



May 29th-June 5th, 2009

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KEY ARTICLES

Economic Report on Africa 2009: Developing African Agriculture through Regional Value Chains,
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, May 2009

The continent's efforts to grapple with the impact of the recent food crisis have been complicated by the unfolding global financial crisis and recession. Many African governments and donors had to reconsider expenditure allocations and design measures to provide emergency assistance and mitigate the impact of the high food and energy prices in the first half of 2008. Notwithstanding the decline in prices since the second half of 2008, the food crisis remains a challenge especially in the Horn of Africa, Western Africa and in conflict countries.

http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Publications/books/era2009/ERA2009_ENG_Full.pdf

More Americans turning to Peace Corps, *Los Angeles Times, June 2*

With President Obama extolling the volunteer agency as an exemplar of public service and U.S. diplomacy, applications have jumped. The idealism is tinged with pragmatism, amid joblessness at home.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-peacecorps2-2009jun02,0,2239945.story>

Hungry number up 100 million in South Asia – UNICEF, *Reuters, June 2*

The number of hungry people in South Asia has jumped by 100 million in the past two years, aggravated by high food and fuel prices and the global economic slowdown, a new UNICEF report said. More than 400

million people are now chronically hungry in South Asia, the region's highest level in 40 years, the report said, adding calorie intake has remained stagnant or fallen in many countries despite rising per capita incomes.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/topNews/idINIndia-40042520090602?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

A Better Bargain for Aid to Pakistan, *Washington Post*, May 30

Since 2001, the United States has spent about \$12 billion to help Pakistan. Yet last month, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared Pakistan a "mortal threat" to international security. Washington needs to strike a far better bargain for its billions.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/29/AR2009052902620.html?sid=ST2009052902870>

Poorest People Need Resources to Deal With Climate Change, *Ken Hackett and the Rev. John McCullough, Roll Call*, June 3

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the leading body of climate science experts, global climate change is already having significant impacts. Glaciers are melting from Alaska to the Himalayas. Extended droughts are ravaging many African communities that depend on rain for irrigating crops and watering livestock and pose challenges to parts of the U.S. as well. Severe and unpredictable floods are challenging South Asia. Island nations are grappling with relocating their citizens as the sea level rises.

http://www.rollcall.com/news/35454-1.html?type=printer_friendly

Farm Futures: Bringing Agriculture Back to U.S. Policy, *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2009

By Dan Glickman and Catherine Bertini

It is not easy for Americans to understand the starvation that afflicts much of the developing world. Families in the poorest parts of Africa and Asia spend up to 80 percent of their incomes on food; for the average U.S. household, that would mean an annual grocery bill of \$40,000. Yes, there are hungry Americans in the millions, and the U.S. food-stamp program is operating at record levels. But hunger in the United States does not put tens of thousands of infants into hospitals and require them to be hooked up to feeding tubes. Nor does it lead to stunting, wasting, and debilitating forms of malnutrition, such as kwashiorkor and marasmus. Yet even if Americans strain to comprehend the depth of hunger that plagues much of Africa and Asia, they do care about it. They know that chronic hunger among Afghans, Congolese, or North Koreans can pose a threat to their national security. Surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center have consistently revealed that Americans want to make ending hunger and poverty a priority for U.S. foreign policy. A recent survey conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs showed that the American public feels aid to poor farmers overseas should play a more prominent role than any other form of U.S. development assistance.

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/FA.pdf>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Chairman Kerry Urges Larger US-Pakistan Relief Effort For The Humanitarian Crisis In Pakistan, *Office of Senator Kerry*, June 3

The humanitarian crisis in Swat gets worse every day, which is why it's so critical that the government of Pakistan and the Obama Administration undertake immediate joint relief operations modeled on our successful efforts following the 2005 Kashmir earthquake. We don't need to repeat that disaster when instead we can show America's true commitment to the Pakistani people.

<http://kerry.senate.gov/cfm/record.cfm?id=313918>

Climate bill floor debate possible before July 4, House leader says, *The New York Times*, June 3

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said today that Democrats are considering floor debate this month on energy and climate legislation, even as six committees work through details of the comprehensive measure.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/06/03/03greenwire-climate-bill-floor-debate-possible-before-july-52243.html>

Lawmakers seek broader U.S. biomass-for-biofuel list, *Reuters*, June 3

Farm-state lawmakers on Wednesday asked the Obama administration to back a broader definition of biomass for use in renewable fuels, an issue entangled with congressional action on climate change. Some lawmakers from rural districts say they will not support the climate bill without a more favorable treatment of biofuels, such as an expansive definition of biomass.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-BusinessofGreen/idUSTRE5527E520090603>

Lincoln heads agriculture subcommittee, *Arkansas News*, June 3

U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln took on additional leadership responsibilities in the U.S. Senate on Wednesday. Lincoln, D-Ark., was named chairman of the of the Senate Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Rural Revitalization, Conservation, Forestry and Credit.

<http://arkansasnews.com/2009/06/03/lincoln-heads-agriculture-subcommittee/>

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS

The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Women and Children in South Asia, *UNICEF*, June

The eight countries in South Asia have been shaken by the shocks and turbulence in commodity and financial markets over the last two years. Without urgent, inclusive government response, the poor of South Asia – nearly 20% of the world's population – will sink further into poverty and malnutrition, with long-term negative consequences for growth and development in the region and globally.

<http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/amatterofmagnitude.pdf>

International Food Assistance: Local and Regional Procurement Provides Opportunities to Enhance U.S. Food Aid, but Challenges May Constrain Its Implementation, *U.S. Government Accountability Office*, June 2009

"We found that locally and regionally procured food costs considerably less than U.S. in-kind food aid for sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. We compared the cost per ton of eight similar commodities for the same recipient countries in the same quarter of a given year and found that the average cost of World Food Program's (WFP) local procurements in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia was 34 percent and 29 percent lower, respectively, than the cost of food aid shipped from the United States. Additionally, about 95 percent of WFP local procurements in sub-Saharan Africa and 96 percent in Asia cost less than corresponding U.S. in-kind food aid."

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09757t.pdf>

Food Outlook: Global Market Analysis, *FAO*, June 2009

With the second-highest recorded cereals crop expected this year and stocks replenished, the world food supply looks less vulnerable to shocks than it was during last year's food crisis. But some potential dangers remain. Apparent easing of market conditions was reflected in the benchmark FAO Food Price Index, which had fallen by one third since its peak in June 2008 at the height of the world food crisis.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/ai482e/ai482e00.htm>

See Also: Global cereal production continues to reach unexpected highs – UN report, *UN News Centre*, June 4

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31024&Cr=Food+crisis&Cr1=>

Rice: A new cash crop for Uganda's busy farmers, *Africa Report*, June - July

Sprouting up amid fields of matoke, maize and coffee which carpet the hills of eastern Uganda is a new cash crop. Rice, which is also fast becoming the food of choice for a young generation reluctant to spend time preparing the traditional maize-porridge ugali, has helped spark a revolution in smallholder farming. Smallholder rice farming in Uganda has doubled as farmers have seen the advantages of growing rice as a cash crop.

http://www.theafricareport.com/images/pdf/17/TAR17_9.pdf

Satellite Imagery Indicates 2009 Corn Area in Zimbabwe Is Less Than Corn Area in 2000, *Relief Web*, June 2

A combination of field observations, satellite imagery for 2000 and 2009, and seed production data from 2000-2009 indicates that Zimbabwe's corn area has decreased over the past nine years rather than increased as stated by AGRITEX Second Round reports in April 2008 and April 2009.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-7SN8ST/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MUMA-7SN8ST/$File/full_report.pdf)

2009 Annual Letter from Bill Gates: Agriculture, *The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*, June 3

About 2.5 billion people live on less than \$2 a day. More than 900 million suffer from chronic hunger, and most of them live in rural areas of developing countries. This is why the foundation added our Global Development Program to complement the Global Health group two years ago. New seeds and other inputs like fertilizer allow a farmer to increase her farm's output significantly, instead of just growing enough food to subsist. This innovation is just as important as developing and delivering vaccinations.

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/annual-letter/Pages/2009-agricultural-development-africa-asia.aspx>

Agriculture is essential for facing climate change: Climate Change mitigation from agriculture could also benefit hunger and poverty reduction, *FAO*, June 3

Agricultural mitigation in developing countries can make farming more resilient to the vagaries of climate change and can also reduce hunger and poverty, FAO said in a policy brief for climate change negotiators currently meeting in Bonn/Germany. New and more flexible financing mechanisms are needed that offer incentives to farmers, including smallholders, so that they may participate in greenhouse gas emission reductions and removals.

http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/data/nrc/policy_brief_sbstabonn.pdf

The future of climate finance: a new approach is needed, *Overseas Development Institute*, June 2009

Despite the promises made, developing countries are being short-changed by the industrialised north for the costs of putting right the damage caused by climate change. Current climate change aid commitments fall far short of the estimated \$100 billion needed each year, with actual disbursements even lower. This Opinion argues for a shift away from the traditional official development assistance (ODA) approach, outlining three possible funding approaches that would generate funding in a spirit of partnership.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3317.pdf>

World Watch Report: Mitigating Climate Change Through Food and Land Use, *World Watch Institute*, June 1

Agriculture, forestry, and other changes in land use are responsible for more than 30 percent of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. Despite advances in the energy sector, the only method currently available for removing large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere is plant photosynthesis. The report explains how capturing carbon in the land through agricultural and land use practices can reduce the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change, using these five major strategies: i) Enriching soil carbon, ii) Farming with perennials, iii) Climate-friendly livestock production, iv) Protecting natural habitat and v) Restoring degraded watersheds and rangelands.

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6126#summary>

The Red List of Trees of Central Asia, *Fauna & Flora International*, June 1

In Central Asia, a vast and varied region with generally relatively low forest cover, tree species are of great value in defining forest ecosystems and providing resources such as fuelwood, timber, fruits and nuts. This report presents a review of the conservation status in the wild of the trees of Central Asia.

<http://www.globaltrees.org/downloads/RedListCentralAsia.pdf>

Impacts of Selected US Ethanol Policy Options, *Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri (FAPRI-MU)*, May 2009

In response to a request from several members of Congress, the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri (FAPRI-MU) has examined alternatives to current US ethanol policies. Some of the alternative scenarios modify or eliminate tax credits to ethanol blenders, import tariffs and use mandates. Others make payments to ethanol plants, allow 15% ethanol blends and divert distillers grains from domestic feed markets.

http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2009/FAPRI_MU_Report_04_09.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

2009 World Food Prize Laureate Announcement Ceremony

Date: June 11, 2009

Location: U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC

The 2009 winner of the \$250,000 World Food Prize – the most prestigious international award honoring individual breakthrough achievements increasing the quantity, quality, and availability of food in the world – will be made known at this special, invitation-only event hosted by the Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs and featuring remarks by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

https://www.worldfoodprize.org/press_room/2009/may/09announcement.htm

Strengthening Social Entrepreneurship: An Innovative Approach to the Teaching of Food Policy Analysis, IFPRI

Date: June 11, 2009

Time: 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Speaker: Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Cornell University

IFPRI is pleased to invite you to the following Policy Seminar, which we will hold in our fourth floor conference facility located at 2033 K Street, NW (entrance on 21st Street, between K and L Streets). **Kindly RSVP to Simone Hill-Lee** (s.hill-lee@cgiar.org; Tel: 202.862.8107). *Per Pinstrup-Andersen is the J. Thomas Clark Professor of Entrepreneurship at Cornell, H.E. Babcock Professor of Food, Nutrition and Public Policy, Nutritional Sciences Professor, Applied Economics and Management College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.*

From Poverty to Productivity: How to Feed the World's Hungry

Speakers: **Robert Thompson**, Gardner Chair in Agricultural Policy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; **Jerry Hagstrom**, National Journal; **Roger Thurow**, foreign reporter, Wall Street Journal; **Scott Kilman**, agriculture reporter, Wall Street Journal; **Marv Baldwin**, president, Foods Resource Bank

Date: **June 17, 2009**

Time: **6:00 p.m.**

Location: Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, IL

For more than 40 years, humankind has had the knowledge, tools, and resources to end chronic hunger worldwide. Yet at the start of the twenty-first century, 25,000 people a day – and nearly six million children a year – die of hunger, malnutrition, and related diseases. Malnutrition kills more Africans than AIDS and malaria combined. In this compelling investigative narrative, Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman, award-winning writers on Africa, development, and agriculture, explain through vivid human stories how the agricultural revolutions that transformed South America and Asia stopped short in Africa. They argue passionately and convincingly that this generation is the one that could finally end the scourge that has haunted the human race since its beginning.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago_council_event_corporate_detail.php?eventid=2087

Joint International Agricultural Conference

Date: July 6-8, 2009

Location: Droevendaalsesteeg 2, 6708 PB Wageningen, Netherlands

The main objective of the joint conference will be to form a platform for cooperation between different fields of research and to provide an opportunity to join forces with representatives from the agricultural industry and policy makers. A second objective will be to exchange research efforts focusing on precision agriculture, precision livestock farming and information technology in agriculture, food and the environment.

<http://www.jiac2009.nl/Home/tabid/362/Default.aspx>

Farm Foundation Forum

Date: July 14, 2009

Location: Washington, DC

Topic: Carbon Policy Issues and Implications for Agriculture

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/webcontent/Farm-Foundation-Forums-363.aspx?z=na&a=363>

International ISHS/ProMusa Symposium Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges

Date: September 14-18, 2009

Location: Guang Dong, China,

ProMusa, in collaboration with the Guang Dong Academy for Agricultural Sciences (GDAAS), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and Bioversity's Banana and Plantain Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific (BAPNET), has announced the "International Banana Symposium: Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges."

http://www.promusa.org/symposium_2009/home.html

http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/fischerboel-hill-event_may-06-09-invite-final-3.pdf

2009 World Food Prize and "Borlaug Dialogue" symposium: Food, Agriculture, and National Security

Date: October 14-16, 2009

Location: Des Moines, IA

The formal awarding of the \$250,000 World Food Prize will be the cornerstone of a week-long series of events that will attract several hundred government officials and policymakers, private-sector and agribusiness executives, academics and scientists, and NGO and development-agency leaders from over 65 countries. The "conversations" of the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium will this year focus on the connection between food and agriculture and national and international security and cooperation, with speakers including renowned global CEOs, agricultural ministers and diplomats, noted intelligence and security experts, and other eminent leaders in agricultural and rural development.

<https://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009.htm> (registration available beginning in June)

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Microcredit loans 'used to buy food', *Financial Times*, June 4

Fewer than half of microcredit borrowers invest the money in the grassroots businesses that such loans are intended to foster, new research into poverty alleviation has discovered. Researchers say microlenders have realised that many extremely poor borrowers are using their loans for other purposes, such as buying food reserves.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ac2c0dc8-509e-11de-9530-00144feabdc0.html>

Does the Elephant Dance?, *The Economist*, June 4

Despite several years of breakneck growth, India falls far short in protecting its own people from poverty. Some 230m Indians suffer from chronic hunger, a number that has grown thanks to the global downturn and sharp swings in the price of food and fuel. China's record, with malnourishment largely banished, is far better.

http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=13782958

WFP says hunger kills more than AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis combined, *Xinhua (China)*, June 4

Hunger kills more people every year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined, the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) said. According to relative researches, WFP said in the release that there are 25,000 people, both of adults and children, die a day from hunger and related causes, in which one child is dying every six seconds from hunger and related diseases (or 14,000 children a day).

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/04/content_11488150.htm

South Africa: Rural Development, Food Security a Priority, *AllAfrica.com*, June 3

Government is to put in place a comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security. Government is committed to creating an environment that ensures that there is adequate food available to all and it will encourage people to grow their own food and will protect the poor communities from the rising prices of food and eradicate hunger, said President Zuma.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906030830.html>

Let them eat cash: Can Bill Gates turn hunger into profit? *Harper's*, June

The latter-day emperors arrived in Rome. Presidents, prime ministers, plutocrats, puppets, dictators, and thugs left their limousines across the street from the Circus Maximus and paraded into the High-Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy. That was quite a bit to consider in one conference, but as the number of starving people on earth rose toward one billion, famine pushed aside all other concerns.

<http://frederickkaufman.typepad.com/harpersmag/Let%20Them%20Eat%20Cash!.pdf>

Africa: Camel farming could be the answer, *IRIN*, June 3

Camel farming could be an option for some 20 million to 35 million people living on semi-arid land in Africa, who will soon be unable to grow crops because of climate change, says the co-author of a new study. The authors focused on the arid and semi-arid regions of West, East and southern Africa, where poor rainfall routinely causes crops to fail in one out of every six or even fewer growing seasons.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84691>

Full Article (Subscription only): Croppers to livestock keepers: livelihood transitions to 2050 in Africa due to climate change, *Environmental Science and Policy*, June

http://pressroomilri.files.wordpress.com/2009/06/croppers-to-livestock-keepers-paper_final.pdf

In Zimbabwe, a tough old farmer faces another fight for his land, *Los Angeles Times*, June 3

Thousands of farmers were forced off their land when President Robert Mugabe told war veterans to invade white-owned farms in 2000. The seizures destroyed agriculture and the economy, ultimately undermining the entire public sector, including healthcare and education.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-farmer3-2009jun03.0.2688290.story>

Farmland buying may harm poor states -EU official, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, June 3

The European Union is concerned by the trend of foreign investors and countries acquiring large tracts of farmland in developing countries to guarantee their own food security, a senior EU official said.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/8539488>

SC Johnson Initiates Partnership to Help Rwanda Farmers Boost Incomes, Sustainable Supply of Pyrethrum, *PR Newswire*, June 2

SC Johnson announced today that it is initiating a partnership with a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded project starting this June to benefit thousands of Rwanda pyrethrum farmers by helping them enhance the collection, drying and transportation of higher-quality pyrethrum flowers.

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/agriculture/20090602/CG2657202062009-1.html>

Opinion: Uganda: Let's Stand up Against Hunger, *AllAfrica.com*, June 2

I refer to the news about the looming hunger in eastern and northern Uganda and the increasing prices of food stuffs. Speaking at the celebrations to mark the World Food Day in Tororo last year, agriculture minister Hilary Onek said nine million Ugandans (31%) were not certain of their daily bread.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906030014.html>

Eating plenty but not well, *Irish Times*, June 2

Nutrition experts from around the world gathered in Beijing recently to discuss ways of dealing with one of the greatest threats to people living a healthy and productive life, a situation called hidden hunger. Hidden hunger describes the situation where people get enough calories to live but not the right mix of vitamins and minerals they need to lead a healthy and productive life. It affects more than two billion people worldwide.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/health/2009/0602/1224247859929.html>

AGRA and JICA Cement New Partnership to Double Africa's Rice Production, *AllAfrica.com*, June 1

One year almost to the day after the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) jointly launched a major initiative aimed at doubling Africa's rice production by 2018, AGRA and JICA are entering into a long-term pact that builds on the strengths of each organization to reach their ambitious goal.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906020246.html>

Food Security and The Income Gap, *Science Daily*, June 1

The income gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" must be taken into account when considering the issue of food security across Asia. Lily Kiminami, Professor in Regional, Rural and Development Economics in the Institute of Science and Technology, at Niigata University, Japan, have investigated the impact of economic growth on food consumption in Asia and taken into consideration the income gap.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/06/090601102019.htm>

Full Article (Subscription only): Food security and sustainability policy in Asia, *International Journal of Agricultural Resources, Governance and Ecology*, June

http://www.inderscience.com/search/index.php?action=record&rec_id=26232&prevQuery=&ps=10&m=or

Ghana: NRGП Launched in Upper East Region, *AllAfrica.com*, June 1

The Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP), a Project aimed at empowering farmers in the Northern, Upper East and the Upper West Regions to undertake farming and to easily gain market for their produce nationally and internationally has been launched in Bolgatanga, Upper East Region.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906010684.html>

Is offshore farming a good thing for Africa?, *Seattle Times*, June 1

To overcome shortages of farmland or water at home, a few wealthy countries are turning to buying or leasing land in Africa to produce their food. Saudi Arabia, for example, has started farming in Ethiopia, where it recently brought in its first 2,000 tons of Basmati rice.

http://blog.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/philanthropy/2009/06/01/is_offshore_farming_a_good_thi.html

The President of Philippines directs LGUs to bring science and technology to the masses, *Philippines News Agency*, May 31

Local government units (LGUs) with large agricultural, fishery and forestry areas and whose constituents derive livelihood from farming such as urban agriculture and agri-based pro-poor nutrition/livelihood programs, should be encouraged in the generation and utilization of science and technology and to regulate the transfer and promote the adaptation of technology from all sources for the national benefit.

http://positivenewsmedia.net/am2/publish/Main_News_1/PGMA_directs_LGUs_to_bring_science_and_technology_to_the_masses.shtml

Tajikistan: Farmers advised to replant flood-damaged crops, *IRIN*, May 28

Farmers in Tajikistan will have to replant their crops after floods and mudflows damaged up to 40,000 hectares of agricultural land, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84589>

World Bank provides further support to rehabilitate Afghanistan's irrigation schemes, *Relief Web*, May 28

The World Bank today approved an additional grant of US\$33.5 million to help restore irrigated agricultural production in Afghanistan's rural communities through improved and reliable water supply to irrigation schemes. The additional grant will support the continuation of Afghanistan's Emergency Irrigation Rehabilitation Project (EIRP), which is part of the government's broader effort to rehabilitate and restore irrigation infrastructure.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/KHII-7SH3JA?OpenDocument>

Kenya: Slum-dwellers priced into hunger, *Afrika*, May 28

Millions of people who live in Kenya's sprawling slums are among those worst hit by the food price crisis, yet they receive far less humanitarian attention than other demographic groups, according to officials, who pointed in particular to the plight of malnourished children in such settlements.

<http://www.afrika.no/Detailed/18362.html>

Local African Fruits Valuable During Food Shortages, *VOA News*, May 28

In African agriculture, many crops are considered "lost" to modern research, meaning they've not been studied and developed to their fullest potential. Experts say the crops could reduce malnutrition and hunger

while boosting food security by providing inexpensive food. Among them are fruits like the tamarind, baobab tree or the desert date.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-05-28-voa54.cfm>

Food Security in Africa: China's New Rice Bowl, *Jamestown Foundation, May 27*

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is home to 22 percent of the world's population, but has only 7 percent of its total arable land. African nations, with their vast and sparsely populated fertile lands, offer China a solution to its rising food demand. Most Chinese investment in African agriculture is concentrated in southern Africa: Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi and, increasingly, Angola.

[http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=35042&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=7&cHash=41937191b3](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=35042&tx_ttnews[backPid]=7&cHash=41937191b3)

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

The Sachs-Moyo-Easterly Aid Debate: An Activist's Perspective, *Kristi York Wooten, Huffington Post, June 3*

In reading and participating in the exchange about aid to Africa (in particular, the one that began with the ONE campaign's critique of Dambisa Moyo's book, *Dead Aid*, soon after its release back in March), I'm glad to see so many folks up in arms over the subject. Congratulations to Ms. Moyo for stirring the pot. And kudos to Jeffrey Sachs for continuing to defend his position so vehemently.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristi-york-wooten/the-sachs-moyo-easterly-a_b_210473.html

UN launches \$718 million Zimbabwe aid appeal, *Associated Press, June 2*

Zimbabwe's humanitarian situation has deteriorated sharply since the end of last year, U.N. agencies said as they called for more aid for the troubled southern African country. In a joint statement, the agencies appealed for \$718 million for 2009 to provide food, clean water, AIDS medicines and other aid — up from an estimate of \$550 million in November. Six million people, more than half the population, have limited or no access to clean water and 5.1 million will still need food aid this year.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hd8hsak_oBD6GfNyPIuaHYBox0TQD98I1T004

Steve Forbes delves into situations where microfinance and venture capitalism can succeed instead of aid, *Forbes.com, June 1*

It's time to rethink how we give foreign aid to the world's poor. I was recently involved with the launch and promotion of a book called *Dead Aid*, by former **Goldman Sachs** economist Dambisa Moyo. She believes that direct foreign aid to African countries has bred dependency and corruption and trapped nations in poverty.

<http://www.forbes.com/2009/05/29/forbes-venture-capitalism-intelligent-investing-fund.html>

Editorial: International aid: Help or handout? *The Guardian, May 30*

If international aid worked then Africa, South America and Asia would be rich and Bob Geldof could retire. When a Zambian-born economist like Dambisa Moyo, in a much-debated new book, says aid is part of the problem, and gets a round of applause from many Africans, it is time to listen, although not to agree.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/may/30/international-aid-moyo-africa>

U.S. urges more foreign aid for Afghanistan, *Washington Post, May 30*

There are a lot of challenges in front of us in Afghanistan ... It's a desperately poor country. It's the fourth or fifth poorest country in the world, but there's potential. Afghanistan 35 years ago before all the wars was actually an agricultural-exporting country, and something other than poppies.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/30/AR2009053000227.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Climate Change Models Find Maize, Millet, Other Staple Crops Face Ruin On Up to One Million Square Kilometers of African Farmland, *International Livestock Research Institute, June 3*

A new study by researchers from the Nairobi-based International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the United Kingdom's Waen Associates has found that by 2050, hotter conditions, coupled with shifting rainfall patterns, could make anywhere from 500,000 to one million square kilometers of marginal African farmland no longer able to support even a subsistence level of food crops.

http://www.ilri.org/ILRIPubAware/ShowDetail.asp?CategoryID=TS&ProductReferenceNo=TS_090603_01

Climate change threatens African farmland –study, *Reuters, June 2*

Climate change could cost the African continent more farmland than the United States uses to plant its eight major field crops combined, according to a study published in the June issue of Environmental Science and Policy. Farming on up to 1 million square kilometers (247 million acres) of land in Africa could subside by 2050 as climate change makes areas too hot and dry for growing crops, the study said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN02530991>

See Also: **Study Finds Large Area of Africa Vulnerable to Climate Change**, *VOA News, June 3*

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-06-03-voa37.cfm>

Carbon emissions threaten 'underwater catastrophe', scientists warn, *The Guardian, June 1*

Changes to the ocean caused by carbon dioxide emissions could lead to an "underwater catastrophe", damaging wildlife, food production and livelihoods, scientists warned today.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jun/01/carbon-emissions-ocean-acidification>

Road to greenhouse gas control goes through farmers, *Philip Brasher, Des Moines Register, May 31*

If Democrats are serious about enacting controls on greenhouse gases, they may have to win over farmers first.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090531/BUSINESS03/905310314/1029/BUSINESS>

Environment ministers agree common position for climate change deal, *Afrique en ligne, May 29*

African Ministers of the Environment have agreed to mainstream climate change adaptation measures into national and regional development plans, policies and strategies after a day-long meeting in Nairobi on Friday. The Declaration urges all parties – and particularly the international community – that increased support to Africa should be based on the priorities for Africa, which include adaptation, capacity-building, financing and technology development and transfer.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/afrique-news/environment-ministers-agree-common-position-for-climate-change-deal-2009053028685.html>

Top scientists call for cuts in nitrogen use, *Greenwire, May 29*

Top nitrogen scientists yesterday called on policymakers around the globe to cut nitrogen use in developed nations by providing incentives for farmers to reduce fertilizer use, increasing fuel efficiency and improving sewage treatment.

Full Article (Subscription only): <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2009/05/29/16/>

GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Investors in Developing Markets See Optimism, *The New York Times, June 3*

If investors in New York and London are seeing the first delicate signs of a recovery, their counterparts in developing countries say they are witnessing a full-on spring.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/04/business/global/04emerging.html>

Progress made against poverty must continue, *Jennifer Potter and Daniel J. Evans, Op-Ed, Seattle Times, June 1*

Global poverty is at the root of some of the most significant challenges affecting our world today, and reducing it is one of the most powerful steps we can take in creating a better future. During this economic recession, progress made against global poverty must not be undermined.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2009284195_opinb01potter.html

Opinion: Why agriculture? *Business World, June 1*

About 15 years ago, I wrote a column entitled "Why Agriculture?" arguing that agriculture should be the foundation of the country's development strategy. Not surprisingly, our authorities ignored that advice, pursuing instead a strategy of exporting human labor complemented by a strategy of nurturing import-dependent, export-oriented industries such as electronics in industrial enclaves.

<http://www.bworldonline.com/BW060109/content.php?id=146>

Editorial: Aid famine: World Food Programme, *The Guardian*, May 28

The World Food Programme, the leading agency in dealing with famine and humanitarian disasters, is facing a crisis of its own. It has only got one-fifth of the money it needs to fund this year's programme. But the demand for its food is higher than ever. The WFP expects to feed 105 million people this year alone.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/may/28/editorial-world-food-programme-aid>

ASEAN 'should focus on agriculture' *The Nation*, May 28, 2009

ASEAN members and other countries must concentrate on agriculture rather than manufacturing and services, to help prevent a food crisis and foster sustainable development in the global economy, a seminar heard yesterday. The global food crisis and financial crunch has created problems for every nation. Every nation must focus on increasing agriculture to solve these crises, said He Changchui, assistant director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2009/05/28/business/business_30103806.php

BIOFUELS

Ryegrass could be turned into 'green' fuel for Wales, *Daily Post*, June 3

SOME of Wales' green, green grass of home could soon be turned into a transport fuel as part of a £1m project. The Grassohol research project aims to develop commercially and economically viable processes to make ethanol from perennial ryegrass – the most commonly sown grass in the UK which is normally used for grazing or silage.

<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/business-news/business-news/2009/06/03/ryegrass-could-be-turned-into-green-fuel-for-wales-55578-23777436/>

South African group joins Global Renewable Fuels Alliance, *Ethanol Producers Magazine*, July 2009

The Southern African Biofuels Alliance, a non-profit organization that seeks to facilitate the establishment of a viable biofuels industry in South Africa, recently joined forces with the Global Renewable Fuels Alliance to promote biofuel-friendly policies around the world. According to SABA president Andrew Makenete, biofuels represent an enormous opportunity for developing countries. He said a sustainable biofuels industry would help attract investment in agriculture and improve income levels while reducing reliance on imported energy.

http://ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=5721

WOMEN

"One Woman Initiative" Announces First Grants to Women's Organizations in Five Nations, *USAID*, June 3

The One Woman Initiative (<http://www.OneWomanInitiative.org>), a one-year-old public/private initiative to empower women in countries with significant Muslim populations, today announced its first grants, totaling more than \$500,000 to five grassroots organizations in Azerbaijan, Egypt, India, Pakistan and the Philippines.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2009/pr090603.html>

Under the weather: Early-life rainfall has lasting effect on Indonesian women, *University of Michigan News Service*, June 2

Indonesian women born into rural communities in rainy years grow taller, stay in school longer and live in households with greater wealth than women born in years with lower rainfall, a new University of Michigan study suggests. Women born in years with relatively low rainfall were shorter, reported themselves in worse

health, attained less schooling and lived in households with fewer assets than comparable women who happened to be born in wetter years.

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=7182>

Woman Files One of Highest Civil Suits Ever in Ethiopia's History, *ethiopolitics.com*, June 2

One of the most expensive litigations in Ethiopia's judicial history has been filed by a prominent businesswoman, Mekia Mamio Sikessa, who is claiming compensation worth 300 million Br from two expatriates who allegedly provided faulty consultancy services to her agro-business company.

http://ethiopolitics.com/news_1/20090602929.html

S. Africa's 'Breakthrough' Succession Case; Ruling in Favor of Woman in Chieftaincy Dispute Seen as Victory Over Patriarchal Tribal Traditions, *Washington Post*, June 1

There was nothing remarkable about the case before Hosi Nwamitwa II, chief of the Valoyi tribe that lives in the lush hills here. What was unusual was the person mediating the dispute. For only the second such court session to date, the chief -- whose father, grandfather and great-grandfather had also led the Valoyi -- was a woman.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/31/AR2009053102237.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Risk of explosive surge in soyabean prices, *Financial Times*, June 3

Soyabean prices risk an explosive surge this summer as US stocks could be virtually exhausted before the arrival of the new crop in the autumn, due to production problems in Latin America and strong demand from China. Voracious demand from China, which accounts for almost half of global imports, is a key factor behind the decline in inventories.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8acd5442-4f9b-11de-a692-00144feabdc0.html?nclick_check=1

Africa: Small Holder Farmers to Benefit From U.S. \$150 Billion Market for Farm Produce, *allAfrica.com*, June 1

Seven out of ten Africans earn their living by farming. According to researchers, the market for milk, meat, and staple food crops like maize, banana, sorghum, rice and millet within Africa is estimated at USD\$150 billion a year far exceeding Africa's market for internationally traded cash crops like coffee, tea, and flowers.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200906010066.html>

India Prepares to Challenge U.S. on Trade Barriers, *Business Week*, May 31

India will take up with the U.S. the issue of non-tariff barriers (NTBs)— or restrictions other than those related to tariffs— being faced by Indian businesses in exporting to the country at the next bilateral trade meeting.

http://www.businessweek.com/globalbiz/content/may2009/gb20090531_047075.htm

COMESA on Track with Establishing Customs Union, *InterPress Service*, May 29

Zimbabwe will finally host the 13th Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA) summit in the resort town of Victoria Falls in June where the regional grouping is expected to launch its customs union. The event was twice postponed last year due to Zimbabwe's general elections and the ensuing violence that characterised the country for the better part of the year.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47018>

AGRIBUSINESS

Organic agriculture goes beyond GMO ban, *Business World*, May 28

The Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation, Inc., a nongovernment organization promoting sustainable agricultural production here, said the concept and promotion of organic agriculture in Negros Occidental should not be limited to the ban of genetically-modified organisms (GMO) or products.

Global Food for Thought
May 29-June 5, 2009

<http://www.bworldonline.com/BW052809/content.php?id=122>

Poultry farmers struggle to raise egg consumption, *Business World*, May 28

POULTRY FARMERS want to increase per capita egg consumption in the country and promote the industry by engaging in a marketing campaign. Per capita egg consumption in the country (94) is much lower compared to Thailand (145) and Malaysia (305) and even the US (257).

<http://www.bworld.com.ph/BW052809/content.php?id=123>

Full Article (Subscription only): http://codex.bworldonline.com/reg_unlimited.html

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