments will be able to work with their advisers, researchers and recipient country partners, to understand how their new investments correlate with progress on the ground. This will enable increasingly effective and coherent partnerships in the future.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/05/expert-commentary-gordon-conway-laura-kelly.html>

**The Starving Can't Wait**, *Editorial, Los Angeles Times, May 19*

The Obama administration is expanding pilot programs to get food aid to the needy faster.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/may/19/opinion/la-ed-food-20100519>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Seeding an Agricultural Infrastructure in Afghanistan**, *National Public Radio, May 16*

Last week, a delegation of Afghanistan's top leaders came to Washington to work out a way forward with the Obama administration. One key step in the path to Afghanistan's future is rebuilding the agricultural sector. Guest Host Rebecca Roberts speaks with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Asif Rahimi about efforts to eradicate poppy production and the promotion of agriculture as an alternative to insurgency in Afghanistan.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126863796>

**A Cost-Benefit Analysis of USDA's International Market Development Programs**, *IHS Global Insight, March 2010*

The study's focus is four-fold: 1) to update the statistically derived relationship between export promotion and development spending and U.S. agricultural trade; 2) to evaluate the performance of USDA's export market development programs in terms of their impact on U.S. agricultural exports; 3) to determine if any increases in resulting agricultural exports improve the health of the farm sector, as well as aggregate economic welfare from a cost-benefit perspective in conformance with OMB Circular A-94; and 4) to empirically test or verify any market failures and externalities that would justify a federal role in this activity.

<http://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/trade-global-insight-map-report-march2010-20100423.pdf>

**See Also: Independent Study Concludes USDA Market Development Programs Added Billions to U.S. Exports in 2009**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 19*

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/05/0271.xml>

**U.S. Starts \$55 Million Agriculture Program in Southern Sudan**, *BusinessWeek*, May 17

The U.S. started a \$55 million program in Southern Sudan mainly to help improve the ability of small farmers to grow staple crops, the U.S. Agency for International Development said. The five-year initiative, called the Food, Agribusiness, and Rural Markets (FARM) program, will focus on the Equatoria region, where agricultural production is seen to have the greatest potential, USAID said today in a statement released in Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-17/u-s-starts-55-million-agriculture-program-in-southern-sudan.html>

**See Also: USAID Chief Says He Plans to Increase Funding and Staff for Africa Programs**, *Canadian Press*, May 15

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5hMnhs-jU4gDZHcCTomCx28Rvi2UQ>

**Modernizing USAID**, *Editorial, Voice of America*, May 2010

USAID is changing its culture, changing the way it does business.

<http://www1.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Modernizing-USAID-94105379.html>

**Trade and Food Security Implications from the Indonesian Agricultural Experience**, *Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, April 2010

This report evaluates the impact of Indonesia's transition from a food-first focus to an export-oriented development strategy on its agricultural production, productivity growth, consumer food demand, and lifestyle. Shifting production and consumption patterns have led to improving agricultural trade patterns and food security, which in turn have contributed to increased export opportunities for U.S. agricultural suppliers.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS1001/WRS1001.pdf>

**FOR MORE SUMMARIES OF AND LINKS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND RESOURCES ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND FOOD SECURITY, PLEASE VISIT OUR [AG & FOOD POLICY LIBRARY](#)**

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**NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS**

**Global Biodiversity Outlook 3**, *Convention on Biological Diversity*, May 2010

Global Biodiversity Outlook is the flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Drawing on a range of information sources, including National Reports, biodiversity indicators information, scientific literature, and a study assessing biodiversity scenarios for the future, the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) summarizes the latest data on status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions for the future strategy of the Convention.

<http://gbo3.cbd.int/home.aspx>

**See Also: Biodiversity in Peril, the U.N. Warns**, *New York Times*, May 24

Biological diversity is declining faster than previously estimated, and the trend will eventually threaten "the livelihoods and food security of hundreds of millions of people" unless swift action is taken. That's the conclusion of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, published by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/05/24/biodiversity-in-peril-the-u-n-warns/>

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Aid: Recognising Success and Tackling Failure**, *Oxfam*, April 2010

Aid plays a role in saving millions of lives, and yet despite its achievements poverty continues to cast a shadow over the lives of some 1.4 billion people worldwide. This has opened up questions over the effectiveness of aid and lately, unleashed a barrage of criticism, with critics using individual examples of failed aid to argue that all aid is bad and should be reduced or phased out altogether. This is both incorrect and irresponsible.

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp137-21st-century-aid.pdf>

**See Also: Oxfam Attacks Critics of Overseas Aid**, *Guardian*, May 20

Charity warns that criticism of aid could be used by governments as an excuse for cutting overseas development programmes.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/may/20/economics-international-aid-and-development/print>

**A New and Improved African Development Bank? An Update on Recommendations from the CGD Working Group**, *Center for Global Development*, May 2010

With the African Development Bank (AfDB) seeking approval from its shareholders for a three-fold increase in its capital base, CGD senior fellow and vice president Todd Moss has evaluated the bank's progress against six recommendations offered by a CGD working group in 2006. How much progress has the AfDB made?

[http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424146/?utm\\_campaign](http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424146/?utm_campaign)

**The U.S. Government's Efforts to Address Global Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health: The Global Health Initiative and Beyond**, *Kaiser Family Foundation*, May 2010

This report examines the U.S. role in improving global maternal, newborn, and child health, including the heightened focus placed on these issues by the Administration's Global Health Initiative. It provides an overview of international efforts and a detailed look at the U.S. government's response to date, reviews U.S. funding trends for maternal and child health, U.S. agencies' related activities, the contribution of key U.S. global health efforts, and U.S. participation in international multilateral efforts. It also identifies key policy issues surrounding the future of the U.S. involvement.

<http://www.kff.org/globalhealth/upload/8074.pdf>

**Access to Water, Women's Work and Child Outcomes**, *World Bank*, May 2010

Poor rural women in the developing world spend considerable time collecting water. How then do they respond to improved access to water infrastructure? Does it increase their participation in income earning market-based activities? Does it improve the health and education outcomes of their children? To help address these questions, a new approach for dealing with the endogeneity of infrastructure placement in cross-sectional surveys is proposed and implemented using data for nine developing countries. The paper does not find that access to water comes with greater off-farm work for women, although in countries where substantial gender gaps in schooling exist, both boys' and girls' enrollments improve with better access to water.

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/05/10/000158349\\_20100510114112/Rendered/PDF/WPS5302.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/05/10/000158349_20100510114112/Rendered/PDF/WPS5302.pdf)

**Strong Evidence on Climate Change Underscores Need for Actions to Reduce Emissions and Begin Adapting to Impacts**, *National Research Council of the National Academies*, 2010

As part of its most comprehensive study of climate change to date, the National Research Council today issued three reports emphasizing why the U.S. should act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop a national strategy to adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change. The reports are part of a congressionally requested suite of five studies known as America's Climate Choices.

<http://americasclimatechoices.org/>

**See Also: Advancing the Science of Climate Change**, *National Research Council of the National Academies*, 2010

[http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/materials-based-on-reports/reports-in-brief/Science\\_Report\\_Brief\\_Final.pdf](http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/materials-based-on-reports/reports-in-brief/Science_Report_Brief_Final.pdf)

**See Also: Limiting the Magnitude of Climate Change**, *National Research Council of the National Academies*, 2010

[http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/materials-based-on-reports/reports-in-brief/Limiting\\_Report\\_Brief\\_final.pdf](http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/materials-based-on-reports/reports-in-brief/Limiting_Report_Brief_final.pdf)

**See Also: Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change**, *National Research Council of the National Academies*, 2010

[http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/materials-based-on-reports/reports-in-brief/Adapting\\_Report\\_Brief\\_final.pdf](http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/materials-based-on-reports/reports-in-brief/Adapting_Report_Brief_final.pdf)

**The Economic Imperative: Stabilizing Afghanistan through Economic Growth**, *Center for a New American Security, April 2010*

Promoting the growth of legitimate agriculture would have positive effects including providing jobs, encouraging economic growth, and slowing the drug trade as a major source of funding for the Taliban. Success in this sector may be achieved best through a National Agriculture Program that would focus on creating the value chain to form the right market linkages, appropriate marketing tools, access to credit, processing facilities, cold storage, irrigation and transportation. Such a program could be supported by a consortium of international investors and a network of Afghan land-grant colleges with specialized agricultural knowledge.

[http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/Economic%20Imperative\\_FickLockhart\\_April2010\\_code507\\_policybrief.pdf](http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/Economic%20Imperative_FickLockhart_April2010_code507_policybrief.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Agricultural Price Volatility: Prospects, Challenges and Possible Solutions**

*Date:* May 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Barcelona, Spain

The agricultural sector has been deeply battered by both the food and financial crises and faces a looming climate change crisis. This seminar will examine current and projected trends in prices, review past policy responses, examine policy options available today and arrive at pragmatic recommendations on addressing volatility in the future. The meeting is being organized by the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC), the University of Barcelona, and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development.

<http://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/agritrade/event.jsp?event=834>

### **InterAction Forum 2010**

*Date:* June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Featuring thought provoking plenary sessions and workshops with more than 100 experts from around the world, Forum 2010 will bring together 1000 professionals from more than 250 organizations representing the international non-profit community, government, corporate and philanthropic sectors.

<http://www.interaction.org/forum>

### **Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development Annual Conference 2010**

*Date:* June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

If we are to reach Millennium Development Goal #1, Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger, agricultural development professionals will need to work in new ways, across disciplines, with many others who can contribute to this goal. This meeting will be dedicated to examining critical agriculture-nutrition-health collaboration necessary to more quickly reach the goal of eradicating hunger.

<http://aiard.org/meetings/2010annual/index.htm>

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

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

*Location:* Copenhagen, Denmark

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

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

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

*Date:* October 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Des Moines, Iowa

Inspired by the last words of Nobel Laureate and World Food Prize Founder Dr. Norman Borlaug, the 2010 Borlaug Dialogue international symposium will gather the top minds and foremost leaders in global agriculture, food, and development this October in Des Moines – with a special focus on the world's small-scale farmers.

<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2010.htm>

## **The International Rice Congress 2010**

*Date:* November 8<sup>th</sup> – 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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## **SPECIAL SECTION – SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

*The Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security purposed to build and sustain the gathering momentum for change in U.S. food security and agricultural development policy. The Chicago Council on Global Affairs was pleased that the event featured the release of the Feed the Future Guide, the implementation strategy for the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative.*

### **Feed the Future Guide, U.S. Government, May 2010**

The Feed the Future Guide describes the strategic approach and implementation structures of Feed the Future (FTF), the U.S. global hunger and food security initiative. It is intended to inform partners and stakeholders about the development of FTF and how we translate our principles into actions on the ground. This guide is a living document. As the USG continues to consult with partners and learn lessons, it will update this guide to reflect the evolution of Feed the Future.

[http://feedthefuture.gov/FTF\\_Guide.pdf](http://feedthefuture.gov/FTF_Guide.pdf)

**See Also: Feed the Future: At a Glance, Fact Sheet, U.S. Government, May 2010**

[http://www.feedthefuture.gov/FTF\\_At\\_A\\_Glance.pdf](http://www.feedthefuture.gov/FTF_At_A_Glance.pdf)

**See Also: USAID launches Feed the Future Website, USAID Impact Blog, May 20**

USAID, on behalf of the U.S. Government, is proud to launch the *Feed the Future* website.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/05/usaid-feed-the-future-website-released/>

**See Also: United States Reaffirms Commitment to Addressing Global Hunger and Food Security through Feed the Future Initiative, U.S. Department of State, May 20**

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/05/142037.htm>

### **Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, Chicago Council Symposium on Agriculture and Food Security, Washington, DC, May 20**

"So we know agricultural development is a springboard for broader economic development and we know food security is the foundation for peace and opportunity, and therefore, our own national security. This administration's plan and this president's plan for a more peaceful world center on enhancing prosperity in our partner countries by elevating development and better integrating it with diplomacy and defense as part of our foreign policy. That is why President Obama pledged in his inaugural address that we would work alongside the people of lower-income countries to make their farms flourish. And that is why Secretary Clinton together with Sec.-Gen. Ban Ki-Moon last September drew together leaders from more than 130 countries around the world for a special session at the U.N. General Assembly, asking each of them to make commitments to this global cause. And that's why we're here today."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100520.html>

### **The Role of Agriculture in Post-Conflict Recovery – The Case of Liberia, Statement by Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, Chicago Council Symposium on Agriculture and Food Security, Washington, DC, May 20**

"It is very clear to us that agriculture has the potential to become a major source of employment, most especially for the thousands of our citizens, especially women and youth who, as casualties of the war, lack essential skills, but who can learn to farm the land. Our objective is to consolidate them into a productive and dynamic entity for national development. Jobs in the farming sector is one of the means of accomplishing that aim."

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201005240880.html>

**Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Delivers Keynote Address at Chicago Council on Global Affairs Symposium on Agriculture and Food Security, May 20**

"We are focused on expanding domestic production in developing countries to meet the growing food demand. But even with the best efforts of the global community, it is likely that food production in many developing countries will be constrained by limited resources and prevailing weather patterns. That is why improved global and regional trade must be part of the solution to provide adequate global food supplies and food security. Trade encourages dietary diversity, drives economic opportunity, stabilizes food supplies and can reduce food costs."

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/05/0278.xml>

**Remarks by Dr. Namanga Ngongi, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Chicago Council Symposium on Agriculture and Food Security, Washington, DC, May 20**

"The question today is not whether we should invest in Africa's farms, but how we invest. While our continent's agriculture is in a daunting state of disrepair, progress is being made. The agricultural system can not only be fixed, it can become a model of efficiency, high productivity, and sustainability. AGRA is working in partnership with national governments and other stakeholders to transform African agriculture through integrated programs in seeds, soils, market access, policy and innovative financing. Together, these innovations will trigger sustainable change. There is no 'silver bullet' or one big solution but rather many small interventions scaled up along the value chain. This will transform smallholder farming."

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1150>

**Obama Seeks \$3.5 Billion to Feed Poor Nations, Wall Street Journal, May 21**

Industrialized countries are showing renewed interest in helping poor nations feed themselves in the wake of street protests that were sparked by soaring food costs in 2007 and early 2008. The global recession put agricultural commodities into a tailspin in 2009, but food prices in some nations have yet to return to their pre-food crisis levels.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703559004575256860701115920.html>

**U.S. Announces Aggressive Approach to Reduce World Hunger, America.gov, May 21**

Shah outlined Feed the Future at a May 20 symposium in Washington sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Feed the Future involves the expertise of several U.S. agencies, including USAID, the departments of Agriculture and Treasury, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Peace Corps, working in collaboration with a potential 20 "focus countries" in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

<http://www.america.gov/st/develop-english/2010/May/20100521164320akllennoccm1.705134e-02.html>

**Feed the Future Program Is Right for Liberia, America.gov, May 21**

The Feed the Future initiative — which seeks to enhance food security and reduce hunger, poverty and malnutrition — is exactly the right program at the right time for Liberia, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said May 20, while also applauding the Obama administration's strong support for the Global Agriculture Development Initiative.

<http://www.america.gov/st/develop-english/2010/May/20100521132134WCyeroC0.1480328.html?CP.rss=true>

**See Also: Liberia Invests in Farmers to Feed Nation, Reuters AlertNet, May 18**

[http://www.alertnet.org/db/an\\_art/58388/2010/04/18-105633-1.htm](http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/58388/2010/04/18-105633-1.htm)

**Feet to the Fire, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, May 21**

Through Feed the Future, the government will be investing at least \$3.5 billion over three years (as part of a concerted international push to spend \$22 billion) to reverse the neglect of agriculture development of the past decades and to reverse the resulting soaring hunger and malnutrition. The idea is to follow country-led investment plans and adhere to their priorities – a big break from the past practice of telling developing countries what they needed. And to spread the investment beyond mere production increases, to work the whole value chain from research lab to cooking calabash.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/05/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-feet-to-the-fire.html>

**Does US Food Security Strategy Go Far Enough?**, *Katine Blog, Guardian, May 21*

Yesterday, the US government published its Feed the Future strategy document to reduce hunger and increase food security. But does it really address the underlying causes of hunger?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/may/21/us-food-security-strategy>

**Incredible Energy and a Clear Next Step**, *ONE Campaign, May 21*

As you know, yesterday the Chicago Council on Global Affairs hosted a Global Agriculture and Food Security symposium here in DC, which ONE co-sponsored. The event was packed, particularly the morning session during which USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah outlined the Administration's Feed the Future (FTF) initiative.

<http://www.one.org/blog/2010/05/21/incredible-energy-and-a-clear-next-step/>

**Women Farmers: An 'Untapped Solution' to Global Hunger**, *Worldwatch Institute (blog), May 21*

Farmers, and especially women farmers, were the focus of the discussion about the future of agriculture aid at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security in Washington DC.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/women-farmers-an-'untapped-solution'-to-global-hunger/>

**A Call To Feed the Future**, *Cheryl Mills, Counselor and Chief of Staff to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, DipNote Blog, U.S. Department of State, May 20*

The Obama Administration is forging a new vision for development -- one that fundamentally elevates development as a central pillar of our foreign policy alongside diplomacy and defense, changes the way we support development in new and innovative ways, and integrates development much more deeply with defense and diplomacy to address some of the world's greatest challenges. The Administration's core vision is to build a safer, more prosperous, more democratic, and more equitable world. The Feed the Future Initiative is central to achieving that vision. Recognizing the importance of food security to our collective environmental, economic and human security, President Obama asked Secretary Clinton to lead a robust whole-of-government effort to make food security a reality for millions in need.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/feed\\_the\\_future](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/feed_the_future)

**Even Those with Full Plates Need Food Security**, *Paul Schickler, President, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Huffington Post, May 20*

Food security is national security. Better farming can change the game -- addressing multiple global issues that include hunger, poverty, environmental degradation, poor nutrition and even civil unrest.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-schickler/even-those-with-full-plate\\_b\\_583641.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-schickler/even-those-with-full-plate_b_583641.html)

**Major Shift in US Anti-Hunger Strategy**, *Financial Times, May 20*

The US launched a major food security initiative, dubbed 'Feed the Future', confirming Washington's shift from relying exclusively on food aid as its anti-hunger tool. The move to tackle hunger by investing in agriculture is a U-turn for most western governments, including the US, which have spent the last 20 years fighting hunger by shipping overseas their surpluses of subsidised grain production.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1344ad56-642d-11df-8618-00144feab49a.html>

**U.S. Spells Out How It Will Combat World Hunger**, *Reuters, May 20*

The U.S. global anti-hunger strategy will focus on a small number of countries where collaborative projects can expand local food production and reduce chronic hunger, the Obama administration said.

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<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64J7G120100520>

**US Funds Poor Farmers to Make World Safer**, *Agence France-Presse, May 20*

Sirleaf said rebuilding Liberia's farming sector was a key driver in the west African country's recovery, after back-to-back civil wars that claimed more than a quarter of a million lives between 1989 and 2003 and left the infrastructure in ruins. "Recognizing that agricultural growth is more effective in reducing poverty than any other effort in any sector, our government is placing emphasis on this strategic sector," which ground to a halt during the years of war as farmers abandoned their fields to seek shelter in cities, said Sirleaf.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jy0TJDYi5\\_G1iaLKE-STD8uaCdbQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jy0TJDYi5_G1iaLKE-STD8uaCdbQ)

**Shah: Women Farmers Are the Key**, *Cable (blog), Foreign Policy, May 20*

As he works to overhaul a Cold War agency long neglected and widely described as in desperate need of reform, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah says there's a player in the development game: women farmers. "We know the people who matter most aren't the financiers, or the agriculture ministers, or the assistance workers and farmers. They are the women farmers who are the untapped solution to this problem," Shah said in a speech.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/20/shah\\_women\\_farmers\\_are\\_the\\_key](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/20/shah_women_farmers_are_the_key)

**Feed the Future: USAID's Shah Focuses on Women, Innovation, Integration**, *New Security Beat, May 20*

In one "huge change in our assistance model," Feed the Future will be "country-led and country-owned," said Shah, who asked NGOs and USAID implementing partners to "align that expertise behind country priorities" and redirect money away from Washington towards "building real local capacity." USAID will "work in partnership, not patronage," with its 20 target countries, he said. To insure that the administration's agricultural development efforts are aligned to the same goals, Shah said USAID will collect baseline data from the start on three metrics: women's incomes, child malnutrition, and agricultural production.

<http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com/2010/05/feed-future-usaids-shah-focuses-on.html>

**Vilsack Addresses Food Security during Global Affairs Symposium**, *USDA blog, May 20*

Vilsack emphasized that USDA's global food security strategy focuses on a number of interventions needed to increase global food production and increase the incomes of the poor. His speech focused on two of these areas: 1) research and extension, and 2) building capacity through assistance, sound public policies and institutions.

[http://www.usda.gov/blog/usda/entry/h2\\_vilsack\\_addresses\\_food\\_security](http://www.usda.gov/blog/usda/entry/h2_vilsack_addresses_food_security)

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

**Can Afghan Farmers Move Beyond Opium?**, *TIME Magazine, May 24*

It has been a long time since Afghanistan was hailed for its raisins. Or for its pomegranates, almonds or 142 varieties of apricot. Today the largely agrarian country may be better recognized as the world's leading exporter of opium, but 30 years ago its major crops were of a much sweeter variety.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1991283,00.html>

**See Also: In Afghan Fields, a Challenge to Opium's Luster**, *New York Times, May 22*

As farmers around Marja, the heart of Afghanistan's opium industry, confront harsh environmental conditions and new interdiction efforts, they are also receiving offers of aid in exchange for growing different crops. Both they and the military said that the start of a shift to other sources of income could be possible by the end of this year, when poppy planting would resume.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/23/world/asia/23poppy.html>

**See Also: Taliban Hold Sway in Area Taken by U.S., Farmers Say**, *New York Times, May 17*

Farmers from the district of Marja, which since February has been the focus of the largest American-led military operation in Afghanistan, are fleeing the area, saying that the Taliban are terrorizing the population and that American troops cannot protect the civilians. The departure of the farmers is one of the most telling indications that Taliban fighters have found a way to resume their insurgency, three months after thousands of troops invaded this Taliban stronghold in the opening foray of a campaign to take control of southern Afghanistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/17/world/asia/17marja.html>

**Rwanda Seeks Food Security**, *BBC News, May 21*

On the edge of the six-acre farm there is a dairy plant that receives the supply of milk from its herd. Masaka Farms is one of the few companies making dairy products. The business is in its infancy and the brain child of budding entrepreneur Serge Ndekwe. Mr Ndekwe spotted a gap in the market - and it seems to be paying off. As the country's economy takes off, so too does demand for yoghurt, cheese - in fact all kinds of dairy produce.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/10131793.stm>

**Sahel Food Security Depends on Reinvesting in Local Agriculture**, *Voice of America, May 19*

Ending the cycle of hunger in Africa's Sahelian region means reinvesting in local agriculture. VOA reports from Niger, where another year of poor rains has left 60 percent of the population facing severe food shortages.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Sahel-Food-Security-Depends-on-Reinvesting-in-Local-Agriculture-94269959.html>

**Thailand's Farmers Have Stood Up**, *Op-Ed, Andrew Walker, senior fellow, Australian National University, Wall Street Journal, May 19*

Half a century ago, 96% of Thailand's farmers were living in poverty. This has plummeted to only 13%. Life expectancy has increased, infant mortality is close to developed-world standards, and primary schooling is near universal. The rural population in Thailand can now be described as a "middle-income peasantry" in which subsistence rice farming, commercial agriculture and extensive off-farm employment is combined to produce levels of household income and consumption unthinkable a few decades ago.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703691804575253720692249514.html>

**Price of Success for S. Africa Corn Farmers Is Ruin**, *BusinessWeek, May 17*

South Africa's corn farmers, buoyed by unexpectedly good rains and increased use of genetically modified seed, are preparing to reap their biggest crop in 28 years. The reward for their success may be bankruptcy.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-17/price-of-success-for-s-africa-corn-farmers-is-ruin-update3.html>

**Cuba Cedes to Farmers Right to Purchase Supplies**, *Reuters, May 17*

Cuba's private farmers will purchase supplies directly in future instead of having them allocated by the state, the government said, in the latest concession to their demands for more autonomy.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64G0RB20100517>

**A Desert Kingdom's Quest for Food Security**, *Wall Street Journal, May 16*

Rich in oil money but poor in arable land, the Saudi government is groping for a strategy to ensure it continues to meet the appetites of a growing population.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703961104575225840836550232.html?mod=fox\\_australian](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703961104575225840836550232.html?mod=fox_australian)

**See Also: Gulf Looks to Science to Turn Desert to Farmland**, *Reuters, May 17*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64G4SU20100517>

**Genetically Modified Cotton Stops One Bug But Fosters Others**, *Los Angeles Times, May 16*

A Chinese crop designed to thrive without pesticides needs them again.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-cotton-bugs-20100516.0.49640.full.story>

**East Africa's Looming Famine – Gibe III**, *Khadiga Sharife, visiting scholar, Center for Civil Society, Huffington Post, May 16*

Over 200 000 agropastoralists and pastoralists directly dependent on flood-recession agriculture in the lower Omo basin will immediately face severe impoverishment, lending to conflict, famine, disease, as well as the artificial creation of almost a quarter million 'environmental' refugees. This compound the already strained

heavily-armed status of marginalised and disenfranchised ethnic groups in regions like Southern Sudan, set to be devastated by the dam.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/khadija-sharife/east-africas-looming-fami\\_b\\_577789.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/khadija-sharife/east-africas-looming-fami_b_577789.html)

**Genetically Engineered Distortions**, *Op-Ed, Pamela C. Ronalds and James E. McWilliams, New York Times, May 14*

Allowing propaganda to trump science will stall the potential for global agriculture to be productive, diverse and sustainable.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/15/opinion/15ronald.html>

**See Also: Resisting Roundup**, *Editorial, New York Times, May 16*

Genetically engineered seeds can do a lot of good, but the rise of herbicide-resistant weeds shows that farmers must use more diverse crops and cultivation practices.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/17/opinion/17mon3.html>

**Spain's Jobless Find It Hard to Go Back to Farm**, *New York Times, May 14*

The nation's unemployed, some of whom had left farmwork for more lucrative jobs, are finding that many farmers prefer to hire immigrants.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/16/world/europe/16spain.html>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**A Tale of Three Cities: The Global Struggle Over Who Will End Hunger**, *Eric Holt Gimenez, executive director, Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, Huffington Post, May 23*

Everyone accepts that the Global South will need up to \$40 billion a year to rebuild its national food systems (destroyed, ironically enough, by thirty years of the industrial North's overproduction). The struggle is around just how the South's food systems will be rebuilt, who will pay, and who will actually benefit. Getting this right will largely determine whether or not world hunger--now increasing by 100 million people a year--will ever be ended.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eric-holt-gimenez/a-tale-of-three-citiesthe\\_b\\_586301.html?view=print](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eric-holt-gimenez/a-tale-of-three-citiesthe_b_586301.html?view=print)

**Italy Donates to Food Gene Pact**, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, May 21*

Italy has announced a contribution of 1.2 million euros to compensate some of the world's poorest farmers for conserving and propagating crop varieties that could prove to be the saviour of global food security over the coming decades.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/42570/icode/>

**Food Security a Concern in Nepal**, *UPI, May 21*

Villagers in Nepal are skipping meals and migrating to India as food security impacts more than 600,000 people, the World Food Program warns.

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2010/05/21/Food-security-a-concern-in-Nepal/UPI-64061274460822/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/05/21/Food-security-a-concern-in-Nepal/UPI-64061274460822/)

**Cuts in Foreign Assistance Indicate Short-Sighted Policy**, *Sarah Trister, Huffington Post, May 17*

The Senate Budget Committee recently passed a Budget Resolution that would cut the Foreign Affairs Budget by \$4 billion. Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND) released a statement about the bill and the cuts, stating, "a budget is about setting priorities." If that is the case, this resolution indicates a deficiency in long-term foreign policy priorities by cutting huge amounts of assistance to people in some of the world's poorest and least free countries.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-trister/cuts-in-foreign-assistanc\\_b\\_579063.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-trister/cuts-in-foreign-assistanc_b_579063.html)

**Banking on Food Future**, *Op-Ed, Vijaya Ramachandran, senior fellow, Center for Global Development, GlobalPost, May 14*

World Food Program should use business tactics to make aid effective.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/worldview/100503/world-food-program-security-crisis>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### **'Culture Integral to Agriculture,'** *Inter Press Service, May 21*

Biodiversity in agriculture is about culture. Traditional knowledge and culture are as important as research and investment, say farmers, researchers and academics gathered in Rome for the International Day for Biodiversity on Saturday.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/print.asp?idnews=51531>

### **See Also: Not Just About Tigers and Pandas,** *Inter Press Service, May 22*

Biodiversity loss is a massive threat to human food security and, ultimately, to our species' survival as well as to that of the millions of plants, animals and bacteria which share the planet with us.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/print.asp?idnews=51539>

### **Genetically Modified Crops May Not Be Environmentally Harmful,** *Washington Post, May 18*

What should we make of all this? When it comes to genetically modified crops, each one should be considered on its own terms. For her part, the Lantern is intrigued by the many promising applications of genetic engineering. At the same time, she doesn't believe that it's some kind of magic bullet that will solve all of the world's agricultural problems or food security issues. It may be that G.M. seeds play only a small role in rethinking our food systems. But so far, she doesn't see any reason to take them off the table entirely.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/17/AR2010051703080.html>

### **Stern: Global Deal Not Dependent on Bill,** *National Journal, May 18*

The U.S. and the world can be successful in moving forward on a global climate change deal this year even if Congress doesn't pass a comprehensive climate bill, the Obama administration's top climate envoy said.

<http://energytopic.nationaljournal.com/2010/05/stern-global-deal.php>

### **U.N. To Pick Costa Rican as New Climate Chief: Sources,** *Reuters, May 17*

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has chosen Costa Rican diplomat Christiana Figueres as the new U.N. climate chief to head stalled, international talks, sources close to the matter said on Monday. Figueres, 53, beat fellow short-listed candidate former South African environment minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk, to a role meant to rally global agreement on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol after a disappointing summit in Copenhagen in December.

[http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/05/17/news/news-us-climate-un.html?\\_r=3&ref=reuters](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/05/17/news/news-us-climate-un.html?_r=3&ref=reuters)

### **Africa's Lake Tanganyika Warming Fast, Life Dying,** *Reuters, May 16*

Africa's lake Tanganyika has heated up sharply over the past 90 years and is now warmer than at any time for at least 1,500 years, a scientific paper said on Sunday, adding that fish and wildlife are threatened. Some 10 million people live around Tanganyika and depend upon it for drinking water and food, mostly fish.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64F1W620100516>

### **Iraq: Water Formerly a Blessing, Increasingly a Problem,** *International Committee of the Red Cross, May 14*

The volatile security situation in some areas and the rising price of fuel have put additional strain on already scarce services, as have population growth and displacement. In many places, the strain is further compounded by a lack of qualified engineers and staff able to maintain and repair water and sanitation facilities. Many farming communities were hard hit by the drought that struck northern Iraq in 2008. Average rainfall over the past 10 years has been far lower than in previous decades. Although rainfall has been better in many places during 2009 and 2010, low water-levels continue to affect agriculture production, meaning Iraq needs to import more rice and wheat.

<http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/iraq-update-110510>

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## WOMEN

### **Better Data Key to Supporting Women Farmers,** *Inter Press Service, May 20*

An accomplished farmer who won the coveted Woman Farmer of the Year Award in 2008, Thabile Dlamini-Gooday wants to uplift the standard of other women in agriculture. She believes that if women farmers were to work together they could fight hunger and significantly reduce poverty among themselves.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=51510>

**To Solve Hunger, Learn from History**, *International Center for Research on Women, May 19*

Now with the spotlight once again on agriculture and hunger, it would serve us well to learn from prior efforts in the 1980s and 1990s to improve agricultural development. The unfulfilled promise of the past can be attributed, in part, to the flawed assumptions about women farmers, who make up the majority of poor, rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.icrw.org/media/news/commentary-hungry-change>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**South Africa Wheat Tariff 'Effectively' Increased, USDA Says**, *BusinessWeek, May 21*

South Africa's International Trade Administration Commission made an administrative change that will "effectively" increase import duties on wheat, a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-21/south-africa-wheat-tariff-effectively-increased-usda-says.html>

**China Surges to No. 1 U.S. Farm Export Market – Vilsack**, *Reuters, May 20*

China bought more than \$10 billion of U.S. farm exports in the first six months of the fiscal year to become the country's No. 1 buyer, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said on Thursday.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-48666720100520>

**StanChart Raises Africa Trade Loan Facility**, *Reuters, May 18*

Standard Chartered said on Tuesday it has raised its syndicated loan facility, used to finance trade of soft commodities in Africa, to \$120 million from \$47.5 million to promote food security in the continent. The London-based bank, which has operations in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, said the facility, said the facility would be used to import commodities into Africa which are in short supply.

<http://af.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=AFIOE64H0RV20100518>

**WTO Says Doha Conclusion Key to Global Recovery**, *Agence France-Presse, May 16*

The conclusion of the stalled Doha Round of free trade talks is crucial to the recovery from the global financial crisis, World Trade Organization chief Pascal Lamy said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jArszwvUuxWL8K9i3m3MfiLsi8rw>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**Improved Soybean Oil Achieves Milestone that Will Advance Development of Foods with Reduced Saturated Fat and No Trans Fats**, *Press Release, Monsanto Company, May 18*

In keeping with a commitment to provide new options for agriculture and a more health-conscious public, Monsanto Company announced that the company has reached an important regulatory milestone that will advance the development of foods with reduced saturated fat and reduced or no trans fats.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/improved-soybean-oil-achieves-milestone-that-will-advance-development-of-foods-with-reduced-saturated-fat-and-no-trans-fats-94109394.html>

**Agribusiness: All You Can Eat**, *Financial Times, May 18*

In many senses, Cargill is one of the hidden companies of the global economy. As the world's agribusiness leader, it sits at the nexus of one of the world's biggest and most critical industries – a force of great importance to millions of farmers as well as to large food multinationals from Nestlé to Coca-Cola and Kraft, though it is much less well-known as a name. Its significance – as the equivalent of ExxonMobil for the

agriculture markets – is set to increase further as food demand rises in China, India and in parts of the developing world, and the use of biofuels grows in the west.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9f127a5c-62ac-11df-b1d1-00144feab49a.html>

**Monsanto Donates \$4 Million of Seeds to Haiti**, *Voice of America, May 15*

U.S. agriculture giant Monsanto is donating \$4 million worth of seeds to earthquake-ravaged Haiti. Monsanto said the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture has approved the donation, ensuring the selected seeds are appropriate for Haitian growing conditions and farming practices.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/americas/Monsanto-Donates-4-Million-of-Seeds-to-Haiti-93847874.html>

**See Also: Haitian Farmers Commit to Burning Monsanto Hybrid Seeds**, *Beverly Bell, associate fellow, Institute for Policy Studies, Huffington Post, May 17*

"A new earthquake" is what peasant farmer leader Chavannes Jean-Baptiste of the Peasant Movement of Papay (MPP) called the news that Monsanto will be donating 60,000 seed sacks (475 tons) of hybrid corn seeds and vegetable seeds, some of them treated with highly toxic pesticides. The MPP has committed to burning Monsanto's seeds, and has called for a march to protest the corporation's presence in Haiti on June 4, for World Environment Day.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/beverly-bell/haitian-farmers-commit-to\\_b\\_578807.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/beverly-bell/haitian-farmers-commit-to_b_578807.html)

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*