

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



**EXPANDED EDITION: November 19th – December 3rd, 2010**

**Quote of the Week:** *"I can tell you that today the United States government is more focused on global food security than at any other time since the earliest days of the Green Revolution. And USAID is leading that renewed focus, recapturing our agency's historical legacy of curbing hunger in the developing world. We understand, critically, that ending world hunger requires more than emergency food aid; it requires focused and sustained investment in developing the agricultural sectors of developing countries. We must do more than give people food; we must help them produce it for themselves."* –Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator, Remarks at the Bread for the World 2011 World Hunger Report Release, November 22, 2010

**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**

**Food Security, Farming and Climate Change to 2050, Scenarios, Results, Policy Options, IFPRI, December 2010**

As the global population grows and incomes in poor countries rise, so too, will the demand for food, placing additional pressure on sustainable food production. Climate change adds a further challenge, as changes in temperature and precipitation threaten agricultural productivity and the capacity to feed the world's population. This study assesses how serious the danger to food security might be and suggests some steps policymakers can take to remedy the situation.

[http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/climate\\_monograph\\_advance.pdf](http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/climate_monograph_advance.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Climate Change: Alleviating Poverty Helps Developing Countries Adapt, Voice of America, December 2**

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-climate-change-ifpri-2dec10-111200729.html>

**SEE ALSO: Climate Change to Worsen Food Security, UN Talks Told**, *Agence France-Presse*  
December 1

[http://green.yahoo.com/news/afp/20101201/sc\\_afp/unclimatewarmingfarmfood.html](http://green.yahoo.com/news/afp/20101201/sc_afp/unclimatewarmingfarmfood.html)

**SEE ALSO: Climate Change May Lift Wheat, Corn Prices by 2050, Study Says**, *Bloomberg*,  
December 1

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-12-01/climate-change-may-lift-wheat-corn-prices-by-2050-study-says.html>

**State Department Review Revises Roles**, *Washington Post*, November 29

The draft summary of the review, presented to congressional staffers, also would give the U.S. Agency for International Development a bigger role in running President Obama's two main foreign aid initiatives - health and agriculture. Aid organizations also hailed the review's conclusion that USAID should be in charge of the president's two major international development programs - Feed the Future, which helps small farmers, and the Global Health Initiative, which includes the massive U.S. effort to combat HIV/AIDS.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/28/AR2010112803864.html>

**SEE ALSO: Contours of QDDR Crystallizing**, *Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network*, November 19

Modeled after the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, the QDDR is designed to "improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State and USAID in delivering results for the American taxpayer, by modernizing their capabilities and aligning their efforts as core pillars of America's civilian power." According to the draft, the exercise will serve as "an ongoing commitment to review, right-size and institutionalize reform."

<http://www.modernizingforeignassistance.org/blog/2010/11/19/contours-of-qddr-crystallizing/>

**Dare to Grow More**, *Economist*, December 2

Yet a prolonged period of high prices may not be bad news for everyone. In a report to be released on December 6th, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), another UN agency, says higher prices could give farmers, particularly in poor countries, a boost; earning more cash from their produce should spur farmers to lay out more capital on things like irrigation.

[http://www.economist.com/node/17627826?story\\_id=17627826](http://www.economist.com/node/17627826?story_id=17627826)

**The 2011 Hunger Report**, *Bread for the World*, November 2010

2011 is a time of opportunity to achieve lasting progress against global hunger and malnutrition. For the United States, it is a time of renewing our commitment to this objective and strengthening partnerships with countries that are eager to work together in this common interest.

<http://www.hungerreport.org/2011/>

**SEE ALSO: Leading Advocate Praises US Global Anti-Hunger Program**, *Voice of America*,  
November 24

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/usa/Leading-Advocate-Praises-US-Global-Anti-Hunger-Program-110131424.html>

**SEE ALSO: Remarks by USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah at the Bread for the World 2011 World Hunger Report Release**, *USAID*, November 22

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp101122.html>

**SEE ALSO: New Report Highlights Keys to Long-Term Resilience to Food Price Volatility**, *Bread for the World*, November 22

<http://hungerreport.org/media-room/media-release>

**The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa**, *Oxford University Press*, December 2010

African agriculture is currently at a crossroads, at which persistent food shortages are compounded by threats from climate change. But, as this book argues, Africa faces three major opportunities that can transform its agriculture into a force for economic growth: advances in science and technology; the creation of regional markets; and the emergence of a new crop of entrepreneurial leaders dedicated to the continent's economic improvement. Filled with case studies from within Africa and success stories from developing

nations around the world, *The New Harvest* outlines the policies and institutional changes necessary to promote agricultural innovation across the African continent.

[http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new\\_harvest.htm](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new_harvest.htm)

**SEE ALSO: Africa Can Feed Itself in a Generation, Says Author, if Leaders Take up Cause,** *Guardian, December 2*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/dec/02/africa-feed-itself-generation>

### **Proven Success in Agricultural Development, IFPRI, 2010**

The world has made enormous progress in the past 50 years toward eliminating hunger and malnutrition. While, in 1960, roughly 30 percent of the world's population suffered from hunger and malnutrition, today less than 20 percent does—some five billion people now have enough food to live healthy, productive lives. Agricultural development has contributed significantly to these gains by increasing food supplies, reducing food prices, and creating new income and employment opportunities for some of the world's poorest people. This book examines where, why, and how past interventions in agricultural development have succeeded.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/oc65.pdf>

### **The African Miracle, Foreign Policy, December 2010**

Even agriculture, in which Africa has long lagged, is poised for takeoff. The continent is home to 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land. So if farmers brought more of it into use, raised the yields on key crops to 80 percent of the world average, and shifted cultivation to higher-value crops, the continent's farmers could increase the value of their annual agricultural output from \$280 billion today to around \$500 billion by 2020.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/11/29/the\\_african\\_miracle](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/11/29/the_african_miracle)

### **The Top 100 Questions of Importance to the Future of Global Agriculture, International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability, November 2010**

In this paper, we seek to improve dialogue and understanding between agricultural research and policy by identifying the 100 most important questions for global agriculture. These have been compiled using a horizon-scanning approach with leading experts and representatives of major agricultural organizations worldwide.

<http://docserver.ingentaconnect.com/deliver/connect/earthscan/14735903/v8n4/s1.pdf?expires=1291219100&id=60025606&titleid=75005120&accname=Guest+User&checksum=8E48976E8424CFEB7A4D64819E243C07>

### **Food is the Foundation, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, November 19**

This week in Cancun, international negotiators have been consumed with climate change. And on Dec. 1, all around the world, red ribbons were out in force for World AIDS Day. Which gives us a chance to shout again: **Why Not Hunger?**

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/12/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-food-is-the-foundation.html>

### **American Public Vastly Overestimates Amount of U.S. Foreign Aid, World Public Opinion, November 29**

As debates about how to deal with the budget deficit have heated up in recent weeks, a new WorldPublicOpinion.org/Knowledge Networks poll finds that Americans continue to vastly overestimate the amount of the federal budget that is devoted to foreign aid. Asked to estimate how much of the federal budget goes to foreign aid the median estimate is 25 percent. Asked how much they thought would be an "appropriate" percentage the median response is 10 percent. In fact just 1 percent of the federal budget goes to foreign aid. Even if one only includes the discretionary part of the federal budget, foreign aid represents only 2.6 percent.

<http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/brunitedstatescanadara/670.php?nid=&id=&pnt=670&lb>

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## **RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**A Much Needed Shot in the Arm for U.S. Civilian Power, The Hill's Congress Blog, December 2**

The Obama administration should prioritize securing congressional support for the long-term rebuilding of USAID, the State Department, and other civilian foreign affairs and foreign assistance agencies that were gutted in the aftermath of the Cold War. While the president has called for sufficient funding for foreign aid programs and diplomatic initiatives, focusing squarely on funding may minimize the daunting task of rebuilding lost human capital (such as engineers and agricultural specialists) and basic operating systems to plan, design, implement and evaluate U.S. foreign assistance.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/131681-a-much-needed-shot-in-the-arm-for-us-civilian-power>

**Farm Bill Spending Update Needed Now**, *Fergus Falls Journal*, December 1

My challenge to Sen. Conrad and you is that agriculture is the best vehicle to encompass the spending and financial maze taxpayers find themselves wandering in today. Agriculture is a true microcosm of the U.S. economy, government policy and lack of accountability.

<http://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/2010/12/01/farm-bill-spending-update-needed-now/>

**U.S.-North Africa Partnership for Economic Opportunity**, *U.S. Department of State*, December 1

As a follow-up to President Obama's June 2009 Cairo speech and his April 2010 Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship, the Department of State is launching the U.S. - North Africa Partnership for Economic Opportunity (NAPEO) - a new public-private partnership to better link entrepreneurs and business leaders in the United States and North Africa (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia). NAPEO will operate in close cooperation with Partners for a New Beginning (PNB) as the key regional entity to support PNB engagement in North Africa.

<http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/rls/fs/2010/152223.htm>

**New FAO Deputy Director-General Appointed**, *FAO*, December 1

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf today announced the appointment of Ann Tutwiler, a citizen of the United States, as one of FAO's two Deputy Directors-General. Ann Tutwiler will be the first female to hold this position.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/48299/icode/>

**Senate Passes Sweeping Law on Food Safety**, *New York Times*, November 30

The Senate passed a sweeping overhaul of the nation's food safety system on Tuesday, after tainted eggs, peanut butter and spinach sickened thousands of people in the last few years and led major food makers to join consumer advocates in demanding stronger government oversight.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/01/health/policy/01food.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=Senate%20Passes%20Overhaul%20of%20Food%20Safety%20Regulations&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/01/health/policy/01food.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=Senate%20Passes%20Overhaul%20of%20Food%20Safety%20Regulations&st=cse)

**USAID Adopts Food Safety Bureau**, *Ag Week*, November 30

Agriculture seems to be gaining prestige at the U.S. Agency for International Development while losing some of its prominence at the State Department.

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/17590/>

**Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Statement on Record U.S. Farm Exports**, *USDA*, November 30

Today, USDA is announcing that U.S. farm exports in fiscal year 2011 are forecast to set an all-time record high of \$126.5 billion.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/12/0626.xml>

**Chairman Kerry on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, November 29

Violence against women is a human rights problem with far-reaching consequences. When women are subjected to violence, whether in the form of trafficking in persons, domestic violence or rape, entire communities suffer. Such acts impose significant barriers to the achievement of our global public health priorities and exact a devastating toll on economic progress in developing countries. As global citizens, we must do better.

<http://foreign.senate.gov/press/chair/release/?id=aa0e5dfb-7cd5-48e5-83c6-da06a4b0645c>

**SEE ALSO: Statement by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, November 25**

Today and every day, I join President Obama on the side of all women and against all acts of gender-based violence. Wherever women and children, girls and boys fall victim to physical and sexual abuse – in conflict zones, in schools, in their own homes – all of us pay a price. Such violence exacts a particularly cruel toll on individuals, but it also diminishes the human rights, prosperity and security of societies.

<http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/2010/151969.htm>

**A Thanksgiving Statement from Administrator Shah, USAID, November 24**

Among a diverse portfolio of vital development work, ending global hunger is this Agency's top priority, and I am excited our new Food Security Bureau is in place to embrace this goal. The unveiling of our new Bureau occurs at a pivotal time; we are experiencing a degree of support for development and specifically agricultural development that the world has not witnessed since the earliest days of the Green Revolution.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/11/a-thanksgiving-statement-from-administrator-shah/>

**Congress vs. National Security, Op-Ed, Kay King, Vice President of Washington Initiatives, Council on Foreign Relations, New York Times, November 22**

Congress has failed to provide timely and adequate funding for the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development, delaying programs and hiring, thus diminishing U.S. capacity around the world. It has not overhauled the Foreign Assistance Act since 1985, impeding a coherent approach to overseas programs.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/23/opinion/23iht-edking.html>

**Statement by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on China's Intentions to Purchase More Than 5.5 Million Metric Tons of U.S. Soybeans, USAID, November 22**

Today's signing of contracts committing China to purchase more than 5.5 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans is a strong sign that China continues to look to the United States as a reliable supplier of high-quality products. These sales, worth nearly \$3 billion at today's price, are great news not just for American soybean producers but for the U.S. economy overall.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/11/0615.xml>

**New Congress Expected to Review Foreign Aid, International Programs, Voice of America, November 19**

The midterm elections have brought a Republican majority to the U.S. House of Representatives and a potential challenge to the Obama administration's approach to a number of foreign policy issues, including development assistance.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/New-Congress-Expected-to-Review-Foreign-Aid-International-Programs-109212714.html>

**Meet Your Next Deputy Secretary of State: Thomas Nides, The Cable, Foreign Policy, November 19**

We need to build a budget that aligns scarce resources with our highest priorities and finds efficiencies across bureaus and agencies working in the same areas," Nides said. "I will help the secretary make the strongest argument for the resources that State and USAID need. But I will also continue my predecessor's efforts to drive hard choices and cease lower-priority programs and activities that cannot be justified in this economic and fiscal climate.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/11/19/meet\\_your\\_next\\_deputy\\_secretary\\_of\\_state\\_thomas\\_nides](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/11/19/meet_your_next_deputy_secretary_of_state_thomas_nides)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Agriculture & Rural Development Day**

*Date:* December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Cancun, Mexico

Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2010, held in parallel to COP16, will bring agriculture sector adaptation and mitigation strategies to the forefront of the global climate treaty negotiations. It will demonstrate clearly that agriculture is where climate change, food security, and development intersect. It informs the climate change negotiations and advocates for a COP decision on a “work program for agriculture” — and at the same time looking beyond the negotiations.

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

### **Food Security 2010: Making Food Security Work: Matching Supply to Demand**

*Date:* December 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Chatham House, London

How can governments and the private sector work together to ensure a secure and sustainable balance between food supply and demand? Volatility in food and agricultural commodities prices appears to have become a permanent feature of global markets. The relative stability of the past few decades has been broken, largely through increased consumer demand.

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/food10/>

### **Food Aid and Agricultural Cargo Preference**

*Date:* December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

A controversial but little understood aspect of US food aid programs is the agricultural cargo preference requirement levied on US food aid shipments. Cargo preference laws were originally designed to provide essential sealift capability in wartime, maintain skilled jobs for American seafarers, and avoid foreign domination of US ocean commerce. A new report by Elizabeth Bageant, Chris Barrett, and Erin Lentz of Cornell University argues that these subsidies complicate the humanitarian task of food delivery and add substantial costs to food aid programs. More efficient direct subsidies to the US shipping industry would more effectively advance national security and maritime goals. Please join CARE, the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, and Oxfam America for a breakfast panel discussion featuring report co-author Chris Barrett and senior representatives from US government agencies, agribusiness and shipping industries, and non-governmental organizations who will react to the report’s findings and provide an update on other efforts intended to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of US food aid programs.

[https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCHPA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt\\_key=86d76ffb-cc27-4da3-8b52-456c15ffb40&msm=852c4f23-63c1-483a-9363-49e304ca842e&cst=92c0a236-4d36-4f92-b2bc-58db5cf85f4a&ent=49e8447d-9780-4f5d-bff0-26d8a3c5755c](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCHPA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=86d76ffb-cc27-4da3-8b52-456c15ffb40&msm=852c4f23-63c1-483a-9363-49e304ca842e&cst=92c0a236-4d36-4f92-b2bc-58db5cf85f4a&ent=49e8447d-9780-4f5d-bff0-26d8a3c5755c)

### **Which Countries Will the Millennium Challenge Corporation Select for Fiscal Year 2011?**

*Date:* December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Please join us on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at the Center for Global Development for a discussion on which countries the Millennium Challenge Corporation’s (MCC) board of directors is likely to select as eligible for FY2011 funding.

<http://actevarsvp.com/acteva/jsp/register.jsp?eventID=a0I50000008rLSMEA2&prtptID=a0D50000002q0acEAA&mailId=a0F50000002dJDVEA2>

### **Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health**

*Date:* February 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people’s nutrition and health, and people’s nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people’s nutrition and health. This conference will inform, influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world’s poor people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>

### **USDA's 2011 Agricultural Outlook Forum: Today's Strategies & Tomorrow's Opportunities**

*Date:* February 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Arlington, VA

Secretary Tom Vilsack will deliver the Forum's keynote address followed by a distinguished speaker. Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will deliver the Forum's welcome. Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will discuss the Domestic and Foreign Agricultural Economic Outlooks. Plenary and session speakers will be announced in the near future. Twenty-five breakout sessions will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to risk management, foreign trade and domestic markets, rural communities, conservation and the environment, renewable energy, broadband, nutrition and food safety, dietary guidelines, land tenure issues, and sustainability. The Forum also will feature traditional commodity and supply and demand outlook sessions.  
<http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>

### **Getting Down to Business: Building Partnerships to Expand African Agricultural Development**

*Date:* March 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa is pleased to announce the third annual US-Africa Forum  
<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/getting-down-business-building-partnerships-expand-african-agricultural-development>

### **Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies**

*Date:* June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

Humanitarian crises and the responses they trigger are evolving rapidly. This conference looks at the opportunities and threats for addressing these crises, as well as at the strengths and weaknesses of the actual responses. The conference provides a unique forum for both scholars and practitioners to present research and debate these issues. In particular, the conference focuses on four broad themes: Emerging from protracted crises; New Directions in Policy; Innovations in Humanitarian Practice; Advances in Public Health and Food Security in Crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

### **Leland Hunger Fellows Program – Now Accepting Applications**

The Leland International Hunger Fellows Program is now accepting applications for the 6<sup>th</sup> class (2011-2013) Information on the fellowship and how to apply is accessible here:

<http://www.hungercenter.org/international/international.cfm>. Applications can be submitted online from now through January 7, 2011 at: <http://www.hungercenter.org/international/apply/>.

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

Reports:

### **Adapting to Climate Change: Agricultural System and Household Impacts in East Africa, *International Livestock Research Institute, 2010***

Climate change poses serious threats to development, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (Scholes and Biggs, 2004). Warming is not only unequivocal (IPCC, 2007), but it is increasingly clear that most of the warming that has occurred over the last 50 years is due to anthropogenic causes (IPCC, 2007). As a result, significant changes in physical and biological systems are occurring on all continents and in most oceans (Rosenzweig et al., 2008). What the impacts may be on agricultural systems and food security, and what options there are for households in vulnerable areas to adapt, are questions that are driving a great deal of work by research organisations, development agencies, and governments.

[http://ej.msu.edu/eastafrica/articles/OLSON\\_adapting.pdf](http://ej.msu.edu/eastafrica/articles/OLSON_adapting.pdf)

### **Agriculture and Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa in a 4 °C+ World, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, January 2011***

Agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa faces daunting challenges, which climate change and increasing climate variability will compound in vulnerable areas. The impacts of a changing climate on agricultural production in a world that warms by 4°C or more are likely to be severe in places.

<http://rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/369/1934/117.full.pdf+html>

**SEE ALSO: Four Degree Rise 'Would Scupper African Farming',** *SciDev.net, November 29*  
<http://scidev.net/en/news/four-degree-rise-would-scupper-african-farming-.html>

**The Role of Emerging Countries in Global Food Security,** *IFPRI, December 2010*

Global food insecurity remains a serious problem. In 2010, more than 900 million people are still hungry, and progress toward reaching the first Millennium Development Goal of halving the world's proportion of malnourished people is off track by a wide margin. But the global environment within which food insecurity persists is changing in important ways. Emerging countries such as Brazil, China, and India, which have experienced rapid growth and increased integration with the global economy in recent years, have significant potential to contribute to global food security—not only by alleviating hunger among their own citizens, but also by increasing trade and financial linkages as well as technology and knowledge exchanges with developing countries.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bp015.pdf>

**Food Security, Price Volatility and Trade: Some Reflections for Developing Countries,** *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, November 2010*

The main document discusses what food security is, highlights the heterogeneity of food insecurity situations, and analyzes global trends in the related variables. Then, it focuses on price trends and price volatility and the implications for food security.

[http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/11/food\\_security\\_v6-1.pdf](http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/11/food_security_v6-1.pdf)

**The African Food System and its Interaction with Human and Nutrition,** *Cornell University Press, November 2010*

This book is a collaborative, multi-disciplinary research effort between researchers at Cornell University, United Nations University, and other eminent scholars and policymakers worldwide under the direction of Per Pinstrup-Andersen. It is the first in a series discussing the gaps in knowledge that prevent governments in Sub-Saharan Africa from accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals. The research is targeted at a broad audience and does not assume specific technical knowledge to make use of the insights from the chapters.

<http://www.foodpolicy.dyson.cornell.edu/pdfs/AFSBookLaunch.pdf>

**Net Farm Income Forecast Up 31 Percent in 2010,** *USDA, November 2010*

Net farm income is forecast at \$81.6 billion in 2010, up 31 percent from 2009 and 26 percent higher than the 10-year average of \$64.8 billion for 2000-2009

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FarmIncome/nationalestimates.htm>

**Can Africa Replicate Asia's Green Revolution in Rice,** *World Bank, November 2010*

This study reviews the recent literature on rice technologies and their impact on productivity, incomes, and poverty, and compares current conditions in Africa with the conditions that prevailed in Asia as its rice revolution got under way. An important conclusion is that, to a degree, a rice revolution has already begun in Africa. Moreover, many of the same practices that have proved successful in Asia and in Africa can be applied where yields are currently low.

[http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/mainpagePK=64165259&piPK=64165421&theSitePK=469372&menuPK=64166093&entityID=000158349\\_20101115132436&cid=DEC\\_PolicyResearchEN\\_D\\_INT&cid=dec\\_research](http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/mainpagePK=64165259&piPK=64165421&theSitePK=469372&menuPK=64166093&entityID=000158349_20101115132436&cid=DEC_PolicyResearchEN_D_INT&cid=dec_research)

Media Articles:

**Development Expert Says Africa can be Food Self-Sufficient,** *Voice of America, December 3*

Kenyan-born Calestous Juma of Harvard University says Africa can feed itself in a generation if its farmers embrace modern technology.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Butty-Africa-Food-Security-Juma-03december10-111247174.html>

**How Can Africa Grow More Food?,** *Guardian, December 3*

Rising food prices are focusing minds on Africa's agricultural output, and on whether or not technology is the best way to boost production.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/dec/03/africa-agriculture-food-boost-production>

**Food Security Wanes as World Warms**, *U.S. News and World Report*, December 2

Global warming may have begun outpacing ability of farmers to adapt.

<http://www.usnews.com/science/articles/2010/12/02/food-security-wanes-as-world-warms.html>

**Investors Try New Tactic with African Agriculture**, *Reuters*, December 1

Africa as has long been a target for wealthy philanthropists who donate money in a fight against the continent's poverty, disease epidemics and food shortages. Now, taking a cue from the nonprofit world, profit-hungry investors are eying Africa in a new way, putting a charitable spin on their pursuit of double-digit returns.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6B06BN20101201?feedType=RSS>

**Africa Mulls Biofuels as Land Grab Fears Grow**, *Reuters*, November 30

Farmers in this iron-roof village in Sierra Leone say they didn't know what they were getting into when they leased their land for a biofuel crop they now fear threatens their food harvests.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE6AT0JR20101130>

**SEE ALSO: Food Versus Biofuels Debate Continues**, *IPS*, December 2

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53743>

**Why This Method of Fish Farming is Cheap and Profitable**, *AllAfrica*, November 30

Africa presents an untapped investment frontier for aquaculture and most countries are doing a lot to stimulate the industry. The adoption of technology and other innovations is set to revolutionise fish farming, which experts say can spur economic growth if properly managed.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201012010638.html>

**Firm Says Phone Messages to Boost African Farmers**, *Reuters*, November 29

Thousands of small farmers in Africa will be able to negotiate better prices for their crops thanks to real-time market data sent to their mobile phones, the Ghanaian company behind the scheme said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFIOE6AS05W20101129>

**SEE ALSO: Mobile Services to Boost Farm Economies in AME Emerging Markets, Pyramid Finds**, *PR Newswire*, November 23

The arrival of more robust mobile data services will trigger the development of "m-agriculture" applications that will help make agricultural economies in the Africa/Middle East region more efficient and more profitable, according to a new report from Pyramid Research.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/mobile-services-to-boost-farm-economies-in-ame-emerging--finds-110126944.html>

**Around the Globe, Many Still Hungry Despite Recent Advances**, *David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World*, *PBS Newshour Transcript*, November 26

In fact, the U.S. government is leading a global effort to increase investments in poor farmers, in poor countries, so that they can produce more food themselves, for themselves and for their countries. It is really a great initiative. And what I like best about it is that the U.S. isn't doing it all ourselves. What we have done is to provide leadership to get everybody around the world to invest more in the productivity of poor farmers in poor countries. It's the best way we could respond to this increase in world hunger.

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social\\_issues/july-dec10/worldfood\\_11-26.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social_issues/july-dec10/worldfood_11-26.html)

**Tobacco Additive Curb Angers African Farmers**, *Financial Times*, November 25

Producers claim World Health Organisation plans will have a 'devastating' impact on livelihoods.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/00695da2-f8bc-11df-b550-00144feab49a.html>

**EU Farm Policy Must Maintain Means to Intervene**, *Sarkozy Says*, *Bloomberg*, November 25

The European Union should keep rules allowing state intervention in agriculture to shore up prices, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said, as the 27-nation bloc reviews policies that account for 41 percent of its budget.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-11-25/eu-farm-policy-must-maintain-means-to-intervene-sarkozy-says.html>

**Sudan Targets Wheat Self-Sufficiency, Plans Crop Diversification**, *Bloomberg, November 25*

Sudan has targeted self-sufficiency in wheat production in five years' time and also plans to expand output of other grain crops, Agriculture Minister Abdel Haleem al-Mutafi said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-25/sudan-targets-wheat-self-sufficiency-plans-crop-diversification.html>

**SEE ALSO: Egypt Eyes Sudan for Wheat Needs**, *Associated Presse, November 23*

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h8uGmZnBXriCM5CFEiCuR3Eh1FVQ?docId=340f0aaffe704fe38d87b798573d7786>

**Ethiopia's Bumper Harvest Removes Almost 3 Million from Food Aid**, *Bloomberg, November 25*

The number of Ethiopians requiring emergency food aid has fallen by almost 3 million to 2.3 million following a bumper harvest, a United Nations official said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-25/ethiopia-s-bumper-harvest-removes-almost-3-million-from-food-aid.html>

**Bless the Orange Sweet Potato**, *Op-Ed, Nicholas Kristof, New York Times, November 24*

Without enough vitamin A, children can go blind or even die. New high-tech foods now deliver it.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/25/opinion/25kristof.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

**SEE ALSO: Orange Sweet Potato Faces a Bright Future in Africa**, *Harvest Plus, November 24*

<http://www.harvestplus.org/content/orange-sweet-potato-faces-bright-future-africa-0>

**Boosting Farmer Incomes by Improving Markets of Staple Food Crops**, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, November 24*

As world leaders focus attention on the potential of Africa's smallholder farmers' to solve global hunger, AGRA and its partners are committing \$42million to a markets program that will connect small holder farmers to local, regional and international markets.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1235>

**More Countries Taking Action to Safeguard Animal Genetic Diversity**, *FAO, November 24*

A growing number of countries are taking steps to catalogue, conserve and better manage the genetic diversity of livestock in order to help safeguard the resilience of the world's food production systems, says an informal FAO survey released today. FAO cautioned, however, that much more needs to be done to better manage animal genetic resources.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/47815/icode/>

**New Focus on North's Food Shortage**, *New York Times, November 24*

As outsiders from Beijing to Washington struggle to see a pattern in the secretive dynamics of the North Korean leadership, one part of the tangled puzzle seems beyond dispute: the country's 25 million people cannot feed themselves and face acute food shortages as they have done for many years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/25/world/asia/25food.html>

**Investments in Agriculture Must Grow**, *FAO, November 23*

The key to long-term food security lies in boosting investment in agriculture, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said today.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/47881/icode/>

**Continent to Take a 'Quantum Leap' in Forecasting**, *IRIN, November 23*

Africa has struggled to make accurate and detailed predictions of the impact of climate change on its countries, but the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX) which began earlier in

2010, will see the continent take a "quantum leap" in climate change projection, says Bruce Hewitson, the project's Africa coordinator.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=91170>

**Australia to Study Overseas Investment in Farms Amid Food Security Concern**, *Bloomberg*, November 22  
Australia, the world's biggest wool shipper and second-largest dairy and beef exporter, will study the level of overseas investment in its farms amid concern over foreign ownership and food security.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-23/australia-studies-foreign-farm-ownership-amid-community-concern-about-food.html>

**Sierra Leone to Help Farming Families, Improve Food Security**, *Voice of America*, November 22

Though renowned for its mineral resources, Sierra Leone also has significant unfarmed agricultural land and a large population of rural small-scale farmers. With a \$400 million plan to turn small farmers into small businesses, the government hopes to improve the lives of 80,000 farming families and also improve food security.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Sierra-Leone-to-Help-Farming-Families-Improve-Food-Security-109962399.html>

**Palm Oil Plantations Embrace Biodiversity in Attempt to Change Environmentally Destructive Reputation**, *Huffington Post*, November 20

CNN's Dan Rivers reports on efforts to improve biodiversity on palm oil plantations in Malaysia.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/20/biodiversity-at-palm-oil- n\\_781799.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/20/biodiversity-at-palm-oil- n_781799.html)

**Food Insecurity and its Consequences**, *Huffington Post*, November 19

When families can't afford higher-priced vegetables, whole grains and lean meats, they often resort to processed foods that pack cheap calories, along with a lot of fat, sodium and empty carbohydrates. While these foods fill the belly with minimal cost, they can also lead to obesity, heart disease and a host of other health problems.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/heres-life-inner-city/food-insecurity-and-its-c b\\_786175.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/heres-life-inner-city/food-insecurity-and-its-c b_786175.html)

**New Disease-Resistant Food Crops in Prospect**, *Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council*, November 18

Researchers have uncovered the genetic basis of remarkable broad-spectrum resistance to a viral infection that, in some parts of the world, is the most important pathogen affecting leafy and arable brassica crops including broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kale, swede and oilseed rape. They have tested resistant plants against a range of different strains of the virus taken from all over the world and so far, no strain has been able to overcome the resistance.

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/food-security/2010/101118-pr-disease-resistant-food-crops.aspx>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Media Articles:

**As Federal Spending Gets Tighter, Foreign Aid Advocates Worry**, *Reuters*, December 1

From the dairy cows Land O'Lakes Inc. gave to families in Malawi to the shelters and latrines the American Refugee Committee built for earthquake victims in Pakistan, federal funding has underwritten Minnesota's many efforts to help people around the world cope with poverty and disaster. But how much government aid will flow in the austere future that voters mandated in the November elections?

<http://www.minnpost.com/stories/2010/12/01/23785/as-federal-spending-gets-tighter-foreign-aid-advocates-worry>

**It's Time to Finish the Job on Foreign Aid Reform**, *Devex*, November 30

With the leak of a summary of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review last week – and President Obama's announcement of America's first-ever government-wide global development policy in September – the Obama administration has moved another step closer to an overhaul

of the U.S. approach to global development, something no administration has been able to accomplish in the last 50 years.

<http://www.devex.com/en/articles/it-s-time-to-finish-the-job-on-foreign-aid-reform>

**UN Seeks \$7.4 Billion for Urgent World Aid in 2011**, *Washington Post*, November 30

The United Nations is asking governments and private donors for a record \$7.4 billion next year to provide 50 million people worldwide with food, clothing and other urgent humanitarian aid.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/30/AR2010113003537.html>

**World Bank's New Strategy for Africa Invites Debate**, *The Independent*, November 30

The proposed strategy does not divide itself neatly into individual sectors, such as health, education, water and transport to trigger rapid growth. Instead, it attempts to exploit the synergies among these sectors by organising around critical themes. Its implementation will depend on a reversal of the Bank's traditional instruments that emphasises partnerships ahead of knowledge and financing.

<http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php/business/business-news/54-business-news/3697-world-banks-new-strategy-for-africa-invites-debate->

**New FAO Funding Mechanism Makes its Debut**, *FAO*, November 29

Sweden and the Netherlands today became the first resource partners to provide funds to FAO's new multipartner programme, a direct follow up to FAO reform. The voluntary contributions agreed upon, to be used by 2013, amount to a total of roughly \$26 million.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/48113/icode/>

**Google Satellite Service Sets 2013 Take-Off**, *Financial Times*, November 29

O3b Networks, the Google-backed satellite venture seeking to provide internet access to people in developing countries, is planning to launch services in 2013 after securing \$1.2bn of funding.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cff91f66-fb15-11df-b576-00144feab49a.html#axzz16ga7dPne>

**Zuma: More Urgency Needed on MDGs**, *Mail & Guardian*, November 29

Zuma, who was addressing the third Africa-European Union summit in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, said: "With only five years left to achieve the MDGs, all nations need a far greater sense of urgency if the targets are to be met.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-11-29-zuma-more-urgency-needed-on-mdgs>

**SEE ALSO: Africa not likely to achieve MDG's**, *NEPAD*, November 20

<http://www.nepad.org/foodsecurity/news/1872/africa-not-likely-achieve-mdgs-ms-ayitvey>

**Aid Should Not Be Used to Meet Our Security Agenda**, *Guardian*, November 29

The fact that almost two-thirds of the world's poor actually live in stable countries, not war zones, calls into question the fundamental, Paul Collier-inspired logic underpinning the UK government's securitised development strategy.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/nov/29/aid-security-bottom-billion>

**Glimmer of Hope for Malnourished Children**, *Financial Times*, November 29

Since March, when a prolonged drought began to push up malnutrition levels across the region, known as Guatemala's "dry corridor", ACF has established three offices in the area and employed 35 staff to provide basic aid and assistance for the most vulnerable communities. The project, which has a budget of just under €1m (\$1.3m) and covers 45 communities, has four basic aims: monitoring malnutrition in children and providing supplementary food; handing over agricultural supplies such as seed and fertiliser; giving villagers money through a short-term, cash-for-work programme and training locals to keep tabs on weather patterns, crop yields and basic food costs to help anticipate problems

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1de4d38e-fbe6-11df-b7e9-00144feab49a.html#axzz16tEN4800>

**Are Investors Going Overboard on Foreign Funds?**, *Reuters*, November 29

Advisers have been telling U.S. clients for years that they should be internationally diversified, but some experts are now concerned that investors might be taking that advice too far, especially when it comes to mutual funds that focus on developing country stocks.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AS5RG20101129>

**Universities Campaign for Agricultural Funding**, *The Observer*, November 28

Universities in eastern and southern Africa want their governments to review their development plans and increase funding for higher education in agriculture.

[http://observer.ug/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=11095&Itemid=106](http://observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=11095&Itemid=106)

**China is Winning Over the Heart of Africa – at the West’s Expense**, *The Globe and Mail*, November 27

While transforming Africa’s agriculture into a commercial success may be one of the biggest business stories of the century, Westerners are unwilling to tie up their money there for 20 years before seeing a good return. For China, with its huge current-account surpluses, this time scale is ideal.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/doug-saunders/china-is-winning-over-the-heart-of-africa-at-the-west-s-expense/article1815403/>

**Leave Well Alone**, *Economist*, December 18

Capping microfinance interest rates will hurt the poor. There are better ways to regulate the industry. Microfinance is an example of something that is sadly all too rare: an anti-poverty tool that usually at least breaks even. If you make small, uncollateralized business loans to groups of poor women, they almost always repay them on time. It has grown rapidly in many countries, not the least Bangladesh and India. With nearly 30m clients each, they are now the world’s biggest markets for microfinance. Yet the industry has come under attack for being too commercial.

[http://www.economist.com/node/17522606?story\\_id=17522606](http://www.economist.com/node/17522606?story_id=17522606)

**Debt Crisis Highlights I.M.F.’s Renewed Role**, *New York Times*, November 26

Ireland’s reluctant acceptance of a bailout supported by the International Monetary Fund is the latest in a string of developments since 2007 that have thrust the monetary fund into a new position of authority and prominence.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/27/business/27fund.html?src=busln>

**SEE ALSO: IMF Reform: How the Poor Man (That’s the USA) Had a Good Idea**, *Center for Global Development*, November 30

IMF governance reforms were agreed the week before the G20 Summit. One decision – to increase IMF resources but not by much – may matter for the IMF’s role in a still-unsettled Eurozone – if Ireland’s problem becomes Portugal’s and so on.

[http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2010/11/imf-reform-how-the-poor-man-that%e2%80%99s-the-usa-had-a-good-idea.php?utm\\_source=nl\\_weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl\\_weekly\\_11302010](http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2010/11/imf-reform-how-the-poor-man-that%e2%80%99s-the-usa-had-a-good-idea.php?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_11302010)

**Global Hunger? School Feeding Offers Double Dividend of Healthier Children and Better Chances in the Classroom**, *World Bank Blog*, November 24

Looking ahead, a new movement has been catalyzed for evidence-based approaches to school feeding in Africa—fusing school feeding programs with the promotion of local agriculture. A key part of this movement is PCD’s Home Grown School Feeding initiative—supported by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—which is supporting African government action to deliver cost effective school feeding programmes sourced from local farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/education/node/596>

**Haiti/Cholera: US \$10 Million World Bank Emergency Grant to Step Up Access to Health Services – Program is Part of World Bank US \$479 Million Reconstruction Support**, *World Bank*, November 24

In response to the first cholera outbreak in Haiti in decades, the World Bank is preparing a US\$10 million Cholera Emergency Grant.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22774299~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

**Giving is Personal, Make it Political**, *Washington Post*, November 21

The point of this isn't to polarize philanthropy or to warn anyone away from traditional charities. There's room - and need - for an array of approaches. But at the end of the day, the government is the central player in many of these spheres, with the scale and power to make changes that other actors simply can't contemplate. Charities that work to make the government's policies better have a unique ability to take small investments and turn them into tremendous outcomes. If you're looking for bang for your philanthropic buck, they're the place to start.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/20/AR2010112000634.html?hpid=topnews>

**When Donations Go Astray**, *Op-Ed, Nicholas Kristof, New York Times*, November 20

This holiday season, Americans will dig into their pockets for good causes. But these gifts will sometimes benefit charlatans or extremists, or simply be wasted.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/21/opinion/21kristof.html>

**SEE ALSO: Kristof Gets It Only Half Right**, *Center for Global Development*, November 22

The New York Times' Nicholas Kristof makes recommendations for charitable giving this season here. But he missed half the point and way more than half the potential impact.

[http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2010/11/kristof-gets-it-only-half-right.php?utm\\_source=nl\\_weekly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl\\_weekly\\_11222010](http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2010/11/kristof-gets-it-only-half-right.php?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_11222010)

**Poverty Reduction Falls Victim to Crisis: World Bank**, *Reuters*, November 19

The World Bank disbursed some \$80.6 billion in 2009 and 2010 to soften the blow from the economic crisis but warns that increased poverty stemming from the downturn will be a major future problem.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE6AI01Y20101119>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Closing the Knowledge Gap: Integrated Water Management for Sustainable Agriculture**, *Center for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation*, November 2010

The potential of agricultural water management has not yet been tapped in most ACP countries, even though, according to FAO, proper irrigation can lead to an increase in crop yields of 100–400%. Investments in agricultural water management will be essential to ensure access to an affordable and reliable water supply. This would be an important first step in enabling many poor, small-scale farmers to boost agricultural productivity, enhance their livelihoods and improve food security.

<http://annualseminar2010.cta.int/pdf/ResumesSeminarEn.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Technology Bane of Water Management in Africa, Others – Survey**, *AllAfrica*, December 1

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201012010818.html>

**Four Degrees and Beyond; the Potential for a Global Temperature Increase of Four Degrees and its Implications**, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, January 2011

The potential severity of impacts and the behavioural, institutional, societal and economic challenges involved in coping with these impacts argue for renewed efforts to reduce emissions, using all available mechanisms, to minimize the chances of high-end climate change. Yet at the same time, there is a need for accelerated and focused research that improves understanding of how the climate system might behave under a +4°C warming, what the impacts of such changes might be and how best to adapt to what would be unprecedented changes in the world we live in.

<http://rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/369/1934/6.full>

**SEE ALSO: The World: Four Degree's Warmer**, *Discovery*, November 29

As science shows our planet could warm by as much as four degrees, researchers predict what problems that could cause.

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/climate-change-four-degrees.html>

**Environmental Consequences of Ocean Acidification: A Threat to Food Security**, *UNEP, 2010*

The future impact of rising emissions on the health of seas and oceans may be far more wide-ranging and complex than was previously supposed, a new report released at the UN climate convention meeting in Mexico says. The report confirms concerns that some organisms, such as corals and shellfish may find it increasingly difficult to form their skeletons in the decades to come making it harder to survive let alone thrive. It also shows that ocean acidification can react together with ocean warming so that animals such as crabs have a reduced range of temperatures they can thrive in.

[http://www.unep.org/dewa/pdf/Environmental\\_Consequences\\_of\\_Ocean\\_Acidification.pdf](http://www.unep.org/dewa/pdf/Environmental_Consequences_of_Ocean_Acidification.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Oceans Failing the Acid Test, U.N. Says**, *CNN, December 2*

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/12/02/ocean.acidification.threat.cancun/>

**SEE ALSO: Ocean Acidification May Threaten Food Security: U.N.**, *Reuters, December 2*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6B16MD20101202>

**Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries**, *Friends of the Earth International, November 2010*

When it comes to climate change, REDD is the couleur du jour. "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries" holds out the enticing prospect of mitigating climate change, conserving threatened biodiversity, and bringing much-needed development finance to poor Indigenous Peoples and local forest-dwelling communities - at the same time as offering significant profits to investors. All this immediately begs the question: is REDD too good to be true?

<http://www.foei.org/en/resources/publications/pdfs/2010/redd-the-realities-in-black-and-white>

**SEE ALSO: Oil Companies and Banks will Profit from UN Forest Protection**, *Guardian, November 28*

Some of the world's largest oil, mining, car and gas corporations will make hundreds of millions of dollars from a UN-backed forest protection scheme, according to a new report from the Friends of the Earth International.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/nov/28/redd-forest-protection-banks-oil>

**Water Sector Governance in Africa**, *Water Partnership Program of the African Development Bank, November 2010*

The report identifies numerous but common governance risks, and shows that these are easily identifiable and preventable. It also finds that substantial gains would be made if government assessments became standard procedure and if governance criteria were introduced in donor project approval procedures.

[http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/Vol\\_1\\_WATER\\_SECTOR\\_GOVERNANCE.pdf](http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/Vol_1_WATER_SECTOR_GOVERNANCE.pdf)

Media Articles:

**User-Friendlier Weather Data**, *IRIN, December 3*

The guidelines for communicating climate data in a meaningful way to vulnerable people will be part of what the tool for climate action - called the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) - will offer, as well as trying to address gaps in climate information gathering.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=91273>

**Where's the Beef? Cancun Climate Conference Should Take Animal Agriculture Seriously**, *Mia MacDonald, Executive Director, Brighter Green, Huffington Post, December 2*

As more than 190 government delegations gather in Cancun, Mexico, for the global climate talks, one topic isn't on the menu in any substantial portion: the intensive system of rearing animals for food known as factory farming. But conference delegates ignore the rapid spread of intensive animal agriculture at the planet's -- and millions of people's -- peril.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mia-macdonald/at-cancun-wheres-the-beef\\_b\\_790836.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mia-macdonald/at-cancun-wheres-the-beef_b_790836.html)

**Global Warning**, *Interview with Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Maldives, Foreign Policy, December 2010*  
Mohamed Nasheed, president of the climate-change-threatened Maldives, speaks via email with Foreign Policy's Charles Homans about the difficulty of diplomacy, the promise of protest, and why moving his whole country might be more difficult than he once thought.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/11/29/global\\_warning](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/11/29/global_warning)

**Cancun Feud Hits Climate Deal Talks**, *Financial Times, December 2*

A dispute between developing nations and richer signatories to the Kyoto protocol is threatening the fragile peace at international talks on climate change, even as a poll found global warming had slipped down voters' agendas.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5ede288a-fe5d-11df-abac-00144feab49a.html>

**SEE ALSO: Nations Again Try to Bridge Rich-Poor Climate Gap**, *Associated Press, November 29*

World governments begin another attempt Monday to overcome the disconnect between rich and poor nations on fighting global warming, with evidence mounting that the Earth's climate already is changing in ways that will affect both sides of the wealth divide.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/11/29/world/americas/AP-LT-Climate-Conference.html?hp>

**SEE ALSO: Cancun Climate Change Summit: America Plays Tough**, *Guardian, November 30*

US adopts all-or-nothing position in Cancun, fuelling speculation of a walk-out if developing countries do not meet its demands.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/nov/30/cancun-climate-change-summit-america>

**SEE ALSO: Cancun Climate Summit: UN food expert calls for a "Green Marshall Plan for**

**Agriculture"**, *United Nations, November 29*

Without a substantial change in policies, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture could rise by 40 percent by 2030", the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, warned, urging negotiators at the Cancun Climate Summit to "consider climate and agricultural policies together to effectively address climate change and its disastrous impact on the right to food." In his view, "Cancun should lead the way towards a 'Green Marshall Plan' for agriculture.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10565&LangID=E>

**Carbon Standards in Agriculture and Food Trade**, *Farming First, December 1*

At the Hague conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, Farming First held a side event 'Best practices in agricultural value chains', where spokespeople presented examples of initiatives that aim to increase resilience and productivity at different points in the value chain.

[http://www.farmingfirst.org/2010/12/carbon-standards-in-agriculture-and-food-trade/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29](http://www.farmingfirst.org/2010/12/carbon-standards-in-agriculture-and-food-trade/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29)

**SEE ALSO: Carbon Standards in Agriculture and Food Trade**, *Presentation by Thom Achterbosch at the Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, November 2010*

<http://www.slideshare.net/FarmingFirst/carbon-standards-in-agriculture-and-food-trade>

**India Proposes a Monitoring System for All Big Emitters**, *New York Times, December 1*

India is pushing a global emissions monitoring system in Cancun talks that could become the centerpiece of a compromise with the United States if other developing countries sign on. Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh is said to expect a "quid pro quo" from the United States to make the deal work, new documents show.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/12/01/01climatewire-india-proposes-a-monitoring-system-for-all-b-16844.html>

**Helping Farmers Conserve Water**, *New York Times, November 29*

A technology that uses sensors on satellites could help to establish standards for the amount of water that farmers need to irrigate their crops, and help to optimize the use of that water.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/29/business/energy-environment/29iht-rbogwater.html>

**Islands Fear "End of History" Due to Climate Changes, Reuters, November 29**

Some low-lying island nations face the "end of history" due to rising sea levels unless the world takes stronger action to slow global warming, a spokesman said at U.N. climate talks on Monday. Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands and the Maldives were most at risk, said Antonio Monteiro Lima, a delegate of Cape Verde who is vice-chair of the 43-member Alliance of Small Island States.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AT0KW20101130>

**Indonesia's Billion-Dollar Forest Deal is at Risk, New York Times, November 28**

For environmental campaigners and scientists discouraged by slow progress in the fight against climate change, Indonesia, with its vast forests and history of breakneck land clearing, has been a rare point of hope.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/29/world/asia/29iht-indo.html>

**SEE ALSO: Indonesia Eyeing \$1 Billion Climate Aid to Cut Down Forests, Says Greenpeace, Guardian, November 23**

Vague legal definitions may allow Indonesia to class forests as 'degraded' and 'rehabilitate' the land with palm trees and biofuel crops

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/nov/23/indonesia-climate-aid-forests-greenpeace>

**Africa to Fall Short on Water Millennium Goals: UN, Agence Foreign-Presse, November 26**

Most African countries will fail to attain the United Nation's Millennium Goals on access to water and sanitation, the world body's environment agency said on Friday.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iGCMsb0-1BdoogyEpYmzEkeXxDQg?docId=CNG.f031df300391aa3f54e58515202460bb.41>

**World Focus 'Needs to Fall on Agriculture', Financial Times, November 26**

Many believe that, to address water shortages, the world's focus has to be on agriculture. Not only does it account for roughly 70 per cent of all water withdrawals, it is also the hardest to regulate, unlike domestic and industrial consumption, which can be managed via pricing, permits and licences. Historically, water used in agriculture has been relatively inefficient.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e394b17c-f90b-11df-99ed-00144feab49a.html>

**Is the Stage Being Set for New Water Wars in Africa?, Guardian, November 26**

The African Development Bank insists that the only way to tackle the water and sanitation crisis on the continent is through privatisation and making people pay. But putting a price on water has a contentious history in Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/nov/26/africa-water-privatisation>

**Facing the Climate Change, Economist, November 25**

Global action is not going to stop climate change. The world needs to look harder at how to live with it.

[http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=17572735](http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displayStory.cfm?story_id=17572735)

**SEE ALSO: How to Live with Climate Change, Economist, November 25**

[http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=17575027](http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displayStory.cfm?story_id=17575027)

**China's Developing World Shields, Foreign Policy, November 23**

Michael Levi points out an important dynamic that will likely dominate the next week's climate meetings in Cancun: China's attempt to bind itself to other, smaller developing countries when it comes to the development of international transparency requirements on emissions...

[http://bosco.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/11/23/chinas\\_developing\\_world\\_shields](http://bosco.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/11/23/chinas_developing_world_shields)

**Climate Costs Set to Rise, Technology Can Help – UN, Reuters, November 22**

Costs of combating global warming will rise inexorably if the world fails to cap greenhouse gases by 2015, but new technologies can curb the price, the head of the U.N. climate panel said on Monday

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE6AL1BX.htm>

**New Development Fund to Address Food Security, Climate Change, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, November 22**

A new research initiative funded by several global development agencies will attempt to tackle threats to agriculture and food security resulting from climate change. The US\$200 million project, known as the Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), will explore new ways of helping vulnerable rural communities adjust to global changes in climate. The 10 year project will also attempt to help the agriculture sector in vulnerable countries reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and combat future food productivity and security challenges that are expected to arise due to climate change.

<http://ictsd.org/i/news/biores/96743/>

**North African Crops to Be Hit Hardest By Climate Change**, *AllAfrica*, November 22

North African agriculture will be the worst affected by climate change, according to an assessment of how 50 key crops will perform around the world under increasing temperatures over the next 40 years.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201011230002.html>

**Dry Weather Forecast for U.S. Winter Wheat, Argentine Soy**, *Reuters*, November 21

Dry weather forecast across the U.S. Southern Plains this week with wide swings in temperature will hamper development of winter wheat crop, a forecaster said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AL00L20101122>

**It's All About Them**, *Huffington Post*, November 20

Generally when people talk about needing to slow down and stop climate change they point to the world's most egregious emission offenders. While countries like the United States and China have the ability to make the largest impact on emission reduction, every country must do its part. Africa has one of the lowest carbon emissions per-capita largely due to its status as underdeveloped. In fact, by using African countries as a test bed for sustainable technologies, we can both help bring sustainability to the forefront and aid developing countries.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joshua-keyak/its-all-about-them\\_b\\_786445.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joshua-keyak/its-all-about-them_b_786445.html)

**Agriculture and Climate Change, Impacts and Adaptation**, *Presentation by Neil Conklin, President, Farm Foundation at the Climate Change & the Future of Global Agriculture Panel*, November 18

Neil Conklin, president of the Farm Foundation; Dan Glickman, senior fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and former U.S. secretary of Agriculture; Clayton Yeutter, former U.S. secretary of Agriculture and former U.S trade representative; David Jhirad, director of the SAIS Energy, Resources and Environment Program; Josette Lewis, Director, Agricultural Development, Arcadia Biosciences; and Richard Gilmore (moderator), president and CEO of GIC Group and a SAIS graduate, discussed "Climate Change and the Future of Global Agriculture" on Thursday, November 18.

<http://www.sais-jhu.edu/bin/a/h/11182010-agriculture-and-climate-change-sais.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Mitigating Agriculture's GHG Emissions**, *Presentation by Josette Lewis, Director, Agricultural Development, Arcadia Biosciences at the Climate Change & the Future of Global Agriculture Panel*, November 18

[http://www.sais-jhu.edu/bin/c/e/SAIS\\_GHG\\_Nov\\_18\\_2010.pdf](http://www.sais-jhu.edu/bin/c/e/SAIS_GHG_Nov_18_2010.pdf)

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Media Articles:

**Microfinance: Small Loan, Big Snag**, *Financial Times*, December 1

Once the slow-growing realm of development professionals funded mainly by western aid, microfinance has been transformed since Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank, won the 2006 Nobel peace prize for his idea of giving small loans to businesses run by poor rural women, whom he saw as more dedicated to their families' welfare than men. Amid the destructive excesses laid bare by the global financial crisis, microfinance acquired even greater lustre as a sober, socially responsible asset class: most microborrowers, in general self-employed women less affected by the global market turmoil, kept up their repayment rates of 95-98 per cent.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a3edfeba-fd85-11df-a049-00144feab49a.html#axzz1749dnccb>

**Mothering the Earth**, *Newsweek*, November 29

Grassroots activists are showing women how to clean up the environment while empowering themselves.  
<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/11/26/empowering-women-and-saving-the-environment.html#>

**Women and the Impact of the Global Conservation Act**, *Beth Kaplin, Director of the Doctoral Program in Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England, Huffington Post, November 29*

Women in developing countries are often disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. Beth Kaplin, a tropical ecologist, has seen this time and again while conducting field work in North Africa and other developing areas.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alliance-for-global-conservation/guest-post-beth-kaplin\\_b\\_789451.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alliance-for-global-conservation/guest-post-beth-kaplin_b_789451.html)

**SEWA: A Movement to Transform Women's Lives in India and Beyond**, *Nourishing the Planet, November 26*

In India, 72 percent of women are involved in agriculture. But often, these small-scale farmers confront numerous economic barriers, including lack of access to training, markets and productive inputs. In a society where gender biases are deeply ingrained, women farmers also lack access to bank accounts and land tenure. And, women are also underrepresented in farmers groups and associations, making it harder for their voices to be heard. The Self-employed Women's Association (SEWA) is a member-based Indian trade union, whose philosophy is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's principle of self-reliance.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/sewa-a-movement-to-transform-women's-lives-in-india-and-beyond/>

**OAS Examines the Role of Women in Agriculture and the Obstacles They Face**, *Media Newswire, November 22*

The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States ( OAS ) and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development ( CEPACIDI ) held a joint session today in which they examined the role of women in agriculture and the obstacles they face in countries of the region. During the meeting, the Chair of the Permanent Council and Representative of El Salvador to the OAS, Ambassador Joaquín Maza, highlighted the need to "create a new vision for agriculture" in the aftermath of the food pricing crisis of 2008 and the global financial crisis. "In that new vision, the contribution of women is significant for the agricultural development of the Americas, which has large repercussions on food security."

[http://media-newswire.com/release\\_1134296.html](http://media-newswire.com/release_1134296.html)

**Cambodian Women Look to Malaysia for Work**, *Voice of America, November 19*

Cambodian women are increasingly finding work as domestic labor in Malaysia. But in their rush to employment, some are finding little protection from abuse at work. Like many developing countries, Cambodia is trying to find ways to protect its migrant workers.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Cambodian-Women-Look-to-Malaysia-for-Work-109322469.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Media Articles:

**Asia Grain Outlook: Tight Wheat Supply to Dominate Perth Meet**, *Wall Street Journal, December 3*

Soaring global wheat prices may rally further this month if dry weather in the U.S. and heavy unseasonal rains in eastern Australia continue, sharply reducing the supply of high-protein milling wheat, analysts and trading executives said Friday.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20101203-704266.html>

**World Food Prices Climb for Fifth Month to Highest in Two Years**, *Bloomberg, December 1*

World food prices climbed for a fifth month, rising to the highest level in more than two years in November on higher costs for cereals, sugar and cooking oil, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-01/world-food-prices-climb-for-fifth-month-to-highest-in-two-years-un-says.html>

**Emerging Market Assets 'Crowded Trade,' Deutsche Bank Says, Bloomberg, December 1**

Emerging-market assets may reach "excessive levels" and be at risk of an extended period of underperformance if developing countries fail to reduce reliance on exports and commodities, according to Deutsche Bank AG.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-01/emerging-market-assets-crowded-trade-deutsche-bank-says.html>

**Beijing Acts on Surging Food Prices, Financial Times, November 30**

Students rioting over prices in their school cafeteria, local authorities handing subsidies to poor families, and government measures to bring down prices. It all points to one thing: high anxiety over rising food prices in China after inflation hit a two-year peak of 4.4 per cent in October.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6b7ea524-fca0-11df-bfdd-00144feab49a.html>

**SEE ALSO: China Pushes for More Crops to Rein in Food Prices, Wall Street Journal, November 25**

China's government is pushing farmers to plant and produce many more vegetables in the coming months to tackle a key component of the recent surge in food prices, officials said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704638304575636091798426392.html>

**WTO Envoys Ready for Doha Trade Deal Push in 2011, Reuters, November 26**

Ambassadors at the World Trade Organization, heeding a call from leaders at the G20 and APEC summits, have agreed to push for an outline deal in the long-stalled Doha trade round by next summer.

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE6AP22420101126>

**Poorest Countries Stuck in Boom/Bust Cycle, Reuters, November 25**

The world's poorest countries are trapped in boom-bust cycles and their medium-term prospects are a cause for concern, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in a report issued on Thursday.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFTRE6AO38A20101125>

**China-Africa Trade Ties Move Beyond Resources, Reuters, November 24**

Energy deals took centre stage during a southern African tour by China's leader-in-waiting, but the growing ties between China and Africa are quickly moving beyond the traditional sectors of energy and infrastructure.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE6AN06F20101124>

**Volatility Bumps Up Agricultural Trading Costs, Financial Times, November 22**

With commodities markets experiencing sharp swings – prices have been soaring and plunging in the space of days or even hours in recent weeks – exchanges are demanding larger amounts of collateral from participants holding futures positions. Quite simply, the lengthy bull run in commodities means it is becoming ever more expensive to trade them.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6ec14e0a-f65e-11df-846a-00144feab49a.html>

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**AGRIBUSINESS**

Media Articles:

**PepsiCo to Buy Stake of Wimm-Bill-Dann For \$3.8 Billion, Bloomberg, December 2**

PepsiCo Inc. is buying a majority stake in Russian company Wimm-Bill-Dann Foods for \$3.8 billion. The move will make PepsiCo the biggest Russian food and beverage company and broaden its presence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9JROCVG0.htm>

**Agribusiness Confidence Up, Des Moines Register, December 1**

It shouldn't be a surprise considering the recent increases in corn and soybean prices, renewed livestock profitability and a fresh wave of land value increases that the index of agribusiness confidence by DTN of Omaha has gone up 22 points since August.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/12/01/agribusiness-confidence-up/>

**Analyst Research on Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. and Bunge Ltd. -- Farm Products Industry Affected by High Food Prices**, *MarketWatch, December 1*

The Farm Products sector is closely tied to the overall health of the agriculture market. Generally speaking, the market has been strong with this year's U.S. farm exports reaching a record \$126.5 billion up from \$108.7 billion last year. Wheat, soy bean, and corn futures are all up 15% so far this year.

[http://www.marketwatch.com/story/analyst-research-on-archer-daniels-midland-co-and-bunge-ltd-farm-products-industry-affected-by-high-food-prices-2010-12-01?reflink=MW\\_news\\_stmp](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/analyst-research-on-archer-daniels-midland-co-and-bunge-ltd-farm-products-industry-affected-by-high-food-prices-2010-12-01?reflink=MW_news_stmp)

**GM Sugar Beets "Shall Be Removed from the Ground" Says US Judge**, *Nature.com, December 1*

A federal judge has halted an attempt to grow banned genetically modified sugar beets in the United States. The herbicide-tolerant beets represent a whopping 95% of the sugar beets sold in the US and about half of the sugar.

[http://blogs.nature.com/news/thegreatbeyond/2010/12/gm\\_sugar\\_beets\\_shall\\_be\\_remove.html](http://blogs.nature.com/news/thegreatbeyond/2010/12/gm_sugar_beets_shall_be_remove.html)

**Brazil Sugar, Ethanol to Need \$26 Billion, Rabobank's Duff Says**, *Bloomberg, November 30*

Brazil's sugar and ethanol industries will need \$36 billion in investment by 2020, said Andy Duff, a food and agribusiness researcher at Rabobank.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-30/brazil-sugar-ethanol-to-need-36-billion-rabobank-s-duff-says.html>

**Wal-Mart to Pay \$2.3 Billion for Control of Massmart**, *Reuters, November 29*

Wal-Mart is to pay \$2.3 billion for control of Massmart, giving the world's largest retailer a substantial presence in South Africa and paving the way for further expansion across the continent.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E6AS03N20101129>

**Slovenia's Foodmaker Perutnina Eyeing Agroziv Purchase, STA Says**, *Bloomberg, November 29*

Perutnina Ptuj d.d., a Slovenian foodmaker, is interested in acquiring Agroziv d.d., a Serbian agribusiness firm that is undergoing bankruptcy proceedings, STA newswire reported citing the Slovenian company.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-29/slovenia-s-foodmaker-perutnina-eyeing-agroziv-purchase-sta-says.html>

**Allianz Find a Compelling Case for Agriculture**, *Financial Times, November 28*

Global food shortages and growing demand have sent soft commodity prices soaring, causing a surge in the popularity of agriculture funds as a result.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a5cf5f7a-f98f-11df-9e29-00144feab49a.html>

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