

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



October 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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### KEY ARTICLES

**Seeding a safer world**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Op-ed, The Guardian (U.K.), October 16*

The Obama administration sees chronic hunger as a key priority of our foreign policy. Chronic hunger threatens individuals, governments, societies, and borders. We know that development works best when it is seen as investment, not aid. Revitalizing global agriculture will not be easy. But it can be done. It is worth doing. And if we succeed, our future will be more prosperous and more peaceful than our past.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2009/oct/16/hillary-clinton-food-security>

See Also: **Secretary Clinton's Statement on World Food Day**, U.S. State Department, October 16

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/10/130628.htm>

**Gates' charity to focus on food security**, *Financial Times, October 16*

Bill Gates has put the focus of his multi-billion-dollar foundation firmly on food security, saying that making poor farmers more productive will have a "massive impact" on hunger. The move by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation into food security after an emphasis on health issues such as malaria signals how agriculture has become a global preoccupation as the number of chronically hungry people tops 1bn.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bbbb1c00-b9eb-11de-a747-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: **Transcript of Bill Gates' Speech**

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/speeches-commentary/Pages/bill-gates-2009-world-food-prize-speech.aspx>

See Also: **Gates's Fields of Dreams**, Michael Gerson, *Op-ed, The Washington Post, October 16*

Approximately three-quarters of Africans are employed in agriculture, but about 30 percent of people on the continent suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Over the next few decades, African farmers will need to feed a growing population without expanding into ecologically important lands, while adapting to climate disruptions that make drought, pests and floods more common. They will need Gates's help, and more.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/15/AR2009101502762\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/15/AR2009101502762_pf.html)

See Also: **Norman Borlaug to Gates Foundation CEO: Don't give up the fight**, *Seattle Times, October 15*

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2010072505\\_borlaug\\_to\\_gates\\_foundation\\_ce.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2010072505_borlaug_to_gates_foundation_ce.html)

**Hunger breeds violence**, Samuel Berger (*former national security advisor to President Bill Clinton*), *Op-ed, Los Angeles Times, October 16*

Every six seconds a child dies of hunger. Those who don't die face a childhood of worry and desperation. Many of them end up foraging in the streets or garbage heaps, where they are prime targets for recruitment by extremist groups or other criminal organizations. That is simply not acceptable when most live in a world of plenty.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-berger16-2009oct16,0,840741.print.story>

**A Climate Smart Future**, Robert Zoellick (*President, World Bank*), *AllAfrica.com, October 12*

As the planet warms, rainfall patterns shift, and extreme events such as droughts, floods, and forest fires become more frequent. In Africa, Asia, and elsewhere, poor people face prospects of tragic crop failures, reduced agricultural productivity, and increasing hunger, malnutrition, and disease. It will become even harder to attain the Millennium Development Goals - and ensure a safe and sustainable future beyond 2015.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910130455.html>

**Watch Africa's emerging Green Revolution**, Namanga Ngongi (*President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa*), *Op-ed, Des Moines Register, October 11*

The Green Revolution bypassed Africa for many reasons. Africa was focused on freeing itself from colonial rule; rice and wheat that contributed to the Green Revolution in Asia were minor crops in Africa; international financial institutions developed and pushed structural adjustment programs that dismantled much of the nascent support infrastructure for agriculture: food-security reserves, extension services, research institutions, agricultural banks and input-support programs.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091011/OPINION01/910110307/-1/NEWS04>

See Also: **Green Revolution Alliance to Form Agriculture Policy Hubs**, *Interview with Namanga Ngongi (President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa), AllAfrica.com, October 15*

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910150019.html>

**Agriculture could close Darfur's gates of hell**, Richard Williamson (*former U.S. special envoy to Sudan*), *Op-ed, Des Moines Register, October 11*

There are common contributing factors that often are part of the mix such as a weak government with fading authority, corruption, marginalization, hunger and a failed economy, which, in most less-developed states, means a failure to achieve agricultural development. **As stated in "Renewing American Leadership in the Fight Against Global Hunger and Poverty," the recent report from the Chicago Council on Global Affairs: "Hunger and poverty are humanitarian issues, but they can quickly become political flash points." Food shortages create insecurity that too often leads to violence.**

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091011/OPINION01/910110308/-1/NEWS04>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**USDA eyes 10 pct of hunger funding for ag research**, *Reuters, October 15*

The U.S. Agriculture Department hopes to secure 10 percent of the funding for the new U.S. global hunger and food security initiative for agricultural research, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. Congress has not yet finalized appropriations for the plan for fiscal 2010, but is discussing a range of \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion to be spent on agricultural development, Vilsack said in an interview.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN15318961>

**Secretary of State Clinton Speaks at the U.S. – Africa Business Summit**, *Washington Informer*, October 15

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke at the Summit about the significance of U.S.– African relations and articulated a new engagement strategy for the continent. Clinton said the Obama Administration seeks engagement “that is built on shared responsibility and shared opportunity and on partnerships that produce measurable and lasting results.” She urged U.S. companies to move beyond the past stereotypes of Africa as a continent dominated by corruption and poverty, to a more diverse and dynamic one built on good governance, stable markets, and economic opportunity. Clinton also encouraged African leaders and businesses to open up their borders in order to expand Inter-African trade relations.

<http://www.washingtoninformer.com/wi->

[web/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2241:secretary-of-state-clinton-speaks-at-the-us--africa-business-summit&catid=52:international&Itemid=115](http://www.washingtoninformer.com/wi-web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2241:secretary-of-state-clinton-speaks-at-the-us--africa-business-summit&catid=52:international&Itemid=115)

*See Also: Affluent Africa*, *Financial Times*, October 15

Until the global downturn washed up on African shores at the start of this year, the continent’s economies were growing at their fastest pace in generations. The growth of banking and communications services, a boom in commodity prices and the opportunities provided by a small but growing class of consumers, have all contributed to the creation of a new generation of powerful African businessmen and women.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e64bda5c-b2db-11de-b7d2-00144feab49a,s01=1.html>

**USAID awaits its fate**, *Foreign Policy (The Cable Blog)*, October 14

As the long wait for an appointment of an administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development continues, the development community in Washington is looking at the State Department’s once-in-four-years policy review for clues about the fate of the agency.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/10/14/usaid\\_awaits\\_its\\_fate](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/10/14/usaid_awaits_its_fate)

**Vilsack won’t spurn conventional ag, GMOs**, *Des Moines Register*, October 13

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spent just over 30 minutes extolling community and organic food efforts to an appreciative audience of advocates. There was a little grumbling in the audience when Vilsack refused to choose small, local farms over larger, conventional operations. The grumbling turned into a few outright boos when he refused to rule out genetically modified crops, raising the need for technology to feed the expanding world population.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2009/10/13/vilsack-wont-spurn-conventional-ag-gmos/>

*See Also: In Iowa stops, Vilsack touts local food production, state enforcement of finance regulations*, *Los Angeles Times/Associated Press*, October 13

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-ia-vilsack-iowa.0.4898446.story>

**Yes We Can (Pass Climate Change Legislation)**, *Senators John Kerry and Lindsey Graham, Op-ed*, *New York Times*, October 10

The best way to make America stronger is to work together to address an urgent crisis facing the world.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/11/opinion/11kerrygraham.html>

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## NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

**How to Feed the World in 2050**, *FAO*, October 2009

This report argues that the required increase in food production can be achieved if the necessary investment is undertaken and policies conducive to agricultural production are put in place. But increasing production is

not sufficient to achieve food security. It must be complemented by policies to enhance access by fighting poverty, especially in rural areas, as well as effective safety net programmes.

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert\\_paper/How\\_to\\_Feed\\_the\\_World\\_in\\_2050.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/How_to_Feed_the_World_in_2050.pdf)

See Also: **Food for the future**, Jacques Diouf (Director-General, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), *Daily Star (Bangladesh)*, October 11

For over the next four decades, the world's population will grow by 2.3 billion and become richer. Meeting the demand of the world's 9.1 billion inhabitants in 2050 will require 70 percent more food than we currently produce. So unless we take the right decisions today we risk finding the global cupboard dangerously bare tomorrow.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=109142>

See Also: **UN: Agriculture investment must increase 5-fold**, *Associated Press*, October 13

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gkV6-fz2DVaMzmlwVHfZxfr1wHwD9B9LRM00>

### **2009 Global Hunger Index – The Challenge of Hunger: Focus on Financial Crisis and Gender Inequality**, *International Food Policy Research Institute/Concern International*, October 2009

The current food and financial crises, linked in complex ways, will both have implications for food security, financial and economic stability, and political security. The impacts will be greatest on the poor and hungry, and the countries with the highest levels of hunger are also among the most vulnerable to the global downturn. An important part of the solution to global hunger is reducing gender inequality.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghi09.pdf>

Key Facts and Findings: <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghi09keyfacts.pdf>

Facts and Findings: *Sub-Saharan Africa, East Africa*:

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghi09factsafrica.pdf>

See Also: **Women Key to Easing Hunger in Africa, Study Says**, *Bloomberg*, October 14

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=abpXhCUJBb.U>

### **State of Food Insecurity in the World 2009: Economic crises - impacts and lessons learned**, *FAO*, October 2009

This annual report presents the latest statistics on global undernourishment and concludes that structural problems of underinvestment have impeded progress toward the World Food Summit goal and the first Millennium Development Goal hunger reduction target. This disappointing state of affairs has been exacerbated by first the food crisis and now the global economic crisis that, together, have increased the number of undernourished people in the world to more than one billion for the first time since 1970.

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/i0876e/i0876e.pdf>

See Also: **Chronic hunger: Feeding the world**, *Economist*, October 16

[http://www.economist.com/daily/news/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14636492&fsrc=nw](http://www.economist.com/daily/news/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14636492&fsrc=nw)

See Also: **Economic crisis is devastating for the world's hungry**, *FAO*, October 15

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/36207/icode/>

### **Supporting Africa's Strategy for Reducing Rural Poverty: U.S. Agricultural Development Assistance 2005-2008**, *Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa*, October 2009

This brief summarizes the key findings in the second of a series of reports by the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa examining levels and trends in agricultural development assistance provided by the United States to sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://pchpa.forumone.com/sites/default/files/PCHPA%20Policy%20Brief%206%20October%202009.doc>

### **Who's Really Fighting Hunger?**, *ActionAid*, October 2009

In a new study, ActionAid investigated the progress over 50 governments were making in reducing the number of hungry people in their countries. The scorecard report shows that China, ranked second out of the developing countries, cut hunger numbers by 58 million in ten years through strong state support for smallholder farmers. By contrast, in India, 30 million more people have joined the ranks of the hungry since the mid-nineties.

[http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/Hungerfree\\_Scorecards.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/Hungerfree_Scorecards.pdf)

**What Happened to the Seasons?**, *Oxfam, October 2009*

The timing of rain, and intra-seasonal rainfall patterns are critical to smallholder farmers in developing countries. Seasonality influences farmers' decisions about when to cultivate and sow and harvest and ultimately contributes to the success or failure of their crops. Farmers are reporting that both the timing of rainy seasons and the pattern of rains within seasons are changing.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate\\_change/downloads/research\\_what\\_happened\\_to\\_seasons.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/downloads/research_what_happened_to_seasons.pdf)

**Improving the Effectiveness of US Assistance in Transforming the Food Security Outlook in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, October 2009*

Agricultural development is a critical catalyst for economic growth and poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa. Three-quarters of the population live and work in rural areas. GDP growth in agriculture has large potential benefits for the poor and is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as growth generated by other sectors.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/sites/default/files/PCHPA%20Policy%20Brief%205%20October%202009.doc>

**Globalization and Informal Jobs in Developing Countries**, *International Labour Organization and World Trade Organization, October 2009*

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of how trade and the informal economy interact and how well designed trade and decent work policies can contribute to more favourable employment outcomes.

[http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/jobs\\_devel\\_countries\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/jobs_devel_countries_e.pdf)

**Opening Markets for Poor Countries: Are We There Yet?**, *Kimberly Ann Elliott (Senior Fellow), Center for Global Development, October 2009*

Despite six decades of trade liberalization, trade policies in rich countries still discriminate against the exports of the world's poorest countries. Most rich countries have made reforms since the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000 called for duty-free, quota-free market access for the least-developed countries. But much remains to be done to achieve the goal of meaningful market access for the poorest countries, including reformed rules of origin that facilitate rather than inhibit trade.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1422923\\_file\\_Trade\\_Preferences\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1422923_file_Trade_Preferences_FINAL.pdf)

**The Effects of the Global Financial Crisis on African Economies**, *Policy Brief, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, September 2009*

While the initial effects of the global financial crisis were slow to materialize in Africa, the impact is now becoming clear and many countries are recording negative growth rates for the first time in close to a decade, making the achievement of their Millennium Development Goals targets that much harder.

<http://wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/Econ%20Brief2.pdf>

**Beyond Aid: Ensuring adaptation to climate change works for the poor**, *Oxfam, September 2009*

Climate change is already increasing the exposure of poor people to livelihood shocks arising from droughts, floods, sickness, storms and slow-onset changes such as shifting seasons, desertification and sea-level rise. The cumulative impacts could send people into a downward spiral of increasing poverty and vulnerability with profound implications for the achievability of the Millennium Development Goals.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate\\_change/downloads/bp\\_132\\_beyond\\_aid\\_150909\\_web.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/downloads/bp_132_beyond_aid_150909_web.pdf)

**From Commitment to Action: A Demand-Driven Approach to Improving Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, June 2009*

This brief proposes a demand-driven, African-owned approach to funding and programming foreign assistance which has as its clear objective strengthening the foundations for long-term, African-led agricultural development and food security.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/sites/default/files/Demand%20Driven%20Approach%20to%20Improving%20Food%20Security%20in%20Sub-Saharan%20Africa.pdf>

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**\*\*\*SPECIAL COVERAGE OF THE 2009 WORLD FOOD PRIZE AND "BORLAUG DIALOGUE" SYMPOSIUM\*\*\***

**Scientist wins World Food Prize for teaching Africa to feed itself**, *Des Moines Register*, October 15

Growing up poor in rural Ethiopia, Gebisa Ejeta benefitted from two imports from America: basketball and training in agriculture. More important for his country, the agriculture he learned led him to a career in plant breeding, and he went on to dramatically improve yields of sorghum, a crop critical to his home country. Now, his goal is to spread that basic agricultural training to millions of poor farmers who need it.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091015/BUSINESS01/910150364/1029/BUSINESS&theme=/apps/pbcs.dll/section?category=BUSINESS>

**USAID-funded scientist's agriculture initiative wins 2009 World Food Prize, improves food supply for millions in sub-Saharan Africa**, *USAID*, October 15

The 2009 World Food Prize was awarded to Dr. Gebisa Ejeta for developing sorghum plant hybrids that yield three to four times more than local varieties; dramatically increasing the production and availability of one of the world's five principal grains. Ejeta's work was a part of the USAID-supported Sorghum, Millet and Other Grains (SMOG) Collaborative Research Support Program and its predecessor programs that have been implemented by the University of Nebraska.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2009/pr091015.html>

**Get sustainable agriculture right this time, experts urge**, *Seattle Times*, October 15

Food quantity or food quality? Can the world quell starvation now and still have a healthy ecosystem over the long term? Tough questions for anyone concerned about agriculture and its relation to hunger and poverty. In a keynote speech at the World Food Prize symposium today, Bill Gates said he supports sustainable agriculture, welcome words to experts in the field, who say there is no short term fix.

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2010073311\\_get\\_sustainable\\_agriculture\\_ri.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2010073311_get_sustainable_agriculture_ri.html)

**CEOs, ag minister call for agricultural investment**, *Associated Press*, October 15

Greater investment, innovation and improved public-private partnerships are needed to meet the world's growing demand for food, business and government leaders said at the World Food Prize symposium. The chief executives of DuPont and Archer Daniels Midland Co., two major players in international agriculture, and the agriculture secretary for the Netherlands, spoke on the first day of the conference in Des Moines.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gv0Nq\\_bN-oQ5QWEqBMZ6pVADmTbgD9BBCJL80](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gv0Nq_bN-oQ5QWEqBMZ6pVADmTbgD9BBCJL80)

**Less talk, more action needed on food security**, *Interview with Per Pinstrup-Andersen*, *Reuters*, October 13

Last year's spike in food prices raised the political profile of food security. G8 nations and the United States have pledged money and action. This interview is with Per Pinstrup-Andersen, an agricultural economist at Cornell University and a Food Prize laureate, who provides his take on what that means.

<http://blogs.reuters.com/commodity-corner/2009/10/13/less-talk-more-action-needed-on-food-security/>

**World Food Prize eyes gains, setbacks in hunger**, *Reuters*, October 12

Researchers and others who seek to alleviate hunger by boosting farmers' productivity will gather this week in the heart of the U.S. Corn Belt to focus on the political risks when people don't have enough to eat.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1326613720091013>

**Food Prize's growth brings the ag world to Des Moines**, *Des Moines Register*, October 11

New York and Washington, step aside. When it comes to global food and agriculture policy, Des Moines is the place to be for at least one week each year.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091011/BUSINESS01/910110339>

**A new global monitoring system for food insecurity?**, *Craig Hadley & Kenneth Maes*, *The Lancet*, October 10

The theme of this year's World Food Day on Oct 16, "Achieving food security in times of crisis", reflects the tremendous interest in food insecurity raised by the 2008 food crisis. Yet, as the world confronts the links

between global food insecurity and crises, we still have little systematic knowledge about who was affected by the 2008 food crisis and to what extent.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)61766-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)61766-9/fulltext)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **How to Feed the World in 2050 High-Level Expert Forum**

*Date:* October 12-13, 2009

*Location:* Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/wsfs/forum2050/about-the-forum/en/>

### **2009 World Food Prize and “Borlaug Dialogue” Symposium: Food, Agriculture, and National Security**

***Date:* October 14-16, 2009**

***Location:* Des Moines, IA**

The formal awarding of the \$250,000 World Food Prize will be the cornerstone of a week-long series of events that will attract several hundred government officials and policymakers, private-sector and agribusiness executives, academics and scientists, and NGO and development-agency leaders from over 65 countries. The “conversations” of the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium will this year focus on the connection between food and agriculture and national and international security and cooperation, with speakers including renowned global CEOs, agricultural ministers and diplomats, noted intelligence and security experts, and other eminent leaders in agricultural and rural development.

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:** [Bill Gates](#) (Co-Chair, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation); [Tom Vilsack](#) (Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture); [Alonzo Fulgham](#) (Acting Administrator, United States Agency for International Development); [Indra Nooyi](#) (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, PepsiCo); [Patricia Woertz](#) (Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Archer Daniels Midland Company); [Jeffrey Sachs](#) (Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University); [Namanga Ngongi](#) (President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa); [Joachim von Braun](#) (Director General, The International Food Policy Research Institute); [Catherine Bertini](#) (Professor, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University; 2003 World Food Prize Laureate); [Per Pinstrup-Andersen](#) (H.E. Babcock Professor of Food, Nutrition and Public Policy, Cornell University; 2001 World Food Prize Laureate); [Richard Williamson](#) (Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP; Former U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan)

*Agenda:* <http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009/agenda.htm>

*Register Now:* <http://www.worldfoodprize.org/Registration/2009/09Registration.htm>

*Speaker’s Biographies:* <http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009/speakers.htm>

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

*Date:* November 16-18, 2009

*Location:* Rome, Italy

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

### **CABI Global Summit: Food security in a climate of change**

*Date:* October 19-21, 2009

*Location:* London, UK

The CABI Global Summit will bring together environment and agriculture ministers and other senior government officials from around the world. Also attending will be major funding organizations and representatives from international development and corporate organizations. Together, they will consider policies, practices and technologies that can help improve food security against this background of change.

[https://www.cabiglobalsummit.com/delegate\\_landing.aspx](https://www.cabiglobalsummit.com/delegate_landing.aspx) (registration available)

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

*Date:* November 30-December 1, 2009

*Location:* London, UK

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

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

**The search for a fresh recipe**, *World Food Special Report*, *Financial Times*, October 16

While the soaring food prices that sparked riots in many countries are no longer in the headlines, the global food system is still in turmoil. Experts say last year's food crisis was simply a wake-up call, signalling a new era in which rising prices, increasing volatility and growing food insecurity present daunting challenges for policymakers and development organisations.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/71947b50-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/71947b50-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html)

**Feeding the world in years to come**, *Deutsche Welle*, October 16

As the world population continues to grow, there will be more mouths to feed but fewer farmers to grow the needed crops. Those farmers are facing a bounty harvest of challenges: climate change, disappearing natural resources, spikes in food and energy prices.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4792057,00.html>

See Also: **Together, the world's rich nations could reduce hunger in the world**, *Opinion*, *Deutsche Welle*, October 16

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4795665,00.html>

**Modification: Genetic engineering conquers new ground**, *World Food Special Report*, *Financial Times*, October 16

The European Union may still be resisting genetically-modified crops but GM plants continue to spread across farmland elsewhere.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/702d6a60-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/702d6a60-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html)

**AGRA Launches Policy Initiative to Empower Africa To Shape Home-grown Agricultural Policies**, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa*, October 15

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) launched an initiative to empower African governments to shape home-grown agricultural policies that provide comprehensive support to smallholder farmers. The initiative is supported by a US\$15 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1028>

**Spur Haiti's development**, *Bernice Robertson (senior analyst in Haiti, International Crisis Group)*, *Op-ed*, *Miami Herald*, October 15

Coordination could help strengthen the provision of basic services, increase local production of agriculture and food access, reduce social and political fragility and further improve Haiti's business climate.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/other-views/story/1283509.html>

**Hungry? One-sixth of humanity feels the same**, *Editorial*, *Christian Science Monitor*, October 14

Decades of progress in food security have been reversed. The long-term solution is more investment in agriculture.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/1014/p08s01-comv.html>

**Another Chance to Fix the Food Crisis**, *Louis Belanger (Oxfam International Spokesman)*, *Huffington Post*, October 16

There is enough food grown in the world for everyone. And yet we remain stuck in a food crisis.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/louis-belanger/another-chance-to-fix-the\\_b\\_320666.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/louis-belanger/another-chance-to-fix-the_b_320666.html)

**Tanzania Suspends Biofuels Investments**, *New York Times (Green Inc. Blog)*, October 14

Reacting to mounting pressure from farmers and environmental groups citing concerns over food shortages, the Tanzanian government has reportedly suspended all biofuel investments in the country and halted land allocations for biofuel development.

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/10/14/tanzania-suspends-biofuels-investments/>

**World's poorest farmers now offered insurance**, *Boston Globe*, October 13

A quarter-century after famine killed one million Ethiopians and seared the world's conscience, peasant farmers there are enduring an ever-faster barrage of droughts. Now, thanks to the innovative work of Oxfam America, the risks are no longer as severe for hundreds of farmers in northern Ethiopia. If the rains fail and their crops wither, their losses will be covered.

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/africa/articles/2009/10/13/boston\\_based\\_oxfam\\_america\\_offering\\_insurance\\_policies\\_to\\_worlds\\_poorest\\_farmers/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/africa/articles/2009/10/13/boston_based_oxfam_america_offering_insurance_policies_to_worlds_poorest_farmers/)

**Zimbabwe farmer Ben Freeth begs Barack Obama to stop Robert Mugabe land grab**, *Times Online (U.K.)*, October 11

A British farmer who stood up to Robert Mugabe and was beaten, abducted and finally had his house burnt down has travelled to Washington to ask the Obama administration to put pressure on the Zimbabwe government before it seizes the last remaining white farms.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/africa/article6869581.ece>

**How will the world feed itself in 40 years' time?**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, October 11

By 2050, the predicted world population will require the resources of two Earths to sustain it. How can we possibly meet these demands?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/oct/11/how-will-the-world-feed-itself>

*See Also: Food, famine & climate change: How we feed the world on 85p*, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, October 11

As successive droughts and financial turmoil push a billion people worldwide to the brink of starvation, Plumpy'nut, a fast-food wonder snack, is quietly saving children's lives.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/oct/11/food-climate-change-famine-plumpy-nut>

**World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates**, U.S. Department of Agriculture, October 9

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/waob/wasde/2000s/2009/wasde-10-09-2009.pdf>

**Crop Production Report**, U.S. Department of Agriculture, October 9

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/CropProd/2000s/2009/CropProd-10-09-2009.pdf>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**Case Study: World Food Programme feeds the multitudes**, *World Food Special Report*, *Financial Times*, October 16

Perhaps most radical is the recent shift in the way emergency food aid is procured. Through its Purchase for Progress programme, the World Food Programme is starting to source more of the supplies it needs from local and regional markets, so that its activities provide economic opportunities for some of the world's poorest farmers. Another shift is the growing emphasis on cash responses from donors.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e897910-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e897910-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html)

**US rethinks Afghan aid strategy**, *Financial Times*, October 13

Accused of wasting huge sums on failed projects in Afghanistan, USAid has adopted a new strategy to undermine the Taliban by spending up to \$500m a year to help farmers, primarily in the heartland of the insurgency.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0cee00da-b819-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html>

**State Dept. split over Pakistan aid**, *USA Today*, October 12

Special representative Richard Holbrooke's bid to rapidly shift U.S. aid from American contractors to local Pakistani organizations will "seriously compromise" the effort to stabilize Pakistan, a U.S. diplomat says in a "dissent channel" message to senior State Department officials.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-10-11-pakistan-aid\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-10-11-pakistan-aid_N.htm)

See Also: **Dissent Channel: Contradictory Efforts for the USAID/Pakistan Program**, Memo by C. Stuart Callison (USAID), October 2  
<http://i.usatoday.net/news/pdf/Dissent%20on%20Holbrooke%20FATA%20actions.pdf>

**Ethiopia's Meles Accuses Donors of Exaggerating Food Crisis**, VOA News, October 11

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has lashed out at humanitarian aid donors, accusing them of exaggerating the magnitude of his country's malnutrition crisis and failing to deliver on pledges of assistance.  
<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-10-11-voa12.cfm>

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**ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)**

**Environmental impact: Green credentials have little to do with transport**, *World Food Special Report*, Financial Times, October 16

In recent years, attention has focused on the affect of "food miles" on the Earth's atmosphere. However, there is a growing recognition that simply measuring the distance food is transported does not provide an accurate picture of its carbon emissions, or of the natural resources the food industry consumes. Determining food's environmental impact, say experts, will require broader assessments.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6fa2e5e8-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6fa2e5e8-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html)

**Malnutrition rises in drought-stricken Guatemala**, *Miami Herald*, October 16

The rainy season has watered crops in Guatemala, but relief workers and food experts say the rainfall has done little to help the country recover from a major drought that's aggravated malnutrition rates and already claimed dozens of lives this year.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/americas/story/1285246.html>

**Massive African lake could dry up, U.N. agency says**, *CNN*, October 15

Up to 30 million people are facing "a humanitarian disaster" as Lake Chad, one of Africa's biggest lakes, shrinks, a United Nations agency warned. "In addition to an approximately 60 percent decline in fish production, there has been degradation of pasturelands, leading to a shortage of animal feed estimated at 45 percent in certain places in 2006, reduction in livestock and biodiversity," the FAO said.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/africa/10/15/lake.chad/>

**Climate deal hopes boosted**, *Financial Times*, October 15

Developing countries have dropped long-standing demands for access to rich countries' technology to cut greenhouse gas emissions, removing a big obstacle to an international deal on climate change, European officials said.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8d956108-b9c5-11de-a747-00144feab49a.html>

**Arctic findings bring global warning**, *Financial Times*, October 14

New predictions outlined by the survey that most of the summer ice will melt within 10 years mean rainfall, food production and human water supplies will be affected earlier than previously predicted. It also means water and food security will be two big defining geopolitical issues in the decades ahead.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/862b16ca-b8e3-11de-98ee-00144feab49a.html>

**Biggest Obstacle to Global Climate Deal May Be How to Pay for It**, *New York Times*, October 14

The price tag for a new climate agreement will be a staggering \$100 billion a year by 2020, many economists estimate; some put the cost at closer to \$1 trillion. That money is needed to help fast-developing countries like India and Brazil convert to costly but cleaner technologies as they industrialize, as well as to assist the poorest countries in coping with the consequences of climate change, like droughts and rising seas.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/15/science/earth/15climate.html>

**Dinner is grass in South Sudan after drought kills crops**, *Agence France-Presse*, October 12

In these remote regions of south Sudan, farmers depend mainly on rain to grow sorghum, millet and peanuts, but a severe drought in May and June ruined the summer harvest. The drought, price rises and the increase in tribal violence all contribute to the severe food insecurity which affects 1.5 million people in south Sudan.  
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ihULDPzy5uR4ON-L2b6HBJQzeo9A>

**Food, famine & climate change: India's scorched earth**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, October 11

Suicide is the latest epidemic among farming communities as climate change parches the heart of India, destroying agriculture and plunging the poorest families into crippling debt.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/oct/11/food-climate-change-famine-india>

**Storms, war spell disaster for hungry**, *Toronto Star*, October 9

In the Philippines, people clung to the roofs of their houses as gushing rivulets of flood water carried away their worldly goods. In drought-stricken Kenya, nomadic pastureland has turned to dust, animals are dying and destitute herders go hungry. In the stormy 21st century, natural disasters have escalated dramatically along with global warming, spreading not only death, but starvation in their wake.  
<http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/707794--storms-war-spell-disaster-for-hungry>

**UN warns over Syria drought 'disaster'**, *Financial Times*, October 8

The United Nations is gearing up to bring emergency relief to north-east Syria, where a severe and persistent drought has forced more than 300,000 people to leave their homes. The drought is in its third year and particularly affects north-eastern Syria and parts of Iraq. Many Syrian farmers have run out of seeds for planting and herds have been largely sold off or slaughtered.  
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a5f97db6-b424-11de-bec8-00144feab49a.html>

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## WOMEN

**Chinese, African women pledge cooperation in addressing challenges**, *Xinhua*, October 14

A declaration stressing cooperation between Chinese and African women in addressing challenges of economic crisis and gender equality in political life was passed when the China-Africa Women's Forum closed in Cairo.  
[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/15/content\\_12234419.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/15/content_12234419.htm)

**Feminized Poverty, a Gender Challenge**, *AllAfrica.com*, October 12

As the main caregivers of children, poverty hits women the hardest of all. For women living in extreme poverty, every day is a struggle to survive. Women also in developing countries own only about 10 percent of all farmland and hold less than two percent of all titles, although they produce up to 80 per cent of staple foods.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910121285.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**Markets: Forecast is for prolonged high after cool spell**, *World Food Special Report*, *Financial Times*, October 16

After their unprecedented highs in early 2008, the price of commodity foods has fallen sharply. European farmers are again pouring away milk in protest at collapsing prices, lamenting year-on-year cuts of up to 20 per cent in their incomes, and demanding government intervention. Yet high food prices, which provoked street protests in developing countries, and export bans by some producers less than two years ago, have not gone away.  
[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6f21a366-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a,dwp\\_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6f21a366-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a,dwp_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html)

**Starving for Freedom**, *Julian Morris* (executive director, *International Policy Network*), *Op-ed*, *Wall Street Journal*, October 16

Blame famine on trade restrictions, not on climate change or a lack of Western aid.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704107204574474731971741364.html>

**Poor states seek cotton safety net due to slump**, *Reuters, October 16*

The world's poorest countries urged other World Trade Organization members to set up a safety net for cotton producers in poor nations, to help address losses arising from the world economic slump. Trade Ministers from some 30 members of the Least Developed Countries also asked for quick action on removing trade-distorting subsidies and duty- and quota-free market access to cotton and cotton by-products from poor countries.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE59F09220091016>

**Rice, Cotton to Gain in Next Decade on Farm Boom**, *Bloomberg, October 14*

Rice and cotton prices are likely to soar in the coming decade as prices of agricultural commodities boom because of declining inventories and production disruptions, said investor Jim Rogers, chairman of Rogers Holdings.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=atj8WBZjnW40>

**U.S. needs more on services from Doha round: Kirk**, *Reuters, October 13*

The United States cannot agree to a deal in the Doha round of world trade talks until other countries make better offers to open their markets to services trade, the top U.S. trade official, Ron Kirk, said.

*See Also: Doha best hope for services trade reform:Lamy*, *Reuters, October 14*

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE59D0KP20091014>

**World's poor see few job benefits from trade boom**, *Reuters, October 12*

The boom in global trade over the last two decades has not improved the quality of most jobs in poorer countries, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and United Nations labour agency (ILO) said.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-43095820091012>

**Middle East and Africa bear untold riches for exporters**, *Telegraph (U.K.), October 12*

The OECD says Africa has the potential to become an agricultural superbloc, if it can unlock the wealth of the savannahs by allowing farmers to use their land as collateral for credit.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/yourbusiness/6308879/Middle-East-and-Africa-bear-untold-riches-for-exporters.html>

**Philippines readies rice imports after typhoons**, *CNBC, October 12*

The Philippines, last year the biggest rice importer in the world, announced plans for import of 275,000 tons (250,000 metric tons) of rice as a buffer against possible shortfalls following devastating back-to-back typhoons.

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/33275385>

**Saudi Billionaire Invests in Ethiopian Farms**, *Bloomberg, October 12*

An agricultural development company owned by Saudi billionaire Sheikh Mohammed al-Amoudi bought \$80 million in equipment from Caterpillar Inc. to develop holdings in Ethiopia.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aIFZN6VBgYR4>

**Soybeans, Corn Rise as Rains Stall U.S. Harvest, Limit Supplies**, *Bloomberg, October 12*

Corn and soybeans rose on speculation that cold, wet Midwest weather will slow the harvest and reduce production in the U.S., the world's largest grower and exporter of both crops.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a.PBtGu7Q2ys>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**Hidden hunger: Private sector can keep world healthy**, *World Food Special Report*, *Financial Times*, October 16

Most people think of malnutrition as not having enough to eat. However, equally dangerous is “hidden hunger” – a lack of sufficient micronutrients, which are the vitamins and minerals that support physical and mental health. Under-nutrition is thought to affect more than 2bn people globally, giving rise to a multitude of medical ailments. While governments should run public awareness campaigns and enforce fortification of certain foods, the corporate sector plays an important role, too.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/70c83068-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/70c83068-b99e-11de-a747-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=935eca28-b7b5-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html)

**Crop Prices May Rise in 2010 on Asian Growth, Deere's Penn Says, *Bloomberg, October 15***

Economic rebounds in China and India will support crop-price gains without spurring inflation in the next 18 months, according to J.B. Penn, the chief economist for Deere & Co., the world's largest maker of farm machinery. Deere has been hurt by falling demand for farm machinery as crop prices fell. The company, citing weak economic conditions, said that profit will fall short of its full-year forecast of \$1.1 billion because of a \$300 million impairment charge to write down the value of a landscaping business in its fourth quarter. Profit was \$2.05 billion in the previous year.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aThqcnOGBn58>

**Falling fertiliser sales hit Cargill, *Financial Times, October 13***

Cargill warned that the global economy was “still fragile” as it said profits in the three months to the end of August had plunged by 65 per cent from last year, dragged down by poor fertiliser sales. The results underline how the US agricultural sector continues to struggle as the drop in commodity prices and tighter credit markets force farmers around the world to cut demand for inputs such as fertilisers. Cargill is the world's largest trader of agricultural commodities.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f1ba0024-b800-11de-8ca9-00144feab49a.html>

**'Christmas' in October for Ethanol, *Wall Street Journal, October 12***

Renewed life in the ethanol industry is drawing the attention of Chicago Board of Trade traders and analysts, giving the corn market a boost. Ethanol producers, which spent much of the past couple of years operating in the red, lately have been enjoying wide profit margins, and as a result have been seeking more corn and ramping up production.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125529595692478941.html>

*See Also: 'Family feud' threatens to hurt ethanol lobby, *The Hill, October 10**

A “family feud” between rival ethanol lobbies represents a “clear and present danger to the corn industry,” according to an internal memo written by the president of a third trade association that represents corn farmers.

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/62507-family-feud-threatens-ethanol-lobby>

**Monsanto Forecasts Africa to Increase Biotech Crop Planting, *Bloomberg, October 9***

Monsanto Co., the world's biggest seed producer, expects African countries to increase planting of genetically-modified crops to boost food security and economic development as the region is affected by climate change.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=a085e4QscSuE>

*See Also: Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2008, Executive Summary, International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications, 2009*

<http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/39/executivesummary/pdf/Brief%2039%20-%20Executive%20Summary%20-%20English.pdf>

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