

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



May 28th – June 4th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“A major threat to global security now stems from the radicalized terrorism bred in societies where opportunity and order are lacking. Hunger, poverty, instability and terrorism are inextricably linked, which means that our approach to improving global security must not only use traditional military strength but also robust efforts to eradicate hunger, promote economic development and strengthen weak government institutions. Hunger and famine leading to political unrest and insecurity is not new. From the food riots that launched the French Revolution, to the fall of famine-stricken regimes across West Africa in the 1970s, to the toppling of the Haitian government in 2008 after high food prices, we have seen the link proven time and again.”* – Samuel R. Berger, former national security adviser to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Op-Ed, Politico, June 3, 2010.

Please click on the hyperlinks in the “Contents” section if you would like to drop down to a specific section.

For more information:

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

Food Outlook: Global Market Analysis, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, June 2010*

As this report goes to print, concerns over macroeconomic prospects and global financial markets are once more gaining the headlines. Changes in the economic environment, including continuing fluctuations in exchange rates and high unpredictability have a strong influence on agricultural commodity markets. From

the supply side, however, the 2008-2009 price boom spurred plantings and production of many food crops, resulting in a recovery in inventories and boosting stocks-to-use ratios, a tendency likely to prevail also in 2010/11. In fact, from sugar to wheat, most indicators point to increasing world supplies, a leading factor behind the sharp declines in international prices of major food staples this year.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/ak349e/ak349e00.pdf>

See Also: International Prices of Agricultural Commodities Drop, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, June 3*

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/42790/icode/>

Building Peace through Food, *Op-Ed, Samuel R. Berger, former national security adviser to President Bill Clinton, chairman of Albright Stonebridge Group, and member of the World Food Program USA board of directors, Politico, June 3*

A major threat to global security now stems from the radicalized terrorism bred in societies where opportunity and order are lacking. Hunger, poverty, instability and terrorism are inextricably linked, which means that our approach to improving global security must not only use traditional military strength but also robust efforts to eradicate hunger, promote economic development and strengthen weak government institutions. Hunger and famine leading to political unrest and insecurity is not new. From the food riots that launched the French Revolution, to the fall of famine-stricken regimes across West Africa in the 1970s, to the toppling of the Haitian government in 2008 after high food prices, we have seen the link proven time and again.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0610/38063.html>

Development Aid Is Working, *Mark Suzman, acting president, Global Development Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Huffington Post, June 3*

Even on the hunger front there is progress to celebrate. While it is true that the spike in food prices in 2008 followed by the recession in 2009 pushed 100 million more people into hunger, the world is responding. Last year the G20 committed to spend \$22 billion over the next three years to support agricultural development rather than traditional short-term food aid. These investments will support developing countries that are taking the lead in tackling the issue themselves. Ethiopia, for example, now invests over 15 percent of its national budget in agriculture. The country's cereal yields rose 25 percent between 1995 and 2008. Undernutrition dropped 35 percent over the same period.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mark-suzman/development-aid-is-workin_b_599974.html

See Also: Gates Foundation CEO: Listening Is Key to Success, *USA Today, June 2*

On a recent trip to Mozambique, Jeffrey Raikes, CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, cornered two rice farmers for a chat. Both farmed in the same area, on different parts of the same river, growing the same variety of rice. Yet one farmer had yields larger than the other, Raikes recalls. Raikes walked away wondering why — and not because he grew up on a farm in Nebraska— but because such answers may help the Gates Foundation help other rice farmers improve crop yields and aid the foundation in meeting its goal to help 150 million of the world's poorest families lift themselves out of extreme poverty by 2025.

http://www.usatoday.com/money/companies/management/2010-06-02-gatesfoundation02_CV_N.htm

Global Development in the U.S. National Security Strategy, *Noam Unger, fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institution, May 28*

At the operational level, many more changes are already underway, including a broader global health initiative, a forward-looking global hunger and food security initiative, the re-establishment and revitalization of USAID's policy planning bureau and further reforms to improve the agency's procurement, human resources and transparency. Since day one, this administration has needed to redefine America's global development cooperation. While its efforts in 2009 were detrimentally sluggish, the new national security strategy could breathe new life into the effort.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0528_national_security_development_unger.aspx

Africa's Path to Growth: Sector by Sector, *McKinsey Quarterly, June 2010*

The continent's growth story isn't entirely about the extractive industries. Seven articles examine the future of a wide range of sectors.

http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Africas_path_to_growth_Sector_by_sector_2602

See Also: What's Driving Africa's Growth, *McKinsey Quarterly*, June 2010

The rate of return on foreign investment is higher in Africa than in any other developing region.

Global executives and investors must pay heed.

http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Economic_Studies/Productivity_Performance/Whats_driving_Africas_growth_2601

See Also: Fulfilling the Promise of Sub-Saharan Africa, *McKinsey Quarterly*, June 2010

The region has already made big strides below the radar. It now stands to become the developing world's next great success story.

http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Economic_Studies/Productivity_Performance/Fulfilling_the_promise_of_sub-Saharan_Africa_2603

It's the Security, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, June 4*

For anyone who doesn't "get" the moral and economic imperative of ending hunger through agriculture development, here's another motivating imperative: security, both domestic and global. The phrase "food security" and the mission of helping countries feed themselves are mentioned multiple times in the recently released National Security Strategy of the Obama administration. Its Feed the Future initiative is a key weapon in the deployment of American "soft power" around the world. And "development experts who can strengthen governance and support human dignity" are included with soldiers, diplomats, law enforcement officers and intelligence gatherers as defenders of the nation's security.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/06/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-us-national-security-strategy-food-agriculture.html#tp>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks with Indian Minister of External Affairs S.M. Krishna after their Meeting, *Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, June 3*

CLINTON: "One of the areas where we intend to have closer scientific collaboration is food security, boosting the productivity of our farmers and giving more people in more places the tools they need to feed themselves and their communities. Our new Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security is part of this important effort. And we agreed to establish working groups to develop concrete proposals for the U.S. and India to enhance food security in third countries, strengthen farm-to-market links and food processing in India, and develop an initiative to expand weather and crop forecasting."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/06/142642.htm>

See Also: Opens the Plenary Session of the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue with Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, *Press Release, U.S. Department of State, June 3*

CLINTON: "And connected to climate change is food security, a major initiative of the Obama Administration. India and the United States are working to strengthen agriculture worldwide through our Feed the Future Initiative, to replicate the successes of India's green revolution in places where food is still too difficult to grow, buy, or sell."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/06/142623.htm>

See Also: U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue Joint Statement, *Press Release, U.S. Department of State, June 3*

Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton noted that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security would increase cooperation in agricultural research, human resources capacity building, natural resource management, agri-business and food processing, and collaborative research for increasing food productivity. They noted that India's experience with agricultural development in the framework of low capital intensity and diverse conditions offers useful lessons for other developing countries. They resolved to continue to look for innovative ways to work together to promote agricultural development and reduce rural poverty, promote global food security, and improve weather prediction and crop forecasting capabilities for

agricultural purposes in order to improve livelihoods in the rural sectors. They also pledged to work together to improve the farm to market supply chain, food processing, and agricultural extension programs.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/06/142645.htm>

See Also: Remarks by the President at U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue Reception, White House, June 3

OBAMA: "And we're partnering on agriculture and research to reduce global hunger and to share India's incredible progress with other countries."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-us-india-strategic-dialogue-reception>

Summary: 2010 Supplemental Appropriations Act, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations, May 26

Emergency Food Assistance: \$50 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program for food purchases to distribute through local emergency food providers.

http://appropriations.house.gov/images/Supplemental_Appropriations_Bill_Summary_-_War_Jobs_and_Other_needs_-_05.26.2010.pdf

Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 2010

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://www.fas.usda.gov/cmp/outlook/2010/May-10/May2010_fullreport.pdf

See Also: Statement from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on USDA Forecast for Second-Highest Export Level in History, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 28

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gA_C9-wMJ8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_1wkA5kFaGuQBXeASbmnu4uBgbe5hB5AxzA0UDfzyM_N1W_IDs7zdFRUREAZXAypA!!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfUDhNVIZMVDmXMEJUMTBJQ01IMURERDFDUDA!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/05/0291.xml

Vacancies at USAID Worry Development Hands, Foreign Policy, June 3

As the Obama administration nears completion of two major reviews on development policy, several top positions in the U.S. Agency for International Development remain vacant. Development sources tell us that names for several senior USAID positions have been sent all the way up to the White House, but the White House has yet to act on them. Among the open slots are the positions of assistant administrator for the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs (DCHA) and the director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/06/03/vacancies_at_usaid_worry_development_hands

See Also: USAID Hoping To 'Think For Itself', National Journal, June 3

The head of the U.S. Agency for International Development announced that his group will begin seeking a greater voice for humanitarian aid with the launch of a new policy arm. In a speech at the InterAction Forum in Washington, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah announced the creation of the agency's own "bureau of policy, planning and learning" as it attempts to "move towards five or even 10-year country strategies." The official announcement of the bureau by USAID had not been made as of press time, and USAID officials would not go on record.

<http://burnafterreading.nationaljournal.com/2010/06/usaaid-hoping-to.php>

Johanns, Baucus, Lincoln Applaud Passage of Resolution Urging Full Market Access for U.S. Beef, Press Release, Office of Senator Mike Johanns, May 28

Sen. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.), along with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) hailed unanimous Senate passage last night of their 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=aa4c6aec-c50a-4514-8e85-e850b9cd5d99&ContentType_id=bc82adff-27b4-4832-8fd6-aecbe3e7d8e3

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](#)

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

Towards a Work Programme on Agriculture, *Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations, June 2010*

Responding to climate change in developing countries, will need to be pursued in ways that do not jeopardize, or better still enhance, nationally-owned development processes that prioritize food security and poverty reduction, wherein agriculture plays a key role. Agriculture offers options that can provide multiple benefits for mitigation, adaptation, development and food security or that allow, in some instances, the management of trade-offs across these requirements.

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/smsn/igo/081.pdf>

See Also: FAO Urges Early Action on Climate Change Responses, *Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations, June 1*

“Agriculture can potentially be part of the solution to climate change in ways that respect and support the development and food security requirements of developing countries,” FAO has told a UN working group preparing long-term approaches to climate change mitigation.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/42788/icode/>

Our Common Strategic Interests: Africa’s Role in the Post-G8 World, *Chatham House, June 2010*

African countries are playing a more strategic role in international affairs. Global players that understand this and develop greater diplomatic and trade relations with African states will be greatly advantaged. For many countries, particularly those that have framed their relations with Africa largely in humanitarian terms, this will require an uncomfortable shift in public and policy perceptions. Without this shift, many of Africa's traditional partners, especially in Europe and North America, will lose global influence and trade advantages to the emerging powers in Asia, Africa and South America. Economic fortunes across Africa are now diverging, making it less meaningful to treat Africa as a single entity in international economic negotiations. Despite this, it is in the global interest that the African Union should be granted a permanent place at the G20. In turn, a more focused, sophisticated and strategic African leadership is needed.

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/16704_r0610_africag8.pdf

The Potential for Scale and Sustainability in Weather Index Insurance for Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods, *United Nations World Food Programme and International Fund for Agricultural Development, June 2010*

Risk is inherent in agriculture. Farmers face a variety of market and production risks that make their incomes unstable and unpredictable from year to year. Input prices may increase out of reach, crops may be destroyed by drought or pest outbreaks, selling prices may plummet and harvests may rot in poor storage facilities. In many cases, farmers also confront the risk of natural catastrophe. Assets and lives may be lost due to severe droughts, hurricanes, earthquakes and floods. The type and severity of the risks confronting farmers are particularly burdensome to small-scale farmers in the developing world. Unless adequately managed, agricultural risks slow economic development, hamper poverty reduction and contribute to humanitarian crises.

<http://www.ifad.org/ruralfinance/pub/weather.pdf>

See Also: Weather Insurance Policies Offer Lifeline to Farmers in Developing Countries, *Joint News Release, June 3*

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2010/38.htm>

Priority Products and Materials: Assessing the Environmental Impacts of Consumption and Production, *International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, United Nations Environmental Programme, June 2010*

How the world is fed and fueled will in large part define development in the 21st century as one that is increasingly sustainable or a dead end for billions of people. A new and hard-hitting report concludes that

dramatically reforming, re-thinking and redesigning two sectors-energy and agriculture-could generate significant environmental, social and economic returns.

<http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/>

See Also: Go Veggie, Cut Fossil Fuels to Aid Planet: Study, Reuters, June 2

An overhaul of world farming and more vegetarianism should be top priorities to protect the environment, along with curbs on fossil fuel use, a U.N.-backed study said on Wednesday.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINTRE65121X20100602>

Green Economy Report: A Preview, United Nations Environment Programme, May 2010

A Green Economy is characterized by substantially increased investments in economic sectors that build on and enhance the earth's natural capital or reduce ecological scarcities and environmental risks. These sectors include renewable energy, low-carbon transport, energy-efficient buildings, clean technologies, improved waste management, improved freshwater provision, sustainable agriculture and forest management, and sustainable fisheries. These investments are driven by or supported by national policy reforms and the development of international policy and market infrastructure.

http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/Green%20Economy/UNEP_Rio20PrepCom_GERPreview_06May10_FINAL.pdf

Analyzing Trade Competitiveness: A Diagnostics Approach, World Bank, June 2010

Trade has proven to be a powerful engine of growth worldwide. But not all countries have benefited equally. Despite much effort to use trade policy to catalyze exports, many developing countries have failed to achieve successful, sustainable export and economic growth. Even with the benefit of preferential market access, many developing country exporters face a broad and diverse set of constraints that limit their potential to compete in export markets. This paper discusses the concept of "competitiveness" with respect to trade and the various dimensions on which trade competitiveness might be assessed. It argues there is a need for a framework by which trade competitiveness can be assessed in a systematic way. Inspired by the "growth diagnostics" approach, it outlines a possible framework for assessing factors that facilitate or constrain trade competitiveness.

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/06/01/000158349_20100601154408/Rendered/PDF/WPS5329.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/06/01/000158349_20100601154408/Rendered/PDF/WPS5329.pdf)

Seasonal and Extreme Poverty in Bangladesh: Evaluating an Ultra-Poor Microfinance Project, World Bank, June 2010

Microfinance is often criticized for not adequately addressing seasonality and hard-core poverty. In Bangladesh, a program known as PRIME was introduced in 2006 to address both concerns. Unlike regular microfinance, PRIME introduces a microfinance scheme that offers a flexible repayment schedule and consumption smoothing, as well as production, loans. It targets the ultra-poor, many of whom are also seasonally poor, with a severe inability to smooth consumption during certain months of the year. Besides providing loans, PRIME offers extension and training services. This paper uses a quasi-experimental survey design to evaluate PRIME against regular microfinance programs.

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/06/03/000158349_20100603164741/Rendered/PDF/WPS5331.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/06/03/000158349_20100603164741/Rendered/PDF/WPS5331.pdf)

Social Protection in Africa: Where Next?, Overseas Development Institute et al, June 2010

The paper challenges current practices within the research and donor community. It notes that social protection is an extremely important policy agenda for Africa, and that remarkable progress has been made in a very short time.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4884.pdf>

Mobile Phones and Economic Development in Africa, Center for Global Development, June 2010

Jenny Aker and Isaac Mbiti examine the growth of mobile phone technology over the past decade and consider its potential impacts upon quality of life in low-income countries, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa. While current research suggests that mobile phone coverage and adoption have had positive

impacts on agricultural and labor market efficiency and welfare in certain countries, empirical evidence is still somewhat limited.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424175/>

The Role of Libraries in Supporting Agricultural Policy Research - Evidence from Selected University and Research Institute Libraries in Nigeria, *International Food Policy Research Institute, February 2010*

Agriculture is the largest contributor to the economic well-being of most Nigerians. For the agriculture sector to continue to grow, research-based knowledge of the existing agricultural practices, the potential of the sector, the approach for transforming the sector, and the impact of the transformation on the economy, sector, and population is needed. It has also been shown that agriculture R&D could increase agriculture growth and reduce poverty. Therefore, research-based evidence is important to guide decisions that affect Nigeria's agriculture sector and its people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nssp14.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Date: June 1st – June 5th, 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%202024.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 2nd – 4th, 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 6th – 9th, 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>

Innovation, Sustainability, Development: A New Manifesto

Date: June 15th, 2010

Location: London

Meeting the interlinked global challenges of poverty reduction, social justice and environmental sustainability is the great moral and political imperative of our age. Science, technology and innovation of many kinds have essential roles to play in this. But along with many others, the STEPS Centre believes that this imperative can only be fulfilled if there is a radical shift in how we think about and perform innovation.

<http://anewmanifesto.org/news/manifesto-launch-15-june/#more-1872>

Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever

Date: June 29th, 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 13th – 15th, 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 8th – 12th, 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>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

S. Africa Must Look at Biofuels Amid Corn Surplus, Chamber Says, *BusinessWeek, June 4*

South Africa should reconsider plans for a biofuels industry as the nation heads for a corn surplus, depressing prices for the grain as far ahead as next year, the head of the country’s Agricultural Business Chamber said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-03/s-africa-must-look-at-biofuels-amid-corn-surplus-chamber-says.html>

See Also: African Nations Turn to South Africa for Agricultural Expertise, *BusinessWeek, June 2*

African nations are increasingly turning to South Africa to improve their own agricultural production and skills, according to industry group Agri SA.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-06-02/african-nations-turn-to-south-africa-for-agricultural-expertise.html>

South Africa Drafts New Agricultural Development Plan, *Bloomberg, June 2*

South Africa is drafting a new growth and development plan for the country’s agricultural industry, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aopJt9ZU8Lhs>

Special Report on South Africa: A New Kind of Inequality, *Economist, June 3*

Land reform is another high-minded black-empowerment project that has gone awry. Under the 1913 Land Act blacks were not allowed to own, or even rent, land outside special black reserves. By 1994 some 87% of agricultural land was in white hands. The new black majority promptly announced plans to redistribute 30% of white-owned land to poor blacks within five years. This was to be acquired by the state on a “willing seller, willing buyer” basis, at a “fair” market price. So far, barely 6% has been handed over, and the government has

already run out of money. Many of the new owners have neither the skills nor the funds to run big farms, so fertile land often lies fallow.

http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=16248651

FAO Launches Rust SPORE to Step Up Global Surveillance of Ug99 Strain, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, June 2*

FAO has launched a [new website](#) to track the advance of Ug99 the devastating strain of wheat stem rust disease and other wheat rusts amid concern the fungus is on the march across Africa and could head toward South Asia.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/42796/icode/>

Agriculture: Bumper Harvests Bring Stability, *Financial Times, June 1*

There is no better fertiliser than high prices, the old farming adage goes. Trends in agriculture appear to be proving this resoundingly true.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e9d68f5e-6c4a-11df-86c5-00144feab49a.html>

Indian Growth Needs Recovery and Rain, *Financial Times, June 1*

Most of India's 1.2bn people still derive their income from the rural economy, although farm output now represents about 20 per cent of gross domestic product. Over the past months, they have been hit by a double blight: rising prices and low output. A good monsoon, likely to start this month, will bring relief. More abundant farm produce will help cool food prices rising at an alarming 16 per cent.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/810b0ede-6d15-11df-921a-00144feab49a.html>

Cuba's Quiet Revolution, *CNN, June 1*

The country's fledgling agricultural sector and massive distribution machine have been a source of concern for many of the country's private farms and cooperatives.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/05/31/cuba.farms/>

Virus Ravages Cassava Plants in Africa, *New York Times, May 31*

Cassava, eaten by 800 million people in Africa, South America and Asia, is threatened by a blight.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/01/science/01cassava.html?emc=tnt&tntemail0=y>

China Pins Food-Security Hopes on Humble Potato, *Washington Post, May 31*

In the land of rice, China is looking at an unlikely tool for maintaining growth and social harmony: the potato.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/30/AR2010053003751.html>

Spectre of Famine Haunts Chad as Funds Diverted to Strengthen Army, *Irish Times, May 31*

Because as Chad faces its worst food crisis in half-a-century, new oil money intended for agriculture, health and education has instead been diverted to the army, now one of sub-Saharan's best equipped.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2010/0531/1224271503594.html>

Beijing Warns of Agricultural Speculators Who Hoard with 'Evil Intent,' *Financial Times, May 31*

It seems the Chinese housing bubble is at the root of all the country's problems, even the rising price of vegetables.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2010/05/31/chinese-state-organ-warns-of-agricultural-speculators-who-hoard-with-evil-intent/>

Southern Sudan Needs Agriculture Boost to Ease Crisis, UN Says, *BusinessWeek, May 28*

Southern Sudan should invest in agriculture to feed its people and help ease a humanitarian crisis gripping the oil-rich region, the top United Nations humanitarian official said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-28/southern-sudan-needs-agriculture-boost-to-ease-crisis-un-says.html>

Falling Cocoa Yields in Ivory Coast, *Financial Times, May 28*

Today, about 800,000 Ivorian farmers produce almost 40 per cent of the world's 3.5 million-tonne cocoa crop. The country's output of 1.3 million tonnes is more than double what it was in the 1980s and 26 times the size of its harvest in 1960. But Ivory Coast's importance in the cocoa market, and its decades of increasing production, mask a bleak reality and an uncertain future.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/28e00036-67a0-11df-a932-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: Cocoa Approaches 33-Year High, *Financial Times*, June 4

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0dc547ee-6fbf-11df-8fcf-00144feabdc0.html>

Agricultural Prices, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, June 2010

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/AgriPric/AgriPric-05-28-2010.pdf>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Europe Beefs Up Support to Global Food Security, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, June 4

The European Union (EU) has added €13.2 million to its funding of FAO's efforts to boost agricultural production in developing countries worst hit by high food prices. This brings the total amount of the EU "Food Facility" funds channeled through FAO to an unprecedented €228 million.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/42872/icode/>

G8 Summit Communique Drops Gleneagles Pledge on Aid to Africa, *Guardian*, June 4

Leaked draft communique for Canada summit contains no mention of 2005 Gleneagles commitment.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/04/g8-summit-gleneagles-canada>

Photo IDs and Mobile Phones: Secret Weapons in Niger's Fight Against Hunger, *Amanda McClelland*, *Concern Worldwide*, *Huffington Post*, June 3

Every day, we are working at maximum capacity on initiatives to prevent rates of malnutrition from reaching emergency thresholds. We are distributing seed packs and fertilizer to help families plant crops in time for the next harvest; providing nutrition support to children under five, pregnant women and mothers; and launching an innovative use of mobile phone technology (and manual transfers) to distribute emergency cash to the most vulnerable women. We have high hopes for this program--and we are starting to see its great potential.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amanda-mcclelland/photo-ids-and-mobile-phon_b_597963.html

Food & Microfinance: Helping Farmers Reap Rewards, *Financial Times*, June 2

In a new strategy to reduce reliance on food aid in the fight against hunger, the US Agency for International Development (USAid) plans to make investments to develop agriculture. Smallholders using microloans will play a role in this. However, many microfinance and development experts argue that credit is not the only thing these farmers need.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/073a641e-6d0c-11df-921a-00144feab49a.html>

France Sets Up \$120 mln in Africa Agriculture Fund, *Reuters*, June 1

France is to set up a \$120 million fund to help Africa's agriculture industry and the investment could end up totalling \$300 million, a communique from the 25th Africa-France summit said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSWEA449620100601>

See Also: President Sarkozy Urges Revamped Trade Ties at Africa-France Summit, *Christian Science Monitor*, June 1

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2010/0601/President-Sarkozy-urges-revamped-trade-ties-at-Africa-France-Summit>

Foreign Aid: Shifting Our Perception, *Manisha Singh*, *executive director, Barer Institute for Law and Global Human Services*, *University of Washington School of Law*, *Huffington Post*, June 1

Crossing the pond, and reviewing the state of our own federal budget, there is an attempt by the Senate Budget Committee Chairman to reduce the President's International Affairs request by \$4 billion. It has met with criticism from the established development and aid communities. The U.S. faces critical domestic issues

and foreign assistance is an easy target when demonstrating areas of the budget to be cut. If, in addition to our domestic problems, there is a sentiment that our foreign assistance is ineffective and there is no accounting for it, then it becomes even easier to justify cutting aid dollars, in spite of the fact that foreign aid accounts for barely one percent of the budget. It is therefore now, more critical than ever, to devise more effective ways to measure and account for aid.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/manisha-singh/foreign-aid-shifting-our_b_596851.html

Restoring U.S. Foreign Aid to Health, *Op-Ed, Members of the Steering Committee of the Global Health Technologies Coalition, The Hill (blog), June 1*

President Obama, his foreign policy team, and Congress are on the cusp of redefining how the United States approaches foreign assistance. As they undertake their aid reform effort this year, they're promising to get serious about ensuring that American funds are used wisely. They're right to focus on results. And one of the best ways to guarantee that our aid dollars actually deliver for those in need is to use them to develop innovative new tools for combating the health problems that plague the developing world.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/100877-restoring-us-foreign-aid-to-health>

Bringing in a Harvest for Sudan's War-Torn Hungry, *Global and Mail, June 1*

Unconventional Canadian volunteers turn bleak land into a life-sustaining farm.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/bringing-in-a-harvest-for-sudans-war-torn-hungry/article1588853/>

In Afghan Region, U.S. Spreads the Cash to Fight the Taliban, *Washington Post, May 31*

Pumping reconstruction dollars into war zones has long been part of the U.S. counterinsurgency playbook, but the carpet bombing of Nawa with cash has resulted in far more money getting into local hands, far more quickly, than in any other part of Afghanistan. The U.S. Agency for International Development's agriculture program aims to spend upward of \$30 million within nine months in this rural district of mud-walled homes and small farms.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/30/AR2010053003722.html>

Commitment Phobia: Rich Countries Will Miss their Targets for Aid to Africa, *Economist, May 28*

The Group of Seven (G7) industrialised countries met at Gleneagles in 2005, and pledged to raise their combined aid to sub-Saharan Africa. But at the end of last year, collectively they were only 44% of the way towards hitting the 2010 target according to ONE, a London-based lobby group. Focusing just on aid can detract from big issues such as trade or migration. Promising a bit more aid is easier than dismantling food subsidies that favour Western farmers but devastate African ones.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16248580> (foreign assistance)

Feed the Future: Can Food Security Stop Terrorism?, *New Security Beat, May 28*

USAID's Feed the Future initiative is being touted for its potential to help stabilize failing states and dampen simmering civil conflicts. **Speaking at a packed symposium on food security hosted by the Chicago Council last week**, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah called food security "the foundation for peace and opportunity – and therefore a foundation for our own national security."

<http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com/2010/05/feed-future-can-food-security-stop.html>

See Also: Feed the Future: USDA v. Taliban

<http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com/2010/05/feed-future-can-agricultural-markets.html>

Funds Urgently Needed in Southern Sudan to Prevent Crisis Turning into Disaster – UN, *UN News Centre, May 28*

The top United Nations humanitarian official today called on the international community to provide more funding to prevent the crisis in southern Sudan, a region already beset by food insecurity, displacements and inter-tribal violence, from spiralling into real disaster.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34848>

WFP Sees Its Ugandan Food Purchases Rising by 40%, *Reuters, May 26*

The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) will spend 40 percent more buying food in Uganda this year, as it uses low prices to shore up reserves, a senior WFP official said on Wednesday. Uganda harvested a bumper maize crop during late 2009 and the first quarter 2010, flooding markets and triggering a plunge in prices.
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE64P0VK.CH.2420>

Why Nutrition Matters, *Joel Lamstein, Huffington Post, May 19*

As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated recently, "[nutrition] is an issue that cuts across every sector." This is why today's release of the Obama administration's Feed the Future implementation strategy, happening at the Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security, hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in Washington, DC, is most welcome and timely. It is especially fitting that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is joining USAID Administrator Raj Shah and others to mark this release, given Liberia's potential to realize the goals of this effort.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joel-lamstein/why-nutrition-matters_b_582040.html

European Development Policy, *Overseas Development Institute, May 2010*

The EU has a unique role in the emerging development agenda. It is committed to poverty reduction, well-represented at country level and engaged in meeting the MDGs. As the world's largest donor of both development and humanitarian assistance there is a need to press for continued improvements in the way the EU does business, from additional climate financing to a more clearly defined set of ODA eligible financial instruments to a strong development commissioner post and greater policy coherence for development across the European External Action Service.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4842.pdf>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

EU Ups Africa Drought Aid, NGO Says More Needed, *Reuters, June 3*

The European Union sent an extra 24 million euros (\$29 million) of to help millions facing hunger across the Sahel region of West Africa, but an aid agency said much more was needed to avert a crisis.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE651255.CH.2420>

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

The threat of famine is again stalking the Sahel, a band of semiarid land stretching across Africa south of the Sahara. The U.N. World Food Program warned that some 10 million people face hunger over the next three months before the next harvest in September — if it comes.

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

See Also: Severe Drought Causes Hunger for 10 Million in West Africa, *Guardian, June 3*

Eastern Sahel crisis is worst in Niger where 7.1 million are hungry as livestock and crops are lost and food prices surge.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jun/03/drought-hunger-west-africa>

See Also: 10 Million Face Famine in West Africa, *Independent, May 30*

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/10-million-face-famine-in-west-africa-1986875.html>

World Is Warmest on Record, NASA's Hansen Says, *Bloomberg, June 2*

The global temperature this year reached its warmest on record based on a 12-month-rolling average, James Hansen, the top climate change scientist at the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said today.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=ae544VzAtJes>

US Projects 4 Percent Emissions Rise by 2012 to UN, *Associated Press, June 1*

In its first major climate report to the United Nations in four years, the United States projected Tuesday that its climate-warming greenhouse gases will grow by 4 percent through 2020. The first such report submitted under the Obama administration includes a 1.5 percent rise in carbon dioxide emissions, the main gas from

fossil fuel burning blamed for global warming. And CO2 from fossil fuel burning still accounts for about four-fifths of all U.S. global warming gases.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hzCCtj0IP6GsZTHlOKnFl5i7spqgD9G2MB580>

A Changed Africa Still Needs Our Help to Grow, *Op-Ed, Nicholas Stern, professor of economics and government at the London School of Economics and chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, Financial Times, May 30*

Looking back, we should have placed much stronger emphasis on climate change and the environment. Africa has played a negligible role in the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and its per capita emissions are still far below those of rich countries and most emerging economies. However, climate change is a massive threat to its future growth, development and stability. Some deserts will continue to grow, placing pressure on resources and forcing populations to move elsewhere.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e03f7cfa-6c16-11df-86c5-00144feab49a.html>

Reforming Climate Change Finance, *Overseas Development Institute, May 2010*

Climate financing is the greatest development financing issue we face. It needs to be at scale. It needs to be well managed. It needs to be transparent. ODI monitoring shows it is none of these things at the moment.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4844.pdf>

WOMEN

Empowering Africa's Women, *Op-Ed, Graca Machel, member of the Africa Progress Panel, president of the Foundation for Community Development, and founder of New Faces, New Voices, Taipei Times, May 31*

But it is in the treatment of women, deliberately and accidentally, by the financial sector that the most damage is done. Women receive, for example, only 10 percent of the credit given to small farmers and less than 1 percent of total loans to agriculture. Yet they are responsible for growing 80 percent of the food on our continent. Inheritance rules dictating that land — and its proceeds — can be passed down only through the men of the family have put women at a terrible disadvantage.

<http://taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2010/05/31/2003474255>

G8 Seeks New Drive to Meet 2015 Aid Goals for Poor, *Reuters, May 31*

The Group of Eight industrialized nations plan to invest in better health for mothers and young children in poor nations to meet faltering goals for slashing world poverty by 2015, a draft text for a G8 summit said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64U2KB20100531>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Brazil's Victory in Cotton Trade Case Exposes America's Wasteful Subsidies, *Editorial, Washington Post, June 3*

American taxpayers owe Brazil and its cotton farmers a thank-you. That may sound odd, given that the Obama administration recently agreed to pay the Brazilians \$147.3 million a year to settle their international trade case against U.S. cotton subsidies. Indeed, the net effect of the payoff is to enable Washington to continue supporting American cotton farmers to the tune of about \$3 billion per year. So what's to be thankful for? Brazil's case laid bare the truth about the U.S. cotton program: Not only is it a wasteful sop to special interests, but it's also an obstacle to free and fair trade that needlessly complicates U.S. relations with the rest of the world. Reform -- or, better, repeal -- is long overdue.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/02/AR2010060204228.html>

Tough Doha Trade Talks Loom in Political Shadow, *Reuters, May 30*

World Trade Organization members agree they must push on with difficult talks on a global trade deal, but November's U.S. mid-term elections mean they are unlikely to bear fruit before next year. The United States, ultimately the key to any pact, says that what is on the table after 8 years of talks on the Doha round is simply not compelling enough to attract support back home.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-48914120100530>

AGRIBUSINESS

Monsanto to license Roundup to Dow ag unit, *Reuters, June 2*

Monsanto Co said on it would license its Roundup Ready 2 Yield herbicide trait to Dow Chemical's (DOW.N) agricultural unit, an agreement that will let Dow boost its presence in the soybean market. Under the agreement, Dow AgroSciences will pay Monsanto a royalty for stacking the technology with its seeds, though the exact amount was not disclosed.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0216092920100602>

United Phosphorus Buys DuPont's Mancozeb Fungicide Business, *Wall Street Journal, June 2*

India's United Phosphorus Ltd. said it has bought U.S. chemical giant DuPont Co.'s mancozeb fungicide business and related assets.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100602-716310.html>

Haiti's Mango Farmers Get Help Growing the Industry, *Los Angeles Times, May 31*

The Inter-American Development Bank and Coca-Cola are giving growers access to loans and markets and teaching new harvesting techniques.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-0528-mangoes-20100601.0.330902.story>

Sickly Sweetner: Americans Are Losing their Taste for a Sugar Substitute Made from Maize, *Economist, May 27*

Americans are losing their taste for a sugar substitute made from maize.

http://www.economist.com/business-finance/displaystory.cfm?story_id=16220592

The Hard Sell on Salt, *New York Times, May 29*

The campaign by Cargill, which both produces and uses salt, promotes salt as "life enhancing" and suggests sprinkling it on foods as varied as chocolate cookies, fresh fruit, ice cream and even coffee. "You might be surprised," Mr. Brown says, "by what foods are enhanced by its briny kiss."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/30/health/30salt.html>

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