

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



October 29th – November 4th, 2011

Quote of the Week: – *“Well-designed aid reduces poverty right now, and accelerates poor countries’ progress toward the moment when they will no longer need it. There’s a lot of pressure on aid budgets given economic conditions, but aid is a very small part of government expenditures. The world will not balance its books by cutting back on aid, but it will do irreparable damage to global stability, to the growth potential of the global economy, and to the livelihoods of millions of the poorest people.”* – Bill Gates in “Innovation with Impact”, November 3, 2011

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

USAID is Foreign Policy’s Best Dollar Value, *Opinion*, J. Brian Atwood, Henrietta Holsman Fore, M. Peter McPherson, Andrew Natsio, *Politico*, November 2

In just the past 20 years, USAID’s agriculture and economic efforts helped reduce the number of the world’s chronically undernourished by 50 percent. USAID also helped orchestrate the agricultural green revolution in Asia that saved millions of lives, dramatically increased food production and lifted generations out of poverty. Our investment in development has been critical to U.S. national security. Foreign assistance is a crucial

instrument of national power to combat this.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1111/67453.html>

Bill Gates's Plan to Assist the World's Poor, *Opinion, Bill Gates, Washington Post, November 1*

Aid is targeted to fill specific gaps in development. The most important of these gaps is innovation. When the private sector doesn't have incentive, and poor governments don't have the money, smart aid pays for breakthrough solutions. The green revolution that fed a billion people in the 1950s and '60s never would have happened without advanced agricultural science funded by U.S. aid.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/bill-gates-plan-to-assist-the-worlds-poor/2011/10/30/gIOA28HldM_story.html

SEE ALSO: Why We Must Stay Committed to Alleviating Poverty, *Bill Gates, Impatient Optimists Blog, November 2*

Development aid doesn't just benefit people in poor countries. It benefits us all. The fact is; development aid is a small investment that generates huge returns. In the past 50 years, it has played an important role in agricultural advances that have saved a billion people from starvation.

<http://www.impatientoptimists.org/Posts/2011/11/Why-We-Must-Stay-Committed-to-Alleviating-Poverty>

FAO Food Outlook, *FAO, November 2011*

Agricultural commodity market conditions remain fairly tight, which is the major factor underpinning prices. Aside from being high, most prices are also extremely volatile, moving in tandem with unstable financial and equity markets. Fluctuations in exchange rates and uncertainties in energy markets are also contributing to sharp price swings in agricultural markets.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/al981e/al981e00.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Food Prices to Remain Volatile, *Emiko Terazono, Financial Times, November 3*

Agricultural commodities prices are expected to remain at high levels well into 2012. Although food prices have eased from this year's highs, thanks to increased production and economic uncertainty, the FAO's food price index for October was still 5 per cent higher compared with the previous year.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/ba78236e-0602-11e1-ad0e-00144feabdc0.html>

Interview with Amb. Kenneth Quinn, *Farm Journal, November 2011*

Kenneth Quinn was formally the ambassador to Cambodia and is now the President of the World Food Prize. Listen as he shares his thoughts about meeting the world's food needs in the future.

http://www.agweb.com/article/food_for_thought_the_world_food_prize/

Israel's Agriculture Triumph: Implications for World Food Security, *Opinion, Marshall Matz, Agri-Pulse, November 2011*

With the trend in global warming, Israel's expertise in desert farming becomes even more valuable. While the technologies have been shared, they have not yet been maximized. Much of Israel's agro-technology has application in the Sub-Saharan and other arid areas that are struggling every day just to survive.

http://www.agri-pulse.com/Matz_Israel_Nov_10312011.asp

America's Role in Food Security and the Horn of Africa Famine, **The Honorable Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development**, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, November 17*

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs invites you to a lunch program with Dr. Rajiv Shah. Join us for a discussion with Dr. Rajiv Shah, who has recently returned from Kenya and Ethiopia, on the agency's initiatives for mitigating the Horn of Africa famine and the role of the United States in promoting global food security.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/Files/Event/FY_12_Events/11_November_2011/America_s_Role_in_Food_Security_and_the_Horn_of_Africa_Famine.aspx

It's a Tight, Tight World, *DTN, November 4*

The topic of feeding the world isn't new; and it's been even more in the forefront since commodity prices rallied in 2007. "Right now, we are under-investing in research. I'm very concerned about the possibility that

federal budget issues will reduce support for ag research, and commodity associations are too focused on maintaining commodity programs," said Robert Thompson, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

<http://www.kfgo.com/agri-business-news.php?ID=9433>

Human Development Report 2011: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All, *UNDP, November 2011*

The Report argues that bold action is needed on both national and global level if the recent human development progress for most of the world's poor majority is to be sustained

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/>

SEE ALSO: Climate Change Imperils Global Prosperity, *Rachel Nuwer, New York Times, November 2*
Sub-Saharan Africa could suffer the gravest inequities if the worst-case scenarios come to pass. Many Africans rely solely on natural resources for their livelihoods and lack a means of coping with environmental hazards like air and water pollution and poor sanitation.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/02/climate-change-imperils-global-prosperity-u-n-warns/>

SEE ALSO: Failure to Reduce Environmental Risks will Set Back Human Development, *Guardian, November 2*

The report is centered on the new national rankings of the UNDP's human development index, which combines measures of health, education and income. Norway and Australia lead the world in the 2011 ranking, with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger and Burundi the least developed.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/nov/02/environment-human-un?>

Ending Global Hunger, Supporting Poor Farmers, *Alesha Black, Impatient Optimists Blog, October 24*

By working with Purchase for Progress (P4P) and its partners, local farmers are now helping WFP to feed people in their own countries. Farmers are getting much more than a reliable buyer, however; they're getting training on how to negotiate and enter a contract. Already, we can see progress.

<http://www.impatientoptimists.org/Posts/2011/10/World-Food-Programme-Award>

Ending Global Hunger Is Possible, *Rick Leach, Expert Commentary, Global Food for Thought Blog, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, November 3*

Now, more than ever, fighting hunger within the world's most vulnerable populations demands solutions that leverage the best of government, the best of civil society, and, perhaps most important, the best of the private sector. Fortunately, an unprecedented consensus about how to attack world hunger has emerged. And it's relatively simple: empower small-scale farmers to become active participants in the global economy.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/11/ending-global-hunger-is-possible.html>

Food for Thought: 10+ Ideas to End World Hunger, *Trickle Up Blog, November 3*

Trickle Up hosted a panel of food security experts to discuss ideas to end world hunger. While not comprehensive, we listed the main points of the discussion here to remind ourselves, as well as our leaders, that the issue of hunger cannot be ignored. Achievable solutions are available if we choose to listen. Panelists include Dan Glickman, Olivier De Schutter, Bettina Leuscher, Marieme Daff, and Roger Thurow.

<http://trickleupblog.wordpress.com/2011/11/03/food-for-thought/>

The Clock Is Ticking, *Opinion, Ban Ki-Moon, New York Times, October 31*

Emerging economies are the drivers of the future. In Cannes, leaders must show strong support for the pro-poor, pro-growth agenda embodied in the Millennium Development Goals. We know what works; we must continue to invest in policies and programs that yield outsized gains — in women and children's health, food and agriculture and gender equity, to name but a few.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/01/opinion/01iht-edban01.html?>

SPECIAL COVERAGE: 2011 G20 CANNES SUMMIT

Press Conference by President Obama after G20 Summit, White House, November 3

We agreed to keep phasing out fossil fuel subsidies. And even as our countries work to save lives from the drought and terrible famine in the Horn of Africa, we agreed on the need to mobilize new resources to support the development that lifts nations out of poverty.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/03/remarks-president-obama-and-president-nicolas-sarkozy-france-joint-state>

SEE ALSO: G-20 Final Communiqué

To improve food security, we commit to develop appropriate risk-management instruments and humanitarian emergency tools. We decide that food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Program will not be subject to export restrictions or extraordinary taxes.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/g-20_communique.pdf

SEE ALSO: G-20 Cannes Summit Final Declaration

We agree to further invest in agriculture, in particular in the poorest countries, and bearing in mind the importance of smallholders, through responsible public and private investment.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/g-20_declaration_cannes.pdf

SEE ALSO: G-20: Fact Sheet on Common Global Challenges

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/04/g-20-fact-sheet-common-global-challenges>

SEE ALSO: The Cannes Action Plan for Growth and Jobs

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/g-20_action_plan.pdf

Innovation with Impact: Financing 21st Century Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, November 3

Leadership from the G20 is critically important, especially in these tough economic times. We must build on the unprecedented progress in health and development achieved in the last decade. We cannot waste this opportunity by retreating now. As long as we are creative and stay committed, we will spur growth, lift people out of poverty, and reinforce the sources of strength that have already generated so much progress

<http://www.thegatesnotes.com/Topics/Development/G20-Report-Innovation-with-Impact>

SEE ALSO: Gates Says 'Robin Hood' Tax has Part to Play, Chris Files, Financial Times, November 3

The Gates report stresses innovation in agriculture, more effective tax collection, private sector finance for infrastructure and a focus on continuing aid payments by rich countries as the necessary stepping stones for development.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/4ecd469e-062a-11e1-a079-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: At G20, Bill Gates addresses leaders about helping Poor, Washington Post, November 4

The paper is more notable for its ideas about how richer emerging markets such as Brazil and China could apply lessons from their recent history to help, for example, boost cassava production in Africa.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/at-g-20-the-g-is-for-gates/2011/11/04/gIQA36DInM_story.html

SEE ALSO: Bill Gates's G20 Speech made a lot of sense, but Why Ignore Capital Flight?, Guardian, November 4

His stance that aid is a good thing, pure and simple, is frustrating, given what we know about the harm it can also do in some contexts, but his focus on the role of aid in piloting projects and in technological investment – precisely the areas where it does work – rather than filling country exchequers is welcome. If the broader debate follows this lead, we will be having a more realistic discussion about aid in the years to come.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/nov/04/bill-gates-speech-g20-capital-flight>

SEE ALSO: Video: Bill Gates Asks G20 to Boost Development Efforts, AFP, November 3

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGKZwG9lzVQ>

AMIS Market Report, World Trade Organization, November 2011

The 2011/12 global cereal supply outlook has improved in recent weeks as production forecasts have been revised upwards while demand expectations are pointing to less robust growth than had been anticipated

because of macro-economic concerns in developed economies.

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/amis_report_01_e.pdf

SEE ALSO: Food Security Website, World Trade Organization, November 2011

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/food_security_e.htm

The G20 Must Tackle Climate Change, *Opinion*, Mary Robinson, *Guardian*, November 3

Action cannot be put off until the economic storm has passed. Unchecked climate change could reduce global output by up to 20%. This would dwarf our current troubles. G20 leaders in Cannes have the opportunity to address their people's concerns, help poor countries caught in a crisis they did nothing to cause, and take timely steps to address the coming climate crisis.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/nov/03/g20-tackle-climate-change>

Euro Debt Crisis Sidelines G20 Efforts to Focus on Developing World, *VOA News*, November 4

The president of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, had planned to use his leadership of the G20 this year to highlight some of the needs of the developing world. Instead, the focus of G20 summit in Cannes has been on the threat of a Greek default and destabilization of the eurozone.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/pan/Euro-Debt-Crisis-Sidelines-Efforts-to-Help-Developing-World-133235228.html>

SEE ALSO: Aid Groups Say G20 Failed World's Poor, *Sydney Herald*, November 4

Aid and development groups have slammed the G20 leaders for doing little to help the world's poorest people.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/aid-groups-say-g20-fails-worlds-poor-20111105-1n0kt.html>

G-20 Wraps Up With Little to Show, *Wall Street Journal*, November 4

In the end, G-20 leaders agreed only to explore options, including allowing nations to make voluntary contributions to the IMF and using the IMF's special notional currency in some fashion. The weight of the European debt crisis overshadowed other policy goals at the summit.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203804204577017353037510564.html>

G20 Should Focus on Food Security, Infrastructure: Business Leaders, *Economic Times*, November 2

A group of business leaders affiliated to the G20 have recommended that the summit being held in Cannes should focus on food security and infrastructure development. The working group also recommended increasing investments in agriculture by 50 per cent from public and private sector by 2015.

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-11-02/news/30350377_1_food-security-g20-private-sector

Joint Letter from Herman Van Rompuy and Jose Manuel Barroso to G20, *The Telegraph*, October 30

In Cannes we should aim for ambitious outcomes on eight priorities: #6 Ensuring Food Security and Promoting the G20 Development Agenda and Innovative Financing. We need to address the global food security challenge by fully endorsing the Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture agreed by G20 Agriculture Ministers.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financialcrisis/8858304/Joint-letter-from-Herman-Van-Rompuy-and-Jose-Manuel-Barroso-to-G20-in-full.html>

G20 Outlook: Will Food Security Agenda Remain Priority at Cannes Summit, *Adam Russell Taylor*, *Guest Commentary*, *Global Food for Thought Blog*, October 28

Every year the Heads of State from the 20 largest economy's in the world gather to discuss pressing issues facing the global economy. Unfortunately, the escalating financial crisis in Europe risks overshadowing and derailing urgent progress on food security and development issues.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/10/guest-commentary-g20-outlook-will-food-security-agenda-remain-priority-at-cannes-summit.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks by Dr. Rajiv Shah, 50th Anniversary Celebration of USAID, November 3

By driving innovations in agriculture, we help nations break free of the devastating cycle of food riots, famine and failed states-as we did in Asia and as we are working to do now in the Horn of Africa.

http://usaid.gov/press/speeches/2011/sp111103_2.html

SEE ALSO: Secretary Clinton Congratulates USAID on 50 Years

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/clinton_usaid_50_anniversary

SEE ALSO: Remarks by Caroline Kennedy

The work done by USAID has spared children from diseases like HIV and malaria, made it possible for more mothers to survive childbirth, and delivered families from hunger and poverty.

http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2011/sp111103_1.html

Status Report: Afghanistan and Pakistan Civilian Engagement, U.S. State Department, November 2011

To build Afghan capacity, the USDA has conducted 1,335 agribusiness and extension demonstrations and trainings in Afghanistan, while the USAID has trained over 307,000 farmers in improved farm practices, 1,058 government staff in improved public service performance; and over 5,500 businesses on improved business skills needed to increase agricultural sales.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/176809.pdf>

SEE ALSO: U.S. Pledges Financial Aid for Pakistan, CBS News, November 3

The administration insisted it will continue to provide civilian aid to Pakistan, which has fallen from \$1.5 billion in the 2010 fiscal year to \$1.1 billion this year.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57318272/u.s-pledges-financial-aid-for-pakistan/

Senate Approves FY 12 Agriculture/FDA, CJS, and T-HUD Appropriations Legislation, Senate Committee on Appropriations, November 1

The U.S. Senate has approved, by a vote of 69 to 30, H.R. 2112, the FY 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The bill, as amended, includes the FY 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills.

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=8a6855d1-9e55-460c-9c76-d5bae4dae0dc>

SEE ALSO: H.R. 2112: FY 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA Appropriations

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr2112rs/pdf/BILLS-112hr2112rs-1.pdf>

Hearing: China's Role in Africa: Implications, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, November 1

Dr. David Shinn's Testimony:

http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/David_Shinn_Testimony.pdf

Dr. Deborah Brautigam's Testimony:

http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Deborah_Brautigam_Testimony.pdf

Mr. Stephen Hayes' Testimony:

http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Stephen_Hayes_Testimony.pdf

SEE ALSO: US Promotion of Democracy in Africa Challenged by China's No-Strings Investments, Washington Post, November 1

Coons said about 70 percent of Chinese assistance to Africa comes in the form of roads, stadiums and government buildings, often built with Chinese material and labor, while 70 percent of U.S. government spending there goes toward crucial but less visible support for people, particularly to fight AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/senator-us-promotion-of-democracy-in-africa-challenged-by-chinas-no-strings-investments/2011/11/01/gIQAYSUldM_story.html

Women Pave Pathways to Prosperity, Opinion, Melanne Verveer, DipNote, October 31

Empowering women offers one of the most effective means of closing the gap and lifting people out of poverty. It is clearly common sense and smart economics to allow women greater access to resources, technical training and opportunities to participate more fully in our economies.

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

Gender Equality and Social Justice: Why Foreign Assistance Matters, *U.S. Representative Jim Moran, Huffington Post, October 28*

The fact is, foreign aid works. First, it saves lives. Second, in fostering stronger, more resilient communities, our foreign assistance also bolsters our security. Third, deep cuts to our foreign aid programs pose a threat to our economy.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rep-jim-moran/gender-equality-and-social-justice-1063928.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Girls Grow: Girls in Rural Economies

Date: November 7, 2011

Location: Chicago, IL

Join The Chicago Council on Global Affairs to hear Catherine Bertini speak about the Council's latest report, *Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies*, which highlights the opportunity to bring about successful rural transformation through strategies that include a special focus on rural adolescent girls.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/Files/Event/FY_12_Events/11_November_2011/Girls_Grow.aspx

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.

<http://www.friendsofeurope.org/Contentnavigation/Events/Eventsoverview/tabid/1187/EventType/EventView/EventId/1066/Futureproofing.aspx>

America's Role in Food Security and the Horn of Africa Famine

Date: November 17, 2011

Location: Chicago, IL

President Obama's *Feed the Future* initiative is addressing the root causes of hunger, as well as the challenges of poverty, water scarcity, climate change, and diminishing natural resources, by helping farmers in the developing world grow their own food. Join The Chicago Council for a discussion with the head of USAID, Rajiv Shah, who has recently returned from Kenya and Ethiopia, on the agency's initiatives for mitigating the Horn of Africa famine and the role of the United States in promoting global food security.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/Files/Event/FY_12_Events/11_November_2011/America's_Role_in_Food_Security_and_the_Horn_of_Africa_Famine.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>

Assessing Indigenous Fertilizer Production Opportunities in Africa

Date: December 5-9, 2011

Location: Arusha, Tanzania

To examine and assess the factors, constraints and options to be considered in developing natural resources of fertilizer raw materials, IFDC is offering a one-week international workshop. The workshop is designed for

middle- to senior-level officials/managers working in public or private sector companies involved in all aspects of fertilizer and agro-mineral resource development.

http://www.ifdc.org/Training/Assessing_Indigenous_Fertilizer_Production_Opportu

How do Practices, Value Chains and Trade Need to be Transformed?

Date: December 14-15, 2011

Location: London, UK

This conference will gather business leaders and representatives from the private sector, governments, multilateral agencies, and non-governmental organizations to examine changing agricultural investment patterns, highlighting international policy developments and business approaches to coping with environmental shocks and stresses presented by climate change and global population growth.

<http://www.chathamhouse.org/food2011>

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.

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

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Media Articles:

Number of Americans on Food Stamps Hit Another High Years After Recession's End, *Huffington Post*, November 3

The number of Americans receiving food aid from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program hit another all-time high in August. 45.8 million people -- almost 15% of the country -- were enrolled in the program, which replaced Food Stamps in 2008. In total, the USDA spent \$6.1 billion on SNAP benefits in August 2011, up 8% from the year before.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/03/number-of-americans-on-snap_n_1074344.html

American Farmland Trust Proposes Farm Bill Reforms Focused on Conservation, *AgriPulse*, November 2

Under the AFT strategy, 20 percent of conservation funding would be put into a pool of shared funds directed to local, state and regional priorities. This would leave 80 percent of funds available for farmers and ranchers seeking technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices, similar to the current structure.

http://www.agri-pulse.com/AFT_Farm_Bill_11022011.asp

SEE ALSO: FULL TEXT: Recommendations

<http://www.farmland.org/news/pressreleases/2012-Farm-Bill-Recommendations.asp>

Heat-Tolerant Varieties Help Florida Take Advantage of Gap in Northern Blueberry Season, *Washington Post*, November 2

Washington Post, November 2

The new varieties were sweeter, tastier and more consistent in size than the berries produced earlier in

Florida. They were hardier — which meant easier shipping, and most importantly, they could withstand warm weather. By 2000, Florida farmers saw a way to diversify and take advantage of consumer demand. http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/heat-tolerant-varieties-help-florida-take-advantage-of-gap-in-northern-blueberry-season/2011/11/02/gIQR8MheM_story.html

Let's Make Small-Scale Farming a Viable Option, *Opinion, Frances Moore, Des Moines Register, November 1*
Budget-cutters seem poised to shift farm support money away from direct payments and toward the even bigger crop insurance subsidy. This shift could worsen income consolidation, for government-backed farm insurance includes no payment cap per farm. There is another path. It's reflected in a tripling of farmers' markets in only 15 years, and 4,000 community-supported farms nationwide. But this path requires public investment.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011311020039>

Regional Disputes Weigh on Farm Bill Talks, *Philip Brasher, Des Moines Register, November 1*
Farmers and landowners now receive about \$4.8 billion in fixed payments each year. Negotiators are looking to trim payments by nearly half, or \$23 billion over the next 10 years, with \$15 billion of that cut coming from crop subsidies, including the fixed annual payments. The rest of the reduction would be divided among land conservation programs and nutrition assistance programs such as food stamps.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011311020062>

The Multi-Functional Future of Agriculture in Africa, *Daniel Bornstein, Policymic, November 2*
The vision of locally led agricultural innovations should guide agricultural leaders when they gather in Addis Ababa on Nov. 1-3, and it's also the vision that should anchor the entire CAADP process.

<http://www.policymic.com/articles/the-multi-functional-future-of-agriculture-in-africa>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

2011 Commitment to Development Index, *Center for Global Development, November 2011*
Which wealthy nations are helping poor ones most? Rich and poor are linked in many ways. Each year, the CDI scores wealthy governments on helping poor countries via 7 linkages: aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security, and technology. It averages over the 7 for an overall score.

http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/active/cdi/?utm_&&&

SEE ALSO: Policy Brief and Technical Paper on the 2011 Commitment to Development Index

<http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/active/cdi/inside>

Media Articles:

WFP Suggests S. Korea, U.S. Resume Food Aid to N. Korea in Small Amounts: Former Chief, *Yonhap News, November 4*

"The United Nations and the World Food Program are very hopeful that both countries will soon be in a position to make renewed food aid contributions through the WFP to the DPRK," Catherine Bertini told a group of reporters at a hotel in downtown Seoul. "Food aid is critical for the short term," she said. "But for the long term, DPRK needs to move to the next phase so that it can develop its own resources and not be in a position of having the food aid shortfall."

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2011/11/04/18/0401000000AEN20111104008600315F.HT ML>

SEE ALSO: Funding Shortage Threatens North Korea Food Aid, *Huffington Post, November 1*

The U.N. children's fund says tens of thousands of children in North Korea are at risk of irreversible damage from malnutrition because of a shortfall in funding for food aid.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20111101/eu-un-nkorea-food/>

The UNESCO Cuts: What's Next on the U.S. Chopping Block?, *Foreign Policy, November 3*

The US last year contributed a whopping \$1.5 billion in cash and food to the World Food Program. A cut-off of

U.S. funding, which amounts to more than 36 percent of WFP's budget, would deal a severe blow to an agency that has helped to feed desperately poor communities, and provided the U.S. with extra leverage in its negotiations with countries like North Korea.

http://turtlebay.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/11/03/the_unesco_cuts_what_s_next_on_the_us_chopping_block

SEE ALSO: UNESCO Votes to Admit Palestine; U.S. Cuts Off Funding, *Washington Post*, October 31

The US provides UNESCO with more than \$80 million a year, covering about 22 percent of its budget, thus making any cutoff painful.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/unesco-votes-to-admit-palestine-over-us-objections/2011/10/31/gIQAmlcYZM_story.html

History Tells Us: Fund Diplomacy, *Opinion*, Peter Petrihos, *The Hill*, November 3

As Congress turns to the difficult task of reducing the U.S. deficit, it is imperative that we equip our diplomats with the resources necessary to execute a foreign policy that reflects the lessons of history, exports our values and perpetuates lasting relationships. Failing to do so would put the United States and our allies at risk. As former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said, "Development is cheaper than war."

<http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/191785-history-tells-us-fund-diplomacy>

Religious Leaders to Call on U.S. Senators to Preserve Foreign Assistance Funding, *Ashley Portero*, *International Business Times*, November 2

The clergy aims to discuss the relationship between ethical values and the U.S. foreign assistance policy -- particularly the moral obligations wealthier nation's have to look out for struggling countries -- and convince Senators to preserve all funding for those programs.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/241912/20111102/religious-leaders-u-s-senators-preserve-foreign.htm>

Somalia's Agony Tests Limits of Aid, *Jeffrey Gettleman*, *New York Times*, November 1

Support - meaning dollars - has been frustratingly scant. While many more lives are at stake in Somalia's crisis, other recent disasters pulled in far more money. For instance, Save the Children U.S. has raised a little more than \$5 million in private donations for the Horn of Africa crisis. That contrasts with what Save the Children raised in 2004 for the Indonesian tsunami (\$55.4 million) or the earthquake in Japan earlier this year (\$22.8 million) - and Japan is a rich country.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/02/giving/some-aid-trickles-into-somalia-surrounded-by-death-and-disease.html>

Al-Qaida and the Politics of Aid in Somalia, *Guardian*, November 1

Al-Qaida is the latest to join the enormous aid industry in the country. If the humanitarian community wants to help the poor, they need to redefine their roles. They must remain non-political, non-partisan and work with non-corrupt Somalis. Otherwise, groups like al-Qaida will fill the vacuum left by big aid organizations. For al-Qaida, it is an opportunity to do business in Somalia.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/nov/01/al-qaida-politics-aid-somalia>

Tied Aid Debate Tests Donor Ambitions before Busan Summit, *Guardian*, November 1

Experienced aid-watchers will not be surprised that "tied aid" - requirements by some donors that aid be spent on goods and services provided by companies based in their own countries - is among the most controversial issues being discussed in advance of the 4th high-level forum on aid effectiveness.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/nov/01/tied-aid-debate-busan-summit>

Global Health Fund Probe Uncovers \$20m in Losses, *Associated Press*, November 1

A global health fund investigating its own losses in grant money said that 12 more probes had turned up an additional \$20 million of mismanagement, alleged fraud and misspending. The Global Fund suspended grants - or put in place new safeguards - in Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania and Zambia.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501714_162-20128601/global-health-fund-probe-uncovers-\\$20m-in-losses/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-501714_162-20128601/global-health-fund-probe-uncovers-$20m-in-losses/)

Fate of Bush-Era Program a Matter of Life or Death, *Opinion, Julian Zelizer, CNN, October 31*

The U.S. foreign aid program has helped to save the lives of millions of people and helped to contain a disease that was ravaging the African continent. Before Congress takes action, America would do well to consider the kinds of transformative impact that government can have. When a program does work, as the evidence suggests that PEPFAR has, and is desperately needed, there should be some kind of security for its future.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/31/opinion/zelizer-aids-africa-budget/>

A Friend in Need, *Charles Kenny, Foreign Policy, October 31*

Aid is likely to be a more effective foreign policy tool when it comes to persuading governments to do things that lack popular support. Creating that popular support in the first place is much harder.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/10/31/a_friend_in_need

Rains Ease Somalia Drought, *Andrew Harding, BBC News, October 31*

The long drought has lifted in southern and central Somalia, with fairly good rains now falling across much of those regions gripped by famine. The rain brings some risks. There's particular concern among aid workers about communicable diseases like cholera spreading. But the rain also means it is planting time - a critical period for those families that have not yet abandoned their homes.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-15520332>

The Biggest Gift in the World, *Robert Frank, Wall Street Journal, October 28*

Warren Buffett has carried his philanthropy to a new extreme and, in the process, sparked a revolution in the world of giving. Through his launch of the Giving Pledge in June 2010, a joint venture with his partner-in-patronage Bill Gates, Buffett has unlocked billions of dollars for philanthropic causes. So far, 69 billionaires have signed the pledge, representing more than \$150 billion in philanthropy.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204644504576653510801826824.html>

Make Aid Transparent, *November 2011*

Without specific, time-bound commitments to aid transparency from donors, countries receiving aid will continue to be left in the dark about what's happening. In the last 6 months, the Make Aid Transparent campaign has gained real ground.

<http://www.makeaidtransparent.org/>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Weathering Global Warming in Agriculture, *Reason, November 2011*

The investments needed to compensate for higher temperatures and shifting patterns of precipitation in Africa, Asia and Latin America are not inordinately large. In addition, adaptation to climate change—by individual farmers, entire nations and ultimately the world as a whole—requires reforms that are pro-market and pro-technology.

http://reason.org/files/weathering_global_warming_agriculture_food_population.pdf

Birds Fly in the Face of Climate Change Expectations, *New York Times, November 3*

Ms. Goodman and her colleagues analyzed data dating back 40 years from two different California bird observatories. The researchers found that wing length had been steadily increasing and body mass had expanded.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/03/no-one-size-fits-all-for-climate-change>

SEE ALSO: FULL TEXT: Avian Body Size Changes and Climate Change: Warming or Increasing Variability?, *Global Change Biology, November 2011*

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2486.2011.02538.x/full>

Media Articles:

Dr. Muller's Findings, *Editorial, New York Times, November 3*

Richard Muller, a prominent American physicist, was so skeptical about data showing a gradual warming of the Earth's surface that he decided to investigate for himself. The results of his two-year inquiry — partially bankrolled by the Charles Koch Foundation, whose founder is a prominent global-warming denier — are now in. And, voilà, the Earth is indeed warming, just as most scientists have been saying for years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/04/opinion/dr-mullers-findings-on-global-warming.html>

Biggest Jump Ever Seen in Global Warming Gases, *Seth Borenstein, Associated Press, November 3*

The global output of heat-trapping carbon dioxide jumped by the biggest amount on record, the U.S. Department of Energy calculated, a sign of how feeble the world's efforts are at slowing man-made global warming. The world pumped about 564 million more tons (512 million metric tons) of carbon into the air in 2010 than it did in 2009. That's an increase of 6 percent.

http://www.boston.com/news/science/articles/2011/11/03/biggest_jump_ever_seen_in_global_warming_gases/

Water Privatization: Villainy or Necessity?, *John Converse Townsend, Huffington Post, November 2*

Until recently, the privatization of humanity's most valuable resource was a Third World problem. Now the idea and the economics behind it are spreading to more developed countries like China, Russia, Canada, and even the United States. As water becomes privatized more frequently, its price is likely to rise, meaning that fewer people will be able to afford it.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-converse-townsend/water-privatization-villa_b_1070299.html

Stone-Washed Blue Jeans (Minus the Washed), *Leslie Kaufman, New York Times, November 1*

The company wants to reduce that number any way it can, and not just to project environmental responsibility. It fears that water shortages caused by climate change may jeopardize the company's very existence in the coming decades by making cotton too expensive or scarce. Conservation worries are not limited to the clothing giants: food and beverage conglomerates, tobacco companies and metal and mining companies are all starting to reckon with their heavy dependence on water.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/02/science/earth/levi-strauss-tries-to-minimize-water-use.html>

Extreme Weather Caused By Global Warming Is Going To Worsen, Scientists Say, *Seth Borenstein, Huffington Post, November 1*

For a world already weary of weather catastrophes, the latest warning from top climate scientists paints a grim future: More floods, more heat waves, more droughts and greater costs to deal with them. By the end of the century, the intense, single-day rainstorms that typically happen once every 20 years will probably happen about twice a decade, the report said.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/01/extreme-weather-worsen-global-warming_n_1070066.html

Map Reveals Stark Divide in Who Caused Climate Change and Who's Being Hit, *Guardian, October 26*

The map is produced by risk analysts Maplecroft by combining measures of the risk of climate change impacts, such as storms, floods, and droughts, with the social and financial ability of both communities and governments to cope. The top three most vulnerable nations reflect all these factors: Haiti, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/damian-carrington-blog/2011/oct/26/climate-change-developing-country-impacts-risk>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

Understanding and Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment, *International Center for Research on Women, October 2011*

There is increasing recognition that economically empowering women is essential both to realize women's rights and to achieve broader development goals such as economic growth, poverty reduction, health,

education and welfare. The concepts presented here are meant to help practitioners, researchers and donors design effective, measurable interventions to advance women economically.

<http://www.icrw.org/publications/understanding-and-measuring-womens-economic-empowerment>

The Poor Stay Thinner: Stable Socioeconomic Gradients in BMI among Women in Lower- and Middle-Income Countries, *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, November 2011

The association between socioeconomic status and body mass index or overweight is positive in most low- and middle-income countries and has not weakened over time. It appears that the burden of overweight is consistently greater among wealthier populations within low- and middle-income countries.

<http://www.ajcn.org/content/94/5/1348.abstract>

SEE ALSO: In Developing world, Poor Still Means Thin, *Reuters*, November 3

"First world" health problems such as obesity and heart disease may be gaining ground in developing nations, but they are mostly afflicting the rich and middle class while poor people remain undernourished and underweight. Researchers looked at more than 500,000 women from 37 mid- and low-income nations in Asia, Africa and South America.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/04/us-weight-income-idUSTRE7A30J820111104?>

Media Articles:

Libyan Women Savor New Freedoms after Revolution, *Mary Beth Sheridan, Washington Post, November 4*

Zentani is part of a vast network of Libyan women who played an under-the-radar role in the war, running weapons, gathering intelligence and smuggling medicine. Now they are savoring a new freedom to move about the country and organize. The male-dominated, tribally based society is not being completely transformed. Already there are signs of the difficulties women face in gaining more political representation.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/libyan-women-savor-new-freedoms-after-revolution/2011/11/03/gIQAhgB9IM_story.html

Women Lobby for Law Against FGM/C, *IRIN News, November 3*

Women's groups in the Somali town of Galkayo are lobbying the authorities to enact a law banning female genital mutilation/cutting. Madar of the Women's Network said convincing and winning the support of traditional elders and religious leaders was crucial to the group's efforts.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=94136>

The Birth Control Solution, *Opinion, Nicholas Kristof, New York Times, November 2*

What's needed isn't just birth-control pills or IUDs. It's also girls' education and women's rights — starting with an end to child marriages — for educated women mostly have fewer children.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/03/opinion/kristof-the-birth-control-solution.html>

7 Billion Reasons to Empower Women, *Opinion, Ted Turner, CNN, October 31*

If the United States wants to maintain its global leadership role, we must be thinking and making smart investments that will help us address both current and future responsibilities. The best way to do this is to listen to women and fund international family planning. Our future depends on it.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/31/opinion/turner-7-billion/>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

FAO Food Price Index, *FAO, November 3*

The FAO Food Price Index dropped to an 11-month low, but still some 5 percent above the corresponding period last year. The decline reflects sharp decreases in international prices of all the commodities.

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

SEE ALSO: Wheat Plunging as Stockpiles Climb to 10-Year High: Commodities, *Luzi Ann Javier and Jason Scott, Bloomberg, November 4*

Wheat is heading for the biggest slump in three years as the second-largest harvest on record swells stockpiles, easing shortages that drove global food costs to an all-time high. Cheaper wheat will reduce strains caused by rising corn and rice prices and add to pressure on UN-monitored food costs that have declined 9 percent from a record in February.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-11-03/wheat-plunging-as-decade-high-stockpiles-ease-world-shortages-commodities.html>

Food Price Watch, *World Bank, November 2011*

Global food prices remain high and volatile even though the *average* global Food Price Index did not change between July and September. Domestic food prices also remained volatile in the same period. But domestic price volatility does not follow a clear pattern, making it difficult to predict the direction of future domestic prices.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTPOVERTY/Resources/336991-1311966520397/Food-Price-Watch-November-2011.htm>

SEE ALSO: Video: Food Price Problems Here to Stay, *Wall Street Journal, November 2011*

<http://online.wsj.com/video/animation-food-price-problems-here-to-stay/1B82744F-0A61-49EF-A5DC-ADD7B68F9E2E.html>

Bribe Payers Index Report 2011, *Transparency International, November 2011*

The report ranks 28 of the world's largest economies according to the perceived likelihood of companies from these countries to pay bribes abroad. Foreign bribery has significant adverse effects on public well-being around the world. It distorts the fair awarding of contracts, reduces the quality of basic public services, limits opportunities to develop a competitive private sector and undermines trust in public institutions.

<http://bpi.transparency.org/results/>

SEE ALSO: Interactive Chart: International Back Scratching, *The Economist, November 2*

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/dailychart/2011/11/bribe-payers-index>

Media Articles:

Five Myths about the World's Population, *Nicholas Eberstadt, Washington Post, November 4*

As we mark this demographic milestone, let's dispense with some of the most common misconceptions surrounding the number of humans on the planet: 1) the world is overpopulated; 2) rapid population growth keeps poor countries poor; 3) for all its ethical problems, China's one-child policy boosts the country's economy; 4) if your population declines, your economy does, too; 5) the world will have 10 billion people by 2100.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-the-worlds-population/2011/10/26/gIQArjSWmM_story.html

Russia Gets Fruity As Largest Importer of Apples and Pears, *Opinion, Neena Rai, Wall Street Journal, November 3*

The USDA has announced that Russia became the world's number one importer of apples and pears in the 2010 marketing year, a trend that is likely to continue throughout 2011, as the country trends towards healthy eating. Still, the amount of fruit Russians consume remains much lower than their counterparts in the U.S., Europe, Japan and China.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/11/03/russia-gets-fruity-as-largest-importer-of-apples-and-pears>

Food Prices and the 7 Billionth Baby, *Opinion, Otaviano Canuto, Huffington Post, November 3*

Just as the world marks the birth of the 7 billionth baby this week, his or her family might be struggling to put food on the table. Volatility and uncertainty can scare away essential mid- and long-term investments in agriculture, and force desperate measures for poor families in the short-term, such as taking children out of school. Likewise, in a volatile environment, the benefits of high prices for food producers are fleeting, so nobody ends up benefiting in the end.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/otaviano-canuto/global-food-volatility_b_1071257.html

EU Funding Helps Secure a Worthwhile Harvest, *Financial Times, November 1*

A significant factor in the transformation of agriculture has been the EU's common agricultural policy, which this year is expected to pay out €3.3bn to Polish farmers. High quality global journalism requires investment. CAP subsidies alone amount to about a fifth of farm earnings, while billions more in EU funds for modernization and ecological programs have helped revive the countryside.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/61c51272-fe55-11e0-a1eb-00144feabdc0.html>

Thailand's Water Crisis Is Bad Omen, *William Pesek, Bloomberg, October 31*

The threat to global supply chains and food prices -- especially rice -- will reverberate around the globe, crimping gross domestic product in neighboring Asia and corporate profits the world over.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-31/thailand-s-water-crisis-is-bad-omen-the-ticker.html>

In Japan, Possible Free Trade Deal Comes With an Argument, *Chico Harlan, Washington Post, October 30*

As Japan nears a self-imposed deadline to decide whether to participate in the U.S.-backed Trans-Pacific Partnership, it must first resolve a clash between farmers who think the pact will ruin them and exporters who want to reach new markets with lower tariffs. Nine other countries, including the United States, have committed to the agreement, which would eliminate tariffs and trade barriers within 10 years

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/japans-farmers-dug-in-against-free-trade-pact/2011/10/30/g1QA2tW6WM_story.html

SEE ALSO: Trade Talks Pit Japanese Farmers Against Industry, *Roland Buerk, BBC News, November 1*

Without tariffs on imports, many Japanese farmers would be swept away by the cold winds of global competition. On imported rice the levy runs at nearly 800%. Little wonder many farmers are angry about the prospect of Japan joining talks to forge the Trans Pacific Partnership, a huge new free trade area around the Pacific rim.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-15532816>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Kraft Raises Its Outlook for the Year, *Associated Press, November 2*

Kraft's revenue rose nearly 12 percent, to \$13.23 billion from \$11.86 billion. The food industry is facing several challenges, including higher costs for ingredients and limited spending by consumers in developed markets like the United States. Kraft and other companies have been able to offset some of those pressures by raising prices and expanding in emerging markets like China, where demand is increasing.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/03/business/kraft-foods-raises-its-full-year-outlook.html>

SABMiller Brewing Local African Beer on Commercial Scale, Getting into Cassava Market, *Associated Press, November 1*

SABMiller says a cassava beer it's brewing in Mozambique is part of its plans for a range of beers using local materials for the low-end African market. The international brewer says its cassava project will give subsistence farmers a bigger, formal market.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/sabmiller-brewing-local-african-beer-on-commercial-scale-getting-into-cassava-market/2011/11/01/g1QAFqh0cM_story.html

Corporate Role in Future Food Security on the Rise, *Reuter, October 31*

The increased role has come at a time government involvement is hampered by the global financial crisis and led to fears a private sector-led expansion may focus on products with profit potential and neglect more effective alternatives. Food demand is increasing as the global population continues to expand with the 7 billionth person expected to be born on Monday

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/31/food-production-private-idUSL5E7LV30D20111031>

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