

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



October 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“So I think we have reached a shared understanding of the need for a sustainable, comprehensive approach, where there really is a role for everyone to play. We need the science and the tools that science and technology bring to help us carry that out. We need the political leadership that is sustainable. We certainly need a better understanding of how to deliver food and not interrupt, disrupt, and destroy markets in the host countries – a problem that Raj and I have worried over in Haiti. We understand that agricultural development in many parts of the world is primarily a women’s issue because in most places in the developing world 60 to 70 percent of the small farmers are women, and they are very often denied access to the best seeds and fertilizer and other assets that will contribute to increasing their yield. We know that it does very little good to increase yield in a region of a country where there are no roads to get the excess produced to market in any timely way. We know that in the absence of storage facilities, including cold storage that can be shared either because of the private sector building them or government programs that incentivize the building of them, we’re still going to lose about 40 percent of the harvest in many countries.”—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Remarks Upon Acceptance of the George McGovern Leadership Award, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
- To receive *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please register [here](#).
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**KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS**

**The State of Food Insecurity in the World, UN World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, October 2010**

Twenty-two countries are facing enormous challenges like repeated food crises and an extremely high prevalence of hunger due to a combination of natural disasters, conflict, and weak institutions. More than 166 million undernourished people live in countries in protracted crises, roughly 20 percent of the world's undernourished people, or more than a third of the total if large countries like China and India are excluded from the calculation.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1683e/i1683e.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Food Agencies Warn of 'Protracted Food Crises'**, *VOA News, October 6*

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Food-Agencies-Warn-of--Protracted-Food-Crises-104425533.html>

**Remarks Upon Acceptance of the George McGovern Leadership Award**, *U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Department of State, October 5*

"We understand that agricultural development in many parts of the world is primarily a women's issue because in most places in the developing world 60 to 70 percent of the small farmers are women, and they are very often denied access to the best seeds and fertilizer and other assets that will contribute to increasing their yield. We know that it does very little good to increase yield in a region of a country where there are no roads to get the excess produced to market in any timely way. We know that in the absence of storage facilities, including cold storage that can be shared either because of the private sector building them or government programs that incentivize the building of them, we're still going to lose about 40 percent of the harvest in many countries."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/10/149030.htm>

**We Can End Hunger: 10 Ways to Feed the World**, *Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme, Huffington Post, October 1*

Many nations have defeated hunger. It doesn't require some scientific breakthrough, people simply need access to an adequate amount of nutritious food. Food is good business. When nations solve that problem it fuels their economy. It creates jobs and opportunity. I've seen a revolution in the way that hunger is approached. As recently released numbers show, the number of hungry in the world is going down for the first time in 15 years. We can't have peace and stability without food security. When people don't have food, they only have three options. They migrate, revolt, or die. These options are unacceptable. We must be driven with a common purpose towards finding a solution.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/josette-sheeran/we-can-end-hunger-10-ways\\_b\\_746997.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/josette-sheeran/we-can-end-hunger-10-ways_b_746997.html)

**Five Steps to Prevent a Repeat of 2007-2008 Food Crisis**, *Shenggen Fan, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute, October 1*

The recent volatility of agricultural commodity prices has caused some observers to wonder if another food crisis, similar to the one that occurred in 2007-08, is looming on the horizon. Three years ago, a variety of factors combined to create a "perfect storm" in food prices. This time, natural disasters—amplified by harmful trade policies—are fueling concern. Massive flooding in Pakistan affected about 15 million people and ruined more than 1.6 million acres of monsoon-season crops, while severe drought and wildfires in Russia generated large losses in the country's wheat crop and led to a temporary ban on grain exports. Food prices have sharply increased in some countries; food inflation has now reached 15 percent in India, and food prices have risen by 34 percent in Mozambique during the past 6 months, contributing to massive protests.

<http://www.ifpri.org/dgstatement-foodprices>

**Never an Empty Bowl: Averting Food Crisis in Asia**, *M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, James D. Wolfensohn, former President of the World Bank, Suzanne DiMaggio, Director of Policy Studies at the Asia Society, Huffington Post, October 3*

The number of people suffering from chronic hunger reached a record one billion globally in 2009, and Asia accounts for nearly two-thirds of the world's hungry. The sheer magnitude of Asia's hunger and poverty is often masked by the dynamic macro economies in the region. But beneath that are stagnant, even declining levels of welfare for many households. Two-thirds of the world's 1.4 billion poor live in Asia, and they spend about half of their income on food. For those making less than US\$1.25 a day, access to food from the market is often too costly. The future looks even more daunting.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ms-swaminathan/post\\_987\\_b\\_748495.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ms-swaminathan/post_987_b_748495.html)

**SEE ALSO: Never an Empty Bowl: Sustaining Food Security in Asia**, *Asia Society and International Rice Research Institute Task Force Report, September 2010*  
[http://asiasociety.org/files/pdf/FoodSecurityTF\\_online.pdf](http://asiasociety.org/files/pdf/FoodSecurityTF_online.pdf)

**Show Them the Money**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, October 8*

Twenty-two countries, many in Africa, have done what we told them. They drew up investment plans, vetted them with regional agricultural development authorities, and submitted top priority projects to GAFSP for funding in next month's scheduled allocation. Together, the projects add up to nearly \$1 billion. But no other donors have come forward. And the commitment of the U.S. has been slow to be funded by Congress. The U.S. came through with \$67 million from its fiscal 2010 budget. The Obama administration has requested the remaining \$408 million for fiscal year 2011. But appropriation committees in both the House and Senate have whittled back the request to \$250 million in the Senate and \$150 million in the House.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/10/-roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-show-them-the-money.html>

**SEE ALSO: Global Agriculture and Food Security Program**, *Briefing by Marisa Lago, Assistant Secretary for International Markets and Development, U.S. Department of the Treasury, October 5*

"So with our focus on food and security, we know that the solution is to increase agricultural productivity. A simple way of putting the goal is to say that we're looking forward to the day when a small farmer in Africa can grow as much per hectare as a small farmer in China or in India, countries that have made very significant strides in their agricultural productivity."

<http://fpc.state.gov/148636.htm>

**SEE ALSO: U.S. Seeks Supporters for \$1 Billion Global Food Security Fund**, *Lago Says, Bloomberg, October 5*

The U.S. wants to raise \$1 billion for a global food security fund by appealing to countries that will meet in Washington this weekend to discuss world financial issues, an Obama administration official said. Marisa Lago, the Treasury Department's assistant secretary for international affairs, said the U.S. will ask for money to help farmers in the world's poorest countries at International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings beginning Oct. 8. The same pitch will be made to Group of 20 finance ministers, central bankers and world leaders when they meet over the next few weeks, she said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-06/u-s-seeks-supporters-for-1-billion-global-food-security-fund-lago-says.html>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Food Security Month @ USAID: Linking Agriculture, Economic Growth and Nutrition**, *Kimberly Flowers, USAID, October 6*

Throughout October USAID will be highlighting our broad-based work in food security – which spans from emergency food aid assistance through the Food for Peace Program to the game-changing global hunger initiative called Feed the Future. Our development programs overseas are linking vulnerable populations to opportunities for economic growth and linking agricultural benefits to nutrition elements in new, innovative ways. This month we will feature how we are working across the U.S. Government to reduce global hunger and improve lives.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/10/food-security-month-usaid-linking-agriculture-economic-growth-and-nutrition/>

**SEE ALSO: Food Security Month @ USAID: Expanding Our Toolkit in the Fight Against Global Hunger**, *Jose W. Fernandez, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, USAID, October 7*

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/10/food-security-month-usaid-expanding-our-toolkit-in-the-fight-against-global-hunger/>

**US Delegation to the 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security**, *US Department of State, October 8*

The Department of State is pleased to announce the following senior members of the U.S. Delegation attending the 36th session of the Committee on World Food Security, to be held from October 11th through World Food Day on October 16th, 2010, in Rome, Italy: Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome (Head of Delegation); Ambassador Patricia Haslach, Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy, Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative. Other members of the U.S. delegation include officials and technical experts from the Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/10/149231.htm>

**USAID Expands Global Emergency Food Aid Prepositioning Program, USAID, October 5**

In order to respond more rapidly to global food emergencies, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a major expansion of its global food aid prepositioning program this week. Stockpiling food aid supplies in or near regions of the world with historically high emergency food aid needs allows USAID to respond quickly when disasters occur. When floods struck Pakistan in July, USAID was able to dispatch food aid from its prepositioning warehouse in Djibouti, which allowed aid to get there much quicker - within two to three weeks instead of three months which shipment from the United States would have required. This week the Agency has awarded contracts for six prepositioning sites, valued at up to \$50 million over five years to further expand this program.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr101006.html>

**SEE ALSO: Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, Columbia Business School Social Enterprise Conference, October 8**

"Delivering food aid during a famine is critical, but investing in the agricultural development of nations so that they become food secure is a more important mission."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp101008.html>

**GM Crop Opposition May Curb Use to Ease Hunger – USDA Scientist, Wall Street Journal, October 5**

Supporters of genetically modified crops should concentrate on keeping officials in much of Europe from demonizing the agriculture methods so the benefits reach developing countries battling hunger, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientist said. Roger Beachy, head of the National Institutes of Food and Agriculture, said the argument that biotech crops boost yields falls on deaf ears in much of Europe given flat population growth there. Instead, government farm ministers in Europe increasingly must consider the potential of genetically modified, or GM, crops to alleviate hunger in the developing world. "They are starting to recognize now that they are having a negative impact on Africa, and the poor countries this does impact," Beachy said in an interview on the sidelines of a Soyatech global grain and soybean transport conference in Minneapolis.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20101005-711223.htm>

**Vilsack Announces Selection of Global Research Alliance Borlaug Fellows to Work with U.S. Scientists on Combating Climate Change, USDA, October 8**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA has selected 10 researchers from seven developing countries to work side-by-side with U.S. scientists on climate change mitigation research. These fellows were selected under the Global Research Alliance Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship (Borlaug Fellows) Program. "The world faces the dual challenges of feeding upwards of 1 billion hungry people while working to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and agriculture is poised to take a lead role in addressing both," said Vilsack.

[http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/PressRelease/pressrel\\_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0259-10](http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/PressRelease/pressrel_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0259-10)

**12th Annual Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit, Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Department of State, October 6**

"I have said many times before that supporting women and girls is both the right thing to do and also the smart thing to do. That's why we have made it a key priority of the foreign policy in the Obama Administration."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/10/149102.htm>

**Shah: QDDR Coming this Month, for Real this Time, Foreign Policy, October 4**

Now that the White House has released portions of its sweeping review of global development policy, the development community is looking hard for the State Department to follow suit and release its own comprehensive policy review, the first ever Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR). The long delayed review was first planned for March, then April, and finally promised by the end of September. Now, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah says it will be out this month. "The Secretary said 30 to 60 days, but well inside 30 is my guess," Shah said in an exclusive interview with The Cable. "We had hoped to have it out by the end of September, but we'll have it out soon." Shah said the recent reforms at USAID, which include formalizing its new policy shop and its new budget bureaucracy, are parts of what the QDDR is set to announce.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/10/04/shah\\_qddr\\_coming\\_this\\_month\\_for\\_real\\_this\\_time](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/10/04/shah_qddr_coming_this_month_for_real_this_time)

**On-the-Record Briefing on the GSMA mWomen Program**, *Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Alec Rose, Senior Advisor for Innovation, Cherie Blair, and Rob Conway, US Department of State, October 7*

AMBASSADOR VERVEER: "There have been efforts over many years, through the associations here, of the industry to provide this as a tool that enables women to feel more secure. And it's being used for economic empowerment. Another one of the speakers today was a poor farmer from India who talked about how she uses the cell phone in ways that have dramatically changed her life, increased her profits. She can stay in better touch with her customers in the lily plants that she sells and find out where the markets are so she's not spending her whole day going from market to market. So it short-circuits a whole lot of activity that might otherwise provide her with costs instead of raising income."

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2010/149185.htm>

**USAID Announces the Nomination of J. Brian Atwood as Development Assistance Committee Chair**, *USAID, October 4*

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is pleased to announce that the United States Government has nominated J. Brian Atwood for the position of Development Assistance Committee (DAC) chair. The DAC is a permanent forum of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that coordinates international development policy.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr101004.html>

**U.S. Providing \$831 Million for Pakistani Development**, *United States Mission, October 1*

U.S. Coordinator for Economic and Development Assistance Robin Raphael signed a partnership agreement allocating the first \$831 million of more than \$1 billion in development funds for Pakistan, part of the 2009 Kerry-Lugar-Berman Act. According to a September 30 statement by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the funds will be provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and will be used for programs in Pakistan's health, education, agriculture and energy sectors as the country continues to recover from devastating flooding.

<http://geneva.usmission.gov/2010/10/04/831-million-for-pakistani-development/>

**Lawmakers Tackle Interagency Reform**, *Government Executive, October 1*

For years, various think tanks and blue-ribbon panels have advised Congress to address the infighting and poor coordination and collaboration among federal agencies supporting security missions and foreign aid operations overseas. This week, lawmakers took a stab at tackling the problems with legislation that would create an interagency personnel system that rewards individuals and agencies for developing and integrating critical skills across government. Introduced by Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., and Rep. Geoff Davis, R-Ky., the 2010 Interagency National Security Professional Education, Administration and Development System Act aims to break down agency-centric cultures, incentives and structures within the national security system. "When it comes to interagency collaboration on national security, our system is inefficient, ineffective and often downright broken," Skelton said. At a press conference, he cited coordination problems between the Defense Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development in Afghanistan, where conflicting goals have undermined credibility and wasted money.

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=46253&oref=todaysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=46253&oref=todaysnews)

**SEE ALSO: Proposed Bill Seeks to Improve Security Collaboration**, CNN, September 30  
[http://articles.cnn.com/2010-09-30/politics/house.security.bill\\_1\\_skelton-national-security-collaboration?\\_s=PM:POLITICS](http://articles.cnn.com/2010-09-30/politics/house.security.bill_1_skelton-national-security-collaboration?_s=PM:POLITICS)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Africa's Potential**

*Date:* October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Chicago, IL

*Speaker:* Eleni Gabre-Madhin, Chief Executive Officer, Ethiopia Commodity Exchange

Future global economic growth will increasingly come from emerging markets and Africa will play an important role. Jim O'Neill, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, believes it's not unreasonable to think Africa could become the next BRIC. A recent McKinsey profile lays out the case for sub-Saharan Africa as a destination for profitable new investment. As Africa strives to move beyond images of war, hunger, and poor governance, there are success stories that confirm the region is open for business. Next year, half of the world's 10 fastest growing economies are expected to be in Africa. Eleni Gabre-Madhin is one visionary who is working to unleash Africa's economic potential. When Dr. Gabre-Madhin launched the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX) in 2008, it was the first of its kind in Africa. With 85% of Ethiopia's population dependent on farming for their income, she is leveraging agricultural markets to catalyze broader economic growth, drive innovation, and to promote sustainable development.

[http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago\\_council\\_event\\_corporate\\_detail.php?eventid=2280](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago_council_event_corporate_detail.php?eventid=2280)

### **2010 Borlaug Dialogue - "Take It to the Farmers": Reaching the World's Smallholders**

*Date:* October 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Des Moines, Iowa

Inspired by the last words of Nobel Laureate and World Food Prize Founder Dr. Norman Borlaug, the 2010 Borlaug Dialogue international symposium will gather the top minds and foremost leaders in global agriculture, food, and development this October in Des Moines - with a special focus on the world's small-scale farmers.

<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2010.htm>

### **Third McGill Conference on Global Food Security - "Addressing the Water and Nutrition Challenges**

*Date:* October 19-21, 2010

*Location:* McGill University, Montreal, Canada

The Third McGill Conference on Global Food Security seeks to address the present challenges of water scarcity and malnutrition in food security. Participants from countries affected by food security, water scarcity and malnutrition will present their unique perspectives on the current situation and engage in a dialogue to find long-term solutions. Representatives of international development agencies will present results of their on-going efforts to provide a better quality of life for 2-billion of the world's poorest. Some 400 leading scholars, international experts, private sector representatives, politicians and government decision-makers will participate in the conference, guide the deliberations and shape the debate on food security, water scarcity and nutrition.

<http://www.mcgill.ca/globalfoodsecurity/>

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

*Date:* Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> - Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://www.acsmeetings.org)

### **The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change**

*Date:* October 31<sup>st</sup> – November 5<sup>th</sup>, 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/>

### **The International Rice Congress 2010**

*Date:* November 8<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 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>

### **Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies**

*Date:* June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 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/>

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## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The Chicago Council's Global Agricultural Development Initiative is looking to fill two positions. Please forward these announcements to qualified candidates who might be interested in applying.

**Position Title:** Program Officer, Global Agriculture

**Organization:** The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

**For full job description and to apply:** Visit The Chicago Council's [website](#).

**Position Title:** Project Coordinator, Global Agriculture

**Organization:** The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**For full job description and to apply:** Visit The Chicago Council's [website](#).

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Planting Now, Agricultural Challenges and Opportunities for Haiti's Reconstruction**, *Oxfam*, October 2010

Even before the devastating January 2010 earthquake, Haiti was one of the poorest and most food-insecure countries on earth. A majority of Haitians live in rural areas and depend on agricultural livelihoods, but neither the government nor the international community has paid sufficient attention to agriculture, leaving the countryside increasingly marginalized. Trade liberalization has exposed farmers to competition from subsidized US rice exports and made consumers vulnerable to volatile global food prices. Agriculture must have a central place in post-earthquake reconstruction, with an emphasis on improving small-scale farmers' access to resources, so as to boost their incomes and productivity, particularly with regard to staple food crops. Urgent attention is also needed to reversing severe natural resource degradation. The Haitian government has devised a comprehensive agricultural reconstruction plan. It could be strengthened with additional attention to supporting the role of women in agriculture and food security, building the capacity of rural people's organizations, and decentralizing service provision. Donors need to quickly provide adequate resources to implement the plan, and should ensure greater coherence between their development assistance and trade policies. Increased attention to agriculture is vital to helping the Haitian people achieve their short- and long-term reconstruction goals.

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/bp140-planting-now-agriculture-haiti-051010-en.pdf>

#### **SEE ALSO: US urged to stop Haiti rice subsidies**, *BBC News*, October 4

A leading aid agency has called on the United States to stop subsidising American rice exports to Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, because it says the policy undermines local production of food.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-11472874>

#### **Communal Benefits of Transgenic Corn**, *Science*, October 8

Genetically engineered crops represent one of the most controversial and rapidly adopted technologies in the history of agriculture. First grown commercially in 1996, transgenic crops covered 135 million hectares (ha) in 25 countries during 2009. To reduce reliance on insecticide sprays, corn and cotton have been genetically engineered to make insecticidal proteins derived from the common bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).

These Bt toxins kill some devastating insect pests, but unlike broad-spectrum insecticides, they do little or no harm to most other organisms, including people. Many pests have rapidly evolved resistance to insecticides,

however, spurring concerns that adaptation by pests could quickly reduce the efficacy of Bt crops and the associated environmental, health, and economic benefits.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/330/6001/189>

**SEE ALSO: New Study Shows Benefits of Bt Corn to Farmers, *USDA, October 7***

A group of agricultural scientists reported in an issue of the journal *Science* that corn that has been genetically engineered to produce insect-killing proteins isolated from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) provides significant economic benefits even to neighboring farmers who grow non-transgenic varieties of corn. "Modern agricultural science is playing a critical role in addressing many of the toughest issues facing American agriculture today, including pest management and productivity," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This study provides important information about the benefits of biotechnology by directly examining how area-wide suppression of corn borers using Bt corn can improve yield and grain quality even of non-Bt varieties."

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2010/101007.htm>

**SEE ALSO: 'Good neighbor' corn fights borers at home, nearby, *Associated Press, October 7***

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101007/ap\\_on\\_sc/us\\_good\\_neighbor\\_corn](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101007/ap_on_sc/us_good_neighbor_corn)

#### Media Articles:

**When Raisins Give Hope to Afghan Farmers, *New York Times, October 8***

An alliance among farmers, an aid group and a producer is helping to bring Afghan raisins to a wider market.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/09/business/global/09raisins.html>

**Africa: Slow Implementation of Farming Policies Fuels Hunger, *AllAfrica, October 8***

Clive Tasker, the CEO of Standard Bank, has taken the road less travelled in Africa's banking sector. He is betting big on financing small-scale farmers. The bank is banking on the fact that the private sector in Africa is increasingly playing a larger role in agriculture unlike before when governments were key players in financing. Private sector participation is increasing in food processing, supply management, linking farmers to formal markets.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010080183.html>

**S.Africa to Look at Maize for Biofuels, *Reuters, October 8***

South Africa must review its biofuels policy to include maize to allow farmers to use their surplus crop for energy production, the agriculture minister said. The minister urged farmers to come forward with ideas on how to best implement the biofuels policy.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE69706520101008>

**Costa Rica Needs a New Way of Farming, *Guardian, October 7***

The social and environmental toll exacted by Costa Rica's pineapple industry highlights the need for the country to look for less damaging agricultural practices. But will richer countries and their companies be prepared to pay for it?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/oct/07/costa-rica-agriculture-development-pineapples>

**Transgenic Corn Trickles into Mexico Despite Fears, *Reuters, October 6***

Genetically modified corn is trickling into Mexico after overcoming years of legal barriers, but where some farmers see the promise of reduced imports others see a threat to their heritage.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6953PO20101006>

**New Scramble for Africa's Land, *Global Post, October 5***

Foreign investors criticized for leasing huge tracts of African land for commercial farming.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/kenya/101004/africa-land-business>

**TIAA-CREF Raises Farming Exposure, *Financial Times, October 4***

TIAA-CREF, an asset manager, is ramping up its exposure to agriculture by buying a specialist investment firm, in an effort to double its activities in the emerging area of "real asset" investing. Westchester, in which

the US pension fund has taken a controlling stake, manages about \$1bn in assets and nearly 320,000 acres of farm land, as well as acquiring land on behalf of large clients. About 80 per cent of its holdings are managed on behalf of TIAA-CREF, one of the world's biggest money managers. Population growth coupled with the growing demand for food, as well as the energy and water required to produce it, are expected to support the value of farm land in the coming years.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/870906c0-cf3e-11df-9be2-00144feab49a.html>

#### **Latin America's Commodity Dependence**, *Japan Times*, October 5

What's more, regional commodity producers no longer need to be foreign to be big and skillful. In Brazil, the main force behind its farming revolution is Embrapa, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation. Thirty years ago, soils on the country's vast savannas, known as the *cerrado*, were deemed too acidic for any sort of productive farming. "Today the *cerrado* accounts for 70 percent of Brazil's farm output and has become the new Midwest," according to a recent article in *The Economist*.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/eo20101005a1.html>

#### **Black-Eyed Peas Key to Economic Development**, *IPS*, October 1

The black-eyed pea, commonly known as the cowpea, is the new kid on the block when it comes to improving the welfare of women and their families in West Africa, researchers say.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=53033>

##### **SEE ALSO: Ancient Crop in New Spotlight**, *UPI*, October 1

One of the world's oldest crops could combat hunger for millions, sustain livestock in developing countries and even feed astronauts in space, researchers say. The cowpea, also known as the black-eyed pea, is one of the world's most ancient crops and is currently cultivated on 24 million acres, mainly in Central and West Africa, but also in India, Australia, North America and parts of Europe.

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2010/10/01/Ancient-crop-in-new-spotlight/UPI-95271285975351/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2010/10/01/Ancient-crop-in-new-spotlight/UPI-95271285975351/)

#### **Argentina May Change Seed Law to Promote New GM Soy**, *Reuters*, October 1

Argentina's government is considering reforming the country's seed law in a bid to foster use of new varieties of genetically modified (GM) soybeans and boost output in the world's No. 3 soy supplier.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0123917220101001>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

#### **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010**, *FAO*, 2010

The world's forest biodiversity is threatened by a high global rate of deforestation and forest degradation as well as a decline in primary forest area. In many countries, however, there is a continued positive trend towards the conservation of forest biological diversity via dedicated conservation areas. Globally, around 13 million hectares (ha) of forests were converted to other uses (including agriculture) or were lost through natural causes each year between 2000 and 2010. That is down from around 16 million ha per year during the 1990s.

[http://foris.fao.org/static/data/fra2010/FRA2010\\_Report\\_1oct2010.pdf](http://foris.fao.org/static/data/fra2010/FRA2010_Report_1oct2010.pdf)

##### **SEE ALSO: U.N.: Deforestation Still a Problem but Improving**, *The Hill*, October 4

Deforestation still remains a major global problem but is getting better as conservation efforts continue to improve, according to a new United Nations report.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/122339-un-deforestation-still-a-problem-but-improving>

#### **Quality of Official Development Assistance Assessment**, *Center for Global Development*, October 5

QuODA is an assessment of the Quality of Official Development Assistance provided by 23 countries and more than 150 aid countries. It uses 30 indicators in four dimension that reflect the international consensus of what constitutes high-quality aid: Maximizing efficiency; Fostering institutions; Reducing Burden; and

Transparency and Learning. This report helps fill the research gap on what might be called aid agency effectiveness by concentrating on measures over which the official donor agencies have control.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424481/>

**SEE ALSO: Uncovering the Quality of Official Development Assistance**, *Brookings*, October 8  
Official foreign aid to developing countries is currently a \$120 billion industry. Such levels of annual giving are indicative of global goodwill toward helping the poor and assisting in the economic development of poorer nations. However, goodwill is not the same as good results. President Obama recently announced the creation of a new U.S. foreign aid policy, promising to focus on results, “whether we’re actually making improvements in people’s lives.” These remarks are welcome. As the largest donor nation, improvements in how the United States disburses its aid can affect the overall quality of global aid, and U.S. actions can also lead to positive changes in the operations of other donor nations.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1001\\_foreign\\_aid\\_kharas.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1001_foreign_aid_kharas.aspx)

**SEE ALSO: Report: U.S. Ranks Low on Effectiveness of Foreign Aid**, *Foreign Policy*, October 5  
The United States may be the largest donor of foreign assistance in the world, but it ranks among the lowest in terms of the quality and effectiveness of its aid, according to a new report.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/10/05/report\\_us\\_ranks\\_low\\_on\\_effectiveness\\_of\\_foreign\\_aid](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/10/05/report_us_ranks_low_on_effectiveness_of_foreign_aid)

**SEE ALSO: How does the U.S. Rank in Outcomes for Aid Money?**, *Washington Post*, October 5

[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/political-economy/2010/10/bad\\_news\\_for\\_us\\_aid\\_programs.html](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/political-economy/2010/10/bad_news_for_us_aid_programs.html)

#### Media Articles:

**Let Us Not Forget Pakistan’s Flood-Affected Population**, *Michael Klosson, Vice President for Policy and Humanitarian Response, Save the Children, Huffington Post, October 7*

Since early August, Save the Children has reached over 1.2 million flood survivors in four provinces with lifesaving assistance. That is 10 percent of those most severely affected, who have received support ranging from shelter and non-food items, food, health services, child protection and support for schools. We have launched a massive food aid program, supported by USAID and the World Food Program (WFP), and distributed at sites in Jacobabad, Shikarpur and Sukkur.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-klosson/let-us-not-forget-pakistan\\_b\\_753003.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-klosson/let-us-not-forget-pakistan_b_753003.html)

**Opportunity International Fights Hunger in Rural Africa**, *Opportunity International, October 7*

Combining the best of traditional microfinance with a rigorous understanding of the unique factors associated with smallholder agriculture in Africa, Opportunity International has developed an innovative and holistic agricultural finance model that has the potential to transform Africa’s smallholder farmers from subsistence growers to cash crop producers and to move the continent toward becoming a self-sustaining food producer.

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Opportunity-International-Fights-Hunger-in-Rural-Africa-1331388.htm>

**The White House Embraces Smart Power: Now What?**, *Helle Dale, Senior Fellow for Public Diplomacy in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for the Heritage Foundation, Heritage Foundation, October 7*

“Smart power” is supposedly the Hegelian synthesis of soft and hard power instruments of foreign policy. In reality, though, it usually means downgrading hard power in favor of soft power, which is precisely what is happening in America today. Now, “smart power” has received its official stamp from the White House with the signing on September 22 by President Obama of a long-awaited Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) on Global Development.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/10/The-White-House-Embraces-Smart-Power-Now-What>

**Haiti: U.S. Adds \$120 Million in Aid**, *New York Times, October 6*

Six months after the Haiti Recovery Fund was established to help the earthquake-shattered country, the United States announced that it had signed an agreement to contribute \$120 million to the fund. Although the

United States spent more than \$1 billion in humanitarian aid to Haiti after the earthquake, it has been slow to honor its pledge to the recovery fund as well as its overall promise of \$1.15 billion in reconstruction money.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/07/world/americas/07briefs-Haiti.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/07/world/americas/07briefs-Haiti.html?_r=1)

**SEE ALSO: Bill Clinton Lobbies for Earthquake Aid to Haiti**, *Associated Press*, October 7

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5idZiVQhHcyG1gpBjzXaAmmk4\\_OtAD9IML](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5idZiVQhHcyG1gpBjzXaAmmk4_OtAD9IML)  
[LOGO](#)

**SEE ALSO: Haiti Still Waiting for Aid Pledged by U.S., Others**, *Washington Times*, October 4

Nearly nine months after the magnitude 7 earthquake of Jan. 12, more than a million Haitians still live on the streets amid piles of rubble. One reason: Not a cent of the \$1.15 billion the U.S. promised for rebuilding has arrived.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/oct/4/haiti-still-waiting-for-aid-pledged-by-us-others/>

**Too Big to Succeed? Why (W)hole-of-Government Cannot Work for U.S. Development Policy**, *Todd Moss*, *Vice President for Programs at the Center for Global Development*, *Huffington Post*, October 5

The idea behind whole-of-government seems sensible enough: lots of federal agencies have skills and resources and experience that can be brought to bear on complex problems. If we can get everyone in the same room and all in the same boat, then the USG effort can be greater than just lots of agencies all running around doing their own thing, right? This seems especially attractive in development policy, where the United States may be involved in helping foreign countries improve health, education, agriculture, transportation, democracy, security, financial regulation, and loads more. But in the United States--with its sprawling federal structure and huge agency staffs and budget--just getting everyone around one table is perhaps too much to ask.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/todd-moss/too-big-to-succeed-why-wh\\_b\\_750900.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/todd-moss/too-big-to-succeed-why-wh_b_750900.html)

**WFP Races to Save Starving Children in Chad**, *Agence France-Presse*, October 4

The women wearing multi-coloured robes seated on the ground give a first impression that it is market day at Moussoro in western Chad, until you see their under-nourished children. The mothers and their children are waiting at a UN World Food Programme (WFP) feeding centre, one of several set up to help the victims of a major food shortage caused by a bad drought last year.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20101005/wl\\_africa\\_afp/chadfoodchildrenunwfp\\_20101005032721](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20101005/wl_africa_afp/chadfoodchildrenunwfp_20101005032721)

**US Helps Sudan Move Past 'Hungriest Place'**, *Associated Press*, October 4

International officials once visited this straw-hut town to examine skeletal children and make plans to combat a brewing famine. Now six months later, fears of mass hunger are gone, and U.S. officials are instead hailing a program they say builds peace. The Akobo projects present just a small sliver of good news in a region beset by poverty. More than 4 million people in Southern Sudan need food aid, and the U.N. estimates that more than 90 percent of the region's 8 million to 13 million people live on less than a \$1 day.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jg3LBH3ZxqoTlc07IivJHIn9u7LQD9IKUMGG1>

**Military Officers Call for More Foreign Aid**, *Atlantic*, October 3

According to the report, 89 percent of active duty and retired officers believe it's crucial to emphasize development and diplomacy initiatives in addition to military strength. Eighty-three percent of those surveyed cited the importance of non-military programs, like food assistance and health, education and economic-based development plans, as "fairly important" or "very important" in "achieving the country's national security objectives."

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2010/10/military-officers-call-for-more-foreign-aid/63957/>

**SEE ALSO: New Poll: Military Officers Say Development & Diplomacy Key to National Security**, *U.S. Global Leadership Coalition*, September 27

A new poll commissioned by the USGLC finds 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 and a strong military alone is not enough to protect America.

<http://www.usglc.org/2010/09/27/new-poll-military-officers-say-development-diplomacy-key-to-national-security/>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Media Articles:

#### **Syria's Water Shortage Causes Alarm**, *The National*, October 6

Immediate action is needed to stop a water crisis in Syria from getting worse, international experts have warned. Experts criticised Syria's inefficient techniques for agricultural irrigation, which accounts for 80 per cent of Syria's water use.

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/worldwide/middle-east/syrias-water-shortage-causes-alarm>

#### **Simple Tools Help a Drying African Region Cope with Climate Change**, *Deutsche Welle*, October 5

Global warming is set to make western Africa drier, threatening the region's widespread subsistence farming. But projects advocating basic water harvesting and irrigation techniques are already making a difference.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,6049759,00.html>

#### **Russian Wheat Production to Slump 33% After Drought, USDA's Attache Says**, *Bloomberg*, October 4

Russia's wheat production may plunge by 33 percent this year after the most-severe drought in 50 years harmed crops, a U.S. Department of Agriculture unit said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-04/russian-wheat-production-to-slump-33-after-drought-usda-s-attache-says.html>

#### **Getting Past the Politics of Climate Change**, *New York Times*, October 3

The failure to reach a meaningful resolution on global climate change talks in Copenhagen last December left many advocates of climate action badly disheartened. But international negotiators have hardly given up. This week, U.N. climate talks are taking place in Tianjin, China, which could help prepare for climate discussions in Cancun, Mexico, at the end of the year. Another round of negotiations is scheduled for South Africa next year.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/04/business/energy-environment/04green.html? r=1>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Media Articles:

#### **Children in West Africa Still Forced into Labor and Trafficked to Make Chocolate, Report Says**, *Associated Press*, October 8

A report says West Africa's cocoa industry is still trafficking children and using forced child labor despite nearly a decade of efforts to eliminate the practices. The report says that hundreds of thousands of children are still involved in work on cocoa farms, and are trafficked to Ivory Coast and Ghana, the world's two largest cocoa growers.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/world/children-in-west-africa-still-forced-into-labor-and-exploited-to-make-chocolate-report-says-104562584.html>

#### **Bangladesh -- An Untold Success**, *VOA*, October 7

Bangladesh has a female Prime Minister, opposition leader, Foreign Minister, and Agriculture Minister. So, it is not surprising that women's empowerment and girls' education rank high on the nation's list of priorities.

<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Bangladesh----An-Untold-Success-Story-104512549.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

**Reviving AGOA**, *Center for Global Development, September 2010*

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) of 2000 marked a major change in U.S. trade policy for poor countries by extending duty-free treatment to almost all imports from eligible countries, with the goal of expanding trade and encouraging growth-oriented reforms. African exports to the United States did increase markedly, but they were concentrated in a few products from a handful of countries. Moreover, AGOA's success in boosting clothing exports was not sustained as global competition increased later in the decade. To revive the program and expand its benefits, the Obama administration and Congress should work together on two main priorities: 1) Remove or significantly ease remaining restrictions on agricultural products; 2) Collaborate more effectively with African partners to improve the business climate and competitiveness.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424474\\_file\\_Elliott\\_AGOA\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424474_file_Elliott_AGOA_FINAL.pdf)

**Changing Rules of Origin to Improve Market Access for Least Developed Countries**, *Center for Global Development, October 2010*

Developed countries are committed by the Millennium Development Goals, and under the World Trade Organization (WTO) communiqué issued at the Hong Kong ministerial in 2005, to provide duty-free, quota-free (DFQF) market access for least developed countries (LDCs). Removing trade barriers to LDC exports lowers trade costs and expands trade, but rules of origin often raise costs and penalize exports, especially in LDCs with relatively undeveloped manufacturing sectors. As a result, what trade preferences give with one hand, they frequently take away with the other. While many rich countries have more to do to provide DFQF market access for LDCs, many could immediately improve existing programs by implementing more flexible rules of origin.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424480\\_file\\_Elliott\\_ROOS.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424480_file_Elliott_ROOS.pdf)

**Aid for Trade: Supporting Trade Preference Reform**, *Center for Global Development, September 2010*

Aid-for-trade programs can help strengthen low-income countries' supply capacity and knowledge of trade preferences, which will allow them to take fuller advantage of these preferences. Aid for trade to support preference reform can be divided into three categories: (i) creation of information-sharing mechanisms to ensure that governments, SMEs and other businesses are aware of the opportunities that preferential market access offers; (ii) capacity-building support to overcome supply-side and policy constraints; and (iii) support to ease the adjustments to preference erosion that will inevitably occur.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424468\\_file\\_Prowse\\_Aid\\_for\\_Trade\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424468_file_Prowse_Aid_for_Trade_FINAL.pdf)

Media Articles:

**Rice Land in Vietnam May Shrink 5%**, *Bloomberg, October 8*

Vietnam, the second-largest rice exporter, may lose about 5 percent of the farmland used for the crop by 2020 as malls and industrial parks spread, according to the government, which has drawn up a plan to halt the losses.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-10-08/rice-land-in-vietnam-may-shrink-5-as-cities-golf-links-spread.html>

**Ukraine Introduces Quotas on Grain Exports to Hold Down Domestic Prices**, *Bloomberg, October 7*

Ukraine, the world's largest barley exporter, introduced quotas on outbound shipments of all grains to ensure food security and cap domestic prices, First Deputy Prime Minister Andriy Klyuev said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-07/ukraine-plans-to-introduce-limits-on-grain-exports-deputy-minister-says.html>

**S.Africa Farmers Say Hurt by Power Price Hikes**, *Reuters, October 7*

Price hikes granted to South Africa power utility Eskom will cost the country's agriculture sector more than 300 million rand and threaten food security, a key farmers' group said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E69609820101007>

**Argentina's Rivals Bite into Global Beef Market**, *Financial Times, October 5*

The life of Argentina's legendary gauchos herding cattle on the pampas is tough. But this year the outlook is particularly gloomy as production and exports of the succulent steaks for which the country is famed slump to their lowest levels in a decade.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a3382598-d0aa-11df-8667-00144feabdc0.html>

**US Says Doha Trade Talks Could Stretch into 2012**, *Reuters, October 5*

A top U.S. trade official indicated that the long-running Doha round of world trade talks could stretch into 2012, but said some progress had been made over the past six months.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0522808220101006>

**Dear Cabbage**, *The Economist, October 4*

It is unfortunate then for this nation [South Korea] of 50 million that the price of cabbage, the core ingredient of the most classic form of kimchi—is locked in an inflationary spiral. The price of this humble vegetable has risen over 400% in the past year, with prices doubling in the past two months alone. It is believed that the original cause was bad weather. Whatever brought on the initial shock, hoarding now is exacerbating it.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/asiaview/2010/10/kimchi&fsrc=nwl>

**Afghanistan: All Hopes Pinned on Kazakhstan Wheat**, *IRIN, October 4*

Tens of thousands of tons of wheat flour will be imported from Kazakhstan by the private sector to alleviate food shortages before the winter, officials say. Pakistan, the main, traditional exporter of food to Afghanistan, has banned wheat exports after catastrophic floods; Russia has done the same.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90673>

**China-Africa 2010 Trade 'To Top \$100 Bln'**, *Agence France-Presse, October 3*

Beijing says its trade with Africa is on track to top 100 billion dollars this year as it benefits from investments in mines, farms and factories on the continent, state media reported. China-Africa trade fell to 91.1 billion dollars in 2009, down 14.7 percent from 106.8 billion dollars in 2008. More than 1,600 Chinese businesses are investing in Africa in the mining, processing, commerce, agriculture, construction and manufacturing sectors.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5jRhRvceC\\_bdl2Lh4q3ChAa6D8RiQ?docId=CNG.838d72a24a1e0b27ba4424dd029909b6.181](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5jRhRvceC_bdl2Lh4q3ChAa6D8RiQ?docId=CNG.838d72a24a1e0b27ba4424dd029909b6.181)

**Grain Prices Fall From Their Heights**, *Wall Street Journal, October 3*

Grain prices have plummeted as worries about shrinking food supplies have dissipated, due to better weather and an unexpectedly large increase in U.S. corn inventories.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704029304575526452832778416.html>

**Farm talks look at issues members want clarified**, *World Trade Organization, October 1*

Agriculture negotiations chairperson David Walker told delegates on 1 October 2010 that he has begun consultations on issues that three members have suggested need clarifying in the present draft text.

[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news10\\_e/agng\\_27sep10\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news10_e/agng_27sep10_e.htm)

**Brazil Cotton Growers Seek to Boost Output as India Scales Back Exports**, *Bloomberg, October 1*

Cotton growers in Brazil, the world's fifth-largest exporter of the fiber, plan to increase output next year after prices surged and India said it will scale back shipments, the head of an industry group said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-01/brazil-cotton-growers-seek-to-boost-output-as-india-scales-back-exports.html>

**Russia May Not Resume Grain Export until July 2011**, *The Associated Press, October 1*

Russia's top agriculture official says Moscow may extend its ban on grain exports until next July.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/01/AR2010100101433\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/01/AR2010100101433_pf.html)

**WTO Raps U.S. Ban on Chinese Chicken Imports**, *Reuters, September 29*

U.S. measures that effectively banned imports of Chinese cooked chicken broke international trade rules and caused injury to China's economy, a World Trade Organization dispute panel said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE68S1PZ20100929>

**SEE ALSO: Factbox: Chinese-U.S. trade disputes pile up**, *Reuters, September 29*

China levied heavy anti-dumping duties on U.S. chicken products, a move that threatens one of the few U.S. industries that profitably exports to China. U.S. breeders like Tyson Foods Inc sell chicken feet and wings, virtually worthless in the U.S. market, to China, where they are hugely popular, helping pad their profit margin on each chicken.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68S16420100929>

**SEE ALSO: Panel report on US-China poultry dispute**, *World Trade Organization, September 2010*

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/392r\\_conc\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/392r_conc_e.pdf)

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**PepsiCo Establishes New Global Group to Drive Nutrition Innovation**, *PepsiCo, October 7*

The company announced the creation of a new Global Nutrition Group to allow PepsiCo to deliver breakthrough innovation in the areas of fruits and vegetables, grains, dairy and functional nutrition. Based in Chicago, it will be run by PepsiCo's chief scientific officer, Dr. Mehmood Khan, who has been named CEO of the new group and retains responsibility for the company's research and development organization. "The creation of this Global Nutrition Group is part of our long-term strategy to grow our nutrition businesses from about \$10 billion in revenues today to \$30 billion by 2020," Ms. Nooyi continued.

<http://www.pepsico.com/PressRelease/PepsiCo-Delivers-Solid-Third-Quarter-Results-Posting-Strong-Gains-in-Net-Revenue10072010.html>

**BHP Justifies Benefits of Potash Bid**, *Financial Times, October 7*

BHP Billiton produced fresh evidence to justify its \$39bn hostile bid for PotashCorp, saying that a planned new potash mine in Saskatchewan would bring more economic benefits than estimated so far.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/613ca30e-d261-11df-9e88-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: Blow to China over Potash Hopes**, *Financial Times, October 5*

China's hopes of derailing BHP Billiton's \$39bn hostile takeover bid for PotashCorp of Canada have suffered a setback after a report commissioned by Saskatchewan warned authorities against a takeover from a state-owned enterprise.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b2c0e596-cfd2-11df-bb9e-00144feab49a.html>

**Monsanto's Income Fell by Nearly Half for Year**, *New York Times, October 6*

Executives of Monsanto told skittish investors that earnings per share would grow 13 to 17 percent in the next fiscal year and that the company was on its way to fixing problems in its seed business that have undermined the confidence of Wall Street. The remarks, in line with some previous assurances by company executives, were made as Monsanto reported that net income for the year that ended Aug. 31 had dropped by nearly half from a year earlier.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/07/business/07monsanto.html>

**Daschle, DuPont Seek Greater GMO Food Acceptance**, *Reuters, October 6*

Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, who runs a DuPont Co committee studying food demand, says African farmers are receptive to genetically modified crops and that he does not expect U.S. food policy to change after fall elections. Chemical and agricultural giant DuPont has a large genetically modified crop business, and many see GMOs, as the technology is commonly known, as the best way to meet increasing global food demand.

<https://research.tdwaterhouse.ca/research/public/Markets/CommoditiesNews?documentKey=1314-N06252586-1>

**Chavez Confirms Expropriation of Venezuelan Agriculture Supply 'Oligopoly'**, *Bloomberg, October 5*

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced the "forced acquisition" of the country's leading farm-supply business because it had created "an oligopoly in the agricultural raw materials market."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-05/chavez-confirms-expropriation-of-venezuelan-agriculture-supply-oligopoly-.html>

**Ethanol Producers Attempt to Heal Rift, Unify Goals**, *Des Moines Register*, October 3

Ethanol producers face a fight to save their government subsidies, but first industry leaders had to stop squabbling among themselves.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101003/BUSINESS01/10030323/1029/BUSINESS/Ethanol-producers-attempt-to-heal-rift>

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