



THE CHICAGO COUNCIL  
ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Global Food For Thought

Global Agricultural Development Initiative

Weekly News Brief



November 10<sup>th</sup> – November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Quote of the Week:** *“Perhaps to genuinely solve our challenges—ending extreme poverty and hunger, advancing real democracy, and ensuring all children survive and thrive—we need to elevate development not only in the board rooms of the private sector and the Situation Room of the National Security Council, but also in the hearts and minds of how millions of people express their own personal quest for meaning.”* – USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah at the Bread for the World Conference, November 15, 2012

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the official US Thanksgiving Holiday, the next edition of the Global Food for Thought news brief will arrive on November 30<sup>th</sup>. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.**

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
- Background information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, can be found on the Initiative’s website: [www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**Pro Bono: How Rockers Change The World**, *Financial Times*, November 9

It was pointed out to Geldof and Bono that the amount they had raised, tens of millions of pounds – far beyond their initial ambitions – paled in comparison with the debt payments faced by African countries. If they were serious about famine and starvation, they needed to raise their sights. They needed to make some new buddies. They had to become properly political.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/fbc823d2-298d-11e2-a5ca-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2CJi3N0Ug>

**SEE ALSO: Bono Says U.S. Aid Cuts Could Lead To Thousands Of AIDS Deaths**, *Reuters*, November 14

Bono, speaking on Wednesday at the World Bank, said a shrinking U.S. budget for global health

would leave more than 275,000 people without treatment for the autoimmune disease, leading to 63,000 more AIDS-related deaths.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/11/14/uk-usa-bono-world-bank-idUKBRE8AD1XP20121114>

**SEE ALSO: VIDEO: Bono and World Bank President Talk Next Steps to End Poverty**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryiMH1LbGzg&feature=youtu.be>

**SEE ALSO: VIDEO: U2's Bono Speaks at GU Global Social Enterprise Event**

<http://www.georgetown.edu/webcast/bono-social-enterprise.html>

**SEE ALSO: What Is the Fiscal Cliff?**, *Wall Street Journal*, November 8

<http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2012/11/08/what-is-the-fiscal-cliff/>

**Gates Foundation: Catalyzing Change To Build Better Lives**, *Opinion*, *Jeff Raikes, Skoll World Forum*, November 11

First, we recognize that philanthropy plays an important, but limited, role. We can take risks, move quickly, and help catalyze change. But large-scale, lasting change is ultimately driven and sustained by markets and governments. Our work must therefore strengthen or complement these forces, not compete with or replace them. Second, we focus on benefitting individuals. Third, we can have the greatest impact by focusing on a few, key long-term issues.

<http://skollworldforum.org/2012/11/11/catalyzing-change-to-build-better-lives/>

**A Global Shift In Foreign Aid, Starting In India**, *New York Times*, November 15

Britain's decision to stop giving development aid to India by 2015 marks a turning point in the former colonial power's relations with New Delhi, and is raising questions about the global future of foreign aid in a fast-changing economic world order. Britain's move may be just the first in a full-scale pullback of aid to faster-growing developing nations, some aid professionals believe.

<http://india.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/15/a-global-shift-in-foreign-aid-starting-in-india/>

**The Foreign Policy Agenda**, *Editorial*, *New York Times*, November 11

National security didn't play heavily in the presidential election. But President Obama's legacy, and the country's future, will be shaped as much by the foreign policy and defense decisions he makes over the next four years as by those on the domestic side. Mr. Obama's policies have severely weakened Al Qaeda, but extremism is growing in many regions, like North Africa and Pakistan

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/12/opinion/president-obamas-foreign-policy-agenda.html>

**A Rare Moment For Myanmar – And America**, *Opinion*, *Bill Richardson and Mickey Bergman*, *New York Times*, November 14

As Aung San Suu Kyi said, people-friendly investments like small-scale farming and labor-intensive businesses are of highest priority. Myanmar needs basic investments in water wells and electricity. Moreover, peaceful resolutions to the conflicts in the border areas are essential — unless the country's minorities feel they are included, the reform movement will be undercut.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/15/opinion/a-rare-moment-for-myanmar-and-america.html?>

**How Reliable Are Drought Predictions? Study Finds Flaw In Popular Tool**, *Christian Science Monitor*, November 15

The inappropriate use of a metric for measuring drought has led some studies to overstate a trend over the past several decades toward more frequent, intense droughts. The trend has been attributed in no small part to global warming. At issue is a measure for gauging drought, known as the Palmer Drought Severity Index. It was developed to track drought conditions from one week to the next, or one season to the next, with a particular focus on croplands in the center of the United States.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2012/1115/How-reliable-are-drought-predictions-Study-finds-flaw-in-popular-tool>

**SEE ALSO: Little Change In Global Drought Over The Past 60 Years**, *Nature*, November 15

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v491/n7424/full/nature11575.html>

**China's New Boss**, *Wall Street Journal*, November 12

While Mr. Hu spent his early career in inland provinces with little private business or foreign investment, Mr.

Xi has spent most of the past 30 years problem-solving and supporting business in eastern provinces that are the engine of China's economic growth. He has a far greater affinity than Mr. Hu for the West, especially the U.S., which he visited first in 1985 when he stayed with a family in the small city of Muscatine, Iowa.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324439804578106860600724862.html>

**SEE ALSO: China's New Leaders Face An Economic Turning Point**, *Opinion*, Peter Orszag, *Bloomberg*, November 13

A growing body of academic studies warns that economic growth in China might slow substantially in the years and decades to come. One crucial reason is that, in the past, it has been driven disproportionately by workers moving from farms to factories. That method of raising productivity may now be largely exhausted -- because most of the workers who could successfully make the transition already have. If China is at or near its Lewis turning point, Xi will face an extraordinary economic challenge, with far-reaching geopolitical ramifications.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-13/china-s-new-leaders-face-an-economic-turning-point.html>

**From Senegal To Sudan, Does Building Resilience Work?**, *Guardian*, November 15

Resilience has well and truly entered the development mainstream as policymakers contend with drought in the Sahel, tropical storms in Haiti and famine – underpinned by conflict – in the Horn of Africa. Resilience – the ability of individuals, communities and states to withstand shocks – is an increasingly important development goal at a time of recurring crises.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/nov/15/senegal-sudan-building-resilience-work>

**Africa Is Rising Fast**, *Opinion*, Hannes van Rensburg, *Forbes*, November 11

Africa is changing for the better. In the past decade, Africa's growth rates have quietly been approaching those of Asia. Although mainstream American media has not reported these bright trends, corporate America has been following Africa's recent growth path more closely. Global corporations are investing heavily in this promising new Africa. For Africa, mobile money represents the potential for an enormous leap forward in development.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/teconomy/2012/11/09/africa-is-rising-fast/>

**Desmond Tutu: Africa's Hope Lies In Its Youth**, *Guardian*, November 12

Africa is the only continent with a significantly growing youth population. In less than three years, 41% of the world's youth will be African and yet almost half the world's out-of-school children live in sub-Saharan Africa. Counter-intuitively, youth unemployment increases with education level in Africa as some graduates struggle to find work that matches their qualifications.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/nov/12/desmond-tutu-africa-hope-youth>

**President Obama, Governor Romney -- 'Call Me, Maybe'**, *Opinion*, Ken Quinn, *Huffington Post*, November 6

Iowa would thus seem to be a most appropriate place for a meeting between the leaders of two of the most significant countries on the planet. It is even more so, since the state was the birthplace of the late Norman E. Borlaug, the Iowa farm boy who received the Nobel Peace Prize as the father of the Green Revolution. Borlaug, who founded the World Food Prize, was one of the very first individuals who entered China in the early 1970s and worked closely with former Premier Chou En Lai and Deng Xiaoping as they set China on its modern course for agricultural development.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kenneth-m-quinn/president-obama-governor- b\\_2082571.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kenneth-m-quinn/president-obama-governor- b_2082571.html)

**A Thanksgiving Tale: The Hungercloth**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, November 16

I often write and speak about the awful oxymoron, "Hungry Farmers." How can the smallholder farmers of Africa suffer through an annual hunger season when every morning they rise with one task: grow food for their families? That these farmers should battle chronic hunger and malnutrition is absurd, obscene and shameful. But there's another awful oxymoron that deserves our attention, particularly as we near Thanksgiving and our season of feasts. Hungry Americans.

<http://bit.ly/UvOxCc>

**Video: Heuermann Lecture: Catherine Bertini, Where America Must Lead: Ensuring the World Can Feed Its People, November 15**

Catherine Bertini, World Food Prize Laureate, delivered the Heuermann lecture at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She will discuss "Where America Must Lead: Ensuring the World Can Feed its People."

<http://heuermannlectures.unl.edu/web/heuermann-lectures/2012-2013>

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

**USAID Promotes Gender Equality And Improved Health Through Half The Sky Movement Mobile Games, USAID, November 15**

USAID launched three mobile phone games through its public-private partnership with the Half the Sky Movement. As part of the Agency's continued support of gender and family issues, the games are designed to increase global awareness and bring about social change in the areas of health, gender equality and empowerment. The games will be disseminated for use in India and East Africa by NGOs and more widely through mobile phone company app stores.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/usaid-promotes-gender-equality-and-improved-health-through-half-sky>

**Rice Outlook, USDA, November 15**

There were two supply-side revisions this month to the U.S. 2012/13 rice balance sheet. First, the production forecast was lowered 0.3 million cwt to 198.5 million cwt based on a slightly lower yield. Despite this month's downward revision, the average yield is the highest on record. Second, total rice imports were raised 1.0 million cwt to 20.5 million cwt, the highest since 2007/08.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/947123/rcs12kt.pdf>

**Agriculture Secretary Urges "Reform-Minded" Farm Bill, Reuters, November 14**

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urged Congress to break a logjam and pass a reform-minded farm bill, but two lobbyists said the deadlocked \$500 billion bill may not be enacted for months, or even a year.

Analysts say the best chance to pass a farm bill this year would be to use its budget cuts as part of an overall plan to reduce the federal deficit.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/15/us-usa-agriculture-farm-bill-idUSBRE8AE03I20121115>

**SEE ALSO: Fate Of Farm Bill Could Hinge On Leaders' Eagerness For Its Spending Cuts In Budget Deal, Washington Post, November 10**

The House and Senate farm bills differ in how they address subsidies for farmers. But the biggest difference between the two versions is the amount cut from food stamps: The Democratic-led Senate's bill would cut \$4 billion from the almost \$800 billion program over 10 years; the GOP-led House's version would cut \$16 billion.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/fate-of-farm-bill-could-hinge-on-leaders-eagerness-for-its-spending-cuts-in-budget-deal/2012/11/10/4a4dc1ae-2b4d-11e2-aaa5-ac786110c486\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/fate-of-farm-bill-could-hinge-on-leaders-eagerness-for-its-spending-cuts-in-budget-deal/2012/11/10/4a4dc1ae-2b4d-11e2-aaa5-ac786110c486_story.html)

**New Feed The Future Program Supports Transformational Approaches To Agriculture-Led Growth, USAID, November 14**

Feed the Future's new Partnering for Innovation program formally launched today. The program aims to engage the private sector and put transformational technologies into the hands of smallholder farmers in developing countries to quickly and sustainably improve their productivity and incomes. The event outlined the program's four primary components.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/new-feed-future-program-supports-transformational-approaches>

**Remarks By Administrator Rajiv Shah At The Bread For The World Conference, USAID, November 15**

It is hard to believe that just three years ago, President Obama first introduced the global food security initiative Feed the Future. It all felt so new at the time, because it was new. It represented a new model of

development, which has, in many ways, come to define the way we work around the world today. A model that advances a far deeper focus on science, technology, and innovation. A model that engages far more broadly with private sector partners. And a model that delivers more for our partners, but demands far more as well. Today, we see this model at work across our efforts in food security.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/speeches/remarks-administrator-rajiv-shah-bread-world-conference>

**United States Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance For The Syrian Crisis**, *State Department, November 9*

The United States is providing more than \$34 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help those affected by the conflict in Syria. With this new assistance, the US is providing more than \$165 million in humanitarian aid to help those suffering inside Syria and refugees in the neighboring countries. Additionally, the United States is the largest donor of food assistance to Syria through the WFP, which is reaching 1.5 million displaced and conflict-affected persons within Syria.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/11/200368.htm>

**DOD's Ongoing Reforms Address Some Challenges, but Additional Information Is Needed to Further Enhance Program Management**, *GAO, November 16*

GAO recommends that the Secretary of Defense (1) establish procedures to ensure that DOD agencies enter needed acquisition and delivery status data into security assistance information systems and (2) establish performance measures to assess timeliness for additional phases of the security assistance process.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-84>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **4th International Forum on Food and Nutrition**

*Date:* November 28-29, 2012

*Location:* Milan, Italy

<http://www.barillacfn.com/en/forum/forum-2012/?overview=y>

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### Media Articles:

**Vietnam Must Look To Rural Economy**, *The Institute For Security And Development Policy, November 16*

As Vietnam shifts from central planning to a market economy, this development needs to go hand in hand with strong agricultural reform. Rural development should be prioritized as a key issue for stability and growth. Yet reform of the agricultural sector has at times been forgotten in favor of industrial growth.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast\\_Asia/NK16Ae03.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/NK16Ae03.html)

**The GM Tree Plantations Bred To Satisfy The World's Energy Needs**, *Guardian, November 15*

It's a timber company's dream but a horrific industrial vision for others: massive plantations of densely planted GM eucalyptus trees stretching across Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and China, engineered to grow 40% faster for use as paper, as pellets for power stations and as fuel for cars. The prospect is close, says Stanley Hirsch, chief executive of the Israeli biotech company FuturaGene.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/nov/15/gm-trees-bred-world-energy>

**Ethiopia Is Using Radiation To Eradicate Tsetse Flies**, *VOA News, November 14*

Ethiopia is winning the battle against the tsetse fly, using what officials say is safe nuclear technology. A plane spreads thousands of non-productive tsetse flies every Wednesday in various parts of Ethiopia. So far, more than a million laboratory flies have been released. Now sterilized flies outnumber fertile flies, eight to one. The tsetse fly is only found in Africa and poses threats to both humans and livestock. Tens of millions of Africans and their livestock are at risk each year. Complete eradication of the tsetse flies is expected to take several decades.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/ethiopias-using-radiation-to-eradicate-tsetse-flies/1545361.html>

**Most South African Farmworkers End Strike, Union Office Says**, *Bloomberg, November 15*

Most farmworkers in South Africa's Western Cape Province heeded a call to suspend a strike while minimum wages are reviewed. Most farmworkers are not unionized. South Africa has been blighted by a series of violent strikes over pay that have spread from the mining sector into other parts of the economy since August, hurting output and growth.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-15/south-african-farmworkers-continue-strike-in-defiance-of-unions.html>

**DRC Cuts Budget For Agriculture**, *VOA News, November 14*

The Democratic Republic of Congo's government has cut its budget for agriculture, despite a previous pledge to raise it. The government has made some commitments to increasing its spending on agriculture. Along with other regional governments it signed a pledge in 2003 to increase agriculture and rural development's share of the budget to 10 percent. The government is facing a wave of insurgencies in the east of the country, which has forced it to increase military spending.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/drc-cuts-budget-for-agriculture/1546141.html>

**Nervous Farmers Scramble For Corn Seed After Drought**, *Reuters, November 13*

Coming off the worst drought in more than half a century, farmers in the United States are scrambling to get their hands on the best corn seed this year to ensure they plant a bumper crop next spring. Their success could be pivotal in keeping food prices stable across the globe. Seed supply is crucial for next year as top-performing varieties have the best chance of producing the large harvest needed to replenish low corn inventories and bring relief from high prices.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/13/us-corn-seed-supply-idUSBRE8AC07020121113>

**Analysis: China Turns To Machines As Farmers Seek Fresh Fields**, *Reuters, November 13*

China needs to replace millions of workers who have quit farms for cities, but even its vast state power might not be able to transform the countryside into a network of big industrial farms capable of feeding its growing economy. But efforts to modernize the sector are struggling to gain traction because many farmers are suspicious about giving up their land, and even for some mechanized farms, there are too few workers.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/13/us-china-agriculture-mechanisation-idUSBRE8AC15P20121113>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

**Food Security Assessment Mission To The Democratic People's Republic Of Korea**, *FAO, November 2012*

The Mission recommends that international support be focused on expanding and developing nutrition programs specifically targeted to about 2.8 million vulnerable people (children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly and disabled or chronic ill) in five provinces in the North- East of the country.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/a1994e/a1994e00.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Joint UN Assessment Finds Better Harvests In DPR Korea Along With Under-Nutrition**, *UN News Center, November 12*

The Assessment Mission, which visited all nine agricultural provinces in late September/early October, around the main annual cereal harvest, was particularly concerned about a 30 percent decline in soybean production. The country needs to import 507,000 metric tons of cereals to meet its basic food needs

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43463&Cr=Democratic&Cr1=Korea#.UKUfiWf4K1j>

**SEE ALSO: North Korean Food Harvest Improving, But Still Tight – FAO**, *Reuters, November 12*

The U.N. organization forecast a 10 percent increase in the main 2012 harvests and 2013 early season crops compared with a year earlier, and said production was expected to hit 5.8 million

metric tons. The country faced a staple food deficit of 207,000 metric tons, the lowest in many years, but 2.8 million people remained vulnerable to undernutrition.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/12/fao-northkorea-idUSL5E8MCGDT20121112>

#### Media Articles:

#### **UK Suspends Aid To Uganda As Concern Grows Over Misuse Of Funds**, *Guardian*, November 16

Britain has suspended all direct aid to the Ugandan government with immediate effect. Total direct financial aid to Uganda planned for this financial year was £26.9m. Total planned bilateral aid from Britain to Uganda this financial year is £98.9m. Bilateral aid to the east African country is delivered through channels including the Ugandan government, the private sector, multilateral bodies and NGOs.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/nov/16/uk-suspends-aid-uganda-misuse>

**SEE ALSO: UK Likely To Cancel Aid To Rwanda Amid Claims Its Rulers Were Linked To Militias Accused Of Rape And Murder**, *The Independent*, November 13

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-likely-to-cancel-aid-to-rwanda-amid-claims-its-rulers-were-linked-to-militias-accused-of-rape-and-murder-8313039.html>

#### **Mark Malloch-Brown: Developing The Mdgs Was A Bit Like Nuclear Fusion**, *Guardian*, November 16

In an interview at his office at FTI Consulting in London, Malloch-Brown says the eight MDGs melded a human-rights based approach embodied in the Human Development Report; a World Bank pro-market structural adjustment strategy; and the target-setting mindset of rich donors in the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/nov/16/mark-malloch-brown-mdgs-nuclear>

#### **China's Aid to Cambodia Helps Cement Ties**, *Wall Street Journal*, November 15

Cambodia, like neighboring Myanmar and Laos, has been a major beneficiary of Beijing's push in recent years to cultivate ties with developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. From 2006 to August 2012, Chinese companies invested more than \$8.2 billion in Cambodia. Since 1992, Beijing has offered Cambodia \$2.1 billion in aid and loans to fund agricultural development and the construction of more than 2,000 kilometers of roads and bridges.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324595904578120582308358540.html>

#### **African Farmers To Benefit From \$7.8 Million Grant**, *VOA News*, November 15

A 7.8 million dollar grant offered through the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation will help an American university work with eight African countries to improve their farming techniques. The project will focus on three main staple crops - maize, sorghum and rice - to improve their response rate to fertilizer. These key crops have a significantly lower rate of growth for African farmers in comparison to the response rate for other farmers around the world.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/agriculture-grant-african-farmers-gates-foundation/1546521.html>

#### **A Rainy Month In Haiti Causes Widespread Death, Loss Of Homes And Crop Damage**, *Washington Post*, November 13

The rain has tapered off and floodwaters no longer claw at houses, but the situation across much of Haiti remained grim following an autumn of punishing rains that have killed scores of people and that threaten to cause even more hunger across the impoverished nation. The UN says that as much as 90 percent of Haiti's current harvest season, much of it in the south, was lost in Sandy's floods, and the next harvest season won't begin until March.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/a-rainy-month-in-haiti-causes-widespread-death-loss-of-homes-and-crop-damage/2012/11/13/b6b608ba-2dcd-11e2-b631-2aad9d9c73ac\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/a-rainy-month-in-haiti-causes-widespread-death-loss-of-homes-and-crop-damage/2012/11/13/b6b608ba-2dcd-11e2-b631-2aad9d9c73ac_story.html)

**SEE ALSO: Haiti Faces Hunger Catastrophe After Hurricane Sandy Destroys Harvests**, *Guardian*, November 12

The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs said up to 450,000 people, including at least 4,000 children under five, are at risk from severe acute malnutrition, a life-threatening condition that requires urgent treatment.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/nov/12/haiti-hunger-hurricane-sandy-harvests>

**Floodwaters Recede In Nigeria But Millions Remain Displaced And Hungry**, *Guardian*, November 13

A joint Nema, UN and Oxfam emergency response conducted across 14 states called for \$38m to address education, health, water, sanitation, food security and protection needs. 63% of those displaced in the 14 states are staying with family and friends; the rest are camping in temporary sites or public buildings such as schools. Over half the schools in these states are unusable because of damage.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/nov/13/floodwaters-nigeria-millions-displaced-hungry>

**Aid To India Still Has Its Place**, *Opinion, The Independent*, November 11

It is correct that trade rather than aid is the engine of growth in the developing world, and it is undeniable that the profligate and thoughtless use of aid, has in some instances fed corruption among elites, distorted local economies, and created an unhealthy culture of dependence. At the same time, we need to remember that when it is intelligently and selectively targeted, aid has helped to empower and educate communities, and to relieve immediate suffering. In future, it is to be hoped that the sequence of events that has led to the abrupt termination of aid to India is not repeated.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/editorial-aid-to-india-still-has-its-place-8304982.html>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Climate-Change Impacts On Understorey Bamboo Species And Giant Pandas In China's Qinling Mountains**, *Nature Climate Change*, November 11

An ensemble of bamboo distribution projections associated with multiple climate-change projections and bamboo dispersal scenarios indicates a substantial reduction in the distributional ranges of three dominant bamboo species in the Qinling Mountains, China during the twenty-first century.

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1727.html>

**SEE ALSO: Climate Change Could Kill Off Pandas**, *Telegraph*, November 11

Climate change threatens to drive pandas to extinction in the wild as rising temperatures wipe out bamboo in the last remaining habitat for the endangered species. A new study predicts that climate change is set to wipe out much of the bamboo on which the bears rely for food. Conservation efforts should now aim to protect areas that have a better chance of supplying pandas with food, despite climate change, said the scientists.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/9670194/Climate-change-could-kill-off-pandas.html>

**World Energy Outlook 2012**, *International Energy Agency*, November 2012

The outlook presents authoritative projections of energy trends through to 2035 and insights into what they mean for energy security, environmental sustainability and economic development. Furthermore, it analyses the implications of energy trends on climate change, quantifies the cost of subsidies to fossil fuels and renewables, which are both coming under closer scrutiny in this age of austerity, and presents measures of progress towards providing universal access to modern energy services.

<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/publications/weo-2012/#d.en.26099>

**SEE ALSO: Global Energy System 'Unsustainable', Climate Heating – IEA**, *Forbes*, November 12

Taking all new developments and current policies into account, the world is still failing to put the global energy system onto a more sustainable path, IEA authors said. Global energy demand will rise by over one-third in the period to 2035. And as a result, energy-related CO2 emissions rise from an estimated 31.2 gigatons in 2011 to 37 gigatons in 2035.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2012/11/12/global-energy-system-unsustainable-climate-overheating-iaa/>

**SEE ALSO: World Energy Outlook Is Bad News As Far As Climate Change Is Concerned**, *Opinion, Michael McCarthy, The Independent*, November 13

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/comment/michael-mccarthy-world-energy-outlook-is-bad-news-as-far-as-climate-change-is-concerned-8307385.html>

#### Media Articles:

##### **Namibia: Conservation Agriculture Is the Way to Go**, *AllAfrica, November 16*

The UNDP-Global Environment Facility's Community Based Adaptation project is working with communities to build resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in agro-pastoral communities - and to foster community participation in the identification of climate drivers, risks and adaptive solutions. The lighthouse activities in developing countries either help to curb greenhouse gas emissions or help people adapt to climate change, while at the same time benefiting the urban poor.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201211161019.html>

##### **Creating Better Climate Policy: Linking Carbon Taxes To Investments In Clean Energy**, *Opinion, Matthew Stepp, Forbes, November 16*

Climate hawks' increasingly myopic focus on carbon pricing as the 'holy grail' of climate policy obscures a central principle: addressing climate change requires aggressive public investment policy. Period. Without public investments in developing cheap clean energy technologies and then supporting their commercialization and scale-up, Americans won't be able to drastically reduce their carbon footprint.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/matthewstepp/2012/11/16/creating-better-climate-policy-linking-carbon-taxes-to-investments-in-clean-energy/>

##### **Water Scarcity Threatens Energy Plans From U.S. To China**, *Bloomberg, November 12*

The water needed for energy production is set to grow at twice the pace of energy demand through 2035, requiring the use of better technologies to manage the risk. Water is becoming more scarce as the globe copes with climate change that's shrinking aquifers and making some areas dryer while the world population rises to 9 billion by 2050. That's led to calls from companies including Royal Dutch Shell and Eskom Holdings for governments to take "decisive action" on water.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-12/water-scarcity-threatens-energy-plans-from-u-s-to-china.html>

##### **Caribbean Sardine Collapse Linked To Climate Change**, *Guardian, November 7*

The sardine, *Sardinella aurita*, feeds on plankton but since 2005 plankton levels in the Caribbean have reduced significantly. The research team said the decreasing levels of plankton production are the result of a reduction in ocean upwelling, whereby nutrients crucial for plankton production are brought from the sea's floor to the surface. The drop in upwelling has, in turn, been driven by changes in wind patterns and wind strength, themselves driven by global climate change.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/nov/07/caribbean-sardine-collapse-climate-change>

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## **WOMEN & GIRLS**

#### Reports:

##### **Developing Africa Through Science, Technology And Innovations In Agriculture: "Women As Key Drivers"**, *RU Forum, November 15*

The International Foundation for Science (IFS), the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) acknowledge that various issues continue to limit the participation of African women in science, technology and innovation in Africa.

<http://www.ruforum.org/documents/developing-africa-through-science-technology-and-innovations-agriculture-%E2%80%9Cwomen-key-driver>

#### Media Articles:

**Teach a Woman to Farm...And She Creates Jobs**, *IPS, November 16*

Give a woman a hand-out and you feed her for a day. But teach her to farm, and how to add value to her product, and you feed her and her family for a lifetime. And if she happens to be Nigerian smallholder farmer Susan Godwin, she in turn will also provide jobs for her community and become a national food hero. Today, her family is food and financially secure. Not many smallholder farmers in her village of Tunduadabu in Nasarawa State in central Nigeria can make that claim.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/teach-a-woman-to-farmand-she-creates-jobs/>

**A New Study Says We Can't Prevent Most Preterm Births, So What Now?**, *Opinion, Carolyn S. Miles, Huffington Post, November 15*

A new study out in *The Lancet* makes it clear that training and equipping health workers to care for preterm babies is the key to saving the 1.1 million such babies who die every year. That's because we still know very little about how to prevent babies from being born too soon. A distinguished research team led by Save the Children has found that even if the United States and other high-income countries did everything science currently tells us could help, the vast majority of these early births -- 95 percent -- would continue.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carolyn-s-miles/a-new-study-says-we-cant-prevent-most-preterm-births-so-what-now\\_b\\_2139414.html?](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carolyn-s-miles/a-new-study-says-we-cant-prevent-most-preterm-births-so-what-now_b_2139414.html?)

**SEE ALSO: Preventing Preterm Births: Analysis Of Trends And Potential Reductions With Interventions In 39 Countries With Very High Human Development Index**, *Lancet, November 2012*

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2812%2961856-X/abstract>.

**UN Women's Lakshmi Puri Urges Global Action To End Violence Against Women**, *Guardian, November 12*

Lakshmi Puri, the deputy executive director of UN Women, stressed that violence against women is a development issue as well as a human rights one. "It is an opportunity cost to economic development," she said. "It is a social issue, a development issue, and a social cohesion and social harmony issue." According to UN Women, up to seven in 10 women are targeted for physical or sexual violence in their lifetime and 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not a crime.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/nov/12/un-women-lakshmi-puri-action-violence>

**Africa: Donors Renew Programme for African Women Researchers**, *SciDev, November 12*

The majority of those who produce, process and market Africa's food are women, but only one in four agricultural researchers is female, according to a 2008 benchmarking study conducted by AWARD. Currently there are few leadership positions available in agriculture and development, and of those that do exist, most are held by men.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201211130784.html>

**Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves As More Women Join The Latest Crop Of Irish Farmers**, *Irish Times, November 10*

The latest survey on farm labor by the Central Statistics Office found an increase of almost 15 percent in the number of family farms owned by women between 2000 and 2010. They are still in the minority, but women own 12.4 percent of family farms, according to the survey. They also make up more than one-quarter of the agricultural labor force, with more than 74,000 women now working in agriculture.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/1110/1224326411269.html>

**Photos: The Plight of Afghanistan's Women**, *Wall Street Journal, November 2012*

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324439804578113160318905232.html#slide/1>

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**MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES**

Reports:

**Survey Of Tenth District Agricultural Credit Conditions: Drought-Reduced Incomes Boost Farm**

**Lending**, *Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, November 2012*

Drought cut District farm incomes in the third quarter, boosting demand for farm operating loans. Farm incomes fell sharply during the quarter as escalating feed and fuel prices pushed production costs higher. Shrinking incomes spurred demand for farm operating loans as corn and soybean farmers and cow/calf operators searched for funds to pay for rising input costs. Bankers also approved more loan renewals and extensions compared with the previous quarter, as loan repayment rates dipped slightly.

<http://www.kansascityfed.org/publicat/research/indicatorsdata/agcredit/AGCR3Q12.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Plains Farmland Prices Set Record But Gains Slow**, *Reuters, November 15*

Average farmland prices in the Plains states jumped as much as 25 percent in the third quarter, setting new highs as demand remained strong, the Kansas City Federal Reserve said on Thursday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/15/usa-farmland-plains-idUSL1E8MF4IB20121115>

**SEE ALSO: Farmland Prices Rise Despite Drought**, *Wall Street Journal, November 15*

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324595904578121344140378274.html>

**Trends And Impacts Of Foreign Investment In Developing Country Agriculture**, *FAO, November 12*

For investments involving large-scale land acquisition in countries where land rights are unclear and insecure, the disadvantages often outweigh the few benefits to the local community. The acquisition of already-utilized land to establish new large farms should be avoided and other forms of investment should be considered.

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/est/INTERNATIONAL-TRADE/FDIs/Trends\\_publication\\_12\\_November\\_2012.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/est/INTERNATIONAL-TRADE/FDIs/Trends_publication_12_November_2012.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Spotlight On "Land Grab" Deals**, *IRIN, November 14*

"Land-grab" deals involving multinationals in developing countries have often been seen as detrimental to food security and the livelihoods of millions of small farmers, but a new study puts such deals into the context of agricultural investments more generally. FAO estimates that investments of more than US\$80 billion a year are needed globally to keep pace with population and income growth, and feed more than nine billion people in 2050.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96783/FOOD-Spotlight-on-land-grab-deals>

Media Articles:

**Brazil Eyes Growing Agribusiness In China**, *China Daily, November 15*

The Brazilian Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock opened its branch office in Beijing on Wednesday, at the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency. The move is aimed at introducing more Brazilian agriculture and livestock products into the Chinese market and luring China's State and private enterprises to invest in Brazil, especially in the field of logistics facilities, including storage and transportation.

[http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-11/15/content\\_15933379.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-11/15/content_15933379.htm)

**France Rejects EU Budget Compromise**, *Financial Times, November 15*

France has dismissed a compromise proposal for the EU's long-term budget as unacceptable. The biggest object of displeasure appeared to be Mr Van Rompuy's move to trim €25bn from the common agricultural policy compared with a proposal from the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. Those cuts include a €12bn reduction in direct subsidies to farmers. Some analysts argue the cull was even more dramatic because agriculture was starting from a low base – historically speaking – in the commission proposal.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/94313ce8-2f16-11e2-b8c5-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2Cji3N0Ug>

**India Leads WTO Bid To Permit Subsidies For Food Stockpiling**, *Reuters, November 14*

A coalition of 46 developing countries led by India has proposed changing World Trade Organization rules to lift the limit on subsidized food stockpiling to support poor farmers. Under the proposed changes, developing countries could pay farmers subsidized prices to stockpile their crops without having to account for the price subsidy as part of the AMS.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/14/agriculture-wto-idUSL5E8MEBMF20121114>

**China's Great Shame**, *Opinion, Yang Jisheng, New York Times, November 13*

Thirty-six million people in China starved to death between 1958 and 1962, during the man-made calamity

known as the Great Famine. Those who deny that the famine happened, as an executive at the state-run newspaper People's Daily recently did, enjoy freedom of speech, despite their fatuous claims about "three years of natural disasters." The reason is political.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/14/opinion/chinas-great-shame.html?>

**Will Food Prices Cost the World Economy?**, *Opinion, Peter Hall, Huffington Post, November 12*

Higher food prices are a key source of social unrest in emerging markets, as seen in the 2008 food crisis and the Arab Spring in 2011. While September data from the Food and Agriculture Organization indicate that prices seem to have stabilized, further shocks should not be ruled out, as short-term demand pressures persist. Economies that are net food importers or dependent on food subsidies can expect to face increasing near-term pressure.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/peter-hall/food-prices-economy\\_b\\_2116800.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/peter-hall/food-prices-economy_b_2116800.html)

**Grain Prices Take a Tumble**, *Wall Street Journal, November 12*

Grain and soybean prices tumbled amid concerns about higher-than-expected crop supplies and a less-bullish outlook from Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Goldman Sachs added to the bearish sentiment Monday, analysts said, when it cut its three-month price forecasts for corn, wheat and soybeans. The company said in a research note that "risks of critically tight soybean inventories continue to fade quickly."

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324073504578115382863977980.html>

**Vibrant Farm Activities Lure Higher Credit**, *Dawn, November 12*

Record cotton output, higher sugarcane crop, soaring farm input costs, expansion of rural banking and rising microfinance lending has resulted in higher agricultural credit disbursement. One big reason for faster growth in loan volumes and in the number of borrowers of agricultural sector is that agricultural sector remained more vibrant compared to manufacturing.

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/12/vibrant-farm-activities-lure-higher-credit/>

**Japan Fears Losing Control Of Water As Investors Buy Amid Real Estate's Price Slump**, *The Independent, November 11*

A two-decade slump in Japan's real estate prices, an incomplete land registry and lax rules on buying forest with water rights are attracting investors led by China and come amid a fraying of ties between the two countries over a territorial dispute. Japan, whose population is shrinking, ranks in the top 10 percent of countries by water resources, while China and India, with the opposite demographic trend, will face shortages from 2030.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/japan-fears-losing-control-of-water-as-investors-buy-amid-real-estates-price-slump-8304698.html>

**SEE ALSO: Water: The Next Challenge For China's New Leaders?**, *Opinion, Olga Khazan, Washington Post, November 15*

China faces a number of challenges, including dependence on exports and weak domestic consumption, but one of the most pressing issues is a risk of severe water shortages.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2012/11/15/water-the-next-challenge-for-chinas-new-leaders/>

**As Coal Boosts Mozambique, The Rural Poor Are Left Behind**, *New York Times, November 10*

Most of Mozambique's people live in rural areas, and almost all of them depend on farming. Since commercial farming scarcely exists — 99 percent of farmers are smallholders — this means small-scale, family-based agriculture is the main, and in many cases the only, source of income for the vast majority of Mozambicans. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/11/world/africa/as-coal-boosts-mozambique-the-rural-poor-are-left-behind.html?>

**U.S. Envoy to Leave South Africa**, *Wall Street Journal, November 9*

The U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, Donald Gips, said he is departing his post to return to Washington, after presiding over a bilateral relationship that has become far less frosty despite sharp differences over Libya and Iran. The 52-year-old ambassador has also served as a chief cheerleader for a revitalized commercial relationship. South Africa and the U.S. did record two-way trade of \$22 billion last year.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324073504578108981559933490.html>

**The Corporate Take-Over Of African Food Security And Agricultural Production**, *Opinion, William G. Moseley, Good Governance Africa, November 1*

It is time we realized that, amid all the fanfare for a new green revolution in Africa, and the upsurge in donor and corporate interest in African agricultural production, the best way to address food insecurity for the poor—emphasizing access and not production—has regressed.

<http://gga.org/analysis/the-corporate-take-over-of-african-food-security-and-agricultural-production/>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**Land O' Lakes: Agricultural Productivity and Competitiveness**, *Land O' Lakes, November 2012*

Land O'Lakes' strategy is to stimulate agricultural sector growth in developing countries by using market signals that encourage and promote investments in productivity- and quality-enhancing technologies and practices. The goal is to improve competitiveness and achieve higher productivity among smallholders and other firms along the value chain.

<http://bit.ly/SsbGp1>

**Cargill To Expand Grain Rail Shipments From Illinois Complex**, *Reuters, November 16*

U.S. agribusiness giant Cargill said on Friday it was investing \$6.4 million at its grain elevator complex in Tuscola, Illinois, to expand rail service and ship more corn and soybeans to the U.S. southeast and Gulf of Mexico ports. The elevator ships grain from the heart of the Corn Belt to eastern livestock producers, southeast soybean processing plants and Gulf export elevators.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/16/cargill-expansion-idUSL1E8MG97N20121116>

**Berkshire Buys Deere Stake For Buffed Aide's Portfolios**, *Bloomberg, November 15*

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. disclosed a stake in Deere & Co., the world's largest maker of agricultural equipment, as the billionaire investor's deputies build their portfolios. Deere may benefit in coming decades as farmers seek to boost yields to feed a surging population.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-15/berkshire-takes-deere-stake-as-buffett-deputies-build-portfolios.html>

**GrainCorp Comes Out Swinging Against ADM**, *Financial Times, November 15*

GrainCorp, the Sydney-based grain handling company, appeared headed for a standoff with Archer Daniels Midland over the US company's A\$2.7bn takeover proposal. Trumpeting GrainCorp's "outstanding" annual results and "compelling" prospects, chief executive Alison Watkins said the company, which handles three quarters of eastern Australia's grain crop, had little difficulty rebuffing ADM. GrainCorp's decision to reject ADM came as it unveiled record profits and an increased dividend.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/ef4434de-2eb0-11e2-9b98-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2Cji3N0Ug>

**SEE ALSO: GrainCorp Open To Proposals After A\$2.7 Billion ADM Rebuff**, *Bloomberg, November 14*

GrainCorp Ltd., the largest grain handler in eastern Australia, said it will consider any new proposals after rebuffing a A\$2.7 billion offer from U.S.-based Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. The board will respond to any proposal that's in the interests of GrainCorp shareholders.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-14/graincorp-says-adm-s-a-2-7-billion-offer-undervalues-company-1-.html>

**CIC, Dairy Giant Fonterra in Fund Investment Talks**, *Wall Street Journal, November 14*

China Investment Corp. is in talks with New Zealand dairy giant Fonterra Co-Operative Group about investing in a shareholder fund created by the cooperative. Fonterra, the world's largest dairy exporter, is giving outside investors the opportunity to buy nonvoting units, allowing them to collect dividends and gain from any earnings growth. The cooperative is owned by about 10,500 farmer shareholders.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324556304578118281533042510.html>

**Bugs Damaging Monsanto Corn May Do Same To Syngenta Crop**, *Bloomberg*, November 14

Rootworms, the most costly pest affecting the U.S. Corn Belt, are showing signs of resistance to Syngenta AG's GM corn just as they do with crops developed by Monsanto Co. Monsanto sold enough of its rootworm-killing corn last year to cover 37 million acres with 75,000 acres showing "unexpected damage" from the pest. Cross-resistance may already be showing up in Nebraska cornfields. Rootworms known to be resistant to Cry3Bb1 survived feeding on Syngenta's corn and caused root damage at higher-than-expected rates.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-14/bugs-damaging-monsanto-corn-may-do-same-to-syngenta-crops-1-.html>

**China Firm Wins Bid For 58-Sq-Mile Australia Farm Land**, *Reuters*, November 13

A Chinese property firm has won the right to develop a 58-sq mile farming project in Australia, potentially adding to the growing concern over foreign investors buying farm land. A recent wave of interest in Australian agriculture has seen a number of high-profile deals involving Chinese investors, including the purchase of the country's biggest cotton farm, as well as foreign takeovers in its deregulated wheat industry.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/13/australia-property-idUSL3E8MD5Y120121113>

**Mozambique: Cargill Supports Mozambican Agricultural School**, *AllAfrica*, November 12

The US based food corporation Cargill has announced a three year partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation to support the Bilibiza Agricultural Institute in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado. Under this project, the Institute will train up to 400 students a year with technical and entrepreneurial skills, as well as sharing knowledge that will help them to participate in the sustainable development of Mozambican agriculture.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201211121197.html>