

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



May 24<sup>th</sup> – May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *The United States is working with partners around the world to advance a food security initiative that combats hunger and builds the capacity of countries to feed their people. Instead of simply providing aid for developing countries, we are focusing on new methods and technologies for agricultural development. This is consistent with an approach in which aid is not an end in itself—the purpose of our foreign assistance will be to create the conditions where it is no longer needed.* - Excerpt from the Obama Administration’s National Security Strategy, May 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

#### **National Security Strategy, White House, May 2010**

The United States is working with partners around the world to advance a food security initiative that combats hunger and builds the capacity of countries to feed their people. Instead of simply providing aid for developing countries, we are focusing on new methods and technologies for agricultural development. This is

consistent with an approach in which aid is not an end in itself—the purpose of our foreign assistance will be to create the conditions where it is no longer needed.

[http://www.politico.com/static/PPM156\\_2010\\_nss.html](http://www.politico.com/static/PPM156_2010_nss.html)

**See Also: Remarks on the Obama Administration's National Security Strategy**, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, May 27*

"We're looking to bring in our private sector to be a partner in solving problems so that our recently announced initiative, Feed The Future, is picking out certain countries that we will invest heavily in to try to make their agricultural sectors more productive so that they are then better able to feed themselves. And we're looking to private sector partners to assist us on that."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/05/142312.htm>

**See Also: Obama's National Security Strategy Released, Includes Global Health, Food Security Priorities**, *Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report, Kaiser Family Foundation, May 28*

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/May/28/GH-052810-National-Security.aspx>

**See Also: National Security in the National Security Strategy**, *Center for a New American Security, May 27*

<http://www.cnas.org/blogs/naturalsecurity/2010/05/natural-security-national-security-strategy.html>

**A Timely Reminder on Africa**, *Editorial, Financial Times, May 25*

With the rich world distracted by its financial morass, two reports published on Tuesday aim to make sure it does not forget Africa. They serve as an important reminder that a self-inflicted crisis is no excuse for rich countries to turn their back on a region that was an innocent victim – and whose difficulties remain far greater.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/57bef1fe-6832-11df-a52f-00144feab49a.html>

**Please see the [New Reports](#) section for both the "Data Report 2010" from ONE and "From Agenda to Action" from the Africa Progress Panel.**

**The Myth of Africa's Economic Miracle**, *Kofi Annan, chairman of the Africa Progress Panel and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Daily Beast, May 24*

Africa is not homogenous; it is raucously diverse. But its nations are linked by common challenges hampering human development and equitable growth: weak governance and insufficient investment in public goods and services, including infrastructure, affordable energy, health, education, and agricultural productivity.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-05-24/the-myth-of-africas-economic-miracle/full/>

**Look to the Developing World**, *Op-Ed, Robert Zoellick, president, World Bank, Financial Times, May 24*

Drawing on China's experience in the late 1990s, some developing countries are boosting growth prospects through infrastructure to increase productivity. Countries throughout east and south Asia, Latin America and the Arab world are investing in transport, energy, water and urban centres, opening opportunities for sales of capital goods and services. Growth can be achieved through policy changes without government money.

Policy changes in Africa encouraged the private sector to invest more than \$60bn in technology, bringing 65 per cent of Africans in reach of wireless voice services.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/dbf9038e-6764-11df-a932-00144feab49a.html>

**Valuing Food Security**, *Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, chairman of the board, Nestlé Corp., May 26*

More than one billion people go to bed hungry every night and 200 million more people are malnourished today compared to the mid 1990s. This represents a reversal of nearly 30 years of progress. At the same time global demand for food increases at a vigorous rate: every day 200,000 people are being added to the global population and yet our agricultural productivity per hectare is falling. If we are to feed these additional mouths we are going to have to double agricultural output in the next 40 years. We can do this, as we have done with cereal production in the last 40 years, but it requires innovation and immediate action to address the key areas that threaten the growing and sustainable food supply that we need.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-brabeckletmathe/valuing-food-security\\_b\\_590287.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-brabeckletmathe/valuing-food-security_b_590287.html)

**Towards a New Ethics of Nature**, *Paul Collier, professor of economics, Oxford University, Financial Times, May 25*

The struggle to prevent the plunder of nature will be fought mainly in the societies of the bottom billion, which control the current frontier, and in the international conference halls that must regulate the future frontier. Neither is a promising venue. Rallying around a simple common ethics of nature would improve the chances.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/15c28342-6832-11df-a52f-00144feab49a.html>

**An Inspiring US-Kenya Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS**, *George McGovern, former U.S. Senator from South Dakota, 1972 Democratic candidate for president, Huffington Post, May 25*

This brings me to one of the important aspects of assistance: that it should not be permanent. Instead, it should be structured to help people move from assistance to being able to depend on themselves. And I have seen how this principle is written into many of WFP projects in Kenya. One of these programs is the Purchase for Progress program, popularly referred to as P4P. Through P4P, WFP is using its purchasing power to promote agricultural development and improve market access for small-holder farmers.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-mcgovern/an-inspiring-us-kenya-par\\_b\\_588882.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-mcgovern/an-inspiring-us-kenya-par_b_588882.html)

**She's the Boss**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, May 21*

In presenting the guidelines to the Obama administration's Feed the Future initiative, Shah effectively indicated that that little girl -- and millions of children like her, and their mothers and fathers -- was still the boss. Not the mighty president, nor the secretary of state, nor members of Congress. They all need to listen to what the Africans -- particularly those Africans struggling to feed themselves -- have to say about the priorities of agriculture development. The crucial aspect of Feed the Future is that the agriculture development spending will follow country-led investment plans.

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

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum 2010, May 26, 2010**

"We support Bangladesh and all its partners in developing its food security investment program, and believe your planning process demonstrates two key indicators of success: a strong commitment from the highest levels of government to creating a vibrant market-oriented, agricultural economy and the involvement of all stakeholders, including civil society and private sector partners. These two attributes are critical to sustaining success over the long term."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100526.html>

**See Also: Investing in Food Security with the Bangladeshi Government, Private Sector, NGOs**, *Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID Impact Blog, May 26*

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/05/investing-in-food-security-with-the-bangladeshi-government-private-sector-ngos/>

**See Also: Shah Outlines U.S. Food Security Partnership with Bangladesh**, *Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report, Kaiser Family Foundation, May 27*

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/May/27/GH-052710-USAID-Bangladesh.aspx>

**Remarks by President Obama and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia before Bilateral Meeting**, *Office of the Press Secretary, White House, May 27*

OBAMA: "And in all these endeavors, I want to make sure that the people of Liberia understand and I certainly want you, Madam President, to understand that the United States is going to be a constant friend and partner in these efforts. We are working with Liberia on a food initiative that will help to create greater food security and independence in the country."

SIRLEAF: "Our security sector reform, with the United States' support, has come a long way with the training of our new army. Today, we're reopening our economy -- our mining, forestry, and agriculture sectors. We've tackled our debt. We're beginning to provide basic services by restoring infrastructure such as roads, clinics, and schools and lights and water -- things that our people have been deprived of for more than two decades."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-obama-and-president-ellen-johnson-sirleaf-liberia-bilateral-meeti>

**Food Security at Risk without Policy Coordination – US, Reuters, May 27**

A top U.S. official said global food prices could soar again if countries don't cooperate to increase food production especially in developing countries. Ertharin Cousin, U.S. ambassador to U.N. food agencies in Rome, said factors such as continued use of land for biofuels, and food scarcity, which led to a spike in global food prices and sparked riots in several countries in 2008, are still present.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE64Q12Q>

**The Great Lakes Region: Current Conditions and U.S. Policy, Hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, May 25**

[http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing\\_notice.asp?id=1185](http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1185)

**The Great Lakes Region: Current Conditions and U.S. Policy, Testimony by Franklin Moore, deputy assistant administrator for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development, to the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on African Affairs and Global Health, May 25**

"While significant progress has been made across the region, equally significant challenges persist; corruption, poor infrastructure, cross-border conflicts, sexual and gender-based violence and human rights abuses, poor health outcomes, high unemployment, climate-induced humanitarian crises, and food insecurity. With the projected rapid increases in population growth, food security is of paramount concern. The Administration's Feed The Future Initiative will boost production to attempt to meet the food needs for the growing populations of these states. Recognizing that higher production does not automatically translate directly into a better quality of life for the population, complementary activities to address nutrition and governance issues related to improved food stocks, distribution, and regulation are critical accompaniments."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/moo052510.pdf>

**See Also: U.S. Official Sees Improvement in Africa's Great Lakes Region, America.gov, May 26**

<http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2010/May/20100526130741SztiwomoD0.1872827.html?CP.rss=true>

**Mullen Goes to Bat for State Department Budget, Foreign Policy, May 24**

The Pentagon is actively lobbying for the State Department and USAID as next year's budgets get formed, and now we can add Adm. Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to the list of Defense Department leaders who are going out on a limb to support money for diplomacy and development. In separate letters to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-NV, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-CA, Mullen criticized the \$4 billion cut that Sen. Kent Conrad, D-ND, proposed for the fiscal 2011 budget request in his budget resolution.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/24/mullen\\_goes\\_to\\_bat\\_for\\_state\\_department\\_budget](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/24/mullen_goes_to_bat_for_state_department_budget)

**See Also: Letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, May 21**

[http://foreignpolicy.com/files/fp\\_uploaded\\_documents/100524\\_Sen%20Reid%20State%20Letter.pdf](http://foreignpolicy.com/files/fp_uploaded_documents/100524_Sen%20Reid%20State%20Letter.pdf)

**See Also: Letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, May 21**

[http://foreignpolicy.com/files/fp\\_uploaded\\_documents/100524\\_Speaker%20Pelosi%20State%20Letter.pdf](http://foreignpolicy.com/files/fp_uploaded_documents/100524_Speaker%20Pelosi%20State%20Letter.pdf)

**Johanns, Baucus, Lincoln Introduce Resolution Urging Full Market Access for U.S. Beef, Office of U.S. Senator Mike Johanns, May 27**

Senator Mike Johanns (R-Neb.), along with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) introduced a Senate Resolution urging China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mexico and Vietnam to follow international guidelines and provide full market access to all U.S. beef products.

[http://johanns.senate.gov/public/?p=PressReleases&ContentRecord\\_id=8b9a21ae-9970-4361-9b5e-b19fe931a384&ContentType\\_id=bc82adff-27b4-4832-8fd6-aecbe3e7d8e3](http://johanns.senate.gov/public/?p=PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=8b9a21ae-9970-4361-9b5e-b19fe931a384&ContentType_id=bc82adff-27b4-4832-8fd6-aecbe3e7d8e3)

**Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 27*

Fiscal 2010 agricultural exports are forecast at \$104.5 billion, up \$4.5 billion from the February forecast and \$7.9 billion above final FY 2009 exports.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ers/AES//2010s/2010/AES-05-27-2010.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**

**From Agenda to Action: Turning Resources into Results for People**, *Africa Progress Panel, May 2010*

Africa Progress Panel members Kofi Annan, Peter Eigen, Linah Mohohlo and Olusegun Obasanjo launched the Africa Progress Report 2010 on 25 May 2010 in Johannesburg. The landmark publication analyses the continent's progress and issues key recommendations to African leaders and its international partners.

[http://www.africaprogresspanel.org/report/APR2010\\_presskit/AFRICA\\_PROGRESS\\_REPORT\\_2010\\_ENGLISH\\_FULL\\_VERSION.pdf](http://www.africaprogresspanel.org/report/APR2010_presskit/AFRICA_PROGRESS_REPORT_2010_ENGLISH_FULL_VERSION.pdf)

**See Also: Africa Will Find Its Own Solutions, But We All Need to Help**, *Tony Blair, former prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, member of the Africa Progress Panel, and founder of the Africa Governance Initiative, Globe and Mail, May 26*

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/africa-will-find-its-own-solutions-but-we-all-need-to-help/article1580586/>

**The Data Report 2010: Monitoring the G8 Promise to Africa**, *ONE Campaign, May 2010*

This year, ONE's DATA Report concentrates on two tasks: Firstly, it offers a final verdict on whether the G8 have delivered on the historic promises made in Gleneagles. Secondly, it makes some recommendations which are based upon the successes and failures of the G8's current set of commitments, the changing landscape both inside and outside the African continent, and the priorities of African partners. ONE hopes these recommendations will feed into deliberations in advance of the G8/G20 Summit in Canada and the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in New York in September, where a review of the MDGs will take place and, ONE hopes, a renewed strategy and plan for their attainment, especially in Africa, will be agreed.

<http://www.one.org/report/2010/en/downloads/DR2010.pdf>

**See Also: Executive Summary**, *ONE Campaign, May 2010*

[http://www.one.org/report/2010/en/downloads/DR2010\\_EXECUTIVE\\_SUMMARY\\_EN.pdf](http://www.one.org/report/2010/en/downloads/DR2010_EXECUTIVE_SUMMARY_EN.pdf)

**See Also: Summary of U.S. Progress**, *ONE Campaign, May 2010*

[http://www.one.org/report/2010/en/downloads/DR2010\\_US.pdf](http://www.one.org/report/2010/en/downloads/DR2010_US.pdf)

**See Also: G7 Delivers 'Impressive Results,' Commitment Falls Short of 2005 Pledge**, *Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report, Kaiser Family Foundation, May 25*

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/May/25/GH-052510-ONE-Report.aspx>

**See Also: The Rich Countries Will Not Meet their Targets for Aid to Africa**, *Economist, May 27*

The United States, the European Union and Japan boosted their own farmers' incomes in total by \$219 billion through subsidies and tariffs in 2008, eight times as much as they spent on aid to Africa that year. It is far easier to promise a bit more aid than to dismantle food subsidies that favour Western farmers but can devastate African ones.

[http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=16222699](http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=16222699)

**Farms Here, Forests There: Tropical Deforestation and U.S. Competitiveness in Agriculture and Timber**, *David Gardiner & Associates, May 2010*

This report analyzes the impact of achieving these conservation goals on U.S. production of soybeans, palm oil substitutes, beef, and timber. Eliminating deforestation by 2030 will limit revenues for agricultural expansion and logging in tropical countries, providing a more level playing field for U.S. producers in global commodities markets. We examine potential annual effects of a reduction in deforestation as well as the cumulative effect between 2012 and 2030.

[http://adpartners.org/pdf/ADP\\_Report\\_052410a.pdf](http://adpartners.org/pdf/ADP_Report_052410a.pdf)

**See Also: U.S. Farm Group Sees Gains from Deforestation Halt**, *Reuters*, May 26

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64Q06W20100527>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **2010 Global Child Nutrition Forum – The Multisectoral Approach: Linking School Health and Nutrition, School Feeding, and Local Agricultural Production**

*Date:* June 1<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Accra, Ghana

A key theme of the meeting will be strengthening the linkages between school feeding and agriculture and community development. This meeting will build upon the momentum generated by the emerging global partnership on school feeding to continue to strengthen and support on-going Home Grown School Feedings (HGSF) programmes. A common framework for action at both global and country levels for moving forward will be developed. This includes outlining what needs, bottlenecks, constraints there are and how the responses to these factors, including technical assistance interventions, will guide our on-going development of effective and sustainable HGSF programmes.

<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Newsletter/Global%20Forum%20Agenda-%20May%2024.pdf>

**See Also: “Global Food Security and School Feeding: Establishing a Policy Framework for School Feeding,”** *Remarks by Marshall Matz to the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, June 2*

<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Newsletter/Matz%20Comments%20Accra%206-2-10.pdf>

### **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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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

**Growing the Business of Smallholder Agriculture**, *Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze, president, International Fund for Agricultural Development, May 27*

The transformative capacity of investments in agriculture is often underappreciated. But if one takes a snapshot of the rural landscape in large parts of the developing world, the potential for change is astounding.

<http://ifad-un.blogspot.com/2010/05/growing-business-of-smallholder.html>

**Palestinians Seek Slice of Agribusiness “Gold Mine,”** *Reuters, May 27*

More and more Palestinians are turning to date palms in the search for ways to make a living from West Bank land farmed by their families for generations. Today, many struggle to survive. West of the biblical river, a sluggish, 100-km (60-mile) stream which forms the border with the kingdom of Jordan from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea, many Palestinian crops are now abandoned, mid-season, for lack of water, a resource largely controlled by Israel since it occupied the territory in 1967. Compounding their problems, farmers say exporting through borders controlled by Israel is complicated and time-consuming at best, impossible at worst. Most have given up trying.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE64Q2KY20100527>

**Address by Dr. Shenggen Fan, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum 2010, May 26**

“Thus, Bangladesh needs to continue to improve the availability, access, and utilization of food while maintaining progress in areas of success. Efforts to improve food security need to take into account natural and man-made challenges and changes in the domestic and international landscape, including population growth, urbanization, natural resource constraints, and climate change.”

[http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/sfan\\_bangladeshforum.pdf](http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/sfan_bangladeshforum.pdf)

**Africa Should Take Lessons from China – IFPRI,** *Inter Press Service, May 26*

The model of agriculture applied by the People’s Republic of China during the last 30 years is an example that the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa should follow in their quest for development and growth and to eradicate poverty, according to agricultural experts.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=51590>

**Strike Hurts South African Farmers,** *Wall Street Journal, May 25*

A transportation strike in South Africa has forced the country’s farmers to leave crops unpicked as cold stores fill up at ports, putting agricultural jobs and the industry’s ability to compete globally at risk.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704026204575265933305133838.html>

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## **FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

**Aid Makes a Difference, But Africans Must Control Their Own Fate,** *Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia, Globe and Mail, May 27*

As part of the government's plan for sustainable economic development, President Sirleaf said, the government was focusing on improvement in the area of agriculture, especially empowering small farmers to be more involved in mechanized and commercial farming. She lauded the Obama administration for selecting Liberia as one of those countries that would benefit from special support to enhance agricultural development and food security.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201005270747.html?viewall=1>

**See Also: Another Round for Africa's Iron Lady**, *Economist*, May 20

[http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=16168384](http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east/displaystory.cfm?story_id=16168384)

**Agro-Tech Alone No Panacea for Food Insecurity**, *Inter Press Service*, May 27

Providing technology to communities to ensure food security doesn't work if local traditions and social dynamics are not taken into account, concluded the participants in a forum here at the Fourth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=51608>

**Southern Sudan: UN Relief Chief Alarmed by Rising Violence**, *UN News Centre*, May 27

The top United Nations humanitarian official arrived today in southern Sudan and expressed alarm at the threats to vulnerable people in the area posed by food insecurity, displacements and inter-tribal violence, which he called a "recipe for disaster."

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34830&Cr=sudan&Cr1>

**Chicago Council on Global Affairs Hosts Day-Long Symposium on Global Hunger & Food Security**,

*ModernizeAid (blog)*, May 27

On May 20, 2010, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs hosted a day-long symposium on Agriculture and Food Security. Dr. Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator, delivered the keynote address and shared the U.S. Government's implementation strategy for its global hunger and food security initiative, now called "Feed the Future."

<http://www.modernizingforeignassistance.org/blog/2010/05/27/chicago-council-on-global-affairs-hosts-day-long-symposium-on-global-hunger-food-security/>

**The United States Launches New Food Security Initiative**, *Conservation International (blog)*, May 26

Last week, John Buchanan, CI's Food Security Lead, and I attended the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security. This event launched Feed the Future, the U.S. government's new global hunger and food security initiative strategy and implementation guide.

<http://blog.conservation.org/2010/05/united-states-food-security-initiative/>

**Timor-Leste: UN Helps Set Up Local Factory to Produce Fortified Food**, *UN News Centre*, May 26

Vulnerable people in Timor-Leste will receive a nutritional boost, thanks to a new food fortification factory set up with assistance from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34810&Cr=&Cr1=#>

**Funding Shortfall Jeopardizes Chad's Emergency Agricultural Operations**, *Voice of America*, May 25

A U.N. agency says a lack of donor funds is jeopardizing emergency agricultural programs in Chad where two million people are at risk of hunger. The Food and Agriculture Organization says food insecurity exists in parts of Chad following drought and pest infestations.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-chad-fao-25may10-94839869.html>

**See Also: FAO Reports Shortfall in Chad Donations**, *Associated Press*, May 25

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hxYJOMj1SV2DYHCjM1y-ORhA0\\_gD9FTTK7G0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hxYJOMj1SV2DYHCjM1y-ORhA0_gD9FTTK7G0)

**Chad Hunger Overshadowed by Niger Food Crisis – UN**, *Reuters*, May 25

Relief efforts for two million people facing food shortages in Chad are suffering because donors are concentrating aid on neighbouring Niger, a United Nations agency warned on Tuesday. Niger is seen at the centre of a looming food crisis in the Sahel, the strip of land stretching across the south of the Sahara where some 10 million people are facing hunger in coming months because of poor rains last year.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE64020H>

**Feed the Future: Securing Food in Insecure Areas**, *New Security Beat*, May 25

"Of the 1 billion people who are in food-stressed situations today, a significant proportion live in conflict-ridden countries," said Raymond Gilpin of the U.S. Institute of Peace at last Thursday's launch of USAID's Feed the Future initiative. "Most of them live in fear for their lives, in uncertain environments, and without clear hope for a better tomorrow." According to data from the World Food Programme and the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Database, of the countries with moderately to very high hunger rates in 2009, nearly a quarter experienced violent conflict in the previous year, and nearly half in the preceding two decades.

<http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com/2010/05/feed-future-securing-food-in-insecure.html>

**Africa Development Bank Seeks Funds as Crisis Looms**, *BusinessWeek*, May 25

The African Development Bank is seeking to triple the amount of funds it has available to invest in roads and power plants as the continent braces for the second crisis in two years emanating from outside its shores.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-25/africa-development-bank-seeks-funds-as-crisis-looms-update2-.html>

**Maurice J. Williams, Directed United Nations Food Aid, Dies at 89**, *New York Times*, May 25

Mr. Williams pushed for more aggressive efforts by the United Nations to address world hunger during his time as leader of the Food Council from 1978 to 1986.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/26/world/26williams.html>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**Rhetoric Grows Heated in Water Dispute between India, Pakistan**, *Washington Post*, May 28

Militant organizations traditionally focused on liberating Indian-held Kashmir have adopted water as a rallying cry, accusing India of strangling upstream rivers to desiccate downstream farms in Pakistan's dry agricultural heartland. This spring, a religious leader suspected of links to the 2008 Mumbai attacks led a protest here of thousands of farmers driving tractors and carrying signs warning: "Water Flows or Blood." The cleric, Hafiz Sayeed, recently told worshippers that India was guilty of "water terrorism."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/27/AR2010052705393.html>

**Millions Face Hunger in Arid Belt of Africa**, *Associated Press*, May 28

At this time of year, the Gadabegi Reserve should be refuge for the nomadic tribes who travel across a moonscape on the edge of the Sahara to graze their cattle. But the grass is meager after a drought killed off the last year's crops. Now the cattle are too weak to stand and too skinny to sell, leaving the poor without any way to buy grain to feed their families. The threat of famine is again stalking the Sahel, a band of semiarid land stretching across Africa south of the Sahara.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j0F50TwrIQHsmFAEophT2TCrzEMAD9FVQDVG0>

**Rich, Poor Forge Partnership on Forest Aid in Oslo**, *Reuters*, May 27

Rich and poor countries agreed on Thursday on guidelines for releasing aid to save forests, in the first concrete sign of global action on climate change since Copenhagen.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE64Q1S8>

**See Also: Indonesia Agrees to Curb Commercial Deforestation**, *New York Times*, May 27

Indonesia has declared a two-year moratorium on clearing natural forests as part of a billion-dollar deal aimed at reviving efforts to fight climate change after the collapse of global talks in Copenhagen last year.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/28/world/asia/28indo.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y>

**Shaky Rule in Madagascar Threatens Trees**, *New York Times*, May 24

Exploiting a political crisis, Malagasy timber barons are robbing the nation of its sylvan heritage, illegally cutting down scarce species of rosewood trees.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/25/world/africa/25madagascar.html>

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## WOMEN

### **Statement on Health of Women and Children**, *Joint G8 Science Academies, May 2010*

The attribution of about one-half of child deaths and more than 10% of global disease burden to maternal and child undernutrition demonstrates the huge importance of these risk factors to health goals. Malnutrition in mothers accounts for substantial neonatal mortality and intrauterine malnutrition leads to adult disease: diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidaemia.

[http://www.rsc-src.ca/documents/G8\\_Academies\\_joint\\_statement\\_on\\_health-of-women-and-children.pdf](http://www.rsc-src.ca/documents/G8_Academies_joint_statement_on_health-of-women-and-children.pdf)

### **Call for Ideas & Inputs: Women in Agriculture and Rural Development**, *Gender and Food Policy News (blog), May 26*

The Agricultural Development Economics Division of FAO is currently preparing the State of Food and Agriculture 2010 on "Women in agriculture and rural development". The report focuses on the important role that women play in agriculture and rural economies, the gender differences in assets and access to economic opportunities, and the potential gains from removing these gender differences. We also seek to identify policies and interventions that support women on the farm and beyond.

<http://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/2010/05/26/call-for-ideas-inputs-women-in-agriculture-and-rural-development/>

### **Secretary Clinton's International Fund for Women and Girls: How Does it Fit in to the U.S. Foreign Assistance Puzzle and How Will it Work?**, *Nandini Oomman, director of the HIV/AIDS Monitor, Center for Global Development, and Miriam Temin, Center for Global Development blog, May 25*

In keeping with a women-centered approach to development, Hillary Clinton recently announced the Secretary's International Fund for Women and Girls, "a State Department-led public-private partnership that aims to provide flexible, rapid, targeted and high-impact grants to NGOs working to meet critical needs of women and girls around the world." The fund, managed by the Office of Global Women's Issues (OGWI) intends to make women and girls a priority in everything from global health to climate change.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/05/secretary-clinton%E2%80%99s-international-fund-for-women-and-girls-how-does-it-fit-in-to-the-u-s-foreign-assistance-puzzle-and-how-will-it-work.php>

### **Deliver for Women: Not a Request, But an Imperative**, *Jill Sheffield, founder and president, Women Deliver, Huffington Post, May 25*

Women are the economic heart, especially of the developing world. In South Asia, women provide up to 90% of the labor for rice cultivation; in rural Africa, women transport two-thirds of all goods that are moved...in their arms, on their backs, and on their heads. In the developing world writ large, women produce 60-80% of the food.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jill-sheffield/deliver-for-women-not-a-r\\_b\\_589027.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jill-sheffield/deliver-for-women-not-a-r_b_589027.html)

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### **Trade Powers to Push for Doha Deal to Boost Economy**, *Reuters, May 27*

Ministers from major trading powers decided on Thursday to redouble efforts for a deal in the stalled Doha round, arguing that opening up global trade would boost the world economy without hitting budgets.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64Q54Z20100527>

### **Vietnam Coffee Output to Rise in Year, USDA Unit Says**, *BusinessWeek, May 24*

Coffee production in Vietnam, the world's second-biggest producer, will rise 7 percent next year because of favorable weather, a U.S. Department of Agriculture unit said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-24/vietnam-coffee-output-to-rise-in-year-usda-unit-says-update1-.html>

### **The Madness of Cotton**, *Editorial, Wall Street Journal, May 21*

U.S. cotton farmers took in almost \$2.3 billion dollars in government subsidies in 2009, and the top 10% of the recipients got 70% of the cash. Now Uncle Sam is getting ready to ask taxpayers to foot the bill for another \$147.3 million a year for a new round of cotton payments, this time to Brazilian growers.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748703961104575226290221967322.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### **Monsanto Cuts Outlook as Model Shifts**, *Financial Times*, May 28

Monsanto, the seed conglomerate, slashed its full-year outlook, marking what it said was a "dramatic" change in its business model as it revealed the full cost of its attempt to take on competition in its herbicide business. Hugh Grant, chief executive, also warned that the US, Brazil and Argentina could be forced to take anti-dumping action against Chinese herbicide producers that were overproducing, fuelling a glut and driving down prices.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6cca3a1c-69f0-11df-a978-00144feab49a.html>

### **World Cup Tour Lifts Coke in South Africa**, *Financial Times*, May 27

South Africa is by volume already one of Coca-Cola's 10 most important markets. That partly reflects the success of social responsibility policies developed during the apartheid era, when the company provided support for black football and other sports. Moreover, as African economies grow, sales of consumer goods – from mobile phones to beer – are booming.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a46f44b2-69b9-11df-8432-00144feab49a.html>

### **Asda to Buy Netto Stores for £778m**, *Financial Times*, May 27

Asda changed its growth strategy as it snapped up 193 Netto stores from Denmark's Dansk Supermarked in the face of faltering sales. The £778m deal means the Walmart-owned chain has, through acquisition, hit its target of becoming "a clear number two" in the UK grocery market, ahead of J Sainsbury.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/690d403c-6968-11df-8ae3-00144feab49a.html>

**See Also: Asda Swoops on Netto UK in £778m Deal**, *Independent*, May 28

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/asda-swoops-on-netto-uk-in-163778m-deal-1985029.html>

### **Monsanto Set to Help Fight Spreading "Super-Weeds,"** *Reuters*, May 27

Monsanto Co, said on Thursday it will restructure its herbicide products in an effort to help combat the spreading environmental woes of herbicide-resistant weeds, also known as "super weeds," which many critics have blamed on the chemical giant.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN278950420100527>

### **Kraft Censured Over Cadbury Deal**, *Financial Times*, May 26

Kraft Foods has been censured by the UK mergers watchdog for making promises it could not keep during its £11.7bn (\$16.9bn) takeover bid for Cadbury this year.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b50837d8-68f2-11df-910b-00144feab49a.html>

**See Also: Kraft Given Food for Thought**, *Financial Times*, May 26

When Irene Rosenfeld sanctioned the insertion of a pledge to save a small British chocolate factory into her multibillion-pound proposal to buy Cadbury, the chief executive of Kraft Foods could not have known it would blow up into such a big mess.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5b3deb62-68fc-11df-910b-00144feab49a.html>

**See Also: Kraft Hit by Exodus of Cadbury Executives**, *Financial Times*, May 28

The threat of a brain drain of Cadbury staff from Kraft Foods intensified yesterday as it emerged that five senior executives were quitting the US multinational following its £11.7bn takeover of the UK confectioner.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/79a7e15e-69ef-11df-a978-00144feab49a.html>

### **The Water Margin**, *Guardian*, May 26

Food giant PepsiCo has come up with a novel way to cut its water consumption - by extracting it from potatoes and recycling it.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/pepsico-water-usage-potatoes-maung>

**Vilsack Sees Ag Credit Crunch**, *Des Moines Register*, May 25

A credit crunch may be starting to show up on the farm, says Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. He told a group of agribusiness lobbyists that he is hearing anecdotally about large-scale dairy operations and other farms that are having trouble getting operating loans.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/05/25/vilsack-sees-ag-credit-crunch/>

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