

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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### CONTENTS

Key Articles

Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities

New Reports/Policy Briefs/Books

Upcoming Events

Employment Opportunities

Agricultural Issues

Foreign Assistance

Environment (Water/Climate)

Women

Market Access and Trade Issues

Agribusiness

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### KEY ARTICLES

**Only 15 pct of G8 food aid pledge is new-sources**, *Reuters, November 3*

Only \$3 billion of the \$20 billion promised by a G8 summit over the next three years to boost agriculture in poor countries appears to be new money, diplomats and sources close to the matter said. "In the \$20 billion figure people have included all sorts of things, double counting stuff, putting in loans and grants: the real new money is \$3 billion at best," one diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL3424540>

**Food for Thought on Food Security**, *Raymond C. Offenheiser (President, Oxfam US), AllAfrica.com, November 2*

This year, the world will witness a new record, albeit a devastating one: for the first time in our history, over one billion people in the world suffer from daily hunger. That's almost one in every six people on this planet living in fear of starvation. It is a crisis with far-reaching effects. Hunger weakens immune systems and stunts child development. Without enough food, adults struggle to work and children struggle to learn, creating lifelong disadvantages and undermining sustainable economic development. Worst of all, hunger kills.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911021587.html>

**Africa's Seat at the Table**, Abdoulaye Wade (President, Senegal), *Huffington Post, November 5*

Africa's concerns today are interconnected with those of the West -- and solutions must come from all continents and sectors. Battling global warming, the economic crisis, food and energy shortages, and AIDS and malaria requires co-partners, not post-colonial relationships. The U.S. and Europe have no monopoly on brainpower, and African leaders must wake up to a new reality: We are finally being listened to by the industrial world.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/president-abdoulaye-wade/africas-seat-at-the-table\\_b\\_346142.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/president-abdoulaye-wade/africas-seat-at-the-table_b_346142.html)

**Is fight against hunger a matter of security?**, *Christian Science Monitor*, November 2

"People now have a clear sense of the linkages between food security and national security," says Dr. Kanayo Nwanze, president of the United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development. That understanding is helping bring questions of hunger and rural development to a broader audience, he says, "as well as to some very high places." Hunger now can mean increased cross-border and international migration. And the riots that accompanied recent food shortages and price hikes in several parts of the world show how hunger can destabilize governments in regions of critical importance to the international battle against extremism.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1103/p02s13-usgn.html>

**Troop Increases? What about the other side of the foreign policy coin?**, *J. Brian Atwood, The Huffington Post*, November 2

More than eight months after President Obama took office, USAID remains without an Administrator. While an announcement could happen imminently, the agency -- and indeed the entire US government -- has lacked a politically-empowered figure dedicated solely to U.S. global development policy during a time of unprecedented stock-taking on these issues in the US government. No one doubts the sincerity of the administration's commitment to development. Consider the recent focus on climate change, food security, and gender equality addressed at the G-20, the United Nations General Assembly, and the Clinton Global Initiative. While these are all worthy initiatives, they have been put forth in the absence of an overall development strategy.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/j-brian-atwood/troop-increases-what-abou\\_b\\_342553.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/j-brian-atwood/troop-increases-what-abou_b_342553.html)

**Why Africa welcomes the Chinese**, *Paul Kagame (President, Rwanda), Op-ed, The Guardian*, November 2

Ultimately, Africa's relationship with its international counterparts should be redefined. For too long, we have not been able to trade fairly with Europe and the US; trade barriers and subsidies, particularly in agriculture, have protected external markets from African products, hindering our ability to trade as equals. Investment and trade with willing countries, including intra-African trade, helps the continent to build a much-needed culture of entrepreneurship and development.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/nov/02/aid-trade-rwanda-china-west>

**See Also: Brazil, others squeeze China in scramble for Africa**, *Reuters*, November 4

China is leading the pack in the 21st century 'scramble for Africa' but anybody who thinks Beijing has the continent sewn up need only glance at the passport of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE5A307020091104?sp=true>

**Agricultural Prices**, *National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Statistic Board, USDA*, October 2009

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/AgriPric/2000s/2009/AgriPric-10-30-2009.pdf>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - USAID Foreign Service Agricultural Officers**

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

**Casey Stresses Urgent Need for Action on Global Food Security**, *U.S. Senator Robert Casey*, October 29

Following an announcement by the U.N. Food Agency of a record one billion people in the world who go hungry, U.S. Senator Bob Casey today took to the Senate floor to urge his Senate colleagues to take action on global food security and pass the Global Food Security Act. "This is a humanitarian crisis of immense

proportions that we can go a long way towards solving,” Senator Casey said. “This crisis is solvable with a combination of assistance and emphasis on providing small farmers around the world with the know-how, technology and means to provide for themselves.”

<http://casey.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=9449B013-0EE8-4BB9-AD38-860B1DAB4AC0>

**The State of Hillary: A Mixed Record on the Job**, *Joe Klein, TIME, November 5*

There are, however, three qualities that could make her a memorable Secretary of State. She brings a vision of departmental reform — the need to elevate foreign aid programs to the same status and rigorous scrutiny as diplomacy — that could change striped pants into chinos in the developing world.

<http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1934843,00.html>

**US farm trade nominee Siddiqui defends record**, *Reuters, November 4*

The Obama administration's pick for chief agricultural trade negotiator defended himself against charges from environmental groups and others who said he would favor big agribusiness over small farms and organic farmers if confirmed.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN0454770820091104>

**See Also: Statement of Islam A. Siddiqui, Nominee for Chief Agricultural Negotiator, United State Trade Representative**, *Before the Senate Finance Committee, November 4*

<http://finance.senate.gov/hearings/testimony/2009test/110409istest.pdf>

**See Also: Pesticide-Industry Rep Picked for Trade Post Draws Fire**, *New York Times, November 3*

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/11/03/03greenwire-pesticide-industry-rep-picked-for-trade-post-dr-4316.html>

**See Also: Questions for a Trade Official**, *Editorial, New York Times, November 4*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/04/opinion/04wed4.html>

**Remarks before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee**, *Daniel W. Yohannes, Nominee for CEO of Millennium Challenge Corporation, November 3*

I know the meaningful and measurable impact every dollar—every container of food or medical supplies—can have on their lives. I believe in opportunity. I come from one of the poorest countries on Earth. Ethiopia has experienced its share of devastation and instability. It knows all too well the pain of entrenched poverty.

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/YohannesTestimony091104p.pdf>

**See Also: Millennium Challenge Corporation: MCC Has Addressed a Number of Implementation Challenges, but Needs to Improve Financial Controls and Infrastructure Planning**, *U.S.*

*Government Accountability Office, November 2009*

This report, directed by the fiscal year 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, assesses MCC and MCA (1) financial controls; (2) procurement practices; and (3) development, implementation, and oversight of contracts and projects. GAO focused on financial and procurement transactions and projects at MCAs in Honduras, Georgia, and Cape Verde, countries with high disbursement totals as of the end of fiscal year 2008.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1052.pdf>

**Climate Bill Shows Democrats' Unease**, *Wall Street Journal, November 6*

Sen. Max Baucus (D., Mont.) voted against his own party's climate-change bill, calling for a scaled-back measure that might win more bipartisan support. Mr. Baucus, a key player in the health-care overhaul debate, said the measure set too ambitious a target for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 2020, and hadn't done enough to protect farmers.

**See Also: Democrats Push Climate Bill Through Panel Without G.O.P. Debate**, *New York Times, November 6*

Mr. Baucus's vote against the bill was another ominous sign. He is the influential chairman of the Finance Committee and a senior member of the Agriculture Committee, both of which will have major input in any final climate and energy legislation. He said the bill's emission reduction targets were too ambitious and its agriculture provisions too weak.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/06/us/politics/06climate.html>

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## NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

### **Food Security and Agricultural Mitigation in Developing Countries: Options for Capturing Synergies**, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, November 2009*

The paper explores potential synergies between food security, adaptation and climate change mitigation from land-based agricultural practices in developing countries, which could help to generate the multiple benefits needed to address the multiple demands placed on agriculture. It indicates promising mitigation options with synergies, options that involve trade-offs, possible options for required financing, and possible elements in designing country implementation processes.

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/ak596e/ak596e00.pdf>

**See Also: Agriculture Both Climate Change Victim and Contributor**, *VOA News, November 5*

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-11-05-voa35.cfm>

### **Food and nutrition emergencies in East Africa**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, November 2009*

This paper attempts to describe the underlying reasons for the repeated hunger crises on the African continent, particularly in East Africa, followed by a brief analysis of additional factors that may exacerbate such emergencies.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00909.pdf>

### **Reduced Emissions and Enhanced Adaption in Agricultural Landscapes**, *World Bank, Agriculture and Rural Development, Issue 50, October 2009*

This policy brief sets out the key issues on: carbon as an integral part of sustainable land, water and biodiversity management in developing country agricultural landscapes and in any post-2012 framework and market mechanisms; agricultural soil carbon measurement, modeling and monitoring capabilities; challenges and opportunities in estimating soil carbon stocks and changes; a robust and integrated measurement and monitoring system; and further action steps to ensure objective consideration of agricultural soil carbon in post-2012 climate change solutions.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/WB\\_ARC\\_ClimateChange\\_v3.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/WB_ARC_ClimateChange_v3.pdf)

### **Mapping Drought Patterns and Impacts: A Global Perspective**, *International Water Management Institute, October 2009*

This study examines the global patterns and impacts of droughts through the mapping of several drought-related characteristics. Characteristics cover various aspects of droughts – from global distribution of meteorological and hydrological drought risks to social vulnerability and indices related to water infrastructure. The report points out that in drought years, the highest per capita loss of river flow occurs in areas that do not normally experience climate-driven water scarcity. It also illustrates that the African continent is lagging behind the rest of the world on many indicators related to drought preparedness and that agricultural economies, overall, are much more vulnerable to adverse societal impacts of meteorological droughts.

[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/IWMI\\_Research\\_Reports/PDF/PUB133/RR133.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/IWMI_Research_Reports/PDF/PUB133/RR133.pdf)

### **Minding the Stock: Bringing Public Policy to Bear on Livestock Sector Development**, *World Bank, November 2009*

This report presents an analysis of the issues related to market failures in the livestock sector, and an examination of policy and investment options that can be used to overcome them. Its principal intended audience includes policy makers and development practitioners.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/FinalMindingtheStock.pdf>

### **Assessing the economic viability of alternative water resources in water-scarce regions**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, November 2009*

This paper demonstrates a comprehensive methodology for assessing the viability of an environmental management plan that has long-run economic and ecological impacts.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00908.pdf>

**No Place Like Home: What's Next for Climate Refugees?**, *Environmental Justice Foundation, November 2009*

Every year climate change is attributable for the deaths of over 300,000 people, seriously affects a further 325 million people, and causes economic losses of US\$125 billion. Four billion people are vulnerable to the effects of climate change and 500-600 million people – around 10% of the planet's human population – are at extreme risk. As such, climate change has been recognised as a fundamental threat to human rights.

[http://www.ejfoundation.org/pdf/climate\\_refugees\\_report.pdf](http://www.ejfoundation.org/pdf/climate_refugees_report.pdf)

**See Also: Global warming could create 150 million 'climate refugees' by 2050**, *The Guardian, November 3*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/nov/03/global-warming-climate-refugees>

**Seed Business Management in Africa**, *Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo (CIMMYT), November 2009*

Seed businesses are a rapidly emerging form of entrepreneurship in Africa. The new seed entrepreneurs range in size, area of operation and seed products, but they may be found in most African states and are characterized by zeal and vision. The question that many consider is how to help these fledgling and growing businesses to become profitable and sustainable. This book aims to contribute to the answer by providing seed entrepreneurs with information on seed business management, particularly as it relates to the maize seed market.

<http://www.cimmyt.org/english/docs/manual/seedbusinessafrica.pdf>

**The Impact of the Doha Round on Kenya**, *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, November 2009*

Eliminating export subsidies for agriculture in Europe and the United States would help Kenya more than partial reductions of domestic support to agriculture in these countries and cuts to tariffs around the world. Kenya would enjoy gains in agriculture, processed food, and the service sector, but experience losses in manufacturing and mining. Changes in the Kenyan economy would decrease poverty, and income distribution in rural regions would fall slightly, but the gap between wages in urban versus rural areas would expand.

[http://carnegieendowment.org/files/impact\\_doha\\_kenya.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/impact_doha_kenya.pdf)

**Linking shareholder and natural value: Managing biodiversity and ecosystem services risk in companies with an agricultural supply chain**, *Natural Value Initiative, October 2009*

Each year, it is estimated that we are losing ecosystem services, with an annual value equivalent to around € 50 billion, from land-based ecosystems alone. This loss has important implications for the long-term viability of the businesses dependent on these services, in particular those with agricultural supply chains.

[http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/linking\\_shareholder\\_natural\\_value.pdf](http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/linking_shareholder_natural_value.pdf)

**The Future of Global Health: Ingredients for a Bold and Effective U.S. Initiative**, *Coalition of Health-Related Groups, September 2009*

Major accomplishments in global health over the last decade demonstrate that adequately resourced programs, focused on achieving specific results, can improve health outcomes for millions and support economic progress. They also show that distinct public health challenges are closely interconnected and that a comprehensive and integrated strategy is needed to ensure that ambitious health goals are met. The next step forward in US global health must be defined by significantly expanded investments, a bold vision of what U.S. assistance can accomplish, and building on successful programs to increase effectiveness and self-sufficiency at the country level.

<http://www.theglobalhealthinitiative.org/documents/report.pdf>

**See Also: New Report Puts Forth Proposals for U.S. Global Health Initiative**, *VOA News, October 30*

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-10-29-voa32.cfm>

**Repowering the World Bank for the 21st Century**, *Report of the High Level Commission on Modernization of World Bank Group Governance, October 2009*

This recently completed external review of the World Bank Group's governance headed by former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo provides a series of recommendations supporting further governance reforms,

commends the Bank for expanding initiatives during the financial crisis, and supports strengthening the Bank's financial capacity.

<http://www.ycsg.yale.edu/center/forms/WorldBank.pdf>

**Improving Drought Responses in Pastoral Areas of Kenya**, *Overseas Development Institute, October 2009*

The impact of recurrent drought-related crises in the Horn of Africa is rapidly escalating, with more and more people being affected each time a drought occurs. The current ability of pastoralists to respond to drought is limited not only due to the increasing frequency of drought, but also due to increasing population, a dwindling resource base, conflict, changes in access to land and water, as well as the impact of other shocks such as flooding and disease outbreaks. This briefing paper explores the responses to the 2005–2006 drought in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, focusing particularly on the extent to which livelihoods interventions were implemented among pastoral populations.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=4408&title=kenya-pastoralists>

**Land Grabs in Africa: Can Deals Work for Development?** *International Institute for Environment and Development, September 2009*

For many millions in the developing world, land is central to livelihoods, food security, even identity – the result of a direct dependence on agriculture and natural resources. It is not surprising, then, that a recent wave of large-scale land acquisitions in poorer countries has sparked a major debate. Through these acquisitions, interests in richer countries are buying or leasing large tracts of farmland for agricultural investment in Africa, Central and Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. An analysis of this complex and shifting situation, focusing on Africa, lays out key trends, drivers and main features, and outlines how to make the renewed momentum in agricultural investment work for local development and livelihoods.

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/17069IIED.pdf>

**Economists & Climate Change: Consensus and Open Questions**, *Institute for Policy Integrity, New York University School of Law*

This policy brief describes and analyzes the results of a survey sent to 289 economic experts on climate change. The pool was selected from authors of research published in one of the top twenty-five economic journals. 84% agreed the effects of global warming "create significant risks" to the economy, particularly to agriculture, fishing, insurance and health.

<http://policyintegrity.org/publications/documents/EconomistsandClimateChange.pdf>

**Mile Matters: The Role and Value of Milk in the Diets of Somali Pastoralist Children in Liben and Shinile, Ethiopia**, *Feinstein International Center, Save the Children USA and Save the Children UK, November 2009*

Based on work conducted in Shinile and Liben Zones of Somali Region Ethiopia, this study aimed to ask pastoralist women and men what they think about important causes of child malnutrition, links between child nutritional status and animal milk supply, and "best bet" interventions for addressing malnutrition in their communities. The authors find that the demand for and perceived benefit of animal milk for young children is high and that, when it is available, it makes a large contribution to the dietary intake of young children in study communities.

<http://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/download/attachments/30933049/milkmatters2.pdf?version=1>

**Cash on Delivery Aid**, *UK's Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, CAFOD Briefing, August 2009*

Instead of donors giving money to developing countries to fund aid programmes, "Cash on Delivery" proposes to reward developing countries once they have achieved specific results. UK's Catholic Agency For Overseas Development weighs up the risks and opportunities.

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/content/download/102078/1129768/version/6/file/CAFOD+COD+Briefing.pdf>

**Fake Aid**, *International Policy Network, September 2009*

The Department for International Development (DfID) claims to be "leading the UK government's fight against world poverty". However, increasing amounts of DfID funds are channelled through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to fund lobbying activities, marketing, and the promotion of political ideology, often within the UK.

**See Also: Kenya: Why Aid Never Reaches Poor People**, *AllAfrica.com*, November 3  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200911021659.html>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agricultural Development**

*Date:* November 12, 2009

*Location:* International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC

Learning from successes in agricultural development is now more urgent than ever. Progress in feeding the world's billions has slowed, while the challenge of feeding its future millions remains enormous and is subject to new uncertainties in the global food and agricultural systems.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/millions-fed-proven-successes-agricultural-development>

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

*Date:* November 16-18, 2009

*Location:* Rome, Italy

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

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

*Date:* November 30-December 1, 2009

*Location:* London, UK

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

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### **The Obama Administration and Food, Year One**, *Huffington Post*, November 6

In July, President Obama secured \$25 billion in agricultural aid at the G8 in Italy, and has stated his interest in a second green revolution for Africa in an interview (the first one brought genetically modified seeds to India, and created chemical dependence and debt in its wake). If his team, led by Secretary of State Clinton, and including pro-biotechnology Nina Federoff and Rajiv Shah, is any indication, instead of focusing on localized education, markets and infrastructure in need of food security, this money could be invested in shiny new technologies that are years from implementation, have yet to fulfill the promise of high yields, and that are overly dependent on irrigation (water) and chemical fertilizers (oil).

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paula-crossfield/the-obama-administration\\_b\\_343389.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paula-crossfield/the-obama-administration_b_343389.html)

### **Agriculture and satellites: Harvest moon**, *Economist*, November 5

For farmers, working out the optimal amount of seed, fertiliser, pesticide and water to scatter on a field can make, or break, the subsequent harvest. Regular laboratory analyses of soil and plant samples from various parts of the field can help—but such expertise is costly, and often unavailable. A new and cheaper method of doing this analysis, though, is now on offer. Precise prescriptions for growing crops can be obtained quickly, and less expensively, by measuring electromagnetic radiation reflected from farmland. The data are collected by orbiting satellites.

[http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14793411](http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14793411)

### **Ethiopia targets 3 million ha for commercial farms**, *Reuters*, November 5

Ethiopia plans to offer 3 million hectares of land over the next two years for investors to develop large-scale commercial farms, a government official said. Countries in Asia and the Gulf -- such as China, India and Saudi Arabia -- have rushed to buy farmland abroad to grow crops for their own people after food price inflation last year highlighted the need for greater food security.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE5A400B20091105>

**Agriculture: Superpower is ready to feed the world**, *Financial Times*, November 4

From a middling agricultural country, Brazil has grown into a superpower in the past two decades, becoming the world's biggest exporter of beef, chicken, orange juice, green coffee, sugar, ethanol, tobacco and the "soya complex" of beans, meal and oil, as well as fourth biggest exporter of maize and pork. Unlike much of Brazil's economy, where productivity gains have been less than spectacular, agriculture has achieved its new status almost entirely on the basis of more efficient management and the development and application of technology.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e079f622-c8d9-11de-8f9d-00144feabdc0.html>

**Post-harvest losses aggravate hunger: Improved technology and training show success in reducing losses, FAO, November 2**

Significant amounts of the food produced in developing countries is lost after harvest thereby aggravating hunger, the FAO said. The agency stressed that with adequate investment and training food losses could be drastically reduced. The causes of post-harvest losses, which some estimates suggest could range from 15 to as high as 50 percent of what is produced, are manifold.

**See Also:** List of FAO publications on post-harvest management:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/ags/subjects/en/harvest/publications.html>

**Global protocol could limit Sub-Saharan land grab, The Times (U.K.), November 2**

Aggressive moves by China, South Korea and Gulf states to buy vast tracts of agricultural land in sub-Saharan Africa could soon be limited by a new global international protocol. A scramble for African farmland has in recent years seen the equivalent of Italy's entire arable land hoovered up by businesses from emerging economies.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/nov/02/global-protocol-subsahara-land-grab>

**Farmers growing electricity along with their crops, Associated Press, November 2**

No one really knows how many U.S. farms use renewable energy, such as solar photovoltaic panels, hydroelectric generators, and methane digesters. The 2007 Farm Census found 23,451 out of more than 2 million farms — about 1 percent — generated some kind of electricity or energy, but just what that means is unclear. But more farms are installing renewable energy. The motivation was sparked by the 2008 spike in fuel prices, and is being fanned by a range of grants and tax credits handed out by state, federal and private agencies.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gl6kDmlAJIOG0kE4CsOeA0REz2igD9BN95B80>

**Frank talk about food sometimes quashed, SF Gate, November 1**

We know how to solve world hunger problems: promote breastfeeding, provide clean water and safe food, empower women, educate children, develop community food security, promote agricultural sustainability and ensure political stability. These strategies are social, not technological.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/10/30/FD4A1ABD12.DTL>

**A Microcosm of Global Food Security, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, November 2009**

As government leaders gather for the World Food Summit in Rome during November, they would do well to consider the case of East Timor – viewing it as an instructive microcosm of global efforts to achieve food security.

<http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/november2009.html>

**Africa's urban farmers increase income through absentee agriculture, The Daily Star (Lebanon), October 31**

Wangari is one of thousands of urban workers in Kenya – and one of hundreds of thousands, even millions, across Africa – who are increasing their incomes through absentee agriculture. With prices for basic foodstuffs at their highest levels in decades, many urbanites feel well rewarded by farming. Across Africa, political leaders, long dismissive of rural concerns, have awakened to the importance of agriculture and the role that educated people, even those living in major cities, can play in farming.

[http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1&categ\\_id=5&article\\_id=108165](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=5&article_id=108165)

**Late Harvest Sows Problems for Farmers, *Wall Street Journal, October 31***

The combination of a late planting season and an unusually cool, wet fall is causing one of the latest harvests in recent memory. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said just 20% of the corn crop had been harvested in the major corn-producing states, compared with 58% on average by this point in 2004 through 2008. Farmers also had brought in just 44% of the soybean crop, versus 88% on average over the past five seasons. The slowdown complicates life for farmers and threatens to take a bite out of their earnings in a year when net farm income already was expected to be 38% below last year's near-record high.

**See Also: Farmers go nocturnal to harvest, *Des Moines Register, October 30***

[http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091030/BUSINESS01/910300374/-1/cyclone\\_insider](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091030/BUSINESS01/910300374/-1/cyclone_insider)

**Harvest to Accelerate, *University of Illinois, November 2***

<http://www.farmdoc.illinois.edu/marketing/weekly/html/110209.html>

**In rural India, resistance to nuclear plants, *The Washington Post, October 31***

Standing precariously on the thin edge of a newly dug well, Ajitbhai Narela looked out proudly at his groundnut and mango saplings. For decades, he said, his family has tilled the soil here, working the land and producing sweet-tasting fruit. But soon, he noted, the fields may disappear. If Indian officials have their way, land in this seaside village will be paved over for a nuclear power plant. "This is our birthplace. We have farmed this land with our blood and sweat over generations," said Narela, 55. "The government can cremate us right here, but we will not sell our land."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/30/AR2009103003611.html>

**Guidelines could help improve farmland deals-IFAD, *Reuters, October 30***

A draft of the first-ever international code of conduct for farmland deals should be ready by the end of the year, Kanayo Nwanze, president United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development, said. The draft document will lead to more discussion about how to ensure deals benefit host nations, as well as those seeking to buy or lease crop land, to ensure food security.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN30303970>

**FAO Targets Land Tenure: Land ownership laws a key instrument in fighting hunger, *FAO, October 27***

FAO has begun widespread consultations over the first ever international guidelines on governance of tenure to land and other natural resources such as water supplies, fisheries and forests. The consultations and negotiations, responding to requests from the international community and from governments, will take more than a year to complete.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/36230/icode/>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**The Berlin Wall of Aid: When Will It Fall?, *Glenn Hubbard (Dean, Columbia Business School), Op-Ed, Wall Street Journal, November 6***

The Marshall Plan might not be the only way to shift large amounts of aid to the local business sector in poor countries. If there is an easier or faster way, all the better. But the time has come for the Berlin Wall of aid to fall. Sub-Saharan Africa is as poor today as it was 50 years ago despite increases in foreign aid.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703574604574501603064761392.html>

**Africa aid can lower reliance on U.S. consumers: World Bank, *Reuters, November 5***

Development aid to Africa can boost domestic demand on the continent and help ween the global economy from over-reliance on personal consumption in the United States, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, managing director at the international lender, said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Economy/idUSTRE5A40PL20091105>

**Arab bank to step up support for African agriculture, *Reuters, November 4***

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) is to step up funding for agriculture projects to help governments stave off future food price crises and droughts, the bank's director general said. Abdelaziz

Khelef said the bank would increase total commitments to \$1 billion under a new 2010-2014 five-year plan, a \$100 million increase from the previous plan. A quarter of that money would now go to agricultural and food security projects, up from less than 20 per cent in the last five-year period, he added.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E5A30B420091104>

**Premier to roll out aid plans for Africa's growth**, *Xinhua*, November 3

A number of far-reaching plans to help the livelihood of Africans will be announced by Premier Wen Jiabao next week at a summit between Beijing officials and African leaders. "We will pay more attention to the buildup of Africa's capability of independent development," said Deputy Commerce Minister Chen Jian at a press briefing for Wen's visit to Egypt scheduled from Nov 6-8. "We will further push China-Africa cooperation forward in various fields such as agriculture, food safety, infrastructure construction, trade, investment and healthcare."

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-11/03/content\\_12375836.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-11/03/content_12375836.htm)

**Disney to give \$7m to forest projects**, *Financial Times*, November 3

Walt Disney has formed a partnership with several environmental charities to invest in forestry conservation projects in South America and Africa, one of a series of moves by US companies to boost their green credentials ahead of next month's Copenhagen summit on climate change.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/67747574-c855-11de-a69e-00144feabdc0.html>

**Battle looms over UN funding**, *Financial Times*, November 1

The UK's cash-strapped Foreign Office is leading the charge in a looming battle over the rising cost of funding the UN and who should pay for it. Ban Ki-moon, UN secretary-general, last week asked for \$4.9bn (€3.3bn, £2.9bn) to finance the organisation's so-called regular budget over the next two years.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6b67640c-c706-11de-bb6f-00144feab49a.html>

**The Tools to Save Lives**, *Newsweek*, October 31

Despite losing \$18 billion of his net worth in the financial collapse, Bill Gates remains a self-described "impatient optimist"--about global health, that is. He stepped down as Microsoft CEO in June 2008 to devote more time to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest philanthropic organization in the world. He and his wife, Melinda, met with NEWSWEEK's Jerry Guo in Washington last week before a major speech to policymakers on health programs.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/220524>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**New climate change treaty could be ready in 2010, U.N. official says**, *CNN*, November 6

A new international treaty to combat climate change will not be ready when 40 world leaders meet next month in Copenhagen but may be finished next year, a top United Nations official said. "What we will need after Copenhagen is a little time," said Yvo de Boer, head of the United Nations climate change secretariat. "I don't know how much time to turn that operational language into a treaty, if that is what governments decide."

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/11/06/spain.climate.treaty/>

**See Also: UN chief damps climate treaty hopes**, *Financial Times*, November 3

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cecd1256-c8a2-11de-8f9d-00144feabdc0.html>

**Rich countries call on African bloc to keep climate talks on track**, *Guardian (U.K.)*, November 4

Rich countries today piled pressure on Africa not to derail climate talks after the poorest countries in the world shocked the UN by walking out of the official negotiations, demanding that their concerns be met. The African bloc complained that rich nations' carbon cuts were far too small to avoid catastrophic climate change, and refused to participate until more was done.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/nov/04/africa-walk-out-climate-talks-barcelona>

See the countries' negotiating positions here: <http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Environment/documents/2009/11/05/pledges.pdf>

**See Also: Africans boycott meetings at UN climate talks**, *The Washington Post*, November 3,  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/03/AR2009110300195.html>

**Climate Change Could Create Agricultural Winners And Losers In East Africa, New Study Warns**, *ScienceDaily*, November 3

As African leaders prepare to present an ambitious proposal to industrialized countries for coping with climate change in the part of the world that is most vulnerable to its impacts, a new study points to where and how some of this money should be spent. Published in the peer-reviewed journal *Agricultural Systems*, the study projects that climate change will have highly variable impacts on East Africa's vital maize and bean harvests over the next two to four decades, presenting growers and livestock keepers with both threats and opportunities.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/11/091102204438.htm>

**Stormy debate**, *Financial Times*, November 3

There are now only weeks to go before the most important ever international summit on climate change is held. The stakes could scarcely be higher, scientists have warned. "Changes are already occurring: increased desertification [and] changes to rainfall patterns," says Sir David King, former chief scientific adviser to the UK government. Worse problems are likely to follow: an increase in the number and intensity of storms, floods, droughts, heat waves and other "extreme weather events". Large swathes of the globe will become unsuitable for agriculture, and crop yields will decline in other areas. This will force the mass migration of hundreds of millions of people, leading to conflicts over resources.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8be809e4-c291-11de-be3a-00144feab49a.html>

**Heating up**, *Financial Times*, November 3

The US political system has now become the clearest obstacle to a deal. A cap-and-trade bill, with a target for emissions cuts and provisions allowing US companies to offset their own emissions by investments in poorer countries, has passed the House of Representatives and a slightly different one is in committee in the Senate. But there is almost certainly too little time left to clear the remaining legislative hurdles before Copenhagen. For its part, the Obama administration is unlikely to push too hard for victory, as a defeat would be disastrous for its stance at the summit.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a416c910-c7e6-11de-8ba8-00144feab49a.html>

**UK scientist seeks food security in climate deal**, *Reuters*, November 2

Agriculture has a critical role to play in a global agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions, the British farm ministry's chief scientist, Robert Watson, said. "The text has to recognize the critical role of agriculture in both mitigation and adaptation," said Watson.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE5A147020091102>

**The Carnivore's Dilemma**, *Nicolette Hahn Niman, Op-Ed, New York Times*, October 30

Singling out meat-eating as harmful to the environment is overly simplistic. Encouraging judicious choices for all types of food is a better approach.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/31/opinion/31niman.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/31/opinion/31niman.html?_r=1)

See Also: **Climate chief Lord Stern: give up meat to save the planet**, *The Times (U.K)*, October 27,  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6891362.ece>

**Devastating drought alters life for Kenya nomads**, *Associated Press*, November 2

The traditional way of life for Kenya's roughly three million nomads is rapidly giving way under the pressures of increasingly severe and frequent droughts, coupled with a rapidly rising population. In one particularly drought-prone district in Kenya, up to a third of the herdsmen have had to settle permanently because they have lost so many animals.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091102/ap\\_on\\_re\\_af/af\\_kenya\\_threatened\\_nomads](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091102/ap_on_re_af/af_kenya_threatened_nomads)

**Thirsty Plant Dries Out Yemen**, *New York Times*, October 31

Even as drought kills off Yemen's crops, farmers in villages like this one are turning increasingly to a thirsty plant called qat, the leaves of which are chewed every day by most Yemeni men (and some women) for their

mild narcotic effect. The farmers have little choice: qat is the only way to make a profit. Meanwhile, the water wells are running dry, and deep, ominous cracks have begun opening in the parched earth, some of them hundreds of yards long.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/01/world/middleeast/01yemen.html>

**India to proceed cautiously on river-linking plan, *The Daily Star, October 31***

India will move cautiously on interlinking of rivers taking its impact on environment and ecology into consideration, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said. Replying to a question on how interlinking of rivers can bring relief from the backdrop of droughts and floods in the country, Manmohan said there are different views among experts on how the interlinking of rivers can help provide water security to the people.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=112079>

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## WOMEN

**Fighting hunger takes effort, *Blake Selzer (Senior Policy Advocate, CARE), Op-Ed, Washington Times, November 5***

In many cultures, women and girls eat after the men and are given smaller amounts, though it is women who are most likely to feed their families and lead the way to solutions for entire communities. Yet many hunger initiatives are gender-blind. That is changing. The role of women is at the heart of several efforts to comprehensively address and combat the underlying causes of chronic hunger.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/nov/05/citizen-journalism-fighting-hunger-takes-effort/>

**USAID's Greene: Helping save lives with low-cost tools, *The Washington Post, November 2***

Children in developing countries die each year from common illnesses such as measles, diarrhea, pneumonia and malaria, while newborns die from delivery complications, tetanus and infections. Many women in developing countries die from complicated childbirth and malnutrition.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/02/AR2009110200713.html>

**Women Are Behind 80 Percent of Continent's Food Production, *AllAfrica.com, October 31***

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) considers gender mainstreaming, or involving women in farming development efforts, an essential component of its efforts to improve food security in Africa. This is especially the case when it comes to economic empowerment. Annina Lubbock is Ifad's senior technical advisor for gender and household food security. She oversees how to improve the impact of Ifad's programs, both in terms of loans and grants, as well as empowering women to achieve gender equality.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910310003.html>

**South Africa: Women Farmers Play Vital Role in Food Security, *AllAfrica.com, October 31***

In South Africa's not-too-distant past, the image of a commercial farmer usually brought to mind middle-aged white men in short pants or, in a few cases, black farmers struggling against the odds to compete in far-away markets

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910310001.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**U.S. wary on Doha deal, World Bank says go for it, *Reuters, November 5***

The United States will not agree to a deal in world trade talks unless other countries make better offers to open their markets, two U.S. trade nominees said. But a forthcoming study from the World Bank argued that proposals now on the table in the Doha round would bring huge gains to the world economy and World Trade Organisation members should stop quibbling over further concessions.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/economicNews/idINIndia-43695520091105>

**Brazil raises cane over U.S. ethanol tariff, *LA Times, November 4***

Brazilian sugar producers say sugar-based fuel is more environmentally sound than electricity or corn ethanol as an alternative for powering cars. But the odds are long for a change.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-biofuels4-2009nov04.0.2435171.story>

**Tricks of the trade**, *Economist*, November 2

Overfishing erodes future prosperity by destroying today a resource that could yield benefits indefinitely. Yet it is subsidised by billions of taxpayer dollars, euros and yen. Now a new chance to halt this insanity has emerged in the unlikely form of climate-change negotiations.

[http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14788199&](http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14788199&)

**Bangladesh suffers growing pains**, *Financial Times*, November 2

The neglect of infrastructure development has created bottlenecks that are now preventing growth from rising quickly enough to lift 40 per cent of the population, 60m people, out of poverty.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/161944b8-c7db-11de-8ba8-00144feab49a.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**Monsanto 'megasite' in Texas**, *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, November 5

Monsanto has broken ground on a new research "megasite" in Texas that will serve as the center for the company's cotton breeding in the high plains. Nearly 90 percent of the country's cotton is genetically engineered, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/business/stories.nsf/0/55B35E46193D0E298625766500057C55?OpenDocument>

**WFP and Caterpillar**, *Reuters*, November 5

Caterpillar, the world's largest maker of construction equipment, teamed up with the World Food Programme Logistics via Friends of WFP USA. Caterpillar has agreed to donate US\$1 million per year for five years for WFP to purchase and/or rent/ lease equipment from certified Caterpillar dealers globally.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/WFP/12574260747.htm>

**Monsanto Opens First Biotechnology Research Center in China**, *Monsanto*, November 4

Monsanto Company announced that it is opening its first research center in China, further demonstrating its commitment to forming technology collaborations in the country. The Monsanto Biotechnology Research Center in Zhongguancun, Beijing, will strengthen the company's ties with Chinese research institutions in plant biotechnology and genomics.

<http://monsanto.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=765>

**EU allows politics to dominate GMO policy-Syngenta**, *Reuters*, November 3

A leaner DuPont chemical company is pushing hard into China and other developing countries and said it is in position to outperform markets that have been rattled by the recession. DuPont has seen its sales to big customers in the housing and automobile industry fall away, forcing the company to cut thousands of jobs and place a growing emphasis on its agricultural business, such as seed sales and materials used in advanced technologies like solar power. Much of that activity will be outside of the U.S. and in places like Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Sales to emerging markets is expected to grow to \$12 billion by the end of 2012, about 50 percent more than this year, DuPont said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/swissMktRpt/idUSL366818020091103>

**Kraft dented by sluggish demand**, *Financial Times*, November 3

Kraft Foods saw its shares lose ground in after-hours trading, as its third-quarter results failed to deliver a boost that could increase the attractiveness of its cash-and-shares offer for Cadbury, the UK confectioner.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/01d685d8-c8bc-11de-8f9d-00144feabdc0.html>

**See Also: Cadbury braced for Kraft £10bn hostile bid**, *Financial Times*, October 30

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2bf9b600-c592-11de-9b3b-00144feab49a.html>

**BP, DuPont pursuing ethanol substitute**, *The Des Moines Register*, November 1

An official with oil company BP says the company is moving forward with the development of butanol as an alternative fuel to ethanol. Butanol costs more to produce but has some key advantages to ethanol, including a higher energy content. DuPont and BP have formed a joint venture called Butamax to develop the fuel.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091101/BUSINESS03/911010322>

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