

**Contents:**

- Key Articles
  - New Reports/Policy Briefs
  - Political/Conceptual Shifts
  - Agribusiness
  - Food Aid
  - The Food Crisis and Impacts on Poverty
  - Agriculture Development Practices (corporate, IGO, NGO, gov't) with Focus on South Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Biofuels
  - Market Access
  - Developments in Agriculture, Science, and Technology
  - Women In Development
- 

**Key Articles**

***A Green Revolution for Africa?***, New York Times Magazine, October 10, 2008.

Rajiv Shah is helping the Gates Foundation donate hundreds of millions of dollars to improve agriculture on the continent.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12wwln-shah-t.html?ref=environment>

***Financial Collapse Dims African Prospects for Debt Relief, Donor Aid***, VOA News, October 15, 2008

Consequences of the international economic rescue effort will not be felt for several months. But African countries, which so far have only been indirectly shaken by the financial institution collapse, stand to lose long-term pledges of aid, which many international groups have fought long and hard to obtain.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2008-10-15-voa3.cfm>

See also: ***Financial crisis may worsen global hunger, UN says***, Reuters, October 15, 2008

The global financial crisis threatens to worsen the plight of the world's hungry, particularly if rich nations renege on their pledges of aid, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said.

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnJOE49E0XM.html>

***Africa growth to slow amid turmoil, inflation: IMF***, Reuters, October 8, 2008

Growing financial turmoil and rising food and energy prices are likely to slow economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa, with oil-producing countries least affected, the International Monetary Fund reported.

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnJOE4970YR.html>

***Commodity Prices Tumble***, New York Times, October 14, 2008

Some analysts, while welcoming the recent declines, say they believe that prices are likely to remain above long-term norms. Food, in particular, could be a continuing problem: today's prices are still too high to allow many people in developing countries to afford adequate diets. Nor have the recent declines been passed along in American grocery stores, at least as of yet. The United Nations has projected that global food prices will remain elevated for years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/14/business/economy/14commodities.html>

***\$20 Million Job-Skills Ladder Created for Girls in Poor Nations***, Washington Post, October 11, 2008

For years, global development experts have believed that if young women received the same schooling as young men, their families would have a path out of poverty. Now, with countries across the developing world documenting rapid progress toward gender equality in education, experts are focusing on the next step: increasing economic opportunities for women and girls.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/10/AR2008101002885.html>

***U.S. falls behind on biofuel goals; EPA requires half of ethanol to be cellulosic by 2022, but obstacles exist***, MSNBC/Associated Press, October 16, 2008

It may be one of the biggest green gambles of the century: a national goal of converting wood, grass, corn stalks and garbage into 16 billion gallons of cellulosic biofuels annually by 2022. No commercial-scale refineries exist, researchers have yet to agree on the best technology for fuel conversion and there is no distribution network to handle fuel once it is made.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27222314/>

***Dole and McGovern talk hunger in Des Moines***, Washington Post, October 16, 2008

Bob Dole looked across the stage at George McGovern, noting the unique experience they both shared as losing presidential candidates.

"Here's the good news," Dole quipped at a ceremony honoring he and McGovern as recipients of the 2008 World Food Prize. "We finally won something. Shows you should never give up!"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/16/AR2008101600433.html>

*See Also: Dole, McGovern school program awarded World Food Prize*, USA Today, October 15, 2008

Two former U.S. senators will be honored this week for their work in creating an international fund to help feed children around the world, the World Food Prize Foundation said.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-10-14-world-food-prize\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-10-14-world-food-prize_N.htm)

---

## New Reports/Policy Briefs

***Double-Edged Prices: Lessons from the food price crisis -- 10 actions developing countries should take***, Oxfam, October 2008

The recent sharp increase in food prices should have benefited millions of poor people who make their living from agriculture. However, decades of misguided policies by developing country governments on agriculture, trade, and domestic markets - often promoted by international financial institutions and supported by donor countries - have prevented poor farmers and rural workers from reaping the benefits of higher commodity prices. As a result, the crisis is hurting poor producers and consumers alike, threatening to reverse recent progress on poverty reduction in many countries. To help farmers get out of poverty while protecting poor consumers, developing country governments, with the support of donors, should invest now into smallholder agriculture and social protection.

[http://oxfam.intelli-direct.com/e/d.dll?m=234&url=http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict\\_disasters/downloads/bp121\\_food\\_price\\_crisis.pdf](http://oxfam.intelli-direct.com/e/d.dll?m=234&url=http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict_disasters/downloads/bp121_food_price_crisis.pdf)

***Rising Food and Fuel Prices: Addressing the Risks to Future Generations***, World Bank, October 12, 2008

New report notes that high food and fuel prices will increase the number of malnourished people around the world in 2008 by 44 million to reach a total of 967 million. Poor families around the world are being pushed to the brink of survival, causing irreparable damage to the health of millions of children. As families cut back on spending, there are also grave risks for the educational performance of poor children.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMEXT/Resources/Food-Fuel.pdf?resourceurlname=Food-Fuel.pdf>

Also see: ***Food and Fuel Prices—Recent Developments, Macroeconomic Impact, and Policy Responses***, International Monetary Fund, July 2008

This report provides a first broad assessment of the impact of the surge in food and fuel prices on the balance of payments, budgets, prices, and poverty of a large sample of countries. It reviews countries' macroeconomic policy responses to date and also discusses Fund advice for managing the price increases.

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2008/063008.pdf>

***The Challenge of Hunger 2008: Global Hunger Index***, International Food Policy Research Institute, October 14, 2008

Thirty-three countries around the world have alarming or extremely alarming levels of hunger, according to the 2008 Global Hunger Index. The Democratic Republic of Congo scored the worst on the Index, followed by Eritrea, Burundi, Niger, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Ethiopia. The GHI remains high in South Asia, and is similarly high in sub-Saharan Africa, where progress has been marginal since 1990. The Global Hunger Index is being released for World Food Day (October 16) for the third year in a row by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in conjunction with Welthungerhilfe (formerly known as German Agro-Action) and Concern Worldwide.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/cp/ghi08.pdf>

***Sustainable Bioenergy Development in UEMOA Member Countries***, UN Foundation, October 2008

The West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and The Hub for Rural Development in West and Central Africa. UEMOA's member states are Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Chapter 3 of the report is devoted entirely to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security. Chapter 10 includes a Blueprint For Bioenergy, Agriculture, and Rural Development in the UEMOA—2009 to 2011.

- *Entire Report:* [http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/gpgs\\_files/pdf/UNF\\_Bioenergy/UNF\\_Bioenergy\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/gpgs_files/pdf/UNF_Bioenergy/UNF_Bioenergy_full_report.pdf)
- *Chapter 3:* [http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/gpgs\\_files/pdf/UNF\\_Bioenergy/UNF\\_Bioenergy\\_3.pdf](http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/gpgs_files/pdf/UNF_Bioenergy/UNF_Bioenergy_3.pdf)
- *Chapter 10:* [http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/gpgs\\_files/pdf/UNF\\_Bioenergy/UNF\\_Bioenergy\\_10.pdf](http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/gpgs_files/pdf/UNF_Bioenergy/UNF_Bioenergy_10.pdf)

***Promising Approaches to Address the Needs of Poor Female Farmers***, International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2008.

This brief focuses on key agricultural resources needed by poor female farmers to generate incomes and ensure their families' food security. It is organized around key resources and promising approaches to increase poor women's control of those resources.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/ib/in13.pdf>

***The Development Promise: Can the Doha Development Agenda Deliver for Least-Developed Countries?***, International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2008.

The benefits least-developed countries (LDCs) can draw from a multilateral trade reform as designed by the modalities made public in May 2008 are negligible, and some countries will even face adverse effects. World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiators should make a supplementary effort in favor of the poorest countries.

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/ib/in14.pdf>

***34th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)***, FAO, Rome, October 14 – 17, 2008

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production and physical and economic access to food. The Committee is meeting in Rome from October 14-17. Below of several documents that are being consulted and reviewed at the meeting:

- *Assessment of the World Food Security and Nutrition Situation:*  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/k3175e.pdf>
- *Follow-up to the World Food Summit: Report on the Progress in the Implementation of the Plan of Action:*  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/K3058E1.pdf>
- *International Alliance Against Hunger:* <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/k3030e.pdf>
- *Proposals to enhance participation of Civil Society / Non-Governmental Organizations (CSOs / NGOs) in the committee on World Food Security:*  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/k3028e1.pdf>
- *Proposals to Strengthen the Committee on World Food Security to Meet New Challenges:*  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/k3029e.pdf>

---

## Political/Conceptual Shifts

***Ag secretary sees strong farm outlook despite economic woes***, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, October 9, 2008

The worldwide demand for food will continue to grow and set U.S. farmers in the driver's seat, the country's top agricultural official said in St. Louis. At a time of fluctuation in agriculture — commodity prices are down, fuel is up, biofuels have become a lightning rod and tight credit is afflicting numerous industries — Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer said there is reason for optimism.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/business/stories.nsf/business/story/aea7aec95b156ae8862574dd005c85b6?OpenDocument>

***World Food Prize, USDA formalize relationship***, Chicago Tribune, October 17, 2008

The World Food Prize and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are now partners in the fight against hunger. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Schafer announced on Friday that the two entities -- long linked in their efforts -- had signed a formal agreement that will allow the USDA and the World Food Prize Foundation to work together on research, science and education projects.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-worldfoodprize-sc,0,2077858.story>

***EU seeks to work with China in Africa***, Reuters, October 16th

The European Commission suggests that China and the 27-nation EU should work together to ensure in Africa a "sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, (which) is key to sustained growth, combating climate change and to mutual trade interests." It says the EU and China should work jointly with the African Union to fight climate change and encourage the use of renewable energy. It also proposes cooperation on raising productivity in the agricultural sector.

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnJOE49E0KS.html>

***South Africa must step up land reform: Zuma***, Reuters, October 14, 2008

South Africa must intensify efforts to transfer farmland to blacks if it is to end crippling poverty among rural communities, ruling ANC leader Jacob Zuma said. Land restitution is a sensitive issue in South Africa, troubled by the decline in agriculture in neighboring Zimbabwe where white commercial farmers were often violently evicted by President Robert Mugabe's government.

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnJOE49D0J6.html>

***Africans Sort Out Financial Priorities As Nations Pursue Coordinated Rescue Plan***, VOA News, October 14, 2008

In Washington, African finance ministers on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) began assessing the impact of economic rescue measures unveiled over the weekend.

As the recovery package started to calm world financial anxieties on Monday, African countries started to evaluate how best to shore up international organization support and donor government pledges in the wake of the crisis.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2008-10-14-voa6.cfm>

***Angola launches \$6bn agriculture expansion***, Financial Times, October 4, 2008

Angola, one of the world's fastest-growing economies, has launched an ambitious plan to exploit both its fertile soils and high global food prices to attract \$6bn (€4.3bn, £3.4bn) in agriculture investments over the next five years.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/790488fe-91ad-11dd-b5cd-0000779fd18c.html>

***China Announces Land Policy Aimed at Promoting Income Growth in Countryside***, New York Times, October 13, 2008

Chinese leaders said Sunday that they would adopt a rural growth policy aimed at vastly increasing the income of China's hundreds of millions of farmers by the year 2020, setting in motion what could be the nation's biggest economic reform in years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/world/asia/13china.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

*See Also: In China, Leaders Turn Focus to Farmers' Plight*, Wall Street Journal, October 10, 2008

China's leaders began an annual policy-setting meeting Thursday, turning their attention from the global financial crisis to the economic issues facing the nation's 730 million farmers.

China's reforms began in the countryside 30 years ago, but rural incomes have been growing only slowly and grain production has reached a plateau.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122357413898519675.html>

*See Also: Land reform in China—Promises, promises: A “breakthrough” in land reform? Or a damp squib?*, Economist, October 16, 2008

THE farmers of Shangmatai township, about 90km (55 miles) south-east of Beijing, near the port city of Tianjin, are waiting anxiously for land reform. According to the peasants, the local government has seized their land to build an artificial lake in order to attract tourists. They say they have received no compensation.

[http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=12437707](http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12437707)

*U.K.'s Rising Food Prices Hamper Economic Policy*, Wall Street Journal, October 15, 2008

The cost of food in the U.K. is rising at a faster rate than elsewhere, putting more pressure on an economy already squeezed by the credit crisis. A 12.7% increase in food prices in September from a year earlier helped to drive overall inflation last month to 5.2%, its highest level in 16 years, the Office for National Statistics reported Tuesday.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122401830281133843.html?mod=todays\\_us\\_page\\_one](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122401830281133843.html?mod=todays_us_page_one)

---

## Agribusiness

*Scientists envision affordable food for Africa*, Xinhua (China), October 10, 2008

Africa aims to become its own source of food, by improving and buffing up the backbone of most African economies, the agribusiness sector. Through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), African leaders believe that the agricultural sector, which already supports about 80 percent of Africa's population, especially the impoverished, and employs 60 percent of the same population, is the perfect vehicle to reach Africa's goal of becoming self reliant and fully productive.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-10/10/content\\_10176700.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-10/10/content_10176700.htm)

*Financial institutions told to invest in agribusiness*, East African Standard (Nairobi), October 15, 2008

Financial institutions in Africa have been urged to invest in agribusiness to drive economic growth. Speakers at the first East and Central Africa Agribusiness Workshop in Nairobi noted that despite agriculture being the backbone of the economy, it has remained non-competitive due poor financing.

<http://www.eastandard.net/InsidePage.php?id=1143996991&cid=14&j=&m=&d=>

---

## Food Aid

*Annan: Financial crisis undercuts global food aid*, Associated Press, October 16, 2008

Wealthy nations are reneging on commitments to help feed the world's hungry and may cite the banking crisis as a reason why they cannot do more, former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told an international conference on combating starvation Thursday.

[http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iEpT2\\_9rV2TR-qMOj1YPnPZ5YYXgD93RJ200](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iEpT2_9rV2TR-qMOj1YPnPZ5YYXgD93RJ200)

*UN calls on donors to meet \$140m shortfall in food aid for Zimbabwe*, Financial Times, October 10, 2008

The United Nations yesterday appealed to donors to meet a \$140m (€102m, £81m) shortfall in its plans to stave off starvation facing millions of Zimbabweans. The call from the World Food Programme - the UN's emergency food agency - comes amid a protracted deadlock in power-sharing talks between Robert Mugabe, the president, and Morgan Tsvangirai, the opposition leader whose party yesterday accused the regime of "fiddling while Zimbabwe burns".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fda2c6be-9664-11dd-9dce-000077b07658.html>

See also: **Zimbabwe's Food Shortages Worsen, Will Hit 5 Million**, Bloomberg, October 9, 2008  
Zimbabwe's food shortages are worsening and may hit more than 5 million people, or 45 percent of its population, by early next year, the United Nations said. The Rome-based UN World Food Program said today that its food aid stocks will run out in January and appealed for \$140 million to provide relief in the southern African nation over the next six months.

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aFKg\\_E9oMCp4&refer=africa](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aFKg_E9oMCp4&refer=africa)

**EU grants 15 million euro food aid for east Africa**, Agence France-Presse, October 16, 2008

The European Commission on Thursday announced 15 million euros (20 million dollars) of emergency food aid for victims of drought and soaring food prices in five east African countries.

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnJOE49D0J6.html>

**Aid agencies: World's poor will be biggest victims**, Associated Press, October 14, 2008

The world's poorest people will be hungrier, sicker and have fewer jobs as a result of the global financial crisis, and cash-strapped aid agencies will be less able to help, aid groups are warning. The charities that provide food, medicine and other relief on the ground say cutbacks have already started, but it will take months or more before the full impact is felt in the poorest countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia.

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gCO1eZtgRydjeuoXUrIR1ylwZ-7AD93QH0LO0>

**Ethiopia Says It Needs \$266 Million for Emergency Drought Aid**, Bloomberg, October 14, 2008

Ethiopia needs \$266 million to help feed 6.4 million people suffering from food shortages due to drought, an increase of 1.8 million since June, the government said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aP6dgRIq3Qn8&refer=africa>

---

## The Food Crisis and Impacts on Poverty

**Welthungerhilfe: Hunger Crisis Worse than Financial Crisis**, Deutsche Welle, October 14, 2008

With almost a billion people worldwide going hungry, the German aid organization Welthungerhilfe has warned that the financial crisis should not push their suffering in the background.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,3710124,00.html>

**UN Agency Warns Not to Forget Food Crisis**, VOA News, October 15, 2008

While much of the world's attention is being paid to the financial crisis, a UN agency is warning not to forget the ongoing food crisis. The Food and Agriculture Organization says the financial turmoil could deepen the food crisis. So it's calling on world leaders to stick to the commitments they made at the food crisis summit in Rome in June. The warning comes amid this week's meeting of the agency's Committee on World Food Security.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2008-10-15-voa24.cfm>

---

## Agriculture Development practices (corporate, IGO, NGO, gov't) with focus on South Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa

**On World Food Day, Expert Says Much to be Done to End Food Crisis**, VOA News, October 16, 2008

Last June, before the current financial crisis, world leaders met in Rome to address the food crisis. Severe shortages and high prices resulted in commitments for greater investment in agricultural productivity. Many parts of sub-Saharan Africa have been hit hard by the food crisis, but now, solutions to the problem may be affected by the current global financial turmoil.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2008-10-16-voa27.cfm>

**Oxfam launches report and £15 million appeal to tackle world food crisis**, Reuters AlertNet, October 16, 2008

Oxfam has today (World Food Day, October 16th) launched a massive fundraising appeal to tackle the impact of rising world food prices, which have pushed an extra 119 million people into hunger, taking the global total to nearly 1 billion.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/220803/d6b4b6dc4601b46bc1f0e457f7ae4d17.htm>

**Political, financial push urged to end hunger**, FAO, October 16, 2008

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf today called for a political and financial push to boost sustainable agriculture in the world's poor countries, double global food production and free the world of hunger and malnutrition.

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000940/index.html>

See also: Jacque Diouf's Speech on World Food Day

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/common/ecg/1000940/en/dgspeech.pdf>

**Ensuring the World Has Enough to Eat**, The Citizen (Dar es Salaam), October 16, 2008

By Mark Green, the Ambassador of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania.

On World Food Day, the United States stands with other nations in the world to combat global hunger and malnutrition by providing over \$5.5 billion to fight hunger in 2008 and 2009.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200810160501.html>

**AGRA, IFDC Float N427 Million (US\$3.5 million) Credit Facility for Agro Dealers**, Vanguard (Lagos), October 16, 2008

1,400 rural agro dealers in Nigeria are to benefit from US\$3.5 million (about N427 million) credit facility, courtesy of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the International Centre for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development (IFDC). These agro-dealers are the primary contacts for small-holder farmers to purchase seeds, fertilizers and other farm inputs critical for increasing productivity and incomes.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200810160174.html>

---

## Biofuels

**Venture capital looks to new sources of biofuels**, Reuters, October 13, 2008

Corn-based ethanol is yesterday's news for venture capitalists who, these days, are betting on everything from wood chips and algae to turkey guts and trash as potential sources of next-generation biofuels.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1348341620081013>

**Biofuels offer opportunity for rural development: UN**, Indo-Asian News Service, October 15, 2008

At a time of controversy around the use of biofuels in view of the global food crisis, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN Wednesday said biofuels offered “opportunity for agricultural and rural development”.

<http://www.freshnews.in/biofuels-offer-opportunity-for-rural-development-un-86076>

*Report Referenced (from last week's news brief): THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2008 – BIOFUELS: Prospects, Risks And Opportunities, FAO, 2008*

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0100e/i0100e.pdf>

**West Africa has potential to develop biomass: report**, Agence France-Presse, October 17, 2008

Bioenergy could become an "engine of growth" for several West African countries hard hit by the world food crisis and rising oil prices, the United Nations Foundation said Thursday. Converting biomass to bioenergy should be encouraged under certain conditions in the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the UNF said in a report commissioned by the group, whose French acronym is UEMOA.

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5idOBjUW2PwGeY1SUgNbtTIHoCcQ>

*See Also: Sound Bioenergy Policies Could Help Lift West African Rural Areas Out of Poverty*, UN Foundation, October 16, 2008

A new report released by the United Nations Foundation, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Energy and Security Group finds that bioenergy can provide significant economic and environmental opportunities for rural areas in West Africa.

<http://www.unfoundation.org/press-center/press-releases/2008/sound-bioenergy-policies.html>

*Report Referenced (also in “New Reports” section: [http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/gpgs\\_files/pdf/UNF\\_Bioenergy/UNF\\_Bioenergy\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/gpgs_files/pdf/UNF_Bioenergy/UNF_Bioenergy_full_report.pdf))*

---

## Market Access

**Beyond Doha: Freer trade is under threat—but not for the usual reasons**, Economist, October 9, 2008  
DURING a summer when the economic shadows darkened so dramatically, few paid attention to the collapse—yet again—of the Doha round of global trade talks. The July summit failed because of China’s and India’s insistence on maintaining the right to impose “safeguard” tariffs to protect their own farms in case of a sudden surge in food imports.

[http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=12373720](http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12373720)

**Protectionism would worsen crisis - World Bank chief**, Reuters, October 9, 2008

The global financial crisis would take a turn for the worse if countries responded by erecting barriers to trade, World Bank President Robert Zoellick. The bleak outlook for completion of the long-running Doha round of world trade talks raises concerns that countries could turn to protectionism, he said.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-35879120081009?sp=true>

**Importers Snatch Up USDA's Credit Guarantees**, Wall Street Journal, October 13, 2008

The Agriculture Department on Oct. 6 made available \$3.5 billion worth of credit guarantees to help importers in countries like Russia and Mexico buy U.S. commodities such as wheat, rice and poultry. And by Friday, importers had already snatched up \$1.9 billion of that, as the global credit crisis pinches liquidity.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122384276587026821.html?mod=todays\\_us\\_money\\_and\\_investing](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122384276587026821.html?mod=todays_us_money_and_investing)

---

## Developments in Agriculture, Science and Technology

**Commodities: Elevated prices here to stay**, Financial Times, October 9

Almost every commodity – from oil, through food to rare metals – has hit record prices over the past year, stoking inflation and denting global growth. The surge in agricultural commodities had even deeper implications, sparking protests in dozens of countries that peaked with the collapse of Haiti's government. Deliberate restrictions by some producers, particularly food exporters such as India, Russia or Argentina, and the use of food crops such as corn or palm oil for biofuels, were behind much of the rise in agricultural commodities.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cfca654e-94ca-11dd-953e-000077b07658.html?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cfca654e-94ca-11dd-953e-000077b07658.html?nclick_check=1)

**USDA raises corn, soybean forecast**, Washington Post, October 10, 2008

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday increased its monthly forecast for this year's corn and soybean harvest due to wetter weather, potentially lowering commodity prices.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/10/AR2008101000953.html>

---

## Women in Development

**Rural women are key to increasing agricultural growth and food security in developing countries**,

International Fund of Agricultural Development, October 15, 2008

On the occasion of the launch of the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook, coinciding with the International Day of Rural Women, experts from the three Rome based food and agriculture organisations (FAO, IFAD, WFP) and the World Bank will discuss the findings of three years of research on gender responsive agricultural development.

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/advisory/2008/11.htm>

FAO Press Release on *Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook*:

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000929/index.html>

World Bank Press Release on *Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook*:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21932136~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

See Also (appeared in last week's news brief): **Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook** (FAO, IFAD, WFP, World Bank)

<http://www.ifad.org/gender/pub/sourcebook/gal.pdf>