

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



November 6th – November 13th, 2009

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CONTENTS

Key Articles

Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities

New Reports/Policy Briefs/Books

**** SPECIAL COVERAGE OF NOMINATION OF DR. RAJIV SHAH AS USAID ADMINISTRATOR****

Upcoming Events

Agricultural Issues

Foreign Assistance

Environment (Water/Climate)

Women

Market Access and Trade Issues

Agribusiness

KEY ARTICLES

World Food Summit draft declaration, *Financial Times*, November 12

“In adopting this declaration we agree to undertake all necessary actions required at national, regional and global levels and by all States and Governments to halt immediately the increase in - and to significantly reduce the number of - people suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity. We will reinforce all our efforts to meet by 2015 the targets of Millennium Development Goal 1 and the World Food Summits. We commit to take action towards sustainably eradicating hunger at the earliest possible date.”

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/238f657c-cf75-11de-b876-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Summit draft removes date to end hunger, *Financial Times*, November 11

Rich countries have watered down a declaration to be made at next week's World Food Summit, removing from the final draft both a new hunger reduction target and a commitment to boost agricultural aid to the high levels of 1980. The two aims were the main points of conflict in behind-the-scenes talks before the summit. The final draft will be approved on Monday in Rome barring a surprise amendment.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/93ee2244-ceef-11de-8a4b-00144feabdc0.html>

Administration Names Agriculture Official to Run U.S. Aid Agency, Ending Delays, *New York Times*, November 10

After months of delays because of tangled vetting procedures, the Obama administration named a former executive with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to run its main foreign aid arm, the United States Agency for International Development. The official, Rajiv J. Shah, a medical doctor and health economist now at the Agriculture Department, would take over an agency whose power and profile have eroded in recent years, but which is enmeshed in some of the administration's toughest challenges, including Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is also active in the administration's global food security initiative.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/11/world/11usaid.html>

PLEASE SEE SPECIAL SECTION BELOW FOR STATEMENTS AND COVERAGE OF NOMINATION OF DR. SHAH

Global Hunger at Top of Political Agenda, *Financial Times*, November 9

Hunger and food security used to be the staple talking points of agriculture and development officials. But the food crisis of 2007-08 has elevated the issue to the highest level of government. The move to involve the "whole of the government", as officials describe it, signals how food security has become a global political preoccupation as the number of chronically hungry people tops 1bn and agricultural commodity prices soar. Military strategists are now inviting food experts to discuss the implications of food shortages. Discontent about high food prices in poor countries is a breeding ground for extremists.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/683b88e4-cd5a-11de-8162-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: A hungry world will not wait, *Financial Times*, November 12

International summits often produce more photo-opportunities than progress. That could be the fate of next week's World Food Summit. Pre-meeting talks have removed two targets from the draft of the declaration to be signed then. This weakens its force and urgency at the very moment that past advances are being lost.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/07b1093c-cfc5-11de-a36d-00144feabdc0.html>

The fight over the future of food, *Reuters*, November 9

Everybody wants to end hunger, but just how to do so is a divisive question that pits environmentalists against anti-poverty campaigners, big business against consumers and rich countries against poor. The food fight takes place at a time when experts on both sides agree on one thing -- the number of empty bellies around the world will only grow unless there is major intervention now. The last time the world faced such dire predictions of famine was before the Green Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, when countries like India and China transformed their agricultural systems to become self-sufficient in food.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN09275722>

Ground-Breaking Moments in Global Agriculture, *Reuters*, November 10

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN09261793>

Crop Prospects and Food Situation, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations*, November 2009

Food prices in poor countries that are net importers of food still remain stubbornly high despite a good 2009 world cereal production, FAO warned today in its latest *Crop Prospects and Food Situation* report. Critical food insecurity is affecting 31 countries and they therefore require emergency assistance. In Eastern Africa, the situation is particularly serious as drought and conflict has put an estimated 20 million people in need of food aid.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/ak340e/ak340e00.htm>

See Also: Conditions in Place for New Food Crisis, FAO Warns, *Reuters*, November 9

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE5A85NH20091109>

Agri majors to boost farm investment in poor nations, *Reuters*, November 13

Major world food and agriculture companies pledged to pour more funds into farming in poor countries to boost food security but they stopped short of proposing precise sums.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE5AC00M20091113>

See Also: FACTBOX-Agri industry invests to raise farm output, *Reuters*, November 13

Major food and agriculture companies are investing in sustainable farm development around the world as part of long-term strategies to secure reliable supplies, cut costs and boost positions on new markets.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSLD71742420091113>

Women Farmers in the Developing World, *Dan Silverstein, Huffington Post, November 9*

In Sub-Saharan Africa fully 80% of agricultural workers are women (60% in South Asia). They raise 90% of the food consumed by the poorest, according to the World Bank, but they receive only 10% of credit extended for agricultural loans and only 5% of services that support agribusiness. They are not taught the best techniques to maximize crop yield. They have to settle for inferior tools which wear out sooner. Their small plots of land exhaust the nutrients in the soil. They are not able to negotiate the best prices for their harvests (often because they can't leave the homestead because they have to feed their children). Inevitably they spiral deeper into poverty no matter how hard they work.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-silverstein/women-farmers-in-the-deve_b_348104.html

World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, *World Agricultural Outlook Board, November 10*

The *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates* (WASDE) report provides USDA's comprehensive forecasts of supply and demand for major U.S. and global crops and U.S. livestock. The report gathers information from a number of statistical reports published by USDA and other government agencies, and provides a framework for additional USDA reports.

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/latest.pdf>

See Also: US Agricultural Data Take Toll, *Financial Times, November 10*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0917ea08-cde9-11de-95e7-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Slow Harvest Prompts USDA to Raise Crop-Price Outlook, *Wall Street Journal, November 12*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125789919795042543.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - USAID Foreign Service Agricultural Officers

<http://www.usaid.gov/careers/nepanno2.html>

Africa: U.S. Peace Corps to Bring New Focus to Food Security, *All Africa, November 11*

Williams: "I want to see us having a broad, expanded role in food security, especially because in Africa women play an instrumental role in the agricultural sector. I want to see us reach out to women who are involved in agriculture. I want to see us reach out to young people and introduce them to the importance of agriculture and food security."

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911110044.html>

Obama Willing to go to Copenhagen for Climate Deal, *Washington Post, November 9*

President Barack Obama said that he'd be willing to attend an international climate summit in Copenhagen next month if it appears a deal is in the offing and his presence there would help clinch it.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/09/AR2009110903198_pf.html

See Also: UN Chief Heads to Washington to Push Climate Deal, *Washington Post, November 9*

Confident that governments will reach a climate change deal next month, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is heading to Washington to ensure that the United States is on board.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/09/AR2009110902750_pf.html

EPA May Need More Time on Raising Ethanol Blend, *Reuters, November 9*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may not meet a December 1 deadline to decide whether to approve an industry request to boost the amount of ethanol that can be blended into gasoline, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-BusinessofGreen/idUSTRE5A84X020091109>

Algae as a Fuel Could Skew Corn's Role, *Des Moines Register, November 8*

The corncob could be losing its special place in the nation's energy future. The 2007 energy bill required that refiners start using biofuels made from cobs, wheat straw, grasses and other sources of plant cellulose by

2010, with the mandate growing annually to reach 16 billion gallons by 2022. But now there is an effort in Congress to expand that mandate to include fuels made from algae and microorganisms. A climate bill the Senate is considering would replace the requirement for use of cellulosic biofuels with a broader mandate for "advanced green biofuels."

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091108/BUSINESS01/911080322/1029/BUSINESS>

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

Millions fed: Proven successes in agricultural development, *International Food Policy Research Institute, November 2009*

This book examines how policies, programs, and investments in pro-poor agricultural development have helped to substantially reduce hunger across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The 20 success stories presented here provide both lessons and inspiration for continued efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition among the one billion people still facing this scourge.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/oc64.pdf>

Africa's Infrastructure: A Time for Transformation, *World Bank, November 2009*

Infrastructure accounts for a large share of Africa's recent growth performance, and could contribute much more. But Africa's basic infrastructure lags far behind that of other developing regions. Infrastructure services are twice as expensive in Africa as elsewhere. To raise Africa's infrastructure endowment to a reasonable level within the next decade, will cost \$93 billion a year, split two to one between investment and maintenance. Africa already spends \$45 billion, half the required amount. Efficiency gains could raise an additional \$17 billion from within the existing envelope. Even then, an annual funding gap of \$31 billion would remain.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRICA/Resources/aicd_overview_english_no-embargo.pdf

Water and Agriculture: Implications for Development and Growth, *Center for Strategic and International Studies, November 2009*

In the realm of technology and innovation, contributing authors point to drip irrigation, drought-resistant plant breeding, wastewater treatment for irrigation reuse, and satellite-based assessments as promising tools to enhance water efficiency and agricultural production. On the micro level, there is a need to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through small-scale soil and water management practices and entrepreneurial, market-based approaches. Resolving the resource conundrum will require concerted political will and action at all levels.

http://csis.org/files/publication/091104_Peterson_Water&Agri_WEB.pdf

Tracking Progress on Child and Maternal Nutrition, *UNICEF*

Undernutrition contributes to more than one third of all deaths in children under the age of five. It does this by stealing children's strength and making illness more dangerous. An undernourished child struggles to withstand an attack of pneumonia, diarrhea or other illness – and illness often prevails. This report shows that an estimated 195 million children under age 5 in developing countries suffer from stunting, a consequence of chronic nutritional deprivation that begins in the period before birth if the mother is undernourished. Of these, more than 90 per cent are in Asia and Africa.

http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/files/Tracking_Progress_on_Child_and_Maternal_Nutrition_EN_110309.pdf

See Also: UN Says Hunger Stunts Some 200 Million Children, *Associated Press, November 11*

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jYRHncvvykh4Ai0M2BGoFlztKIdgD9BTHLG80>

See Also: Poor Nutrition 'Stunting Growth', *BBC News, November 11*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8353594.stm>

Impact of the economic crisis and food and fuel price volatility on children and women in the MENA region, *Overseas Development Institute, November 2009*

The paper finds that the crisis is already undermining children's rights along a number of dimensions, including increased food insecurity and related risks of child malnutrition; rising rates of school dropouts in

poorer countries in the region, with concerns about rising child protection threats (including harmful forms of child labour); rising vulnerability among migrant, refugee and IDP families; and significant impacts on the employment prospects of young people, already a major concern in many parts of the region.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4422-working-paper-310.pdf>

Women and Health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda, *World Health Organization, November 2009*

This is a report on women and health – both women's health needs and their contribution to the health of societies. Women's health has long been a concern for WHO but today it has become an urgent priority. This report explains why. Using current data, it takes stock of what we know now about the health of women throughout their lives and across the different regions of the world.

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563857_eng.pdf

See Also: Until Women are Healthy, Societies Will Suffer, *Los Angeles Times, November 9*

Accidental injuries take a toll on girls and younger women. Chronic diseases account for almost half of the deaths among older women. And HIV / AIDS claims the most lives among women of reproductive age worldwide. In short, although women generally have longer lives than men, these lives are often not healthy ones.

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/11/until-women-are-healthy-societies-will-suffer.html

Political economy, water and the MDGs, *Overseas Development Institute, November 2009*

Water resource management is critical for the achievement of many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Too often, the political economy issues that determine whether or not water resources are managed effectively are overlooked. Drawing on research from the Lake Victoria region, this Opinion argues for a greater focus on political economy issues in the drive to reach the MDGs that relate to water.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3298.pdf>

Complementary Strategies to Raise Wheat Yield Potential, *International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), November 2009*

It is argued that in the coming decades research on wheat quality characteristics will become increasingly important to plant breeders, whose work will be supported by the development of markers and advanced tools from molecular biology. Breeders will have to contend with increased heat stress and variability stemming from climate change, which is expected to create regional winners, as the northern high latitudes grow warmer and moister, and losers, as the sub-tropics and tropics increasingly suffer from heat stress and drought.

<http://www.cimmyt.org/english/docs/book/wheatyieldpotential.pdf>

Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa, *International Monetary Fund, November 2009*

Sub-Saharan Africa has been hit hard by the global recession, but signs of resilience remain. With many families affected by the crisis, however, progress toward the Millennium Development Goals has receded. Looking ahead, fiscal policy must balance support for the recovery with enhancing future growth prospects, debt sustainability, and poverty reduction.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2009/afr/eng/sreo1009.pdf>

Reconciling Climate Change and Trade Policy, *Center for Global Development, November 2009*

There is growing clamor in industrial countries for additional border taxes on imports from countries with lower carbon prices. A key factor affecting the impact of these taxes is whether they are based on the carbon content of imports or the carbon content in domestic production. The authors' quantitative estimates suggest that the former action when applied to all merchandise imports would address competitiveness and environmental concerns in high income countries but with serious consequences for trading partners.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423204_file_Subramanian_Climate_and_Trade_FINAL.pdf

See Also: Can Global De-Carbonization Inhibit Developing Country Industrialization?, *Center for Global Development, November 2009*

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423203_file_Subramanian_De_Carbon_265_.pdf

Addressing Climate Change in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA), *World Bank, November 11*

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is one of the regions that is most vulnerable to climate change, with the highest level of water scarcity in the world, a significant income and employment dependence on climate-sensitive agriculture, the concentration of populations and economic activity in flood-prone urban coastal zones, and the presence of conflict-ridden areas in which climate induced resource scarcity could escalate violence and political turmoil even beyond the region's boundaries.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/11/06/000334955_20091106025316/Rendered/PDF/515020BRI0MNA010Box342032B01PUBLIC1.pdf

Energy Needs and Efficiency, Not Emissions: Re-framing the Climate Change Narrative, *Center for Global Development, November 2009*

The authors suggest some simple principles for determining equitable distribution of emission cuts between developed and developing countries to meet global targets.

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

Climate Change and Gender Justice, *Oxfam, November 2009*

Climate change is often framed as a problem that needs mainly technical and economic solutions. This book considers how gender issues are entwined with people's vulnerability to the effects of climate change, and how gender identities and roles may affect women's and men's perceptions of the changes. The case studies in this book show how women and men in developing countries are experiencing climate change and describe their efforts to adapt their ways of making a living to ensure survival.

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/downloads/wigad_climate/WIGAD_climate_change_gender_justice_book_pap.pdf

**** SPECIAL COVERAGE OF NOMINATION OF DR. RAJIV SHAH AS USAID ADMINISTRATOR****

President Obama Announces USAID Administrator, *The White House*

Today, President Barack Obama nominated Dr. Rajiv Shah as Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). President Obama said, "The mission of USAID is to advance America's interests by strengthening our relationships abroad. Rajiv brings fresh ideas and the dedication and impressive background necessary to help guide USAID as it works to achieve this important goal. I am grateful for all that USAID has accomplished under the leadership of Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham, and the thousands of career men and women who fulfill USAID's mission day in and day out – particularly their hard work in jumpstarting a landmark initiative to bring more than \$20 billion for agriculture development to the world's most food-insecure countries. I look forward to working with Rajiv in the months and years ahead."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-announces-usaid-administrator>

Nomination of Dr. Rajiv Shah as USAID Administrator, *Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State*

Dr. Raj Shah is a leader in the development community, an innovative and results-oriented manager, and someone who understands the importance of providing people around the world with the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty and chart their own destinies. By nominating Raj to lead the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), President Obama has reaffirmed that development must be a core pillar of American foreign policy.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/11/131786.htm>

Vilsack Statement on the Nomination of Rajiv Shah as Administrator of USAID, *USDA*

"The country will be well served by the President's decision to nominate Raj Shah to be Administrator of USAID. He has already made a positive impact at USDA. In the short time Raj has been here, he has initiated and overseen a critical transformation in our approach to science, which will continue under the leadership of the exceptional team he assembled. I am certain he will bring his unique brand of enthusiasm, passion, and

dedication to USAID. I know there will be close collaboration between USAID and USDA as we confront the enormous challenge of malnourishment worldwide."

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/11/0564.xml>

Agriculture expert picked to lead struggling USAID, *Washington Post*

President Obama on Tuesday named a 36-year-old doctor and agriculture expert to head the U.S. Agency for International Development, filling what lawmakers and aid experts had called a glaring vacancy on a key foreign-policy front.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/10/AR2009111017483.html>

Rajiv Shah: The man Obama wants to revitalize USAID, *Christian Science Monitor*

USAID has been without an administrator since Obama took office. Rajiv Shah could bring innovative thinking to USAID, but he probably will not have the gravitas to make USAID more of a force in Washington.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1111/p02s09-usfp.html>

Shah Who?, *Foreign Policy*, November 12

The Obama administration just named a virtual unknown to head the U.S. Agency for International Development. Why -- and what does it mean?

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/11/12/shah_who

New USAID Chief Faces Internal Skepticism, *Washington Independent*

After nearly 11 months of allowing the top U.S. foreign-development bureau go without permanent leadership, the Obama administration decided on the unconventional choice of Rajiv Shah, a 36-year old undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture and medical doctor with extensive experience in food security and public health, to lead the U.S. Agency for International Development.

<http://washingtonindependent.com/67461/new-usaid-chief-faces-internal-skepticism>

Obama nominates U.S. aid chief, filling key vacancy, *Reuters*

Moving to fill a gap in its foreign policy lineup, the White House on Tuesday nominated a health economist to head the \$20-billion U.S. overseas aid agency it views as a crucial tool for boosting the U.S. image.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN10516324>

Ex-Gates Foundation exec named foreign aid chief, *Associated Press*

The Obama administration will nominate a young former executive with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to run America's top foreign assistance program, ending months of speculation and complaints about who would take the vacant post, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5idftYFiZP5tNw_mg6jIHPm3KMfAD9BSRPUG0

Obama appoints Indian-American Rajiv Shah to head USAID, *Times of India*

Indian-Americans won one of their highest-ever appointments in the US government when President Obama on Tuesday nominated Dr Rajiv Shah as administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/Obama-appoints-Indian-American-Rajiv-Shah-to-head-USAID/articleshow/5217684.cms>

Obama finally taps USAID chief, *Boston Globe*

Ten months into his administration, President Obama has finally chosen a nominee to run the US Agency for International Development. The delay had prompted growing complaints from development specialists that the administration was failing to live up to its pledge to make global health and development a priority and a pillar of its foreign policy.

http://www.boston.com/news/world/worldly_boston/2009/11/obama_finally_taps_usaid_chief_1.html

Former Gates Foundation exec Raj Shah to head USAID, *Seattle Times*

Shah, 36, has been nominated to head the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), according to reports quoting unnamed U.S. officials. Shah was running the Gates Foundation's agriculture development program when he was tapped for the agricultural post as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, as well as chief scientist, at the USDA.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2010243353_former_gates_foundation_exec_r.html

Obama nominates new head for USAID, Agence France-Presse

US President Barack Obama on Tuesday nominated a former official at the humanitarian Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to head USAID, the agency tasked with spurring development around the world. Having championed Obama's global food security initiative, Shah is "someone who understands the importance of providing people around the world with the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty and chart their own destinies," said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jCMRhn-jt-7a5jnVkOzwDWFQutiQ>

USDA's Rajiv Shah to be named USAID head, Foreign Policy (The Cable blog)

Senate Foreign Relations chairman John Kerry promised swift proceedings for Rajiv Shah, President Obama's impending nominee for administration of the US Agency for International Development (USAID). In an interview with The Cable, Kerry said he has been notified that the White House has chosen Shah, the USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics and Chief Scientist, to head up USAID and will announce later today. Two administration officials also confirmed that the Shah announcement will come today.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/11/10/usdas_rajiv_shah_to_be_named_usaid_head

Breaking: Rajiv Shah for USAID administrator, Politico

An administration official has confirmed that Rajiv Shah will be nominated to be the next administrator of USAID. A press release on the appointment will be issued at 3pm, a second official, at the White House, said. Shah's official biography and photo to accompany the impending announcement were provided in the meantime. Congress was also notified today that the Obama administration would name Shah to the USAID administrator job.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/1109/Breaking_Rajiv_Shah_for_USAID_administrator.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAO Summit on Food Security

Date: November 16-18, 2009

Location: Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/29219/icode/>

[Agenda](#)

[Pre-Summit Events](#)

[Connected Events](#)

[Round Tables](#)

[List of Documents](#)

Beyond the Crisis: Sustaining Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa

Date: November 19

Location: Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

The International Monetary Fund has just released its semi-annual Regional Economic Outlook for Africa which contains findings that indicate sub-Saharan Africa's economic activity has slowed sharply with the onset of the global financial crisis. As the world economy stages a tentative recovery, what does this mean for the region? Can sub-Saharan Africa capitalize on a recovery and regain the momentum of the past decade? On November 19, the Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings will host Antoinette Sayeh, director of the African Department of the IMF, for a discussion of the findings of the Regional Economic Outlook for Africa. Panelists

include Andrew Baukol from the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Stephen Hayes from the Corporate Council on Africa. Brookings Senior Fellow Mwangi Kimenyi will provide introductory remarks and moderate the discussion.

http://www.brookings.edu/events/2009/1119_africa_sustaining_growth.aspx

London Business Conferences hosts 3rd Sustainable Agriculture Summit

Date: November 30-December 1, 2009

Location: London, UK

<http://www.carbonoffsetsdaily.com/uk-carbonmarketnews/farmers-groups-join-london-sustainable-agriculture-summit-november-2009-12122.htm> (registration available)

Next Steps for the US Food Security Initiative

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2009

Time: 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

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

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

Two separate panels will discuss:

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

RSVP: partnership.events@gmail.com

United Nations Climate Change Conference

Date: December 7th – December 18th, 2009

Location: Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

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

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

India's Food Dilemma: High Prices or Shortages, Reuters, November 12

India's farm sector has changed remarkably little since the advent of the Green Revolution, while other industries have been transformed over the past two decades. As a result, agriculture's share of the Indian economy shrank to 17.5 percent last year, from nearly 30 percent in the early 1990s. This has raised concerns that India's farm output could lag demand and the country -- which ranks among the world's top three consumers of rice, wheat, sugar, tea, coarse grains and cotton -- will become a large food importer unless yields jump.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN11217118>

Is Africa selling out its farmers?, Reuters, November 12

With memories of Ethiopia's devastating 1984 famine still fresh in the minds of its leaders, the government has been enticing well-heeled foreigners to invest in the nation's underperforming agriculture sector. It is part of an economic development push they say will help the Horn of Africa nation ensure it has enough food for its 80 million people.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN11358061>

See Also: Ethiopia Leases Land for Agriculture to Earn Foreign Exchange, Bloomberg, November 10

Ethiopia plans to lease 3 million hectares (7.4 million acres) of land to foreign and domestic investors for agriculture over the next three years to increase productivity and earn foreign exchange, the government said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aJEzbUEy4xTE>

Afghans reap bumper harvest, Asia Times, November 12

The harvest has been plentiful all over northern Afghanistan, which is the main supplier of wheat for the rest of the country. Around 90% of the farmland in the north is in mountainous areas, irrigated by rain in the spring and snow in the winter. Agricultural experts say that with better seeds and a better system of irrigation, Afghanistan should be able to feed itself. However, the agricultural sector has been devastated by years of civil war and was neglected in the reconstruction phase after the fall of the Taliban.

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/KK12Df03.html

New Africa Partnership to Boost Agriculture, *Voice of America, November 9*

Two major agricultural programs in Africa are partnering to bolster food security on the continent. They say African governments have to increase their investment in agriculture in order to combat the hazards caused by climate change. The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, also known as AGRA, is teaming up with the New Partnership for African Development, or NEPAD.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-11-09-voa53.cfm>

UN attempts to slow the new scramble for Africa, *Independent (U.K), November 7*

More than 50 heads of state will gather for a summit later this month to look at ways of policing the extraordinary "land grab" that has seen richer countries buy up at least 20 million hectares of farmland in Africa in the last 18 months. The United Nations is drawing up a "code of conduct" in an effort to slow what's been described as a new scramble for Africa, while agriculture experts are calling for a new global watchdog and aid agencies are appealing for a moratorium on new deals.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/un-attempts-to-slow-the-new-scramble-for-africa-1816577.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Fixing Foreign Aid, *Editorial, Los Angeles Times, November 12*

Poverty, famine and disease overseas lead to lawlessness, instability, revolution and terrorism that threaten American interests, and Americans, at home and abroad. That's why our second most important means of self-defense after the military is foreign aid. Moreover, our investments in development pay off when poor countries become prosperous enough to become trading partners. To their credit, President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton realize this, and repeatedly have said as much -- they just don't appear to be in a great hurry to put that philosophy into practice.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-usaid12-2009nov12.0.6080032.story>

Ending World Hunger Will Require \$44 Billion a Year, *Bloomberg, November 11*

World governments need to invest \$44 billion a year to end global hunger and achieve "food security," Food and Agriculture Organization Director General Jacques Diouf said. More than half of the \$44 billion should come from already committed funds, Diouf said. Between 16 percent and 18 percent of Official Development Assistance, which totaled \$119.8 billion in 2008 according to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, should be invested in improving small and local farming in countries with grave hunger problems, Diouf said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=axB4c8xDmBAk>

China Pledges \$10 Billion to Africa, *New York Times, November 8*

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao pledged to grant African countries \$10 billion in low-interest development loans over the next three years, to establish a \$1 billion loan program for small and medium-size businesses, and to forgive the remaining debt on certain interest-free loans that China previously granted less-developed African nations. Besides the financial assistance, Mr. Wen also promised to form a partnership to address climate change in Africa. Beijing will also remove tariffs on most exports to China from the least-developed African nations that do not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and sponsor an array of other programs in health, education, culture and agriculture.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/09/world/asia/09china.html>

See Also: China Pledges \$10b in Loans to Africa, *Financial Times (UK), November 8*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/96360102-cc6f-11de-8e30-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: China's promises to Africa, *Reuters*, November 8

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE5A70UJ20091108>

See Also: China to Lend Africa \$10 Billion, *Wall Street Journal*, November 9

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125767207323136609.html>

See Also: China Pushes Unity with Africa on Climate, *Financial Times (UK)*, November 9

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b6f0275a-cd38-11de-a748-00144feabdc0.html>

U.N. Running Out of Food Aid for Somalia, *Washington Post*, November 8

The United Nations says it is running out of food for millions of starving Somalis, in part because the United States is delaying aid amid fears it could be intercepted by militants linked to al-Qaeda.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/07/AR2009110703202.html>

See Also: U.N. Says U.S. Delays Led to Aid Cuts in Somalia, *New York Times*, November 6

The U.S. greatly reduced food contributions out of fears they would be diverted to terrorists.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/07/world/africa/07somalia.html>

War is Boring: New Afghan Strategy Focuses on Farmers, *World Politics Review*, November 4

The U.S. soldiers approached every farmer they saw and, through an interpreter, invited them to fill out a survey, in exchange for a cool bottle of water. On the survey was a list of detailed questions about local agriculture: What kinds of crops do you grow? What kinds of farming implements do you use? Do you own or rent your equipment? The surveys are part of a new American strategy, endorsed by senior U.S. commander Gen. Stan McChrystal, for separating everyday Afghans from insurgents and terrorists.

<http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/article.aspx?id=4552>

See Also: Agricultural Development Teams, *Center for a New American Security*, November 10

USAID does not have the agricultural specialists needed for the mission in Afghanistan, but the National Guard sure does. They have been especially successful in Ghazni.

<http://www.cnas.org/blogs/abumuqawama/2009/11/agricultural-development-teams.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Farmers v greens, *Economist*, November 12

America will not pass a cap-and-trade law in time for the global climate-change summit in Copenhagen next month. To understand why, it helps to ask a farmer.

http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=14844977

Over 20 Million People Need Food Aid in East Africa: U.N., *Reuters*, November 10

Drought and war in eastern Africa have left more than 20 million people in desperate need of emergency food aid, the United Nations said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE5A92TV20091110>

Global Warming as Seen From Bangladesh, *Bjorn Lomborg, Op-Ed, Wall Street Journal*, November 9

Getting basic sanitation and safe drinking water to the three billion people around the world who do not have it now would cost nearly \$4 billion a year. By contrast, cuts in global carbon emissions that aim to limit global temperature increases to less than two degrees Celsius over the next century would cost \$40 trillion a year by 2100. These cuts will do nothing to increase the number of people with access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Cutting carbon emissions will likely increase water scarcity, because global warming is expected to increase average rainfall levels around the world.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704402404574523493799731188.html>

On Environmental Brink, Haiti Scrambles for a Lifeline, *New York Times*, November 9

It is violence done to the environment that is haunting Haiti now. Degradation of natural resources here is both a consequence and an amplifier of poverty and disorder. "The crucial thing, because we're a country facing both an energy security crisis and a food security crisis, is how can we reconcile energy security and food security?" said Gael Pressoir, founder of a new nonprofit setting out to do just that.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/11/09/09greenwire-on-environmental-brink-haiti-scrambles-for-a-l-56869.html>

G-20 Finance Ministers Make Little Progress on Climate Issues, *Wall Street Journal*, November 8

Finance ministers from the Group of 20 leading economies were struggling to agree on climate-change issues at their meeting Saturday, with big developing economies reluctant to make commitments before broader talks in Copenhagen next month.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125758719105835847.html>

WOMEN

The Richest Leaders, the Poorest Women, *Ritu Sharma (co-founder and president, Women Thrive Worldwide)*, *Washington Post*, November 11

Early this year, I was privileged to meet with the women leaders of rural Honduras who started one of the most dynamic coffee cooperatives I've ever seen, COMUCAP. The core group of founders began more than 20 years ago, in the hot house of Central America's civil wars and Honduras' banana hey day. They banded together, bucked the prevailing "machismo" culture, and saved pennies at a time until they could buy their first piece of land and start growing coffee. They now export more than 10,000 pounds of fair trade coffee to Europe each year and employ more than 100 other women.

<http://views.washingtonpost.com/leadership/guestinsights/2009/11/the-richest-leaders-the-poorest-women.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Cooling the planet without chilling trade, *C. Fred Bergsten (director, Peterson Institute for International Economics) and Lori Wallach (director, Global Trade Watch division, Public Citizen)*, *Op-Ed, The Washington Post*, November 13

There is little doubt that current WTO negotiations do not fully address the real problems confronting the world and the trading system itself. The threat of global climate change and the catastrophic consequences for the natural environment -- and for the world's poorest citizens -- ought to focus the minds of our leaders. The only way to solve our problems is to treat them together, before the challenges pile on each other and produce paralysis instead of action.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/12/AR2009111209923_pf.html

Kremlin attempts to double its grain exports, *Financial Times*, November 12

Russia once again has set its eyes on becoming a major grain player, banking on strong private sector interest due to rising global food prices.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e187bff4-cfb4-11de-a36d-00144feabdc0.html>

The Doha Development Round: Resurrected or in Limbo?, *Wall Street Journal*, November 10

The Doha round has been plagued by differences among key member countries over issues of agricultural subsidies, industrial product tariffs, and use of safeguard measures in case of surges in agricultural imports. In recent months, however, a mood swing is evident.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125776151776038105.html>

WTO's Lamy Says U.S. Slowing Doha Talks: Report, *Reuters*, November 10

The U.S. is slow in reaching a negotiating position in the Doha round trade liberalization talks, the World Trade Organisation's Director General said in an Italian business daily. In an interview in *Il Sole 24 Ore*, Pascal Lamy said that after a year spent putting in place the new U.S. administration, next year's U.S. mid-term elections could prove a further problem in finalizing the Doha talks.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE5A913T20091110>

Record tender likely to drive up rice price, *Financial Times*, November 9

The Philippines, the world's biggest rice importer, said that it planned to buy at least 600,000 tonnes of rice in a record tender next month, a move that international rice traders said would push up global rice prices.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/47caa300-cd0b-11de-a748-00144feabdc0,dwp_uuid=a955630e-3603-11dc-ad42-0000779fd2ac.html

China Seeks Africa Joint Ventures, *Financial Times*, November 9

China's state-backed Africa investment fund is seeking to break new ground by pushing Chinese companies to build infrastructure through joint ventures with African governments, according to a senior executive. In a rare interview, Zhou Chao, a managing director of the multi-billion-dollar China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund), told the Financial Times that "we encourage" public-private partnerships as a means of fixing Africa's infrastructure bottlenecks.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ed5195d6-cd56-11de-8162-00144feabdc0.html>

Brazil Lists US Goods Eyed In WTO Cotton Ruling, *Wall Street Journal*, November 9

Brazil's government published a list of 222 U.S. products that may be subject to tariff increases as a result of a World Trade Organization ruling earlier this year condemning U.S. subsidies to its cotton industry. In addition to cotton and other agricultural and textile products, the list includes other goods such as motor vehicle products, electronics, cosmetics, medical equipment and pharmaceutical products.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091109-714705.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Attitudes to GM crops are changing: Glick, *Stock & Land*, November 13

A more detailed understanding of just how big an issue food security will be over the next 100 years is altering the public's perception of GM technology, according to Monsanto's director of research Harvey Glick. He acknowledged that there had been strong consumer resistance to GM products in places such as Europe, but said he believed the tide was turning.

<http://sl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/grains-and-cropping/general/attitudes-to-gm-crops-are-changing-glick/1674724.aspx>

Nestlé chief hits at 'well-fed activists', *Financial Times*, November 12

The chairman of Nestlé, the world's biggest food company, has hit out at "well-fed activists" whose hostility to new food technologies was exacerbating a global food crisis by holding back agricultural productivity. Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, who is a high-profile critic of the European Union's common agricultural policy, said that since 1990 the rate of global population increase had overtaken the rate of food production at least partly because of opposition to new food technologies by consumers in developed countries.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/68865e24-cfbb-11de-a36d-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Food price volatility has become permanent –Nestle, *Reuters*, November 13

Volatility in food and agricultural commodities prices has become a permanent feature of global markets due to speculative trading, the chairman of the world's biggest food group, Nestle, said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssConsumerGoodsAndRetailNews/idUSLD70080820091113>

Food majors triple investment in ending hunger, *Reuters*, November 12

World majors in agriculture and food sectors have tripled their investments in boosting global food security but need to spend more to help eradicate hunger, participants at an international forum said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUS125810118599.CH.2400>

Food companies put sustainability on the menu, *Financial Times*, November 11

Global food companies are coming up with their own solutions to avoid a repetition of last year's food shortages and record-high prices, in many cases moving ahead of government initiatives. "Last year's food crisis was a wake-up call," says Bill Leshner, of Global Harvest Initiative in Washington, a group involving some

of the world's biggest farming companies, such as Archer Daniels Midland, DuPont, John Deere and Monsanto. "Our members want to avoid a repetition."

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3a87cfd6-cee8-11de-8a4b-00144feabdc0.dwp_uuid=a955630e-3603-11dc-ad42-0000779fd2ac.html

Food: Is Monsanto the Answer or the Problem?, *Reuters, November 11*

As it positions itself to be a leader in advancing a global fight against hunger, Monsanto has started working with nonprofit organizations in poor nations, donating research and genetics to help needy farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and governments around the world are encouraging Monsanto -- as well as rivals DuPont, Dow Chemical, BASF and other corporate interests -- to work with academics, foundations and public institutions on how to increase food production globally. Drought-tolerant crops, particularly corn, are high on the agenda amid concerns about a changing climate. Improved wheat is also a major goal.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN10423605>

Cadbury Sneers at Kraft's Hostile Bid, *Wall Street Journal, November 10*

Kraft Foods Inc. went hostile with its £9.8 billion (\$16.28 billion) takeover bid for Cadbury PLC but refused to budge from the amount offered in its initial overture, leaving the two sides to dig in for what could be a lengthy and bitter battle for control of the British confectioner.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704402404574524952121366382.html> (agribusiness)

See Also: Cadbury Rounds on Hostile Kraft Bid, *Financial Times (UK), November 9*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e77ec118-cd30-11de-a748-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Unsweetened: Kraft Goes Hostile with its Bid for Cadbury, a British Confectioner, *The Economist, November 9*

http://www.economist.com/daily/news/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14838497

See Also: Kraft Backed to Succeed in Cadbury Offer, *Financial Times (UK), November 11*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f8f59560-cf11-11de-8a4b-00144feabdc0.html>

Bunge Limited Announces Management Appointments, *CNN, November 10*

Carl Hausmann, CEO, Bunge North America, will assume the newly created role of Managing Director, Global Government and Corporate Affairs. In this capacity, Mr. Hausmann will coordinate Bunge's government affairs, corporate sustainability and community relations on a global level. Soren Schroder, Vice President, Agribusiness for Bunge Europe, will become CEO of Bunge North America. Mr. Schroder will lead all of Bunge's business operations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/200911101652PR_NEWS_USPR_NY09068.htm

Food Self-sufficiency 'is a nonsense', *Financial Times, November 9*

The drive towards self-sufficiency in response to last year's food crisis will fail, a top executive at Cargill has warned, adding that the idea that countries "can be self-sufficient in every single food is a nonsense". Paul Conway, senior vice-president at Cargill, said: "Promoting a free and open trading system whereby countries can produce what they are best able ... and surpluses can be traded across international boundaries is the right way to go.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bad4d152-cd53-11de-8162-00144feabdc0.html>

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