

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



October 8th – 15th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *"I can tell you that today, we are focused on global food security in a way that, we have not been since the earliest days of the Green Revolution. Throughout this government, our agencies are working together in a united approach to increase food security and finally conquer global hunger."*—Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, Remarks at the 2010 World Food Prize, October 15, 2010.

PLEASE NOTE: This week's edition of the *Global Food for Thought* news brief arrives one day late due to staff attendance at the 2010 World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

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.
- To receive *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please register [here](#).
- To unsubscribe from *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please click [here](#).

CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

[Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Career Opportunities with the Global Agricultural Development Initiative](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

[Environment \(Water/Climate\)](#)

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The Challenge of Hunger: Focus on the Crisis of Child Undernutrition, *Global Hunger Index, Welt Hunger, IFPRI, Concern, October 2010*

As the world approaches the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which include a goal of reducing the proportion of hungry people by half – the 2010 Global Hunger Index (GHI) offers a useful and multidimensional overview of global hunger. The 2010 GHI shows some improvement over the 1990 GHI, falling by almost one-quarter. Nonetheless, the index for hunger in the world remains at a

level characterized as “serious.” The result is unsurprising given that the overall number of hungry people surpassed 1 billion in 2009, even though it decreased to 925 million in 2010, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghi10.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Report: Ending Hunger Means Targeting Women, Young Kids, *Des Moines Register*, October 11

Addressing global hunger will require doing something about nutrition in children under 2 years old, according to a report released today. The extent of underweight children is one of three factors in rating the severity of hunger in countries around the world under the Global Hunger Index compiled by the International Food Policy Research Institute and two other groups. The rate of underweight children winds up counting for nearly half of the total score worldwide in the latest index.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/10/11/report-ending-hunger-means-targeting-women-young-kids/>

SEE ALSO: Hunger Report Highlights Africa Food Security Issues, *Voice of America*, October 12
<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Hunger-Report-Highlights-Africa-Food-Security-Issues-104816419.html>

World Food, *Special Report*, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/reports/food-2010>

SEE ALSO: Production Must Rise to Banish Hunger, *Financial Times*, October 14

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/72247500-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0,dwp_uuid=bad439e6-d5c6-11df-94dc-00144feabdc0.html

SEE ALSO: Aid: Idea of self-help starts to gain momentum, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/55a46520-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Trade: Export bans prompt reviews of security of supplies, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/89dfdf36-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Farm investment: A domestic crop from fields in a foreign land, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6b08189e-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Mobile technology: Phones prove useful tools for small farmers, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7d74112c-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Combating disease: Scientists grapple with resurgent wheat fungus, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/65f5c888-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Collaboration: Co-operation is in long-term interest of the private sector, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/824c3148-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Sustainable production: Your dinner can have far-reaching effects, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/78f1f146-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Millennium goals: Quality of nutrition is a vital issue, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6f42bfea-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Supermarkets: Schemes to help developing world smallholders, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/86a5cb8c-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Water scarcity: We must wring more from each precious drop, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8ce2e6ba-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Case study: Jain Irrigation Systems, *Financial Times*, October 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/611a550e-d65a-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

Remarks at the World Food Prize Conference, *Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID*, October 15

"I can tell you that today, we are focused on global food security in a way that, we have not been since the earliest days of the Green Revolution. Throughout this government, our agencies are working together in a united approach to increase food security and finally conquer global hunger."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp101015.html>

2010 GAP Report, Measuring Global Agricultural Production, *Global Harvest Initiative, October 2010*

This paper outlines the calculations behind the new Global Agricultural Productivity (GAP) Report™, developed to measure ongoing progress in achieving the goal of sustainably doubling agricultural output by 2050. For the first time, the GAP Report quantifies the difference between the current rate of agricultural productivity growth and the pace required to meet future needs – while limiting the environmental footprint of agriculture. This 2010 GAP Report is the initial step in providing a benchmark and eventually prescriptive actions that will help to strategically increase productivity in selected regions of the world.

<http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/documents/GAP%20Report.pdf>

SEE ALSO: GAP Report™ Presentation at the GHI Luncheon, *Global Harvest Initiative, October 13*

<http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/Documents/GAP%20PPTs.pdf>

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

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

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

SEE ALSO: Gates Agriculture Grants Focus on Seeds, Climate, *ABC News, October 14*

Gates Foundation, which has donated \$1.5 billion to agriculture in developing countries, is focusing more investments on seeds and technology to help small farmers adapt to climate change, the foundation's chief executive said.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=11881648>

Expanding Commitments to Food Security and Agricultural Development: U.S. Assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2008-2009, *Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, October 2010*

This Partnership report documents the initial steps that the United States has taken to act on its agricultural development and food security programming and pledges. It presents actual levels of assistance programmed in 2009, preliminary estimates of 2010 figures, and available information on the 2011 budget request and appropriations processes.

<http://www.partnership->

[africa.org/sites/default/files/PCHPA%20US%20Assistance%20to%20African%20Ag%20Rpt%202008-09.pdf](http://www.partnership-africa.org/sites/default/files/PCHPA%20US%20Assistance%20to%20African%20Ag%20Rpt%202008-09.pdf)

SEE ALSO: Expanding Commitments to Food Security and Agricultural Development: U.S.

Assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa 2008-2009, *Policy Brief, Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, October 2010*

<http://www.partnership->

[africa.org/sites/default/files/PCHPA%20Policy%20Brief%202011%20October2010.pdf](http://www.partnership-africa.org/sites/default/files/PCHPA%20Policy%20Brief%202011%20October2010.pdf)

Ending Hunger in Africa: Change is Now Within Our Grasp, Says Kofi A. Annan, *PR Newswire, October 14*

In a keynote speech today, former UN Secretary-General and Chair of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Kofi A. Annan underlined the urgent need for a uniquely African green revolution to bring food security and overcome hunger throughout the continent.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ending-hunger-in-africa-change-is-now-within-our-grasp-says-kofi-a-annan-104945369.html>

SEE ALSO: Annan calls for more African aid for farmers, *Associated Press, October 14*

Progress has been made but more still needs to be done to help small farmers who are dependent on what they grow on only a few acres for their survival, former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan said.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-us-worldfoodprize-an,0,6581461.story>

SEE ALSO: Annan Says Bias Against Women Hurts Agriculture in Africa, *Des Moines Register, October 14*

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101015/BUSINESS01/10150367/-1/galleries/Annan-says-bias-against-women-hurts-agriculture-in-Africa>

World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, USDA, October 8

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/latest.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Harvest Shocker Rattles Wall Street, Wall Street Journal, October 9

The U.S. Department of Agriculture sliced its harvest projections for corn, soybeans and wheat, throwing fuel on a three-month-old commodity rally and deepening worries about rising food prices.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704657304575540251765885876.html>

SEE ALSO: Soaring Prices Threaten New Food Crisis, Financial Times, October 8

Fears of a global food crisis swept the world's commodity markets as prices for staples such as corn, rice and wheat spiralled after the US government warned of "dramatically" lower supplies.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/12b06cee-d300-11df-9ae9-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: US Corn Shortage Seen to Raise Meat Prices, Financial Times, October 11

A surprise contraction in the US corn supply will push up beef, pork and chicken prices in what parts of the industry warn will be a "game changer".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/085c9966-d4c2-11df-b230-00144feabdc0.html>

IFC, Canada, U.S. Establish \$100 Million Private Sector Facility to Strengthen Food Security in Developing Countries, IFC, October 8

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, the Government of Canada, and the United States Department of the Treasury announced an initial pledge of \$100 million for a private sector facility within the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program to strengthen food security in low-income countries and increase private sector investments in agriculture. Canada has pledged \$50 million Canadian dollars, the United States \$25 million, and IFC is expected to contribute \$25 million, to support the growth of competitive agribusiness sectors in low-income countries, with a special focus on smallholder farmers. The facility will leverage more than three times the initial contributions.

<http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/media.nsf/content/SelectedPressRelease?OpenDocument&UNID=55196ECF48ED70F5852577B6005D6F2E>

Guest Column: The Connection Between Iowa, Africa Grows, Op-Ed, Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, President, World Food Prize Foundation, Des Moines Register, October 9

The World Food Prize "Borlaug Dialogue" begins next week, once again drawing a diverse array of people from more than 60 countries around the globe for discussions on cutting-edge issues in global food security. The theme is "Take it to the farmer," Norman Borlaug's last words. Africa will once again be at the forefront of these "conversations."

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101009/OPINION01/10090317/-1/OLYMPICS/Guest-column-The-connection-between-Iowa-Africa-grows>

SEE ALSO: Food Prize Symposium, U.S. Focusing on Small-Scale Farmers, Des Moines Register, October 10

The world's poorest farmers may start getting some of the attention and dollars that the U.S. government once reserved for American producers.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101010/BUSINESS01/10100329/Food-Prize-symposium-U-S-focusing-on-small-scale-farmers>

SEE ALSO: World Food Prize Winner: IT Revolution Won't be Model for Agriculture in Africa, Seattle Times, October 11

It wasn't the answer Bill Gates wanted to hear. The billionaire philanthropist was talking with Purdue University agronomist Gebisa Ejeta about the high-yielding, disease-resistant sorghum he developed. If money was no object, Gates asked, what proportion of African farmers could be convinced to switch to the new variety? Ejeta's answer: Maybe 20 percent. "He was disappointed," Ejeta told an audience at the University of Washington last week. Given the rapid uptake of cellphones across Africa, the tech-minded Gates was frustrated that a new crop would catch on so much more slowly.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2013134914_by_sandi_doughton_it_wasnt.html

SEE ALSO: World Food Conference Looks at Subsistence Farming, *Associated Press, October 13*

About 1 billion small farmers worldwide, many of them women, face drought, the effects of climate change and a lack of technology as they struggle to feed families on what they can raise on an acre or two of land. Their problems will be the focus of this week's World Food Prize symposium, as agriculture officials from around the world gather to talk about what can be done to fight hunger.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hxbLPYtfwQacHC2jTczpgllsXmFAD9IQMGL00?docId=D9IQMGL00>

SEE ALSO: Food Prize Laureates Urge U.S.: Invest in World's Poor Farmers, *Des Moines Register, October 14*

It's a tough time to persuade lawmakers to spend tax money on poor people overseas, what with a soaring deficit, a sluggish economy and the rise of the anti-government tea party movement. But this year's World Food Prize laureates, who are being honored for their work combating rural poverty, say it's no time for the United States to back off a historic pledge to invest in boosting the production of the world's poorest farmers.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101014/BUSINESS01/10140339/Food-prize-laureates-urge-U.S.-Invest-in-world-s-poor-farmers>

SEE ALSO: Commodities Rally Means Global Hunger Threat, Beckmann Says, *Bloomberg, October 13*

Commodity futures at the highest level in two years show that crop-price volatility remains a threat to the world's poor and hungry, according to the Rev. David Beckmann, a co-winner of this year's World Food Prize.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-10-13/commodities-rally-means-global-hunger-threat-beckmann-says.html>

SEE ALSO: Africa Needs Soil 'Revolution,' Howard Buffett Says, *Bloomberg, October 13*

A "Brown Revolution" to improve soil quality is more important to African agriculture than new seeds and fertilizers, said Howard Buffett, who may succeed his father, Warren Buffett, as chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Africans who farm plots of less than 3 acres (1.2 hectares) will need tailored solutions that may be different from the "Green Revolution" that boosted crop yields in Asia, Howard Buffett, 55, said today in a speech at the World Food Prize conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-10-13/africa-needs-soil-revolution-howard-buffett-says.html>

SEE ALSO: Laureate: Farm Policy Still Needs Reform, *Des Moines Register, October 13*

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/10/13/laureate-farm-policy-still-needs-reform/>

SEE ALSO: World-Impact Hunger Fighters Receive Food Prize, *Des Moines Register, October 15*

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101015/BUSINESS01/10150382/-1/galleries/World-impact-hunger-fighters-receive-Food-Prize>

Food Security, *Editorial, Financial Times, October 13*

The spectre of a global food crisis has reared its head again. Soaring corn prices, which on Monday recorded their biggest one-day rise since 1973, have triggered fears of a return to the turmoil of 2007-2008. Far-reaching measures are needed to prevent a recurrence.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/68bf01e4-d6fd-11df-aaab-00144feabdc0.html>

Creating the Give-A-Damn, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, October 15*

The awarding of the World Food Prize to David Beckmann and Jo Luck illustrates that advocacy and activism matter. The work of the previous winners of the World Food Prize – most of them agriculture scientists, disciples of Iowa plant breeder and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug who established the prize – can't be as effective as possible in fighting hunger without the clamor to make the general public and the politicians care enough to put their achievements into action. Dr. Borlaug knew this was true.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/10/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-creating-the-give-a-damn.html>

Economic Diversification in Africa: A Review of Selected Countries, *United Nations and NEPAD-OECD, October 2010*

The global financial and economic crises exposed one of the major weaknesses of a number of African economies: their dependence on too few export commodities and one or two sectors. Such dependence makes many countries vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices, demand and extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. This study looks at how African governments can diversify their economies and analyses five countries economic diversification profiles in particular.

http://www.nepad.org/system/files/OSAA-NEPAD_Study_Final5Oct.pdf

SEE ALSO: UN-Backed Report Stresses Economic Diversification for Africa's Growth, *UN News Centre, October 11*

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36405&Cr=economic+commission+for+africa&Cr1>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Shah Charting New Course at USAID, *Connie Veillette, Center for Global Development, October 13*

Observers of U.S. foreign assistance lament the decline of USAID resources, staff and expertise. Many old hands remember the days when it was the global leader in development. Yet, calls to rebuild USAID are everywhere today, from the White House to the State Department to Capitol Hill. President Obama and Secretary Clinton vowed to make USAID the world's premier development agency and legislation on the Hill clearly seeks to elevate not just development but USAID as well. Despite some healthy skepticism about whether and how those promises are being fulfilled, a closer look inside the agency suggests some positive changes are underway.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/10/shah-charting-new-course-at-usaid.php>

Briefing on U.S. Flood Relief Assistance to Pakistan, *Mark Ward, USAID Director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, US Department of State, October 12*

WARD: "And then finally, and very, very important, is agriculture. As again, as people go home, we've got the winter coming in the north, obvious – actually, Pakistan had a good year. They had a good wheat harvest back in the summer before the flood started, so we're not facing an as urgent a problem as we could be, but it is the time to plant the winter wheat. It is the time to plant vegetables to tide families over for the winter. And so for what we would call vulnerable farmers, that's farmers with maybe less than two acres of land, the United States, working with FAO, is providing seeds and fertilizer to those families – to those vulnerable farmers, many of whom are actually women, and also some care for livestock that survived, to help them as we say, tide over to help them with this early recovery period."

http://www.state.gov/s/special_rep_afghanistan_pakistan/2010/149348.htm

Food Voucher Program Will Assist Sudanese Families, *USAID, October 12*

Most U.S. food assistance to Sudan is "in-kind" aid—food that is grown by farmers in the United States, purchased on the open market, then shipped to Sudan. Voucher programs, on the other hand, offer an alternative and complementary approach that gives families access to foods they are already familiar with and boosts local economic activity. Recently, USAID awarded its first grant for a food voucher program in Sudan, a landmark initiative that will nourish hungry families by lowering the cost of life-saving foods already available in local markets.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2010/10/food-voucher-program-will-assist-sudanese-families/>

Moran and Peterson Request Changes to Cuban Trade Policies, *United States Congressman, Jerry Moran, October 13*

Rep. Jerry Moran and Rep. Collin Peterson, Chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, requested this week that President Obama repeal U.S. Department of Treasury regulations that restrict access of U.S. farmers and ranchers to Cuban markets. In recent weeks, reports have indicated the Obama Administration is preparing to make changes to U.S. travel policy with Cuba. Moran and Peterson requested the Administration include a repeal of the agricultural trade restrictions along with any regulatory change in U.S. travel policy toward Cuba.

http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1879:10132010-moran-and-peterson-request-changes-to-cuban-trade-policies&catid=1&Itemid=103

Grassley, Hatch Call for Crackdown on China Concerning Poultry, *The Hill*, October 12

Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the two highest-ranking Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee, sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk urging them to take action to stop China's discriminatory duties on U.S. poultry products.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/801-economy/123873-grassley-hatch-call-for-crackdown-on-china-concerning-poultry>

U.S. Farm Exports May Set Record on Surging Prices, Glauber Says, *Bloomberg*, October 13

U.S. farm exports may surpass the 2008 record of \$115.3 billion on surging corn, soybean and wheat prices, according to Joe Glauber, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief economist.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aIJ3le522WxU>

Names: Brookings' Amr to USAID, *Foreign Policy*, October 14

Hady Amr, the founding director of the Brookings Institution Doha Center, will join the United States Agency for International Development. Amr has been appointed as deputy assistant administrator in USAID's Middle East bureau.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/10/14/names_brookings_amr_to_usaid

UPCOMING EVENTS

Third McGill Conference on Global Food Security – “Addressing the Water and Nutrition Challenges

Date: October 19th – 21st, 2010

Location: McGill University, Montreal, Canada

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

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

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

Date: Oct. 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/>

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>

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/>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Rehabilitating Agriculture and Promoting Food Security Following the 2010 Pakistan Floods, IFPRI, October 2010

The recent floods in Pakistan have had a devastating effect on the Pakistani population. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA 2010) estimates that, as of early September 2010, more than 20 million people had been displaced by the flood and by some estimates the damage to crops, housing, other buildings, roads, and irrigation infrastructure now reaches \$6.5 billion (OCHA 2010). Recovery experiences from previous natural disasters in Pakistan and throughout South Asia, especially the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and the 1998 flood in Bangladesh, suggest lessons in four broad areas that are relevant for recovery efforts following the 2010 Pakistan flood.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01028.pdf>

Overview of Food and Nutritional Security in Latin American and the Caribbean, FAO, October 2010,

<http://www.rlc.fao.org/es/prioridades/seguridad/pdf/panorama10.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Growth and Social Inclusion Must Be Linked to Fight Hunger, IPS, October 13

The concept that the state plays a key role in overcoming chronic hunger is not a new one. But the latest figures from Latin America show that more public money and social programmes alone are ineffective solutions.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53152>

Democratising agricultural research for food sovereignty in West Africa, IIED, October 2010

This multimedia book reports on an initiative in West Africa that seeks to create safe spaces in which food providers and consumers can discuss how to build an agri-food research system that is democratic and accountable to wider society. An explicit aim of the entire process is to strengthen the voices and effectiveness of small-scale producers and other citizens in the governance of agricultural research as well as in setting strategic research priorities and validating knowledge.

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/14603IIED.pdf>

Media Articles:

UN body fails to back "land grabs" code of conduct, Reuters, October 15

A top U.N. inter-governmental body on food security has failed to endorse a code of conduct on foreign land investments, in a blow to efforts to draft international guidelines to regulate so-called "land grabs". Responding to concerns about countries like China, South Korea and Gulf Arab states buying large swathes of land in Africa and Asia to secure their food supplies, the World Bank and U.N. agencies drew up seven principles for "responsible agricultural investment." But a meeting of the U.N. Committee on Food Security (CFS), which dragged on into the early hours of Friday, failed to endorse those principles, simply "taking note" of them.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE69E0CM20101015>

Campaign Against Deadly Cattle Plague Ending, FAO, October 14

An ambitious global effort that has brought rinderpest, a deadly cattle plague, to the brink of extinction is ending all field activities, paving the way for official eradication of the disease.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/46383/icode/>

SEE ALSO: Getting Rid of Rinderpest, Voice of America, October 14

The deadly cattle disease – rinderpest – is on the verge of extinction. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization is ending all field operations against the disease and is expected to officially announce its eradication next year.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-fao-rinderpest-14oct10-104946484.html>

SEE ALSO: Rinderpest Virus Has Been Wiped Out, Scientists Say, BBC, October 14

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11542653>

SEE ALSO: Virus Deadly in Livestock Is No More, U.N. Declares, New York Times, October 15

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/16/science/16pest.html>

Africa's Food Security is Less Threatened than Many Fear, *Christian Science Monitor*, October 13

Food security is a concern in Africa, but Africans are better able to adapt their agricultural methods to the threat than many are acknowledging.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/Africa-Monitor/2010/1013/Africa-s-food-security-is-less-threatened-than-many-fear>

Unleashing Eastern Europe and Central Asia's Agricultural Potential, *FAO*, October 13

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have vast untapped agricultural resources and can play a vital role in improving world food security, the FAO and EBRD said at the opening of a two-day meeting in Istanbul.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/46401/icode/>

Food Security is Less of a Concern, UN Agency Says, *Bloomberg*, October 12

Food security is of less concern in 2010 than in recent years, even as prices rise, because grain stocks are plentiful and a weakened global economy will stunt demand, according to the United Nations' food agency.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-10-12/food-security-is-less-of-a-concern-un-agency-says.html>

Uruguay, S. Arabia Plan for Food Security, *UPI*, October 12

Uruguay is being courted by oil-rich Saudi Arabia as one its strategic food security partners that could meet some of the Persian Gulf kingdom's demand for food and grain.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/10/12/Uruguay-S-Arabia-plan-for-food-security/UPI-91341286879749/

Towards Improved Governance of Global Food Security, *FAO*, October 11

A five-day high-level intergovernmental meeting of the newly reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) opened this week. The meeting takes place against a background of recent increases in international food prices which pose additional challenges to food security.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/46353/icode/>

SEE ALSO: Statement of the Director-General for the 26th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, *Jacques Diouf, Director-General, FAO*, October 11

"The presence of widespread hunger, malnutrition and poverty and the inability to protect vulnerable countries and people from the effect of shocks points to a structural, more profound problem of food insecurity that requires urgent, resolute and concerted action by all relevant actors and at all levels. The world has also to grapple with a declining rate of growth in agricultural productivity, including that of the major cereals. Yet agricultural production will need to increase by 70% in the world and double in the developing countries in order to feed a global population expected to reach 9.1 billion in 2050. All this will have to occur in the face of climate change and scarce natural resources."

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/AS%20DELIVERED%20DG%20Statement%2036th%20session%20of%20CFS%2011%20October%202010%20-rev1%20Clean.pdf

SEE ALSO: Statement by Yikiko Omura on Behalf of the President of IFAD Kanayo F. Nwanze, *IFAD*, October 11

"We will not end be able to end hunger unless we also reduce extreme poverty and vulnerability. In many countries -- particularly in sub Saharan Africa -- this means making a major effort to boost food production and help poor rural people adapt to the impact of climate change. But in many countries, it also means ensuring that poor rural people have access to the food they need to be healthy and productive. It is one of life's cruel ironies that smallholder farmers often do not have the tools they need to grow enough food for their families. Three-quarters of Africa's malnourished children live on small farms. In Asia and Latin America, farm children also often go hungry."

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/IFAD%20VP%20Statement%20at%2036%20CFS.pdf

Global Grain Reserves Are Key to Food Security, *Katherinr Gustafson, Huffington Post*, October 11

It's high time we recognize that the wisdom about food security we've learned over millennia will serve us better than economic theories that weigh the value of food against potential immediate profit instead of against potential eventual starvation. We shouldn't even begin arguing the relative merits of GMO seeds or other miraculous "solutions" to our food insecurity until we have done what human societies have done to survive for ages -- hidden a giant pile of food away for the inevitable rainy day.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/katherine-gustafson/global-grain-reserves-are_b_758161.html

S. Africa's Land Reforms Threaten Competitiveness, *Reuters, October 11*

South Africa risks losing its status as Africa's agriculture hub as uncertainty over its land reform programme undermines its competitiveness on the continent, the deputy agriculture minister said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE69A0EM20101011>

Africa Shouldn't Rush into Land Deals: FAO, *Reuters, October 11*

African governments should avoid rushing into big land lease deals with foreign investors or risk deepening poverty and ramping up social tensions, an official at the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Office said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE69A0HQ20101011>

Brazil Eyes Microchips in Trees for Forest Management, *Reuters, October 11*

With a hand-held device, forestry engineer Paulo Borges pulls up the tree's vital statistics from the chip -- a 14-meter-high (46-foot) tree known as a "mandioca" cut down in Mato Grosso state, the southern edge of the Amazon where the forest has largely been cleared to create farmland. The chips allow land owners using sustainable forestry practices to distinguish their wood from that acquired through illegal logging that each year destroys swathes of the forest.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69A1XX20101011>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

When Does Rigorous Impact Evaluation Make a Difference? The Case of the Millennium Villages, *Center for Global Development, October 2010*

When is the rigorous impact evaluation of development projects a luxury, and when is it a necessity? The authors study one high-profile case: the Millennium Villages Project (MVP), an experimental and intensive package intervention to spark sustained local economic development in rural Africa. They illustrate the benefits of rigorous impact evaluation in this setting by showing that estimates of the project's effects depend heavily on the evaluation method.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424496_file_Clemens_Demombynes_Evaluation_FINAL.pdf

Can Donors Be Flexible within Restrictive Budget Systems? Options for Innovative Financing Mechanisms, *Center for Global Development, October 2010*

This paper focuses on how budgetary scorekeeping systems affect governments' ability or willingness to support innovative development finance initiatives and explores several options to overcome the restrictions the systems often impose. As a starting point, it assumes that donor governments, such as the United States, will not reform their budgetary system regulations to accommodate innovative development finance commitments due to political and budget policy concerns. In general, each option outlined entails important financial, political, and bureaucratic challenges and tradeoffs. In other words, there are no silver bullets. However, there are possible approaches that may merit further exploration by donor governments that want to support specific innovative development finance initiatives but are constrained by existing budgetary systems.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424497_file_Leo_Budget_Systems_Paper_FINAL.pdf

Media Articles:

The World Bank's Palm Oil Mistake, *Op-Ed, Thompson Ayodele, New York Times, October 15*

When the World Bank held its annual meeting last weekend, there was much discussion of trade imbalances and currency wars, but nothing about Nigerian palm oil. That's a shame, because the bank's loans for plantation agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing regions — some \$132 million of which have gone to palm oil cultivation — have been humanitarian and economic triumphs. Yet now, under misguided pressure from environmental groups, the bank is turning its back on the program.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/16/opinion/16ayodele.html>

Food Aid: Food Sent Overseas Not Fit for Our Own Children, *Médecins Sans Frontières, October 14*

The world's top food aid donors, including the United States, Canada, Japan, and the European Union, continue to supply and finance nutritionally substandard foods to developing countries, despite conclusive scientific evidence of their ineffectiveness in reducing childhood malnutrition, said the international medical humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in advance of World Food Day.

http://www.msf.org.uk/article/detail.aspx?fid=food_aid_press_release_20101014

Rights-Based Approach Key to Tackling World Hunger, *Op-Ed, Brian Hanratty, Chief Executive, Gorta, Irish Times, October 14*

We can take the lead against hunger with a powerful synergy of states, the private sector and civil society.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2010/1014/1224281064946.html>

Pakistani Flood Children Face Winter Peril, *Agence France-Presse, October 14*

As winter approaches on Pakistan's flooded southern plains, thousands of malnourished children are living in dirty, spartan tents without prospect of a home, officials and UN workers say. The UN children's agency, UNICEF, said aid agencies and state authorities have been targeting more than 75,500 severely malnourished children who are 10 times more likely to die because of lack of decent food.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ju4Rx0XZ-K07Tw08AT8NCsS6fNOQ?docId=CNG.eaac05d5f1986b04dd380561cc5ff4fe.2e1>

Hot Meals Draw Pupils Back to Haiti's Quake Hit Schools, *Agence France-Presse, October 14*

Nine months after a huge earthquake devastated Haiti, destroying 80 percent of schools in and around its capital, teachers and aid workers have hit on a healthy way to get children back to class: serve them a hot meal.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20101014/lf_afp/haitiquakeeducationun

Management – Case Study: Getting Food to Disaster Victims, *Financial Times, October 13*

Natural and man-made disasters have led to nutritional emergencies in many countries, and especially in the Horn of Africa. To deal with these challenges, Unicef has adopted the use of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF). These are portable, long-lasting, single-serving foods that are rich in proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, and are used in a prescribed manner to treat children with severe acute malnutrition. The type of RUTF that has been purchased most often by Unicef is Plumpy'Nut, an oil-based paste of peanuts, sugar, milk powder, vitamins and minerals.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/edb873a2-d6ef-11df-aaab-00144feabdc0.html>

US 'Should Delete its Logos' on Aid to Pakistan, *BBC, October 12*

A group of 11 prominent charities is preparing a letter calling on the US to remove logos on American-funded assistance in Pakistan. The letter, signed by charities including Save the Children, Oxfam, and World Vision says that such "branding" of aid jeopardises their neutrality.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11522197>

SEE ALSO: USAID's PR Program, *Reuters, October 13*

It's one thing to espouse a generous foreign-aid policy on the grounds that you will ultimately do well by it in terms of domestic security. But it's something else entirely to try to squeeze every last ounce of PR value out of that foreign aid, even if doing so puts the lives of aid workers at risk.

<http://blogs.reuters.com/felix-salmon/2010/10/13/usaid-pr-problem/>

Swaziland: Changing the Focus of Food Assistance, *IRIN, October 12*

About a quarter of Swaziland's one million people require food assistance - substantially less than the more than 60 percent relying on donor support in 2008 but an uncomfortable reminder of the country's donor dependency.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=90750>

Mali: Reducing Vulnerability to Future Drought, *IRIN, October 11*

Drought is recurrent in northern Mali and many pastoralists will inevitably find themselves in crisis mode in the future, say aid agencies. Livestock and livelihoods specialists say donors, government ministries and aid agencies should tackle the following priorities to shore up pastoralists' ability to face future shocks.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=90730>

Fund Donors Want Bigger Effort to Boost Farming in Poor Areas, *America.gov, October 8*

The United States and other donors to a new international agriculture-development fund will use World Bank/IMF meetings of finance ministers October 9–10 in Washington and a meeting of the Group of 20 (G20) heads of state in November in Seoul to ask other countries to contribute to the fund, which is being used to improve farming practices in low-income countries.

<http://www.america.gov/st/develop-english/2010/October/20101008113338nyrhtak0.2948114.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Media Articles:

UN says global farm methods 'recipe for disaster', *AFP, October 15*

The United Nations top official on the right to food has called for wholesale changes in farming methods to safeguard the environment and ensure everyone has enough to eat. Olivier De Schutter, the UN special rapporteur on the right to food, said in a statement to mark World Food Day that "as a result of climate change, the yields in certain regions of sub-Saharan Africa are expected to fall by 50 percent by 2020 in comparison to 2000 levels. And growing frequency and intensity of floods and droughts contribute to volatility in agricultural markets."

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hBEs_KbS94GprW58xcnKCJ9HOHeA?docId=CNG.fcd3ca22ebdbeb6aedf8bd96251aff7c.651

AFRICA: Going rural, going green, *IRIN, October 15*

Rural Africa needs to wake up to climate change, which is threatening food security, people's resilience to cope with natural disasters, and economic growth, participants were told at the Seventh African Development Forum.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90786>

Already Struggling with Food Security, Kenya Faces Another Drought, *Voice of America, October 14*

Kenya ranks near the bottom of the world in food security. While the government works to stave off a coming drought, experts say Kenya must retool its local food markets to prevent future shortfalls.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Already-Struggling-With-Food-Security-Kenya-Faces-Another-Drought-104964099.html>

Earth is Parched Where Syrian Farms Thrived, *New York Times, October 13*

Ancient irrigation systems have collapsed and villages have been abandoned in the Fertile Crescent.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/14/world/middleeast/14syria.html>

Climate Change, Deforestation and Corruption Combine to Drown a Region, *New York Times, October 13*

The government acknowledges that loss of tree cover has led to a serious problem. Compounding this problem is the lack of any plan, from either central or regional government authorities, to deal with the silting up of rivers and reservoirs. Environmental decay and a lack of maintenance of some flood barriers contributed heavily to the deluge, especially in the south. "Our [environmental] degradational costs are

increasing year by year, and eventually, time will come when it will be nearly impossible to manage them," said Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi, Pakistan's minister of environment. "So serious consideration is required."
<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/10/13/13climatewire-climate-change-deforestation-and-corruption-90465.html>

Cities Key to Disaster Risk Reduction, IRIN, October 12

The warning said that since most agriculture in Africa is rain-fed, climate change, which is affecting vital rainfall patterns and pushing up temperatures, could halve crop yields in some countries by 2020.
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90751>

Water Crisis Threatens Asia's Rise, New York Times, October 11

Strains are being generated as the unslakable Asian thirst for water collides with the reality of a supply that is limited and may shrink sharply.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/12/business/global/12inside.html>

SEE ALSO: Asia Facing Worsening Water Crisis: ADB, Agence France-Presse, October 12

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jcWPBTdIlbJxsFkvksFYRqAS9OHg?docId=CNG.69cb41b4c90ccdd096ab11eb6516dca4.511>

Feeding Bangladesh's Growing Population Amid Rising Climate Challenges, FAO, October 7

At first glance it looks like another of Bangladesh's hundreds of rivers – that is, until the half-submerged houses and blackened trees come into view. Thousands of acres of rice paddy have been under water in Koira Upazila (sub-district) in southern Bangladesh since Cyclone Aila swept through more than a year ago, damaging miles of protective flood embankments and wiping out crops, fish stocks and livestock. Like most rural Bangladeshis, people here rely heavily on agriculture, yet the stagnant floodwaters have rendered much of their crop land useless and made keeping goats or chickens nearly impossible.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/46153/icode/>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

The Global Gender Gap Report, World Economic Forum, October 2010

Nordic countries Iceland (1), Norway (2), Finland (3) and Sweden (4) continue to demonstrate the greatest equality between men and women according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2010. According to the report's index, the level of gender equality in France (46) has sunk as the number of women in ministerial positions has fallen over the past 12 months. The United States (19) closed its gender gap, rising 12 places to enter the top 20 for the first time in the report's five-year history. The climb reflects the higher number of women in leading roles in the current administration and improvements in the wage gap.

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/gendergap/report2010.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Nordic Nations Remain Gender-Equality Leaders, New York Times, October 12

Iceland and three other countries continue to lead the world in gender equality, and the U.S. made strong gains in reducing gaps between women and men.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/12/world/12gender.html>

SEE ALSO: Nordic Nations Do Most to Encourage Gender Equality, Study Says, Bloomberg, October 11

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-12/iceland-leads-nordic-nations-doing-most-for-gender-equality-study-finds.html>

Increased Educational Attainment and its Effect on Child Mortality in 175 Countries between 1970 and 2009: A Systematic Analysis, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, 2010

A new study published in the journal Lancet shows that girls' education has a direct effect on the health of the next generation. Worldwide, there were 8.2 million fewer deaths among children younger than 5 in 2009

than in 1970. The study indicates that half of this reduction can be attributed to better education of women. For each additional year of girls' education, the child mortality rate drops by an average of 9.5 percent.
<http://usa.wfp.org/sites/default/files/u-129/LancetBenefitsofEducation.pdf>

Media Articles:

Putting Food First, *Princess Haya Al Hussein, UN Messenger of Peace, Huffington Post, October 15*

Who are the "hungry"? Well, most live a "hand to mouth" existence in the countryside outside the market economies that have sprung up globally over the last few decades. If you had to put a face on hunger, it would be young and female with a dark complexion -- and that goes a long way toward explaining why much of the world does not seem to care and why aid does not easily reach them.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/princess-haya-bint-al-hussein/post_1044_b_758453.html

FOOD: Race is on to Implement Nutrition Initiative, *IRIN, October 14*

A UN initiative will push countries to design nutrition policies based on new studies that show good quality food for mothers and children in the first 1,000 days, including pregnancy, would not only save millions of lives but raise literacy and economic growth rates.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=90764>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Media Articles:

African Farmers Must Be Tied to Markets, Ethiopia Commodities Chief Says, *Bloomberg, October 14*

Developing nations need stronger connections to world markets to stabilize prices and reduce hunger, according to Eleni Gabre-Madhin, the chief executive officer of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-14/african-farmers-must-be-tied-to-markets-ethiopia-commodities-chief-says.html>

S. Africa Must Boost Investment in Farming: Minister, *Reuters, October 14*

South Africa must work on boosting investment in the agriculture sector to meet domestic food demand and cut its dependence on imports, the agriculture minister said. South Africa is the continent's biggest producer of maize but the country largely relies on imports to cater for a shortfall of certain food supplies. According to South Africa's government data, about 6 million households do not have enough food and over 72 percent of these people live in rural areas.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE69D0AZ20101014>

Mexico's Arrested Development, *World Politics Review, October 12*

In opening its agricultural market, Mexico found itself deluged by heavily subsidized American farm goods. The damage was particularly acute when it came to corn, Mexico's staple crop. American taxpayers spent nearly \$74 billion on corn subsidies from 1995 to 2009, with corn subsidies quadrupling in the period between 1996 and 2005. Unsubsidized Mexican farmers could not match the artificially low prices. As a result, the Mexican farming sector, which employed more than 8 million Mexicans in 1993, was reduced to 5.8 million workers by 2008. In many cases, farmers simply abandoned their small plots and joined the exodus northward, with some going to cities in northern Mexico and others to the U.S.

<http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/6681/mexicos-arrested-development>

Kenya May Import 270,000 Metric Tons of South African Corn, Minister Says, *Bloomberg, October 12*

Kenya may import between 180,000 and 270,000 tons of corn from South Africa this year to cover an expected shortfall, according to Gideon Ndambuki, assistant minister for agriculture.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-12/kenya-may-import-270-000-metric-tons-of-south-african-corn-minister-says.html>

Rising Corn Prices Bring Fears of an Upswing in Food Costs, *New York Times*, October 12

First it was heat and drought in Russia. Then it was heat and too much rain in parts of the American Corn Belt. Extreme weather this year has sent grain prices soaring, jolting commodities markets and setting off fears of tight supplies that could eventually hit consumers' wallets.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/13/business/13corn.html> (trade/market access OR climate -- you

'Tortilla Riots' Give Foretaste of Food Challenge, *Financial Times*, October 12

When the price of corn tortillas, a pillar of the Mexican diet, rose from 8 pesos per kilo to more than 10 pesos in late 2006, people took to the streets. The "tortilla riots" were the first in a series of disturbances that year to hit emerging countries from Haiti to Bangladesh as the cost of agricultural commodities, including wheat and rice, reached all-time highs.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a0aa9ef0-d618-11df-81f0-00144feabdc0.html>

Sugar Advances to Seven-Month High in London on Brazil Crop-Supply Concern, *Bloomberg*, October 11

Sugar rose to the highest price in more than seven months in London on concern that adverse weather may limit supplies from Brazil, the world's largest producer of the sweetener.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-11/sugar-advances-to-seven-month-high-in-london-on-brazil-crop-supply-concern.html>

Clock Ticking Down on U.S. Ethanol Subsidies, *New York Times*, October 11

A framework of tariffs and subsidies introduced by the U.S. Energy Tax Act of 1978 has long bolstered the American ethanol industry, helping to increase demand while keeping foreign competitors out. But these tariffs are due to expire Dec. 31 and other countries are lobbying hard to get into the U.S. market — particularly Brazil, the world's largest producer of sugar cane ethanol, which stands to be the biggest beneficiary if the tariffs are allowed to end.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/12/business/energy-environment/12iht-renbrazil.html>

Farm Belt Bounces Back, *Wall Street Journal*, October 11

Major agricultural commodities continued their extended run-up in price, underscoring how much of America's farm belt is booming even as the overall economy continues to struggle. Asia's economic vigor and appetites make the farm sector's reliance on exports—once thought a vulnerability in some quarters—a plus today

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703298504575534210333046160.html>

Speculators at Fault for Food Prices, Says Poll, *Financial Times*, October 10

Many people in France, Germany and Spain believe that speculators are the main cause of rising food prices, according to a Financial Times/Harris poll, indicating public support for politicians seeking to clamp down on commodities trading.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cfb2c7b4-d49b-11df-b230-00144feabdc0.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

To Feed the World, Think Locally -- and Act Locally, *James Borel, Executive Vice President, DuPont, Huffington Post*, October 14

By investing in local agriculture, we can help close the twin gaps in food productivity and between the geographies of production and consumption. By doing so, there will be economic opportunities. As the demand for food grows, we'll be there to meet it.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/james-c-borel/to-feed-the-world-think-l b 763310.html>

Cargill Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Greg Page Speaks About Food Security and the Role of the Smallholder Farmer at the 2010 World Food Prize Borlaug Dialog, *Cargill*, October 14

Cargill Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Greg Page called on governments, agricultural leaders and farmer groups to work together to increase food security by ensuring smallholder farmers in developing countries have four essential ingredients for them to prosper. Speaking at the World Food Prize Borlaug Dialog in Des Moines, Iowa, Page outlined four items critical to smallholder success: growing the right crop on the right soil and then trading those crops freely; clarifying property rights; providing smallholders with increased revenue reliability to moderate price extremes; and ensuring access to open markets and the global food trade.

<http://www.cargill.com/news-center/news-releases/2010/NA3035691.jsp>

Backing Smallholder Farmers Today Could Avert Food Crises Tomorrow, *Carlos Seré, Guardian, October 14*

Agribusiness investment would not only transform the lives of farmers in south Asia and Africa, but boost global food security.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/oct/14/smallholder-farmers-agribusiness-investment>

A Bit More Ethanol in the Gas Tank, *New York Times, October 13*

The Obama administration made a gesture of support for the ethanol industry, with a declaration by the Environmental Protection Agency that gasoline retailers can sell fuel blends containing up to 15 percent ethanol for use in late-model cars.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/14/business/energy-environment/14ethanol.html>

Worrying Over China and Food, *New York Times, October 11*

The prospect that a group backed by China may try to take over a fertilizer company has alarmed Washington, Canada and Wall Street.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/12/business/12sorkin.html>

SEE ALSO: Pension Fund Contacts Temasek Over Potash Bid, *Financial Times, October 10*

A Canadian pension fund is understood to have approached Temasek, Singapore's state investment agency, as part of a search for consortium partners that could bid for all or part of PotashCorp, the Canadian fertiliser producer that is the subject of an uncontested \$39bn (£24bn) hostile bid by BHP Billiton.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fc817f6a-d4a0-11df-b230-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Mining – Potash and BHP woo Saskatchewan, *Financial Times, October 14*

BHP Billiton and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan are increasing their offers of social and economic benefits to Canada, as part of the battle for control of the prairie-based fertiliser producer.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fa7724cc-d71b-11df-9cd5-00144feabdc0.html>

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank