

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



November 13th – November 20th, 2009

SPECIAL COVERAGE OF THE FAO WORLD FOOD SUMMIT IS PROVIDED IN A SEPARATE NEWSBRIEF

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KEY ARTICLES

How to Feed the World, *Economist*, November 19

It may be too late to avoid another bout of price rises. Despite a global recession and the largest grain harvest on record in 2008, food prices are heading up again. Still, countries have a brief window of opportunity in which to set long-term policy goals without being distracted by panic measures. They need to do two things: invest in the productive capacity of agriculture and improve the operation of food markets.

http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14915144

Global Recovery Threatens Food Price Surge, *Financial Times*, November 15

Conditions are ripe for a fresh surge in food prices as the global economy recovers, says the senior United Nations agriculture official. Jacques Diouf, director-general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), believes that the world is not doing enough to avert another food crisis. "When the recovery picks up, we will be back to square one," Mr Diouf told the Financial Times in an interview. He said the same structural problems behind last year's spike in food prices were still affecting the market. These included lack of investment, surging demand in Asia and diversion of food commodities into biofuels.
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b9f03ab8-d20f-11de-a0f0-00144feabdc0.html>

Perfect Storm, Chatham House, December 2009

The north eastern corner of Africa is again witnessing shocking scenes of deprivation. The Horn of Africa, from Sudan through Kenya and Ethiopia to Somalia regularly suffers from prolonged and devastating food shortages and this is one of the worst for many years. Preventing repeats of this suffering depends as much on the politics of the region as on aid and development.

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/15251_wt120907.pdf

Africa: A Hot Frontier for U.S. and China, CNN, November 17

China appears to be leaving the United States in the dust by taking off on a global shopping spree from South America to the Middle East and especially Africa. The question is, can the U.S. keep up and does it want to? In early October, Obama supported a \$3.5 billion hunger and food security initiative focused on agriculture over the next three years in developing countries. Much of the money is intended for Africa. However, at this stage Obama's Africa strategy has yet to be solidified.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/BUSINESS/11/17/china.africa/>

How to Store and Sell More Stuff, Economist, November 19

If food aid is epitomized by a single image, it is that of neat bags of grain, stamped with the Stars and Stripes and labeled a "gift from the American people", being unloaded in some benighted place. In a long-established practice, USAID buys food from American producers and then gives it to charities who sell the produce on the markets of indigent countries, and in turn use the proceeds to finance their anti-poverty work. This method has its detractors, who say that sales of American food depress local markets; in theory at least, all sales should be calibrated to avoid that effect. But in a switch which might help to parry those critics, USAID is now putting more emphasis on helping farmers in recipient countries to harvest, store and above all sell their own food.

http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14926122

See Also: US Looking to Buy Food Aid in Poor Nations, Reuters, November 17

The United States is looking to procure more food aid locally to increase farming capacity in the developing world rather than relying on shipping U.S. grown food, the head of its development agency said. Alonzo Fulgham, acting head of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), said that U.S. President Barack Obama's government was re-examining its food aid strategy.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLH412837>

The Right Choice For USAID, Dan Glickman (Co-chair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative), Huffington Post, November 20

The selection of Dr. Rajiv Shah to lead the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is a tremendous choice and one that underscores the Obama Administration's commitment to the vital role development plays in foreign policy and to the rebuilding of USAID as the strong agency the country and world need it to be. I say this because I know Raj Shah, his leadership skills, his intellect, and his unbridled passion to help others. As co-chair, with Catherine Bertini, former head of the World Food Program, of the Chicago Council's Global Agricultural Development Leaders Group, I was, in essence, one of Raj's grantees working together to turn attention to the renewed need for U.S. leadership in long-term global agricultural development.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-glickman/the-right-choice-for-usai_b_365462.html

Biodiversity – Insurance Against Hunger, José Manuel Barroso (President, European Commission), Guardian (U.K.), November 16

To ensure food security we need to encourage crop diversity and establish a science-based red-alert system for the planet.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/nov/16/biodiversity-hunger-jose-manuel-barroso>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act, *Senate Foreign Relations Committee*, November 17

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act 14-3.

Full Text: <http://lugar.senate.gov/sfrc/pdf/ForeignAssistance.pdf>

Summary: <http://globalhealth.kff.org/Policy-Tracker/Congress/Actions/2009/November/17/S1524-FA-Revitalization.aspx>

For more information and resources on the Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act, please visit:

<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment/gad/ReferenceDesk/Congress/Senate.aspx>

See Also: Over State's Objections, Senate to Move Ahead on Foreign-Aid Bill, *Foreign Policy (The Cable blog)*, November 16

In yet another sign that the administration and Capitol Hill aren't exactly seeing eye to eye these days, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will mark up the Kerry-Lugar foreign aid reform bill Tuesday, moving the ball forward despite the State Department's desire that Congress hold off until administration reviews are finished.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/11/16/over_states_objections_sfrc_to_move_ahead_on_foreign_aid_bill

See Also: The Foreign-Aid Fight Goes On, *Foreign Policy (The Cable blog)*, November 19

The State Department and Congress don't see eye to eye on how to move forward with foreign-aid reform, but at least one Senator is firmly siding with Foggy Bottom: Jim Webb.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/11/19/the_foreign_aid_fight_goes_on

Can Obama's Choice, Rajiv Shah, Save USAID?, *ABC News*, November 14

President Obama is turning to Rajiv Shah, a medical doctor who served on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation before joining the Department of Agriculture, to head up the US Agency for International Development. That vacancy belied comments by Mr. Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who have spoken of the growing importance of development in US foreign policy and national security. Both have said they wish to expand the role of the agency, which administers \$20 billion in annual assistance.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/obamas-choice-rajiv-shah-save-usaid/story?id=9074478>

See Also: Shah Meets with Kerry, *Politico (Laura Rozen Blog)*, November 19

Obama's pick to head USAID, Dr. Rajiv Shah, made the rounds on the Hill this morning, meeting with members, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman John Kerry. The two had a cordial meeting, one Hill staffer said. Shah made some good points. The committee hopes to schedule Shah's confirmation hearing to be held sometime in December. Shah is also expected to meet with House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Howard Berman later this week.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/1109/Shah_meets_with_Kerry.html?showall

Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley Talks About Partnership with Private Sector, *Voice of America*, November 16

Strategic partnerships involving both governments and the private sector are the key to prosperity in today's "more globalized, more dangerous" world, says Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley, appointed in June as the first Special Representative for the U.S. Department of State's Global Partnership Initiative. According to Ambassador Bagley, the Global Partnership Initiative's broad array of priorities includes Muslim engagement, nuclear non-proliferation, global economic recovery, climate change, democracy, human rights, food security and water development, engaging diaspora communities and global health.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/NewsAnalysis/2009-11-16-voa33.cfm>

Obama's Democrats Call for Trade Policy Overhaul, Reuters, November 18

Some of President Barack Obama's fellow Democrats urged him to abandon the Doha round of global trade talks and start over with an agenda to protect labor rights and environmental standards.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE5AH5DU20091118>

Leaders Will Delay Deal on Climate Change, New York Times, November 14

President Obama and other world leaders have decided to put off the task of reaching a climate change agreement at a global climate conference scheduled for next month.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/15/world/asia/15prexy.html>

See Also: Obama Rules Out Copenhagen Treaty

Barack Obama conceded that next month's Copenhagen summit would not produce a legally binding agreement to tackle global warming, but left the door open to a substantive deal at the climate change conference.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/dc7efa4c-d1b5-11de-a0f0-00144feabdc0.html>

Full Committee Hearing to Explore the International Aspects of Global Climate Change, United States

Senate Committee on Energy & Resources, November 17

The purpose of this hearing was to explore the international aspects of global climate change.

Dr. Michael Levi, Council on Foreign Relations:

<http://energy.senate.gov/public/ files/LeviTestimony111709.pdf>

Mr. Nigel Purvis, Climate Advisers: <http://energy.senate.gov/public/ files/PurvisTestimony111709.pdf>

Ms. Karen Harbert, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce:

<http://energy.senate.gov/public/ files/HarbertTestimony111709.pdf>

Ms. Taiya Smith, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace:

<http://energy.senate.gov/public/ files/SmithTestimony111709.pdf>

Mr. Jake Colvin, National Foreign Trade Council:

<http://energy.senate.gov/public/ files/ColvinTestimony111709.pdf>

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

Economywide Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa, International Food and Policy Research Institute, November 2009

Approximately 80 percent of poor people in Sub-Saharan Africa continue to depend on the agricultural sector for their livelihoods, but—unlike in other regions of the world—agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa is characterized by very low yields due to agroecological features, poor access to services, lack of knowledge and inputs, and low levels of investment in infrastructure and irrigation. In addition, high population growth rates, especially in rural areas, intensify pressure on agricultural production and natural resources and further complicate the challenge of reducing poverty. Against this background, potential climate change poses a significant additional challenge to the future of agriculture in the region.

http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rb15_15.pdf

State of World Population 2009 - Facing a Changing World: Women, Population and Climate, United Nations Population Fund, November 2009

Women bear the disproportionate burden of climate change, but have so far been largely overlooked in the debate about how to address problems of rising seas, droughts, melting glaciers and extreme weather, concludes The State of World Population 2009, released the United Nations Population Fund.

http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2009/en/pdf/EN_SOWP09.pdf

See Also: Poor Women 'Bear Climate Burden,' BBC News, November 18

Women in developing countries will be the most vulnerable to climate change, a report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has warned.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8365808.stm>

Are Soil and Water Conservation Technologies a Buffer against Production Risk in the Face of Climate Change?, *International Food and Policy Research Institute, November 2009*

This brief is based on a study that investigates the risk implications of various soil and water conservation technologies for crop production in Ethiopia's Nile River Basin. The analysis identifies technologies that increase and decrease crop production risk—with risk defined as the degree of yield variability—for the purpose of isolating which technologies are best suited to particular regions and agroecological zones. These results could be used to improve the geographical targeting of soil conservation techniques as part of efforts to promote farm-level adaptation to climate change.

http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rb15_17.pdf

The Cost of War: Afghan Experiences of Conflict, 1978-2009, *Oxfam International, November 2009*

An estimated 870,000 Afghans were killed between 1978 and 1987 – an average of 240 each day. Bombings were often indiscriminate, with between 800 and 1,000 civilians reported to have been killed in a single day in one district of Faryab province. Over half of the country's irrigation systems were destroyed and agricultural production even on cultivatable lands fell sharply due to displacement and other factors.

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/afghanistan-the-cost-of-war.pdf>

See Also: Afghans 'Blame Poverty for War,' *BBC News, November 18*

Poverty and unemployment are overwhelmingly seen as the main reasons behind conflict in Afghanistan, according to a survey in that country.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8363151.stm

The Prospects for Copenhagen, *Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, November 2009*

This paper explores some of the fault lines among the Parties in the negotiations, primarily the rift between developed and developing countries. It discusses the scale and scope of the technology challenge—which often gets overlooked in the public discussion—and some of the dynamics at work that hinder an agreement. And it offers the broad outlines of a technology-centered approach that could form the basis of a workable agreement.

http://www.energyxxi.org/reports/15347_Copenhagen.pdf

Mapping the South African Farming Sector's Vulnerability to Climate Change and Variability,

International Food and Policy Research Institute, November 2009

This brief is based on a study that examines the level of vulnerability to climate change in South Africa's farming sector by developing a nationwide provincial-level vulnerability profile. Particular attention is paid to the underlying socioeconomic and institutional factors that determine how farmers respond to and cope with climate hazards.

http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rb15_03.pdf

Household Food Security in the United States, 2008, *U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, November 2009*

Eighty-five percent of American households were food secure throughout the entire year in 2008, meaning that they had access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. The remaining households (14.6 percent) were food insecure at least some time during the year, including 5.7 percent with very low food security—meaning that the food intake of one or more household members was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR83/ERR83.pdf>

See Also: Hunger in the United States, *Editorial, New York Times, November 17*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/18/opinion/18wed2.html>

See Also: Obama on 'Unsettling' Food Security Report, *Washington Post, November 16*

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2009/11/primary-source-obama-on-unsett.html?wprss=44>

Climate Finance, *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, November 2009*

The finance of climate mitigation and adaptation in developing countries represents a key challenge in the negotiations on a post-2012 international climate agreement. Finance mechanisms are important because stabilizing the climate will require significant emissions reductions in both the developed and the developing

worlds, and therefore large-scale investments in energy infrastructure. The current state of climate finance has been criticized for its insufficient scale, relatively low share of private-sector investment, and insufficient institutional framework. This policy brief presents options for improving and expanding climate finance. http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/HPICA_Issue_Brief_2_FINAL.pdf

Ethanol and a Changing Agricultural Landscape, U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, November 2009

The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 established specific targets for the production of biofuel in the United States. Until advanced technologies become commercially viable, meeting these targets will increase demand for traditional agricultural commodities used to produce ethanol, resulting in land-use, production, and price changes throughout the farm sector. This report summarizes the estimated effects of meeting the EISA targets for 2015 on regional agricultural production and the environment. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR86/ERR86.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Global Food Crisis: "The Silent Tsunami"

Date: November 24

Location: The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC

Over the past five years, droughts in grain-producing nations, increased oil prices and sales of corn to produce biofuels have contributed to skyrocketing food prices and lower quantities of food reserves. Issues of food and food security differ in complexity across state, national and regional boundaries, often depending on the strength of a country's economy and the stability of its political leadership. Climate change, greater demand from a growing world population, and the global economy and financial landscape are all factors that can shape a community's access to safe, nutritious and affordable food. On November 24, Global Economy and Development at Brookings will host a discussion on nutrition, school feeding programs and food security in the developing world, featuring World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick; Josette Sheeran, executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme; and Samuel Worthington, president and CEO of InterAction. Homi Kharas, senior fellow at the Wolfensohn Center for Development at Brookings, will give introductory remarks and moderate the discussion

http://www.brookings.edu/events/2009/1124_food_crisis.aspx

Ending Poverty and Hunger: Meeting the Challenge of Millennium Development Goal 1

Date: November 24

Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, B1 Conference Center, 1800 K Street, NW, Washington DC

<http://csis.org/event/ending-poverty-and-hunger>

The Financial and Economic Crash of 2008 and its Impact on Food and Agriculture in Developing Countries

Date: December 3, 2009

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Location: International Food Policy Research Institute, 2033 K Street, NW, Washington, DC

Once again, global attention has turned to agriculture and food for effectively responding to the crisis and ensuring that global progress in reducing poverty and hunger continue, amidst the turmoil and confusion caused by the economic and financial crash. The impact and linkages between the financial crisis and the agricultural and rural sectors need to be better understood. This seminar seeks to understand the channels, quantify the magnitude, and examine the scope of impact through which the financial crisis and economic recession has affected developing countries.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/financial-and-economic-crash-2008-and-its-impact-food-and-agriculture-developing-countries>

Next Steps for the US Food Security Initiative

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2009

Time: 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Location: APLU Ground Floor Conference Center, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

Join the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa for a special discussion.

Two separate panels will discuss:

- Recent policy events, including plans for implementing the US Food Security Initiative, highlights of the FAO World Food Summit, and outcomes of the CAADP-donor platform meeting in Abuja
- Key outcomes of the Partnership's February 2009 US-Africa Forum on Transforming Food Security and Agricultural Development, and implications for the US Food Security Initiative

RSVP: partnership.events@gmail.com

United Nations Climate Change Conference

Date: December 7th – December 18th, 2009

Location: Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://en.cop15.dk/frontpage>

CAADP Post-Compact: High-Level Stakeholders Meeting

Date: December 7-8

Location: Kigali, Rwanda

[Agenda](#)

[Concept Paper](#)

The Economics of Structural Change and Competition in the Food System

Date: December 7

Location: Waugh Auditorium, USDA Economic Research Service, 1800 M Street NW, Washington, D.C

"In today's business environment, a variety of forces are influencing the economics of every sector of the food system," says Farm Foundation President Neil Conklin. "The economics, in turn, are a significant driver of structural changes in every sector of the food system. This conference examines current research on the economics of structural change and competition, with the intent of helping industry leaders and policy makers better understand the factors at work." Targeted to agribusiness leaders, policy makers and researchers, the conference program will feature current research being done by academics from across the United States.

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/webcontent/The-Economics-of-Structural-Change-and-Competition-in-the-Food-System-1721.aspx?a=1721&z=90&>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Africa Can Achieve Food Security Through Improved Agriculture, *Prof. Richard Mkandawire (Agriculture Adviser, NEPAD and Head, CAADP), Op-Ed, Daily Monitor (Uganda), November 20*

Today, some 218 million Africans are hungry every day, and 38 per cent of children under five suffer from malnutrition. Ironically, hunger and malnutrition is most acute among the families of rural farmers, who have struggled for decades without support of any kind. The partnership between AGRA and Nepad – which both have deep African roots and broad global support -- opens a new chapter in Africa's agricultural development. http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/opinions/Africa_can_achieve_food_security_through_improved_agriculture_94805.shtml

Hard Choices Over Food Versus Education in Malawi, *BBC News, November 20*

Food or education? Public spending choices are never easy. But in Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries, the choices are particularly stark. The government has made "food security" - which means making sure people have enough to eat - the top priority for government spending. The programme of providing heavily subsidised fertiliser and seeds to poor farmers has had real success in reducing hunger. But education in Malawi is under-funded and struggling.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8369120.stm>

Scientists Have High Hopes for Corn Genome, *Washington Post, November 20*

If a biologist had to pick one living thing as the textbook of how genes work, what would it be? Corn seems to be a good answer. Many agronomists hope the information buried in corn's 32,000 genes and 2.3 billion letters of DNA may help sustain the century-long improvement in yield and hardiness into an era of climate change and, possibly, food shortage. Corn -- or maize, as it's called in most parts of the world -- is mankind's second most widely consumed cereal and a crop of huge importance to animal husbandry, manufacturing and energy production.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/19/AR2009111903190_pf.html

See Also: Kernels of Truth: Researchers Sequence the Maize (Corn) Genome, *National Science Foundation*, November 19

http://nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=115920&org=NSF&from=news

No Shortage of Blame as Haiti Struggles to Feed Itself, *New York Times*, November 19

With its rich delta soil and a year-round growing season, Haiti's famous agricultural region seems capable of feeding the entire Caribbean. But Haiti is a net importer of food, spending about \$400 million last year on purchases from abroad. The World Food Programme runs child nutrition and "food for work" operations. And fields in the nation's breadbasket, Artibonite Department, have been periodically swamped by flash floods and mud washed by tropical downpours off barren hillsides.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/11/19/19greenwire-no-shortage-of-blame-as-haiti-struggles-to-fee-21377.html>

See Also: For Haiti's Children, School Dinners Are the Only Meal on Offer, *Agence France-Press*, November 17

More than 250 students have gathered in the two rooms of a small public school here, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the country's capital Port-au-Prince, waiting for a meal prepared by the World Food Program. Across this impoverished Caribbean island nation, more than half a million young Haitians rely on the school meals provided by the organization, often the only food they will eat all day.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iGncYt7Tma7EKj5GcmVmS8YKOz2w>

Dutch Cooperative Blurs Food Prejudices, *New York Times*, November 16

In a Europe where conservative attitudes to farming are entrenched and hostility to genetically modified crops is sometimes obsessive, Food Valley is different.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/17/business/global/17iht-rbofgmo.html>

Belying Up to Environmentalism, *James E. McWilliams, Op-Ed, The Washington Post*, November 16

The livestock industry as a result of its reliance on corn and soy-based feed accounts for over half the synthetic fertilizer used in the United States, contributing more than any other sector to marine dead zones. It consumes 70 percent of the water in the American West -- water so heavily subsidized that if irrigation supports were removed, ground beef would cost \$35 a pound. Livestock accounts for at least 21 percent of greenhouse-gas emissions globally -- more than all forms of transportation combined. Domestic animals -- most of them healthy -- consume about 70 percent of all the antibiotics produced.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/15/AR2009111502210.html>

Transport Hampers Brazil's Booming Farms, *Financial Times*, November 15

As the global debate over food security intensifies, many around the world are eagerly following Brazil's emergence as an agricultural superpower. But in Brazil, analysts say output is reaching its limit and the investment needed for growth, especially in transport infrastructure, is falling short. "For the hurry that the world is in, we are taking too long," says Andre Pessoa, an economist at Agroconsult, a farm consultancy.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7e3800b2-d216-11de-a0f0-00144feabdc0.html>

Kenya Harvest Example on Reversing Food Shortage, *Associated Press*, November 14

The discernible change a season's harvest of rice has brought to the western Kenyan town of Ahero also helps illustrate a message the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has trumpeted this year: governments need to invest more in agriculture to reduce the number of people who need food aid -- currently one in six people on the globe.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hQhwEWd5so0_Gdux1N9Ywl_luEZgD9BVFSBG0

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

US group urges corporate America to invest in Africa, *Reuters*, November 20

Africa urgently needs investment from corporate America for the billions in annual aid to become effective, the head of a U.S.-Africa trade advocacy group said. Treasury's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa and the Middle East, Andrew Baukol, said the United States was committed to Africa and was working with various countries in areas of infrastructure, finance, agriculture and food security and improving business climate.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5AJ03I20091120>

S.C. Guard Troops Bring Agricultural Skills to Afghanistan, *McClatchy Newspapers*, November 17

About 60 S.C. National Guard soldiers have left for Afghanistan to help local farmers grow bigger crops and raise healthier livestock. In a sense, the soldiers will serve as agriculture extension agents. South Carolina is among a dozen states taking part in an agriculture development program the Pentagon launched in 2008 and assigned to the Army National Guard. Providing technical expertise to Afghan farmers is key to the military's effort to win the hearts and minds of the people. Officials say a successful agriculture mission can bring stability and prosperity to Afghanistan.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/world/story/79001.html>

Ethiopia, Malnutrition and Climate Change, *Bjorn Lomborg, Op-Ed, Wall Street Journal*, November 16

Global food aid is at a 20-year low. Prices soared in 2008, partly because rich countries' biofuel mandates—designed to fight global warming—have meant that land once used to grow crops to feed people is now being used to grow crops to feed cars. Investing in malnutrition assistance helps countries like Ethiopia because it reduces the burden that malnourished people place on health systems. Malnutrition should not be neglected as developed countries concentrate on global warming.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704431804574537391296901758.html>

Two Efforts Seek to Increase Food Security in Africa, *Voice of America*, November 16

The U.N. World Food Program is buying high-quality produce from small farmers in 21 countries. And two groups aim to get African governments to invest more in agriculture.

<http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/2009-11-16-voa2.cfm>

Foreign Aid, Heal Thyself: Rx for a New Approach on Development, *Jonathan Greenblatt, The Huffington Post*, November 15

Already, the US foreign aid budget has dipped to historic lows. This is incredibly unfortunate because global assistance can serve as preventive medicine to manage international challenges.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jonathan-greenblatt/foreign-aid-heal-thyself_b_358553.html

A Front Row Seat on Smart Development, *Ken Hackett, Foreign Policy Journal*, November 14

Helping the world's poor find their way to a prosperous and sustainable future is not an exact science. There is no formula that will produce the right answer. But this elusive goal is worth striving for. This week I end five years on the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U.S. government agency charged with attaining that goal. My time with MCC has shown me that this is an agency making great strides in the right direction, forging a path that the entire development community would do well to follow.

<http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2009/11/14/a-front-row-seat-on-smart-development/>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Bangladesh Waters: Too much, Too Little, *BBC News*, November 18

The latest research suggests that 20 million people in coastal Bangladesh may be affected by rising sea levels, while the whole population could be hit by changes to weather patterns. Floods and cyclones are forecast to become more common and worse than before, while areas in the north could even start to experience droughts.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8364356.stm>

A Dollar a Day, *BBC News, November 18*

In Nepal, severe drought and unreliable monsoon rains have led to acute food shortages and the highest levels of hunger in 40 years. Experts warn that the country's efforts to reduce poverty after the decade-long civil war are being undermined by the country's continuing political instability, climate change and a deepening food crisis.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/documentaries/2009/11/091116_dollar_a_day_pt3.shtml

Clearing Ground for a Deal to Save Forests, *Financial Times, November 18*

At the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen next month, part of the agreement is expected to include the principles of a new scheme where carbon credits will be offered for maintaining standing forests.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/93fbcc6e-d467-11de-a935-00144feabdc0,dwp_uuid=d68cb1fc-a38d-11de-a435-00144feabdc0.html

See Also: Switching from Destruction to Protection, *Financial Times, November 18*

Protecting carbon-rich tropical forests such as Indonesia's remote Sebangau National Park is likely to become part of the new global agreement to tackle climate change.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b13f8b2e-d464-11de-a935-00144feabdc0,dwp_uuid=d68cb1fc-a38d-11de-a435-00144feabdc0.html

Africa Agrees on Secret Climate Damages Demand, *Reuters, November 17*

African leaders agreed on how much cash to demand from the rich world to compensate for the impact of climate change on the continent but kept the figure secret ahead of next month's Copenhagen talks.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE5AG0MX20091117>

See Also: Africa Agrees Climate Demand Bill, *BBC News, November 18*

African leaders meeting in Ethiopia say they have agreed on an amount of money to demand as compensation for the impact of climate change.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8365561.stm>

Forget Emissions, Focus on Research, *Nancy Birdsall and Arvind Subramanian, Financial Times, November 17*

In the developing world, billions of people are now cooking over health-harming wood fires in shanty towns (rather than receiving piped gas and electricity), doing backbreaking hoe farming (not operating tractors) and walking or cycling to work (not driving small cars, let alone gas-guzzlers). Cutting emissions would push them from just above subsistence back, literally, to the dark ages. The goal should be that developing countries' access to such energy services is comparable to that achieved by rich countries at their corresponding stage of development, while exploiting the latest available clean technologies to provide these services.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2cc64f26-d3b6-11de-8caf-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Energy Needs and Efficiency, Not Emissions: Re-Framing the Climate Change

Narrative, *Nancy Birdsall and Arvind Subramanian, Center for Global Development, November 2009*

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423191_file_Energy_Needs_and_Efficiency_not_Emissions_FINAL.pdf

Charity Plots Path Out of Water Poverty, *Financial Times, November 17*

Africa is widely seen as the continent most vulnerable to climate change, least responsible for causing it, and least able to afford the costs of managing it.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/621237f8-d31b-11de-af63-00144feabdc0.html>

Copenhagen Hope Fading, Warns Seychelles, *Financial Times, November 16*

Small and sinking but still vocal, the Seychelles added its voice to a chorus of dismay that the Copenhagen conference on climate change is set to fall short.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c501ef36-d2bf-11de-af63-00144feabdc0.html>

UN Urges Climate Deal to Fight "Devastating" Hunger, *Reuters, November 16*

The United Nations said on Monday that a climate change deal in Copenhagen next month is crucial to fighting global hunger, which Brazil's president described as "the most devastating weapon of mass destruction".
<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJIOE5AF09E20091116?sp=true>

The Business of Climate: A Look to Technology, *CNN, November 14*

"Really, Copenhagen is really a question between peace and prosperity versus war and chaos," Flannery, chairman of the Copenhagen Climate Council, told delegates at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit on Saturday. "Food security, water security, mass migration and political instability" are at risk if the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere isn't mitigated, he said.
<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/BUSINESS/11/14/apec.environment/>

WOMEN

Women's Rights – Looking Back Or Moving Forward?, *AllAfrica.com, November 19*

The continent is experiencing a rise in food prices far beyond the reach of the poor in the context of global, food, energy and financial crises further exacerbated by climate change. Due to their subordinate position in society, a large number of African women have borne the brunt of these crises, further exacerbating their already precarious situation. In sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture accounts for approximately 21 per cent of the continent's GDP and women contribute 60-80 per cent of the labour used to produce food both for household consumption and for sale. However, women face discrimination under both customary and formal systems as a result of culturally embedded discriminatory beliefs and practices, male control of inheritance systems, and the spread of HIV/AIDS, which further weakens land rights and livelihood options of widows and orphans.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200911191103.html>

Poor Women Bear Brunt of Global Warming, *Spiegel Online, November 19*

With the world struggling to come up with an agreement ahead of December's Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen, one important fact has been overlooked: Women are hit hardest by the extreme weather shifts.
<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,662401,00.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Eat Local Rice? Senegalese Say No Thanks, *Agence France-Presse, November 19*

The Senegalese government had what seemed a reasonable idea after last year's food crisis: have the country grow and eat its own rice instead of sticking with the practice of importing tonnes from Asia. It was part of a larger plan to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. But the Senegalese, who serve rice with so many meals, said no thanks. Why? That's where it gets sticky.
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hYXWVQTxb7T6ljyH-GiHAaeWb-dA>

WTO Authorizes Brazil Sanctions Over U.S. Cotton, *Reuters, November 19*

The World Trade Organization authorized Brazil to impose trade sanctions on the United States over its support for cotton, as Brazil ratcheted up pressure on Washington over the illegal subsidies. But Brazil is not yet ready to levy the sanctions, as it considers which U.S. products to target and analyses U.S. data on subsidies which will determine the size of retaliation.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE5AI3EX20091119?sp=true>

Brazil Wins WTO Approval to Sanction U.S. Over Cotton, *Bloomberg, November 19s*

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a3DdSi_xzptA

Time for the Greening of Global Trade, *Opinion, Financial Times, November 18*

To suggest that free trade is destructive is to invite controversy. But the reality is that free trade must be constrained: it encourages the unrestrained consumption of goods and services, thereby playing a negative environmental role globally. The conventional wisdom promoted by economists has created the myth that trade naturally contributes to sustainable development by promoting the efficient allocation of resources, economic growth and increased income levels. The huge increase in trade since the mid-20th century has

exacerbated a gross underpricing of environmental externalities. This is especially visible in the developing world.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3bb01338-cd20-11de-a748-00144feabdc0.html>

Deal Nears to End 'Banana Wars,' *Financial Times, November 17*

European and Latin American trade officials are close to a deal over bananas that would end the longest-running dispute in the history of the World Trade Organisation and could lead to lower prices for consumers. A draft settlement calls for the European Union to cut sharply duties on bananas and dozens of other tropical products. It could be signed this week, said people familiar with the talks.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a3a62ddc-d3a7-11de-8caf-00144feabdc0.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Interview with Chris Policinski, President and CEO of Land O'Lakes, Inc., *U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, November 2009*

Since Land O'Lakes has worked globally fighting hunger for the past 30 years, we have a unique vantage point on the issue of food security. Using advanced technologies for global food production, however, can be a divisive topic for governments. To protect the ability of producers to use safe, proven technologies, those of us involved in any aspect of agriculture must work to educate the public and policymakers about our industry. I am glad to see the U.S. government making food security a major issue. Land O'Lakes is already doing tremendous work in agricultural development around the world, thanks to the U.S. International Affairs Budget, and we look forward to providing advice and assisting in U.S. efforts to further alleviate global hunger.

<http://www.usglc.org/interview-chris-policinski/>

Monsanto: The Parable of the Sower, *Economist, November 19*

Few companies excite such extreme emotions as Monsanto. To its critics, the agricultural giant is a corporate hybrid of Victor Frankenstein and Ebenezer Scrooge, using science to create foods that threaten the health of both people and the planet, and intellectual-property laws to squeeze every last penny out of the world's poor. To its admirers, the innovations in seeds pioneered by Monsanto are the world's best hope of tackling a looming global food crisis. Hugh Grant, the firm's boss since 2003, says that without the sort of technological breakthroughs Monsanto has achieved the world has no chance of doubling agricultural output by 2050 while using less land and water, as many believe it must.

http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14904184

Hershey and Ferrero Flag Interest in Cadbury, *Financial Times, November 18*

Hershey and Ferrero revealed that they were weighing up whether to enter the bid battle for Cadbury, the rival UK confectionery company that is fighting off a £9.9bn hostile offer from Kraft Foods of the US. However, the talks were highly preliminary and no decision to form a consortium with Hershey had been taken, those people said. Neither company said they were working together.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2c339530-d435-11de-990c-00144feabdc0.html>

Corn-Based Ethanol Producer Says It Will Soon Compete with Gasoline, *The Washington Post, November 18*

The nation's largest producer of corn-based ethanol said it has slashed the cost of producing cellulosic ethanol from corn cobs and that it will be able to compete with gasoline in two years. POET, which currently produces 1.5 billion gallons a year of ethanol from corn, said its one-year old pilot plant has reduced the cost of making ethanol from corn cobs from \$4.13 a gallon to \$2.35 a gallon by cutting capital costs and using an improved "cocktail" of enzymes.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/18/AR2009111801937_pf.html

Brasher: 2050 Corn Harvest Will Affect Food, Fuel Policies, *Des Moines Register, November 15*

What corn yields are likely to be in 2050 matters a lot when the government is debating far-reaching energy policies that could take land out of crop production and encourage more biofuel production in the United

States and globally. The lower the yields, the more these policies could squeeze food supplies and drive up prices worldwide. But scientists with the biotech seed giant Monsanto Co. have been telling economists and government officials that yields could be far higher - as much as 300 bushels per acre by 2030.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091115/BUSINESS03/911150319/1029/BUSINESS/Brasher-2050-corn-harvest-will-affect-food-fuel-policies>

LAND TENURE

Zimbabwe Farmers a Boon for Nigerian Agriculture, *Reuters, November 19*

Africa's most populous nation of more than 140 million people, Nigeria imports about \$3 billion worth of food annually and has been trying to boost its self-sufficiency. Farmers from South Korea, Kuwait and the United States have also arrived in Kwara state, some 400 km (250 miles) northwest of the commercial hub Lagos, which is keen to attract more investors and help Nigeria end its import reliance.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE5AJ01P20091120>

UN to Regulate Farmland Grab Deals, *Financial Times, November 18*

The United Nations has started drawing up a code of conduct to regulate overseas investment in farmland, but the voluntary rules will not be ready for at least a year. The code is the first attempt to control the growing trend of so-called "farmland grab" deals, which involve rich countries such as Saudi Arabia and South Korea investing in overseas farming to boost their own food security.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/be986784-d3a4-11de-8caf-00144feabdc0.dwp_uuid=a955630e-3603-11dc-ad42-0000779fd2ac.html

Gaddafi Asks Food Summit to Stop Africa "Landgrab", *New York Times, November 16*

Libya's Muammar Gaddafi called for an end to the purchase of African farmland by food-importing nations at a U.N. hunger summit on Monday, describing it as "new feudalism" which could spread to Latin America as well.
<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/11/16/world/international-us-food-summit-land.html?scp=6&sq=world%20food%20summit&st=cse>

Forest People May Lose Home in Kenyan Plan, *New York Times, November 14*

Officials are gearing up to evict tens of thousands from the Mau Forest, in a government conservation effort that has raised suspicion.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/15/world/africa/15kenya.html>

Condemned to Prosperity, *Economist, November 12*

But before Brazil's agriculture can reach its full potential, there are a few problems to overcome. The first is a long-running argument about who has the right to what piece of land. Land tenure becomes less and less certain as you approach the equator. In the Amazon this results in deforestation as farmers cut down trees to establish de-facto ownership of land. In other parts of the country the disputes take the form of farm invasions by the Landless Movement (MST), which has many ideological sympathisers in the government, including the president himself.
http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14829525

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