



THE CHICAGO COUNCIL  
ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Global Food For Thought

Global Agricultural Development Initiative

Weekly News Brief



November 3<sup>rd</sup> – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Quote of the Week:** - *"Our goal is to help countries become self-sufficient, to be in the hoped-for future themselves, putting us out of business because of the way that we are working together now. So we cannot rely solely on traditional development – building roads, infrastructure, hospitals, training, doctors, nurses, teachers. Incremental change is a necessary but not sufficient pathway to what we hope to accomplish. And that's why Raj and his team have put a special focus on science and technology, and we've already seen some serious steps forward because of that. We've kicked off a series of prizes, challenges, and competitions."* - Secretary Hillary Clinton at USAID's Higher Education Solutions Network Event, November 8

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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### 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](#)

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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**FAO Food Price Index**, *FAO, November 8*

The Index averaged 213 points in October 2012, down 2 points (1 percent) from September. The decline is largely due to reduced international prices of cereals and oils/fats which more than offset increases in sugar and dairy prices while meat values remained unchanged. Food prices averaged 8 percent lower during the first ten months of this year compared to the same period last year.

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/foodpricesindex/en/>

**SEE ALSO: FAO Slashes Grain F'casts, World Food Prices Stay High**, *Reuters, November 8*

FAO's monthly reading of world food prices showed some easing in October, largely because of a dip in cereals and oils prices in the month but the wider outlook remains volatile and uncertain. Separate figures indicated a slight easing of pressure on overall food prices on Thursday, but the FAO global

index stayed close to levels seen in the 2008 crisis when food riots broke out in some countries.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/08/food-fao-outlook-idUSL5E8M87IU20121108>

**A 'DARPA' Approach to U.S. Foreign Aid**, *Science Magazine*, November 8

Science and technology have received a greater emphasis at the agency since Shah took over. USAID has started a grand challenges grant program, which invests in new technologies for small-scale farmers, early education of children, and other needs. In addition, the agency also puts millions into an innovation ventures fund, which takes a venture capital approach to funding new ideas. USAID also now partners with the U.S. National Science Foundation to give grants to boost science in developing countries.

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/11/a-darpa-approach-to-us-foreign-a.html>

**Africa And Obama: What The Continent Should Do In His Second Term**, *Opinion, Calestous Juma, Forbes*, November 9

Obama's strategy on Africa, released in June 2012, reflects the changed times and will continue to guide his relations with Africa during his second term. This shift has positive implications for Africa and would help to reinforce the continent's own aspirations to increase its participation in the global economy based on a diversified product base. Similarly, Africa should see the United States as a role model and shift its policy attention toward industrial development, starting with adding value to agricultural and mineral resources through aggressive industrial policy.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongnsehe/2012/11/09/obama-and-africa-what-the-continent-should-do-in-his-second-term/>

**Obama Triumph Raises Hope Of Fresh Start With Africa**, *Reuters*, November 7

Many Africans feel Obama has not responded to their huge enthusiasm when he won the presidency four years ago with an increased U.S. commitment to the world's poorest continent during his first term. Residents saw his victory as a boost for Kenya-U.S. relations. Some said it gave Obama another chance to provide more development aid to the continent, and many still held out hope that he would visit the country of his father's birth.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/07/us-kenya-usa-election-idUSBRE8A61RW20121107>

**Africa Needs \$360 Billion Infrastructure, Development Bank Says**, *Bloomberg*, November 7

Africa requires \$360 billion of infrastructure investment in the next 30 years to spur industrial growth, said Donald Kaberuka, president of Africa Development Bank. Improvements in energy, transport and information technology would reduce the continent's reliance on agriculture. The Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa projects energy demand to grow sixfold, maritime traffic as much as eightfold and demand for IT 20-fold in the period, he said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-07/africa-needs-360-billion-infrastructure-development-bank-says.html>

**How Africa Could Feed The World**, *Opinion, Olusengun Obasanjo, CNN*, November 6

It's true that a recent report by three U.N. agencies said nearly 239 million in Africa are hungry, a figure some 20 million higher than four years ago. And recent crises in the Horn of Africa and Sahel certainly highlight the desperate uncertainties of food supply for millions – malnutrition still cuts deep scars into progress on health and education. But the Africa Progress Panel and many others believe that Africa has the potential not only to feed itself, but also to become a major food supplier for the rest of the world

<http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2012/11/06/how-africa-could-feed-the-world/>

**China's '2.7 Billion Problem' Says Everything**, *Bloomberg*, November 5

China's new leaders must do what Wen and President Hu Jintao failed to: rebalance an economy powered by a shaky mix of exports, cheap labor and overinvestment; learn to grow without choking amid climate change; narrow a dangerous gap between rich and poor; revisit the one-child policy to address a fast-aging population; head off an unsustainable preference for boys that feeds a frightening gender gap; assuage Asian neighbors fearful of China's rise and expanding territorial claims; improve the education system; find a use for \$3.3 trillion of currency reserves; and achieve some semblance of domestic food security.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-05/china-s-2-7-billion-problem-says-everything.html>

**Better Governance to Achieve Food Security**, *Opinion, José Graziano da Silva, IPS, November 2*

The Agricultural Market Information System is already a fully functioning mechanism and played a key role this summer in calming markets and preventing the deterioration of a vulnerable food market situation into the potential crisis that countless commentators were so quick to predict. AMIS is providing an objective assessment of the market situation and risks, while calling on G20 member states to refrain from adopting policy measures that might further destabilize markets.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/better-governance-to-achieve-food-security/>

**Post-2015 Development Agenda: Goals, Targets and Indicators**, *KDI and CIGI, October 2012*

Building on the MDGs, the global community should move beyond meeting basic human needs and promote dynamic, inclusive and sustainable development. Future goals must reach beyond traditional development thinking to become sustainable one-world goals that apply to poor and rich countries alike.

[http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/MDG\\_Post\\_2015v3.pdf](http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/MDG_Post_2015v3.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Charting the Future of Global Development**, *Stewart M. Patrick, Council on Foreign Relations, November 7*

So what should replace the current MDGs? The best practical answer to date comes from the Korean Development Institute and the Canada-based Center for International Governance Innovation. This short document is an engaging, incisive and timely contribution to debates on the future development agenda.

<http://blogs.cfr.org/patrick/2012/11/07/charting-the-future-of-global-development/>

**A Public-Private Partnership Helps Haiti's Smallholder Peanut Farmers Succeed**, *Opinion, James Rhoades, Global Food for Thought Blog, November 8*

From my perspective as the agricultural development specialist for Meds & Food for Kids, a nonprofit manufacturer of peanut-based Ready-to-Use Foods in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, the goal of having a steady supply of locally-produced, aflatoxin-free peanuts is always at the forefront of my mind. MFK is tied to 14 other factories, 12 in developing countries worldwide, through Nutriset's PlumpyField network.

<http://bit.ly/SwS1Vl>

**Forward with Feed the Future**, *Opinion, Roger Thurow, Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, November 7*

Forward with feeding the future! Four more years, that's what we got last night. Four more years to solidify American leadership in ending hunger through agricultural development. Four more years to make President Obama's Feed the Future initiative a permanent part of American policy no matter the political makeup in Congress and the White House. That was the President's promise to the world's poorest when he spoke at the Chicago Council's Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security in May.

<http://bit.ly/SN1slZ>

**Will Obama Tackle Climate Change In His Second Term?**, *Telegraph, November 7*

Stricter regulations on pollution and even a carbon tax are some of the ways Mr Obama has been urged to cut emissions – although both will face strong opposition in the Republican-dominated House of Representatives. His election is also a boost for the UN climate change negotiations, that rely on the US to take action before persuading China and developing countries to cut carbon emissions.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/9661831/Will-Obama-tackle-climate-change-in-his-second-term.html>

**SEE ALSO: Obama Breaks Silence On Climate Change. Does This Presage Action In His Second Term?**, *Opinion, Geoffrey Lean, Telegraph, November 8*

After saying virtually nothing about climate change in many months, he declared: "We want our children to live in an America that isn't threatened by the destructive power of a warming planet".

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/geoffreylean/100188417/obama-breaks-silence-on-climate-change-does-this-presage-action-in-his-second-term/>

**SEE ALSO: US Military Warned To Prepare For Consequences Of Climate Change**, *Guardian, November 9*

The Pentagon was warned on Friday to stand guard against "climate surprises" which could throw

off its efforts to secure America's future. The Pentagon already ranks climate change as a national security threat, putting US troops in danger around the world and adding fuel to existing conflicts. It has also identified potential new danger zones, such as sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/nov/09/us-military-warned-climate-change?>

**China's Leadership Challenge In New Era: Douse "Inequality Volcano,"** *Reuters, November 7*

The Yangs' village was designated an experimental zone for poverty alleviation policies and economic development in 1988, during president Hu Jintao's stint as party chief of Guizhou. Development over the past few years has brought a two-lane highway and bridges to the once remote region, along with electricity. But the Yangs still have no running water, and food, education and medical expenses swiftly erode their meagre earnings from harvesting chilli peppers and corn on a tiny farm. Thirteen percent of China's 1.3 billion people still live on less than \$1.25 per day according to the UNDP.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/08/china-congress-leadership-idUSL3E8M50VK20121108>

**Remarks by David Lambert at the World Food Prize,** *October 2012*

We would all probably like for our moments to be spent in the gardens of our lives – in the classrooms, and the marketplaces; in other words, at the bountiful table of development, “teaching them to fish”. But on issues of food security, that is not always where we find this world today. Often it is rather in the global emergency rooms: in a world with one billion hungry, with 180 million children stunted, and on a planet where natural disasters have quadrupled in the last 40 years.

<http://bit.ly/UA4TtH>

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

**USAID Launches New Network To Engage Students And Universities In Solving International Development Challenges,** *USAID, November 9*

USAID announces the launch of its Higher Education Solutions Network—a new groundbreaking partnership with seven top American and foreign universities designed to develop innovative solutions to global development challenges. These partnerships will leverage the intellectual power and passion of academic leaders, faculty, and students. Each university will establish Development Labs that will work with USAID's field mission experts and Washington staff to apply science and technology to define and solve key problems in areas such as global health, food security and chronic conflict.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/usaid-launches-new-network-engage-students-and-universities>

**SEE ALSO: Remarks By Secretary Clinton At USAID's Higher Education Solutions Network Event,** *State Department, November 8*

I'm very excited about this project and pleased to announce that USAID has committed up to \$130 million for the network and development labs over the next five years. This commitment will be matched by an equivalent amount from universities and their partners.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/11/200353.htm>

**Pounds Of Prevention – Focus: Afghanistan,** *USAID, November 6*

As part of a larger, worldwide effort to help vulnerable farmers reduce post-harvest losses, USAID and its partners are working with farmers and government agricultural extension workers in 12 villages in Ghor Province to improve potato storage practices, seed production, and planting techniques.

[http://transition.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/publications/prep\\_mit/files/fy2013/pounds\\_prevention\\_afghanistan.pdf](http://transition.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/publications/prep_mit/files/fy2013/pounds_prevention_afghanistan.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Pounds Of Prevention – Focus On Afghanistan,** *Opinion, James Fleming, USAID Impact Blog, November 6*

In this installment of USAID's Pounds of Prevention series, we take a look at how USAID—through its partnership with Catholic Relief Services— is helping vulnerable farmers reduce post-harvest losses as a result of poor storage conditions. We focus on western Afghanistan, where the potato plays a key role in nourishing families through the harsh winter months.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2012/11/pounds-of-prevention-focus-on-afghanistan/>

### **A Look Ahead to EPA Regulations for 2012, U.S. Senate Minority Office, October 2012**

EPA faces a tremendous 2013 no matter who wins the Presidential election this November. However, as this report has shown, under an Obama-EPA that has earned a "reputation for abuse," American families will be subjected to a regulatory onslaught that will drive up energy prices, destroy millions of jobs, and further weaken the economy.

[http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=b4e25337-d765-46cf-9e27-b9ca21ddf148](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=b4e25337-d765-46cf-9e27-b9ca21ddf148)

**SEE ALSO: EPA's Insanely Ambitious Agenda If Obama Is Reelected**, *Opinion, Larry Bell, Forbes, November 4*

A new report released by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Minority Committee lists and describes new rules concocted over the past year ranging from additional restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions, tougher water guidelines and tightening of the ozone standard. Taken together, they will further drive up pump prices, impose construction bans on local communities, and cripple oil, natural gas and coal production.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/11/04/epas-insanely-ambitious-agenda-if-obama-is-reelected/>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **U.S.-Africa Agribusiness Investment Forum**

*Date:* November 12-14, 2012

*Location:* Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) will host the 2012 U.S.-Africa Agribusiness Investment Forum to showcase private sector opportunities in support of inclusive African agricultural growth. The conference will serve as the principal business conference linking U.S. companies to African agricultural opportunities and has received support from multilateral agencies, U.S. and African companies, governments and other stakeholders.

<http://www.cvent.com/d/zcqwxy/1Q>

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

*Date:* November 28-29, 2012

*Location:* Milan, Italy

The Forum's fourth edition will host two days of open debate during which the world's leading experts on matters of food production, consumption, and diet and nutrition will meet to exchange ideas on global food challenges. The objective is to offer important information and insights to policy makers, institutions and civil society in order to promote a better life and widespread and sustainable well-being for everyone.

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

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Media Articles:

#### **Ash To Ashes**, *Economist, November 10*

A fungal disease, *Chalara fraxinea*, is spreading through the land, having laid waste to ash trees in pockets of continental Europe. As the number of affected sites climbs, the government has declared a crisis, destroying contaminated trees, banning imports and calling emergency summits. Without a new crop of trained plant pathologists, it will be hard to control what will surely be a rise in new pests and diseases.

<http://www.economist.com/news/britain/21566025-globalisation-good-people-bad-trees-ash-ashes>

**SEE ALSO: Hurlers' Fears Over Ash Fungus Eased**, *BBC, November 6*

The NI Agriculture Minister has strengthened emergency legislation to curb the spread of a fungus that destroys ash trees. In Denmark, the disease has wiped out about 90% of the ash trees.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20227805>

**Fungi Offer Non-GM Way To Enhance Food Crops**, *IRIN*, November 7

Fungi and other microbes could enable food crops like maize, wheat and rice to grow in high temperatures and salty soils, and even withstand erratic rainfall, say microbiologists, who have begun to look at the relationship between plants and micro-organisms for clues to their mutual survival through thousands of years of climate change. Making food crops tolerant to climatic stresses could be as simple as coating seeds with micro-organisms that can confer desired traits.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96727/CLIMATE-CHANGE-Fungi-offer-non-GM-way-to-enhance-food-crops>

**U.S. Farm Bill Fail: Will Congress Act on World Hunger?**, *Opinion*, Ruth Messinger, *Huffington Post*, November 5

If Congress does not act quickly after the election to pass a new Farm Bill, the money that exists for emergency food aid will run out in 2013. This could put up to 30 million hungry people at risk in the event of a crisis. The failure to renew and reform the Farm Bill would also mean a missed opportunity to help end global hunger in the long term through sustainable solutions. To understand the realities of world hunger, consider the situation in Haiti.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ruth-messinger/will-congress-act-on-world-hunger\\_b\\_2067211.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ruth-messinger/will-congress-act-on-world-hunger_b_2067211.html)

**Did Farmers Of The Past Know More Than We Do?**, *Opinion*, Verlyn Klinkenborg, *New York Times*, November 3

The very structure of the agricultural system, as it stands now, is designed to return the greatest profit possible, not to the farmers but to the producers of the chemicals they use and the seeds they plant. There's nothing obsolete about four-crop rotation. It produces the same yields, it sharply reduces the toxicity of freshwater runoff, and it eliminates many of the problems associated with GM crops, including the emergence of glyphosate-resistant weeds. It's also simply better for the soil.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/04/opinion/sunday/crop-rotation-and-the-future-of-farming.html>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

**2012 Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report**, *Pacific Islands Forum*, November 2012

Collectively, the region's progress on the MDGs is slow and uneven. Papua New Guinea's population of around 7 million people means that overall progress for the region is dependent on PNG's progress. Consequently, as PNG is off track on all the MDGs, the region is also off track on all the goals. However, excluding PNG, the region is on track towards reducing child mortality, with mixed progress on all the other goals.

<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/MDG%20Track%20Rpt%20web%202012.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Despite Poverty Pacific Islands Score on Child Mortality**, *IPS*, November 7

The good news, according to the PIF report, is that 10 of 14 Pacific Island states surveyed, including Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Cook Islands and Tonga, are on track to reduce MDG4 that deals with child mortality.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/despite-poverty-pacific-islands-score-on-child-mortality/>

### Media Articles:

**Andrew Mitchell: 'Restoring Rwanda Aid Not The Act Of A Rogue Minister'**, *Guardian*, November 8

Andrew Mitchell, the former international development secretary, has insisted that the decision to restore £16m in aid to Rwanda was a collective one and not the action of a "rogue" minister. Mitchell told MPs on the international development committee that he had acted with "absolute propriety" when he took the decision on his last day in office before being appointed chief whip in a government reshuffle.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/nov/08/andrew-mitchell-rwanda-aid-rogue-minister?>

**ICRC Says It's Unable To Cope With Aid Needs In Syria**, *Reuters, November 8*

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Thursday it could not keep pace with the growing needs of civilians caught up in Syria's worsening civil war. After days of negotiations, on Saturday the ICRC reached two neighborhoods in the Old City of Homs, delivering medical items to treat up to 100 wounded and medicines against chronic diseases. Food and hygiene items for 1,200 were also delivered.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/08/syria-crisis-redcross-idUSL5E8M8AMG20121108>

**SEE ALSO: UN To Send Food For 500,000 In Eastern Cuba After Sandy; Power Grid At 64 Percent In Santiago**, *Washington Post, November 6*

The WFP said in a statement that it is coordinating with Cuban authorities to provide one month's food rations for nearly a half million people in and around Santiago. "We are especially concerned about the damage in the agricultural sector where tens of thousands of hectares of staple crops have been affected,"

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/un-to-send-food-for-500000-in-eastern-cuba-after-sandy-power-grid-at-64-percent-in-santiago/2012/11/06/1bfa078e-283e-11e2-aaa5-ac786110c486\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/un-to-send-food-for-500000-in-eastern-cuba-after-sandy-power-grid-at-64-percent-in-santiago/2012/11/06/1bfa078e-283e-11e2-aaa5-ac786110c486_story.html)

**Somalia: A Snapshot Of Humanitarian Challenges**, *IRIN, November 7*

After two decades of civil war, Somalia is finally seeing hope for lasting peace. After the August departure of Al-Shabab insurgents, thousands of people have returned to the capital, Mogadishu, looking to rebuild their lives, and in September, the election of a new president was widely viewed as the start of a new era for the country. IRIN highlights some of Somalia's key health and socio-economic indicators, obtained from local experts and other sources that will influence the country's progress as it seeks to leave conflict behind.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96729/SOMALIA-A-snapshot-of-humanitarian-challenges>

**A Public Sector For The Whole World Could End Aid As We Know It**, *Opinion, Jonathan Glennie, Guardian, November 6*

The development sector's vision is evolving from a tight poverty eradication focus to an appreciation of global public goods – from which everyone benefits and towards which all must contribute – under a framework of sustainable development. Just as individual contributions are the price of living in a civilized society, so national contributions to the global pot could be the price of living in a prosperous and sustainable world.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/nov/06/public-sector-world-end-aid?>

**Sandy: UN To Send Emergency Food Aid To Storm-Hit Cuba**, *BBC, November 6*

The UN's WFP is to deliver emergency aid to the south-east of Cuba, where Hurricane Sandy wrought widespread damage. According to initial government reports, Sandy damaged some 200,000 homes and affected more than a million people.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-2022239>

**Government To Cut Foreign Aid To India As Part Of 'New Approach' To Funding Poorer Countries**, *Independent, November 4*

The Government is to cut its longstanding commitment to provide foreign aid to India because the country's growing economy means it no longer needs British support, it emerged today. A review of aid last year led to a reduction in the sums going to the India, but it committed the UK to spending an average of £280 million a year in the country's poorest states until 2015.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-to-cut-foreign-aid-to-india-as-part-of-new-approach-to-funding-poorer-countries-8281143.html>

**North Korea Takes Risky Path Of Reform**, *Opinion, Sangsoo Lee and Stefano Facchinetti, Asia Times, November 2*

Currently, farmers are allowed to keep only a set amount of crops for themselves whereas the lion's share of the production is turned over to the state and then redistributed according to a rations system. According to the announced "6.28 policy", in the near future farmers may instead keep 30% of their crops and sell it directly on the market. This measure is intended to incentive local production, stimulate entrepreneurial

spirit, keep down inflation in the food market and reduce malnutrition.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Korea/NK02Dg02.html>

**World Bank Returns To Myanmar, Pledging 245 Million Dollars**, *IPS, November 2*

Under the new agreement, grants worth US\$80 million will be made available immediately, aimed at local infrastructure and development projects. Meant to offer "quick benefits to the poor and vulnerable", the bank says the program will "empower rural communities to choose investments they need most, such as roads, bridges, irrigation systems, schools, health clinics or rural markets".

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/world-bank-returns-to-myanmar-pledging-245-million-dollars/>

**Humanitarian Crisis Looms After Deadly Nigerian Floods**, *VOA News, October 30*

Flooding in Nigeria has killed nearly 150 people and displaced hundreds of thousands of others this year. As families continue to languish in squalid camps short of food, water, shelter and the most basic of health care, this natural disaster is rapidly turning into a humanitarian crisis.

[http://www.voanews.com/content/humanitarian\\_crisis\\_looms\\_after\\_deadly\\_nigerian\\_floods/1536206.html](http://www.voanews.com/content/humanitarian_crisis_looms_after_deadly_nigerian_floods/1536206.html)

**To Our Next President: Global Leadership Begins With Foreign Aid**, *Opinion, David Weiss, Huffington Post, November 5*

With Election Day now here and the outcome an apparent toss-up, I hope that the next president of the United States will work to maintain a robust foreign assistance budget, which will ensure the continuation of America's legacy of leadership and engagement throughout the world with a focus on our humanitarian values. Doing so transcends politics, and is a commitment that our next president must not ignore.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-weiss/us-foreign-aid\\_b\\_2077777.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-weiss/us-foreign-aid_b_2077777.html)

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**A Statistically Predictive Model For Future Monsoon Failure In India**, *Environmental Research Letters, November 5*

Indian monsoon rainfall is vital for a large share of the world's population. While details of monsoon circulations and the associated rainfall are complex, full-season failure is dominated by large-scale positive feedbacks within the region. Here we find that in a comprehensive climate model, monsoon failure is possible but very rare under pre-industrial conditions, while under future warming it becomes much more frequent.

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/7/4/044023/article>

**SEE ALSO: Indian Monsoon May Fail More Often Due To Climate Change**, *Reuters, November 5*

The Indian monsoon is likely to fail more often in the next 200 years threatening food supplies, unless governments agree how to limit climate change. India's monsoon, which lasts from June to September, is vital for India's 1.2 billion people to grow crops such as rice, wheat and corn.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/06/us-climate-monsoon-idUSBRE8A500H20121106>

**The Impact Of Climate Change On Indigenous Arabica Coffee**, *PLoS, November 7*

Arabica coffee is confirmed as a climate sensitive species, supporting data and inference that existing plantations will be negatively impacted by climate change.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0047981>

**SEE ALSO: Climate Change Threatens Sweet Smell Of Morning Coffee**, *Reuters, November 8*

Because coffee is a highly climate-dependent crop, the increase of a few degrees of average temperature in growing regions can put at risk the future of Arabica coffee and the livelihood of millions of people who grow and produce it.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/08/us-coffee-arabica-idUSBRE8A70DK20121108>

**SEE ALSO: Climate Change Is Making Your Coffee More Expensive**, *Washington Post, November 8*

Researchers have found that climate change will reduce the number of suitable growing locations for the Arabica coffee plant, which provides about 70 percent of the world's coffee supply. Climate change is making your coffee more expensive. The researchers also partly blamed climate change for

rising coffee prices, which have reached 30-year highs.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2012/11/08/climate-change-is-making-your-coffee-more-expensive/>

#### Media Articles:

#### **World Bank Arm Insures Ghana Seawater Desalination Plant Project**, *Bloomberg, November 8*

A Ghana seawater desalination project meant to benefit about 500,000 people is receiving \$179 million in backing from the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. The agency said the investment would help provide 60,000 cubic meters of potable water a day to residents and businesses where supplies are irregular and quality can be spotty in the Teshie-Nungua area of Accra, the country's capital.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-08/world-bank-arm-insures-ghana-seawater-desalination-plant-project.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Ghana Seeks \$1 Billion For Renewable-Energy Resources**, *Bloomberg, November 7*

Ghana is seeking investment of as much as \$1 billion to develop renewable-energy resources over the next eight years. Ghana, which has the second-biggest economy in West Africa, has experienced more than three months of electricity cuts after a natural-gas pipeline off the coast of Togo was damaged by a ship.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-07/ghana-seeks-1-billion-for-renewable-energy-resources.html>

#### **Australia May Join Europe With Extended Kyoto Climate Pledge**, *Bloomberg, November 8*

Australia is giving "serious consideration" to joining Europe in a renewed and binding pledge to reduce emissions, even though a new treaty including the U.S. and China is a higher priority. Australia announced it will link its emissions market starting in 2015 with the world's largest cap-and-trade system in Europe.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-08/australia-may-join-europe-with-extended-kyoto-climate-pledge.html>

#### **Obama To Weigh Energy Boom, Climate Change In Second Term**, *Reuters, November 7*

President Barack Obama will face a two-fold challenge in energy policy in his second term: make good on his promise to act on climate change, while at the same time foster growth in oil and gas production that has spurred jobs and manufacturing. Environmentalists are also increasingly lobbying centrist Democrats like Obama to tighten federal water and air regulations on fracking operations.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/07/us-usa-campaign-energy-idUSBRE8A625S20121107>

#### **A Change In The Weather On Wall Street**, *Opinion, Tina Rosenberg, New York Times, November 7*

The Maldives, Kenya and Haiti can do nothing to halt climate change. The United States can, but has seen no reason to — until, perhaps, last week. I don't have any fixes for climate change. We've just suffered, however, through a storm that might be a fix for the lack of political will to do something about it.

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/07/a-change-in-the-weather-on-wall-street/>

#### **SEE ALSO: Will Storm's Wall Street Impact Influence U.S. Carbon Policy?** *Blog, Andrew Revkin, New York Times, November 8*

But will this shift in perceptions and evidence affect prospects for meaningful action on greenhouse gases — which of course is a much tougher challenge than the near-term imperative of girding against future damage from such storms?

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/08/will-storms-wall-street-impact-influence-u-s-carbon-policy/>

#### **World Bank's Kim Raises Sandy As G-20 Ignores Climate**, *Bloomberg, November 5*

Superstorm Sandy and the risk of more disasters sparked by climate change barely featured at a Group of 20 summit. Then World Bank chief Jim Yong Kim brought it up. As for the G-20, climate change was mentioned near the bottom of a statement yesterday that had nothing new to say on the matter. It recognized that the United Nations is the "forum for climate change negotiations and decision-making at the international level" and acknowledged that "climate finance is a relevant issue to be discussed."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-06/world-bank-s-kim-raises-sandy-as-g-20-ignores->

[climate.html](#)

**Laos Presses Ahead With Mekong Dam Project**, *New York Times*, November 6

Ignoring criticism that a huge hydroelectric dam could irreparably damage the ecology of the Mekong River, the government of Laos said on Tuesday that it was pushing ahead with the multibillion-dollar project, the first dam to be built on the lower portion of the iconic river. The United States State Department issued a statement questioning the rush to complete the dam.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/07/world/asia/laos-presses-ahead-with-mekong-dam-project.html?>

**SEE ALSO: U.S. Concerned Over Lao Approval For Huge Mekong Dam**, *IPS*, November 6

Yet despite the substantial profits projected for the Laotian government, several studies have highlighted significant economic and social costs, including hundreds of millions of dollars in projected lost agricultural and fishery opportunities all the way to the river's mouth in Vietnam.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/u-s-concerned-over-lao-approval-for-huge-mekong-dam/>

**Global Warming: Climate Change Needs Action But It Has A Cost**, *Financial Times*, November 4

The plodding pace of global talks on curbing climate change is familiar to anyone with an interest in the issue. Governments have spent nearly two decades trying to stem the carbon dioxide emissions scientists say are responsible for global warming, and yet they keep increasing.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/82c199a0-1dd0-11e2-8e1d-00144feabdc0.html>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Media Articles:

**Mass Production Of Bio-Control Agent Empowers Tribal Women**, *The Hindu*, November 7

For empowerment of farm women, rural transformation and employment are considered important. But the pace of diffusion of technologies was not commensurate with the pace of information generation, mainly due to the poor accessibility, lack of knowledge, and little motivation on the part of farm women. In spite of this, Wayanad KVK adopted a sustainable livelihood approach by mobilizing tribal women who had lost their livelihood by getting displaced from their agricultural land which was acquired for a major irrigation project.

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/mass-production-of-biocontrol-agent-empowers-tribal-women/article4074467.ece>

**Nigeria: 'Women Farmers to Get 10 Million Handsets Next Year'**, *AllAfrica*, November 7

Minister of State for Agriculture, Dr. Bukar Tijani, has said that the federal government would next year distribute over 10 million phone handsets to women farmers, even as it plans to cultivate rice, maize and millet in the areas devastated by flood. The idea for the distribution, he said, was to curb rampant cases of corruption in the distribution of fertilizer as well as facilitate easy communication among farmers.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201211070315.html>

**'Best-Kept Secret'**, *AgWeek*, November 5

Karen Yost likes to say that she's part of "the nation's best-kept secret." Yost is national president of American Agri-Women, a coalition of 50 state and commodity affiliate organizations, as well as individual women, across the country. Yost says women have always been involved with agriculture, but that the involvement sometimes wasn't acknowledged properly. Today, women play an increasingly diverse role in agriculture.

Farm children, both male and female, are getting agricultural degrees and working in agribusiness, she says.

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/20217/>

**Child Malnutrition Is Major Problem in Northern Mali**, *VOA News*, November 2

Medecins du Monde, or Doctors of the World, says it found that 13.5 percent of those children in the far northern Kidal region are suffering from acute malnutrition. That's double last year's rate and well over the World Health Organization's 10 percent alert threshold. The UN says the majority of the 4.6 million people at risk of food shortages in Mali are actually in the government-controlled south.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/mali-child-nutrition/1538225.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Media Articles:

#### **China: Beijing Targets European Shift**, *Financial Times*, November 8

In recent months, China has agreed an unusual “loans-for-crops” deal with Ukraine under which Kiev will receive \$3bn in credit lines in exchange for supplies of maize. Ukraine is hoping that its agriculture deal with China will not only boost investment, but open up access to a vast market. Central and east European countries themselves, meanwhile, seem to be overcoming suspicions they once harbored towards Beijing.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3e27c10a-1c42-11e2-a63b-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **Canada's New Corn Belt Attracts Hot Money To Bargain Farmland**, *Bloomberg*, November 8

Canadian farmers in the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, long one of the greatest wheat-growing regions on Earth, have started planting corn. Corn's new appeal to Canada's prairie farmers is based on two things: climate change and price. Global corn demand has outstripped supplies three of the past four years. Global warming will increase the frequency of drought and erratic rainfall even in Canada, along with greater risk, the weather creates more opportunities for Canadian agriculture.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-08/canada-s-new-corn-belt-attracts-hot-money-to-bargain-farmland.html>

#### **Europe Eyes Trade Pact With Obama**, *New York Times*, November 8

European leaders are hoping that President Obama's re-election will spur progress toward a free trade agreement that could bolster economic growth on both sides of the Atlantic. But there are significant obstacles to a closer trading relationship in some areas, including agriculture, where the two sides disagree on the use of GM crops. Some were skeptical about whether the Obama victory made much difference to U.S. trade policy in general.

<http://rendezvous.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/08/europe-eyes-trade-pact-with-obama/>

#### **Thailand, Myanmar Throw Weight Behind Dawei Zone**, *Reuters*, November 7

Ministers from Myanmar and Thailand met to show their support for the struggling multibillion-dollar Dawei economic zone in Myanmar and to look for ways to drum up more private sector interest. On Wednesday, Thailand and Myanmar agreed to set up joint committees overseeing infrastructure projects, including a 132-km road stretching from Dawei to the Thai border, plus water and energy needs. Another committee will advise businesses on Myanmar's new foreign investment law.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/07/us-thailand-myanmar-dawei-idUSBRE8A615320121107>

#### **Why Zimbabwe's Tobacco Industry Is Unhappy With WHO**, *Opinion*, David Smith, *Guardian*, November 7

After a decade of agricultural turmoil that crashed the economy, Zimbabwe's tobacco sector is seen as one of the few bright spots. Yet this precious gain is under threat, the industry claims, not from renewed political violence or economic turbulence, but from the global anti-smoking lobby. Growers in Nigeria, Tanzania and other African countries accuse the WHO of cracking down on struggling farmers and putting millions of jobs and livelihoods at risk. The WHO insists this is a misrepresentation.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/nov/07/zimbabwe-tobacco-industry-unhappy-who?>

#### **Cocoa Farmers Welcome State-Imposed Prices**, *IRIN*, November 7

Cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire, the world's largest producer, began the 2012-2013 season in October with a minimum price guaranteed by the state. This measure, part of the government's sector-wide reforms, should stem corruption and make farmers less prone to the vagaries of international cocoa prices, giving them more financial stability so they can invest in their cocoa plantations. In the previous system, the government gave an indicative farm-gate price at the beginning of each season but buyers rarely respected it.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96731/COTE-D-IVOIRE-Cocoa-farmers-welcome-state-imposed-prices>

**Africa May Be Rising, But Not As Much As Walmart**, *Guardian*, November 7

The point of the Africa Rising narrative of course, is that there is a lot of opportunity in Africa because it's starting from a low base. But if you put these statistics into context, growth rates need to be at least more than 10% consistently for another 10 to 20 years to have meaningful impact on human development and pull people out of poverty. Poverty is declining in absolute terms, but not at the critically required levels. With the exception of a few countries such as Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Rwanda and Ethiopia, the required growth rates do not seem likely.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/nov/07/africa-economy-rising-growth>

**S. Africa Cuts Weight Of Food, Increases Gasoline In CPI**, *Bloomberg*, November 6

South Africa reduced the weightings of food and transport costs, while increasing those for education and electricity in its consumer inflation index to better reflect current spending in the economy. Reweighting the basket will happen every three years starting in 2003. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will probably represent 17.5 percent of goods in the total-country basket, down from 18.3 percent previously.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-06/s-africa-cuts-weight-of-food-increases-housing-in-cpi.html>

**Indonesia To Reimpose Food Price Controls**, *Financial Times*, November 6

Indonesia is planning to rebuild a powerful food price-setting body that was dismantled in the wake of the Asian financial crisis. The move comes as the world economy suffers its third agricultural commodities price shock in five years, following the crisis of 2007-08, a spike in prices in 2010-11 and the current increase in grain costs. Agricultural experts say that the controversial proposal defies a recent pledge by Asia-Pacific leaders to promote "open and transparent market mechanisms" and that it will hinder rather than help Indonesia's goal of achieving food security.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/86232a76-27f0-11e2-ac7f-00144feabdc0.html>

**China Buys Japan Water Rights On Two-Decade Land Price Slump**, *Bloomberg*, November 6

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. Some areas of remote woodland in Japan can be bought for 60 U.S. cents a square meter including groundwater. Control of water resources is important for food security and national security.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-05/china-buys-japan-water-rights-after-two-decade-land-prices-slump.html>

**Kazakhstan, Germany To Cover Grain Deficit In Russia – Lobby**, *Reuters*, November 6

Russia's miller's union said it has asked the government to ease conditions for importing wheat from Kazakhstan and rye from Germany this spring to cover a shortage after drought slashed grain crops. It did not provide specific proposals on the easing of grain imports, nor did it specify how much grain the country might import this season. In an indication of how tight Russian supplies are, Russia has been conducting market interventions to cool prices but with little effect.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/06/grain-russia-idUSL5E8M66X720121106>

**Japan To Lift Corn Reserves As Imports Rise From Ukraine**, *Bloomberg*, November 5

Japan, the world's largest corn importer, is set to spend \$20 million to help feed mills boost stockpiles and safeguard food security as the nation shifts purchases from the U.S. to Ukraine and Brazil. Japan continues to boost purchases of cheaper corn from South America and the Black Sea, eroding U.S. market share.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-05/japan-to-lift-corn-reserves-as-imports-rise-from-ukraine-1.html>

**New Cocoa Business Model Catching On**, *Guardian*, November 5

We have seen a steady growth in chocolate products bearing certification seals. Most of the work is unseen by the consumer, as the industry addresses a crucial supply issue: cocoa markets are growing strongly, but cocoa farmers have generally low productivity and low incomes. Companies supplying cocoa beans and processing them into chocolate ingredients are working directly with the farmers to upgrade their skills and knowledge.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/business-model-cocoa-certification-growth?>

**Food Prices Are Rising And It's Going To Get Worse**, *Telegraph, November 3*

Defra figures show that those on low incomes have cut down on fruit and vegetables (fruit prices have risen by 34pc since June 2007) and are also cutting back on the total calorie content of the food they buy. Those with incomes in the bottom tenth have cut the calorie content of their food purchases by 9pc since 2007. Their plight is likely to get worse.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/consumertips/household-bills/9649310/Food-prices-are-rising-and-its-going-to-get-worse.html>

**Russia Must Look East**, *Opinion, Dmitry Medvedev, Financial Times, November 2*

The EU accounts for about 50 percent of Russia's trade. And there are several multilateral organizations in Asia, including the APEC forum, which Russia is currently chairing. At the recent summit in Vladivostok, Russian initiatives were approved concerning food security, the development of agro-industry, and the prevention of unlawful catching of living marine resources. In 2015 we will found the Eurasian Economic Union, which will aim to open our national economies and create the conditions for establishing a common economic space from Europe's westernmost point to the Pacific Ocean.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2012/11/02/guest-post-by-dmitry-medvedev-russia-must-look-east/>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**Agribusiness May Be Better Off In Private Hands As Shares Lose Lustre**, *Sydney Morning Herald, November 10*

ADM - which has already pounced on a 15 percent stake in GrainCorp - is trying to bulk up to compete with the world's biggest agricultural commodities houses - Bunge, Cargill, Louis Dreyfus, and the proposed combination of giants Glencore and Viterro. ADM, which also bid for Viterro but was trumped by Glencore, needs GrainCorp to establish a footprint in the growing Asia-Pacific market and reduce its exposure to the kind of crop downgrades seen as a result of this year's US drought.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/agribusiness-may-be-better-off-in-private-hands-as-shares-lose-lustre-20121109-293hq.html>

**Action In Agribusiness Brings A New Wave Of Sustainability**, *Guardian, November 9*

In essence, commercial self-interest and society's interests should coincide. Without society's permission to operate, businesses cannot grow global blockbuster brands - such as Unilever's Magnum ice cream, Nestlé's KitKat, or the Mars Bar, each of which has sales well in excess of US\$1bn and doubles the profitability of their smaller brands. Furthermore, these companies are making more expansive and detailed promises about the values inherent in their brands - whether it be their impact on the environment, consumer health, integrity of ingredients or treatment of suppliers.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/agribusiness-sustainability-food-supply>

**New-Fuel Hopeful Kior Opens First Major Wood-To-Oil Plant**, *Bloomberg, November 8*

Agriculture and industry produce huge amounts of leftover carbon -- hiding in the tips and branches of trees, stalks, husks and other plant material. If only there was a way to put it to good use. Kior Inc. announced the opening of its first commercial-scale plant designed to do just that. The facility at full capacity will take in 500 tons of biomass a day and transform it into what sounds like a contradiction in terms -- 40,000 gallons a day of gasoline and diesel that could help companies meet their renewable energy goals or mandates.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-08/new-fuel-hopeful-kior-opens-first-major-wood-to-oil-plant.html>

**Agribusiness M&A Spreads To Smaller Groups**, *Financial Times, November 8*

The wave of consolidation among the world's largest agricultural commodities trading houses is now spreading to second-tier companies in the industry. Agricultural traders are seeking to boost profits by

increasing scale and diversifying geographically at a time when securing supplies and market intelligence is crucial. As the bigger players get even bigger, the pressure on smaller companies to merge is also increasing. Being part of a larger group would boost the company's capital at a time of volatile prices.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/6cb9f3b6-28eb-11e2-9591-00144feabdc0.html>

**Ethiopia Seeks Bids For Coffee Farm, Other State-Owned Companies**, *Bloomberg, November 8*

Ethiopia's government invited bids for six state-owned enterprises as part of a plan to raise 1 billion Ethiopian birr this fiscal year by selling assets to private investors. Ethiopia's government operates a mixed economy in which state companies monopolize or dominate key industries including telecommunications, banking and power, while it encourages private investment in manufacturing and agriculture.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-08/ethiopia-seeks-bids-for-coffee-farm-other-state-owned-companies.html>

**Malaysian Company's Plan To Combat Poverty Gives Families Free Homes At High-Tech Farms**,

*Washington Post, November 8*

The corporation that built this rural community two years ago sees it as part charity, part test kitchen. The villagers — 80 families in all — live for free in low-cost bungalows and work on a high-tech hydroponic farm, a setup the company hopes to replicate elsewhere. Some see the project as a model for how the corporate sector can become more closely involved in Malaysia's anti-poverty efforts.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/malaysian-companys-plan-to-combat-poverty-gives-families-free-homes-at-high-tech-farms/2012/11/08/902665c4-298a-11e2-aaa5-ac786110c486\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/malaysian-companys-plan-to-combat-poverty-gives-families-free-homes-at-high-tech-farms/2012/11/08/902665c4-298a-11e2-aaa5-ac786110c486_story.html)

**Cargill Closes A German Biodiesel Plant On Overcapacity**, *Reuters, November 7*

U.S. agribusiness group Cargill said it is closing one of its two biodiesel plants in Germany because of overcapacity in the green fuels sector. Germany's biodiesel industry, Europe's largest, has been working at only around 50 percent of capacity as the country taxed the green fuel, cutting consumption. At the beginning of 2012, about half Germany's biodiesel plants had stopped work or declared insolvency.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/07/cargill-biodiesel-germany-idUSL5E8M7BXX20121107>

**Food Has Become Too Cheap In Developed World, Industry Boss Says**, *Telegraph, November 6*

Jan Kees Vis, the global director for sustainable sourcing development at Unilever, said that food has become "too cheap" in the developed world, spurring increased consumer waste. Despite the rising cost of meals and snacks in supermarkets, takeaways and restaurants, Mr Vis said that consumers and catering firms do not put enough value on the food that they buy. The average family throws away food worth £680 each year.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/foodanddrinknews/9658914/Food-has-become-too-cheap-in-developed-world-industry-boss-says.html>

**ADM In Talks With U.S. Government On Bribery Probe**, *Reuters, November 6*

Archer Daniels Midland Co, one of the world's top grain traders, said it is negotiating with the U.S. government to resolve possible violations of U.S. foreign bribery laws and could face penalties. The global grains sector has undergone significant consolidation this year amid intense competition to feed fast-developing countries seeking food security. Scrutiny of ADM's transactions comes after the company grabbed the attention of the grain industry last month with a move to expand its global network.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/06/adm-talks-bribery-idUSL1E8M6H7L20121106>

**Ukraine Fails To Call A Spade A Spade**, *Financial Times, November 6*

Kiev now maintains it is not prohibiting wheat exports and officials have since then said that the government would not issue an export ban on November 15. But traders say that the overall directive to stop exports from the middle of the month has not changed. The impact of the de facto export restriction will be felt by US companies such as ADM, Bunge and Cargill and consumers, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa region, which usually buy the bulk of their needs from Ukraine and Russia.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/c62bf9fa-2777-11e2-abcb-00144feabdc0.html>