

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



May 7<sup>th</sup> – May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“We’re focusing on women – the mothers, the farmers, the health workers, the community leaders whose insights and efforts can make the difference between a successful program and one that falls short. And we’re putting an end to the stove-piping that has long hindered our government’s nutrition efforts. For years, experts have been saying that this is a problem that must be addressed through a comprehensive response that unites experts and programs from across different fields. But for too long, the agricultural experts didn’t talk to the neonatal experts who didn’t talk to the early childhood experts. Well, we’re trying to end that and we’re trying to make nutrition the intersection of two major new policy initiatives – the Global Health Initiative, a six-year, \$63 billion effort to strengthen the health systems of our partner countries and Feed the Future, our hunger and food security initiative of at least three years and \$3.5 billion to improve agricultural systems from farms to markets.”—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Remarks at CARE’s 2010 National Conference and Celebration, May 11, 2010*

**NOTE: On Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Global Agricultural Development Initiative will publish a special edition of the *Global Food for Thought* news brief with coverage of the [Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security](#), including the Obama Administration’s *Feed the Future* document; remarks from keynote speakers; and media coverage of the event. The standard edition of the *Global Food for Thought* news brief will be circulated on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**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](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
- To receive *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please register [here](#).
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**KEY ARTICLES**

**The G8-G20 Globe and Mail Edition**, *Globe and Mail*, May 10

The *Globe and Mail* was edited on May 10 by two guest editors – anti-poverty activists Bono and Bob Geldof – who produced a special issue focused on the future of Africa and its importance not just for the more than 1 billion people living on that continent, but for Canadians and the rest of the West as well.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/g8-g20/africa/>

**See Also: Bono Interviews Obama for the African Century Edition**, *Globe and Mail*, May 11

BONO: The U.S. Food Security Initiative takes a new approach to providing development assistance. We're very excited about it. What impact do you think it will have and what are the roadblocks you are coming up against?

OBAMA: One of the important facts about the Food Security Initiative is that it was shaped by developing countries. The African Union's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program calls on its members to invest their own resources, develop comprehensive country plans, and then to engage those of us in the donor community. We and our partners in the G8 – and other donors – have agreed to follow that model. Our food security initiative builds on the principles endorsed by the G8 last year in L'Aquila – principles that position donor countries to be far more supportive and effective partners. The challenge now is to translate principles into action. It's still early, but we expect that by the time the summit kicks off, we'll be able to say that we've allocated resources to country plans and to research and development, that we've launched a new trust fund headed by the World Bank, and that we're at the table with resources, technical advice and support, and the willingness to invest as partners.

<http://license.icopyright.net/user/viewFreeUse.act?fuid=ODMxOTgyNQ%3D%3D>

**See Also: Aid Makes a Difference, But Africans Must Control Their Own Fate**, *Ellen Johnson Sirleaf*, *President of Liberia*, May 11

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/g8-g20/africa/aid-makes-a-difference-but-africans-must-control-their-own-fate/article1562275/>

**See Also: The Scramble for Africa Begins Anew**, *Op-Ed*, *Paul Collier*, *Professor of Economics, Oxford University*, *Globe and Mail*, May 10

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/g8-g20/opinion/the-scramble-for-africa-begins-anew/article1562273/>

**See Also: G8 Invitation Augurs Well for African Nations**, *Globe and Mail*, May 10

Harper's overture to Malawi and Ethiopia signals that Africa is finally doing more than just waiting for help.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/g8-g20/g8-invitation-augurs-well-for-african-nations/article1562625/>

**USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah Marks His First Visit to Africa as Administrator**, *United States Agency for International Development*, May 12

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah will make his first trip to Africa as Administrator, visiting both Kenya and Sudan. During his six-day visit he will focus on the development and progress of President Obama's Global Health Initiative and Food Security Initiative, while gaining a deeper understanding of U.S. bilateral and regional investments in agriculture, health, and democracy and governance. He will engage with USAID and U.S. government Country and Regional Team officials and staff, and discuss the context of Sudan humanitarian, development and peace building missions.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100512.html>

**USAID Needs More Autonomy**, *Op-Ed*, *Nancy Birdsall*, *President, Center for Global Development*, *Sarah Jane Staats*, *Director of Policy Outreach, Center for Global Development*, *Global Post*, May 10

After 16 months of new administration, still no accountability for the \$20 billion of development money the US spends yearly.

<http://www.globalpost.com/print/5549548>

**Remarks at CARE's 2010 National Conference and Celebration**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, May 11*

"We're focusing on women – the mothers, the farmers, the health workers, the community leaders whose insights and efforts can make the difference between a successful program and one that falls short. And we're putting an end to the stove-piping that has long hindered our government's nutrition efforts. For years, experts have been saying that this is a problem that must be addressed through a comprehensive response that unites experts and programs from across different fields. But for too long, the agricultural experts didn't talk to the neonatal experts who didn't talk to the early childhood experts. Well, we're trying to end that and we're trying to make nutrition the intersection of two major new policy initiatives – the Global Health Initiative, a six-year, \$63 billion effort to strengthen the health systems of our partner countries and Feed the Future, our hunger and food security initiative of at least three years and \$3.5 billion to improve agricultural systems from farms to markets."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/05/141726.htm>

**Honoring Mothers Worldwide**, *Op-Ed, U.S. Senator Chris Dodd and former U.S. Senator Bill Frist, Politico, May 9*

The most effective solutions are not high tech. Exclusive breastfeeding, micro-nutrients, antibiotics, anti-malarials, vaccines, oral-rehydration therapy and ready-to-eat foods could save millions of children each year.

<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=750CBB11-18FE-70B2-A8325EC56C78B691>

**The Other 3Ds: Decapitate, Demote, and Deny USAID?**, *Todd Moss, vice president for corporate affairs, Center for Global Development, Huffington Post, May 11*

Like many U.S. policy watchers, I have been reserving judgment on the administration's development policy while they staffed up and worked through the PSD and QDDR. The rhetoric and the overall budget have so far been positive signs that development issues will get more attention and the key agencies more of a role in the interagency process. But, at sixteen months and counting, I have a nagging question that I suspect I share with many others: Since when does "elevating development" mean further eroding USAID's leadership, status, and mandates?

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/todd-moss/the-other-3ds-decapitate\\_b\\_572193.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/todd-moss/the-other-3ds-decapitate_b_572193.html)

**Starting Early**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought blog, May 14*

In far off places of the world, Action Against Hunger is on the front lines of the hunger battle, deploying innovations like Plumpy'nut, a peanut spread fortified with nutrients that often brings severely malnourished children back from the brink of starvation. In the U.S., the organization is working with about 100 schools this year spreading a different kind of elixir to more fortunate children – awareness.

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

**World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 11*

This report presents USDA's initial assessment of U.S. and world crop supply and demand prospects and U.S. prices for the 2010/11 season. Also presented are the first calendar-year 2011 projections of U.S. livestock, poultry, and dairy products. Projections reflect economic analysis, normal weather, trends, and judgment. Because spring planting is still underway in the Northern Hemisphere and remains several months away in the Southern Hemisphere, these projections are highly tentative.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/waob/wasde/2010s/2010/wasde-05-11-2010.pdf>

**See Also: Crop Stocks Set to Rise for Third Year in a Row**, *Financial Times, May 11*

Global inventories of cereals, including wheat, rice and corn, will increase in 2010-11 for the third year in a row, the US Department of Agriculture said. The USDA said global stocks have surged almost 40 per cent in three years and could mitigate any potential supply shock next year. "Surging production has – temporarily, at least – allayed recent concerns about the world's ability to meet rising food, feed and fuel needs," it said.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/81620e64-5cda-11df-bd7e-00144feab49a.html>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **At U.S.-Afghan Meetings, Talk of Nuts and Bolts**, *New York Times*, May 13

Mr. Holbrooke said that rebuilding Afghanistan's agricultural sector was the United States' top priority outside of security. He talks so much about pomegranates and irrigation canals that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton once referred to him in a public meeting as "Farmer Holbrooke." The Department of Agriculture now has 52 experts in the field in Afghanistan and eight staff members in Kabul. Working on one-year assignments, they are offering advice to farmers on irrigation, helping to install windmills, establishing nurseries and training veterinarians. With American help, Afghanistan is creating a system of credit for farmers that officials hope will compete with the advances they get from drug smugglers to plant poppy fields. For now, the government is handing out vouchers, though Mr. Vilsack said the eventual goal was an agricultural credit bank.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/14/world/asia/14karzai.html>

### **See Also: Remarks by President Obama and President Karzai of Afghanistan in Joint Press Availability**, *White House*, May 12

"I also welcomed President Karzai's commitment to take additional steps that can improve the lives of the Afghan people in concrete ways, especially with regard to the rule of law, agricultural production, economic growth, and the delivery of basic services. Even as we begin to transition security responsibility to Afghans over the next year, we will sustain a robust commitment in Afghanistan going forward. And the presence here today of so many leaders from both our governments underscores how we can partner across a full range of areas -- including development and agriculture, education and health, rule of law and women's rights."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-obama-and-president-karzai-afghanistan-joint-press-availability>

### **See Also: Remarks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in a Moderated Conversation**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, May 13

Karzai: "On strategic partnership and enduring partnership, you heard both of us spoke. On economic matters, we had extensive engagement on the issue of agriculture and the importance of agriculture and the viability of the Afghan agriculture sector, its ability to produce the best quality of foods and to export on mineral resources, the abilities of Afghanistan, the richness of the country and the mineral resources that can easily run of the knowledge that we have today of the Afghan mineral resources to over a billion dollars."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/05/141825.htm>

### **See Also: U.S.-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Discussions**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, May 11

Clinton: "But we know that security cannot be divorced from development. So when we added troops this year, we also tripled the number of U.S. civilians on the ground. These diplomats and development experts are partnering with our military and their Afghan counterparts, helping to strengthen institutions and expand economic opportunities in areas like agriculture."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/05/141714.htm>

### **United State Trade Representative Ron Kirk Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AGOA with Members of Congress**, *Office of the United States Trade Representative*, May 13

"By opening the American market to almost all goods from beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, AGOA has helped Africans use trade to fight poverty and grow their economies – and AGOA is also good for U.S. business. By promoting an improved business environment in many African countries, AGOA has opened up new opportunities for U.S. exports. The result is a substantial increase in two-way U.S.-Africa trade since 2000, with African countries now exporting to the United States a more diverse range of value-added products. The success of AGOA is a powerful demonstration of the linkage between trade and economic development – and more can be done to help African countries make the most of the opportunities AGOA provides."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/may/united-states-trade-representative-ron-kirk-celebrates>

**Remarks with Afghan Women Ministers Before Their Meeting**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, May 13*

"The United States will continue to target assistance to women in areas ranging from girls' education, to better health services, particularly maternal health, to protecting women from violence, to enhancing their roles in agriculture and the economy."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/05/141806.htm>

**USTR Ron Kirk Is in Wisconsin to Meet with Local Farmers and Business Leaders to Discuss Importance of Agriculture and Trade**, *Office of the United States Trade Representative, May 13*

United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk is in Wisconsin to meet with local dairy farmers and business leaders to discuss the importance of agriculture exports and positive international trade relationships.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/may/ustr-ron-kirk-wisconsin-meet-local-farmers-and-busines>

**Report Released on 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the May 10 Agreement Shows American Agriculture Being Left Behind by Administration's Failed Trade Policy**, *U.S. House Committee on Ways & Means, May 10*

Ways and Means Ranking Member Dave Camp (R-MI), Agriculture Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) released a report showing the harm suffered by American agriculture due to a failure to move forward on pending trade agreements.

<http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=184792>

**American Agriculture Falling Behind**, *Republican Staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, May 10*

[http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/UploadedFiles/AMERICAN\\_AGRICULTURE\\_FALLING\\_BEHIND\\_4\\_doc.pdf](http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/UploadedFiles/AMERICAN_AGRICULTURE_FALLING_BEHIND_4_doc.pdf)

**USDA Official Visits Kenya to Tour World Food Program Sites and Observe Their Impact on Food Security**, *United States Department of Agriculture, May 10*

USDA Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service's Deputy Under Secretary Darci Vetter will join former Senator George S. McGovern in Kenya May 10-16 to visit World Food Program sites and observe, first-hand, how nutrition programs fit into broader food security initiatives in Africa. "The World Food Program is an important participant in USDA's McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program," said Vetter. "Congress recognized the vision of Senators McGovern and Dole when it established this program. It is an amazing opportunity for me to travel with Senator McGovern and see firsthand the direct impact that these programs have on children and families."

[http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/sw/PressRelease/pressrel\\_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0117-10](http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/sw/PressRelease/pressrel_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0117-10)

**State Department's Cheryl Mills on Rebuilding Haiti**, *Washington Post, May 10*

Question: How important is Haitian governance to this process?

MILLS: "This process won't work without Haitian governance and leadership. . . . The U.S. government is targeting certain investments for building the strength and capacity, skills and talents of the Haitian government, as well as attracting new talent to government. We have a set of investments we anticipate making in a number of sectors -- agriculture, energy, justice and health."

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/09/AR2010050903009\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/09/AR2010050903009_pf.html)

**Promoting Global Food Security**, *Editorial, Voice of America, May 2010*

President Obama pledged to provide at least \$3.5 billion over three years to attack the root causes of global hunger by speeding up agricultural development and improving nutrition. In too many places, agriculture has so deteriorated that people cannot grow enough to feed their families or earn an income from selling their crops.

<http://www1.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Promoting-Global-Food-Security-93001389.html>

**Michelle Obama Can Lead a Global Movement for Organic Food**, *Devinder Sharma, Huffington Post, May 8*

The world needs to emerge out of the shackles of industrial agriculture and GM crops, and restore the pride in sustainable farming that is neither damaging to the environment nor destructive to human health. All that

Michelle Obama needs to do is to pick up from where she left. She can emerge taller than any political leader the world has known.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/devinder-sharma/michelle-obama-can-lead-a\\_b\\_568741.html?view=print](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/devinder-sharma/michelle-obama-can-lead-a_b_568741.html?view=print)

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

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## NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

### **Tripling Crop Yields in Tropical Africa**, *Pedro A. Sánchez, Nature Geoscience, May 2010*

Nearly one sixth of the global population is malnourished. The problem is particularly acute in tropical Africa, where constant or recurrent food shortages affect over 30% of the population — over 260 million people. Low levels of agricultural productivity are a key cause of hunger in this part of the world. Decades of farming without adequate fertilizer and manure have stripped the soils of the vital nutrients needed to support plant growth. Replenishing soil fertility, by using mineral and organic fertilizers, is therefore the primary biophysical requirement for increasing food production in tropical Africa. Many studies have shown that, once this fundamental deficiency has been addressed, the road to food security is open.

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v3/n5/pdf/ngeo853.pdf>

### **Identifying Potential Synergies and Trade-Offs for Meeting Food Security and Climate Change Objectives in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, March 2010*

Potential interactions between food production and climate mitigation are explored for two situations in sub-Saharan Africa, where deforestation and land degradation overlap with hunger and poverty. Three agriculture intensification scenarios for supplying nitrogen to increase crop production (mineral fertilizer, herbaceous legume cover crops—*green manures*—and agroforestry—legume *improved tree fallows*) are compared to baseline food production, land requirements to meet basic caloric requirements, and greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/05/06/0912248107.full.pdf+html>

### **The MGDs After the Crisis**, *Global Monitoring Report, World Bank, May 2010*

This year's *Global Monitoring Report* (GMR), examines the impact of the worst recession since the Great Depression on poverty and human development outcomes in developing countries. Although the recovery is under way, the impact of the crisis will be lasting and immeasurable. Developing countries will need to implement significant policy reforms and strengthen institutions to improve the efficiency of service delivery in the face of fiscal constraints. Unlike previous crises, this one was not caused by domestic policy failure in developing countries. So better development outcomes will also hinge on a rapid global economic recovery that improves export conditions, terms-of-trade, and affordable capital flows—as well as meeting aid commitments to low-income countries.

<http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821383162>

### **World Health Statistics 2010**, *World Health Organization, 2010*

World Health Statistics 2010 contains WHO's annual compilation of data from its 193 Member States, and includes a summary of progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals and targets.

[http://www.who.int/entity/whosis/whostat/EN\\_WHS10\\_Full.pdf](http://www.who.int/entity/whosis/whostat/EN_WHS10_Full.pdf)

**See Also: Progress Towards the Health-Related Millennium Development Goals**, *World Health Organization, May 2010*

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs290/en/index.html>

### **Livestock Exports from the Horn of Africa: An Analysis of Benefits by Pastoralist Wealth Group and Policy Implications**, *Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, April 2010*

Support to the export of pastoralist livestock from the Horn of Africa is often viewed by aid organizations as a key poverty reduction strategy. Drawing on existing literature and field research in Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, this report examines if and how different wealth groups benefit from the export trade. It looks in

detail at the household-level economic strategies of different pastoralist wealth groups and their marketing behaviors, and concludes that in terms of poverty reduction, poorer herders benefit least from livestock exports.

<http://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/download/attachments/34824296/LivestockExports.pdf?version=1>

**Patterns and Trends of Child and Maternal Nutrition Inequalities in Nigeria**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

The main objective of this paper is to document a useful starting point for understanding the determinants of inequalities in nutritional status and provide some understanding of the proximate causes of inequalities in nutritional status as well as the factors responsible for inequalities in health and nutritional status of children and women in the policy debate. Using Nigeria as a case study and using data from the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey, this paper measures and decomposes the patterns and trends of inequalities in child and maternal nutritional status in Nigeria.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00968.pdf>

**Poverty status and the impact of social networks on smallholder technology adoption in rural Ethiopia**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, May 2010*

Despite the promise of many new farm technologies, technology adoption rates in Ethiopia remain low. This paper studies the impact of social networks on technology adoption through social learning. In addition to geographic networks, intentional relationships are considered.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00970.pdf>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security: Rescheduled**

*Date:* May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C.

**Cochairs**

Dan Glickman – former secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Catherine Bertini – former executive director, World Food Program

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

**The Honorable Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development**, will discuss the *Feed the Future Guide* and how this USG initiative will be realized through partnerships with recipient countries, bilateral and multilateral donors, and civil society and private sector stakeholders. Panel discussions and keynote speakers will then provide constructive and provocative thinking on how to address policy and implementation challenges. A working agenda is available on the GADI [website](#). Please contact [Lindsay Iversen](#), or phone (312.821.7560) for further information.

**World Progress in Maternal and Child Health, and the Future Role for the U.S.**

*Date:* May 24, 2010

*Location:* Washington, DC

Renewed attention by the global community to improve maternal and child health worldwide is creating the potential for significant progress in the coming years. In the United States, the U.S. government also has increased its focus on tackling the high rates of maternal and child mortality in the developing world through the administration's Global Health Initiative, which includes specific maternal and child health targets and addresses other health challenges affecting women and girls, including family planning and reproductive health.

<http://kff052410.eventbrite.com/>

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

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

*Location:* Barcelona, Spain

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

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

### **InterAction Forum 2010**

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

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

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

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

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

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

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

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

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

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

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

*Location:* Copenhagen, Denmark

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

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

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

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

*Location:* Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

### **The International Rice Congress 2010**

*Date:* November 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

<http://www.ricecongress.com/cmsdetail.php?id=1>

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## **SPECIAL SECTION – CAN BIOTECHNOLOGY SAVE AFRICA?**

**Special report: Can Biotechnology Save Africa?** *Des Moines Register, May 9*

High-tech seeds have transformed agriculture in Iowa, helping ensure a plentiful, cheap supply of corn for food, fuel and other uses. Monsanto and Pioneer Hi-Bred believe biotechnology will change the world, too. The companies, which have major operations in central Iowa, are developing corn seeds to thrive in East African soils with little water or fertilizer. Critics dismiss the projects as publicity stunts. But supporters say that if the projects are successful, the seeds could grow into a new green revolution. They say biotech crops could boost food production, which the United Nations estimates must increase 70 percent by 2050 as the Earth's population grows. The seeds could help drought-stricken farmers like Janet Kaindu. Across her three-acre plot in Kenya's Rift Valley, the few small corn plants that are visible are barely a few inches high nearly two months after she planted them. It is the second time in a year that she's lost a crop. "If it doesn't rain, there's no crop."

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100509/BUSINESS01/100508015/1029/BUSINESS/Special-report-Can-biotechnology-save-Africa>

### **High Hopes and High Stakes**, *Des Moines Register*, May 9

Poor small-scale farmers like Mutua are at the center of a battle over the future of global agriculture and biotechnology. Scientists are preparing to test in Kenya a genetically modified variety of corn that would be resistant to drought. The seeds are the product of a \$47 million project funded largely by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates' foundation and using technology and breeding expertise donated by U.S. seed giant Monsanto Co.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100509/BUSINESS01/5090332/Biotech-in-Africa-High-hopes-and-high-stakes>

### **'A Shortage of Maize Means a Shortage of Food,'** *Des Moines Register*, May 9

Americans feed corn to livestock or turn it into motor fuel or a sweetener for soft drinks. Africans eat it. Every day, sometimes more than once. Corn, or maize as it is called in Africa, is often eaten as a mash made with cornmeal and similar to American grits. In Kenya and some neighboring countries, they call it ugali, pronounced "ooh-gah-lee." It's eaten with the hands - one takes a clump and dips into a dish of vegetables or meat. In South Africa, the mash is known as pap, pronounced "pop."

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100509/BUSINESS01/5090328/Biotech-in-Africa-A-shortage-of-maize-means-a-shortage-of-food>

### **Experts See Cause for Concern**, *Des Moines Register*, May 9

A study published last year by researchers in Kenya and Britain and at Michigan State University predicted that corn production in eastern Africa would rise in tropical regions but drop in more arid areas. Overall, corn production in five countries - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda - should rise by 2050 from 7 million to about 8 million tons. But demand for corn in the region is expected to soar over the same period, from just over 6 million tons today to 17.4 million tons by 2050. In a separate study, the researchers estimated that up to a million square kilometers of marginal African lands, an area about the size of Texas and New Mexico put together, may no longer support even subsistence crops.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100509/BUSINESS01/5090331/Biotech-in-Africa-Experts-see-cause-for-concern>

### **Researchers Prepare for Field Tests**, *Des Moines Register*, May 9

There's nothing like rain to wreck the field trial of a crop designed to resist drought. So an arid plain south of Nairobi is considered a good place to test drought-resistant biotech corn seeds: It doesn't rain for six months at a time. Those long dry periods allow scientists to test the crop by stopping irrigation during critical periods, such as when plants flower.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100509/BUSINESS01/5090329/Biotech-in-Africa-Researchers-prepare-for-field-tests>

### **In South Africa, the Welcome Mat is out**, *Des Moines Register*, May 9

The landscape in this area east of Johannesburg, a slightly rolling plain with fields of tall corn, could almost pass for the American Midwest. Except for one feature - the giant yellowish mounds that are remnants of abandoned gold mines. There's another similarity that's less visible. Much of the corn, including a field that

farmer Tommie Olckers is checking, contains a bacterium gene, known as Bt, that makes the stalks toxic to an insect pest.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100510/BUSINESS01/5100313/Biotech-in-Africa-In-South-Africa-the-welcome-mat-is-out>

**Titans Battle on the African Front**, *Des Moines Register*, May 9

The bitter battle that seed giants Monsanto Co. and Pioneer Hi-Bred wage for the hearts and pocketbooks of farmers doesn't end in the United States. They're going at it in Africa, too.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100510/BUSINESS01/5100312/Biotech-in-Africa-Titans-battle-on-the-African-front>

**Europeans Still Say 'No Thanks' to Biotech**, *Des Moines Register*, May 10

After years of stalemate, the union's member nations could soon have far greater freedom to decide their own policies on plants that have been genetically altered.

The U.S. government has long been seeking to change European minds about biotech food or else isolate Europe from the rest of the world on the issue. Doing the former has proven all but impossible. But Europe could find itself more isolated if African governments decide they want biotech crops badly enough to drop their own barriers to the technology.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100510/BUSINESS01/5100314/Biotech-in-Africa-Europeans-still-say-no-thanks-to-biotech>

**Two Food Prize Winners, Two Approaches**, *Des Moines Register*, May 9

Two World Food Prize winners with close ties to east Africa have their own ideas about the future of agricultural biotechnology there. The 2009 laureate, Ethiopian-born sorghum breeder Gebisa Ejeta, says what African farmers need first is to learn the best ways to farm conventionally. They often lack basic knowledge about farming methods, and there are few extension agents to advise them, he says.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100510/BUSINESS01/5100311/Biotech-in-Africa-Two-Food-Prize-winners-two-approaches>

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

**India Food Inflation Accelerates Ahead of Monsoon Rains Season**, *Bloomberg*, May 13

India's food inflation rate climbed, an increase the government says will be arrested as prospects of normal monsoon rains this year may push prices lower.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aqtjmCdQmDb8>

**Mysterious Blight Destroys Afghan Poppy Harvest**, *New York Times*, May 12

Up to one-third of Afghanistan's poppy harvest this spring has been destroyed by a mysterious disease, according to estimates revealed by United Nations officials, potentially complicating the American and NATO military offensives this summer in the country's opium-producing heartland. The Taliban's public relations strategy against the offensives includes trying to convince local residents that Western troops will destroy their poppy crops, and in recent weeks Afghan farmers have started blaming the American and NATO militaries for spreading the disease, United Nations officials say.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/13/world/asia/13opium.html>

**Charity as a Drop in the Bucket: Day 5**, *Ken Wong*, director, *Face-to-Face AIDS Project*, *Huffington Post* 12

Yesterday, Lameck informed us that the harvest from our Kang'oma maize garden for HIV-positive families is down 75% from last year's bumper yield. Lameck is the director of the community-based organization that spearheads this maize project, and he's worried that we'll cut funding if we thought the project was failing. Apparently, the maize grew, tasseled, and produced baby ears. But by harvest time, the ears had become deformed, with some cobs producing no kernels at all. For this famine-prone community, this maize failure could have devastating results on the village's food security.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ken-wong/charity-as-a-drop-in-the\\_b\\_566295.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ken-wong/charity-as-a-drop-in-the_b_566295.html)

**Arab World Grapples with Food Shortage**, *Media Line, May 11*

Arab countries need to yield more crop for the drop if they are to prevent a dire food shortage in coming decades.

[http://www.themedialine.org/news/news\\_detail.asp?NewsID=28809](http://www.themedialine.org/news/news_detail.asp?NewsID=28809)

**Food Security Comes First, Public Symposium Told**, *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, May 11*

Food supplies and support for agriculture are too important to be left to market forces alone, and governments must play a dominant role, speakers said at UNCTAD's second public symposium.

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=5439&lang=1>

**Rice Production to Rise to Record This Year, FAO Says**, *Bloomberg, May 10*

Global production of rough rice, the staple for half the world's population, will rise to a record 710 million metric tons this year, as harvests in India and the rest of Asia recover from drought, the United Nations said. Output will expand 4 percent from 680 million tons in 2009, as production in India, the world's second-largest grower and consumer, is forecast to increase 15 percent to 151 million tons, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said in a report.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aMbh4SRyEsaM>

**UN Agency Honors Brazilian President for Efforts Against Hunger**, *UN News Centre, May 10*

The United Nations food aid agency today honoured President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil for his leadership in the fight against hunger and inadequate nutrition in his country and across the world. The World Food Programme (WFP) recognized Mr. Lula da Silva as a Global Champion in the Battle Against Hunger, saying he had set an example that should be emulated in efforts to end global hunger.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/printnews.asp?nid=34647>

**E.U. Signals Big Shift on Genetically Modified Crops**, *New York Times, May 9*

Last week, the commission quietly let the deadline pass for opposing Portugal's request, allowing Madeira, which is one of Portugal's autonomous regions, to become the first E.U. territory to get formal permission from Brussels to remain entirely free of genetically modified organisms.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/10/business/energy-environment/10green.html?pagewanted=print>

**Spread of Insurance to Rural Areas Underscores India's Growing Prosperity**, *Washington Post, May 7*

Debarasu's new cow-insurance coverage represents a significant step forward in India's hopes to lift hundreds of millions of people into prosperity. Insurance for cattle, chickens, tractors, trucks and lives is suddenly appearing in India's vast rural areas, an important new indicator of the spread of middle-class stability in this nation of 1.2 billion people.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/07/AR2010050705090\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/07/AR2010050705090_pf.html)

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**Niger Is on the Brink of Food Shortages**, *Financial Times, May 12*

Millions of people in Niger are at risk of running short of food, relief agencies have warned, as high prices and a lack of rain take their toll on one of the world's poorest countries. The landlocked west African nation lies at the centre of a food crisis spanning the Sahel, the arid region on the southern fringe of the Sahara. The United Nations estimates that 7.8m people in Niger could be affected unless donors deploy some \$130m (€102m, £88m) of emergency aid immediately. Parts of Mali, Burkina Faso, northern Nigeria and central Chad are also at risk.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/20d2a67e-5d5e-11df-8373-00144feab49a.html>

**See Also: Niger Threatened by Food Insecurity**, *Voice of America, May 13*

Across the Sahel, more than ten million people are affected by poor rains that have led to the collapse of agricultural and livestock production in many parts of Chad, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso. In Niger, 60 percent of the population is facing severe food shortages.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Niger-Threatened-by-Food-Insecurity-93670569.html>

**See Also: What is a Famine?** *Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), May 13*

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89121>

**Somalia: U.N. Revamps Food Program**, *New York Times, May 12*

The World Food Program in Somalia is addressing flaws in its distribution system exposed earlier this year by a United Nations Security Council report, which concluded that half the \$485 million in food aid in 2009 was diverted by corrupt contractors, Islamic militants or United Nations staff members. The United Nations team in Somalia is developing a database of all service providers and revising its control system for the delivery of aid and cash transfers, according to the latest council report.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/13/world/africa/13briefs-Somalia.html>

**See Also: UN Moves to Halt Aid Abuses in Somalia**, *Reuters, May 12*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN12193665.CH.2400>

**US Aid Groups Divided over Biotechnology for Africa's Farmers**, *Voice of America, May 11*

U.S.-based aid groups and research institutes increasingly are divided over the promotion of biotechnology for Africa's farmers. The debate is putting several aid contributors at the center of the issue.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/environment/US-Aid-Groups-Divided-Over-Biotechnology-for-Africas-Farmers-93457694.html>

**Emergency Food Distribution Improves in Ethiopia**, *Voice of America, May 11*

A spokesman for the World Food Program advises voters to look for candidates for parliament in the current national election campaign who are willing study and solve several problems that plague Ethiopia's emergency food distribution network. Allan Jury of the World Food Program said there are some challenges that must be met if Ethiopia wants to feed the 4.7 million who suffer from hunger and malnutrition in specific locations in Ethiopia.

<http://www.voanews.com/horn/2010-05-11-voa1.cfm?renderforprint=1>

**EU to Support Small-Scale Farming in Developing World**, *Euractiv, May 11*

Food security assistance to developing countries should focus on supporting small-scale food production and farmers, EU development ministers said. Ministers met to discuss the EU's approach to the mid-term review of the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), set to take place in New York in September. One of those goals is to halve the proportion of the world's population that suffers from hunger by 2015.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/print/cap/eu-support-small-scale-farming-developing-world-news-494047>

**Council Conclusions on an EU Policy Framework to Assist Developing Countries in Addressing Food Security Challenges**, *Council of the European Union, May 10*

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/114357.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/114357.pdf)

**The U.S. Checkoff List for Afghanistan**, *Op-Ed, Jordan Dey, Seattle Times, May 7*

While Karzai is clearly committed to improving security and regional cooperation, his dedication to economic development is questionable at best. Since his inauguration Nov. 19 — nearly six months ago — Karzai has not made a single a speech, site visit or even distributed a presidential news release to highlight progress on agriculture, irrigation, livestock, energy, education or roads. American leverage is lost if funding is scattershot. Financial assistance should target these six development priorities — agriculture, irrigation, livestock, energy, education and roads — and the dollars should go directly to the appropriate Afghan ministries.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/cgi-bin/PrintStory.pl?document\\_id=2011810455&zsection\\_id=268883724&slug=guest09dey&date=20100507](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/cgi-bin/PrintStory.pl?document_id=2011810455&zsection_id=268883724&slug=guest09dey&date=20100507)

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**Two Dead After Yemenis Clash Over Water Rights**, *Reuters, May 14*

Two people died in a southern Yemeni village where the military intervened to end a dispute over water rights, underscoring tensions sparked by a looming water crisis in the impoverished Arabian peninsular state. <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE64D4YQ20100514>

**Europe to Examine Case for Bigger CO2 Cuts**, *BBC News*, May 11

Europe's climate commissioner Connie Hedegaard is to set out the case for a unilateral 30% EU cut in CO2. At the end of May she will unveil research examining the consequences to Europe's economy of outdoing the current 20% target.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science\\_and\\_environment/10109088.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science_and_environment/10109088.stm)

**Pakistani Water Crisis: Concerns about Regional Stability and Conflict**, *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, May 10

A recent dry spell has led to increased scrutiny of Pakistan's water shortage, and the long-running issue of shared water resources with India is drawing new ire from Pakistani citizens and militant groups. The water scarcity issue illuminates the imperative for regional cooperation in light of terrorism and climate change in South Asia. During the most recent dry spell, allegations that India is withholding water abound among angry Pakistani farmers. Whether or not India is actually withholding, the severity of water scarcity in Pakistan has its citizens looking for any culprit. Water issues extend beyond regional conflict to issues of development and agricultural viability.

<http://csis.org/print/25057>

**India Minister, Don't Expect Too Much from Cancun Climate Talks**, *Wall Street Journal*, May 8

The international community shouldn't exaggerate expectations from global climate change talks in the Mexican resort of Cancun this year, although there is still time to strike a deal, India's Minister for Environment and Forests said Saturday.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100508-700061.html#printMode>

**See Also: World Agreement on Climate Change Possible, Says Indian Minister**, *Bloomberg*, May 8

An international agreement on climate change can be reached before ministers meet to try to thrash out an accord in Mexico later this year, India's environment minister said. "Between now and Cancun, I believe we can arrive at an international agreement," Shri Ramesh told delegates to the International Cooperative Conference on Green Economy and Climate Change in Beijing.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aWCpANk84lxU>

**China Acts to Raise Profile on Climate Change**, *Wall Street Journal*, May 7

China is trying to strengthen its role as leader of the developing world in climate-change talks just as it faces an embarrassing setback in trying to curb its own carbon emissions. China's reputation as a leader on fighting climate change was battered by accusations it sabotaged efforts to reach a binding deal last year.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704292004575229862516272730.html#printMode>

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## WOMEN

**Pregnant Women and Young Children Vulnerable to Sahel Food Shortage**, *Voice of America*, May 14

Pregnant women and young children are especially vulnerable to food shortages across much of the African Sahel brought on by last year's poor rains.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Pregnant-Women-and-Young-Children-Vulnerable-to-Sahel-Food-Shortage-93773419.html>

**Meeting Millennium Development Goals**, *BBC News*, May 10

Are developing countries on track to meet the 2015 deadline for implementing the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)? The BBC's Alastair Lawson travelled to Bangladesh to assess how much progress is being made in improving the lives of the most vulnerable children and women.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8548923.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8548923.stm)

**Economic Opportunities for Women in the East Asia and Pacific Region**, *World Bank*, 2010

This book brings together data and available evidence on the constraints that female entrepreneurs in the East Asia and the Pacific Region region face with regard to: access to assets, business regulations and governance issues, and available avenues for expanding businesses and trading with larger markets.  
<http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821383001>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### **Afghan-Pakistan Trade Deal Close: Minister, Reuters, May 13**

Afghanistan is close to reaching a long-delayed trade transit deal with Pakistan that would allow produce to be trucked across its neighbor to key importer India, Afghanistan's agriculture chief said. A trade pact would help Afghan farmers move goods to market in India more easily, which has been a challenge as officials try to entice farmers away from growing poppy crops whose proceeds fuel the Taliban insurgency.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE64C4N920100513>

### **Tech, Food Seen As Attractive LatAm Investments, Reuters, May 10**

Technology and food are great investment opportunities in Latin America, particularly in countries like Brazil, Mexico and Peru, policymakers and executives at the Reuters Latin American Investment Summit say.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6496CQ20100510>

### **Egyptian Purchases of U.S. Wheat May Decline 23%, Agency Says, Bloomberg, May 10**

Egyptian wheat purchases from the U.S. may fall 23 percent next year even as total imports may increase, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-10/egyptian-purchases-of-u-s-wheat-may-decline-23-agency-says.html>

### **U.S. Sees No Quick Fix in Doha Trade Round, Reuters, May 10**

There can be no quick fix to end the deadlock in the World Trade Organisation's long-running Doha Round talks, the new U.S. ambassador to the WTO said on Monday.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE6492FS20100510>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### **Ethanol Byproduct Grows in Popularity with Chinese, Des Moines Register, May 13**

China made news this month by buying U.S. corn for the first time in almost a decade. But for more than a year, China has slipped into the back side of the American corn market by buying dried distillers grains, a byproduct of ethanol, to feed its livestock. Distiller's grains are the shell and some of the inside matter of the kernel after the starch is removed to make ethanol. U.S. ethanol plants annually produce the equivalent of about 1.2 billion bushels of distiller's grains. Total corn production exceeds 13 billion bushels.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/print/article/20100513/BUSINESS01/5130350/Ethanol-byproduct-grows-in-popularity-with-Chinese>

### **Monsanto Company Donates Conventional Corn and Vegetable Seeds to Haitian Farmers to Help Address Food Security Needs, Press Release, Monsanto Company, May 13**

Haitian farmers, who otherwise may not have had sufficient seeds to plant this season in their earthquake-ravaged country, are receiving help from a unique public and private partnership to provide access to high-quality, conventional hybrid corn and vegetable seeds in time for this planting season. The Haitian Ministry of Agriculture approved a donation from U.S.-based Monsanto Company to Haitian farmers of \$4 million worth of conventional hybrid corn and vegetable seeds to be made over the next 12 months in support of reconstruction efforts.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/monsanto-company-donates-conventional-corn-and-vegetable-seeds-to-haitian-farmers-to-help-address-food-security-needs-93713444.html>

### **Elena Kagan: Toward a Pro-GM Supreme Court?, The Atlantic, May 12**

As solicitor general, Kagan is supposed to represent the interests of the American people in matters that come before the Supreme Court. Instead, she has gone to bat for Monsanto.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/food/archive/2010/05/elena-kagan-toward-a-pro-gm-supreme-court/56587/>

**Cadbury Bases to Become Kraft UK HQ**, *Financial Times*, May 11

Kraft Foods is to turn Cadbury's bases in Uxbridge and Bournville into its UK headquarters as it begins welding together its two businesses following its £11.7bn acquisition of the UK confectioner this year.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/380d881e-5c95-11df-bb38-00144feab49a.html>

**Gone to (GM) Seed**, *Site Selection Magazine*, May 2010

Chemical firms expand their R&D efforts.

<http://www.siteselection.com/features/2010/may/Life-Sciences/>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*