



THE CHICAGO COUNCIL
ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Global Food For Thought

Global Agricultural Development Initiative

Weekly News Brief



November 24th – November 30th, 2012

Quote of the Week: *“Feed the Future is more than an initiative; it is part of the lasting architecture of our development platform and lays the groundwork for us to be more effective, more efficient, and more successful in the work that we do. Feed the Future is bigger than any one agency or Administration – it is part of our global legacy.”* – Tjada McKenna before the Senate Foreign Relations International Development Subcommittee, November 28, 2012.

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.
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CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)
[Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[Agricultural Issues](#)
[Foreign Assistance](#)
[Environment \(Water/Climate\)](#)
[Women & Girls](#)
[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)
[Agribusiness](#)

KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Food Price Watch, *World Bank, November 2012*

Internationally traded food prices remain stable at high levels after the July price hikes marked a new all-time record. Even when the world seems to have averted a global food price crisis, a growing sense of a “new norm” of high and volatile prices seems to be consolidating. The new norm demands an unambiguous prioritization of food security in the global policy agenda, regardless of food price fluctuations. More resources, better data and sound policy choices continue to be needed to end hunger for the world’s 870 million hungry people.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTPOVERTY/Resources/336991-1311966520397/Food-Price-Watch-November-2012.htm>

SEE ALSO: **Global Food Prices Stable But Still High: World Bank**, *Reuters, November 29*

Global food prices remained stable, though close to 2008 record levels, the World Bank said, as it

warned that a "new norm" of costlier food was setting in and threatening to increase hunger and malnutrition in the world's poorer regions.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/30/us-worldbank-food-idUSBRE8AT00A20121130>

Agriculture: Farming Revolution Has Yet To Take Off, *Financial Times*, November 27

Farming is Nigeria's job creation engine. The problem is the yields are low. They are good farmers, but they can barely access agricultural inputs, working capital and government services. The solution does not necessarily lie in sprawling commercial farms but rather in improving smallholder ones. Up to 70 per cent of the country's workforce is involved in agriculture directly or indirectly. The sector contributes about 40 per cent of gross domestic product. Billions of dollars will also be spent on buying sugar, wheat and fish from abroad; in 2010 the food import bill was \$10bn.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/5a639ff4-30ad-11e2-bd24-00144feab7de.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

Analysis Of The Bread Wheat Genome Using Whole-Genome Shotgun Sequencing, *Nature*, November 29

Bread wheat is a globally important crop, accounting for 20 per cent of the calories consumed by humans. Our analyses, coupled with the identification of extensive genetic variation, provide a resource for accelerating gene discovery and improving this major crop.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v491/n7426/full/nature11650.html>

SEE ALSO: Researchers Unlocks Secrets of Wheat Genome, *Wall Street Journal*, November 28

Scientists analyzing the complex genome of bread wheat say they have identified characteristics that could help them make the crucial food crop more productive, nutritious and resistant to drought. Researchers will now have to study the wheat genome and try to figure out exactly which genes are associated with important traits, such as the potential for higher yields or drought resistance.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324205404578147823815273136.html>

SEE ALSO: Scientists Make Wheat Genetic Code Breakthrough, *Reuters*, November 28

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/28/wheat-genes-idUSL5E8MSBNY20121128>

SEE ALSO: Wheat Genome's Key Parts Unlocked In New Study, *BBC*, November 28

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-20512197>

Testimony Of Tjada McKenna, Feed The Future Deputy Coordinator For Development, Before The Senate Foreign Relations International Development Subcommittee, *USAID*, November 28

When Feed the Future was launched, the President asked that we do things differently to get better results for every taxpayer dollar invested in this effort. We have taken that directive to heart, and are proud of the many ways we are working toward that goal. Feed the Future is more than an initiative; it is part of the lasting architecture of our development platform and lays the groundwork for us to be more effective, more efficient, and more successful in the work that we do.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/congressional-testimony/testimony-tjada-mckenna-feed-future-deputy-coordinator>

SEE ALSO: Testimony Of Jonathan Shrier

<http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=5d61458b-5056-a032-528a-64bb4810c9c4>

SEE ALSO: Testimony Of Connie Veillette

http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Connie_Veillette_Testimony.pdf

SEE ALSO: Testimony Of Paul O'Brien

http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Paul_O'Brien_Testimony.pdf

SEE ALSO: Testimony Of Conor Walsh

http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Conor_Walsh_Testimony.pdf

Extreme Weather Calls For Action, UN Climate Chief Says, *Reuters*, November 28

The U.N. meeting is struggling to overcome disputes about how to extend the Kyoto Protocol, the existing plan for cutting emissions by developed nations that will otherwise expire at the end of the year. The European Union, Australia and a few other countries are willing to extend but Japan, Russia and Canada have pulled out, arguing that it is meaningless unless emerging nations led by China and India also sign up.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/28/us-climate-talks-idUSBRE8AR0DY20121128>

SEE ALSO: Kyoto Battlelines Drawn As Climate Talks Dig Into Detail, *AFP*, November 27

<http://www.afp.com/en/node/728446>

This Year Among Warmest On Record, *Financial Times*, November 28

This year is on track to be one of the world's warmest since records started more than 160 years ago, the UN has reported, despite the cooling influence of La Niña conditions in the Pacific Ocean. Most of the globe's land surface areas experienced higher than average temperatures over the first 10 months of the year, the WMO said, especially in North America, southern Europe, parts of Russia and northern Africa.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/d34e64d8-38cf-11e2-981c-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

SEE ALSO: UN Agency Says 2012 Ranks Among Hottest Years, *New York Times*, November 28

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/29/science/earth/un-agency-says-2012-ranks-among-hottest-years.html>

Foreign Aid Allocation, Governance, and Economic Growth, *IFPRI*, November 2012

This study contributes to the debate by taking a different approach from conventional analyses of the aid-growth relationship. Analysis of the aid-growth relationship shows no significant connection between aggregate aid and per capita GDP growth. Rather than treating ODA as a single category, the study disaggregates it into several different categories, based on which sector of a recipient's economy the ODA is meant to help or promote.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/foreign-aid-allocation-governance-and-economic-growth-0>

Hanging on the Edge: The Daily Fiscal Cliff, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, November 28

The smallholder farmers of Africa know all about fiscal cliffs. "Everybody wants money," Leonida Wanyama despaired as she neared the precipice of her own personal cliff during the hunger season. She had no food in the house and no money, either. Many forces were pushing her to the edge. Her children were being sent home from their classes by headmasters demanding that the school fees be paid.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2012/11/commentary-hanging-on-the-edge-the-daily-fiscal-cliff.html>

Interview with Roger Thurow, Enough Isn't Enough: Why Food Security Matters to Me, *USAID*, November 21

The following is a guest blog by Roger Thurow, author, senior fellow for global agriculture and food policy at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and ONE Campaign fellow. We asked Thurow a few questions about food security.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2012/11/enough-isnt-enough-why-food-security-matters-to-me.html>

Let's Make Malnutrition Visible, *Opinion, Lawrence Haddad, BBC*, November 29

Sub-Saharan Africa has not done any better in terms of progress on child malnutrition. In fact, the rates of child malnutrition have been stuck at about 40% for the past 30 years. I want to tell you what malnutrition is, why I believe it matters so much, why it is so persistent - even in countries experiencing rapid economic growth - and what we can do about it. Most people think malnutrition is all about not having enough food or enough of the right kind of food to eat. This is a big part of the story. But there are many other links in the chain.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-20523986>

Video: Why Poverty? Part 1: The Causes Of Poverty, *BBC*, November 26

Why is that despite all our advancements, technological progress and increasing wealth, the twin scourges of extreme poverty and inequality still blight the lives of vast numbers of people in the 21st Century?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-radio-and-tv-20398513>

SEE ALSO: Video: Why Poverty? Part 2: The Need For Opportunity, *BBC*, November 26

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-radio-and-tv-20401822>

SEE ALSO: Video: Why Poverty? Part 3: The Prospects For Africa, *BBC*, November 26

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-radio-and-tv-20433004>

SEE ALSO: Video: Why Poverty? Part 4: The Importance Of Agriculture, *BBC*, November 26

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-radio-and-tv-20433175>

SEE ALSO: Video: Why Poverty? Part 5: Possible Solutions, *BBC*, November 26
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-radio-and-tv-20434655>

Value of Food Aid Monetization: Benefits, Risks and Best Practices, *Alliance for Global Food Security*, November 2012

This study summarizes the potential risks and benefits of monetization, as reviewed in the literature, and evaluates data from five specific monetization cases against those potential risks and benefits, and describes, in detail, several cases that demonstrate the value and need for food aid monetization beyond the generation of funds to conduct development activities. Best practices to minimize chances of any adverse local market impacts also are identified.

<http://foodaid.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Informa-Economics-Study-Value-of-Food-Aid-Monetization-November-2012.pdf>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks By Hillary Clinton At The Foreign Policy Group's "Transformational Trends 2013" Forum, *State Department*, November 29

We do live in a rapidly changing world. That poses new challenges but also new opportunities for our global leadership. We've accelerated the process of updating our foreign policy priorities to take economics more into account. And that leads to a set of interconnected global challenges: climate change, poverty, hunger, disease, women's rights, and more. No one nation can solve any of these problems alone. Each one calls for a global network of partners. Building those coalitions is one of the great tests of American leadership.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/11/201235.htm>

Statement From Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack On Soaring U.S. Exports, *USDA*, November 29

The USDA released its second Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade in FY 2013 today, and the latest forecast continues an astonishing trend for American farm exports that began in 2009. In the years since, U.S. agricultural exports have climbed more than 50 percent in value. Earlier in the week, USDA forecast net farm income at its second-highest level since the 1970s. Taken together, this data shows a robust agricultural economy poised to recover from the worst drought in more than a generation.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/11/0349.xml>

SEE ALSO: Outlook For U.S. Agricultural Trade, *USDA*, November 29

Fiscal 2013 agricultural exports are forecast at a record \$145 billion, up \$1.5 billion from the August forecast and \$9.2 billion above fiscal 2012 exports. U.S. imports are projected at a record \$115 billion in fiscal 2013, up 11 percent from 2012's imports of \$103.4 billion, but down \$2 billion from the August forecast for 2013.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/960209/aes76.pdf>

Remarks By Hillary Clinton To The Millennium Challenge Corporation, *State Department*, November 27

In this Administration, we've tried to put forth a new policy on development that really focuses on results, and MCC has been one of the foundational institutions that has given us the base for moving forward. We look to MCC for helping to bring about that strategic shift that we're making in our development work from aid to investment and looking at the risk-reward calculation.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/11/201097.htm>

USDA Study Shows Trends In Public And Private Agricultural R&D, *USDA*, November 26

Analysis published by the USDA Economic Research Service in the most recent issue of the journal *Science* examine the relationship between public and private investments in R&D and their importance in agricultural input industries. As private sector investments comprise a greater and growing share of overall R&D spending, the findings from this study will help trace their influence on future productivity gains.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/11/0344.xml>

SEE ALSO: Report: The Contribution Of Private Industry To Agricultural Innovation, *Science*, November 23

Most of the increase in global agricultural production over the past half-century has come from

raising crop and livestock yields rather than through area expansion. This growth in productivity is attributed largely to investments in research and innovation. Since around 1990, there has been a decline in the rate of growth in yield per area harvested for several important crops. In parallel, the rate of growth in public spending on agricultural R&D has also fallen.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/338/6110/1031.summary>

War's Silent Scourge: Sexual Violence Against Women, *Opinion*, Melanne Vermeer, *The Daily Beast*, November 25

Nov. 25, marks International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Without accountability for sexual violence and other acts of severe violence against women and girls security and development are impossible. The international community must work together to expose the most odious weapon of all—sexual violence—by ensuring justice for its perpetrators and support for its survivors.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/11/25/war-s-silent-scurge-sexual-violence-against-women.html>

SEE ALSO: 16 Day Challenge: Let's Eliminate Gender Violence, *Opinion*, Carla Koppell, *USAID Impact Blog*, November 26

Yet even as we contemplate the numbers, we must not forget the individuals, the victims of violence, as well as the incredible male and female leaders—some of whom are survivors—that lead the campaign to end the epidemic. As our policies and strategies gain traction and implementation gains speed, we recognize a collective responsibility to ensure our mission translates into results around the world.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2012/11/16-day-challenge-lets-eliminate-gender-violence/>

Leading The Way In Enterprise Development, *Opinion*, Eric Postel, *USAID Impact Blog*, November 24

At USAID, we are committed to supporting women's entrepreneurship in developing countries, where it can raise incomes while reducing poverty and inequality. Acknowledging this, USAID recently launched the Women's Leadership in Small and Medium Enterprises initiative. The aim of USAID's \$8.5-million investment is to find innovative ways to remove some of the barriers to women owning and managing small and medium enterprises.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2012/11/women-in-action/>

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>

22nd Annual Martin J. Forman Memorial Lecture by Josette Sheeran

Date: December 4

Location: Washington, D.C.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/22nd-annual-martin-j-forman-memorial-lecture>

Cooperatives and Development: Meeting the Challenges of Research, Finance and Law

Date: December 4

Location: Washington, D.C.

Rsvp: to Professor Marsha Echols at howardprofessor@gmail.com

http://dc.linktank.com/event/world_food_law_symposium#.ULk982f4K1g

USDA 2013 Agriculture Outlook Forum: Managing Risk in the 21st Century

Date: February 21-22, 2013

Location: Arlington, VA

www.usda.gov/oce/forum/

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Highlights Of IFPRI's Recent Food Policy Research For The Asian Development Bank, *IFPRI, November 2012*

Agriculture and rural development will continue to play a critical role in alleviating poverty and malnutrition in the region—but the issues have changed over time, moving from food subsidies and commercialization of agriculture in the early years to climate change, water, environmental sustainability, value chains, market information systems, and nutrition and health.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/highlights-ifpri-s-recent-food-policy-research-asian-development-bank>

Media Articles:

U.S. Drought Expands, Blankets High Plains, *Reuters, November 29*

Drought is tightening its grip on the central United States as winter weather sets in, threatening to ravage the new wheat crop and spelling more hardship for farmers and ranchers already weary of the costly and ongoing dry conditions. Forecasts for the next several days show little to no relief and weather watchers are predicting a drier than average winter for much of the central United States.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/29/usa-drought-idUSL1E8MT5H220121129>

Agriculture Day Set To Dominate At Climate Conference, *VOA News, November 29*

As delegates meet at the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha, Qatar, another group will be calling attention to the huge role agriculture could play in being part of the solution to climate change. Agriculture, Landscapes, and Livelihoods Day hopes to put into place a dedicated work program to help farmers adapt to climate change, and to showcase solutions agriculture can provide in mitigating the effects of climate change.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/agriculture-climateconference-sibanda-africa/1555170.html>

Colombia To Offer Climate Change Insurance To Coffee Farmers, *Reuters, November 28*

After three years of bad weather and a recent slump of international bean prices, Colombia is broadening the financial instruments available to farmers, a policy long practiced by more developed Latin American markets. Small growers in Colombia will have insurance to protect their crops from drastic weather changes, starting from January, said Andres Lozano, a top advisor at the Colombian agricultural development bank, Finagro.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/28/colombia-coffee-idUSL1E8MQ5SJ20121128>

India's GM Food Hypocrisy, *Opinion, Henry Miller, Wall Street Journal, November 27*

During the past decade, widespread adoption of an insect-resistant, genetically engineered crop called Bt-cotton has drastically reduced the use of chemical pesticides in cotton fields, enhanced food security and improved farmers' bottom line. Nevertheless, bureaucrats have blocked innovations in genetic engineering. During the late 1990s, regulators used the threat of fines and imprisonment to force scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to destroy their field trial of insect-resistant eggplant. These activists succeeded in further influencing the Indian government.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324469304578144880687241220.html>

Biggest Risk To Farmers: High Input Costs, Not Land, *Reuters, November 27*

Soaring farm operating costs, not record high land pose the greatest risk to U.S. farmers according to CEO of Farmers National Company, Jim Farrell. Steep increases in cost of fertilizer, seed, fuel and machinery are the main concerns for farmers. Farrell said a repeat of the drought in 2013 may have a negative impact on land values and the United States could lose its clout as the world's top supplier of food.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/28/us-usa-farmland-idUSBRE8AR04120121128>

Kurdistan's Food Security Begins At Home, *Financial Times, November 26*

If Iraq is the cradle of civilization, the semi-autonomous Kurdish region in the north gave birth to agriculture.

But if the region was once the bread basket of Iraq, renowned for its top-quality wheat, it is now an increasingly large consumer of imported food. To revive agriculture, Mr Taleb wants the government to up the percentage of its budget devoted to agriculture from the current level of 2 per cent to closer to 10 per cent, in line with UN recommendations. The average in food-importing states is about 5 per cent.
<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/382419e2-3732-11e2-893a-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

Agricultural Wages Board: UK Government Consults Over Board's Future, *BBC, November 26*

The UK government has held another consultation its plans to scrap a panel that sets farming wages despite opposition from ministers in Wales. Set up in 1948, the board sets the pay and conditions of more than 13,000 Welsh farm workers. UK ministers describe it as an unnecessary regulatory burden.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-20492036>

Peace, Land And Bread, *Economist, November 24*

The FARC has degenerated into drug-trafficking and brigandage, but land reform is one of the few political flags they continue to wave. Land and rural development is the first item on the agenda of the peace talks between the FARC and the government of President Santos. Resolving the land issue is a necessary condition for ending the conflict but it also true that land disputes can be settled only if violence ends.
<http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21567087-hard-bargaining-starts-peace-land-and-bread>

Organics Weather The Drought, *Des Moines Register, November 23*

Like their conventional crop brethren, Iowa's organic producers have emerged from the drought of 2012 relieved. Iowa's overall corn yield will be down 19 percent this year, according to the USDA. That figure is not as dire as was predicted during the hottest July since 1936. Much of the better-than-expected yield has been credited to biotech seeds, which were not in use during Iowa's last major drought in 1988. But Bennett said non-biotech producers came through as well.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012311250015>

Zimbabwe: E-Vouchers Boost Access To Agricultural Inputs, *IRIN, November 22*

The initiative makes inputs and tools more accessible to cash-strapped small-scale farmers. The system is designed to improve food security among vulnerable households through crop and livestock production, said the FAO in a statement. FAO's scheme aims to reorient small-scale farmers towards market-based farming, thereby improving food security.
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96843/ZIMBABWE-e-Vouchers-boost-access-to-agricultural-inputs>

Mexico Postpones Approval Of Large-Scale GM Corn Fields, *Reuters, November 22*

Scientists recognize Mexico as the birthplace of corn, and opponents of GM corn have argued that genetically modified varieties pioneered by companies like Monsanto will contaminate native strains and irrevocably harm the grain's biodiversity. Backers of GM corn say it produces yields between 10 and 15 percent larger than conventional strains, which could boost production and curb Mexico's dependence on imports.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/23/us-mexico-corn-idUSBRE8AM00020121123>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Media Articles:

Ethiopia Promises Support To Rebuild Somalia, *VOA News, November 28*

Ethiopia says it will support Somalia by re-establishing the country's institutions and training its defense forces. Ethiopian forces are still deployed in parts of Somalia to fight al-Shabab and secure stability. Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam further promised support for Somalia's agriculture sector by sending professionals to help restart production.
<http://www.voanews.com/content/Somalia-ethiopia-rebuilding/1554572.html>

My Secretary Of State, *Opinion, Thomas L. Friedman, New York Times, November 27*

At the same time, as our foreign budget shrinks, more and more of it will have to be converted from

traditional grants to “Races to the Top,” which Arne Duncan’s Education Department pioneered in U.S. school reform. We will have to tell needy countries that whoever comes up with the best ideas for educating their young women and girls or incentivizing start-ups or strengthening their rule of law will get our scarce foreign aid dollars. That race is the future of foreign aid.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/28/opinion/friedman-my-secretary-of-state.html>

DR Congo Rebels To Withdraw From Goma, *AFP, November 27*

Rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo said Tuesday they would withdraw from Goma, a week after their capture of the key eastern city sparked fears of a new war in the volatile region. Since 1998 more than three million people are estimated to have died from combat, disease and hunger and 1.6 million have been left homeless. The new fighting, as well as reported atrocities including killings, rapes and abductions of civilians, has forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes in a spiralling humanitarian crisis.

<http://www.afp.com/en/node/728248>

Black Man’s Burden, *New York Times, November 26*

“Africans unite to save Norwegians from dying of frostbite.” That’s the tagline of the fictional fundraising campaign “Radi-Aid.” Its comedy, of course, is that Norway consistently tops global rankings of human development (and that the African chorus in the video struggles with the cold). The tragedy is that even if the worst conventions of development assistance can be mocked, they still persist. Plenty of ink has been spilled over the pitfalls and pratfalls of aid to Africa and other less developed regions of the world.

<http://latitude.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/26/radi-aid-spoofs-the-classic-call-for-aid-to-africa/>

Withholding Of Foreign Aid In Wake Of Fraud Is Starting To Bite, *Irish Times, November 24*

When the international aid scandal erupted a month ago, many commentators in Uganda – fed up with their government’s record of corruption – praised Ireland’s decisive action in halting direct aid. Since then, Uganda’s problems have intensified. While international aid is not quite as important as it once was – the Ugandan government has committed to decreasing its reliance on international aid – it still represents up to half the country’s annual budget.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/11/24/1224327043590.html>

Haiti’s Rising Food Insecurity Risks Social Tension, Says FAO, *Reuters, November 22*

Growing food insecurity in Haiti after Hurricane Sandy sparking more social tension, the FAO warned on Thursday, calling for food, farm and transport investment to boost the country’s resilience to climate shocks. The past several months have seen a series of nationwide protests and general strikes over the rising cost of living. Even before Hurricane Sandy hit, residents complained that food prices were too high.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/haiti-food-idUSL5E8MMCRR20121122>

What You Need to Know About Foreign Aid (And Why We Need to Protect It), *Opinion, Joe Cerrell, Impatient Optimists Blog, November 21*

Increasingly, aid can spark new, innovative thinking and creative partnerships to solve tough challenges. Some middle income countries – once recipients of aid – are now sharing their success with other developing nations. For example, in order to boost its agricultural productivity, Mozambique recently partnered with China to build an agricultural research center and with Brazil to learn from its farmers.

<http://www.impatientoptimists.org/en/Posts/2012/11/Protect-EU-Aid-Its-a-Smart-Investment>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Future Proofing Cities, *Atkins and Department for International Development, November 28*

The report assesses the risks to cities from climate hazards, resource scarcities and damage to ecosystems – and advises how they can act now to future proof themselves. Covering 129 cities totalling 350 million people in 20 countries, this report identifies practical measures that cities can take to manage these future risks.

<http://www.futureproofingcities.com/>

SEE ALSO: Developing Cities Must Protect Against Climate Risks: Study, *Reuters*, November 28
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/28/us-cities-environment-idUSBRE8AR0CF20121128>

Where the Rain Falls : Climate Change, Food And Livelihood Security, And Migration, *UN University*, November 28

The project investigates how changing rainfall patterns impact rural communities by providing a more nuanced understanding of the links between rainfall variability, food and livelihood security, as well as migration in eight case study countries: Bangladesh, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Peru, Tanzania, Thailand and Viet Nam.

<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/article/where-the-rain-falls-download-area>

SEE ALSO: Climate Change: Migration Not Always A Way To Adapt, *IRIN*, November 28

The study is one of the first empirical efforts to explore how poor households use migration as a risk management strategy to deal with climate stressors and food insecurity. It also offers insight into how households adjust their behavior in the face of these changes, which could inform how policymakers support rural communities.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96917/CLIMATE-CHANGE-Migration-not-always-a-way-to-adapt>

Projected Sea-Level Rise May Be Underestimated, *Potsdam Institute For Climate Impact Research*, November 28

The rate of sea-level rise in the past decades is greater than projected by the latest assessments of the IPCC, while global temperature increases in good agreement with its best estimates. Sea-level rise potentially affects millions of people all around the world in coastal areas as well as megacities like Tokyo.

<http://www.pik-potsdam.de/news/press-releases/projektionen-zum-meeresspiegelanstieg-koennten-unterschaetzt-worden-sein>

SEE ALSO: Seas Rising Faster Than Projected, Low Areas Threatened, *Reuters*, November 27

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/28/environment-sea-idUSL5E8MRAA520121128>

Media Articles:

Qatar Hosting Climate Talks Spotlights Carbon-Data Void, *Bloomberg*, November 29

Middle Eastern companies lag those in the rest of the world in reporting carbon-dioxide emissions. The region's emissions are under a spotlight because Qatar's capital Doha is hosting the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change treaty talks this week and next. Qatar is the highest per-capita emitter, and Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates are all in the top 10, according to IEA data, which also shows fossil-fuel subsidies rose 20 percent in the region last year.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-29/qatar-hosting-climate-talks-spotlights-carbon-data-void.html>

Invest In Food On Climate Change Risk: Baring, *Reuters*, November 29

Farmland in Brazil, soybeans and agricultural equipment makers are among ways to play the global risks of climate change and population growth. More problems over food, particularly as the global population grows, could lead to further instability and social unrest which would only drive food prices even higher. Agricultural commodities have surged this year, and other participants at the summit said the drought in the United States and its impact on wheat had offered buying opportunities.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/29/us-investment-summit-baring-idUSBRE8AS0YO20121129>

Don't Expect An Evolution In US Climate Policy, *Opinion*, *Cormac O'Raiheartaigh*, *Irish Times*, November 29

Obama's win is good for science, but it's hard to envisage meaningful action on climate change. While there seemed little difference between the two presidential candidates in terms of their policies on funding for scientific research, there was a major difference in their approach to governmental policy on scientific issues. That said, it is difficult to see how any meaningful action on climate change will be passed by a US Congress dominated by Republican members who seem unwilling to accept the verdict of science.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/sciencetoday/2012/11/29/1224327245710.html>

Evidence For Man-Made Climate Change Getting Stronger – UN, *Reuters*, November 29

Evidence that global warming is man-made is getting stronger in a further blow to sceptics who argue rising temperatures can be explained by natural variations. Rising sea levels pose a particular threat to people living in low-lying areas, from Bangladesh to the cities of New York, London and Buenos Aires. The influential U.N. climate panel said the probability human activity was the main cause of climate change was "at least 90 percent" in its last report in 2007.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/29/climate-talks-science-idUSL5E8MT35Z20121129>

A Parched Jordan Places Hopes In Reservoir, *New York Times*, November 28

Jordan is the world's fourth-poorest country in terms of water resources per capita, according to the World Bank. According to U.N. data, 80 percent of Jordanian territory is desert and only 5 percent of its land is considered arable. The water shortage took on an even more urgent aspect this week when the government announced that an anticipated long-term solution, a project that would have extracted 2.15 billion cubic meters, or nearly 570 billion gallons, of water from the Red Sea every year, was to be scaled back because of its high cost, estimated at more than \$14 billion.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/29/world/middleeast/a-parched-jordan-places-hopes-in-reservoir.html>

Grappling With The Permafrost Problem, *Green Blog*, *New York Times*, November 27

The greatest single uncertainty about climate change is how much the warming of the planet will feed on itself. As the temperature increases because of human emissions, feedbacks could cause new pools of carbon to be released into the atmosphere, magnifying the trend. Over all, climate scientists have only best guesses about how these conflicting tendencies will balance out, though most of them think the net result is likely to be a substantial rise in the planet's average temperature.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/27/grappling-with-the-permafrost-problem/>

Amazon Deforestation Falls To Record In Brazil On Policing, *Bloomberg*, November 27

The destruction of the Amazon forest in Brazil fell to its lowest level on record as improved surveillance technology and policing slowed the expansion of the agricultural frontier. Brazil is closing legal loopholes to fine infractors and starting next year will use cutting-edge satellite monitoring technology to spot slash-and-burn activity. While improved controls and growing environmental awareness have helped reduce deforestation 83 percent since 2004, detecting and controlling smaller infractors is more challenging.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-27/amazon-deforestation-falls-to-record-in-brazil-on-policing-1.html>

SEE ALSO: Brazil Reports Continued Decline In Amazon Forest Destruction, *Reuters*, November 27

But the data, scientists warn, must still be fleshed out by follow-up research to confirm whether the reality on the ground matches what seems to be the case from the sky, especially as loggers and farmers clear smaller but more numerous patches of woodland in efforts to evade detection. Three of the nine Amazonian states measured in the recent data actually showed increases in deforestation.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/27/brazil-amazon-deforestation-idUSL1E8MR5RH20121127>

New Land, But Also Costs, As Nordic Nations Rise From Sea, *Reuters*, November 27

In contrast to worries from the Maldives to Manhattan of storm surges and higher ocean levels caused by climate change, the entire northern part of the Nordic region is rising and, as a result, the Baltic Sea is receding. The uplift of almost a centimeter a year, one of the highest rates in the world, is part of a continuing geological rebound since the end of the Ice Age removed a vast ice sheet from regions around the Arctic Circle. But rising land also means costs. Lulea is planning to deepen its port by 2020 to let in bigger ships and offset land rise at a cost of 1.6 billion Swedish crowns.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/27/uk-environment-seas-idUSLNE8AQ01W20121127>

China, Brazil Call For \$100 Billion Climate Aid Roadmap, *Bloomberg*, November 27

China and Brazil called for developed nations to detail plans on boosting aid for climate projects to \$100 billion by 2020, a measure they say is essential for UN climate talks to succeed. Climate finance is one of the linchpins of the UN talks because developing nations argue that global warming is caused by the historical emissions of industrialized nations, which now have the responsibility of helping others defend against rising

seas and more violent weather.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-27/china-brazil-call-for-100-billion-climate-aid-roadmap.html>

SEE ALSO: Clean Energy Aid Hit \$8 Billion For Developing Nations, *Bloomberg*, November 27

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-27/clean-energy-aid-hit-8-billion-for-developing-nations.html>

SEE ALSO: Doubts On \$30 Billion Climate Aid Threaten UN Talks, *Bloomberg*, November 26

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-26/rich-nations-fall-short-of-30-billion-climate-change-aid-pledge.html>

China: Green Revolution Becomes A Plank Of Beijing Political Agenda, *Financial Times*, November 25

But this year party leader Hu Jintao changed the content of his address a little by adding a new section that called for greater environmental protection, including firm caps on energy, water and land use. Mr Hu called for environmental measures that use prices, taxes and fees to help control resource consumption and ecological damage.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/92ce9066-323c-11e2-916a-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the UN Security Council: 2011-2012, *Non-Governmental Organization Working Group on Women, Peace and Security*, October 26

The UN Security Council, with its mandate to maintain international peace and security, recognized the centrality of women, peace and security in 2000 by adopting a resolution on the issue, scr 1325. With this recognition that women's rights are not secondary concerns to the Council's mandate, but rather at its core, the challenge is now to demonstrate true accountability to these obligations, ensuring that they do not remain solely on paper.

http://womenpeacesecurity.org/media/pdf-NGOWGMAPReport_Full2011-12.pdf

SEE ALSO: Why Are Women Shut Out Of Peace Talks?, *IPS*, November 27

Against the backdrop of an upcoming UNSC meeting on women, peace and security, a coalition of some 63 international women's groups and NGOs has decried the absence of women during peace negotiations in post-conflict situations. The coalition has specifically expressed "deep concern" over the absence of women at the negotiation table in the current peace talks in Colombia and in Mali.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/why-are-women-shut-out-of-peace-talks/>

Media Articles:

Taking The Knowledge Of Doha Back To Kenya's Rural Communities, *IPS*, November 28

Cecilia Kibe, agriculturalist-cum-sociologist, has come here to the 18th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to gather as much knowledge as possible to share with the women in her community. Kibe runs an information-sharing network that she started because she refused to allow herself and the other women in her village to continue suffering from hunger as they repeatedly lost their crops in the prolonged drought.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/taking-the-knowledge-of-doha-back-to-kenyas-rural-communities/>

Hillary Clinton's Latest Farewell Tour, *Opinion*, *Margaret Carlson*, *Bloomberg*, November 27

As if a peaceful Thanksgiving dinner wasn't enough of a challenge, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had to spend her holiday chasing an even more unattainable ideal: peace in the Middle East. Wherever she goes, she spends a few hours off-camera, visiting with staff and hosting events for her signature mission to improve the lot of women and girls around the world - - a mission she will probably continue once she leaves office next year.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-27/hillary-clinton-s-latest-farewell-tour.html>

Young Women Face Double Whammy In Pacific Islands, *IPS*, November 26

With youth populations growing faster than jobs in the Pacific Islands, young women account for the highest rates of unemployment in most countries. In the competition for local jobs, young women frequently come up against the mindset that their 'rightful place' is in the home. Consequences of female youth unemployment in the region include poverty, crime, alcohol and drug addiction, prostitution and adolescent pregnancies.
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/young-women-face-double-whammy-in-pacific-islands/>

Q&A: Honoring The Silent Courage Of Afghan Women, *IPS, November 24*

The level and depth of violence that Afghanistan women face is something very rare in other countries. Despite having this weak position, Afghan women are very determined. Afghan women have a very rich track record which is never acknowledged, never published, never spoken about.
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/qa-honouring-the-silent-courage-of-afghan-women/>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Media Articles:

Trade Houses See Consolidation In Brazil Sugar Sector, *Reuters, November 28*

Consolidation in top sugar producer Brazil's sugar sector is expected after trade houses have mushroomed in recent years. The number of raw sugar traders in Brazil has more than doubled since 2008 with newcomers including international traders Olam, Wilmar and Bunge competing with longer standing players such as Cargill and Louis Dreyfus.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/28/brazil-sugar-idUSL5E8MSE0320121128>

Indonesia Set To Top India As World's Largest Palm Oil User, *Bloomberg, November 29*

Indonesia, the world's biggest producer of palm oil, is set to surpass India as the largest user next year as economic growth boosts demand. Rising demand for palm used in everything from instant noodles and candy to fuel may curb exports that rose 2.9 percent in October from a month earlier. The country may surpass Germany and the U.K. by 2030 to be the world's seventh-largest economy, generating \$1.8 trillion in sales for agriculture, consumer and energy companies by that year.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-28/indonesia-poised-to-top-india-as-world-s-largest-palm-oil-user.html>

Barclays Eyes Quitting Agricultural Commods Trading, *Reuters, November 28*

Barclays is considering quitting trading of agricultural commodities due to the reputational risk the activity can pose. Several German banks, including Commerzbank, have this year restricted their investments in agricultural products, but banks elsewhere have been slower to curb activity despite heavy lobbying by groups such as World Development Movement which has been critical of Barclays.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/28/banks-barclays-commodities-idUSL5E8MSE7V20121128>

Thailand To Surpass India As Top Rice Shipper On Stockpiles, *Bloomberg, November 27*

Thailand is set to overtake India as the world's largest rice exporter as the nation accelerates sales from state stockpiles, adding to record global supplies, according to the International Rice Research Institute. Rising Thai supplies may increase competition among Asian producers and pressure prices that have risen 1 percent in Chicago this year. A decline in the staple for half the world may further lower food costs that the UN FAO estimates dropped 0.9 percent in October from a six-month high.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-27/thailand-to-surpass-india-as-top-rice-shipper-on-stockpile-sales.html>

A Mandate To Raise Food Prices, *Opinion, Rob Green, Wall Street Journal, November 27*

Americans should understand that this year's drought—the worst in 50 years—isn't the primary reason for record-high food prices. The drought made things worse, but the leading driver of long-term increases in food costs is a deeply flawed federal mandate. The result: higher prices across the entire food chain, from products directly containing corn to protein raised on corn feed and crops that compete with corn for farmland. That includes the bread on the table, the eggs at breakfast, the chicken or steak at dinner, and almost all dairy

products.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323713104578133571463805826.html>

Dairy Farmers Spray Milk, Park Tractors In Brussels To Protest, *Bloomberg*, November 27

Thousands of dairy farmers with hundreds of tractors are demonstrating outside the European Parliament in Brussels for a second day to protest milk prices they say don't cover costs, the European Milk Board said. More than 157,000 dairy farmers in Europe have gone out of business since a dairy-industry crisis in 2009, according to the board. The 27-nation EU produces 31 percent of the world's milk, U.S. Department of Agriculture data show.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-27/dairy-farmers-spray-milk-park-tractors-in-brussels-to-protest.html>

Congo: Imports, Corruption Drive Up Food Prices, *IRIN*, November 26

The Republic of Congo has seen sharply rising staple food and fuel prices since the beginning of 2012, according to the FAO and a local consumer rights body. To limit imports and ensure food security, Congo launched in 2010 a US\$26 million project to build "new agricultural villages".

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96889/CONGO-Imports-corruption-drive-up-food-prices>

China, Thailand Secure Rice Deals, *Wall Street Journal*, November 25

China's need for imported rice is soaring and imports have risen almost four-fold this year. Thailand simply has too much of it. Storage sites are overflowing, the harvest is coming in and storage costs and subsidies are weighing heavily on budgets. The result: The two governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Thailand to supply China with rice when needed and the Chinese government also agreed to facilitate and support the country's private traders when they buy Thai rice.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324469304578142091171909654.html>

SEE ALSO: China Rice Imports Head For Record Levels, *Financial Times*, November 27

China's imports of rice quadrupled in the first 10 months of this year, putting the world's biggest rice consumer on track to import record levels this year as changing diets boost demand. The surge in imports marks a significant shift for China, the world's biggest producer of rice. The country has been mostly self-sufficient in rice over the past two decades but became a net importer last year, and analysts believe imports could continue to grow next year.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/235ee5ee-387e-11e2-bd7d-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

Bartering May Boost Food Supply For Rural Kenyans, *Christian Science Monitor*, November 26

When a few farmers decided to try swapping commodities, they found they could make their food last to the next season. Soon more people joined the scheme, and the barter trade gained leverage. Some experts see bartering as a way to enhance food security while ensuring that traditional staple foods remain within the rural food chain.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/Change-Agent/2012/1126/Bartering-may-boost-food-supply-for-rural-Kenyans>

After Drought, Reducing Water Flow Could Hurt Mississippi River Transport, *New York Times*, November 26

If water levels fall low enough, the transport of \$7 billion in agricultural products, chemicals, coal and petroleum products in December and January alone could be stalled altogether. Senator Tom Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, who was the principal author of the Senate letter, said that disrupting traffic along the Mississippi, has the potential to impact the entire economy along the river — everything from increasing the cost to move goods to potential job losses.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/27/us/hit-by-drought-mississippi-river-may-face-more-challenges.html?>

Delayed Argentine Corn Crop To Buoy World Food Prices, *Reuters*, November 26

Flood-hit Argentina will harvest corn later than expected this season, supporting already-high world food prices as consumer nations are forced to rely longer on thin U.S. supplies. Argentine growers have said they will produce 20 percent less corn than initially forecast. The total 2012/13 harvest will not come close to

filling the gap left by a U.S. corn haul about 100 million tons under early-season forecasts.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/26/us-argentina-corn-idUSBRE8AP0T120121126>

Essential Commodities: Risks To Global Food Security Increase, *Financial Times*, November 25

What affects farmers affects the global food supply and causes the price rises that hit middle class wallets and increases the risk of hunger for the world's poor. Climate change is certainly not the only culprit when it comes to food insecurity. A complex cocktail of demographic, economic and policy changes can be blamed for increased pressure on the food supply. While coping with global food shortages demands cross-border collaboration, many nations have done the opposite, imposing export bans on food commodities in what are effectively "beggar thy neighbor" policies.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/40225512-3239-11e2-916a-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

Sudan, China To Set Up Agricultural Free-Trade Zone, *Reuters*, November 25

Sudan has allowed China to set up a free-trade zone for agricultural products and livestock to boost bilateral transactions as the African country seeks to increase farm exports to offset the loss of oil. Sudan has been trying to boost exports of agricultural products and livestock such as cattle to generate a new source for state revenues and foreign exchange after losing three-quarters of oil production when South Sudan became independent in July 2011. Oil used to fund much of the state budget.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/25/us-sudan-china-idUSBRE8A00AM20121125>

Pakistan: Inflation Hits Food Security, *IRIN*, November 22

Despite efforts by the Pakistani government and international organizations, inflation, declining income, natural disasters and stagnating domestic productivity are hampering attempts to achieve food security for the country's 180 million citizens. More than half of households are food insecure. Despite concerns, some believe that because Pakistan's primary food security issue is access, there are ways to handle it.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96849/PAKISTAN-Inflation-hits-food-security>

Pace Of Hunger Reduction In Latin America Slowing: UN Agency, *Reuters*, November 22

About 49 million people were hungry in Latin America and the Caribbean between 2010 and 2012, indicating a slower pace of hunger reduction due to weaker economic growth and high levels of inequality. The export-dependent region is undergoing a commodities-led boom, but a slowdown in key trade partner China and unequal wealth distribution have hurt efforts to combat hunger. Between 2004 and 2006, about 54 million people in the region were hungry, a number that dropped to 50 million between 2007 and 2009.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/22/us-latinamerica-fao-hunger-idUSBRE8AL0G220121122>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

DuPont Sends In Former Cops To Enforce Seed Patents: Commodities, *Bloomberg*, November 28

DuPont Co., the world's second-biggest seed company, is sending dozens of former police officers across North America to prevent a practice generations of farmers once took for granted. The provider of the best-selling genetically modified soybean seed is looking for evidence of farmers illegally saving them from harvests for replanting next season, which is not allowed under sales contracts. For years enforcement was done by Monsanto, which created Roundup Ready and dominates the \$13.3 billion biotech seed industry, though it's moving on to a new line of seeds now that patents are expiring.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-28/dupont-sends-in-former-cops-to-enforce-seed-patents-commodities.html>

Nestlé Health Unit Seeks Chinese Remedy, *Financial Times*, November 28

The pairing of Chinese medicine, with roots going back two millennia, and the world's biggest food producer by sales comes as companies increasingly seek out innovation from ancient practices such as traditional medicine and agriculture. Nestlé has agreed a tie-up with a traditional Chinese medicine company controlled by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing in an unusual alliance between the ancient and modern worlds of

healthcare and nutrition. Nestlé heralded the new partnership as “a milestone”.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/925707ea-3943-11e2-afa8-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

Fonterra Prices Fund Units At Top Of Range, *Financial Times*, November 27

Fonterra, the world's largest processor of dairy products, has priced units in a new fund that will track its financial performance at the top end of an indicative range, following strong demand from domestic and international investors. Bankers had expected the listing to attract strong demand from investors seeking a play on food security and the trend in Asia toward a more protein-rich diet. By letting its farmer-owners trade shares among themselves or with the fund, Fonterra will no longer face what it calls “redemption risk” and will have a stronger balance sheet to target expansion opportunities.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/a23e2eea-3867-11e2-bd7d-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

Fiat Industrial, CNH Reach Merger Deal, *Wall Street Journal*, November 26

Italy's Fiat Industrial on Monday reached a definitive agreement to acquire the 12% of U.S. farm and construction equipment maker CNH Global NV that it didn't already own and combine their businesses. Analysts say the new structure will make it easier for Fiat Industrial to deploy an estimated \$5 billion in cash attributed to CNH. CNH, which is registered in the Netherlands and operated from suburban Chicago, is the world's second largest maker of farm machinery after CNH's broad penetration of markets in the U.S., Europe and Latin America gives it better growth prospects than Iveco, which is largely confined to Europe.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324469304578142803917955958.html>

Olam Gives Critics Short Shift, *Financial Times*, November 25

This week, investors are awaiting a detailed report by Mr Block into the coffee-to-cashews business. The thrust of his accusations is that Olam is on an unsustainable path because it has been on a “debt raising binge” while failing to increase margins. Olam shot to prominence last week after Carson Block, founder of short selling firm Muddy Waters Research, took aim at the Singapore-listed agribusiness. Olam spent last week scrambling to reassure stock and bondholders that the company's finances were in good shape and that its strategy would still deliver improved returns by 2016.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/2114ef1c-36b3-11e2-a90e-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>

US Crop Producers Eye Ukraine Market, *Financial Times*, November 25

Two of the world's largest producers of agriculture products are seeking to launch production of high-quality seeds and other farming technologies in Ukraine to help the nation double its harvests. Dupont Pioneer, a leading US developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics, has announced that it will invest more than \$40m into construction of a domestic seed production facility. Monsanto, also from the US, is eyeing similar possibilities, with an announcement expected in December. Ukrainian government officials said Monsanto could also announce plans to commence domestic crop production.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/d5af6efa-3570-11e2-bf77-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2DdO9g4IH>