

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



October 23rd – 29th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“I am sometimes asked why development matters to U.S. foreign policy and why the United States should spend money on people overseas when it has economic challenges at home. As counterintuitive as it may seem, the answer is that development, when done effectively, is one of the best tools to enhance the United States' stability and prosperity. It can strengthen fragile or failing states, support the rise of capable partners that can help solve regional and global problems, and advance democracy and human rights. At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that although the world's problems are vast, the United States' resources are not. As stewards of American taxpayer dollars, the State Department and USAID must be strategic in pursuing the most critical needs and in making decisions based on hard evidence to ensure that investments deliver results. And we must also stay focused on the long term -- not simply addressing the urgent needs of people today but also building the foundations for a more prosperous future.”* – U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, “Leading Through Civilian Power,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2010

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
- Background information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, can be found on the Initiative's website: www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The Montpellier Panel Report, *Africa and Europe: Partnerships for Agricultural Development, Agriculture for Impact*, October 26

For the first time in two generations, Africa has a real opportunity to achieve food and nutrition security through agricultural development. There is also an opportunity for Europe to play a unique and significant role, as a partner with African nations, in attaining this goal.

<http://workspace.imperial.ac.uk/africanagriculturaldevelopment/Public/Final%20Panel%20Report.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Europe Should Increase Aid to Improve Agriculture in Africa, *Sir Gordon Conway and Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Guardian, October 26*

A new EU-Africa partnership report recommends making agriculture a priority to fight malnutrition, hunger and poverty affecting millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/oct/26/europe-increase-africa-agriculture-aid>

SEE ALSO: African Agriculture Coming of Age-Report, *Reuters, October 26*

A growing African food sector can yield private sector returns on the back of government support, said a report on Tuesday, which also said that a global grain reserve may be needed to protect consumers from price spikes.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFLDE69P1V120101026>

SEE ALSO: New Drive for European Investment in African Agriculture, *Voice of America, October 27*

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/New-Drive-for-European-Investment-in-African-Agriculture--105881003.html>

Leading Through Civilian Power, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, Foreign Affairs, November/December 2010*

To meet the range of challenges facing the United States and the world, Washington will have to strengthen and amplify its civilian power abroad. Diplomacy and development must work in tandem, offering countries the support to craft their own solutions.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66799/hillary-rodham-clinton/leading-through-civilian-power>

SEE ALSO: A Tectonic Shift at State and USAID?, *Tara Sonenshine, Executive Vice President, U.S. Institute of Peace, Beth Cole, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Institute of Peace, Huffington Post, October 27*

The long-awaited release of the first ever Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR) - a strategic reassessment of the U.S. foreign affairs establishment -- may well yield a tectonic shift in how American foreign policy is carried out. The operative word is "may."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tara-sonenshine/a-tectonic-shift-at-state_b_774946.html

SEE ALSO: A Sneak Peek at Hillary Clinton's New Global Strategy, *Washington Post, October 24*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/22/AR2010102203592.html>

The Fertile Continent, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Foreign Affairs, November/December 2010*

With one billion people already going hungry and the world's population rising, global food production must urgently be increased. The countries that managed such surges in the past -- Brazil, China, India, the United States -- cannot do so again. But Africa can -- if it finally uses the seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation methods common everywhere else.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66827/roger-thurow/the-fertile-continent>

"Climate-Smart" Agriculture, Policies, Practices and Financing for Food Security, Adaptation and Mitigation, *FAO, 2010*

Agriculture in developing countries must become 'climate-smart' in order to cope with the combined challenge of feeding a warmer, more heavily populated world, Climate change is expected to reduce agriculture productivity, stability and incomes in many areas that already experience high levels of food insecurity — yet world agriculture production will need to increase by 70 percent over the coming four decades in order to meet the food requirements of growing world population.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/the-hague-conference-fao-paper.pdf

SEE ALSO: FAO: Climate-Friendly Ag Sector Needed, *UPI, October 29*

The international community is in desperate need of agricultural practices that are climate friendly, a United Nations' food agency report concluded.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/10/29/FAO-Climate-friendly-ag-sector-needed/UPI-40701288354523/

Private Sector Interest Grows in African Farming, *Wall Street Journal*, October 29

Mounting concern over security of food supplies is spurring a wave of private-sector investment in Africa that many hope will put it at the center of a green revolution. To meet growing global food demand the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization estimates an extra six million hectares need to be brought under cultivation every year for the next 30 years. With sub-Saharan Africa estimated to hold up to 60% of the world's remaining uncultivated land suitable for farming, the region's agriculture is starting to look an interesting investment.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303467004575574152965709226.html>

Curing the Ills of America's Top Foreign Aid Agency, *The New York Times*, October 22

Dr. Rajiv Shah has an ambitious campaign to rebuild Usaid, the premier American aid agency. "He's inherited leadership of an agency that was nearly broken over the last two decades," said [Richard C. Holbrooke](#), the special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan who has testified alongside him on Capitol Hill. While Mr. Holbrooke said Dr. Shah had a "limitless future," he added, "He's going to be tested like few others are in government."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/23/world/23shah.html>

A Dangerous Myopia, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog*, October 15

It is lamentable that the deep and persistent economic woes in the U.S. and Europe are breeding a certain dangerous myopia in international development affairs.

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

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

White House Prepares for Foreign Policy Challenges – from Congress, *Los Angeles Times*, October 28

If, as expected, the GOP wins control of the House and makes gains in the Senate, it is expected to challenge the Obama administration's foreign policy in a number of key areas, including Afghanistan and foreign aid.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-fg-midterms-foreign-20101028,0,881929.story>

U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue: Working Group Achievements, *U.S. Department of State*, October 28

Agriculture Working Group: Co-chaired by U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary Darci Vetter and USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Alex Their and Pakistan Minister of Food and Agriculture Nazar Muhammad Gondal, the group had an open and constructive discussion on post-flood recovery needs for the agriculture sector. The Pakistan delegation expressed appreciation for recent sanitary and phytosanitary approvals to allow the export of Pakistani mangos to the United States. Both sides renewed their commitment to the Agricultural Investment Strategy and ongoing agricultural development projects, such as the Rural Dairy Project, the Mango Export Project, and the agricultural productivity initiatives announced by Secretary Clinton during her July trip. Tangible progress on implementation of the Agriculture Strategy was exemplified with the initiation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wheat Productivity Enhancement Program, Cotton Productivity Enhancement Program and Animal and Plant Disease Control Programs in collaboration with Pakistani counterparts.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/10/150112.htm>

USAID Uses \$250 Million for Food Purchases in Developing Countries, *AgWeek*, October 26

The U.S. Agency for International Development has used \$250 million in expenditures on food aid from purchases of U.S. foodstuffs to purchase in markets in poor countries this year.

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/17366/>

Remarks at the 10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State*, October 26

Fourteen million dollars will also go to nongovernmental organizations working to make clean water more available in conflict zones, because in these areas, when women and girls go looking for water they are at higher risk of being attacked. Similarly, I had the honor of announcing the Global Alliance for Clean

Cookstoves last month – another initiative that by our support can protect women who will not have to go out seeking firewood or other forms of fuel if we can revolutionize the way they're able to cook food for their families.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/10/150010.htm>

Presidential Proclamation—United Nations Day, *Office of the Press Secretary, October 22*

The United Nations has made great advances since it first developed out of ruin and genocide, and, today, this partnership includes 192 member states. Throughout its journey to live up to its founding values, it has remained an indispensable vehicle for coordinated action to tackle global problems. In a time when we face challenges such as nuclear proliferation, climate change, transnational terrorism, food security risks, and pandemic disease, we must work as one to build the kind of world we want to see in the 21st century.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/22/presidential-proclamation-united-nations-day>

USDA Takes Earful Over Corn-Crop Revision, *Wall Street Journal, October 25* U.S. agriculture officials faced sharp questions from a grain industry shaken by dramatic swings in recent government crop estimates.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304248704575574823708863514.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture (CAMA)

Date: October 26th -29th, 2010

Location: Lilongwe, Malawi

As a follow up to efforts to fast-track implementation of the African Food Basket Initiative, the African Union Commission (AUC) jointly with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), is convening a Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture to review progress on implementation of continental agricultural development; and consider and adopt an action-oriented strategy to move forward this vision of a food secure Africa within five years.

<http://www.nepad.org/foodsecurity/news/1776/african-ministers-review-africas-agricultural-development>

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

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

Location: Long Beach, CA

Plans are underway for the 2010 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, 31 October–3 November in Long Beach, CA. The year's Annual Meetings theme connects attendees to the growing global challenges of "Green Revolution 2.0: Food+Energy and Environmental Security." Consider joining your colleagues in Long Beach! More than 2,700 scientists, professionals, and students will present the latest research and discuss emerging trends in agriculture, energy, climate change, environmental science, and related issues. The Annual Meetings program features keynote and plenary lectures, 2,500 oral and poster presentations, an Exhibit Hall, Career Center, tours, workshops, and plenty of networking events. For additional information on the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, please visit: www.acsmeetings.org

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change

Date: October 31st – November 5th, 2010

Location: The Hague, The Netherlands

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

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

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

Date: November 1st, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

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

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

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th – 12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

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

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

First Global Conference on Biofortification: From Discovery to Delivery

Date: November 11th – 12th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

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

Agriculture & Rural Development Day

Date: December 4, 2010

Location: Cancun, Mexico

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

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

Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

Date: February 10th – 12th, 2011

Location: New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people’s nutrition and health, and people’s nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people’s nutrition and health. This conference will inform, influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world’s poor people.

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

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

Date: February 24th – 25th, 2011

Location: Arlington, VA

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

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

Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies

Date: June 2nd – June 5th, 2011

Location: Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

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

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

Leland Hunger Fellows Program – Now Accepting Applications

The Leland International Hunger Fellows Program is now accepting applications for the 6th class (2011-2013)

Information on the fellowship and how to apply is accessible here:

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

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, *FAO, 2010*

The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – SoWPGR-2 – provides a comprehensive overview of recent trends in PGRFA conservation and use around the world. It is based on information gathered from more than 100 countries, as well as from regional and international research and support organizations and academic programmes. The report documents the current status of plant genetic resources diversity, conservation and use, as well as the extent and role of national, regional and international efforts that underpin the contributions of PGRFA to food security.

http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/PGR/SoW2/Second_Report_SOWPGR-2.pdf

SEE ALSO: Food Security Risk if Crop Biodiversity Lost: Report, *Reuters, October 26*

Future global food security may be at risk unless greater efforts are made to conserve and use the genetic diversity of cultivated crops and their wild relatives, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69P3MK20101026>

How Safe is My Food?, *International Food Policy Research Institute, 2010*

The literature regarding consumer demand for safer food in developing countries is scant, and the general assumption is that these consumers' willingness to pay (WTP, as an indicator of their demand) is constrained by their low ability to pay (ATP). There are, however, a number of developing countries with growing middle-income populations whose ATP has been steadily increasing, although low food safety standards in these countries still prevail. In this paper, we argue that ATP, while necessary, is not the sole condition for WTP and that credible information about and certification of food safety are required to ensure that ATP translates into WTP.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/how-safe-my-food>

Media Articles:

Agriculture Development and Food Security, *Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN, October 28*

Prior to the conflicts that disrupted the way of life in the country, Afghanistan had a healthy and self-sufficient agricultural economy, which produced both food as well as economic crops. Current agricultural productivity, however, is not as optimistic given the vast damage done to the physical infrastructure as well as higher dependence on rain-fed agriculture. As such, millions of Afghans are either starving or threatened with starvation on a daily basis, depending on food assistance for survival. Henceforth, it is critical for us to rapidly

revive our agricultural sector through restructuring and investment, while also paying attention to issues of long-term environmental sustainability.

<http://www.afghanistan-un.org/2010/10/agriculture-development-and-food-security-2/>

SEE ALSO: Deserted Taliban Post Re-Established as Agricultural Development Site, *NATO*, October 24

<http://www.isaf.nato.int/article/isaf-releases/deserted-taliban-post-re-established-as-agricultural-development-site.html>

Africa's Great Land Grab, *BBC*, October 27

Recent years have seen an increasing number of foreign governments leasing or buying vast tracts of land in Africa for their own use - some say with little or no benefit to Africa.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/2010/10/101027_africallandgrab.shtml

Saving the Seas to Ensure Food Security, *Voice of America*, October 26

Since the food crisis of a few years ago, much attention has been paid to improving agriculture and conserving the land. But land is not the only source of food. The oceans provide food and jobs for millions of people, yet very little is being done to protect them.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-marine-protected-areas-26oct10-105766783.html>

Mozambique: Private-Public Partnerships for the Green Revolution, *AllAfrica*, October 26

Representatives of the private and public sectors started a two day meeting in Maputo on Monday to discuss the problems that affect the production and distribution of quality seeds, aiming to accelerate the implementation of the Green Revolution in Mozambique

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010270185.html>

Tanzania: At 13m Tonnes, Tanzania is Headed for a Food Surplus, *AllAfrica*, October 25

Tanzania is projected to produce more than 12.8 million tonnes of food this year – 7.7 million tones cereals and 5.1 million tone non-cereal. This means the country will have a surplus to export to other countries. In the 2010/2011 season, the country requires about 11.4 million tonnes of food which translates to a surplus of 1.4 million tonnes.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010261098.html>

Tackling Hunger in Nicaragua, EU and FAO Help Farmers' Associations Increase their Yields, *FAO*, October 25

In an effort to stem rising rural poverty in Nicaragua, the European Union (EU) and FAO have joined the government in supporting organisations of small-scale farmers boost the productivity of staple crops, like beans, maize and rice.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/45976/icode/>

Without Investment in Agriculture, Africans Stay Hungry, *IPS*, October 24

Inadequate access to water, recurring floods and droughts as well as a lack of political will to invest in small-scale agriculture perpetuate hunger across Africa, the continent's food security experts say.

<http://www.ips.org/africa/2010/10/without-investment-in-agriculture-africans-stay-hungry/>

Hunger May Get Worse: WTO Chief, *Agence France-Presse*, October 23

WTO chief Pascal Lamy warned that the food crisis may get worse over the next years as the world's population grows and arable land recedes. "Today's situation is not good and it may get worse in the coming years because of population growth, dwindling available (farm) land and a change in food habits," Lamy told a roundtable on the sidelines of a summit of French speaking countries.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iV5f8L15MNropijh_6uEe_fNaz2A?docId=CNG.22b03666006bbdecaffca0e62e5b15f1.e31

End of One Scourge, *Editorial, The New York Times*, October 23

It's almost impossible for a modern American to imagine what an outbreak of rinderpest, a viral cattle disease, would have looked like. But when the disease was at its worst — in Britain in the mid-1860s and

South Africa in the 1890s — the spectacle must have been horrifying. Rinderpest spreads rapidly and kills nearly every animals it infects. It is well worth celebrating the extinction of this disease in the wild. The last known case occurred in Kenya in 2001, and this past week the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization declared it eradicated globally.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/23/opinion/23sat4.html>

Judge Order Another Hearing in Genetically Modified Beet Case, *Morningstar*, October 22

A federal judge ordered environmental groups and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to present more evidence at a coming hearing, insuring that a courtroom battle over the legality of some genetically modified beets will continue for at least a few more weeks.

http://news.morningstar.com/newsnet/ViewNews.aspx?article=/DJ/201010221648DOWJONESDJONLINE00573_univ.xml

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Brazil: An Emerging Aid Player, *Overseas Development Institute*, October 2010

Ahead of Brazil's presidential election, this paper reviews the institutional set up of Brazil's aid programme and the implications of its rise in the aid scene on debates around emerging donors and development cooperation.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/5120.pdf>

Media Articles:

Don't Try This Abroad, *Foreign Policy*, October 29

Nick Kristof is wrong. Amateurs are not the future of foreign aid.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/10/26/dont_try_this_abroad

AU Chairman Says Africa Must Fight for Farm Subsidies, *Reuters*, October 28

Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika, who is also African Union chairman, said on Thursday that Africa should fight for subsidies for its poor farmers so as to achieve food security on the continent.

The World Bank and the IMF have opposed agricultural subsidies for poor African farmers because of the high costs associated with the initiative.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE69R0M120101028>

We Need Greater Transparency over Aid Budgets, *Guardian*, October 28

Without budget information, the poor and marginalised find it harder to hold the powerful to account and donors can't properly assess the impact of aid.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/oct/28/aid-budgets-transparency>

How to Assist Fragile Countries Challenged by Weak Governance, *Huffington Post*, October 28

The Democratic Republic of Congo is in the headlines again. This time it's not about rape and escalating violence in the eastern provinces but because donors are threatening to withhold aid as fears grow about governance, particularly in the mining and energy sectors where many foreign companies compete for concessions.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nicholas-van-praag/how-to-assist-fragile-cou_b_775541.html

U.S. \$10 Million Bills to Support Tobacco Farmers, *AllAfrica*, October 28

Agricultural Development Bank of Zimbabwe (Agribank) and FBC Bank Ltd on Wednesday floated Tobacco Bills worth US\$10 million to support tobacco farmers for the 2010/11 season. Agribank says the money raised will be channeled towards mobilizing financial support for tobacco farmers for the growing, curing and transportation of the crop to auction floors next year.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010290946.html>

Loan Guarantees Represent Growing Development Trend USAID's Development Credit Authority Surpasses \$2 Billion Mark, *USAID, October 28*

USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA) recently surpassed a \$2 billion milestone of private sector credit mobilized in developing countries. DCA uses partial loan guarantees to encourage local banks to invest locally.

http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr101028_1.html

FAO Distributes Huge Quantities of Wheat Seeds in Pakistan, *FAO, October 27*

FAO has begun a large-scale distribution of wheat seeds in Pakistan that will benefit well over half a million farming families or nearly five million people.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/46872/icode/>

World Bank Unit to Increase Investments in Sub-Saharan Africa, CEO Says, *Bloomberg, October 27*

The International Finance Corp., the World Bank's private-investment arm, is likely to increase its investments in sub-Saharan Africa in the fiscal year through June 2011, Chief Executive Officer Lars Thunell said. The institution will also invest in agriculture. The investments will be in "everything from farm to fork, in other words the whole supply chain including the food processing," he said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-27/world-bank-unit-to-increase-investments-in-sub-saharan-africa-ceo-says.html>

Congo Deals Threaten Western Aid Supply, *Financial Times, October 26*

Western donors have begun withholding development aid from the Democratic Republic of Congo amid mounting concern over the mismanagement of the mining and energy sectors by Joseph Kabila, president, and some of his aides.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a9025b56-e117-11df-90b7-00144feabdc0.html>

U.S. Aid Shift Envisions Path to Self-Sufficiency, *IPS, October 25*

As part of a more general promise of reform to U.S. development policy, the U.S. Agency for International Development is poised to fundamentally alter the way it tackles poverty overseas.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53289>

Is Aid Doing Haiti More Harm than Good?, *Reuters, October 25*

The disaster drew an outpouring of sympathy from around the world and foreign aid has had significant successes. But it is not providing, and seems unable to provide, permanent private sector jobs. This is nowhere more apparent than in agriculture and in private healthcare.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6902T320101025>

Agricultural Growing Pains for the Bank, *The Africa Report, October 22*

An internal review of World Bank projects shows that its activities in Africa have not performed very well in terms of boosting agricultural productivity or improving rural livelihoods.

<http://www.theafricareport.com/archives2/business/3296834-agricultural-growing-pains-for-the-bank.html>

SEE ALSO: The World Bank: Does it Pass the Test?, *The Africa Report, September 17*

As the World Bank embarks on one of its biggest increases in lending to Africa, The Africa Report evaluates the institution's practices across the board, from agriculture to diversity.

<http://theafricareport.com/component/content/article/54/3295914.html>

SEE ALSO: Answers on Agriculture from the World Bank, *The Africa Report, October 6*

Nicholas Norbrook put some tough questions to the Bank on its position on agricultural subsidies and financing for rural infrastructure. Here are the Bank's responses.

<http://www.theafricareport.com/archives2/business/3296651-answers-on-agriculture-from-the-world-bank.htm>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Blue Harvest, Inland Fisheries as an Ecosystem Service, UNEP, 2010

To help inform future approaches to conservation and management of freshwater ecosystems the present assessment reviews the importance of inland fisheries as an ecosystem service, the pressures upon them, and management approaches to sustain them.

http://www.worldfishcenter.org/resource_centre/Blue_Harvest.pdf

SEE ALSO: Freshwater Losses Pose Risks for Food, Health: U.N., Reuters, October 22

Damage to rivers, wetlands and lakes threatens to destabilize the diversity of freshwater fish species, posing risks for food security, incomes and nutrition. Rivers and lakes are the source of 13 million metric tonnes of fish annually, which in turn provide employment to 60 million people, the study by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Fish Center showed.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69L3XW20101022>

Media Articles:

WFP Unveils Software Platform to Tackle Drought in Africa, Business Daily, October 29

The World Food Programme (WFP) has developed an innovative software application that keeps real-time tabs on rainfall and its impact on local farmers that could help the agency anticipate droughts in Africa before they are felt.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/-/539444/1041824/-/view/printVersion/-/iy19nx/-/index.html>

Climate Change Policy: Cancun Offers Slim Hopes of Progress, Financial Times, October 29

A year since the Copenhagen summit brought world leaders together to try to forge a global agreement on climate change, the prospect of a treaty looks as remote as ever. In the intervening months, some of the fissures that were apparent at the summit have opened even wider, and this year's United Nations meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in early December looks set to be a fractious affair.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6fb5f38a-e2e8-11df-9735-00144feabdc0.html>

Kenya: Fears of Surplus Maize Harvest Going to Waste, IRIN, October 29

After poor harvests due to erratic rains that culminated in a drought in early 2009, most maize farmers in Kenya are enjoying better times due to enhanced March-May long rains. However, they are struggling to offload a surplus harvest of the key staple amid fears that short October to December rains could lead to heavy post-harvest losses.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90919>

Australian Drought Begins to Bite, The National, October 28

A vast swathe of the southern portion of the country has been devastated. Furious farmers are responding by setting in flames copies of plans for reducing water usage.

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/worldwide/asia-pacific/australian-drought-begins-to-bite>

Russia Warns over Winter Grain Crop, Financial Times, October 27

Russia has warned that the extreme drought that ruined its grain crop this year has impeded planting of winter grain, raising fears of another poor harvest in 2011.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b124beea-e1f4-11df-a064-00144feabdc0.html>

World Bank Investing in Biodiversity, UPI, October 27

Conservation of environments needs to occur in conjunction with international development, the director of the World Bank said in Japan. "Preserving ecosystems and saving species are not luxuries for the rich," said World Bank President Robert Zoellick in remarks before a biodiversity conference. "Conservation and development can go hand in hand." Zoellick was speaking before delegates at a U.N.-backed convention on biological diversity in Nagoya, Japan.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/10/27/World-Bank-investing-in-biodiversity/UPI-15711288182176/

West, Central Africa Hurting from Floods, *UPI, October 26*

Flooding in central and West Africa has affected more than 1.8 million people, killing nearly 400, a United Nations agency said Tuesday.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/10/26/West-central-Africa-hurting-from-floods/UPI-17271288141172/

U.S. Envoy Says Deal on Climate is Possible, *Wall Street Journal, October 23*

The top U.S. climate-change negotiator said after a "constructive" meeting with his Chinese counterpart that "there's a deal to be had" at the November global-warming summit in Mexico.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303738504575567700324746086.html>

Economy and the Environment: The World Bank's View, *The New York Times, October 22*

Thompson Ayodele's Oct. 16 Op-Ed article, "The World Bank's Palm Oil Mistake," says the World Bank has decided to emphasize the environment over poverty reduction. In fact, our emphasis is on finding a balance between sustained economic development and sustainable environmental practices. At times this creates tension, and the palm oil sector is an example. Palm oil cultivation has boosted many economies, improving food security and creating jobs, but it has also been associated in some countries with negative environmental and social impacts.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/23/opinion/l23bank.html>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

Gender, Politics and Social Protection, *Overseas Development Institute, October 2010*

This briefing paper explores the political economy of social protection and its effects on gender relations, drawing on interviews, household surveys, focus group discussions and life histories in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4943.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Social Protection Programming: The Need for a Gender Lens, *Overseas Development Institute, October 2010*

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4944.pdf>

Gender and Fisheries: Do Women Support, Complement or Subsidize Men's Small-Scale Fishing Activities, *World Fish Center, 2010*

Women's involvement in fisheries is more significant than often assumed. According to current estimates from nine major fish producing countries, they comprise 46% of the labor force in smallscale capture fisheries-related activities, including pre- and post-harvesting work. Their current engagement is shaped by rapidly dwindling fisheries stocks on one hand, and the increased global demand for fish on the other.

http://www.worldfishcenter.org/resource_centre/IssuesBrief2108.pdf

Media Articles:

Closing Gender Gaps Crucial to Equitable, Efficient Economic Development Management-Gepmi-Africa Partners, *AllAfrica, October 28*

Four development institutions including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the Makerere University, Kampala (MUK), on Wednesday October 27, 2010 in Tunis, jointly launched the Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI-Africa).

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010290289.html>

Mali's Women Face an Even Tougher Future, *Guardian*, October 25

It's the women who are working hardest to adapt to the new climate reality but they're not the first to see the benefits.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/oct/25/mali-climate-change-women-labour-environment>

An Uncompromising Woman, *The New York Times*, October 22

Sirleaf would agree with the assessments of why she should keep running Liberia. And she doesn't hesitate in declaring that women make better leaders. Women lead more than a quarter of her ministries. If she could find enough qualified females, she told me this summer, and if she could make changes across the board without upsetting political balances, she would appoint women to lead every one of them.

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

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Media Articles:

Potash in the Limelight as Food Prices Soar, *BBC*, October 29

As food prices soar again, the demand for fertiliser and the companies that produce it is rising. BHP Billiton's \$40bn hostile bid for Canada's PotashCorp has catapulted potash to the centre stage in the debate about food security.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-11654179>

Hot Potato in China's Rising Food Costs, *Wall Street Journal*, October 27

China's hunger is cascading across global markets, pushing prices of food commodities sharply higher lately. Back home, this boom is becoming a source of worry.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304173704575577582904282968.html>

SEE ALSO: China Curbs Speculation in Agricultural Futures As Prices Surge to Records, *Bloomberg*, October 29

China's move to increase margin limits on agricultural futures including rubber and rice is aimed at curbing trading risks and containing inflation as prices surge, an analyst at Wanda Futures Co. said today.

Don't Blame Spectators for Rising Soya Prices, *Financial Times*, October 26

Corn, soybean and wheat prices, have rallied markedly over the last several months. The impact is being felt by consumers facing higher prices at the supermarket, companies whose margins have been squeezed and policymakers in emerging economies who are having to deal with sharply higher food inflation. As is often the case, some are blaming the participation of speculators for these moves higher. But the truth lies in the numbers. While speculative long positions are at near-record highs, inventories have tightened meaningfully and to near-record lows in some cases.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e81d369c-e114-11df-90b7-00144feabdc0.html>

Sugar Merchant Forecasts Jump in Demand, *Financial Times*, October 26

A 50 per cent rise in global sugar consumption over the next 20 years will strain already groaning infrastructure and force prices higher, one of the top sugar merchants has warned. Czarnikow, the London-based sugar company that dates back to 1861, said long-term prices would need to stay above 22 cents a pound to encourage the necessary investment in production. That is more than double the prices of the past quarter-century, when sugar sold at an average of 10 cents.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2f450ed6-e085-11df-abc1-00144feabdc0.html>

Cotton's Middlemen Pinched by High Price, *Financial Times*, October 25

Cotton's continued rise to historic highs is hurting the middlemen that buy the fibre from farmers and export it to textile mills.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/28095d3a-e061-11df-99a3-00144feabdc0.html>

Severe Weather Has Little Affect on Asia's Rice Market, *Voice of America*, October 25

Monsoons, typhoons and drought in Asia this year ruined rice crops, but it appears that rice stocks are little affected. The governments of several major rice exporters have abundant supplies.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/asia/Severe-Weather-Has-Little-Affect-on-Asias-Rice-Market--105664243.html>

Global Food Crisis Forecast as Prices Reach Record Highs, *Guardian*, October 25

Rising food prices and shortages could cause instability in many countries as the cost of staple foods and vegetables reached their highest levels in two years, with scientists predicting further widespread droughts and floods.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/oct/25/impending-global-food-crisis>

SEE ALSO: Six Casualties of the World Food Crisis, *Guardian*, October 25

Extreme weather and market forces have affected the price of everything from Israel's tomatoes to South Korean cabbage.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/oct/25/food-prices-crisis-staple-foods>

Speculators Deny Rights of the Hungry, *Financial Times*, October 25

To paraphrase John Maynard Keynes, I would argue that when the provisioning of food for the global community becomes a byproduct of the activities of a casino, the job is likely to be ill done. Food security is no joke, it is a human right, and no speculators have the right to take that away from the people.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ed78484c-dfcb-11df-bed9-00144feabdc0.html>

China Commerce Ministry: To Further Stabilize Edible Oil, Sugar Markets, *Wall Street Journal*, October 24

China will further stabilize edible oil and sugar markets by ensuring supply, the country's Ministry of Commerce said. Edible oil and sugar are among a range of food commodities including soybeans, corn, wheat, soyoil, mung beans and garlic, for which prices have moved sharply higher this year, testing the country's food security and the government's policy of maintaining food price stability.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20101024-703159.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Agribusiness Forum to Focus on Horticulture and Tea, *AllAfrica*, October 29

The high-level conference on agribusiness slated for November 3rd 2010 has listed horticulture and tea sectors as the priority areas to be discussed, in a move to attract investors.

The forum organized by Rwanda Development Board (RDB) Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank is expected to gather 250 delegates including airliners, importers, bankers and investors.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010290110.html>

The Post-Alcohol World, *Economist*, October 28

North American ethanol is mostly made from corn (maize), which is less efficient, and often produced in distilleries powered by coal; it is thus neither as cheap nor as environmentally benign. But American agribusiness, which knows a good thing when it sees one, used its political clout to arrange subsidies and tariffs that made corn-ethanol profitable and that kept out the alternative from Brazil.

http://www.economist.com/node/17358802?story_id=17358802

Fears Over Bright Food's Appetite for Deal, *Financial Times*, October 28

The private equity owners of United Biscuits fear that Bright Food, the Chinese group in exclusive talks to buy the UK biscuit maker, may be distracted by other assets on the block.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2efbb43a-e214-11df-9233-00144feabdc0.html>

Cargill Mulls Scheme Aimed at Saving Indonesia Forests, *Reuters, October 27*

Agribusiness giant Cargill Inc may well become the first major palm oil buyer to invest in a carbon credit scheme that rewards nations like Indonesia for preserving forests, a key official said on Wednesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69Q20H20101027>

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