

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



October 1st – October 7th, 2011

Quote of the Week: *“Although agricultural development is rightly focusing on incorporating women farmers into supply chains, investments must also include girls if productivity gains and economic benefits are to last beyond this generation. In adolescence, rural girls make critical contributions to their families at home and on farms. They manage the majority of household chores, working on average 20 percent longer than urban girls. Alongside their mothers, they are responsible for weeding and hoeing, transporting crops, tending livestock and transporting food. During adolescence, girls make pivotal decisions and develop skills and mindsets that impact their future family situation and economic productivity.”* – Catherine Bertini in “Investments in Adolescent Girls Help Rural Economies”, Impatient Optimist Blog, October 7

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Global Food for Thought news brief next week due to staff attendance at the 2011 World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa. Please follow the Global Agricultural Development Initiative’s [twitter](#) and [facebook](#) accounts for livetweets throughout the World Prize Week. A Special Global Food for Thought news brief will be published on Monday, October 17. 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.
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, October 7*

The report calls on national governments and bilateral donors to provide services and opportunities that both improve girls' lives and equip them to be successful economic contributors. Recommended actions include ensuring girls complete secondary school, increasing access to vocational training, eliminating barriers girls face in the work place, building girls' capacity as decision makers, enhancing health services information and delivery to girls in rural areas, and keeping girls safe.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Report/GirlsGrowReportFinal_v9.pdf

SEE ALSO: Girls are Key to Food Security in Poor Countries, *Guardian, October 7*

Its key point is that adolescent girls and women are the key to unlocking the full potential of agricultural development in poor countries and ensuring food security. "If the world is to meet the challenge of feeding 9 billion people by 2050, we must invest in the human capital of those with the potential to transform agricultural economies – adolescent girls," said Catherine Bertini, the report's lead author.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/oct/07/girls-key-food-security-report>

Three Women Share Nobel Peace Prize, *Wall Street Journal, October 8*

The prize was given to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee and Yemeni rights campaigner Tawakkul Karman. The Norwegian Nobel Committee recognized them for their "non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1000142405297020338880457661633310736802.html>

SEE ALSO: Nobel Peace Prize Goes to Trio of Liberian, Yemeni Women, *VOA News, October 7*

For the first time in Nobel Peace Prize history, the prestigious honor has gone to a group of women, in honor of women. Mrs. Sirleaf is Africa's first democratically elected woman president. Gbowee is known for uniting women against Liberia's warlords. And Karman is a Yemeni journalist and an outspoken human rights activist.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Nobel-Peace-Prize-Goes-to-Trio-of-Liberian-Yemeni-Women-131317719.html>

SEE ALSO: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf: A Woman Who Rebuilt My Broken Country, *Opinion, Matilda Parker, Guardian, October 7*

In 2006 Johnson Sirleaf inherited a collapsed economy, with low human capacity, a highly corrupt government, no running water or light, unpaved primary roads, and few functional schools. But because of peace and stability in the country, Liberia has attracted \$16bn in investment and it is erasing its international debt.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/oct/07/ellen-johnson-sirleaf-rebuilt-liberia>

World Food Prize Recognizes Leadership in Agriculture, but More Policy Support is Needed to Feed the World's Hungry, *Opinion, Danielle Nierenberg, Huffington Post, October 7*

The World Food Prize, awarded each year since 1994 and sponsored by businessman and philanthropist John Ruan, recognizes the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world, thereby helping to boost global food security. This year, the prize will be awarded to John Agyekum Kufuor, the former president of Ghana, and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the former president of Brazil, for their outstanding achievements in reducing hunger in their countries.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-nierenberg/world-food-prize-recogniz_b_998676.html

Global Coalition Teams Up for Ground Breaking African Famine Solution, *Guardian, October 7*

PepsiCo, Inc. the PepsiCo Foundation, the UN WFP, and USAID recently announced a unique public-private partnership to dramatically increase chickpea production and promote long-term nutritional and economic security in Ethiopia. Enterprise EthioPEA supports the Ethiopian government's agriculture sector development plans, and aims to dramatically increase chickpea production to address three distinct needs.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/business-sustainable-global-famine-solution>

Crop Prospects and Food Situation, *FAO Quarterly Report, October 6*

Prospects for global cereal production in 2011 have improved since September, following better expectations for rice and wheat. In September, international prices of all cereals with the exception of rice fell sharply, triggered by global economic slowdown and the strengthening of the US dollar as well as large export supplies from the Black Sea region.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/a1980e/a1980e00.pdf>

SEE ALSO: FAO Cereal Supply and Demand Brief, *UN FAO, October 6*

Despite this positive production outlook, the impact on global food security remains uncertain given the current international economic slowdown. The worsening recovery prospects for the global economy and increased risk of recession may result in higher unemployment and reduced incomes particularly for the poor and vulnerable in developing countries.

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/csdb/en/>

SEE ALSO: Food-Price Declines Won't Help Feed Hungry as Dollar Strengthens, *Bloomberg, October 7*

Lower food prices may be of no help to the world's hungry people because a stronger dollar might limit purchasing power. World cereal production will climb to 2.31 billion metric tons in 2011-12, raising its estimate by 3 million tons on increased forecasts for wheat and rice production.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-10-07/food-price-declines-won-t-help-feed-hungry-as-dollar-strengthens.html>

Foreign Aid Set to Take a Hit in U.S. Budget Crisis, *Steven Lee Myers, New York Times, October 3*

The financial crunch threatens to undermine a foreign policy described as "smart power" by President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, one that emphasizes diplomacy and development as a complement to American military power. It also would begin to reverse the increase in foreign aid that President George W. Bush supported after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, as part of an effort to combat the roots of extremism and anti-American sentiment, especially in the most troubled countries.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/us/politics/foreign-aid-set-to-take-hit-in-united-states-budget-crisis.html>

SEE ALSO: State Dept. Reeling from Budget Cuts, *Walter Pincus, Washington Post, October 1*

The Senate committee on Sept. 21 approved \$44.6 billion for the core State, Foreign Operations budget for next year, which was \$6 billion below the original request and \$3.5 billion below the current level. The House subcommittee approved \$39.5 billion, slashing the administration's request by \$11.2 billion, or 22 percent.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/state-dept-reeling-from-budget-cuts/2011/09/29/gIQA870DL_story.html

SEE ALSO: Agencies Fight to Save U.S. Foreign Aid from Deep Cuts, *IPS News, October 5*

If a congressional super committee tasked with making at least 1.2 trillion dollars in cuts to the federal budget does not reach an agreement on where to make them, cuts will be made automatically. Fifty percent of cuts would come from security-related programs.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105357>

Hunger in America: Suffering We All Pay For, *Center for American Progress, October 2011*

This report also estimates the state-by-state impact of the rising hunger bill from 2007 through 2010. Fifteen states experienced a nearly 40 percent increase in their hunger bill compared to the national increase of 33.4 percent. The sharpest increases in the cost of hunger are estimated to have occurred in Florida (61.9 percent), California (47.2 percent), and Maryland (44.2 percent).

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/10/pdf/hunger_paper.pdf

SEE ALSO: U.S. Cost of Hunger Was \$167.5 Billion in 2010, *Bloomberg, October 6*

The cost of hunger in the U.S., the world's largest economy, was \$167.5 billion last year as the recession in 2008 and a slow economic recovery pushed more American households into food insecurity, researchers said. The number of food-insecure and hungry Americans in 2010 rose 30 percent from 2007.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-10-06/u-s-cost-of-hunger-was-167-5-billion-in-2010-researchers-say.html>

Investments in Adolescent Girls Help Rural Economies, *Opinion, Catherine Bertini, Impatient Optimist, Gates Foundation, October 7*

A new report, *Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies*, released today by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, describes how adolescent girls are contributing to rural economies and identifies what can be done to leverage these roles to increase food production and drive economic growth. The report is jointly funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Nike Foundation, and the UN Foundation. Returns on agricultural investments can be higher and more sustainable if strategies target girls.

<http://www.impatientoptimists.org/Posts/2011/10/Investments-in-Adolescent-Girls-Help-Rural-Economies>

Girls Grow, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, October 7*

One girl, an eighth-grader name Jackline, rises long before the sun every morning to begin making breakfast tea for her family. By 4:30, she is walking the mile to her primary school for a special study session to prepare for the national standard exams that will determine where she will go to high school next year, if her marks are good enough. Then after a full day of classes, and a break for a meager dinner, she returns to school after dark for another hour or two of study.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/10/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-girls-grow.html>

Bringing Agriculture to the Table: How Agriculture and Food Can Play a Role in Preventing Chronic Disease, *Elizabeth Ramborger, Global Food for Thought Blog, October 6*

Chronic disease is the leading cause of death in the world with some 80% of NCD-related deaths concentrated in low- and middle-income countries. The HLM was only the second time in history the UN has met on a health issue and resulted in a political declaration pledging to create health-promoting environments that empower individuals to make healthy choices, promote interventions to reduce salt, sugar, and saturated fats, and eliminate industrially produced trans-fats in foods.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/10/how-agriculture-and-food-can-play-a-role-in-preventing-chronic-disease-.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Hearing: The World Bank and Multilateral Development Banks' Authorization, *The House Committee on Financial Services, October 4*

Ambassador Mark Green: It goes without saying that our nation is facing huge fiscal challenges. Every agency will need to tighten its belt and scrutinize each program for cost savings. My view, respectfully, is that support for these institutions is simply part of our nation's leadership obligations. These obligations help so many of our friends and allies in need, and as I hope this hearing will show, they also help us—the United States—and the American people.

<http://financialservices.house.gov/UploadedFiles/100411green.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Testimony: The Honorable Whitney Debevoise II

<http://financialservices.house.gov/UploadedFiles/100411debevoise.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Testimony: Daniel F. Runde

<http://financialservices.house.gov/UploadedFiles/100411runde.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Testimony: John Murphy

<http://financialservices.house.gov/UploadedFiles/100411murphy.pdf>

SEE ALSO: U.S. Continues to Push for Global Development Funding, *UPI, October 4*

U.S. Rep. Bob Dold said there are domestic economic benefits that come at a low cost with the authorization of the Obama administration's \$3.3 billion request for multilateral development banks in 2012. The capital increase for multilateral development banks is an investment that will open up export markets, said John Murphy.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2011/10/04/US-continues-push-for-global-development-funding/UPI-44321317766999/

Obama Signs Temporary Spending Bill, CNN, October 5

President Barack Obama signed legislation into law early Wednesday that will keep the federal government funded through November 18. The new legislation is part of a deal to extend an additional \$2.65 billion in disaster relief needed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to replenish coffers depleted partly by the federal response to Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and a series of tornadoes and wildfires.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/05/politics/spending-bill/>

SEE ALSO: Full-Text: H.R. 2608: Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr2608enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr2608enr.pdf>

Emphasis on Science and Research Guides Feed the Future Staffing, USAID, October 7

USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah is pleased to announce that Julie Howard will take on a new role as Chief Scientist, BFS, and Senior Advisor to the Administrator on Agricultural Research, Extension and Education. The Administrator is also pleased to announce that Tjada McKenna will become the Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2011/pr111007.html>

Introducing "MiPlato," to Help the Hispanic Community Make Healthier Food Choices, The White House, October 3

The release of all the MyPlate materials in Spanish will help consumers think about making healthier food choices during meals. The MiPlato and MyPlate icons focus on the importance of a balanced diet of fruit, vegetables, grains, protein and dairy. The materials are part of the Administrations' multi-year effort to raise awareness and educate consumers of every age on the importance of healthier eating and physical activity.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/10/03/introducing-miplato-help-hispanic-community-make-healthier-food-choices>

White House Sends Trade Pacts to Capitol Hill, Kelsey Snell, National Journal, October 3

President Obama submitted to Congress ratifying language for the long-stalled trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, paving the way for final ratification before the end of the month. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, and House Speaker John Boehner, all said they expect to pass the deals before the next recess.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/whitehouse/white-house-sends-trade-pacts-to-capitol-hill-20111003>

Rajiv Shah Heads to Kenya and Ethiopia, Josh Rogin, Foreign Policy, October 3

The US has provided more than \$640 million to date in response to the Horn of Africa crisis, including a new announcement of \$42 million late last month. The focus of this trip will be to recommend policy reforms in Kenya and Ethiopia to better handle the crisis. Those governments are taking some steps, such as ensuring the safe passage of aid and making sure refugees are accepted and assisted, but the problem continues and more government action is needed, Shah said.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/10/03/rajiv_shah_heads_to_kenya_and_ethiopia

SEE ALSO: USAID Gives Additional Funding For Ethiopia Drought Relief, VOA News, October 4

The United States has announced \$127 million in additional funding for nutrition and drought alleviation programs in Ethiopia.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/USAID-Gives-Additional-Funding-For-Ethiopia-Drought-Relief--131052328.html>

Vilsack, Ag Leaders Step Up Talk on Farm Bill, Hagstrom Report, October 4

"There is a belief the committee will set a budgetary framework," Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack said in an interview with The Hagstrom Report. He added that he believes it would be more difficult to organize a farm bill in 2012. Vilsack said the bill needs a safety net to assure farmers' survival, but also needs rural development programs, and called specifically for the continuation of the Rural Energy for America grants known as REAP and the Biomass Crop Assistance Program and programs for microenterprise development.

www.hagstromreport.com

Editorial/Commentaries:

Foreign Direct Investment Supports American Jobs, *Opinion, Jose W. Fernandez, State Department Blog, October 7*

FDI creates jobs and supports the economy. That is why the President is committed to ensuring that the United States continues to be the most attractive place for businesses to locate, invest, grow, and create jobs. This means using every tool and pushing every lever to show we are open to business and ensuring our institutions and policies continue to support and accommodate investment.

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/foreign_direct_investment_supports_american_jobs

A Wider View of U.S. Role in World, *Opinion, Jon Huntsman, Politico, October 7*

It's time to erase the old map. End nation-building, engage our allies and fix our economic core. The Cold War is over. We must shift from a foreign policy of containment – the containment of communism, to a policy of expansion — the expansion of economic competitiveness and global engagement through economic partnerships and trade agreements.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1011/65386.html>

The Promise of a Pro-American Libya, *Opinion, Senators John McCain, Lindsey Graham, Mark Kirk, and Marco Rubio, Wall Street Journal, October 7*

What remains is an enormous opportunity for the U.S. to build a partnership with a democratic and pro-American Libya that contributes to the expansion of security, prosperity and freedom across a pivotal region at a time of revolutionary change. Libyans will build their own nation. But they desire and deserve our support. And it is in our interest to help them succeed.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203388804576613293623346516.html>

Pursuing U.S. Values and Self-Interests, *Opinion, Thomas Nides, Politico, October 6*

Fortunately, here in the United States, leaders from both parties agree about the value of humanitarian and security assistance. Earlier this month, 78 Democratic and Republican senators came together to defeat an amendment that would have slashed State and USAID's current budget by 15 percent, or \$6.9 billion. Cuts of that magnitude would have stymied our work around the world.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1011/65322.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Food Prize 25th Anniversary

Date: October 12th – 14th, 2011

Location: Des Moines, IA

The World Food Prize will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this fall during the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium and the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. The topic of the symposium this year is "The Next Generation" and will focus on future leaders, challenges and technologies in the fight against hunger. This year, events will also include the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a permanent home for the World Food Prize and an event center and educational facility to honor humanitarian heroes and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders. Stay tuned and learn more at www.worldfoodprize.org.

2nd Annual Global Harvest Initiative GAP Report™ Announcement Luncheon

Date: October 12, 2011

Location: Des Moines, IA

The Global Harvest Initiative will release its 2nd Annual Global Agricultural Productivity Report™ (GAP Report™) at the 2011 World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa on October 12, 2011. The GAP Report™ serves as a benchmark of agricultural productivity and measures the difference between the current rate of agricultural productivity growth and the pace required to sustainably meet the future agricultural needs of the nine billion people expected to inhabit the Earth by 2050. Learn more and RSVP at

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1963977309>

American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting

Date: October 16th – 19th, 2011

Location: San Antonio, TX

The American Society of Agronomy, together with the Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America, will host their International Annual Meetings, which brings together 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and students. The theme of the this year's meeting is "Fundamental for Life: Soil, Crop, & Environmental Sciences," and features the symposium, "Feed the Future -- Global Food Security," one of hundreds of symposia and sessions that will be presented throughout the week. For more information, visit www.acsmeetings.org

2011 Africa Prize for Leadership

Date: October 22, 2011

Location: New York, NY

The Africa Prize honors a distinguished African man or woman who has exhibited exceptional leadership in bringing about the sustainable end of hunger at the national, regional or continent-wide level. The 2011 Annual Fall Event will include the awarding of The Hunger Project's Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. The laureates for the 2011 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger: President of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika and Liberian Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Florence Chenoweth.

[http://www.thp.org/what we do/key initiatives/honoring africa leadership/2011](http://www.thp.org/what_we_do/key_initiatives/honoring_africa_leadership/2011)

Future-Proof Farming

Date: November 9, 2011

Place: Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy needs to meet growing challenges that range from food security and safety to ecological sustainability and climate change. Meanwhile, Europe's farmers face a variety of ecological challenges, yet agriculture can contribute much to the creation of an environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy. Representatives from the farming sector will go into discussion with EU policymakers and experts from academic circles and civil society to debate the challenges facing European agriculture, European farmers and the role a reformed CAP should play in solving the world's food challenges. <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/Contentnavigation/Events/Eventsoverview/tabid/1187/EventType/EventView/EventId/1066/Futureproofing.aspx>

Agricultural R&D: Investing in Africa's Future

Date: December 5-7, 2011

Location: Accra, Ghana

ASTI, together with the International Food Policy Report Institute, and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, is convening a conference on agricultural R&D in Africa focused on the following themes: 1. Levels and Stability of Agricultural R&D Investments; 2. Human Resource Development of Agricultural R&D; 3. Aligning and Rationalizing Institutional Structures; and 4. Measuring and Improving the Effectiveness of R&D Systems. <http://www.ifpri.org/event/agricultural-rd-investing-africa-s-future>

World Biofuels Markets

Date: March 13th – 15th, 2012

Location: Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will shared their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

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

Jobs, Food & Farming

Date: March 19-21, 2012

Location: Accra, Ghana

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: 1) Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agri-food sector in Africa; 2) The dynamics of change in different components of the agri-food sector and the

implications of these dynamics for young people; 3) The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agri-food sector. The conference will be co-hosted by the Future Agricultures Consortium based at the Institute of Development Studies and the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research.

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/index.php>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Media Articles:

New Sleuths for Food Safety, *Wall Street Journal*, October 7

The sweeping food-safety law President Barack Obama signed this year will require inspectors to regularly visit such fields to root out contamination before it makes anyone sick. A spate of outbreaks from leafy vegetables and other produce has refocused attention on the law. Besides the cantaloupes in Colorado tainted with listeria, sprouts in Idaho contaminated with salmonella were linked to illness in five states in recent months.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204612504576611253990324990.html>

SEE ALSO: USDA Food-Safety Programs Unlikely to Be Cut, *Bloomberg*, October 4

Food-safety programs may be less vulnerable to cuts than other areas of USDA spending because of the importance placed on the nutrition supply, Secretary Tom Vilsack said. Nutrition assistance for poor families may be more vulnerable, even as it helps reduce poverty. Calls for stricter government oversight of the food supply have increased during recent outbreaks of foodborne illnesses.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-04/u-s-food-safety-programs-unlikely-to-be-cut-vilsack-says-1-.html>

SEE ALSO: Many Egg Producers Still Not Complying with Food-Sanitation Rules, *Mattea Kramer*, *Washington Post*, October 1

Last summer, two large Iowa producers recalled 500 million salmonella-tainted eggs — the largest egg recall in history. More than 1,900 people nationwide grew sick, causing alarm for consumers. Millions of Americans suffer from foodborne illness each year.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/many-egg-producers-still-not-complying-with-food-sanitation-rules/2011/09/26/gIQAPGx9CL_story.html

Enticing Africa's Youth to Agriculture, *AlertNet*, October 7

In developing countries, young people, aged 15 to 24 years old, make up on average 20 percent of the global population and represent a huge potential resource to their countries. Yet ironically, rural areas are not benefiting fully from this resource. Africa contains 25 percent of the world's total arable land, yet it produces only 10 percent of total agricultural outputs. Labor productivity in some of the poorest countries in Africa is below 10 percent of developed world levels and can even reach as low as one percent.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/blogs/climate-conversations/enticing-africas-youth-to-agriculture>

Hunger Opens Discussions on Biotech Wheat as U.K. Approves Trial, *Bloomberg*, October 6

The U.K.'s decision last month to approve a trial of wheat that's been genetically modified was "fantastic progress" in getting biotech wheat accepted in Europe. The U.K. trial does not involve wheat grown for food. Higher food costs have sent "tens of millions of people" into poverty since late 2010, and the world's hungry people may soon exceed 1 billion again.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-06/hunger-opens-discussions-on-biotech-wheat-as-u-k-approves-trial.html>

Gene-Altered Foods Need Mandatory Labels, Coalition Tells FDA, *Bloomberg*, October 4

GM corn, soy and plant oil should be disclosed on mandatory food labels, a coalition of more than 350 producers, trade groups and consumers said in a petition to U.S. regulators. Petitioners want to reverse a 1992 FDA policy that doesn't require different labeling. Gene-altered seeds are used for almost 90 percent of U.S.-grown corn, 94 percent of soy and 90 percent of cottonseed, an oil-producing plant, the coalition said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-04/gene-altered-foods-need-mandatory-labels-coalition-tells->

[fda.html](#)

An Interview with Rep. Frank D. Lucas, *Hagstrom Report*, October 3

Speaking in an interview with The Hagstrom Report, Lucas said he believes both President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, think that Congress should cut farm bill spending by \$33 billion over 10 years, but that he hopes Congress will not cut that much. Until he receives guidance on farm bill cuts from the super committee in charge of deficit reduction, Lucas said he believes his Agriculture committee is wise to "hold our cards close to the chest."

www.hagstromreport.com

Hybrid Broccoli enters 'Superfood' Market, *Andrew Jack, Financial Times*, October 3

Broccoli will be marketed as Britain's latest superfood, after a new hybrid variety richer in chemicals linked to a reduced risk of cancer and cardiovascular problems goes on sale. High quality global journalism requires investment. The product has intellectual property rights now controlled by the agricultural company Monsanto, but was developed by British academics and involves no genetic modification.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/0e546fd2-ede0-11e0-a491-00144feab49a.html>

U.S. Food-Stamp Use Reaches Record 45.3 Million, *Bloomberg*, October 3

The number of Americans receiving food stamps reached a record 45.345 million in July, the government said. Assistance rolls are increasing again as joblessness remains at 9.1 percent of the U.S. workforce. Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program had set records every month since December 2008.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-03/u-s-food-stamp-use-reaches-record-45-345-million-usda-says.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Twenty Years of Collapse and Counting, *John Norris and Bronwyn Bruton, Center for American Progress*, September 14

The cost of Somalia's ruin is nothing short of staggering. There is certainly a heavy human toll: Between 450,000 to 1.5 million Somalis have died due to violence or hunger in the ongoing conflict, and more than 2.3 million Somalis are still refugees or displaced. But the cost of international humanitarian aid, peacekeeping forces, responding to piracy, and myriad other interventions have steadily accumulated year after year.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/somalia.html>

SEE ALSO: The Price of Failure, *Foreign Policy*, October 5

The country is currently experiencing the worst famine the world has seen in two decades, with more than three-quarters of a million people at grave risk of starvation, and remains riven by civil conflict, piracy, and extremism.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/10/05/the_price_of_failure?page=full

Media Articles:

North Korea's Malnourished Orphans Point to Scale of Humanitarian Crisis, *Guardian*, October 6

The World Food Programme has warned it has only 30% of the funding it needs for its relief operation, which targets 3.5 million of North Korea's most vulnerable citizens. It estimated in March that a quarter of the country's 24 million inhabitants needed food aid and that a third of children were chronically malnourished.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/06/north-korea-malnourished-orphans-floods>

Foreign Aid 'Sign of Strength': TV Broadcast is Given over to 'Cash for Africa' Appeal, *Mail Online*, October 5

David Cameron insisted that his decision to pour billions more into foreign aid at a time of austerity was a sign of 'moral strength'. Many Tories are furious at the decision to increase aid spending by 34 per cent to more than £11 billion while most public services are facing steep cuts. Mr. Cameron's aid pledge will see

spending rise from £7.5 billion last year to £11.4 billion in 2013.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2045795/David-Cameron-says-foreign-aid-sign-strength.html>

SEE ALSO: U.K. Pledges \$31 Million to Help Wipe Out Guinea Worm Disease, *Betsy McKay, Wall Street Journal, October 6*

Guinea worm disease would be the second human disease to be eradicated after smallpox, and the first to be wiped out without a vaccine or medical treatment. The disease hurts local agriculture in particular as it cripples workers temporarily during planting or harvests.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2011/10/06/u-k-pledges-31-million-to-help-wipe-out-guinea-worm-disease/>

Afghanistan Appeals for Aid as Drought Looms, *BBC, October 5*

Afghanistan is appealing for \$142m to feed 2.6 million people this winter as it faces the worst drought for a decade. The agriculture minister described the situation as extremely serious, with 14 provinces - about half the country - in the north and east hit by drought. Many farmers have sold their livestock and will now depend on food aid to keep alive during winter.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-15193573>

Congress and Foreign Aid, *Opinion, David Gartner, The Brookings Institution, October 5*

Without these vital investments, substantial progress made in the fight against disease and poverty over the last decade will be jeopardized. Sustaining significant investments in building a better world is critical to supporting America's ideals and protecting America's interests in a turbulent 21st century.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/10/05_congress_foreign_aid_gartner.aspx

Grim Outlook for U.S. Foreign Aid, *Opinion, James Lindsay, Council on Foreign Relations, October 4*

First, foreign aid spending today is higher when measured in real (or inflation-adjusted) dollars than it was during much of the 1980s and 1990s. Second, foreign aid has fallen as a share of the federal budget over the last three decades. So while spending on foreign aid has grown in absolute terms it has decreased in relative terms. Third, the White House will be lucky to hold foreign aid spending flat in 2012.

<http://blogs.cfr.org/lindsay/2011/10/04/grim-outlook-for-u-s-foreign-aid/>

Horn of Africa Crisis is Not Over. How Can We Avoid Another One? *Opinion, David J. Olson, Huffington Post, October 4*

The current drought and famine is worse than the one in 1985 -- some say it is the worst in 60 years and affects more than 12 million people, most of them women and children -- but seems to be attracting a fraction of the world's attention, despite the proliferation of social media and social networks. By some estimates, 300,000 children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition and are likely to die at a very high rate.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-j-olson/horn-of-africa-crisis-is-b_994573.html

U.S. Foreign Health Investments Improve Lives Abroad – And Here at Home, *Opinion, Mandy Moore, Huffington Post, October 4*

When our country invests in global health, we are doing the right thing. When USAID -- the agency tasked with representing American interests worldwide by improving lives outside of U.S. borders--succeeds, we all benefit. We invest less than 1% of the federal budget in strengthening the health and economic development in other countries, and we get incredible results.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mandy-moore/us-foreign-health-investm_b_994448.html

African Musicians Join Fight Against Famine, *Financial Times, October 4*

Leading African musicians and celebrities have joined forces with their European and US counterparts to push donors and African politicians to invest in agriculture to tackle famine in eastern Africa. A campaign will call on African leaders to meet earlier promises to invest 10 percent of budgets in agriculture, and stresses the need for agricultural investment as pivotal in boosting economic development as the way for African families to move out of poverty.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/37d11a74-edde-11e0-a491-00144feab49a.html>

In a Big Risk-Taking Mood?, *Opinion, Karl Hofmann, Huffington Post, October 4*

Americans often ask, why do we spend so many of our tax dollars on foreign aid? And what do we get for it? Global health investments benefit the globe. The health advantage of these investments is easy to see and understand. U.S. taxpayers have provided millions of individuals and families worldwide with life-saving health services, products, and information.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/karl-hofmann/foreign-aid-spending_b_991526.html

Barbara Bush: Cutting Foreign Aid Would Have 'Enormous Implications' for US, *Nicholas Ballasy, The Daily Caller, October 3*

"I completely understand why people are thinking where money is being allocated and I understand why money that's being sent abroad is being scrutinized," Bush said. "I think at the same time there's enormous implications for the U.S. if we don't continue the efforts that we've already started." The federal government spends over \$58 billion per year on foreign aid.

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/10/03/barbara-bush-cutting-foreign-aid-would-have-%e2%80%98enormous-implications%e2%80%99-for-us/>

Conditional Aid for Pakistan: Change Not Guaranteed, *Jackie Northam, NPR, October 1*

The magnitude of Congressional displeasure with Pakistan is seen in next year's proposed appropriations bills both in the Republican-led House, and the Democratic-run Senate. Danny Cutherell, a policy analyst at the Center for Global Development says both proposals make economic and military assistance conditional.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/10/01/140970143/conditional-aid-for-pakistan-change-not-guaranteed>

SEE ALSO: Palestinians Say Freeze in US Aid Taking Effect, *AP, October 3*

Two Republican-led committees in the House-Foreign Affairs and the Appropriations subcommittee on the State Department and Foreign Operations-put a hold on \$200 million in economic assistance in late August, as the Palestinians were gearing up for their U.N. move.

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/15606732/palestinians-say-freeze-in-us-aid-taking-effect>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

China Emission Paradox, *Climate Analytics, October 2011*

The Climate Action Tracker provides insights on China, the USA, Brazil, Japan, 9 Korea and Australia Government actions on climate change, new economic and energy data, government policies and announcements and developments at the UN climate talks in Panama.

<http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Environment/documents/2011/10/05/CATpanamaupdate2011.pdf>

SEE ALSO: China Set to Exceed Carbon Emission Forecasts, Figures Show, *Guardian, October 6*

China is on course to exceed forecasts for greenhouse gas emissions because its economy is growing faster than expected and becoming "locked in" to carbon-intensive activities, Researchers praised China for a "major effort" to meet and possibly surpass its Cancun pledge and reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 40-45% by 2020.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/oct/06/china-carbon-emission-forecasts-economy>

Media Articles:

Europe's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rise, *Guardian, October 7*

Greenhouse gas emissions rose in Europe last year, but the EU remains on track to meet international commitments to cut gases which cause climate change. There was a 2.4% increase in emissions in 2010. Across the 15 countries in the EU which have a collective target under the international Kyoto Protocol emissions were down 10.7% on 1990 levels, well ahead of the 8% reduction required by 2008 to 2012.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/oct/07/europe-greenhouse-gas-emissions-rise>

Five Truths About Climate Change, *Opinion, Robert Bryce, Wall Street Journal, October 6*

For all of the *sturm und drang* about climate change, what has actually happened? It's time to acknowledge five obvious truths about the climate-change issue: The carbon-dioxide issue is not about the United States

anymore. Sure, the U.S. is the world's second-largest energy consumer. But over the past decade, carbon-dioxide emissions in the U.S. fell by 1.7%.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203388804576612620828387968.html>

Gulf Must Act to Stem Heavy Water Use, *Financial Times*, October 5

There are a number of ways Gulf Co-operation Council governments can increase the sustainability of their water supply. One solution, as Saudi Arabia highlighted, is agricultural reform. Another initiative, which has not yet been implemented as broadly as it could be, is to make people and companies pay for more of what they use, with better metering and revenue collection.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/6bec65b8-ee6d-11e0-a2ed-00144feab49a.html>

The Battle for Australia's Water, *Jason Margolis*, *BBC*, October 5

Australia's recent 12-year drought, which finally ended last year, hit rural communities hard. Now the Australian government wants farmers, like Ward, to cut their water consumption by 30-40% to conserve the region's water resources. Many farmers in the region dismiss climate change as a hoax, and see the government's proposed water cuts as a mortal threat to their communities.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-15149925>

Why do We Still have Holes in the Ozone Layer?, *Brad Plumer*, *Washington Post*, October 3

The short answer is that, yes, the world did agree to phase out CFCs back in 1989, and that should help repair the ozone layer, which protects us from harmful UV rays. But it will take time. There's still plenty of ozone-depleting chlorine and bromine swirling in the atmosphere. Overall, the general trends for the ozone layer are looking good.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/why-do-we-still-have-holes-in-the-ozone-layer/2011/10/03/gIQA2E6uLL_blog.html

Pacific Nation Declares State of Emergency Over Water Shortage, *Guardian*, October 3

The tiny Pacific island nation of Tuvalu has declared a state of emergency due to a severe shortage of fresh water, with officials saying on that some parts of the country may only have a two-day supply. Water was scarce in the capital, Funafuti, and a number of outlying islands.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/03/pacific-nation-state-emergency-water?>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Media Articles:

House Advances Bill to Stop Funding UN Women's Health Program, *Huffington Post*, October 5

The House Foreign Affairs Committee approved a bill that zeroes out U.S. aid to the United Nations Population Fund, a women and children's health program that works to reduce maternal mortality, prevent HIV/AIDS and provide contraception to the world's most vulnerable populations. The bill would save the U.S. government \$400 million over 10 years.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/05/un-population-fund-house-cuts-womens-health-program_n_996872.html

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Nairobi Action Plan on Large Scale Land-Based Investments in Africa, *African Development Bank*, October 5

We should aim to increase agricultural productivity, maximize opportunities for Africa's farmers, with special attention to smallholders and minimize the potential negative impacts of large-scale land acquisitions in

order to achieve an equitable and sustainable agricultural and economic transformation that will ensure food security and development.

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/Nairobi%20Action%20Plan%20Final.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Nairobi Action Plan to Promote Land-Based Investments that Benefit Africa, *African Development Bank, October 7*

Participants resolved to promote land-based investment models that increase agricultural productivity and maximize opportunities for Africa's farmers. The outcome emphasizes the need to minimize the negative impacts of large-scale land acquisitions.

<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/nairobi-action-plan-to-promote-land-based-investments-that-benefit-africa-8421/>

The Global Land Rush, *International Institute for Environment and Development, October 2011*

Rapid expansion of biomass energy in the global North is fuelling demand for wood and increasing interest in tree plantations in the global South. There is growing evidence of planned and operational plantations in Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia. If biomass is sourced from food-insecure countries where local land rights are weak, there is a real risk that people could lose the land they depend on for their livelihoods.

<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17098IIED.pdf?>

SEE ALSO: Biomass Land Grab Could Spell Trouble for World's Poor, *Lauren Craig, Huffington Post, October 5*

The food-versus-fuel debate has typically been used in reference to farmers in industrialized countries growing food crops to sell to biofuels producers. However, there is another side to the debate. IIED is raising concerns that rising global demand for biomass fuels could lead to a race for land acquisition in the developing world, with serious implications for communities that grow their own food.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/05/biomass-land-grab-biofuels_n_996868.html

FAO Food Price Index, *UN FAO, October 6*

The FAO Food Price Index averaged 225 points in September 2011, down 2 percent, or 4.5 points, from August. The FFPI is only 13 points below the peak of 238 reached in February 2011, though still higher than its September 2010 value of 195 points. The recent decline reflected decreases in international prices of most commodities included in the Index, with prices of sugar, grains and oils falling most.

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/foodpricesindex/en/>

Media Articles:

EU Farm Payment Reforms Under Fire, *Caroline Henshaw, Wall Street Journal, October 7*

The EU's farming support program, the Common Agricultural Policy, is the world's largest agriculture subsidies scheme and cost taxpayers €53 billion last year—around 40% of the total EU budget. Under the plans, seen by the Wall Street Journal, payments to the EU's wealthiest producers will be reduced on a sliding scale year with a cap at €300,000 a year, unless farmers employ large numbers of laborers.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/10/07/eu-to-reduce-farming-subsidies/>

Agriculture: Russia's Aim to Become Self-Sufficient, *Heidi Beha, Telegraph, October 7*

Many Russians produce only small quantities of food at their dachas, but en masse they produce significant amounts. Russia currently imports one million tons of pork from the EU states every year. Experts predict that in 10 years, Russia will become self-sufficient in pork. But milk, soya and beef will still need to be imported for a long time, according to agricultural experts.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/russianow/business/8804374/Agriculture-Russia-self-sufficient.html>

Expanding Pool of Knowledge Workers is Vital for Africa, *Mark Dean, UPI, October 7*

Yet another type of infrastructure remains in critically short supply: the scientific and technical skills that will give Africans the opportunity to innovate in the information economy. Creating a large pool of highly skilled knowledge workers is absolutely vital for Africa to fulfill its dreams of long-lasting economic success.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-specialtycropgran,0,4179656.story>

Japan Seeks New Rice Source, *Wall Street Journal*, October 7

Japanese consumers typically prefer fresh, home-grown rice, but that isn't true this year. Fukushima prefecture, showered with radiation in March, is the fourth-largest rice-producing region in Japan. It is also a big supplier for Tokyo, where government tests for rice contamination are expected to be largely finished next week. So far, one tested batch has turned up contamination near levels triggering a sales ban.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204294504576612450622716270.html>

The National-Security Case for Free Trade, *Opinion*, Tom Donilon, *Wall Street Journal*, October 6

President Obama submitted three critical free trade agreements to Congress and asked both chambers to advance them expeditiously. Passage of these agreements is a matter not just of economic and commercial opportunity but also of national security. The agreements are demonstrations of American strength and resolve. The agreements can increase our competitiveness and support jobs in the U.S.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204524604576611080749773932.html>

India Announces \$35 Tablet Computer to Help Lift Villagers Out of Poverty, *AP*, October 5

India introduced a cheap tablet computer, saying it would deliver modern technology to the countryside to help lift villagers out of poverty. India, after raising literacy to about 78 percent from 12 percent when British rule ended, is now focusing on higher education with a 2020 goal of 30 percent enrollment. Today, only 7 percent of Indians graduate from high school.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/india-announces-35-tablet-computer-to-help-lift-villagers-out-of-poverty/2011/10/05/gIQAPT8PNL_story.html

US Rice Farmers Host Inspectors as They Hope for Game Changer with Sales to Fast-Growing China, *AP*, October 5

After years of effort, U.S. farmers believe they are close to getting permission to sell there as well, and it could be a game changer for an industry that has seen prices stagnate recently. If China opens its markets to U.S. rice, it could cause a spike in demand that drives up prices and encourages farmers to grow more, industry observers said. The prospect is particularly exciting to Arkansas farmers, who have been hard hit this year by spring flooding and a summer drought.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/us-rice-farmers-host-inspectors-as-they-hope-for-game-changer-with-sales-to-fast-growing-china/2011/10/05/gIQAufPkML_story.html

The U.S.-Colombia FTA: Still a Bad Deal for Human Rights, *Opinion*, Lisa Haugaard, *Huffington Post*, October 4

In Washington, Congress is nearing a vote on the U.S.-Colombia free trade agreement. Colombian economists estimate that 1.8 million small-scale farmers would see their net agricultural income fall by over 16 percent on average, but 400,000 farmers dependent on crops that would compete with U.S. products would lose 48 to 70 percent of their farm income.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lisa-haugaard/the-uscolombia-fta-bad-deal_b_983780.html

ADB \$200 Million Loan to Upgrade Services in Key Cities of India's Assam State, *Asian Development Bank*, October 3

The ADB is extending \$200 million to improve the water supply and other urban services in Guwahati and Dibrugarh—two major cities in the Indian state of Assam. Funds will be used to provide clean piped water to about 350,000 residents in Guwahati as well as for major upgrades to sewerage and solid waste systems in the two cities. The scheme will serve more than 40,000 people a day, shorten travel time.

<http://beta.adb.org/news/adb-200-million-loan-upgrade-services-key-cities-indias-assam-state>

China Picks Up U.S. Slack in Trade, *Michelle Quinn*, *Politico*, October 2

While Congress and the White House focused on foreign wars and a stagnant economy, shunting free-trade pacts to the sidelines, Latin America made a new best friend: China. Hungry for natural resources, China has overtaken the U.S. as the chief trading partner in Brazil, Chile and Argentina. It's poured money into new ports and roads and used free-trade pacts to make Chinese brands widely available to Latin American

consumers. China's next step? A move into the region's service sectors — for example, banking.
<http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=EF13C106-5571-4ECD-99B1-8EE942670BE5>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Andersons Inc. to Build New Grain Elevator, *Bloomberg, October 5*

Agribusiness company Andersons Inc. said that it will build a 3.8 million-bushel capacity grain elevator in rural Nebraska. The company operates in the grain, ethanol and fertilizer businesses.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9Q6DIJ00.htm>

Agco Buys Grain-Storage Business, *Wall Street Journal, October 4*

Agco Corp. agreed to buy grain-storage-bin maker GSI Holdings Corp., a move that will expand Agco's business operations beyond manufacturing farm tractors and combines. The \$940 million purchase of GSI from private-equity firm Centerbridge Partners LP is one of Agco's largest acquisitions in recent years.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204524604576609241249750956.html>

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