

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



November 6th – 12th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Together, we can strengthen agriculture. Cooperation between Indian and American researchers and scientists sparked the Green Revolution. Today, India is a leader in using technology to empower farmers, like those I met yesterday who get free updates on market and weather conditions on their cell phones. And the United States is a leader in agricultural productivity and research. Now, as farmers and rural areas face the effects of climate change and drought, we’ll work together to spark a second, more sustainable Evergreen Revolution. Together, we’re improving Indian weather forecasting systems before the next monsoon season. We aim to help millions of Indian farmers -- farming households save water and increase productivity, improve food processing so crops don’t spoil on the way to market, and enhance climate and crop forecasting to avoid losses that cripple communities and drive up food prices. And as part of our food security initiative, we’re going to share India’s expertise with farmers in Africa. And this is an indication of India’s rise — that we can now export hard-earned expertise to countries that see India as a model for agricultural development. It’s another powerful example of how American and Indian partnership can address an urgent global challenge.”* – President Barack Obama, Remarks to the Joint Session of the Indian Parliament in New Delhi, India, November 8, 2010

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

G-20: Fact Sheet on the U.S. Global Development Policy and the G-20 Development Framework, White House, November 12

Today, at the Seoul Summit, G-20 issued a statement that includes principles on development and a comprehensive multi-year Plan of Action for future G-20 engagement. The G20's plan includes actions on infrastructure, trade, human resource development, private sector investment and job creation, food security, domestic resource mobilization, knowledge sharing and growth with resilience.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/12/g-20-fact-sheet-us-global-development-policy-and-g-20-development-framework>

SEE ALSO: G20 Ushers in "Great Leap Forward" on Development, *Reuters*, November 11

A new global development strategy to be unveiled at this week's G20 summit marks a "great leap forward", the head of the OECD.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-52832720101111>

SEE ALSO: G20 Leaders Must Renew Their Commitment to Global Development, *Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, Huffington Post*, November 10

Ahead of today's G20 Summit in South Korea, two issues stand out for those of us who take an interest in international development. First, the concepts of fairness, balance, and the common good have experienced a welcome renaissance as world leaders have had to remind each other of these universal principles to avoid a potentially devastating escalation of their disagreements on currency values and trade imbalances. Second, while it remains to be seen to what extent it will help to bring countries' contending economic strategies into line, this rediscovery of basic values comes just as the G20 is beginning to include international development issues in its deliberations.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kofi-annan/post_1240_b_781560.html

Food Price Fears as US Warns on Crop Yields, *Financial Times*, November 9

The spectre of inflation loomed over agricultural markets after the US slashed key crop forecasts and warned of shortfalls in grains. The agriculture department cut estimates of US corn yields for a third successive month, forecast record soyabean exports to China and warned of the slimmest cotton stocks since 1925.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/249211fc-ec1d-11df-9e11-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimate, *World Agricultural Outlook Board*, November 9

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/waob/wasde//2010s/2010/wasde-11-09-2010.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Crop Production, *USDA*, November 9

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/CropProd//2010s/2010/CropProd-11-09-2010.pdf>

Remarks by the President to the Joint Session of the Indian Parliament in New Delhi, India, *President Barack Obama, The White House*, November 8

"Together, we can strengthen agriculture. Cooperation between Indian and American researchers and scientists sparked the Green Revolution. Today, India is a leader in using technology to empower farmers, like those I met yesterday who get free updates on market and weather conditions on their cell phones. And the United States is a leader in agricultural productivity and research. Now, as farmers and rural areas face the effects of climate change and drought, we'll work together to spark a second, more sustainable Evergreen Revolution."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/08/remarks-president-joint-session-indian-parliament-new-delhi-india>

SEE ALSO: Joint Statement by President Obama and Prime Minister Singh of India, *The White House*, November 8

Building on the historic legacy of cooperation between the India and the United States during the Green Revolution, the leaders also decided to work together to develop, test, and replicate transformative technologies to extend food security as part of an Evergreen Revolution.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/08/joint-statement-president-obama-and-prime-minister-singh-india>

SEE ALSO: Expo on Agriculture and Food Security, *The White House*, November 6

India and the United States share a passion for and demonstrated leadership in agricultural research, technology, and education...By co-hosting the Agriculture and Food Security Expo, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) demonstrate the potential of partnership.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/06/fact-sheet-expo-agriculture-and-food-security>

SEE ALSO: US, India to Help African Food Security, *Reuters, November 8*

President Barack Obama announced a U.S.-Indian partnership to promote food security in Africa, harnessing technology to battle starvation in a part of the world where China has boosted its presence.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE6A70M720101108>

Economic Crisis Sidelines Fate of the World's Poorest, *New York Times, November 10*

Last year, after a personal appeal from President Obama in which he cited his own family's experiences in Kenya, world leaders gathered at the Italian hill town of L'Aquila pledged \$20 billion over three years to help millions of the world's poorest farmers grow enough food to feed themselves — a "landmark achievement" organizers said in a report. A year and a half later, barely \$1 billion has come in, mostly from the United States. Canada, Spain, South Korea and the Gates Foundation recently promised around \$400 million, but many donors have been shifting old aid pledges into the new fund, and counting them twice.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/11/world/11aid.html>

Climate Change, Agriculture and Poverty, *World Bank, November 11*

Although much has been written about climate change and poverty as distinct and complex problems, the link between them has received little attention. Understanding this link is vital for the formulation of effective policy responses to climate change. This paper focuses on agriculture as a primary means by which the impacts of climate change are transmitted to the poor, and as a sector at the forefront of climate change mitigation efforts in developing countries.

<http://go.worldbank.org/DUBW2B7ON0>

Online Seed Selection Tool Launched to Help Fight Hunger in Africa, *Reuters, November 12*

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has launched an online cropping calendar to guide the aid community in giving appropriate seeds in the wake of floods, droughts and other natural disasters. Seed aid is a growing business, with private companies and donors ramping up their donations to developing countries in recent years.

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/65712/2010/10/12-174831-1.htm

SEE ALSO: Crop Calendar – A Crop Production Tool For Decision Making, *FAO, 2010*

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/seed/cropcalendar/welcome.do;jsessionid=73760A49FA48135C007548678862BF14>

SEE ALSO: Interactive 43-Nation Guide on What to Plant, When and Where, *FAO, November 11*

FAO has launched a quick reference calendar covering 43 major African countries that advises which crops to plant when, according to the type of agricultural zone from drylands to highlands. The web-based tool, developed by FAO experts, covers more than 130 crops from beans to beetroot to wheat to watermelon.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/47497/icode/>

2010 GAP Report, Measuring Global Agricultural Productivity, *Global Harvest Initiative, 2010*

This paper outlines the calculations behind the new Global Agricultural Productivity Report™, developed to measure ongoing progress in achieving the goal of sustainably doubling agricultural output by 2050. For the first time, the GAP Report™, including the GAP Index™, quantifies the difference between the current rate of agricultural productivity growth and the pace required to meet future needs – while limiting the environmental footprint of agriculture. This 2010 GAP Report™ is the initial step in providing a benchmark and eventually prescriptive actions that will help to strategically increase productivity in selected regions of the world.

<http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/documents/GAP%20Report.pdf>

Hidden Hunger Exposed, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, November 12*

Hidden hunger was brought out into the open in a big way this week – and so was a promising solution. As we have often noted, nearly one billion people suffer from a chronic lack of food – this is a visible hunger all

too familiar to us from scenes of famine and food shortages. But more than two billion people suffer from what is called hidden hunger – a chronic lack of micronutrients such as vitamin A, iron and zinc. This under-nutrition isn't as visible because the sufferers may be consuming enough calories; they may appear to be reasonably well fed. But a lack of access to more nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables and animal products leaves them deprived of vital nutrients that makes them vulnerable to blindness, increased risk of disease and premature death, and leaves countless children stunted mentally and physically. But critical help appears to be right around the corner.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/11/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-hidden-hunger-exposed.html#more>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

CoChairs' Proposal - \$200 Billion in Illustrative Savings, *National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform*, November 2010

The proposal includes a number of recommendations for cutting the deficit, including slowing the growth of foreign aid by reducing the allocations 10 percent from the President's budget, saving \$4.6 billion in 2015. A cut of this amount will slow the growth over the period, while still allowing for an increase of about 30 percent by 2015.

<http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/news/cochairs-proposal>

SEE ALSO: There is No Report from the Fiscal Commission, *Washington Post*, November 10

Here is the most important fact about the proposal released by the co-chairmen of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform: It is not the commission's report. And here is the second most important fact to remember: The commission itself does not have any actual power.

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/ezra-klein/2010/11/there-is-no-report-from-the-fi.html>

The Future of Food, *Ambassador William J. Garvelink, Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development*, November 9

New foods are being developed to reduce global hunger and we are already seeing the value of this on the ground. Orange flesh sweet potatoes packed with provitamin A are being planted throughout East Africa. High iron beans in Rwanda and provitamin A maize in Zambia are currently being adapted by national agricultural research countries in those countries. We have seen the potential for the orange flesh sweet potato to dramatically reduce vitamin A deficiency in children in Mozambique, and are committed to working together with HarvestPlus, the International Potato Center, and others to ensure the scale-up of this crop throughout Africa as part of our comprehensive approach to reduce child undernutrition.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp101109.html>

Election Shakes Up Leadership on House, Senate Ag Committees, *Agweek*, November 9

The 2010 congressional elections will make dramatic changes in the leadership and membership of the House and Senate agriculture committees and probably will delay consideration of the 2012 farm bill.

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/17451/>

US Congress Looks Inwards in Wake of Polls, *Financial Times*, November 8

The midterm elections have made the US Congress more isolationist, especially on issues such as international trade, the Afghanistan war and foreign assistance, top Republicans have warned.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/44bf3f52-eae9-11df-b28d-00144feab49a.html#axzz14icFLCCK>

New United States Agency for International Development Contribution Helps Feed 7.3 Million Flood-Affected Pakistanis, *USAID*, November 8

The United States Agency for International Development announced that it will provide an additional \$90 million to the World Food Program in Pakistan to help 7.3 million flood-affected people.

http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr101108_2.html

Speech and Townterview with Australian Broadcasting Company, *The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State*, November 7

How our civilian and military forces work together. When you look at the work we are doing in Afghanistan, it's not a surprise that the Taliban is targeting international and Afghan aide workers, because -- take agriculture, for example. A lot of -- I mean export agriculture stopped during the Taliban period. Farmers are going back into their fields, they're producing their crops, they're starting to export again. International development workers have been instrumental in that.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/11/150516.htm>

Remarks with Foreign Minister Kevin Michael Rudd, *The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, November 6*

In addition, we are working together to reduce hunger and improve food security. We are stepping up efforts to develop new strains of rice that will yield more food with less water and perform better in heat and drought. We will continue to support the International Rice Research Institute and other programs to help sustain Asia's food production in the face of growing population and climate change. This work is just one outcome of the commitment our two development agencies made this summer to extend our cooperation. And so I want to commend Australia on its recent decision to contribute \$50 million to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program. It will have a concrete set of benefits for people in need. Just this week that program announced a new round of grants that will help small holder farmers in Ethiopia, Niger, and Mongolia grow more food and increase their incomes.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/11/150506.htm>

U.S. Response to Pakistan's Flooding Disaster, *U.S. Department of State, November 6*

The United States Government is providing approximately \$463 million to assist with relief and recovery efforts. The U.S. also has provided civilian and military in-kind assistance in the form of halal meals, infrastructure support, and air support to and within Pakistan to transport goods and rescue people at an approximate value of \$87 million. There are currently 18 U.S. military helicopters in Pakistan supporting relief efforts. To date, U.S. aircraft have evacuated more than 30,000 people and delivered approximately 22 million pounds of relief supplies. Hundreds of U.S. military and civilian personnel are working around the clock in Islamabad, in flood affected areas, and at Pakistani military bases in support of flood relief operations.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/11/150511.htm>

Nelson Calls on President to Press Japan and Korea on Reopening US Beef Trade, *The Honorable Ben Nelson, U.S. Senator for Nebraska, November 5*

Nebraska's Senator Ben Nelson asked President Obama in a letter to include the issue of beef trade in the President's upcoming meetings with the Prime Minister of Japan and the President of Korea.

http://bennelson.senate.gov/press/press_releases/110510-01.cfm

SEE ALSO: Washington to push Seoul on Bilateral Deal, *Financial Times, November 8*

Ron Kirk, US trade representative, flew to Seoul to try to thrash out a deal over US access to the South Korean market, the agreement's main sticking point. US beef exporters, previously vocal opponents of the deal, have moderated their position in an attempt to make a more gradual entry into Asian country.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/08f8e6ac-ead1-11df-b28d-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: U.S. And South Korea Fail to Agree on Trade, *New York Times, November 11*

President Obama and President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea failed to reach an agreement on a long-awaited free-trade agreement, saying they had decided instead to give their negotiators more time to work out differences, which revolved around Korean imports of American autos and beef.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/12/world/asia/12prexy.html>

SEE ALSO: U.S., South Korea Fail to Agree on Trade Pact on Cars, Beef, *Bloomberg, November 11*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-11/obama-lee-fail-to-reach-korean-trade-accord-talks-to-resume-after-g-20.html>

U.S. Assistance to Haiti Related to Hurricane Tomas and Cholera Outbreak, *Mark Ward, Acting Director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, U.S. Department of State, November 5*

We've worked closely with the World Food Program. They have stockpiled food in 32 different locations around the country. They also have a barge. You'll see that boat that -- we've got a little figure there of a boat

in the middle of the water. That's to indicate that we have this capacity of a barge where we can get food and other non-food supplies around the cities, around the water, if we have to if access is a problem. The food stocks in-country with WFP are sufficient to feed more than a million people for six weeks.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/11/150501.htm>

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Partners Announce Second Round of Grants, Encourage Contributions from G-20 Counterparts, *U.S. Department of the Treasury, November 4*

Partners in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a new fund to increase agriculture productivity and reduce poverty, announced this week that Ethiopia, Niger and Mongolia will receive the fund's second round of grants totaling \$97 million. The grants will help each country increase food security, raise rural incomes and reduce poverty by enabling small holder farmers to grow more crops and earn more.

<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/tg945.htm>

SEE ALSO: Farm Grants to Ethiopia, Niger and Mongolia, *Agence France-Presse, November 4*

http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/afp/101104/usa/us_worldbank_g20_farm_food_aid_poverty_1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Agriculture in Africa

Date: November 14th – November 18th, 2010

Location: Kampala, Uganda

The Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Agriculture in Africa (CHEA) is being held as a policy dialogue conference for the purpose of reaffirming high level commitment to Higher Education in Agriculture in Africa. The objective is to mobilise high level political and development commitment for increasing investments in capacity development, including Higher Education, Science and Innovations in Africa.

<http://www.ruforum.org/events/ministerial-meeting-higher-education-chea-november-15-19-2010>

Delivering Aid Differently: Lessons from the Field

Date: November 15th, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

Aid to developing countries is a \$200 billion industry, which is indicative of global goodwill toward helping the poor and supporting economic development. But goodwill is not the same as good results. In *Delivering Aid Differently: Lessons from the Field* (Brookings Press, 2010), editors Homi Kharas, senior fellow and deputy director of Global Economy and Development at Brookings, and Wolfgang Fengler, lead economist in the Nairobi office of the World Bank, compile case studies from the field and find that the delivery of aid is fragmented, volatile and uncoordinated.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/delivering-aid-differently-lessons-field>

Nourishing Plants and People

Date: November 19th, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

Millions of farmers use fertilizers to increase agricultural production and productivity and thereby improve their livelihoods. But fertilizers have impacts beyond agricultural production. If they are not managed carefully, fertilizers can damage soil and groundwater and compromise people's health. In this seminar, Luc Maene, Tom Bruulsema, and Ross Welch talk about how fertilizer use interacts with agriculture, nutrition, and health and consider how we can reduce the risks and enhance the positive contributions of fertilizer use.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/nourishing-plants-and-people>

Agriculture & Rural Development Day

Date: December 4th, 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 6th – 7th, 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/>

Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

Date: February 10th – 12th, 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 24th – 25th, 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 1st - 2nd, 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 2nd – June 5th, 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 6th 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/>.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Measures of Fixed Capital in Agriculture, *World Bank, November 2010*

Capital is a fundamental component of agricultural production, and the accumulation of capital is key to growth in agriculture and the process of development. Unfortunately, cross-country data sets on agricultural fixed capital are rare. Using a common methodology that allows comparisons across countries, as well as over time, this paper introduces a data series on fixed capital in agriculture, based on national accounts data.

<http://go.worldbank.org/605EKGQ2M0>

Demand Characteristics for Small-Scale Private Irrigation Technologies, *International Food Policy Research Institute, 2010*

Small-scale private irrigation (SPRI) schemes make up most of the irrigated area in Nigeria, although they constitute only about three percent of the cultivated area in the country. Farmers' demand for SPRI is potentially affected by diverse sets of agroecological, socioeconomic and risk factors. While the constraints on SPRI expansion have been well investigated by many studies in Nigeria, key knowledge gaps in at least four areas, still need to be resolved. These gaps are: (1) lack of knowledge of water sources; (2) perceptions of risks associated with rainfall and access to good quality water; (3) transaction costs associated with investments in irrigation; and (4) effectiveness of public institutions activities in SPRI.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/demand-characteristics-small-scale-private-irrigation-technologies>

A Review of Fertilizer Policy Issues in Nigeria, *International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2010*

This report reviews the status of the fertilizer sector in Nigeria on the basis of a thorough overview of existing literature on Nigeria, reports on recent survey results, and analytic work conducted by IFPRI in Nigeria under the Global Food Security Response (GFSR) initiative of the USAID.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/review-fertilizer-policy-issues-nigeria>

Media Articles:

Karuturi Global Eyes East African Markets for Crops Grown on Ethiopian Land, *Reuters, November 12*

Karuturi Global Ltd., an Indian food processor, plans to exploit East Africa's market potential by selling crops grown on land leased from Ethiopia's government within the region

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-12/karuturi-global-eyes-east-african-markets-for-crops-grown-on-ethiopia-land.html>

Shareholder Demands to Shape Modern Agriculture, *Reuters, November 11*

Increasing investor demand for agricultural land and the funneling of big money into farms is raising questions about whether small, family-sized operations can survive.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6AA1QG20101111>

Afreximbank to Boost Assets, Eyes African Agriculture, *Reuters, November 11*

Egypt-based African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) aims to boost its assets by 10 percent in 2010 to \$1.6 billion with increased lending to African firms involved in agriculture, the bank's president said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFLDE6A90FN20101111>

S. Africa-Congo Land deal by End November-Farmers, *Reuters, November 11*

South Africa could by the end of this month reach agreement on a land deal with the Republic of Congo, with some farmers expected to visit Congo early next year to identify farm land, a farmers' group said. South Africa -- Africa's biggest economy -- has one of the most developed agricultural sectors on the continent and its farmers are looking to expand into other countries.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/mozambiqueNews/idAFLDE6AA1FC20101111>

Food Security, HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention Closely Linked, *Voice of America, November 11*

To ensure food security for a rapidly growing global population, governments are investing heavily in agriculture. But food policy experts say that investment must include HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.
<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-aids-food-security-11nov10-107233313.html>

Experts Call for Global Agriculture Reform to Ensure Food Security As Two Rice Conferences Open, *Kaiser Family Foundation, November 10*

Experts attending the International Rice Congress in Hanoi, Vietnam, on Tuesday called for imminent action to change inefficient farming methods and expand the global rice supply "in order to prevent rising poverty and hunger," Agence France-Presse reports.

http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/November/10/GH-111010-Rice-Congress.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+kff%2Fkdghpr+%28Kaiser+Daily+Global+Health+Policy+Report%29&utm_content=Google+Feedfetcher

SEE ALSO: Scientists Meet to Ensure Supply of Asia's Staple, Rice, *Agence France-Presse, November 7*

Scientists from around the world meet in Vietnam aiming to ensure a steady supply of rice -- the staple food for Asia's poor -- against threats that include climate change and urbanisation.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jspgsiZqt0o1i5Og5pWi4i7xYMkg?docId=CN.G.d04e0fe6c1cf2cf2a4da82dbc1a5208b.d11>

SEE ALSO: Key Facts About Rice, *IRIN, November 8*

<http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=91012>

Fish as Farmed Food: Aquaculture Draws Investors, *Reuters, November 10*

Agriculture investors keen to profit from rising demand for commodities say they are turning their attention to aquaculture, betting that farmed fish can meet the protein needs of a growing, hungry world.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6A91Q520101110>

How the Sweet Potato Could Help Save the World from Malnutrition, *Kansas City, November 10*

The sweet potato, that Thanksgiving staple, is starring in a new agricultural revolution that aims not just to produce more food but to create more nutrient-enriched foods that can help save the world's poorest people from blindness, stunted growth and disease.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2010/11/10/2415387/how-the-sweet-potato-could-help.html>

Brazil Opens Fund to Cut Agriculture Deforestation, *Reuters, November 10*

Brazil's state development bank BNDES on Wednesday said it opened a fund worth 1 billion reais (\$588 million) that will finance projects to reduce deforestation associated with the nation's booming agricultural sector.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1017190620101110>

New Staple Crop Varieties Take Aim at Malnutrition, *IPS, November 9*

When the Green Revolution took root in the 1960s and 1970s, plant biologists' main concern was increasing the yield of the staple crops on which people in poor countries depended. This, it stood to reason, would increase the amount of food available to the world's poor -- and decrease hunger.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53501>

World Must Act Today to Boost Rice Supply: Experts, *Agence France-Presse, November 9*

Urgent action is needed to reverse inefficient farming methods and boost the world's supply of rice in order to prevent rising poverty and hunger, experts told a major world rice congress.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20101109/wl_asia_afp/asiafoodrice

Why Africa is the Next Destination, *AllAfrica, November 9*

As evidenced in China, GDP growth generated in agriculture has a higher impact in raising incomes for the poor. Against a backdrop of rising population and food prices in international markets, African countries should stop relying on food imports and build viable agriculture sectors for domestic and regional markets.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201011091157.html>

Boer Farmers Head for New Home in Georgia, *The Independent*, November 9

Facing the threat of land reform, white South Africans are looking to pastures new.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/boer-farmers-head-for-new-home-in-georgia-2128794.html>

Vietnam Aims to Boost Rice Crop for Food Security, *Reuters*, November 9

Vietnam vowed to maintain current rice crop areas and boost yields to ensure supplies remain adequate in the face of demand pressures from a fast-growing population as well as the effects of climate change.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6A82VM20101109>

SEE ALSO: Vietnam to Export More than 6.5 Million Tons of Rice this Year, *Bloomberg*, November 9

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-11-09/vietnam-to-export-more-than-6-5-million-tons-of-rice-this-year.html>

Agriculture, Farmland Attracting "Impact Investors", *Reuters*, November 8

Investors eyeing agriculture in Africa, Latin America and other global markets are increasingly merging their pursuit of profits with a philanthropic zeal that promoters say will pay benefits over the long term. So-called "impact investing" is catching on with a range of private equity groups, financial services firms, venture capital funds and other moneyed players.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0812929920101108>

Kashmir's Fruits of Discord, *New York Times*, November 8

Seeing harvest and youthful resistance on a recent visit to a beautiful valley on the Pakistani border.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/09/opinion/09roy.html>

South African Farmers Worried about Losing Valuable Zimbabwean Labor, *Voice of America*, November 8

South African farmers concerned they'll lose valuable Zimbabwean labor because of new immigration laws.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/southern/South-African-Farmers-Worried-about-Losing-Valuable-Zimbabwean-Labor----106888793.html>

'Stall of Life' Wavers Under Weight of Humanity, *Washington Post*, November 7

In these volcanic valleys of central Mexico, on the Canadian prairie, across India's northern plain, they sow and they reap the golden grain that has fed us since the distant dawn of farming. But along with the wheat these days comes a harvest of worry. Yields aren't keeping up with a world growing hungrier. Crops are stunted in a world grown warmer. A devastating fungus, a wheat "rust," is spreading out of Africa, a grave threat to the food plant that covers more of the planet's surface than any other.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/06/AR2010110602239_pf.html

Producing More with Less: The Business, Science, Trade & Technology of Sustainable Global Crop Production, *Dr. Namanga Ngongi, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, CropWorld 2010, AGRA November 2010*

Smallholder farmers, the majority of them women, produce most of Africa's food. They do this with minimal resources and little support, each working on a farm usually less than two hectares, with poor soil, without good seeds, little or no credit and in a policy environment that is largely unfriendly to Agriculture.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1229>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Commitment to Development Index, *Center for Global Development*, 2010

The Commitment to Development Index (CDI) ranks 22 of the world's richest countries on their dedication to policies that benefit the five billion people living in poorer nations.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424561_file_CDI_2010_FINAL_Web.pdf

Protecting Child Nutritional Status in the Aftermath of a Financial Crisis: Evidence from Indonesia, *World Bank*, November 2010

This paper exploits heterogeneity in program exposure to evaluate the effectiveness of a supplementary feeding program implemented in the wake of the 1997-1998 economic crises in Indonesia. The explicit aim of the program was to protect the nutritional status of infants and young children from adverse effects of the crisis.

<http://go.worldbank.org/QVTVFDQ2S0>

Media Articles:

Societe Generale Turns to Africa to Grow International Retail Banking, *Wall Street Journal*, November 12

After profiting from being one of the first foreign banks to gain foothold in Eastern Europe, French bank Societe Generale SA (GLE.FR) has now turned to Africa to grow its international banking operations. "We are ready to invest in the African countries where we are not present today," said Jean-Louis Mattei, Societe Generale's general manager of international retail banking.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20101112-712696.html>

World Losing Interest in Farm Aid, *Des Moines Register*, November 11

The Obama administration's attempt to help poor farmers around the world increase production was a major topic of last month's World Food Prize symposium. But there are fears that the Feed the Future initiative will face tough times getting money out of Congress. Agricultural development already is falling off the priority list of other countries that were supposed to join with the United States in spending \$20 billion over three years to lift food production.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/11/11/world-losing-interest-in-farm-aid/>

How the G20 Can Fix International Aid, *The Atlantic*, November 11

Expected to be high on the agenda of the G20 meeting in Seoul this week is the international aid that rich countries spend on efforts to lift conflict-affected states out of violence, economic collapse, human and material ruin. While many of the problems that these states suffer are homegrown, they are often exacerbated by an ineffective international aid industry that delivers chronically poor results. Yet there's a promising new approach to transforming the international aid system now in play -- and the world's greatest recipients of international aid are already calling for it.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2010/11/how-the-g20-can-fix-international-aid/66379/>

If India Doesn't 'Need' Aid, Why do Foreign Governments Still Give It?, *Guardian*, November 8, 2010

Aid to India has been in the news a lot recently. India is growing so fast that it will be the second-largest economy in the world (after China) in a few decades. It has a space programme, a nuclear programme, and even an aid programme. So why do rich countries still give India aid? Fair question. But rather than an anomaly, is aid to India actually a blueprint for aid programmes of the future?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/nov/08/india-aid-economic-development>

Developing nations emerge as major FDI destinations, *The Economic Times*, November 7

Major developing economies like India and Saudi Arabia have emerged as the most attractive destinations for FDI after the global economic meltdown, industry body Assocham said today.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/Developing-nations-emerge-as-major-FDI-destinations-Assocham/articleshow/6883922.cms>

World Food Programme Finance Innovation Could Cut Hunger, *Vijaya Ramachandran*, Senior Fellow, *Center for Global Development*, *Huffington Post*, November 4

In a document submitted to the Board, WFP's management argues that its existing facility of \$60 million has thus far led to an average of 53 fewer days in response times, as well as cost savings of 3 percent for WFP operations in the Horn of Africa and in Southern Africa. Most importantly, the proposal includes an increase

of the WFP's Forward Purchase Facility ceiling to \$150 million, which will allow the purchase larger quantities of food at optimal times, improve planning and programming, reduce the need for large in-country stocks, reduce the number of advance financing requests, and allow for more timely delivery to people affected by conflict, floods or other natural disasters.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vijaya-ramachandran/world-food-programme-fina_b_778928.html

SEE ALSO: Resource, Financial and Budgetary Matters Agenda, Review of the Working Capital Financing Facility, November 8-11

<http://one.wfp.org/eb/docs/2010/wfp225155~1.pdf>

SEE ALSO: WFP to Purchase Farmers' Produce Worth RWF 0.7 Billion, AllAfrica, November 9

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201011110258.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Media Articles:

Kenya to Launch Africa's First Carbon Exchange, BBC, November 11

Kenya is to launch a climate exchange platform to facilitate the trading of carbon credits and help tackle climate change.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11733765>

Natural Disasters in Africa Hamper Millenium Goals, Agence France-Presse, November 10

Climate change disasters on the African continent have raised the need for an humanitarian response as poverty continues to plague communities, the Red Cross director for Africa said on Wednesday.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hd3AjYmG-twkd3qQPb_h7ltgLCrA?docId=CNG.003c06434b83e46dca5d95fb4df7cf8e.201

UN Climate Chief Sees Prospects for Limited Deal, Seattle Times, November 10

The United States and China, which have clashed repeatedly at U.N. climate talks, are moving closer toward a limited agreement at a major global warming conference next month, the top U.N. official on climate change said.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2013394330_apeuclimatetalks.html

Private Equity Sees "Buckets of Money" in Water Buys, Reuters, November 9

Water scarcity will generate big returns for the irrigation sector once climate change and population growth take their toll on farming, private equity managers said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6A82ZV20101109>

Israeli Know-How Helping to Combat Hunger in Africa, Jerusalem Post, November 8

Israel has been a leader in developing innovative drip-irrigation systems that reduce the amount of water needed for farming.

<http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=194404>

Arnold Arboretum to Study Climate Change's Impact on Forests, Boston Globe, November 8

A joint research program at the Harvard University Arnold Arboretum has received a \$631,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study forest changes around the world, according to the arboretum.

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/greenblog/2010/11/arnold_aboretum_to_study_clima.html

Counting the Cost of Flooding, IRIN, November 8

Relief agencies and the government of Benin have appealed for US\$46.8 million to help the West African nation recover from the worst flooding in nearly 50 years: Agricultural experts have warned of huge damage to land and livelihoods in rural communities. "We are talking of farmers losing 100 percent of their crops," warned Saïd Hounkponou, head of Benin NGO Initiatives pour un Développement Intégré Durable (IDID). "When you have fields of maize, manioc and other crops flooded to that degree, there is nothing left to harvest."

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?Reportid=91022>

UN Summit Moves to Protect Biodiversity, *Financial Times*, November 7

Just a month before global leaders are set to gather in Cancun in order to fail to agree on how to tackle climate change, almost 200 countries came together to negotiate a landmark deal on biodiversity and ecosystems. Environment ministers agreed measures to halt the loss of species and habitats that could have significant consequences for businesses and investors.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/55313d5c-e910-11df-a1b4-00144feab49a.html#axzz14iAvLmqc>

80 Nations Want Farming as Part of Climate Talks, *Associated Press*, November 5

An 80-nation conference on food security is urging U.N. climate negotiators to consider agriculture when drawing up strategies to fight climate change.

http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/11/05/general-eu-climate-food-security_8079972.html

Climate Panel Offers Ways to Raise Cash to Cope, *New York Times*, November 5

After grappling with a fundamental deadlock between rich and poor nations over climate change, a high-level United Nations panel on Friday proposed a smorgasbord of ways to raise \$100 billion annually to help developing countries cope with global warming.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/06/world/06nations.html?src=twrhp>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

The Economics of Population Policy for Carbon Emissions Reduction in Developing Countries, *Center for Global Development*, November 2010

Female education and family planning are both critical for sustainable development, and they obviously merit expanded support without any appeal to global climate considerations. However, even relatively optimistic projections suggest that family planning and female education will suffer from financing deficits that will leave millions of women unserved in the coming decades. Since both activities affect fertility, population growth, and carbon emissions, they may also provide sufficient climate-related benefits to warrant additional financing from resources devoted to carbon emissions abatement. This paper considers the economic case for such support. Using recent data on emissions, program effectiveness and program costs, we estimate the cost of carbon emissions abatement via family planning and female education.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424557/>

Media Articles:

UN Elects Executive Board of New Agency for Women's Empowerment, *UN News Centre*, November 10

Member States today took the next step in enabling the newly-created United Nations agency on gender equality and women's empowerment to begin its work by electing countries to serve on its Executive Board. The elections, held in the 54-member Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), will enable the new Board to come together prior to the official establishment on 1 January 2011 of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36718&Cr=un+women&Cr1=>

A Girl, a School and Hope, *Op-Ed*, *Nicholas Kristof*, *New York Times*, November 10

One reason Pakistan is sometimes called the most dangerous country in the world is this: a kindergarten child in this country has only a 1 percent chance of reaching the 12th grade, according to the Pakistan Education Task Force, an official panel. The average Pakistani child is significantly less likely to be schooled than the average child in sub-Saharan Africa.

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

Bringing Women Out of the Shadows, *Op-Ed, Michelle Bachelet, Chilean President and Under-Secretary-General for U.N. Women, Miami Herald, November 9*

I am convinced that a solid democracy that sets out to constantly redefine itself can create the conditions for the cause of gender equality to advance and change the lives of millions of women and girls on every continent. Only democracy generates an environment in which human dignity is properly valued, individual liberties are truly respected and pluralism and the culture of freedom as the foundation for a more just and human society can be promoted.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/11/09/1916080/bringing-women-out-of-the-shadows.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Rising Food Prices and Coping Strategies: Household-Level Evidence from Afghanistan, *World Bank, November 2010*

This paper investigates the impact of rising wheat prices -- during the 2007/08 global food crisis -- on food security in Afghanistan. The data reveal smaller price elasticities with respect to calories than with respect to food consumption, suggesting that households trade off quality for quantity as they move toward staple foods and away from nutrient-rich foods such as meat and vegetables. In addition, there is increased demand in the face of price increases for wheat products in urban areas. This study improves on country-level simulation studies by providing estimates of actual household wellbeing before and during the height of the global food crisis in one of the world's poorest, most food-insecure countries.

<http://go.worldbank.org/PFZILUQ650>

Are Commodity Prices More Volatile Now? A Long-Run Perspective, *World Bank, October 2010*

Soaring commodity prices in 2007 and 2008 raised concerns that volatility was also rising, which would have implications for welfare and therefore for the design of public policy interventions. The literature focuses on trends in commodity prices rather than their volatility characteristics. This paper contributes by examining commodity price volatility with a newly compiled monthly panel dataset on 45 individual commodity prices from the end of the 18th century until today. The main conclusions are: the timing and number of breaks in volatility vary considerably across individual commodities, cautioning against generalizations based on the use of commodity price indices; the three most significant breaks common to most commodities are the two world wars and the collapse of the Bretton-Woods system; and structural breaks marking increased price volatility are followed by breaks marking declines in volatility so that there is no upward or downward trend in volatility over time.

<http://go.worldbank.org/WP8PL7KU70>

Media Articles:

Africa Offers Funds Untapped Opportunity, *Reuters, November 12*

Fund managers should consider African markets such as Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania rather than chasing crowded emerging market trades elsewhere.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/tanzaniaNews/idAFLDE6AA1R220101112>

Sugar Suffers Biggest Sell-Off in 30 Years, *Financial Times, November 11*

Sugar prices suffered their biggest one-day sell-off in 30 years on Thursday, tumbling by as much as 11 per cent after speculators pulled out from the market in the wake of dizzying gains.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a7dd988a-edd3-11df-9612-00144feab49a.html>

Dr Evil, or Drivel?, *Economist, November 11*

As the sums devoted to commodities have grown, so have complaints about the damage that speculative cash causes. Investors came under heavy fire in 2008 as the price of oil and food raced upward. More recently they have been knocked for rises in wheat and corn prices. Yet the benefits that investors bring—the liquidity and price information that make for efficient markets—barely get a hearing.

http://www.economist.com/node/17465323?story_id=17465323

Leaders Warn on Doha Deadlock, *Financial Times*, November 11

A chorus of national leaders, business executives and heads of international organisations have warned of a slide towards protectionism if nothing is done to kick new life into the stalled Doha trade negotiations.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/dde10ee6-edb3-11df-9612-00144feab49a.html>

Stable Outlook for the Price of Rice, *Financial Times*, November 10

Traders and economists expect rice prices to fluctuate between \$500 and \$600 a tonne next year as good harvests and decent reserve levels mitigate pressure from the rising prices of other commodities.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f4809328-ecf6-11df-9912-00144feab49a.html>

EU-Africa Relations Soured by Trade: EU Trade Chief, *Reuters*, November 10, 2010

Stalled trade negotiations between the European Union and African states have soured relations between the two continents, the European Union's chief trade negotiator said on Wednesday.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE6A90GW20101110>

S. Africa Urges Switch to Yellow Corn, Asian Markets, *Bloomberg*, November 9

South Africa's government said the country should change the type of corn it plants to target markets in Asia and suggested setting up an agency to promote exports.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-11-09/s-africa-urges-switch-to-yellow-corn-asian-markets.html>

Why Leaders Want to Rebalance Growth, *Wall Street Journal*, November 8

One thing on which leaders of the world's major economies agree: The world needs to rebalance global growth, resolving a problem that dates to the bursting of the high-tech bubble a decade ago.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704049904575554322528218424.html>

World Market Wakes Up and Smells Coffee's Exciting New Aroma, *AllAfrica*, November 8

The aroma of coffee from East Africa is permeating the world market, an indication of increased revenues, as supply from South and Central America take a nose dive. Coffee is among the leading contributors to the region's gross domestic product.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201011080384.html>

G20 Pursues Protectionism, Poor States Hurt: Study, *Reuters*, November 7

G20 states are continuing to carry out protectionist policies in contrast to repeated pledges to keep markets open, and developing countries have been among the main victims, a study by independent economists said on Monday. The report by Global Trade Alert (GTA) finds that G20 countries have implemented 111 measures that harm foreign commercial interests since their last summit in June this year.

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE6A701920101108>

South Africa, Britain Aim to Double Trade Between Them by 2015, UKTI Says, *Bloomberg*, November 5

Britain and South Africa are working to double trade between the two countries by 2015, with financial services, tourism and agriculture among the industries targeted for growth, according to Nicholas Armour, director of U.K. Trade & Investment's International Group.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-05/south-africa-britain-aim-to-double-trade-between-them-by-2015-ukti-says.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Reports:

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act: Changes to Regulation of Derivatives and their Impact on Agribusiness, *USDA*, November 2010

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act makes significant changes to Federal regulation of the U.S. over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market, with the goals of improving market transparency and reducing systemic default risk. This article reviews some important features of the new law and discusses their potential impact on agribusiness, much of which will depend on how the rules are written and implemented by regulators.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AIS89/>

Media Articles:

Syngenta and ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) Launch Sustainable Agroecosystems Professorship, *PR Newswire, November 11*

Syngenta and ETH Zurich announced that they have entered into a partnership to launch a new professorship in the field of Sustainable Agroecosystems. Syngenta will donate CHF 10 million to ETH Zurich Foundation in order to finance a new professorship and associated research staff for the next ten years. This represents the first milestone in ETH's strategic World Food System initiative, which aims to contribute to food security through new research initiatives.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/syngenta-and-eth-zurich-swiss-federal-institute-of-technology-launch-sustainable-agroecosystems-professorship-107146688.html>

Cargill Sponsors Fast-Track Nutrition Project to Significantly Improve Food Security in the Indian State of Madhya Pradesh, *The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, November 10*

Cargill has launched a new partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) to improve food security and nutrition in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, which suffers from high levels of malnutrition among women and children.

<http://www.mbchamber.mb.ca/2010/11/cargill-sponsors-fast-track-nutrition-project-to-significantly-improve-food-security-in-the-indian-state-of-madhya-pradesh/>

Food Groups Sue U.S. for Ethanol Boost in Gasoline, *Reuters, November 9*

Livestock producers and food industry groups filed a suit seeking to overturn a U.S. decision to allow higher levels of ethanol in gasoline, saying it could push up food prices.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN0929613520101109>

Precision Agriculture Propels Farmers into High-Tech Age, *Kansascity.com, November 8*

Perhaps the most important benefit of precision agriculture is that it is helping U.S. farmers continue to produce an abundant, affordable food supply. "As the population grows in Asia and Africa, and nations improve their standards of living, they will expect a higher-quality diet that includes more meat products," said Barry Nelson, manager of public relations for John Deere. "About half of the corn we produce goes to feeding hogs and cattle. If we are going to be able to feed the world in the future and give people a better quality of life, we will have to be able to produce crops more efficiently using the land and water resources we have."

<http://www.kansascity.com/2010/11/08/2409468/from-automatic-steering-to-tractors.html>

Canada to Explain BHP Rebuff, *Financial Times, November 4*

BHP Billiton's \$39bn bid for PotashCorp appears dead in spite of Canada opening the door for further negotiations, according to a range of politicians, business leaders and analysts.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7b5e99b8-e846-11df-8995-00144feab49a.html#axzz14tWUF6Cn>

Kraft Shrugs off Food Price Increases, *Financial Times, November 4*

Kraft Foods has managed to pass along most of its increased commodity costs to its customers, the company said in announcing revenues of \$11.9bn for the third quarter, a 26 percent increase over revenues for the same period last year, all of which came from its new Cadbury division.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8973ed96-e864-11df-b32f-00144feab49a.html>

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