

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



October 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

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Agribusiness

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### KEY ARTICLES

**Back to the Land: The New Green Revolution**, *TIME*, October 26

But small farmers have been neglected for much of the past three decades — and not only in India. Throughout the developing world, agriculture was the also-ran of the global economy. Governments equated economic progress with steel mills and shoe factories. While urban centers thrived and city dwellers got rich, hundreds of millions of farmers remained mired in poverty. Agriculture in many developing nations stagnated.

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1930363,00.html>

**Experts Worry as Population and Hunger Grow**, *New York Times*, October 22

Scientists and development experts across the globe are racing to increase food production by 50 percent over the next two decades to feed the world's growing population, yet many doubt their chances despite a broad consensus that enough land, water and expertise exist.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/22/world/22food.html>

**Obama global hunger plan revives food aid fight**, *Reuters*, October 21

In the old debate on whether you should give a poor man a basket of fish or a fishing pole, the United States wants to move to help impoverished nations expand agriculture at home and ease dependence on handouts from U.S. farmers. But don't expect food aid to stop. The politically powerful lobby of farmers, shippers and

processors who profit from the shipments -- as well as the aid groups who distribute the food -- are prepared to defend that use of U.S.-grown commodities overseas.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed1/idUSN21238446>

*See Also: U.S. eyes flexibility in allocating food aid: Vilsack, Reuters, October 16*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed1/idUSTRE59F4SU20091016>

**Agribusiness readies technology to fight hunger**, *Reuters, October 16*

Agribusiness leaders are stepping up investment and technology to tackle world hunger and climate problems tied to agriculture, but they see no quick solution to hunger, which kills 25,000 people a day around the world.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE59F5GF20091016>

**Can the world's richest man feed the planet?**, *Scientific American, October 16*

In addition to the \$1.4 billion Gates has already committed to agricultural development, Gates announced nine new grants totaling \$120 million, ranging from \$10 million for broadcasting farming tips to smallholders to \$21.25 million to produce high-yield, stress-tolerant varieties of sweet potatoes. And the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa received \$15 million to help create the right development policies for seeds, soil health, markets, property rights and adapting to a changing environment to help speed agricultural achievement.

*See Also: Gates Foundation Awards \$120 Million For African Agriculture, VOA News, October 20*

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Science/2009-10-19-voa33.cfm>

**World Food Prize visitors forge key global connections**, *Des Moines Register, October 17*

Catherine Bertini, who won the 2003 World Food Prize for her work as executive director for the United Nations World Food Programme, sat in the Rock River Grill and Tavern at the Marriott. Her BlackBerry went off, but she ignored it — more important things were at hand. She was between meetings with representatives from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and with high school students.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091017/BUSINESS/910170320/-1/BUSINESS04>

**Rebranding America**, *Bono, Op-Ed, New York Times, October 17*

Mr. Obama has put together a team of people who believe in this equation. That includes the General Jim Jones, now at the National Security Council; the vice president, a former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; the Republican defense secretary; and a secretary of state, someone with a long record of championing the cause of women and girls living in poverty, who is now determined to revolutionize health and agriculture for the world's poor.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/18/opinion/18bono.html>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - USAID Foreign Service Agricultural Officers

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

**Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack Host a Conference Call To Discuss Food Security on World Food Day**, *Transcript, U.S. State Department, October 16*

Clinton: We want to help small farmers worldwide produce more food. We want to make sure that food gets to market and reaches the people who need it. That means strengthening the entire farming chain from labs where scientists develop improved seeds, to fields where farmers are laboring sunup to sundown, to the roads and the other infrastructure where the harvest occur and where food is bought and sold, and clearly to enhance the nutritional aspects of the food that people eat.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/10/130663.htm>

*Audio:* [http://brownfielddagnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/091016\\_SecClintonAndSecVilsack.MP3](http://brownfielddagnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/091016_SecClintonAndSecVilsack.MP3)

*See Also: Biotechnology Is Key to Fighting Hunger, Clinton Says, Bloomberg, October 16*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aL9WMGCF4cWU>

*See Also: Feed hungry, then help them feed themselves, USA Today, October 20*

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2009/10/column-feed-hungry-then-help-them-feed-themselves-.html>

**USDA to play "modest" role in hunger plan-Shah, Reuters, October 21**

The U.S. Agriculture Department will play an "important but modest role" in the new U.S. plan to fight world hunger, but will take its lead from developing countries and the State Department, a senior USDA official said. The USDA plans to tap into its own network of scientists as well as researchers funded by grants to help developing countries on agricultural research and education, said Rajiv Shah, undersecretary in charge of the USDA's research arm.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed1/idUSN21497175>

**Development Assistance Reforms, Discussion Paper #1, House Foreign Affairs Committee October 2009**

Following up on the July release of a concept paper for a new Foreign Assistance Act, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman has issued the first in a series of "discussion papers" covering various aspects of the 1961 law that is the Chairman's top target for reform of U.S. foreign aid. He intends to introduce the fully revamped bill early next year. This first discussion paper looks to address some key dilemmas regarding U.S. development assistance: 1) country needs vs. U.S. interests; 2) field-driven vs. Washington-driven; 3) flexibility vs. accountability; 4) political vs. developmental; and 5) results vs. sustainability.

<http://www.modernizingforeignassistance.net/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Discussion-Paper-on-Development-Reforms-10-6-09.pdf>

**Obama hunger plan to help, but must seize momentum, Reuters, October 22**

The Obama administration has the right approach for reducing world hunger but must move quickly on its plan to make food security a central part of its foreign policy by helping the world's poorest farmers.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed1/idUSN22542456>

See Also: **Obama Administration Commits to Agricultural Aid, VOA News, October 19**

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Science/2009-10-19-voa30.cfm>

**Seeking a New Path to Stability in Sudan, and Africa, Interview with Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Council on Foreign Relations, October 20**

Some 60 to 70 percent of all Africans depend primarily or secondarily on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. Over 50 percent of all Africans continue to live in rural areas where agriculture is the primary source of their economic existence. Agriculture remains the most important economic sector for the vast majority of Africans in sub-Saharan Africa. Doing something in agriculture probably has a greater impact on the average African than almost any other area.

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/20461/new\\_path\\_to\\_stability\\_in\\_sudan.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/20461/new_path_to_stability_in_sudan.html)

**U.S. Treasury's No. 2 official to visit Africa, Reuters, October 21**

Deputy U.S. Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin, the No. 2 official in the Treasury Department, will travel to Africa next week to discuss strategies to reduce poverty and boost African economic growth, the Treasury said. Wolin will meet with senior government officials in Kigali, Dar Es Salaam, Johannesburg and Pretoria where he will highlight U.S.-African partnerships and President Barack Obama's commitments to advance food security and growth from sustainable agriculture.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/companyNewsAndPR/idUSN2151223320091021>

**USAID Fact Sheet: Food Security, USAID, October 19**

At the G8 Summit in July 2009, the United States and other nations agreed to commit \$20 billion over the next three years to seek long-term solutions to food security. The core of this new effort will be country-led partnerships and investments in market-driven agriculture to provide reliable access to nutritious food and raise the incomes of the rural poor. USAID supports increased food security as part of the U.S. Government-wide response to global hunger.

[http://www.usaid.gov/press/factsheets/2009/fs091019\\_2.html](http://www.usaid.gov/press/factsheets/2009/fs091019_2.html)

**President Obama 'may not attend Copenhagen climate summit', Times Online (U.K.), October 20**

The prospects of a global deal to tackle climate change diminished last night after a senior US official played down the chances of President Obama attending December's UN summit in Copenhagen. Todd Stern, US Special Envoy for Climate Change, said that President Obama would go to Copenhagen only if sufficient progress was being made in the negotiations.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6881557.ece>

**USDA's Vilsack Pushing EPA to Raise Ethanol 'Blend Wall' to 15%**, *Bloomberg, October 16*

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said he is pushing the Environmental Protection Agency to raise the amount of ethanol allowed in gasoline as the deadline for a decision nears.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601130&sid=athSr4y8tPFY>

**Democrats' hidden gas tax**, *Kay Bailey Hutchison (Republican senator from Texas) and Christopher S. Bond (Republican senator from Missouri), Op-Ed, Washington Times, October 22*

Several industries will be penalized more severely by the gas tax than others. Our nation's farmers and ranchers, who are tasked with producing high-quality goods for much of the world, will be harmed by Waxman-Markey's \$2 trillion tax on gasoline and \$1.3 trillion tax on diesel fuel.

[http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/oct/21/democrats-hidden-gas-tax/?feat=home\\_commentary](http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/oct/21/democrats-hidden-gas-tax/?feat=home_commentary)

*See Also: Climate Legislation: A \$3.6 Trillion Gas Tax, A Report by the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation Ranking Member Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing & Urban Development, and Related Agencies Ranking Member Senator Kit Bond, Fall 2009*

<http://www.openmarket.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/hutchisonbondgastaxreport.pdf>

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## NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

**Reaping the benefits: Science and the sustainable intensification of global agriculture**, *Royal Society, UK National Academy of Science, October 2009*

Producing enough food for the increasing global population must be done in the face of changing consumption patterns, the impacts of climate change and the growing scarcity of water and land. Crop production methods must also sustain the environment, preserve natural resources and support livelihoods of farmers and rural populations around the world. This report discusses the need for a sustainable intensification' of global agriculture in which yields are increased without adverse environmental impact and without the cultivation of more land. The Royal Society has published the report examining the contribution of the biological sciences to food crop production.

<http://royalsociety.org/displaypagedoc.asp?id=35510>

*See Also: Crop science investment call, Financial Times, October 20*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c9dd648e-bd7c-11de-9f6a-00144feab49a.html>

*See Also: UK urged to lead on future food, BBC News, October 21*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8317511.stm>

**Food Security: Putting Food on Plates**, *Chatham House, The World Today, Volume 65, Number 11 November 2009*

It is a little too easy to forget that food prices were making the news. From the end of 2007 to the middle of last year, the world saw the largest increases in a generation. They pushed tens of millions of people back into poverty and hunger, fuelled social unrest in numerous countries, prompted new trade barriers, and propelled food security to the top of the global political agenda. Headline writers have moved on, but large parts of the world are still living with punitively high food prices. The consequences will affect health and livelihoods for decades.

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/twt/download/-/id/1964>

**Implementing Agriculture for Development: World Bank Group Agriculture Action Plan, 2010-2012**, *World Bank, October 2009*

The World Bank Group has made a renewed commitment to agriculture: This document presents the World Bank Group's Agriculture Action Plan, FY2010-2012. This new World Bank Group Agriculture Action Plan

(FY2010–2012) projects an increase in support (from IDA, IBRD, and IFC) to agriculture and related sectors from a baseline average support in FY2006–2008 of \$4.1 billion annually to between \$6.2 and \$8.3 billion annually over the next three years. This would be between 13 and 17 percent of total projected World Bank commitments.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/Agriculture\\_Action\\_Plan\\_web.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/Agriculture_Action_Plan_web.pdf)

*See Also: Agriculture and Food Security Initiative Gains Momentum at G20, World Bank-IMF Meetings, World Bank, October 21*

<http://go.worldbank.org/D5RW1TW390>

### **Feeding the World's Hungry: Fostering an Efficient and Responsive Food Access Pipeline, Milken Institute, October 2009**

Getting food to the most people with the fewest resources is a constant challenge for food-assistance agencies, but one that financial tools can help address. The finance tools examined in the report have been used effectively in other sectors – for example, to provide vaccines to developing countries – but they have not been used in food assistance delivery. The report recommends using such instruments as call options, guaranteed bonds and tax credits to help improve assistance groups' ability to deliver desperately needed food on time and at lower cost.

[http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/FIL\\_foodaidcivr.pdf](http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/FIL_foodaidcivr.pdf)

### **Reform of the Committee on World Food Security, Final Version, Committee on World Food Security, FAO, October 2009**

Faced with rising hunger and a weak performing Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Member nations agreed at the 34th Session of CFS in October 2008 to embark on a reform of the CFS so that it can fully play its vital role in the area of food security and nutrition, including international coordination.

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/CFS\\_2009/CFS\\_Reform\\_Final\\_en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/CFS_2009/CFS_Reform_Final_en.pdf)

*See Also: Global platform for food security revitalized, FAO, October 20*

Faced with rising world hunger and unacceptable poverty and in response to calls for greater coherence and coordination, members of the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) have agreed on a wide-ranging reform, the FAO announced.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/36446/icode/>

### **Supporting Africa's Strategy for Reducing Rural Poverty: U.S. Agricultural Development Assistance 2005-2008, Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, October 2009**

The global food price crisis beginning in 2008 galvanized the international community around the challenge of reducing global hunger and food insecurity, leading to the commitment of \$20 billion by international donors, led by President Obama, at the L'Aquila G8 Summit in July 2009. As part of this commitment, President Obama pledged to double U.S. agricultural development assistance, with Africa as a primary intended beneficiary, and subsequently submitted to Congress a proposed 2010 budget making good on his pledge.

*Full Report:* <http://www.africanhunger.org/uploads/articles/0723edfdd01c447bd179ba959c28d04c.pdf>

*Summary:* <http://www.africanhunger.org/uploads/articles/b4ac58a5639410f4b8ce107e6999f607.pdf>

### **The growth-poverty convergence agenda: Optimizing social expenditures to maximize their impact on agricultural labor productivity, growth, and poverty reduction in Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009**

The need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has raised the profile of social sector investments in Africa and other developing countries. Because of scarce budget resources, there is a major challenge for African governments in terms of ensuring the necessary consistency of policies and strategies to promote long-term economic growth, raise smallholder productivity, achieve food security, and reduce poverty, while providing the social services that respond to immediate welfare requirements.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00906.pdf>

### **Sending money home to Africa: Remittance markets, enabling environment and prospects, International Fund for Agricultural Development, October 2009**

This new report on the African remittances marketplace is based on the results of a study covering three aspects of: market competition, regulatory environment, and financial access. The study covers regulatory issues and the competitive environment in 50 African countries representing 90 per cent of remittance flows to the region. Additionally, the report highlights the results of a survey of people within the geographical reach of microfinance institutions in 19 countries. These topics directly impact the ability to reduce remittance costs to Africa and the potential of these transfers to spur development.

[http://www.ifad.org/remittances/pub/money\\_africa.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/remittances/pub/money_africa.pdf)

*See Also: **Costs swallow chunk of remittances to Africa: IFAD**, Reuters, October 22*

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAF1OE59L08K20091022>

### **Band Aids and Beyond: Tackling disasters in Ethiopia 25 years after the famine**, *Oxfam, October 2009*

In the emergencies caused by climatic shocks like drought and flood, 'band-aids' such as emergency food relief are effective at saving lives. But in the past 25 years humanitarian agencies have learned that there is a far more cost-effective and sustainable approach to these predictable, recurrent shocks: instead of waiting for disaster to strike, tackle the risk of disasters. This means helping communities prepare for disasters, prevent them, or reduce their impact on lives and livelihoods.

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp133-band-aids-beyond.pdf>

*See Also: **Ethiopia appeals for food aid for 6.2 million**, Reuters, October 22*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE59L24H20091022>

*See Also: **Ethiopia Seeks Urgent Drought Aid**, Bloomberg, October 22*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125622750814601539.html>

### **Towards Sustainable Production and Use of Resources: Assessing Biofuels**, *United Nations Environment Programme, October 2009*

The report intends to provide policy relevant information on the assessment of the environmental and social costs and benefits of biofuels. It examines both the concerns of critical developments, and describes the options for a more sustainable use of biomass and measures to increase resource productivity.

[http://www.eenews.net/public/25/12823/features/documents/2009/10/16/document\\_gw\\_01.pdf](http://www.eenews.net/public/25/12823/features/documents/2009/10/16/document_gw_01.pdf)

### **Planetary boundaries: A safe space for humanity**, *Nature, October 2009*

In this issue, experts respond to a gallant effort to define the limits to sustainability — one that sets planetary warming, among other environmental issues, in the wider context of global change. The 'planetary boundaries' framework, conceived by a group of renowned Earth and environmental scientists led by Johan Rockström of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, identifies thresholds for seven environmental indicators, from ozone depletion, to food security, to biodiversity loss.

<http://www.nature.com/climate/2009/0910/pdf/climate.pdf>

*See Also: **Copenhagen: A new global deal for sustainable development?**, Johan Rockström (director, Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University), Christian Science Monitor, October 19*

In a recent article presented in the scientific journal *Nature*, my colleagues and I make a first attempt to identify and quantify the Earth system processes and potential biophysical thresholds that, if crossed, could generate unacceptable environmental change for humanity, such as irreversible loss of inland glaciers, a transition of rain forests to savannas, massive destruction of tropical coral reefs, desertification of current agricultural land, and the shift in the Indian and African monsoon systems.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1019/p09s05-coop.html>

### **Asian Sanitation Data Book 2008: Achieving Sanitation for All**, *Asian Development Bank, October 2009*

This report features raw data and analyses on the sanitation situation in 27 cities in the Asia and Pacific region and calls for actions to ensure improved access to sanitation in more rapid and efficient ways.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/sanitation-dbook/2008/sanitation-dbook.pdf>

### **Modernizing Foreign Assistance: Insights from Bangladesh**, *Save the Children, October 2009*

The failure to coordinate U.S. trade and aid policies is a critically weak link: The serious lack of coherence between the United States' aid and trade policies regarding Bangladesh offsets many of the aid's potential

benefits. In 2008, for approximately every \$1 of U.S. aid to Bangladesh, the country paid the United States \$3 in tariffs on its exports.

[http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/advocacy/stc\\_bangladesh\\_final.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/advocacy/stc_bangladesh_final.pdf)

**Economic benefits of access to water in Ethiopia: The case for packages of investments**, *RiPPLE/U.K. Department for International Development, October 2009*

Investments in water lie at the heart of Ethiopia's policies for poverty reduction, food security and climate change adaptation. This briefing paper draws on micro- and macro-level studies of the economic impacts of access to water in Ethiopia, to argue that investments in water do appear to offer economic and livelihood benefits to households, increasing their income and resilience.

<http://www.rippleethiopia.org/documents/stream/20091007-briefing-paper-2>

**Beyond Planning: Markets and Networks for Better Aid**, *Center for Global Development, October 2009*

The political economy of aid agencies is driven by incomplete information and multiple competing objectives and confounded by principal-agent and collective-action problems. Policies to improve aid rely too much on a planning paradigm that tries to ignore, rather than change, the political economy of aid. A considered combination of market mechanisms, networked collaboration, and collective regulation would be more likely to lead to significant improvements.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1422971\\_file\\_Beyond\\_Planning\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1422971_file_Beyond_Planning_FINAL.pdf)

**Institutional change, rural services, and agricultural performance in Kyrgyzstan**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009*

This paper reviews the process of institutional change in rural Kyrgyzstan, examines its impact on agricultural performance and discusses some remaining major institutional and policy constraints on agricultural growth in this country.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00904.pdf>

**HIV and mobility in the Lake Victoria Basin agricultural sector**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009*

This paper reviews the relationships between the various components of the plantation system and the spread of HIV, which is a complex and dynamic process. This review first examines how the conditions and structure of the migration process may increase HIV vulnerability for migrants, thereby illuminating key challenges. Second, the review considers what may be done to address these issues, particularly within the plantation system.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00905.pdf>

**Biodiversity Conservation and the Millennium Development Goals**, *Jeffrey Sachs et al., Science, September 2009*

Any near-term gains in reducing extreme poverty will be maintained only if environmental sustainability is also achieved.

[http://www.earth.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/about/director/2009/Science\\_BiodiversityConservationandtheMDGs\\_Sept2009.pdf](http://www.earth.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/about/director/2009/Science_BiodiversityConservationandtheMDGs_Sept2009.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hearing – Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health

*Date:* October 29, 2009

*Time:* 9:30 a.m.

*Subject:* A Call to Action on Food Security: A Progress Report on the Administration's Global Strategy

*Witnesses:* Thomas Melito, director, International Affairs and Trade Team, U.S. GAO; Julie Howard, executive director, Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa; Rick Leach, senior advisor, Friends of the World Food Program.

### **Food Security 2009: Achieving Long-Term Solutions**

*Date:* November 2-3, 2009

*Location:* Chatham House, London, UK

Following our successful food security conference in 2008, this year's event will tackle the politics and science surrounding global food security. While forecasts for harvest and stocks are broadly positive, the experience of the last two years combined with the current economic downturn suggests that volatility is likely to be a feature of food markets for some time yet. The FAO estimates that the number of undernourished people worldwide has risen by 115 million recently, noting that one billion people - 15% of the global population - now do not get enough food to eat.

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/foodsecurity09/>

*Registration:* <https://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/foodsecurity09/-/section/register/id/148/form/1/>

### **FAO Summit on Food Security**

*Date:* November 16-18, 2009

*Location:* Rome, Italy

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

### **CABI Global Summit: Food security in a climate of change**

*Date:* October 19-21, 2009

*Location:* London, UK

The CABI Global Summit will bring together environment and agriculture ministers and other senior government officials from around the world. Also attending will be major funding organizations and representatives from international development and corporate organizations. Together, they will consider policies, practices and technologies that can help improve food security against this background of change.

[https://www.cabiglobalsummit.com/delegate\\_landing.aspx](https://www.cabiglobalsummit.com/delegate_landing.aspx) (registration available)

### **London Business Conferences hosts 3rd Sustainable Agriculture Summit**

*Date:* November 30-December 1, 2009

*Location:* London, UK

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

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### **Do Small-scale Farms in Africa Have a Future?, *Institute of Development Studies, October 21***

Studies have long shown that, in the early stages of economic and agricultural development, the small scale of farms is no obstacle to growth or conservation of resources. Small farmers do innovate, invest and conserve their soils and water - given the right conditions. Small-scale farming has advantages in the management of household labour that is effectively self-supervising. There are, moreover, reasons to expect smallholder development to be especially effective in reducing poverty; and indeed, for many of the rural poor farming may be a key safety net.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/do-small-scale-farms-in-africa-have-a-future>

### **Official says Agricultural Development Key to Prosperity for Africa, *VOA News, October 20***

The Chief of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, or NEPAD, says agricultural development is the key to prosperity for Africa. Ibrahim Mayaki says the bill for food imports in Africa runs about \$40 billion a year, but if half that amount is invested in sound agricultural policies, the pay off could be tremendous.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-10-20-voa57.cfm>

### **UN: More Investment in Agriculture Needed to Tackle World Hunger, *VOA News, October 20***

The director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization is calling for more investment in agriculture in the developing world to tackle the problem of food insecurity. Jacques Diouf told

Parliamentarians attending the 121st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union that more than one billion people are going hungry because of under-investment in agriculture during the past two decades.  
<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-10-20-voa52.cfm>

**A Harvest of Golf Courses From Vietnam's Farmland**, *New York Times*, October 19

More than 140 golf course projects around the country are devouring farmland and putting a strain on water resources.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/20/world/asia/20golf.html>

**China to improve rural bank access**, *Financial Times*, October 18

Guo Shuqing, chairman of China Construction Bank, the second largest Chinese lender by assets, said the bank was intent on increasing rural services and was especially interested in providing loans to small companies and peasant farmers involved with agricultural reclamation projects.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fa33053a-bc0a-11de-9426-00144feab49a.html>

**Feed the world**, *Financial Times*, October 17

The competing claims of small, labour-intensive farms and large, fossil-fuel intensive agri-business is just one of the battles now raging over how the world will feed itself in the future.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/f0c24b1a-b9e3-11de-a747-00144feab49a.html>

**Agricultural Facility May Not Benefit All of Zimbabwean Farmers**, *VOA News*, October 17

Zimbabwean farmers can now use livestock and crops as collateral to access inputs such as seeds and fertilizers under a \$210 million loan program launched by the government. But Zimbabwe Farmer's Union Director Paul Zakariya said that communal farmers, who produced the bulk of Zimbabwe's food before the fall in production, are unlikely to meet the collateral requirements.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-10-17-voa5.cfm>

**Attack global hunger with urgency**, *Editorial, Des Moines Register*, October 16

Bill Gates' World Food Prize speech in Des Moines was, as they say, a game-changer. The appearance of a man who at least in business and technology circles is a superstar rebooted what might have been just another discussion of global hunger. It takes the instincts of a fiercely competitive entrepreneur to inject a sense of urgency into the hunger discussion.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009910160344>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**Ethiopia seeks aid to feed 6.2 million**, *The Washington Post*, October 23

Ethiopia said Thursday that it needs emergency food aid for 6.2 million people, an appeal that comes 25 years after a devastating famine compounded by communist policies killed 1 million and prompted one of the largest charity campaigns ever.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/22/AR2009102204931.html>

**In Helmand, a model for success?**, *The Washington Post*, October 22

The battalion's two civilian advisers are working with a team of U.S.-funded contractors to provide agricultural assistance to farmers, the Obama administration's top priority for Afghan reconstruction. The contractors plan to hand out shovels, gloves and even tractors over the next few months. They hope the goods will increase prosperity and jobs and reduce the number of disaffected young men who want to fight for the Taliban.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/21/AR2009102104144.html>

**€35m EU aid signals fresh approach to Burma**, *Financial Times*, October 20

The European Union has announced an expansion of its aid programme to Burma, reinforcing a western trend towards engagement with the country. The EU has pledged €35m towards a fund called LIFT – the

Livelihoods and Food Security Trust fund – a sum they hope that other donors, including Britain, Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark will eventually increase the total to some €100m.  
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/536e659e-bd51-11de-9f6a-00144feab49a.html>

**UN's well-intentioned Millennium Development Goals go unmet**, *Deutsche-Welle*, October 16

With its Millennium Development Goals, the UN aims to halve poverty by the year 2015. As funds are diverted due to the global finance crisis, it's clear that will remain nothing more than a good intention.  
<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,4796573,00.html>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**Europe offers to cut emissions 95% by 2050 if deal reached at Copenhagen**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, October 21

Europe attempted to reassert its international leadership in the fight against global warming today, offering to slash its greenhouse gas emissions by up to 95% by 2050 and by 30% by 2020 if a climate change pact is sealed in Copenhagen in six weeks' time.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/oct/21/europe-carbon-emissions>

**8 South Asian nations resist binding emission cuts**, *The Washington Post*, October 20

Eight South Asian countries have agreed they can't be part of any climate change deal that sets legally binding limits on their emissions. India, Pakistan and six other nations will present a coordinated stance at a key global meeting in Copenhagen in December to stick with the Kyoto Protocol.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/20/AR2009102000785.html>

*See Also: China-India deal to resist carbon caps*, *Financial Times*, October 21

India and China struck an agreement to co-ordinate efforts to combat climate change that has at its core demands that the developed world take the lead in cutting global carbon emissions. Both countries are resisting acceptance of binding cuts or caps to their carbon emissions, arguing that they will unfairly curb their development. They insist that the developed world should take responsibility for the damage it has inflicted on the planet.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6fa42428-be65-11de-b4ab-00144feab49a.html>

*See Also: India: Climate deal can't sacrifice poor nations*, *Associated Press*, October 22

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jTiP6DEuUe7oDmmFc1DQI2jyCUoAD9BG1PR01>

**India's carbon fighters must wait**, *The Washington Post*, October 19

Giant mountains of smelly kitchen waste, bottles, coconuts, plastic and paper in the heart of New Delhi's industrial district are being transformed into rich, black organic fertilizer for farming.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/18/AR2009101802437.html>

**Destruction of Kenya's forest feeds deadly drought**, *Associated Press*, October 19

The United Nations Environment Program estimates 10 million Kenyans depend on the rivers that flow out of the Mau Forest to irrigate their crops, provide electricity through hydroelectric dams, or supply water for the wild animals that draw hundreds of thousands of cash-flush tourists.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iF1o68AMfinsBL5Bbh6Y3wAalwiwD9BE9BN80>

*See Also: Rains finally come to Kenya, but hunger persists*, *Associated Press*, October 19

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jLCQizxOyqnOziGwr3JIF943t\\_zwD9BE4FP83](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jLCQizxOyqnOziGwr3JIF943t_zwD9BE4FP83)

**Concession raises hopes for climate deal**, *Financial Times*, October 19

Developed countries are preparing to relent on their demand that developing countries agree to long-term cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in a concession that could form the basis of a global deal on climate change.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/45450bde-bcd5-11de-a7ec-00144feab49a.html>

*See Also: Alistair Darling to call for EU fund to help poor nations cut emissions*, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, October 20

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/oct/20/darling-eu-carbon-emissions-fund>

See Also: **Copenhagen climate change talks are last chance, says Gordon Brown**, *The Guardian* (U.K.), October 19

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/oct/19/gordon-brown-copenhagen-climate-talks>

**Water: Cause of conflict**, *Gulf Research Center*, October 18

Although seldom the trigger for wars, the thirst and desperation created by water shortages or a threatened water supply fuel existing tensions between people. The most widely reported violence over water resources is probably the simmering conflict between black farmers and Arab nomads in Darfur, Sudan.

[http://www.grc.ae/?frm\\_action=view\\_newsletter\\_web&sec\\_code=grccommentary&frm\\_module=contents&show\\_web\\_list\\_link=1&int\\_content\\_id=64797&PHPSESSID=2d56b0ba1f53ccb966ff077fe43f442c](http://www.grc.ae/?frm_action=view_newsletter_web&sec_code=grccommentary&frm_module=contents&show_web_list_link=1&int_content_id=64797&PHPSESSID=2d56b0ba1f53ccb966ff077fe43f442c)

**Industry urged to embrace action on climate**, *Financial Times*, October 18

Industry should embrace stronger environmental controls, as ministers from the world's biggest polluting countries meet in London for the final stages of climate change talks that will culminate in Copenhagen in December. Peter Huntsman, chief executive of Huntsman, said that the US and European Union should act together to raise environmental standards for manufacturing and force global competitors to comply as a condition of access to their markets.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a5356426-bc17-11de-9426-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: **Energy Firms Find No Unity on Climate Bill**, *New York Times*, October 18

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/19/business/energy-environment/19fuel.html>

**Maldives Government Dives for Climate Change**, *New York Times*, October 17

Members of the Maldives' Cabinet donned scuba gear and used hand signals at an underwater meeting staged to highlight the threat of global warming to the lowest-lying nation on earth.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/10/17/world/AP-AS-Maldives-Underwater-Cabinet.html>

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## WOMEN

**Water and Women: A Gender Crisis, a Global Opportunity**, *Huffington Post*, October 16

The world finally seems to be awakening to the inherent power that women possess – energy and talent that is needed to address the many challenges that face our planet. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has placed gender rights high on her agenda. But water must make its way onto the short list of global policy priorities. Because the water crisis is truly a women's crisis with broad implications for all of humanity.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jonathan-greenblatt/water-and-women-a-gender-1\\_b\\_323826.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jonathan-greenblatt/water-and-women-a-gender-1_b_323826.html)

**Local solutions needed to fight poverty in Africa**, *The Guardian* (U.K.), October 22

Benny Dembitzer, author of the new book, *The attack on world poverty: going back to basics*, talked about the importance of strengthening the status of women through agricultural education and promoting micro-enterprise. Women in Katine are being empowered through their inclusion in farmers' groups and village savings and loans associations.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2009/oct/22/benny-dembitzer-africa>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**Trading Away Access to Medicines: How the European Union's trade agenda has taken a wrong turn**, *Oxfam*, October 2009

The European Union (EU) could play a leading role in working with developing countries to improve innovation and access to medicines. Instead, the EU has implemented a trade agenda that favors the commercial interests of the multinational pharmaceutical industry over the needs of people in developing countries. At the same time, the EU has failed to commit sufficient resources to support medical innovation to meet the public health needs of developing countries.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/health/downloads/bp\\_trading\\_away\\_access\\_to\\_medicines\\_2010\\_09.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/health/downloads/bp_trading_away_access_to_medicines_2010_09.pdf)

**Congo offers land to South African farmers**, *Financial Times*, October 21

South African farmers have gained access to 200,000 hectares of state land in the Congo Republic, as part of a deal designed to improve food production in the poverty-stricken central African state.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/aa82bdfa-bd9a-11de-9f6a-00144feab49a.html>

**Lamy tells WTO to speed up Doha talks for 2010 goal**, *Reuters*, October 20

World Trade Organisation members will fail to meet their latest deadline of 2010 for completing the Doha round to open global commerce if they do not speed up their work, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said.

*See Also: Brazil plans Doha trade meeting in late November*, *Reuters*, October 20

<http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-43276020091019?sp=true>

**EU boosts aid for dairy farmers**, *BBC News*, October 19

Dairy farmers in the European Union are to receive 280m euros (£255m) in aid, says the EU's farm commissioner. The decision follows weeks of protests by thousands of farmers over the low price of milk, including the spraying of milk onto fields.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8314464.stm>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**Caterpillar Taps an Insider as Its New CEO**, *Wall Street Journal*, October 22

Caterpillar Inc. said that Douglas Oberhelman, president of its engine and services business, would succeed Chairman and Chief Executive James Owens next year. The heavy-equipment maker has been eyeing a successor since last year and had been expected to make an internal promotion. Mr. Owens, 63 years old, is nearing the company's age limit for chief executives.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704224004574489040497683738.html>

**European food makers rise in defensive trade**, *Financial Times*, October 22

Food producers were a bright spot on European indices on Thursday morning, making gains as the region's financial stocks dragged the bourses down.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f09b8b24-beed-11de-8034-00144feab49a.html>

**Cadbury results increase pressure on Kraft**, *Financial Times*, October 21

Cadbury stepped up the pressure on Kraft on Wednesday to raise its proposed £10bn (\$16.6bn) takeover offer after reporting unexpectedly strong third-quarter trading figures.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ef994ab2-be08-11de-9195-00144feab49a.html>

**DuPont cuts costs, boosts profits in third quarter**, *Associated Press*, October 20

DuPont offset falling sales and prices using cost cuts and reported larger third-quarter profits this week.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g2p-CnRJ-xwZyBF94Uqe5CCZcGawD9BESGD00>

**Monsanto and Huazhong Agricultural University Enter Into Collaboration Focusing on Development of Plant Biotechnology**, *Reuters*, October 20

Monsanto Company and Huazhong Agricultural University have entered into a collaboration to further the development of novel traits such as higher yield, drought resistance and nitrogen use efficiency.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS27602+21-Oct-2009+PRN20091021>

**Big Oil Looks to Biofuels**, *Wall Street Journal*, October 19

The biofuels industry, hit hard by the global credit crunch, is getting a shot in the arm from a new source—the oil majors.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204731804574386960944758516.html>

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