

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** *“And so to the American people, even at a time when we have fiscal constraints, even at a time where I spend most of my day thinking about our economy and how to put folks back to work and how to make sure that we’re reducing gas prices and how we stabilize the housing market and how we innovate and adapt and change so that we are fully competitive in the 21st century and maintain our economic leadership, I want the American people to understand we’ve got to leave room for us to continue our tradition of providing leadership when it comes to freedom, democracy, human rights. We’re looking forward to being a strong partner with them because when we work together, that’s a force multiplier. The more we have strong leaders like Poland working alongside us, the more successful we can be in dealing with North Africa and the Middle East, and encouraging the best impulses in that region. And that’s going to be good for all of our security.”* – President Barack Obama, Joint Press Conference with Prime Minister Tusk of Poland in Warsaw, Poland, May 28, 2011

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).
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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**Occasional Paper: Strengthening USAID, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, May 2011**

This Occasional Paper provides readers with a consolidated yet detailed timeline of significant events that

evidence the “turning-tide” for USAID and broader agricultural development assistance. The “timeline” approach demonstrates the scope of the reforms and the swiftness with which they have occurred. Although these developments deserve acknowledgement and praise, the government should not “rest on its laurels.” The accomplishments of the past two years are part of a long-term plan that has only just begun: many pieces have fallen into place, however the hardest work lies ahead.

[http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Report/GADI\\_Occasional\\_Paper\\_Strengthening\\_USAID.pdf](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Report/GADI_Occasional_Paper_Strengthening_USAID.pdf)

**First Lady, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack and Surgeon General Benjamin Launch MyPlate Icon as a New Reminder to Help Consumers to Make Healthier Food Choices, USDA, June 2**

MyPlate is a new generation icon with the intent to prompt consumers to think about building a healthy plate at meal times. The new MyPlate icon emphasizes the fruit, vegetable, grains, protein and dairy food groups. MyPlate will replace the MyPyramid image as the government's primary food group symbol as an easy-to-understand visual cue to help consumers adopt healthy eating habits.

<http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/06/0225.xml>

**SEE ALSO: Remarks by the First Lady at Food Icon Announcement, White House, June 2**

MyPlate is a simple tool that's simple enough for children to understand, even at the elementary school level. Kids can learn how to use this tool now and they can use it for the rest of their lives.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/06/02/remarks-first-lady-food-icon-announcement>

**SEE ALSO: YouTube Video: Introducing the New Food Icon: MyPlate, White House, June 1**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEFmSk08LIE>

**SEE ALSO: US Replaces Food Pyramid with ‘My Plate’ Symbol, Washington Post, June 2**

There's a new U.S. symbol for healthful eating. The new guide is divided into four slightly different-sized quadrants, with fruits and vegetables taking up half the space and grains and protein making up the other half. The vegetables and grains portions are the largest of the four.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/usda-replaces-food-pyramid-with-my-plate-symbol-aims-to-simplify-healthy-eating-advice/2011/06/02/AGRsHGHH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/usda-replaces-food-pyramid-with-my-plate-symbol-aims-to-simplify-healthy-eating-advice/2011/06/02/AGRsHGHH_story.html)

**SEE ALSO: USDA Moves from MyPyramid to MyPlate to Guide Food Choices, Agri-Pulse, June 2**

The new icon and web site [www.ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.ChooseMyPlate.gov) are designed to help consumers make healthier food choices, based on the **2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans**.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/New\\_food\\_icon\\_my\\_plate\\_06022011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/New_food_icon_my_plate_06022011.asp)

**AGRA and USDA sign Memorandum of Understanding, AGRA, May 26**

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and the United States Department of Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore ways to help smallholder farmers in Africa through coordinated research, exchanges, training and development activities. The MOU will be in effect for five years. AGRA and USDA will initially focus on increasing food production in African breadbasket regions such as Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Tanzania and Mozambique.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1291>

**SEE ALSO: US Signs Up to Help Promote African Farming, AFP, May 26**

US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa aimed at boosting productivity on smallholder farms in Africa. The USDA and AGRA, which provides help to small-scale farmers who produce most of the continent's food, will work together to develop seeds, enrich African soil, cut crop loss and manage water resources.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iKvv8Bs2jvHjxq7NI-ekrn07IHFw?>

**Global Food Crisis: Towards a 'Doubly Green' World, Opinion, Sir Gordon Conway, Global Food for Thought Blog, June 2**

I believe we should draw on all technical tools available to us for food production: conventional technologies such as fertilizers and pesticides, but used with precision; intermediate technologies such as improved treadle pumps; traditional technologies such as rainwater harvesting techniques; and new platforms for innovation based on scientific advances such as genetically modified crops for drought, pest and disease resilience.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/06/expert-commentary-global-food-crisis-towards-a-doubly-green-world.html>

**Michael Pollan: In Perspective**, *Opinion, Marshall Matz, Agri-Pulse, May 31*

Our farmers and ranchers are the marvel of the world. They constitute only one percent of the U.S. population, but they are so productive that they feed the entire country and much of the world. Let's stop taking this blessing, this success story, and turning it on its head. In order to feed the world we will need every advantage of science to boost production. It includes new biotech seeds that can increase yields while using fewer inputs and less water.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Matz\\_puts\\_Michael\\_Pollan\\_in\\_perspective\\_05312011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Matz_puts_Michael_Pollan_in_perspective_05312011.asp)

**The Hunger Season**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, June 3*

The hunger season is especially cruel this year. Farmers in this part of Africa call this time of year the hunger season because household stockpiles of food are dwindling and disappearing before the next harvest arrives in a couple of months. They cope, if you can call it that, by rationing portions and skipping meals. This daily desperation has been deepened by the global rise in food prices. "Rise" is hardly the word to use in Kenya. "Skyrocket" is much more appropriate.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/06/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-the-hunger-season.html#more>

**Interview with Roger Thurow**, *One Campaign Blog, May 24*

Roger Thurow, coauthor of "[Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty](#)," talks to ONE about why he decided to leave journalism to pursue his passion to end world hunger, how ONE members can "outrage and inspire" in their own communities, and his thoughts on the food crisis.

<http://www.one.org/blog/2011/05/24/interview-hunger-columnist-roger-thurow-gets-personal/>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**USAID, IBM, and CDC Development Solutions Collaborate to Increase Corporate Volunteerism Abroad**, *USAID, May 31*

USAID will work with IBM and CDC Development Solutions to increase the number of employee volunteers at U.S.-based corporations by providing meaningful assistance to local governments, small businesses, and civic groups in emerging markets abroad.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2011/pr110531.html>

**SEE ALSO: US Foreign Aid Efforts Get a Corporate Boost**, *MSNBC, June 2*

IBM executive Chandu Visweswariah and his teammates are the foot soldiers of a growing corporate cadre in the U.S. foreign aid program. And with foreign aid programs increasingly under fire in Congress, they are seen as an increasingly important force that could fuel innovation and greater productivity in the government's efforts to win friends overseas.

[http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/43190484/ns/us\\_news-giving/](http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/43190484/ns/us_news-giving/)

**2010 U.S. Foreign Assistance to Major Holders of U.S. Treasury Securities**, *Congressional Research Service, May 2011*

This memo includes a table depicting U.S. foreign assistance in FY2010, by sector, to countries holding more than \$10.0 billion in U.S. treasury securities. Countries are ordered by the value of their treasury security holdings, with the highest value holder, China, listed first. Sectors are consistent with the State Department's Foreign Assistance Framework.

[http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File\\_id=8afef35c-cdd1-487c-9a30-5b83a161046](http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=8afef35c-cdd1-487c-9a30-5b83a161046)

**SEE ALSO: Countries Holding U.S. Debt Also Get Foreign Aid**, *The Hill, June 3*

The Congressional Research Service found that more than a dozen countries that hold at least \$10 billion in Treasury securities also get U.S. assistance in a variety of areas, from fighting HIV or the illegal drug trade to help with the environment or general governance.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/164659-report-countries-holding-us-debt-also-get-foreign-aid>

**SEE ALSO: U.S. Offers Foreign Aid to Countries Holding Billions in Treasury Securities**, *Fox News*, June 3

The report arrives as lawmakers in Washington battle over the conditions for increasing the nation's ability to borrow money before defaulting on its obligations, which is scheduled to happen in August.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/06/02/us-offers-foreign-aid-to-countries-holding-billions-in-treasury-securities/>

### **International School Feeding: USDA's Oversight of the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program Needs Improvement**, *GAO*, May 2011

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with funding of about \$200 million in fiscal year 2010, the MGD Program served approximately 5 million beneficiaries in 28 countries. The program is administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and implemented by WFP and nongovernmental organizations. In this report we assessed (1) the extent to which USDA is overseeing the MGD Program to ensure it is achieving its objectives, and (2) the extent to which USDA has addressed the MGD Program's internal control weaknesses.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11544.pdf>

### **Amid Congressional Effort to Reduce Deficit, House Panel Votes to Cut Farm Subsidies**, *Washington Post*, May 31

A House committee voted to cut farm subsidies to pay for deficit reduction and other budget priorities, chipping away at the billions of dollars a year that are directed to farmers. In a surprise move, the committee approved an amendment by Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., to lower the maximum adjusted gross income a farmer can have to earn certain subsidies. While many farmers can now make as much as \$750,000 annually and still receive subsidies, Flake's amendment would lower the threshold for some to \$250,000.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/amid-congressional-effort-to-reduce-deficit-house-panel-votes-to-cut-farm-subsidies/2011/05/31/AGKctqFH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/amid-congressional-effort-to-reduce-deficit-house-panel-votes-to-cut-farm-subsidies/2011/05/31/AGKctqFH_story.html)

**SEE ALSO: House Panel OKs Income Limit for Farm Subsidy Recipients**, *Des Moines Register*, May 31

A House panel voted to cut off subsidies to the wealthiest producers and to trim payments to cotton growers. The House Appropriations Committee approved the cuts by voice vote as part of a bill that would reduce spending for the Agriculture Department and the FDA by more than 13 percent for the budget.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011106010347>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **DuPont Advisory Committee on Agricultural Innovations & Productivity For the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*Date:* June 7, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The DuPont Advisory Committee on Agriculture Innovation and Productivity for the 21st Century will release its report and recommendations on addressing the food productivity gap in Washington DC. Former U.S. Senator and DuPont Committee Chair Thomas Daschle and DuPont Executive Vice President James C. Borel will outline the report, followed by a panel discussion with the remaining committee members. Panelists include: Charlotte Hebebrand, Jo Luck, JB Penn, and Pedro Sanchez. This invitation-only event will also be webcast at 10 a.m. EDT. Audio webcast will be available at: <http://ems3.intellor.com/?p=306332&t=16>. For those who wish to dial in using a phone, please click on the attached link for the appropriate local number.

<http://dupont.uc.att.com/dupontlargeevents/Integrate/PhoneAccessPage/TelephoneAccessNumbers.asp?EventCode=306332>

### **Cracking the Nut Conference: Overcoming Obstacles to Rural and Agricultural Finance**

*Date:* June 20<sup>st</sup> – 21<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

Register now to participate in the Cracking the Nut Conference. Conference registrations will close in 10 days on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Conference will unite the world's leading rural and agricultural finance leaders in a collaborative pursuit of learning, leverage and large scale change. This conference is aimed at practitioners, private sector professionals, policymakers, funders, researchers, and other rural and agricultural finance professionals. To learn more about the themes we will be addressing and speakers, see our [agenda](#).

### **The World Food Prize Laureate Announcement Ceremony**

*Date:* June 21, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The World Food Prize will officially announce the names of the 2011 World Food Prize winners at a ceremony at the U.S. State Department. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will speak at the event, which focuses on progress being made in global food security. Mark your calendar, and check [www.worldfoodprize.org](http://www.worldfoodprize.org) to learn about this year's honorees.

### **Agricultural Value Chain Finance Training**

*Date:* June 22nd - 23rd, 2011

*Location:* The QED Group, Washington, D.C.

Right after the Cracking the Nut Conference, participate in the 2-day Agricultural Value Chain Finance Training, lead by Calvin Miller, FAO and Stephanie Charitonenko. You will learn about developing commercially attractive financial services that meet the needs of the various actors in the value chain and how a value chain focus can result in market growth and reduced credit risk. To learn more, visit [here](#).

### **Food Security, Health and Impact Conference**

*Date:* June 22nd - June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Leeds, United Kingdom

The Africa College, a research partnership between IITA, ICIPE and University of Leeds is holding an international conference to share lessons on translating research results into impact for food security, nutrition and human health. The conference includes knowledge brokering sessions and workshops and is asking two questions: How can the results of basic science and inter-disciplinary research lead to increased impact on food security and human health?; and, How can partnerships between research and development organisations deliver innovation and impact? Sponsorship for African participants is available. For more details see: <http://www.africacollege.leeds.ac.uk/>

### **Conservation Science and Policy**

*Date:* July 17th - 20th, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The theme of the meeting is, "Conservation Science and Policy: Global Perspectives and Applications." The focus for this year's meeting is exploring ways to improve the linkages among conservation science, policy, and application at local, national, and international scales. Secretary Glickman will share his thoughts and personal experiences on the long-term implications of food and agricultural policy on conservation in the United States and around the world.

<http://www.swcs.org/>

### **World Food Prize 25th Anniversary**

*Date:* October 12th - 14th, 2011

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

The World Food Prize will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this fall during the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium and the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. The topic of the symposium this year is "The Next Generation" and will focus on future leaders, challenges and technologies in the fight against hunger. This year, events will also include the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a permanent home for the World Food Prize and an event center and educational facility to honor humanitarian heroes and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders. Stay tuned and learn more at [www.worldfoodprize.org](http://www.worldfoodprize.org).

### **World Biofuels Markets**

Date: March 13th – 15th, 2012

Location: Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will share their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

<http://www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com/>

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Growing a Better Future**, *Oxfam International*, May 2011

The global food system works only for the few – for most of us it is broken. It leaves the billions of us who consume food lacking sufficient power and knowledge about what we buy and eat and the majority of small food producers disempowered and unable to fulfill their productive potential. This report describes a new age of growing crisis: food price spikes and oil price hikes, devastating weather events, financial meltdowns, and global contagion.

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/grow/reports/growing-better-future>

**SEE ALSO: Oxfam Grow Campaign Fact Sheet**, *Oxfam America*, June 1

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/publications/grow-campaign>

**SEE ALSO: Feeding the World's Hungry is a Moral Necessity**, *Wall Street Journal*, May 31

The international charity argues that the excesses of the rich are tipping the world into a permanent state of food crisis so severe that it could reverse the trajectory of human development. It warns that prices of staple foods will more than double in the next 20 years unless world leaders act now to avert climate change and reform the global food system.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/05/31/feeding-the-worlds-hungry-is-a-moral-necessity-oxfam/>

**SEE ALSO: A Hungry World**, *Editorial*, *Guardian*, June 1

Charities and development economists necessarily focus so much attention on hungry people that you might be forgiven for thinking this was a problem only and always getting bigger. Not so. The number of hungry people worldwide actually fell between 1969 and 1997; and it dropped sharply after the great food-price spike of 2008.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/01/food-a-hungry-world-editorial>

#### **Missing Food: The Case of Postharvest Grain Losses in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *World Bank and UN FAO*, May 2011

Investing in post-harvest technologies to reduce food losses could significantly increase the food supply in sub-Saharan Africa, according to a new FAO/World Bank report released as technical experts from around the region meet to discuss the issue. The report estimates the value of post-harvest grain losses in sub-Saharan Africa at around \$4 billion a year.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/MissingFoods10\\_web.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/MissingFoods10_web.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: UN Calls for Better Grain Storage to Reduce Africa's Post-Harvest Losses**, *UN News Center*, May 31

According to estimates provided by the African Postharvest Losses Information System, physical grain losses prior to processing can range from 10 to 20 per cent of African annual production, which is worth \$27 billion.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38548&Cr=FAO&Cr1>

#### **Hungry for Justice: Fighting Starvation In An Age Of Plenty**, *Christian Aid*, May 2011

Tackling the impact of poverty is not enough; we must also confront those structures and systems that cause it in the first place. Filling empty bellies should be a global priority. It is, after all, first on the list of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the war against poverty. Goal 1 could not be more explicit: 'Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.' By 2015, the target is to halve the number of those afflicted.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/policy/christian-aid-week-report-2011.aspx>

### Media Articles:

**Organic Farming Finds a Growing Fan Base in India**, *New York Times*, June 2

More than half of the country's population of 1.2 billion relies on agriculture for a living. The vast majority of farms in India are small - three acres - and farmers can be burdened by the cost of fertilizer and pesticides, even though the government heavily subsidizes them. For some small farmers, organic farming makes sense if farmers are given training, support and linked to markets with affluent customers.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/03/business/global/03iht-RBOG-ORGANIC03.html>

**Make Farming Energy Efficient**, *Opinion*, William Moseley, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, June 2

U.S. farming is globally recognized for its productivity and innovation. But many of these productivity innovations were developed in an era of cheap and abundant fossil fuels. While American agriculture is some of the most productive in the world in terms of output per unit area, the amount of energy it takes to produce such yields is staggering. Each year, agricultural production accounts for 7 percent of our national energy use.

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/make-farming-energy-efficient-965542.html>

**The High Cost of Cheap Meat**, *Editorial*, *New York Times*, June 2

The point of factory farming is cheap meat. Perhaps the greatest hidden cost is its potential effect on human health. Small doses of antibiotics are fed to factory farm animals as part of their regular diet to promote growth and offset the risks of overcrowding. What factory farms are really raising is antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which means that several classes of antibiotics no longer work the way they should in humans.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/03/opinion/03fri3.html>

**Gates Foundation Spends \$1.7B on Farming in Africa**, *Yahoo News*, June 1

The world's largest charitable foundation announced five years ago it would spend millions of dollars to fight poverty and hunger in Africa, largely by investing in agriculture. The foundation has focused on ways to bring to Africa the green revolution that swept Latin America and Asia in the mid-1900s, boosting productivity in those regions. Its hope has been that helping small farmers grow more would allow them to sell their surplus, boosting their income and putting more food in hungry mouths.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110601/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/us\\_food\\_and\\_farm\\_gates\\_agriculture\\_2](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110601/ap_on_re_us/us_food_and_farm_gates_agriculture_2)

**SEE ALSO: Africa's Green Revolution May Be a Long Time Coming**, *Christian Science Monitor*, June 1

It's tough to keep your eye on the long view when the prospect of famine is at the door. But that's what organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CARE, and the United Nation's World Food Program are trying to do more and more. The old adage seems to have truth in it: Give people a fish, they eat for a day. Teach them to fish, and they can feed themselves for a lifetime.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/Change-Agent/2011/0601/Africa-s-Green-Revolution-may-be-a-long-time-coming>

**What Would the Apprentice Do? ISO a More Strategic Approach to Agricultural Conservation**, *Opinion*, Jon Scholl, *Agri-Pulse*, June 1

Maintaining the stock, quality, and environmental attributes of prime farmland is essential to safeguarding our nation's long-term agricultural productivity. These kinds of budget cuts don't make sense at time when we anticipate increased demand for food, fiber, fuel, and the land that produces them. We need more—not less—funding for agricultural conservation and protection.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Opinion\\_Scholl\\_ISO\\_06032011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Opinion_Scholl_ISO_06032011.asp)

**Making Connections in Social Media Strengthens Our Common Cause**, *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, May 27

We've announced a project to connect with all of our grantees through social media, and we couldn't be more thrilled. We want to celebrate our many partners in the effort to ensure that all people get the chance to lead healthy, productive lives - by giving them the social media shout-out they deserve.

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/foundationnotes/Pages/amie-newman-connections-with-social-media.aspx>

**Job Announcement**, *ActionAid USA*, May 2011

ActionAid USA is looking for an experienced Senior Policy Analyst to coordinate our project in support of increased public investment in agriculture in Africa. Please email your customized cover letter and résumé to Neil Watkins, Director of Policy and Campaigns, at [neil.watkins@actionaid.org](mailto:neil.watkins@actionaid.org).  
[http://actionaidusa.org/assets/pdfs/Senior\\_Policy\\_Analyst\\_Job\\_Announcement.pdf](http://actionaidusa.org/assets/pdfs/Senior_Policy_Analyst_Job_Announcement.pdf)

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

**Beyond Bullets and Bombs: Fixing the U.S. Approach to Development in Pakistan**, *Center for Global Development*, June 1

U.S. and Pakistani development experts urge a substantial revamp of the U.S. approach to Pakistan, saying that U.S. efforts to build prosperity in the nuclear-armed nation with a fledgling democratic government, burgeoning youth population, and shadowy intelligence services are not yet on course.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1425136\\_file\\_CGD\\_Pakistan\\_FINAL\\_web.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1425136_file_CGD_Pakistan_FINAL_web.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Mend Aid Program, Don't End It**, *IPS*, June 1

Amid a spate of calls by U.S. lawmakers to slash aid to Pakistan in the aftermath of Osama bin Laden's death, an influential think tank is calling for greater patience, precision, transparency and humility in implementing Washington's 1.5-billion-dollar-a-year development aid programme.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=55890>

**SEE ALSO: Beyond Bombs and Bullets in Pakistan**, *CNN*, June 1

The following is a transcript of my interview with Nancy Birdsall, President of the Center for Global Development.

<http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2011/06/01/beyond-bombs-and-bullets-in-pakistan/>

**Strengthening and Streamlining Development Assistance Program**, *Global Harvest Initiative*, May 31

The US government delivers more than \$58 billion a year in foreign assistance, and these assistance programs have significant benefits worldwide. However, it is critical that these programs and the organizations that manage them increase collaboration and communication to improve efficiency and maximize the benefits of each particular program.

[http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/policy/Development\\_Assistance\\_Programs\\_Food\\_Security\\_Agriculture.htm](http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/policy/Development_Assistance_Programs_Food_Security_Agriculture.htm)

### Media Articles:

**Among Pakistanis, Perception Of U.S. Aid Varies**, *NPR*, June 3

The United States has spent more than \$20 billion on Pakistan over the past decade, prompting some Americans to ask what they are getting for the money. To understand why U.S. aid has not made more friends, NPR went to the gates of Forman Christian College in Lahore.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/06/03/136905333/among-pakistanis-questions-about-u-s-aid>

**Fighting the Taliban One Irrigation Project at a Time**, *Slate*, June 2

Central Asia Development Group launched a development program, funded by USAID, called Food Insecurity Response to Urban Populations. Now in its third phase, the majority of the program focuses on repairing Afghanistan's decrepit irrigation systems. CADG's development model is what they call *direct implementation*, which they say minimizes the opportunity for exploitation and waste.

<http://www.slate.com/id/2295736>

**The North Korea Food Aid Dilemma**, *Council on Foreign Relations*, June 2

A U.S. team in North Korea is soon expected to present findings on whether or not the country is facing a new food crisis. Robert King, U.S. special envoy to North Korea, told the House Committee on Foreign Affairs that the Obama administration has not made a decision on resuming food aid--suspended in 2009--but, if it does, aid will be based on need and include monitoring requirements.

<http://www.cfr.org/north-korea/north-korea-food-aid-dilemma/p25189>

**Will Foreign Aid Dollars Help or Hurt Democracy in the Middle East?**, *Opinion, Janine R. Wedel, Huffington Post, June 2*

The goal of handing out foreign aid to foster "civil society" always sounds noble and well-intentioned. But you'll forgive someone like me for being skeptical about the results. Useful contacts and exchanges were sometimes forged. But the result, more often than not, was that aid served to enrich a few favored cliques, in direct contradiction with stated aims of building democracy and engendering pluralism.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/janine-r-wedel/will-foreign-aid-dollars\\_b\\_870131.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/janine-r-wedel/will-foreign-aid-dollars_b_870131.html)

**A Budget Cutter With a Conscience**, *Opinion, Michael Gerson, Washington Post, June 2*

This month, David Cameron and Bill Gates will host a conference in London to encourage contributions to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. Britain will expand its commitment, and the country's development secretary has been twisting arms to persuade other governments to do the same. The increase that Cameron and Gates propose would vaccinate about 250 million children over the next four years, saving at least 4 million lives.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-budget-cutter-with-a-conscience/2011/06/01/AGmVIZHH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-budget-cutter-with-a-conscience/2011/06/01/AGmVIZHH_story.html)

**Debate: Foreign Aid Won't Eliminate Poverty**, *Bloomberg, June 1*

Current foreign aid programs don't address underlying causes of poverty. Read the views from William R. Duggan and John W. McArthur from Columbia University.

[http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2011/05/foreign\\_aid\\_wont\\_eliminate\\_poverty.html](http://www.businessweek.com/debateroom/archives/2011/05/foreign_aid_wont_eliminate_poverty.html)

**We still have the Money to Fight AIDS**, *Editorial, Des Moines Register, June 1*

Talk of budget cutting is all the rage on the Republican presidential campaign trail. But there are ways to reduce spending that do not result in the unnecessary deaths of people. The US should continue to be a global leader in working to stop the spread of a disease that currently afflicts 33 million people. Using a miniscule fraction of our tax money to save lives was the right thing to do when President Bush expanded AIDS spending.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110602/OPINION03/106020321/-1/MARKETPLACE/We-still-money-fight-AIDS>

**Overhaul for UK Anti-Poverty Firm after Pay Criticism**, *BBC News, May 31*

A government-owned anti-poverty firm which was criticized for paying excessive salaries is to be overhauled. As part of a new business plan, Commonwealth Development Corporation will be limited to investing in the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. CDC's performance will be measured against development criteria, such as how many jobs are created or schools built, rather than financial returns.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13602238>

**Food Fears Return**, *Opinion, Jomo Kwame Sundaram, United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Korea Times, May 31*

The world today produces enough food to feed everyone. The problem is that more people simply cannot afford to buy the food they need. The problem is exacerbated by the significant drop in official development assistance for agricultural development in developing countries. Aid for agriculture fell by more than half after 1980, as the World Bank cut agricultural lending from \$7.7 billion in 1980 to \$2 billion in 2004.

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2011/05/137\\_88040.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2011/05/137_88040.html)

**U.S. Foreign Assistance and the Arab Spring: Bold, but Not Bold Enough**, *Opinion, Sarah Margon, Huffington Post, May 31*

The President's pledge to provide some debt relief to Egypt, immediate assistance to Egypt and Tunisia -- as well as other governments in transition -- are commitments that will be welcomed across the region. The strong defense of civil society is another meaningful development priority. Equally as important was President Obama's decision to keep elevating development as a key pillar of U.S. foreign policy.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-margon/us-foreign-assistance-and\\_b\\_869155.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-margon/us-foreign-assistance-and_b_869155.html)

**Our Current Time for Choosing**, *Opinion, Ambassador Jon Hutsman, Wall Street Journal, May 31*

The debt ceiling must be raised this summer to cover the government's massive borrowing, and we must make reductions in government spending a condition for increasing the debt ceiling. This will provide responsible leaders the opportunity to reduce, reform, and in some cases end government programs - including some popular but unaffordable subsidies for agriculture and energy - in order to save the trillions necessary to make possible a future as bright as our past.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303657404576357450908758760.html>

**Pharmaceutical Giant to Give \$5.7 Million Toward Health Programs in Poor Countries**, *New York Times, May 31*

The pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline, will use 20 percent of the profits it made in the world's poorest countries to finance health care initiatives, the company announced last week. By 2012, Mr. Witty hopes to have a project in every poor country where Glaxo makes a profit.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/31/health/31global.html>

**What the Numbers Don't Tell You**, *IRIN News, May 31*

Poor-performing donors were lambasted by UK Prime Minister David Cameron at this year's G8 leaders' meeting for failing to move towards meeting 0.7 percent [of gross national income] aid targets; but most major donors are to blame for tying aid to donor-based contractors, say aid watchdogs, and for reporting money spent at home as aid.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=92853>

**Replanting Africa the Bill Gates Way**, *BBC News, May 30*

Along with spending billions of dollars on better healthcare for the world's poor, Microsoft founder Bill Gates is increasingly turning his attention to Africa's struggling small farmers. Soaring food prices have added a new urgency to the plight of subsistence farmers on a continent where agriculture has not seen the kind of progress achieved in recent decades elsewhere.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13594085>

**SEE ALSO: Why Bill Gates is Turning His Attention to Africa's Small Farmers**, *BBC News, May 31*

In an interview with the BBC World Service, the world's most influential philanthropist explained why farming was now his foundation's second-biggest program.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13602382>

**President Obama: U.S. Must Remain a Leader Abroad**, *Politico, May 28*

President Barack Obama said that, even at a time of budget cutbacks at home, America cannot pull back from its commitment to serve as a leader abroad. "Even at a time when I spend most of my day thinking about our economy and putting folks back to work ... I want the American people to understand we've got to leave room for us to continue our tradition of providing leadership when it comes to freedom, democracy, human rights."

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0511/55868.html>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Mapping Hotspots of Climate Change and Food Insecurity in the Global Tropics**, *CGIAR, June 2011*

The researchers pinpointed areas of intense vulnerability by examining a variety of climate models and indicators of food problems to create a series of detailed maps. Higher temperatures also could exact a heavy toll. Today, there are 56 million food-insecure and crop-dependent people in parts of West Africa, India and China who live in areas where, by the mid-2050s, maximum daily temperatures during the growing season could exceed 30 degrees Celsius.

<http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org/news/press-release/study-reveals-future-hotspots-climate-risk>

**SEE ALSO: Climate to Wreak Havoc on Food Supply**, *BBC News, June 2*

The Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security predicts large parts of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa will be worst affected. Its report points out that hundreds of millions of people in

these regions are already experiencing a food crisis.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-13628374>

#### Media Articles:

#### **From the Forest to Brasilia: Brazil's Fight over the Amazon**, *Council on Foreign Relations, June 3*

This showdown between Brazil's agricultural lobby and the environmentalists is revealing in many ways, but perhaps most about the effectiveness of the government itself. Brazil's ranchers and farmers see the need to change rather than just skirt the law. As the politics unfold, hanging in the balance is the world's largest forest – the Amazon – and perhaps the future of climate change.

<http://blogs.cfr.org/oneil/2011/06/03/from-the-forest-to-brasilia-brazils-fight-over-the-amazon/>

#### **SEE ALSO: Brazil Clears Amazon Dam for Construction**, *VOA News, June 1*

Brazil has approved the construction of a massive hydroelectric dam in the Amazon rain forest.

Brazil's environment agency Ibama issued the building license for the \$11 billion Belo Monte dam project on Wednesday. The dam is designed to produce about 11,000 megawatts of electricity.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/americas/Brazil-Clears-Amazon-Dam-for-Construction---122976943.html>

#### **Shortages of Fresh Water Seen as Emerging Threat**, *Huffington Post, June 3, 2011*

Even as motorists fret about the cost of gasoline, a rising chorus of jeremiads warns that shortages of freshwater, not oil, will trigger the most pressing challenges of the 21st century. Population growth is sure to contribute to future water scarcity, particularly in the fast-growing Southwest. Another factor is climate change, as rising temperatures result in more frequent floods and droughts.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20110603/us-book-review-the-ripple-effect/>

#### **At Brazil Summit, World Bank and International Coalition Pledge to Reduce Greenhouse Gases**,

*Washington Post, June 1*

The bank reached the agreement with the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, a coalition founded in 2005 with the aim of reducing carbon emissions. C40 cities account for 8 percent of the global population, 12 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, and 21 percent of the world's global gross domestic product.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/at-brazil-summit-world-bank-and-international-coalition-pledge-to-reduce-greenhouse-gases/2011/06/01/AGdn3QGH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/at-brazil-summit-world-bank-and-international-coalition-pledge-to-reduce-greenhouse-gases/2011/06/01/AGdn3QGH_story.html)

#### **SEE ALSO: Too Much 'Hot Air' on Climate Change**, *BBC News, May 27*

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has accused politicians in the United States of a failure of leadership when it comes to dealing with climate change.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-13582351>

#### **Drought to Weigh on France's Wheat Harvest**, *Wall Street Journal, June 1*

France's worst drought on record is set to weigh heavily on its wheat harvest, French Agriculture Minister Bruno Le Maire said Tuesday, potentially further pushing up global wheat prices.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303657404576357561979331214.html>

#### **Worst Ever Carbon Emissions Leave Climate on the Brink**, *Guardian, May 29*

Greenhouse gas emissions increased by a record amount last year, to the highest carbon output in history, putting hopes of holding global warming to safe levels all but out of reach, according to unpublished estimates from the International Energy Agency. Last year, a record 30.6 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide poured into the atmosphere, mainly from burning fossil fuel – a rise of 1.6Gt on 2009.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/may/29/carbon-emissions-nuclearpower>

#### **SEE ALSO: Yep, it's Safe to Start Fretting about Carbon Again**, *Washington Post, June 2*

The rough consensus among climatologists is that every doubling of CO2 will warm the Earth around 3°C. It's a lot harder to predict how quickly greenhouse gas emissions will grow between now and 2100. Energy policies could change. New technologies could develop. It's tricky for the IPCC to predict these things.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/yep-its-safe-to-start-fretting-about-carbon-again/2011/06/02/AGw96VHH\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/yep-its-safe-to-start-fretting-about-carbon-again/2011/06/02/AGw96VHH_blog.html)

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Media Articles:

#### **New Opportunities for Female Farmers**, *WFP, June 3*

Felista Thomas is the head of her household and owns 1.25 hectares of land. This year she is leasing an additional hectare of land – all because of P4P. “P4P came out of nowhere. I went to a P4P training which really helped me and I was very excited about joining the initiative,” says Felista. Last season, P4P contracted 50 tons of maize from her local Savings and Credit Cooperative.

<http://www.wfp.org/stories/tanzania-new-opportunities-female-farmers>

#### **The G8 Must Deliver on Past Promises for Women and Children**, *Opinion, Betsy McCallon, Guardian, June 2*

The G8 committed to implementing the recommendations on accountability established under the UN secretary general's Every Women, Every Child Initiative. This is vital, as donors need to harmonize support to developing countries and streamline reporting requirements to make aid work. It is vital now – as the financial crisis pushes millions into poverty – that total aid budgets increase and aid targets are met.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jun/02/g8-promises-women-children-health>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Promise and Progress: Market-Based Solutions to Poverty in Africa**, *Monitor, May 2011*

Today in Africa, more than 500 million people are struggling to subsist on \$2 a day or less, and despite well-intentioned government policies and massive amounts of foreign aid and philanthropy, poverty rates continue to rise. The report shows conclusively that Market Based Solutions make a significant difference in the fight against poverty by delivering social impact in a sustainable way, at scale.

<http://www.monitor.com/Expertise/Geographies/Africa/tabid/87/ctl/ArticleDetail/mid/675/CID/2011230515191415/CTID/1/L/en-US/Default.aspx>

### Media Articles:

#### **No Soft Option for Investors**, *Financial Times, June 3*

As the world population grows and large numbers – such as in China and Brazil – move out of poverty, demand for food increases. Since investment in production has been negligible for the past 30 years, as investors focused on urbanization and technology growth, prices of agricultural commodities have gone up.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/b0cebd42-8d7a-11e0-bf0b-00144feab49a.html>

#### **Russia Won't Lift Ban on EU Vegetables to Enhance Its WTO Bid**, *Bloomberg, June 3*

Russia won't lift a ban on imports of vegetables from Europe, imposed after an E.coli outbreak, to appease the European Union and enhance its bid to join the World Trade Organization. More than 1,600 people across Europe have been infected and 17 have died in the outbreak that started in Germany.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-03/russia-won-t-lift-ban-on-eu-vegetables-to-enhance-its-wto-bid-putin-says.html>

#### **Farm Budget Cuts Risky**, *Financial Times, June 3*

Europe cannot afford to cut its farm budget if it wants to avoid future food crises such as the E. coli health scare that has claimed lives in Germany. Mr Le Maire called on his European partners to make “a courageous and responsible decision” in negotiations over the budget for the common agricultural policy after 2013, as the EU Commission prepares to present its framework for spending over the next seven years.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/0a041e4a-8d47-11e0-bf23-00144feab49a.html>

**Big Banks Cash in on Commodities**, *Wall Street Journal*, June 2

Wall Street is tapping a real gusher in 2011, as heightened volatility and higher prices of oil and other raw materials boost banks' profits. A group of 10 large banks saw their commodities revenues increase by 55% in the first quarter.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304563104576359704074143190.html>

**Global Food Crisis: the US Speculators Playing with Our Daily Bread**, *Guardian*, June 2

G20 agriculture ministers will meet in Paris on 22 June to discuss food security and prices. Speculative activity and how to contain it is high on their agenda. Debate has been raging since 2008, when price rises provoked riots around the world, about whether or not the new money that has flooded into the commodities markets since 2003 is the cause of the problem – and if so, how to regulate it.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2011/jun/02/global-food-crisis-commodities-speculation>

**When the Nile Runs Dry**, *Opinion*, Lester R. Brown, *New York Times*, June 1

A new scramble for Africa is under way. As global food prices rise and exporters reduce shipments of commodities, countries that rely on imported grain are panicking. Affluent countries have descended on fertile plains across the African continent, acquiring huge tracts of land to produce wheat, rice and corn for consumption back home. These land grabs shrink the food supply in famine-prone African nations and anger local farmers, who see their governments selling their ancestral lands to foreigners.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/02/opinion/02Brown.html>

**Doha-Lite Trade Deal Clears Hurdle at WTO**, *Wall Street Journal*, June 1

The World Trade Organization's 153 members agreed in Geneva to a less-ambitious Doha Round of global trade talks, stripping away enough contentious issues that it now appears feasible to finish a deal by the end of the year. The endorsement of what WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy calls an "early harvest" means the group now risks a significant failure if its members can't agree to even a Doha-lite deal. It also suggests that the era of big, multilateral trade deals is over.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304563104576357463755257444.html>

**A Stormy Forecast for Food Prices**, *Council on Foreign Relations*, May 2011

Crop-destroying weather in the United States and elsewhere is increasing pressure on already skyrocketing global grain prices. Cereals include some of the world's biggest staples--and the price increase has major implications for the world's poorest.

<http://www.cfr.org/energyenvironment/stormy-forecast-food-prices/p25040>

**France Marshals G-20 to Combat Rising Food Costs**, *New York Times*, May 31

The French government has convened the first-ever meeting of G-20 agriculture ministers. It hopes to achieve agreement on an action plan that would be sent to G-20 leaders in November. The plan would include commitments to stem sudden and excessive fluctuations in agricultural prices; improve security of supplies; bolster transparency of information, especially about stocks; and improve risk management and the regulation of agricultural derivatives.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/01/business/global/01food.html>

**Rising Food Prices: 10 Questions Answered**, *WFP*, May 31

High food prices not only put a strain on the already tight food budgets of the world's poor, but raise the price of helping them with food aid. The causes and the effects of the current high food prices are diverse. To help you get a grasp of what it all means, here are the answers to 10 key questions.

<http://www.wfp.org/stories/rising-food-prices-10-questions-answered>

**Some Dairy Farmers Trade Cows for Goats as Demand for Goat Cheese ensures Stable Milk Prices**,

*Washington Post*, May 30

Fluctuating milk prices have long made dairy farming a risky business, and when milk prices crashed in 2002, Chris Lekberg gave up. He sold his cows and bought goats. Dairy goats produce less milk than cows, up to 3,000 pounds a year compared to 27,000 pounds from the best Holsteins.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/some-dairy-farmers-trade-cows-for-goats-as-demand-for-goat-cheese-ensures-stable-milk-prices/2011/05/30/AGpbceEH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/some-dairy-farmers-trade-cows-for-goats-as-demand-for-goat-cheese-ensures-stable-milk-prices/2011/05/30/AGpbceEH_story.html)

**Timely Rains to Help India Farms**, *Wall Street Journal*, May 30

The timely arrival of monsoon rains over India's mainland will boost crop sowing and help achieve a bumper foodgrain output target for a second straight year, but high food prices will likely keep tormenting consumers due to rising input costs.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303745304576354734009675642.html>

**China's Interest in Farmland Makes Brazil Uneasy**, *New York Times*, May 26

The \$7 billion agreement - to produce six million tons of soybeans a year - is one of several struck in recent weeks as China hurries to shore up its food security and offset its growing reliance on crops from the United States by pursuing vast tracts of Latin America's agricultural heartland. Even as Brazil, Argentina and other nations move to impose limits on farmland purchases by foreigners, the Chinese are seeking to more directly control production themselves, taking their nation's fervor for agricultural self-sufficiency overseas.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/27/world/americas/27brazil.html>

**SEE ALSO: China Land Deal Causes Unease in Argentina**, *Guardian*, June 1

Soya is the feedstock for this revolution, but demand for it can no longer be met within China. So the Chinese state-owned agribusiness company Beidahuang has joined the global scramble for land and water that has accelerated since food prices spiked in 2008.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/jun/01/china-land-deal-unease-argentina-agribusiness>

**SEE ALSO: Self-Sufficient Food Policy Benefits World**, *Xinhua*, May 31

The world has a stake in China's strong food security. If China followed the economic theory of comparative advantage by relying on international trade to achieve its food security, its import requirement would seriously destabilize the international grain market and drive up world inflation. It is in the favor of the whole world for China to rigidly adhere to its basic tenet of maintaining strong food self-sufficiency.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/indepth/2011-05/31/c\\_13902568.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/indepth/2011-05/31/c_13902568.htm)

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**Cargill Acquires Central America Meat Processor**, *Reuters*, June 2

U.S. agribusiness Cargill Inc said it acquired Central American poultry and meat processor Corporacion Pipasa. Cargill, which operates in 66 countries and involved in the Central American poultry industry for more than 45 years, processes poultry in Honduras and Nicaragua and has processed-meat operations in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/02/livestock-cargill-idUSN0227342820110602>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*