

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



October 15th – 22nd, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“One of my priorities and the President’s priorities was to figure out how to rationalize and better coordinate what we did to end hunger and promote food security. So starting right after I got there, I asked my Chief of Staff, Cheryl Mills, to run a government-wide process, which meant bringing the Department of Agriculture in. It meant bringing the Millennium Challenge Corporation in. It meant bringing other agencies that have contact with people in. And we came up with a program we’re calling Feed the Future. And it was hard. I’m not going to sit here and say it was easily done. It was quite challenging to get everybody in the same room talking about their contribution and how we could better focus what we were doing to deliver results. But at the end of the process, we came out with a program that is going to focus on improving agriculture so that people can become more self-sufficient themselves.”*—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Remarks on Innovation and American Leadership to the Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, CA, October 15, 2010.

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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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

G20 Members Asked to Increase Aid for Food, *Financial Times*, October 20

Four leading economies have called on G20 governments sharply to increase contributions to a fund to help poor countries achieve food security, amid fears that aid promises are being broken. The US, Canada and South Korea said that a global trust fund administered by the World Bank, set up in the aftermath of aid pledges at the G8 meeting in Italy in 2009, was critically short of funds. A letter sent this week to other G20 members, seen by the Financial Times, said that nearly \$1bn in requests from developing countries had been

made to the fund, and, having already disbursed \$224m, it had only \$130m left. Spain, although not a G20 member, has attended meetings of the G20 and donated to the trust fund, and also signed the letter.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e785f820-dc6b-11df-a0b9-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Faltering Momentum, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, *Global Agriculture and Food Security Policy*, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, *Global Food for Thought Blog*, October 22

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program is emerging as a test case of the political will of the richer countries to actually act on their rhetoric. In establishing the fund, the G-20 established the way. Where, now, is the will?

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/10/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-faltering-momentum.html>

SEE ALSO: Letter to G-20 Countries on the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, October 18

<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Newsletter/Letter%20to%20G20%20Food%20Security%20October%2018.pdf>

Access to Land and the Right to Food, Report to the UN General Assembly, Olivier De Schutter, UN special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, October 2010

Access to land and security of tenure are essential for the enjoyment of the right to food. The present report explores the threats posed by the increasing pressures on land and on three categories of land users: indigenous peoples, smallholders and special groups such as herders, pastoralists and fisherfolk. It explores how States and the international community could better respect, protect and fulfill the right to food by giving increased recognition to land as a human right. The report argues that, while security of tenure is indeed crucial, individual titling and the creation of a market for land rights may not be the most appropriate means to achieve it. Instead, the report suggests, the strengthening of customary land tenure systems and the reinforcement of tenancy laws could significantly improve the protection of land users.

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/482/30/PDF/N1048230.pdf?OpenElement>

SEE ALSO: Farmers Hurt as Pressure on Arable Land Grows: UN, Reuters, October 21

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE69K0IH20101021>

SEE ALSO: Farmland the Size of Italy Lost Each Year: UN Report, AFP, October 21

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5he53r1IBQuayg66GoRFQu6DLwzwQ?docId=CNG.11954f53a361a13ab8bbeec0a689bbb3.b81>

The Role of the Food Industry in Strengthening Links between Agriculture, Nutrition and Environmental Sustainability, Tara Acharya, Senior Manager, *Global Health Policy*, Global R&D, PepsiCo; Daniel W. Bena, Director, *Sustainable Development*, PepsiCo; Beth C. Sauerhaft, Senior Manager, *Environmental Stewardship*, Pepsi Beverages America, PepsiCo; Derek Yach, Senior Vice-President, *Global Health Policy*, Global R&D, PepsiCo, *Global Policy*, Volume 1, Issue 3, October 2010

We urgently need to redesign our food systems to produce sufficient quantities of nutritious food in a world with an unpredictable climate, sparse water supplies and expensive energy sources. A much closer relationship must be nurtured between those who set agricultural policies, those committed to meeting the world's nutritional needs and those involved in reducing environmental impacts. This is critical for efficient use of scarce resources. However, a significant barrier to coordinated action is posed by rigid institutional arrangements that do not easily allow for cross-disciplinary connections.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1758-5899.2010.00051.x/pdf>

Remarks on Innovation and American Leadership to the Commonwealth Club, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Department of State, October 15

"One of my priorities and the President's priorities was to figure out how to rationalize and better coordinate what we did to end hunger and promote food security. So starting right after I got there, I asked my Chief of Staff, Cheryl Mills, to run a government-wide process, which meant bringing the Department of Agriculture in. It meant bringing the Millennium Challenge Corporation in. It meant bringing other agencies that have contact with people in. And we came up with a program we're calling Feed the Future. And it was hard. I'm not going to sit here and say it was easily done. It was quite challenging to get everybody in the same room talking about their contribution and how we could better focus what we were doing to deliver results. But at

the end of the process, we came out with a program that is going to focus on improving agriculture so that people can become more self-sufficient themselves.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/10/149542.htm>

Third-World Food Security, *Letter to the Editor, Shawn Baker, Vice President and Regional Director, Africa, Helen Keller International, New York Times, October 18*

“[Rising Corn Prices Bring Fears of an Upswing in Food Costs](#)” underscores the continued volatility in prices of staple foods. One devastating effect of these price increases is a sharp increase in “hidden hunger,” or deficiencies in essential vitamins and minerals, among the poor, which leads to increased sickness and death and undermines economic productivity. Reforming agricultural and food policies to address price volatility provides an opportunity to promote proven, low-cost interventions to enhance the vitamin and mineral content of staple foods. These include fortification of products like flour and cooking oil and promoting plant breeding that selects for enhanced nutritional qualities of crop varieties.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/18/opinion/118food.html>

Share the Proof, *Melinda Gates, Co-chair, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Huffington Post, October 21*

Right now, aid is having a huge impact on the lives of poor people in poor countries, and it's an impact that will build on itself for generations. That's because it triggers a virtuous cycle of development. A healthy parent can work. A working parent can feed her children and vaccinate them against preventable disease. Healthy, well-nourished children can pay attention in school. Educated adults have the skills to start small businesses, to improve their farms, to do the whole range of things that people everywhere do when they're planning for the future.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/melinda-gates/share-the-proof_b_772038.html

SEE ALSO: Bill and Melinda Gates Set Record Straight About Third World Countries, Development Aid, *Time, October 19*

Giving aid to developing countries has long been a contentious issue in the fight against global poverty. But now Bill and Melinda Gates are setting the record straight.

<http://newsfeed.time.com/2010/10/19/exclusive-bill-and-melinda-gates-set-the-record-straight-about-third-world-countries-development-aid/>

U.S. Can't Afford to Skimp on Development, *Letter to the Editor, Dan Glickman, Cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative and Chairman, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, St. Louis Post Dispatch, October 19*

Former President George W. Bush and current President Barack Obama have made providing "more and better aid" a priority. Our military leaders agree. Just last month, a new poll showed that nearly 90 percent of active-duty and retired military officers agree the tools of diplomacy and development are critical to achieving U.S. national security objectives. As a former secretary of Agriculture and a former congressman, I know that international development is a wise investment for the U.S. taxpayer for our own economic future. So, yes, let us hold our partners around the world accountable for the aid we provide to them, but let us also keep in mind that providing them with assistance is in our own interest, too.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/article_904d7651-e218-5e42-ad98-148f9edb6d53.html

Brazilian Scientists Turning Nation into an Agro-Power, *Washington Post, October 17*

Once seen as a wasteland, the Cerrado is now the motor of an agro-industry so potent that Brazil threatens to surpass the United States as breadbasket to the world. The answer to how that transformation happened can be found at a government-run agricultural research center, called Embrapa, where scientists make Brazil's poor soils fertile while developing crop varieties that will thrive here, including wheat.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/16/AR2010101603087_pf.html

Natural Allies: A Blueprint for the Future of U.S.-India Relations, *Center for a New American Security, October 2010*

Dr. Norman Borlaug and other Americans were instrumental in launching India's first Green Revolution, which transformed agricultural production in the 1960s. India's Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, has spoken of the importance of spurring a second Green Revolution in the subcontinent, and U.S.-India collaboration in this area should represent a major new bilateral initiative. Comprehensive reform of Indian

agriculture will require research into methods for increasing yields and, in pursuit of this goal, the United States should explore ways in which American landgrant universities can increase their involvement.

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_Natural%20Allies_ArmitageBurnsFontaine.pdf

SEE ALSO: America's Interests in India, Marshall M. Bouton, President, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, Center for a New American Security, October 2010

As changing weather patterns begin to affect Indian water security and agricultural productivity, India's interest in limiting climate change will increase.

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_USInterestsinIndia_Bouton.pdf

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Challenges and Opportunities of Biotechnology, Jose W. Fernandez, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, US Department of State, October 6

"Global food demand is forecast to double between now and 2050 as the world's population grows by 50% to nine billion people. At the same time, we now understand that the world's climate is changing. The effects of this change will not be uniform, but will dramatically affect weather patterns. The results will be drought in some areas, or violent storms and excessive rainfall in others. It is estimated that the effects of climate change may reduce global agricultural productivity by as much as 27% by the year 2050. Therefore we face a double-edged challenge. We must not only grow more food on the same land to feed the world, but we have to do so in a way that both adapts to and mitigates climate change. And while there are no magic bullets, we must look to new technologies, including biotechnology, for the role that they can play in the 'new green revolution.'"

<http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/rls/rm/2010/149589.htm>

Haitian Farmers Increase Agriculture Productivity through Support of U.S. Government, USAID, October 19

Haitian farmers experienced dramatic increases in crop yields this year thanks to an innovative program led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented in partnership with the Government of Haiti. The increase will help boost incomes of small farmers and promote sustainability of the Haitian agriculture sector. According to data provided by USAID, Haitian farmers participating in the Watershed Initiative for National Natural Environmental Resources (WINNER) increased their production of food overall by 75 percent in the Spring 2010 planting season. This includes an average increase of 139 percent for sorghum, 118 percent for corn, 100 percent for beans, and 18 percent for potatoes. To achieve these gains, farmers worked with advisers who provided planting and fertilization advice, as well as different seed mixes.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr101019.html>

SEE ALSO: New Haitian Mango Centers will Increase Production and Incomes for Thousands of Haitian Mango Farmers, USAID, October 21

The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), opened two post-harvest mango centers to increase production and incomes for thousands of Haitian farmers. The centers will prepare produce, particularly mangos, for export by improving packaging methods and meeting standards of foreign importers who lack significant mango production domestically. Experts estimate the centers could increase farming incomes for those using the facilities by 20 percent.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr101021.html>

Remarks by MCC'S CEO Daniel Yohannes at the Inauguration of the Post-Harvest Center, Daniel W. Yohannes, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, October 15

"Today, we celebrate a historic chapter here in Cape Verde: The completion of the very first Millennium Challenge Corporation compact in Africa. Our partnership is increasing agricultural productivity, improving the transportation network, facilitating trade, and expanding the private sector. The post-harvest center that we inaugurate today is further proof of the success of the Cape Verde-MCC partnership. Farmers and agribusinesses now have a modern facility to store and certify their agricultural products. The center will allow farmers to maintain the freshness and quality of crops, and command the best possible market price at

the right time. With investments in farmer training and improvements to roads, bridges, and the port, this post-harvest center is part of an integrated solution to boost agricultural productivity and competitiveness.”
<http://www.mcc.gov/pages/press/speech/speech-101510-postharvestcenter>

Remarks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mahmood Quereshi at the Third U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, *U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, October 22*

SECRETARY CLINTON: “The United States was very proud working with the Pakistani Government and military to help with the rescue operations and to help pick up thousands and thousands of stranded Pakistanis and to deliver millions of pounds of refugee supplies, as well as \$390 million in relief and recovery aid. And I believe that the need to look beyond the immediate to the future is a very important part of this help, because we have to begin to figure out how to help you rebuild the infrastructure and, once again, get commerce going, get the agricultural community replanted and building toward a better harvest. Yesterday, we began distributing wheat and vegetable seed as part of a broader plan to help half a million farming families get back on their feet.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/10/149815.htm>

US to Subsidize Farmers to Grow New Biofuel Crops, *Reuters, October 20*

The U.S. government plans a half billion dollars in subsidies to help farmers grow the next generation of biomass crops -- switchgrass and woody plants instead of corn, farm lobbyists and congressional staff workers told Reuters.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN2022289620101020>

SEE ALSO: U.S. Offers \$1.5 Billion Aid for Biofuel Production, *Reuters, October 21*

The government is offering more than \$1.5 billion in assistance, from field to filling station, to bring next-generation biofuels to market, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. Vilsack said the aid would assure renewable fuel consumption reaches 36 billion gallons by 2022, with the bulk of it coming from non-food sources such as grass, algae or woody plants.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69K3E720101021>

SEE ALSO: U.S. to Pay Farmers for Non-Food Crops for Biofuels, Vilsack Says, *Bloomberg, October 21*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-21/u-s-to-pay-farmers-for-non-food-crops-for-biofuels-vilsack-says.html>

SEE ALSO: U.S. Government to Subsidize Biofuels Production, *Wall Street Journal, October 21*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20101021-712219.html>

SEE ALSO: Effects of Increased Biofuels on the U.S. Economy in 2022, *USDA ERS Report, October 2010*

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err102/>

FDIC Chair Warns of Possible US Farmland ‘Bubble’, *Reuters, October 18*

U.S. farmland could be the next asset bubble at risk for bursting, a leading banking regulator said. Sheila Bair, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said it was important to monitor U.S. farmland values for signs of instability like the price bubbles in the housing and stock markets that burst with disastrous consequences for many investors.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1828580320101018>

SEE ALSO: Regulator Warns of US Farm Asset Bubble, *Financial Times, October 19*

The next asset bubbles with potential to endanger the US financial system are in farm property and Treasury bonds, a leading regulator has warned. Sheila Bair, who chairs the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation – responsible for seizing failing banks – said the health of more than 1,500 farm banks would be threatened if the “positive fundamentals” in the booming agricultural sector suddenly reversed.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/84594330-db0b-11df-a870-00144feabdc0.html>

Facts and Fiction about the U.S.-Haiti Relief Effort, *Op-Ed, Senator Tom Coburn, Junior Senator from Oklahoma, Washington Examiner, October 20*

When Congress reconvenes, we can do the right thing and pass Haiti legislation in a responsible way. I’ve worked in Haiti as a medical missionary and know the people and poverty first hand. I would ask my

colleagues: What would you sacrifice to help the people of Haiti? Surely Congress can agree that something in our \$3.7 trillion budget is less important than helping Haiti recover from this terrible tragedy. Leadership requires choices and sacrifices. The people of Haiti, and the world, are watching and waiting.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/OpEd-Contributor/Sen-Tom-Coburn-Facts-and-fiction-about-the-US-105372593.html>

USDA Flubs in Predicting Corn Crops Raise Worry, *Wall Street Journal*, October 22

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's failure to accurately predict the size of the current corn-crop harvest has undermined confidence of some investors in the agency's forecasting, which has for years been held as gospel.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303339504575566593739061452.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Europe Risks Being Left Behind as Partner with Africa in Farm Sector, Say Experts in Report to UK Parliament, Panel Report Launch by Imperial College

Date: October 26, 2010

Location: Committee Room 10, UK Parliament Building, London

As fears increase about the impact of another global food crisis on poverty in Africa, a ten-member panel of development experts from Europe and Africa will launch a new report. The report, *Africa and Europe: Partnerships for Agricultural Development*, [The Montpellier Panel](#), provides an overview of the state of European investment in African agriculture, highlights African priorities in agriculture and nutrition, and makes recommendations for ensuring global food price stability and strengthening partnerships between Europe and Africa.

Carbon Stands in Agricultural Production Trade

Date: October 26, 2010

Location: Sao Paulo, Brazil

Governmental technical standards as well as food safety, animal and plant health standards have been commonplace in agricultural production and trade for many years, and are also established by the private sector. Environmental standards for food and agricultural products (including biofuels) are a newer phenomenon. Such standards seek to ensure that agricultural products are produced sustainably, given the serious constraints facing the agricultural sector, in particular the shrinking availability of arable land and limited water resources. Please join high-level representatives from agribusiness, farm associations, governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, and academia from around the world for a discussion on carbon standards in agricultural production and trade.

[Register Here](#)

<http://www.agritrade.org/events/SaoPauloSeminar.html>

Understanding the Interactions between Agriculture and Health

Date: October 28, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

This seminar is the first in a lead-in series for the IFPRI 2020 International Conference on "[Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health](#)."

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/understanding-interactions-between-agriculture-and-health>

International Annual Meetings of American Society of Agronomy - Crop Science Society of America - Soil Science Society of America

Date: Oct. 31st - Nov. 3rd, 2010

Location: Long Beach, CA

Plans are underway for the 2010 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, 31 October–3 November in Long Beach, CA. The year's Annual Meetings theme connects attendees to the growing global challenges of "Green Revolution 2.0: Food+Energy and Environmental Security." Consider joining your colleagues in Long Beach! More than 2,700

scientists, professionals, and students will present the latest research and discuss emerging trends in agriculture, energy, climate change, environmental science, and related issues. The Annual Meetings program features keynote and plenary lectures, 2,500 oral and poster presentations, an Exhibit Hall, Career Center, tours, workshops, and plenty of networking events. For additional information on the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, please visit: www.acsmeetings.org

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change

Date: October 31st – November 5th, 2010

Location: The Hague, The Netherlands

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change aims to develop a roadmap with concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments, policies, and measures with the transition to climate smart growth.

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

Deepening the Dialogue: Agriculture and Nutrition Collaboration to Enhance Global Food Security

Date: November 1st, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

The forum will bring together food security, nutrition, and agricultural experts in conversation to explore ways we can coordinate and integrate agricultural and nutrition investments to sustainably reduce global poverty and hunger.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/deepening-dialogue-agriculture-and-nutrition-collaboration-enhance-global-food-security>

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th – 12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

<http://www.ricecongress.com/cmsdetail.php?id=1>

First Global Conference on Biofortification: From Discovery to Delivery

Date: November 11th – 12th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The First Global Conference on Biofortification is the first international effort to take stock of progress made in developing nutrient-rich crops, share lessons learned, and chart the future of biofortification. This three-day event will bring agricultural scientists, public health specialists, policymakers, donors, and business leaders together to move this emerging agricultural intervention for public health forward.

<http://www.harvestplus.org/content/first-global-conference-biofortification>

Agriculture & Rural Development Day

Date: December 4, 2010

Location: Cancun, Mexico

Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2010, held in parallel to COP16, will bring agriculture sector adaptation and mitigation strategies to the forefront of the global climate treaty negotiations. It will demonstrate clearly that agriculture is where climate change, food security, and development intersect. It informs the climate change negotiations and advocates for a COP decision on a “work program for agriculture” — and at the same time looking beyond the negotiations.

<http://www.agricultureday.org/>

Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

Date: February 10th – 12th, 2011

Location: New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people’s nutrition and health, and people’s nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people’s nutrition and health. This conference will inform,

influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world's poor people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>

USDA's 2011 Agricultural Outlook Forum: Today's Strategies & Tomorrow's Opportunities

Date: February 24th – 25th, 2011

Location: Arlington, VA

Secretary Tom Vilsack will deliver the Forum's keynote address followed by a distinguished speaker. Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will deliver the Forum's welcome. Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will discuss the Domestic and Foreign Agricultural Economic Outlooks. Plenary and session speakers will be announced in the near future. Twenty-five breakout sessions will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to risk management, foreign trade and domestic markets, rural communities, conservation and the environment, renewable energy, broadband, nutrition and food safety, dietary guidelines, land tenure issues, and sustainability. The Forum also will feature traditional commodity and supply and demand outlook sessions.

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>

[Draft Agenda](#)

Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies

Date: June 2nd – June 5th, 2011

Location: Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

Humanitarian crises and the responses they trigger are evolving rapidly. This conference looks at the opportunities and threats for addressing these crises, as well as at the strengths and weaknesses of the actual responses. The conference provides a unique forum for both scholars and practitioners to present research and debate these issues. In particular, the conference focuses on four broad themes: Emerging from protracted crises; New Directions in Policy; Innovations in Humanitarian Practice; Advances in Public Health and Food Security in Crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

Leland Hunger Fellows Program – Now Accepting Applications

The Leland International Hunger Fellows Program is now accepting applications for the 6th class (2011-2013) Information on the fellowship and how to apply is accessible here:

<http://www.hungercenter.org/international/international.cfm>. Applications can be submitted online from now through January 7, 2011 at: <http://www.hungercenter.org/international/apply/>.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Food Security in Asia and the Changing Role of Rice, *The Asia Foundation, October 2010*

To examine the critical issues surrounding the global challenge of food security, The Asia Foundation joined with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for a major conference, "Food for All: Investment Forum for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific," at the ADB headquarters in Manila from July 7-9, 2010. Douglas Bereuter, president of The Asia Foundation, moderated a key plenary session on "Fostering Food Security Through Regional Cooperation and Integration." Eminent food security economist Peter Timmer laid out the challenges, opportunities, and likely action points for achieving shared food security. We are pleased to reproduce his remarks in this Occasional Paper.

<http://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/OccasionalPaperNo4FoodSecurityFinal.pdf>

Innovations in Land Rights Recognition, Administration and Governance, *World Bank, 2010*

The key challenges of the new millennium have been clearly articulated. They relate to climate change, food shortage, energy scarcity, urban growth, environmental degradation, and natural disasters. These issues all relate to governance and management of land. Land governance is a cross-cutting activity that will confront all traditional "silo-organized" land administration systems.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/825826-1111150255516/22560754/InnovLandRightsRecogFINALv3.pdf>

More Rice for People, More Water for the Planet, *Africare, Oxfam, WWF, 2010*

This report highlights the experiences of Africare, Oxfam America and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) working with the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the African Sahel, Southeast Asia, and India, respectively. Although implemented in very different cultures and climates, the pattern is the same: farmers are able to produce more rice using less water, agrochemical inputs, and seeds, and often with less labor. The net effect is to improve household incomes and food security while reducing the negative environmental impacts of rice production, and making food production more resilient.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/sri-final.pdf>

SEE ALSO: System of Rice Intensification: A Viable Solution to Produce More Rice, Using Less Water, *Worldwatch Institute, October 13*

As the global demand for rice increases, finding ways to grow more rice while preventing environmental degradation and reducing reliance on water will be essential to helping ensure food security. Farmers in many parts of the world are taking the initiative to find innovative solutions to ease these challenges. One such innovation is the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which was developed during the 1980s by a French priest in Madagascar, Father Henri de Laulanie, who spent 20 years learning about rice-growing practices from local farmers.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/system-of-rice-intensification-a-viable-solution-to-produce-more-rice-using-less-water/>

Direct Dry Seeded Rice Production Technology and Weed Management in Rice Based Systems,

CIMMYT, October 2010

In South Asia, rice-based cropping systems account for more than 50% of the total acreage with rice grown in sequence with rice or upland crops like wheat, maize or legumes. In most areas, rice is traditionally grown by transplanting seedlings into puddled fields. There are strong incentives in many parts of S. Asia to promote alternatives to puddled rice cultivation. The intent of this document is to describe a comprehensive set of management principles and practices that can help ensure high rice yields and economic returns with direct seeding into dry, unpuddled soil, including direct seeding without tillage.

<http://libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/94270.pdf>

Yemen: Lives at Risk, *Chatham House, November 2010*

The threat from Al Qaeda in Yemen has forced itself onto the international agenda this year. But for Yemenis themselves there is a greater and more immediate threat: the lack of food. Despite the increased global interest, little has so far been done to meet these needs. A third of Yemen's population - 7.5 million people - are struggling to find enough food to eat each day, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).

International agencies and government officials are fighting for funding to meet the population's most basic needs. Unless the international community acts now, a host of economic pressures threatens to tip the country into a major food crisis. This would not only imperil lives, but could also further compromise the stability and security Yemenis so desperately need, and the international community is so keen to achieve on the Arabian peninsula.

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/17603_twt111024.pdf

SEE ALSO: Many Yemeni Children Suffering Acute Malnutrition, UNICEF Says, *CNN, October 20*

Nearly half the children in Yemen's troubled northern province are suffering from malnutrition, the humanitarian agency UNICEF warned.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/10/20/yemen.malnutrition/>

How Good Politics Results in Bad Policy: The Case of Biofuel Mandates, *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, September 2010*

Biofuels have become big policy and big business. The United States, Europe, and Brazil require blending biofuel-liquid fuel derived from plant material-in transportation fuel. Often, production is subsidized and tariffs restrict trade from other countries. Additional government support includes loan guarantees for biofuel plant construction, subsidies to farmers who grow biofuel feedstocks, and funding for biofuel research and development.

<http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/Lawrence%20Biofuels%20Mandates%20DP%20final%20for%20web.pdf>

Media Articles:

Could Water-Efficient Maize Boost Africa's Food Security?, *IPS, October 21*

As controlled field trials of a genetically modified (GM) crop are about to begin in five African countries amidst promises of improved crops grown under poor conditions, critics are charging organisations with selling out the interests of African farmers.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53247>

SEE ALSO: GM Maize Trials to Begin in East Africa: Researches, *Reuters, October 15*

Confined field trials of genetically modified maize will begin in Kenya and Uganda this year once regulators approve it, the U.S.-based non-profit African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) said. Scientists from Kenyan and Ugandan government research bodies, Monsanto and research body International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) developed the 12 varieties of Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) due to be planted. Maize is the most widely grown staple food in Africa and is badly affected by drought. The scientists aim for the drought-resistant GM maize to increase yields by 24 to 35 percent.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE69E0AA20101015>

The Mystery of Economic Growth, *Op-Ed, Akash Kapur, New York Times, October 21*

Around here, in rural South India, development over the last few decades has been an uneven process. Some people rise, others fall. Some get rich, some stay poor. The rich build concrete houses, buy motorcycles and send their children to private schools. The poor live in thatch huts, work part-time as agricultural laborers and pull their children out of school young.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/22/world/asia/22iht-letter.html>

Food Security: What Did Experts Consider at Rome Meeting?, *Voice of America, October 20*

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has concluded its five-day meeting in Rome on volatile food prices, growing hunger and climate change. It was the first meeting of the inter-governmental panel after the committee underwent reforms to establish its role as the "cornerstone of global governance of agriculture and food security."

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-food-security-oxfam-20oct10-105332003.html>

PATH Bringing Super-Fortified Rice to Africa, *Fast Company, October 19*

When we last covered PATH, the international health nonprofit had licensed its rice fortification technology to producers in Brazil, Columbia, and India. Now PATH is bringing Ultra Rice--a rice-shaped extruded rice grain filled with vitamins and minerals--to Burundi. This marks the first time that Ultra Rice will be available in Africa. The USDA and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provided PATH \$1 million to bring Ultra Rice to Burundi as part of NIFA's Food Aid Nutrition Enhancement Program, which supports the development and testing of products that improve the nutrition and delivery of humanitarian food aid.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/1696459/path-bringing-fortified-rice-to-africa>

Ruling Imperils Sugar Production, *Wall Street Journal, October 18*

U.S. sugar production will be cut by about 20% if farmers are banned from planting genetically modified beets next year, according to data prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of a court case over whether to continue allowing the practice. Genetically modified beets have come to account for 95% of the U.S. sugar-beet crop in the five years since they were approved by the Agriculture Department. But in August, a judge threw out the USDA's initial approval for the use of genetically modified seeds, saying it hadn't done enough research into the environmental impact.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304250404575558071139328364.html>

APEC Ministers Warn Food Security at 'Crossroads', *Agence France-Presse, October 17*

Ministers from Asia-Pacific nations warned that food security stood at a crossroads, and called for increased production to help nearly one billion undernourished people around the world.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j6TEdbV5L8z7dLP75x8ms1cLYRrg?docId=CNG.4dc45209ae660565f40b265d5a9017e4.5e1>

Smallholder Farming and Food Security in Makwatata, *Irish Times*, October 16

When I ask about challenges facing the people of Makwatata in their day to day lives, almost every adult has a common response – providing enough food to feed their family throughout the year. The vast majority of households in Makwatata rely on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood, and food security is by far the biggest problem compromising their quality of life. Most families here farm less than one hectare.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/blogs/avillageinafrica/2010/10/16/smallholder-farming-and-food-security-in-makwatata/>

Should the Next Green Revolution be Brown?, *Des Moines Register*, October 14

Could the next green revolution be brown? Philanthropist Howard Buffett, who has joined Microsoft founder Bill Gates in pouring money into agriculture development, used an appearance at the World Food Prize symposium to call for a “brown revolution” that would involve boosting food production through improving the soil.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/10/14/should-the-next-green-revolution-be-brown/>

Remarks at the World Food Prize Symposium, *Prabhu Pingali, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Development Policy and Statistics, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*, October 13

“Who is the smallholder farmer? She could be one of many different types of farmers. She could be a small, subsistence farmer eking a living from a small plot of land or a few livestock. Or she could be a ‘post green revolution’ farmer, trying to sustain the productivity gains and enhance her income opportunities through diversification. She may also be a farmer that is becoming increasingly commercialized, growing cash crops and trying to connect into local and global value chains. The needs of each of these groups of farmers are very different and even within these groups there are significant variations between farmers. The challenge we, the global development community, face is to target the right solutions to the right populations.”

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/speeches-commentary/Pages/prabhu-pingali-2010-world-food-prize-symposium.aspx>

Impacting the Understanding of Agriculture through Communication, *Remarks by Dr. Akin Adesina, Vice President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa*, October 13

“Science and technology, enabled by good policies, are our most critical arsenals in the global fight against hunger. They will unlock opportunities for millions of the world’s poorest farmers. But we must connect science, technology and politics.”

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1213>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Development without Freedom: How Aid Underwrites Repression in Ethiopia, *Human Rights Watch*, October 2010

This 105-page report documents the ways in which the Ethiopian government uses donor-supported resources and aid as a tool to consolidate the power of the ruling Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Ethiopia is one of the world’s largest recipients of development aid, more than US\$3 billion in 2008 alone. The World Bank and donor nations provide direct support to district governments in Ethiopia for basic services such as health, education, agriculture, and water, and support a “food for work” program for some of the country’s poorest people.

<http://www.hrw.org/node/93605>

SEE ALSO: Ethiopia Uses Food Aid to Hurt Opponents: Rights Body, *Reuters*, October 19

Ethiopia’s ruling party is using food and other aid to clamp down on the opposition and foreign donors are turning a blind eye to the practice, a rights group said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE69I0L420101019>

Media Articles:

U.S.-Led Afghan Reconstruction Projects to End Because of Security Dispute, *Washington Post*, October 22

U.S.-funded development firms are beginning to shut down massive reconstruction projects because the Afghan government has refused to rescind a ban on their use of private security guards, according to U.S. officials and aid workers. Of particular concern to U.S. and NATO military officials is the effect of a shutdown on counterinsurgency operations in Kandahar province, where USAID's agriculture and governance programs are supposed to be implemented immediately after U.S. Army units clear areas of insurgents. "This is the soft power that works hand in hand with the military's hard power," a development executive said. "You can't do counterinsurgency without these programs."

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/21/AR2010102104977_pf.html

SEE ALSO: Hamid Karzai's Crackdown on Private Security Puts \$1bn Afghan Aid at Risk, *Guardian*, October 21

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/21/karzai-private-security-crackdown-afghanistan>

Donors' Aid Squeeze Set to Increase Africa's Debts, *Reuters*, October 21

Budget crunches in rich countries are bringing cuts in aid spending and may mean a switch from grants to cheaper loans, sowing the seeds of future debt crises in Africa and other poor corners of the globe.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE69K0DH20101021>

SEE ALSO: Cut in Aid to Africa to Cost More in Long Term, *Reuters*, October 19

States like Somalia and Sierra Leone could ultimately cost the international community more money if they were destabilised by short-term cuts in Western aid, Africa's main representative to the IMF said. Executive director Samuel Itam, who represents 20 African countries at the IMF board including South Africa and Nigeria, told Reuters he understood why European governments, trying to reduce record deficits, would target aid to Africa. But reducing aid could undo recent gains and create longer term problems that would be more expensive to solve, he said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE69I0NH20101019>

In UK, Development Key to Promoting National Security, *Devex*, October 19

The U.K. government's new national security strategy goes beyond military efforts to counter threats of instability. It also recognizes the contribution of British development projects in promoting national security. Adopting a "whole of government" approach, the strategy states that the British government "will tackle the causes of instability overseas in order to prevent risks from manifesting themselves in the UK, while being prepared to deal with them if they occur."

http://www.devex.com/articles/70355?source=DefaultHomepage_Center_1

SEE ALSO: A Strong Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The National Security Strategy, *Presented to Parliament by the Prime Minister by Command of Her Majesty*, October 2010

http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/@dg/@en/documents/digitalasset/dg_191639.pdf

World Bank's IFC to Double Lending Commitments to East Africa in 2010-11, *Bloomberg*, October 19

International Finance Corp., the World Bank's private investment arm, plans to double lending commitments to five East African nations in the year through June 2011, much of it in energy and agricultural projects. Faster growth in East Africa has put energy supplies under strain, while rising global food demand is attracting increased investment in agriculture.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-19/world-bank-s-ifc-to-double-lending-commitments-to-east-africa-in-2010-11.html>

Pakistan Government at Odds over Control of Flood Money, *Telegraph*, October 19

Pakistan's government is at loggerheads with its international backers over the government's demands that it be put in control of billions of dollars of aid to reconstruct the flood-hit country.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/pakistan/8073450/Pakistan-government-at-odds-over-control-of-flood-money.html>

Fund Fees to Fund World Food Program, *Wall Street Journal*, October 18

Investment firms have hearts, too. That's the message Stratton Street Capital LLP is hoping to promote with its new charity initiative. In what the U.K. fund firm believes is the first of its kind, Stratton Street will donate the management fees from three fixed-income funds focused on Asia and the developing world to the U.N.'s World Food Program. Stratton Street is seeking new institutional investors to participate in its "Feed the Future" initiative.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/deals/2010/10/18/asia-deal-journal-fund-fees-to-fund-world-food-program/>

World Bank Reactivates Food Fund Amid Concern Over Food Volatility, *World Bank*, October 18

The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors has approved extending the life of the Bank's Global Food Crisis Response Program (GFRP) to June 2011, amid concern over heightened food price volatility and its impact on poor countries. The move will allow the Bank to respond more swiftly to calls for assistance by countries hit hard by food price spikes, by allowing the fast-track processing and disbursement of up to US\$760 million in existing funds for countries in need. Under the program, they can choose from a wide array of pre-tested options for food crisis response.

<http://go.worldbank.org/3Q8JJ2TFW0>

SEE ALSO: World Bank Extends Food Crisis Fund, *IPS*, October 20

Amidst fears of a recurring food crisis, the World Bank has reactivated its Global Food Crisis Response Programme (GFRP), dedicating up to 760 million dollars to countries at risk of food price volatility.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53235>

Niger Averts Food Crisis but Faces Population Boom, *Reuters*, October 18

Foreign aid covered 80 percent of Niger's needs during this year's food crisis, Nigerien officials say, but the United Nations has warned that the country must rein in its population growth to prevent further crises.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E69H0AK20101018>

Pakistani Flood Victims Face Malnutrition, Disease as Winter Nears, *PBS*, October 18

JEFFREY KAYE: "Even before the disaster, Pakistan struggled to meet the health needs of a poor population. Malnutrition was already a serious problem. Now UNICEF is warning that more than 125,000 children could suffer from severe malnutrition this year."

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/asia/july-dec10/pakistan_10-18.html

Obama to Give Development a Larger Role in US Foreign Policy, *Deutsche Welle*, October 15

President Obama has declared development assistance vital to US national security interests. Some humanitarian organizations believe the President's policy will end a growing trend toward the militarization of aid.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0..6065035.00.html>

Gates Global Food Security Fund Facing Shortfall, *Seattle Times*, October 14

Contributions to a global food security fund created by the Gates Foundation and the governments of the U.S., Canada, Spain and South Korea have fallen short, Gates Foundation CEO Jeff Raikes said.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2013164767_the_gates_foundation_gave.html

SEE ALSO: Remarks at World Food Prize Symposium, *Jeff Raikes, CEO, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, October 14

"We can learn more about small farmers, we can innovate to get ahead of the next challenge, we can form broader, deeper partnerships that allow us to maximize our impact against poverty and hunger. What's required of us is our unfailing commitment to the cause of agricultural development."

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/speeches-commentary/Pages/jeff-raikes-2010-world-food-prize.aspx>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Mainstreaming the Economics of Nature, a Synthesis Approach, Conclusions and Recommendations of TEEB, *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)*, October 2010

The economic importance of the world's natural assets is now firmly on the political radar as a result of an international assessment showcasing the enormous economic value of forests, freshwater, soils and coral reefs, as well as the social and economic costs of their loss.

http://www.teebweb.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=bYhDohL_TuM%3d&tabid=924&mid=1813

SEE ALSO: U.N. Report Stresses the Value of Nature to World's Economies, *Washington Post*, October 20

The world has vastly underestimated the economic value of nature in developing nations, according to a report the United Nations is releasing. Ecosystems such as fresh water, coral reefs and forests account for between 47 percent and 89 percent of what the U.N. calls "the GDP of the poor," meaning the source of livelihoods for the rural and forest-dwelling poor, according to the study.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/20/AR2010102000452.html>

SEE ALSO: India and Brazil Head Move to 'Green' Economic Future, *BBC*, October 20

Governments are increasingly taking the economic value of nature into account in policy-making, with growing interest in results from a UN-backed analysis.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11588020>

Asia's Rising Power and America's Continued Purpose, *The National Bureau of Asian Research*, October 2010

Climate change models predict significant climate effects throughout the region. Dry areas will become drier and wet areas will become wetter. Coastal storms will increase in frequency and intensity. The monsoon may transform in dramatic ways. This situation is driven by many factors, including rapid population growth, urbanization, and economic growth. The likely social impacts of climate change include challenges to public health, increased population movement, diminishing state capacity, obstacles to development, and environmental damage. In this context, the potential for violent conflict ranging from riots to war is real, although there are also considerable opportunities for cooperation. In particular, with China's acknowledgment of the seriousness of climate change and its emergence as the world's leading investor in clean energy, the U.S. should deepen engagement in the region on climate change and related issues.

http://www.nbr.org/publications/strategic_asia/pdf/Preview/SA10/SA10_Environment_preview.pdf

Water for Agriculture – Implications for Future Policy and Practice, *Royal Agriculture Society of England*, October 2010

Farmers in England are rising to the challenge of increasing yields whilst reducing inputs and environmental impact. Future fresh water availability is crucial in enabling them to meet this important challenge. The RASE commissioned a report to consider the water predictions for England, and what these mean for agriculture and horticulture.

http://www.rase.org.uk/pdfs/Water_Report-Final.pdf

SEE ALSO: UK Crops to Face Water Supply Crunch, May Relocate, *Reuters*, October 18

Agricultural crops in Britain may need to be moved to new areas as the threat of both drought and flooding rises in the coming decades, a report commissioned by the Royal Agricultural Society of England said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69H4PS20101018>

Media Articles:

Rice Producers Keep an Eye on the Weather, *Financial Times*, October 21

Rice prices, while an obscure corner for most investors due to the lack of liquid futures markets, are crucial to global food security as the cereal is the staple for 3bn people in Asia. Officials pay extra attention to the crop as a spike in the price of rice – coming on the back of spiralling wheat and corn prices – could trigger a food

crisis. During the food crisis of 2007-08, rice was one of the last staples to soar in price. But when prices doubled to \$500 a tonne, big producers such as Vietnam and India imposed export bans to keep their markets well supplied and domestic prices low. The bans triggered a shortage in the overseas market: prices soared to a record high of \$1,000 a tonne and consumers hoarded. The panic – and the prices – of 2007-08 are unlikely to return, but officials and traders are warning about the weather losses.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c9e81a3a-dd30-11df-9236-00144feabdc0.html>

Extreme Drought Grips Parts of South, Midwest, *Wall Street Journal*, October 20

An extreme drought has taken hold in parts of nine states stretching from the Southeast to the lower Midwest, damaging crops, driving up the cost of keeping livestock and putting officials on alert for wildfires. Climatologists say the dry weather likely will continue at least until spring, raising the possibility of prolonged drought in some areas next summer.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304011604575564520488798994.html>

Food for Thought and Recipes for Growth, *Guardian*, October 19

World Food Day has prompted debate on key issues affecting climate change and agriculture.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2010/oct/19/poverty-matters-newsletter-global-development>

It's Time to Tackle Climate Change and Agricultural Development in Tandem, *Olivier De Schutter*, *UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food*, *Guardian*, October 16

Today, weather-related events linked to climate change are already causing an increase in the number of floods and droughts, shorter and less predictable rainy seasons, and more volatile agricultural markets. This can change. We can improve the resilience of agriculture to climate change by combining diverse crops on the same farm, by planting more trees, and by developing water harvesting techniques to moisture the soil. The classic "green revolution" approaches should be fundamentally rethought to achieve this. Agriculture, now part of the problem of climate change, should be made part of the solution.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/oct/16/climate-change-agricultural-development-policymakers>

U.N. Climate Panel Agrees to Reforms, *Reuters*, October 14

The U.N. panel of climate scientists agreed to change its practices in response to errors in a 2007 report, and its chairman, Rajendra Pachauri of India, dismissed suggestions he should step down.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69D2T620101014>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

The World's Women 2010, Trends and Statistics, *United Nations*, October 2010

The current report highlights the differences in the status of women and men in eight areas – population and families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment and poverty. Analyses are based mainly on statistics from international and national statistical sources. *The World's Women 2010* shows that progress towards gender equality has been made in some areas, such as school enrolment, health and economic participation. At the same time the report shows that much more needs to be done to close the gender gap in critical areas such as power and decision-making and violence against women.

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW_full%20report_color.pdf

SEE ALSO: From Conflict to Crisis and Renewal: Generations of Change, *UNFPA*, October 2010

Ten years ago, the United Nations Security Council passed a landmark resolution calling on governments to protect women from rape during war time and to tap the power of women to keep the peace and rebuild societies once the fighting has stopped. Has the resolution made any difference in the struggle against gender-based violence? Are women in war-torn countries faring any better

today than they were a decade ago? Do women finally have a place at the table in peace negotiations and in reconstruction?

http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/swp/2010/swop_2010_eng.pdf

SEE ALSO: United Nations Report Focuses on Global Lot of Women, *New York Times*, October 20

Women have made progress in areas like health and education, but they still lag over all, according to the U.N. report, *World's Women 2010*.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/21/world/21nations.html>

Media Articles:

D.I.Y Foreign-Aid Revolution, *Nicholas D. Kristof, New York Times, October 20*

I became interested in such figures while writing a book with my wife, Sheryl WuDunn, about educating and empowering women as a solution to many of the world's problems. We ran into extraordinary men, like Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank, who pioneered microfinance in Bangladesh. Or Bill Drayton, an American who is a godfather of entrepreneurs working for social change and who now runs a group called Ashoka to support them. Or Greg Mortenson, whose struggles to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan are chronicled in "Three Cups of Tea." But it struck us that women in particular were finding creative ways to help the world's most vulnerable people, many of them also women.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/24/magazine/24volunteerism-t.html>

African Women's Decade Launched in Nairobi, *AllAfrica.com, October 18*,

The African Women's Decade, AWD (2010- 2020) has been launched. It has the theme "grassroots approach to gender equality and women's empowerment". The AWD centers round ten themes i.e.; fighting poverty and promoting economic empowerment of women entrepreneurship; agriculture and food security; health, maternal mortality and HIV and AIDS; education, science and technology; environment, climate change and sustainable development; peace, security and violence against women and girls; governance and legal protection; finance and gender budgeting; women and decision making and mentoring youth.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010181239.html>

Innovation of the Week: Banking on the Harvest, *Worldwatch Institute, October 14*

In the Maradi area in south central Niger, where 70 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, the months before the harvest are called "the hunger season." From mid-July to mid-September, food supplies are at their lowest and most families only eat one meal a day. But with the help of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), many women are taking local food security into their own hands. In response to the food crisis in the area in 2005 when severe locust attacks compounded with drought to put 3.5 million people in the Sahel at risk of starvation, IFAD's Project for the Promotion of Local Initiative for Development in Aguié helped to create a new kind of bank, run entirely by women, that dispenses loans in the form of cereal instead of money.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/innovation-of-the-week-banking-on-the-harvest/>

Africa Market Garden: A Smarter Approach to Agriculture, *Worldwatch Institute, October 12*

In Tanka village, 50 women have started farming using solar drip irrigation to grow okra, tomatoes, eggplant, and other vegetables, as well as moringa and fruit trees. The women each manage their own plots, but share tools and water—and skills—with one another. They all contribute their earnings to a group savings account to pay for things like fertilizer or to replace hoses and other materials. By selling their vegetables at nearby markets most of the women have tripled their incomes from about \$USD 350.00 per woman per year to more than \$1,000.00.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/africa-market-garden-a-smarter-approach-to-agriculture/>

Focus on...Women in Agriculture, *New Agriculturist, September 2010*

In this edition of *New Agriculturist*, the authors focus on the role of women in agriculture and the innovative means by which women around the world, including those in agricultural research, are being provided with the support and recognition that they need and deserve.

<http://www.new-ag.info/focus/on.php?a=1748>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Food Price Transmission: Rising International Cereals Prices and Domestic Markets, *Overseas Development Institute, October 2010*

From take-off in January 2007 to peaks in the first half of 2008, maize prices increased by 74%, wheat by 124%, and rice 224%. Rising prices for these key staples rang alarm bells. With ensuing protests and riots across the globe, the food security of vulnerable people began its own spike up the international development agenda. Modellers were quick off the block to assess likely impacts, making some basic assumptions about price transmission from international to domestic markets. But how valid were these assumptions for the 2007/08 crisis? Several studies have addressed this question: a recent ODI study synthesised their findings. <http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/5079.pdf>

Trade and Food Reserves: What Role does the WTO Play?, *Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, September 2010*

Grain reserves are an important part of a food security strategy. Reserves are an obvious and practical tool that has been in use for thousands of years. They are proven to be effective. They are not on their own sufficient to ensure food security, and, like any tool, they can be counter-productive if not properly established—but they are worth the effort. This paper is in part prompted by the clear revival in political interest in establishing grain reserves. <http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?accountID=451&refID=107697>

Information Economy Report, *United Nations, October 2010*

The world is witnessing a new dawn with regard to the potential of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to contribute in the fight against poverty. For the first time, there are realistic opportunities for inhabitants of remote locations in low-income countries to get connected via ICTs. Farmers and fishermen, as well as entrepreneurs in urban slums, are rapidly adopting mobile phones as a key tool to advance their commercial activities, and some poor people are finding new livelihoods on the back of this trend. Policymakers should seize these new opportunities to leverage ICTs and enterprise to bring tangible benefits to the poor. http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ier2010_embargo2010_en.pdf

SEE ALSO: Mobile Phones Help Lift Poor Out of Poverty, *Reuters, October 14*

<http://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFLDE69712820101014>

SEE ALSO: The Cookie that Never Crumbles, *Economist, October 17*

http://www.economist.com/blogs/babbage/2010/10/digital_technology_and_poverty

Investment in Processing Industry Turns Chinese Apples into Juice Exports, *USDA, October 2010*

This report analyzes the remarkable growth in China's apple juice concentrate exports since the 1990s and the factors behind the growth. The industry is a prime example of how capital investment and government policies bring China's labor-intensive agricultural products into the world market in the form of processed food and beverage products. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FTS/2010/10Oct/FTS34401/>

Media Articles:

Coffee Surges to 13-Year High, *Financial Times, October 21*

The price of Arabica coffee surged above \$2 a pound for the first time in 13 years, pressuring retailers to raise the cost of a cup of coffee further. Fears of reduced harvests in Colombia and Vietnam triggered a scramble to buy coffee, with inventories in producing countries the lowest on record, according to the International Coffee Organisation. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/41b4ddbe-dcff-11df-884a-00144feabdc0.html>

Growing Trade in Goods between Gulf Arab States Bodes Well for the Region, *Financial Times, October 21*

Fresh milk and yoghurt produced by Almarai of Saudi Arabia dot the shelves of grocery stores in Dubai, Riyadh and throughout the Gulf Arab states. From a humble start as a single milk processing plant in 1976, Almarai now counts more than 60,000 dairy cows at its facilities in the Saudi desert. The company provides 27 per cent of the region's milk, 40 per cent of its yoghurt and 44 per cent of the market for laban, a yoghurt drink popular in the Gulf.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f6375938-dbab-11df-a1df-00144feabdc0.html>

India Says Doha Talks Make Progress, *Reuters, October 20*

India's trade chief added his voice to comments that the long-stalled Doha talks to free up world trade are again showing signs of life. But Trade Minister Anand Sharma said India would not reopen what had been agreed, and any deal must help developing countries by making farm trade fairer -- apparently rejecting U.S. calls for a shake-up of what is on the table so far.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINLDE69J2FP20101020>

Seoul Says US Holds Key to Trade Deal, *Financial Times, October 19*

Time is running out for South Korea and the US to agree a landmark trade deal by a summit of the G20 leading economies next month, with Seoul saying it will not rework the text signed in 2007 and arguing it is up to Washington to offer a "creative solution". Kim Jong-hoon, South Korea's trade minister, said it was up to Washington to present Seoul with a compromise that could resolve the concerns of several US groups which believe the tariff-slicing deal treats their carmakers and beef industry unfairly.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4d4b61e4-db96-11df-a1df-00144feabdc0.html>

Food Insecurity a Chronic Problem in Mozambique, *PBS, October 18*

Prices for staple foods like bread have climbed steadily over the last year in Mozambique, where more than 44 percent of children are chronically malnourished, according to the recently dismissed minister of health, Dr. Ivo Garrido. The country was given a rating of "alarming" on the Global Hunger Index released last week, even while being cited for improvements. Mozambique is a prime example of a country dependent on imports for food - only 30 percent of the country's wheat is grown domestically, so price changes in the global market can have a swift impact. Grain prices shot up over the summer because of response to severe drought and fires in Russia, a large wheat-producing country, and corn prices jumped again last week on a new assessment of the U.S. crop yield.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2010/10/food-insecurity-a-chronic-problem-in-mozambique.html>

Cotton Candy, *Washington Post, October 18*

The United States controls 80 percent of the growing world market for cotton. Letting American farmers compete internationally without aid from Washington is fairer to our trading partners and better for the government's already distressed finances.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/17/AR2010101702725.html>

SEE ALOS: Stop Spending, Part II, *Editorial, Chicago Tribune, October 18*

Funny how you haven't heard much about farm subsidies in the run-up to the Nov. 2 election. Farm lobbyists, and the landowners who mainly benefit from these programs, know enough to lie low when the money is pouring in. The nation faces its third consecutive trillion-dollar federal deficit this fiscal year. Wasteful and trade-distorting agricultural subsidies have to be led to the slaughterhouse.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2010-10-18/news/ctc-edit-farm-20101018_1_farm-subsidies-farm-programs-current-farm

SEE ALSO: The National Cotton Council Response to the Washington Post's "Cotton Candy", *National Cotton Council of America, October 18*

The *Washington Post* has decided to open its mouth and insert a foot or has chosen to speak outright lies. In an article so full of errors, insinuations and political posturing, setting the record straight will take some space.

<http://www.cotton.org/issues/2010/wpcotcan.cfm>

More Effective Financial Regulation is Fundamental for Global Food Security, *Jayati Ghosh, Guardian, October 15*

Many measures are required in agriculture and food distribution if the food crisis is to be solved in a sustainable way. But in the immediate situation, without stricter and more effective financial regulation, price volatility will only aggravate and intensify the problem. We need to become more aware of the specific challenge that finance poses for food security, and address it directly.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/oct/15/world-food-day-financial-regulation>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Canada Urged to Block Bid For PotashCorp, *Financial Times, October 21*

Saskatchewan urged the Canadian government to block BHP Billiton's \$39bn (£24.8bn) bid for PotashCorp on the grounds that the Australian miner had failed to show that the deal would benefit the prairie province.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1c2a4964-dd4d-11df-9236-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Canadian Province Casts Doubt on BHP Move, *Financial Times, October 20*

The Canadian province of Saskatchewan is at odds with BHP Billiton over the Australian miner's \$39bn hostile offer for PotashCorp, raising the prospect that the deal might be rejected by the federal government.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4a1c75f8-dbd7-11df-af09-00144feabdc0.html>

Dilemma Over Pricing, *Wall Street Journal, October 21*

General Mills Inc. said it will increase prices next month on a quarter of its breakfast cereals as a result of rising grain and other commodity prices, illustrating the pressures more companies face to pass along sharply higher costs on everything from corn to copper. Some companies, such as miners, food growers and their suppliers, are happy to see the increases. Grain processing giant Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.'s export business is rising from global soybean demand. Fertilizer suppliers such as CF Industries Holdings, Mosaic Co., and Agrium Inc. and farm equipment maker Deere & Co. are also reaping benefits from higher food prices.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304741404575564400940917746.html>

Caterpillar Profits Nearly Double, *Financial Times, October 21*

Global demand for construction equipment is growing faster than previously expected by US manufacturers amid strong growth in Latin America and the return of demand in North America. Caterpillar, the world's biggest maker of earthmoving equipment, reported that profits nearly doubled in the third quarter from last year, driven by emerging markets.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9827a2d6-dd0d-11df-884a-00144feabdc0.html>

Mengniu Staff Held Over Smear Probe, *Financial Times, October 21*

An executive at Mengniu Dairy, one of China's largest milk producers, and three employees from its online marketing company have been arrested for allegedly planning and executing a campaign to smear the company's competitors.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4d718b86-dd2f-11df-9236-00144feabdc0.html>

U.S. Ethanol Makers Seek Renewal of Tax Breaks, *Reuters, October 19*

Attacked as subsidy addicts, U.S. ethanol makers may need help from friends in high places, including the White House, to hold on to lucrative tax breaks set to expire at the end of the year. The industry says it is ready to discuss revisions in the incentives, worth \$6 billion a year. An amalgam of foodmakers, livestock producers, environmentalists and deficit hawks say there is no need for subsidies because biofuels are guaranteed by law a share of the motor fuel market

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69I3WR20101019>

Coca-Cola Chief Backs Further Stimulus, *Financial Times*, October 19

Muhtar Kent, chief executive of Coca-Cola, expressed support for further federal action to stimulate the US economy, saying the government remained well-positioned to “generate incentives for innovation and entrepreneurial spirit”. Mr Kent made his comments as Coke reported \$2.06bn in third-quarter net income, up 8 per cent from \$1.9bn the year before. Revenue rose 5 per cent to \$8.4bn as double-digit increases in the Pacific region and the Middle East and Africa made up for slower growth in North America.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5052fa3a-db7a-11df-ae99-00144feabdc0.html>

The Ethanol Bailout, *Editorial*, *Wall Street Journal*, October 18

EPA does the industry another big favor.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304772804575558322880140784.html>

Crop Surge Drives U.S. Export Boom as Obama Channels Kansas Corn, *Bloomberg*, October 18

Record U.S. agricultural exports are providing an unexpected boost to President Barack Obama’s target of doubling overseas sales by 2015 and driving earnings for Agco Corp., CF Industries Holdings Inc. and Cargill Inc. The 66 percent gain in corn prices from June lows and as much as doubling in wheat are leading a jump in U.S. farm revenue that JPMorgan Chase & Co. expects will increase demand for Deere & Co.’s tractors and Mosaic Co.’s fertilizer. Farm exports from the U.S., the world’s largest grain shipper, may top the 2008 record of \$115.3 billion in 2011, said Joe Glauber, chief economist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-17/agriculture-surge-means-booming-u-s-exports-with-obama-channeling-kansas.html>

No Immediate Investment Boost from E-15 – Cargill, *Reuters*, October 14

Agribusiness giant Cargill Inc, a major producer of biofuels, said the U.S. government’s move to allow more ethanol in U.S. gasoline would have no immediate effect on its investment plans. Cargill produces millions of gallons of ethanol from both its corn milling plants. Its largest, at Blair, Nebraska, alone produces more than 200 million gallons of the fuel each year. But Cargill also produces corn feed, edible corn oil, corn sweeteners, bioplastics and other products at the plant.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1413609620101014>

Wal-Mart to Boost Buying from Small and Local Farms, *Reuters*, October 14

Wal-Mart Stores Inc is planning to double the sales of fresh produce from local farms in its U.S. stores by the end of 2015, part of a strategy to revamp its global produce supply chain. The world’s largest retailer said it would also sell more than \$1 billion each year in food from 1 million small and medium-sized farms in emerging markets by the end of 2015. That would help increase income for those farmers 10 percent to 15 percent in the same time frame, Wal-Mart said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69C09V20101014>

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