

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



September 10th – 17th, 2010

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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Global Hunger Declining, but Still Unacceptably High, *FAO, September 2010*

At close to one billion, the number of undernourished people in the world remains unacceptably high in 2010 despite an expected decline – the first in 15 years. This decline is largely attributable to a more favourable economic environment in 2010 – particularly in developing countries – and the fall in both international and domestic food prices since 2008. The recent increase in food prices, if it persists, will create additional obstacles in the fight to further reduce hunger.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/a1390e/a1390e00.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Statement by FAO Director-General, Jacques Diouf, for the Launch of New Hunger Figures Joint FAO/WFP/IFAD Press Conference, *FAO, September 14*

“FAO’s latest estimates indicate that 925 million people will be hungry and malnourished in 2010. While this figure marks an improvement compared to last year’s spike in world hunger of 1 billion persons, there is no cause for complacency. At close to one billion, hunger is and remains unacceptable.”

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/As%20delivered%20DG%20Statement%20release%20of%20new%20hunger%20figures%2014%20Sept%202010.pdf

SEE ALSO: Number of World’s Hungry Falls 10%, *Financial Times, September 14*

The number of chronically hungry people will decline 10 per cent this year, the first fall since 1995, said the UN, while warning the global agreement to cut the percentage of people suffering from hunger by 2015 was in jeopardy. The recent spike in cereal, meat and sugar prices, which has pushed global food prices to a two-year high, could further derail recent progress, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation said.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7c88edf6-bfde-11df-9628-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: U.N. Sees Global Hunger Easing in 2010, *Reuters*, September 14

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68D21220100914>

SEE ALSO: Hunger at a Glance: Key Numbers in the 2010 SOFI Report, *FAO*, September 2010

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/2010_hunger_facts.pdf

SEE ALSO: U.N.: World Hunger to Fall 9.6% in 2010, *Wall Street Journal*, September 13

The FAO's estimate doesn't take into account the resurgence in grain prices since early July, when a stubborn drought began to destroy Russian wheat fields and other crops throughout the Black Sea region.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703376504575491392992740462.html>

Unfinished Business: Mobilizing New Efforts to Achieve the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, *World Bank*, September 2010

Progress on meeting the MDG of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger was almost completely reversed in 2008 with the food price spike. In 1990, the share of hungry people was 20 percent; by 2005, this share had dropped to 16 percent, but it rose to an estimated 19 percent in 2009. Before the global food price crisis, 63 developing countries (out of 117 with available data) were on track to halve the prevalence of underweight children under five by 2015. However, in 34 countries progress is insufficient; 20 countries, most of them in Africa, have made no progress toward this target. Many of the countries most hurt by the food crisis were those with high preexisting levels of malnutrition. Although international prices were somewhat close to their pre-crisis level by the end of 2009, the price of staples in domestic markets continued to increase throughout 2009, and volatility is expected to remain high. Moreover, any relief from the decline in food prices was more than offset by the global economic crisis.

<http://www.worldbank.org/mdgs/MDGPaperFINALSeptember102010.pdf>

SEE ALSO: World Bank Vows to Invest More Resources to Help African Countries Meet Millennium Development Goals, *Voice of America*, September 14

The World Bank says African countries are having mixed results in attempts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The report highlights the positives and the negatives of efforts by developing countries to meet their targets, says Phil Hay, the communications adviser to the Human Development Network of the World Bank. The bank already has plans to increase aid in certain critical sectors in the affected countries, he says. "We at the World Bank are going to boost our support to agriculture to about \$8.3 billion a year under our agriculture action plan." The bank will target 35 countries, says Hay, particularly in east and south Asia and Africa, which have problems meeting their health goals because of poor child and maternal nutrition and disease.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/World-Bank-Vows-To-Invest-More-Resources-to-Help-African-Countries-Meet-Millennium-Development-Goals-102885649.html>

SEE ALSO: Over 100 Billion Dollars Needed for Millennium Goals: Ban, *Agence France-Presse*, September 14

More than 100 billion dollars will be needed over the next five years to hope to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on cutting poverty and boosting health, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gC0vPpqeY9YQcowtAlCpFEqeNTag>

Halving Hunger: Still Possible? Building a Rescue Package to Set the MDGs Back on Track, *Oxfam*, September 2010

While time is running out, the global crises push the MDGs desperately off course. The only chance of avoiding failure is a rescue plan for all MDGs that includes the necessary measures, both political and financial. Halving hunger is still possible if developing countries take the lead with the right policies and investments, donor countries increase dramatically their aid to agriculture, food security and social

protection under nationally and regionally-driven plans, and the global issues affecting food security are collectively addressed.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/halving-hunger-still-possible.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Report: Climate Change a Factor in World Hunger, *USA Today*, September 14

World hunger has ebbed slightly, but 925 million people still go to bed hungry because of weather volatility due to climate change and the failure of developed countries to invest in agriculture, a report today says. The proportion of people who are hungry changed little -- from 14% in 2000 to 13.5% today -- despite a pledge by world leaders to halve the problem by 2015, says the report by Oxfam America, an international relief and development group. The report says the decline is incidental, due largely to two years of good harvests that had, until recently, led to a fall in global food prices.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/greenhouse/post/2010/09/climate-change-affects-world-hunger/1>

SEE ALSO: Can the World Meet its Promise to Halve Hunger by 2015?, *Time*, September 15

<http://ecocentric.blogs.time.com/2010/09/15/can-the-world-meet-its-promise-to-halve-hunger-by-2015/>

Who's Really Fighting Hunger 2010?, *ActionAid*, 2010

This September, leaders are gathering in New York to assess progress on the UN's Millennium Development Goals for halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. On hunger, the MDGs commit leaders to reducing by half the proportion of people who are undernourished and the proportion of children who are underweight. These targets are, quite literally, a matter of life and death for the one billion people who struggle on a daily basis to avoid starvation. With only five years to go, how is the world doing?

<http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/ActionAid-scorecard-report-2010.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Hunger Costs Poor Nations \$450 Billion Annually, *Voice of America*, September 14

A new report says hunger could cost poor nations US\$450 billion a year. The ActionAid report – *Who's Really Fighting Hunger?* – gives a scorecard of how nations are faring in trying to reach the first Millennium Development Goal – cutting chronic hunger in half by 2015. ActionAid says 20 of 28 poor nations are at risk of not reaching that goal by the target date.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-hunger-actionaid-14sept10-102871434.html>

A Green Revolution Growing in West Africa, *Editorial*, *Sylvia Mathews Burwell*, President, *Global Development Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, *Huffington Post*, September 14

The mood in Ghana was full of optimism, determination, and a desire to make history. As AGRA board chair Kofi Annan said in his closing remarks to the forum, "We are finally getting the message across. Agriculture pays. Agriculture is a business. And we are ready to run it as one for millions of smallholder farmers." To be sure, this won't happen overnight. There is still much to do. Sustained commitment from national governments, continued investments, and strong support for organizations like AGRA, as well as multilateral initiatives like the Global Agricultural and Food Security Program, is essential for success.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sylvia-mathews-burwell/a-green-revolution-growin_b_716418.html

Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report Card: Measuring Progress Across Countries, *Overseas Development Institute*, September 2010

This report presents data on how countries are closing in on the MDG targets. It unpacks the targets and indicators to map out how the development process is playing out across countries and continents.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/5027.pdf>

The Global Partnership for Development at a Critical Juncture, *MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010*, *United Nations*, September 2010

This, the third report of the MDG Gap Task Force, tracks international cooperation efforts, measuring them against commitments, and offers recommendations on how, by placing development at centre stage, to strengthen the global partnership and thereby achieve a more balanced and sustainable growth of the world economy. By fulfilling the promises that have been made to the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized, we can build a world that is more prosperous, more just and more secure.

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/10-43282_MDG_2010%20\(E\)%20WEBv2.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/10-43282_MDG_2010%20(E)%20WEBv2.pdf)

Still Our Common Interest, *Commission on Africa Report, September 2010*

This report calls on the international community to provide the extra aid that Africa requires to adapt to climate change – and to ensure that it is additional to that given to meet the MDGs. In practical terms, adaptation means steps to ensure that agriculture and animal husbandry, water and other infrastructure, disease management and health systems and natural resource management are able to cope with the effects of climate change. Without taking these steps, the MDGs will not be achieved. Experts have estimated that the additional external financing required to do this in Africa could be between \$10 billion and \$20 billion a year.

<http://www.commissionforafrica.info/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/cfa-report-2010-full-version.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Donors Must Ramp up Aids to Africa: Blair Commission, *Agence France-Presse, September 13*

International donors must commit to giving billions more dollars in aid to Africa to reduce poverty and help the continent face new challenges, a commission set up by Tony Blair urged.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gtUvzdMOKQ3e6JSqQozmZ9LhdAog>

Crop Production, *National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture, September 10*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/CropProd/2010s/2010/CropProd-09-10-2010.pdf>

World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, *United States Department of Agriculture and World Agricultural Outlook Board, September 10*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/wasde/2010s/2010/wasde-09-10-2010.pdf>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

USAID Bolsters its Budget Shop, *Foreign Policy (The Cable blog), September 13*

As the development community awaits the results of two major administration reviews, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is already increasing its ability to manage its own money. USAID chief Rajiv Shah alerted his staff on Sept. 8 of the creation of the new USAID Office of Budget and Resource Management (BRM), to be led by his senior budgetary advisor Mike Casella. By FY 2013, Shah explained, USAID will be charged with developing a comprehensive budget proposal for its aid programs. These will then be incorporated into a joint State Department and USAID budget review.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/09/13/usaid_bolsters_its_budget_shop

Banking on Reform: Capital Increase Proposals from the Multilateral Development Banks, *Hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, September 15*

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=33c66777-5056-a032-525a-a0a5806634e9>

Opening statement by Senator John Kerry: “Even as these Banks grow and restructure, they must also do more to address twenty-first century challenges. This includes food security and empowering women—but especially the urgent and fundamentally linked challenges of climate change and energy poverty.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Kerry%20Statement100914a.pdf>

Opening statement by Senator Richard Lugar: “Given global financial linkages, we cannot achieve a full economic recovery in isolation from the rest of the world. In the face of job losses, wealth evaporation, homelessness, hunger and other outcomes, the economic viability of many nations will be tested. There is evidence that the global crisis has been tempered by the actions of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the regional development banks. They have provided steady finance during a period of extreme uncertainty and turbulence.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Lugar%20Statement100915a.pdf>

Testimony by Marisa Lago, Assistant Secretary for International Markets and Development, U.S. Department of the Treasury: “Because of their diverse membership, the MDBs are uniquely qualified to help us address critical global priorities. Through U.S. leadership, in tandem with other major shareholders, the MDBs are at the forefront of efforts to create coordinated and effective solutions to transnational challenges, such as food security and climate change. These complex challenges, which know no geographic boundaries, will seriously

imperil our prospects for global prosperity and poverty reduction if left unaddressed. And, because of the diffuse nature of the challenges, they can only be addressed successfully via multilateral channels, through which all countries own the problem and the tools to resolve it."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Lago.%20Marisa.pdf>

Testimony by Ian Solomon, U.S. Executive Director of the World Bank: "After years of neglect by nearly all donors, the Bank has revamped its commitment to the agricultural sector through the Agricultural Action Plan that focuses on improving productivity gains, strengthening value addition, reducing risk and vulnerability of farmers, and enhancing environmental sustainability of agricultural practices. This renewed commitment is a strong complement to the recently launched Global Agricultural Food Security Program (GAFSP), a multidonor trust fund championed by the United States and other G20 members, that will catalyze investments in country-developed agricultural development plans. With the risk of another food price shock on the horizon, the Bank's experience from the 2008 food and fuel crisis provides timely assistance to the world's poorest countries to mitigate the shocks. For example, the Bank helped the Senegalese authorities implement a school feeding program. Similarly, Bank assistance in Nepal supported the supply of fertilizer, local seed development and small irrigation schemes for remote communities."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Solomon.%20Ian1.pdf>

Security and the Environment in Pakistan, Congressional Research Service, August 3

In the last decades of the 20th Century, Pakistan's agricultural production grew sharply, increasing by an average of 4% per year, in large part due to the use of high-yielding crops, increased government prices for crops, and subsidies for irrigation water, fertilizer, and other inputs. In recent years, however, agricultural production has been declining. The U.N. reports that although Pakistan was a net exporter of wheat and other cereal grains in the 1980s and 1990s, Pakistan became a large net importer of food products during the 2001-2003 period.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41358.pdf>

SEE ALSO: World Agricultural Production, The 2010/11 Pakistan Flood Damage on Crops,

United States Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, September 2010

From late July through August, Pakistan received abundant to excessive monsoon rainfall across the country including many of the major rice and cotton growing areas. The excessive precipitation triggered severe overland and river flooding. The impact of the floodwater is most severe in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (N.W.F.P), Baluchistan, Punjab, and the northern districts of Sindh. These provinces have experienced significant loss of cropland and damage to agricultural infrastructure. The major kharif season (June-November) crops are rice and cotton, but a substantial amount of corn, millet, and sorghum is grown during the kharif season as well. The floodwaters are receding in the mid- and upper-reaches of the Indus Valley but continue to expand in the southern district of Sindh. The final extent of the floodwaters and the resulting damage to crops is still uncertain.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/wap/circular/2010/10-09/productionfull09-10.pdf>

Food, Technology to Boost US Ties, Hindustan Times, September 15

India and the US are focusing on expanding ties through food security, agriculture and technology innovation cooperation in the run-up to President Barack Obama's visit in November. US under-secretary of state for economic, energy, and business affairs Robert D. Hormats and under-secretary for farm and agricultural services Jim Miller were present during discussions with the Indian delegation led by foreign secretary Nirupama Rao. This was the first meeting of the US-India Agriculture Dialogue steering committee. It deliberated on strategic cooperation in agriculture and food security, food processing, farm-to-market linkages and agricultural extension and crop and weather forecasting.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Food-technology-to-boost-US-ties/Article1-600253.aspx>

Peterson, Farmers Push for End to Cuba Embargo, MinnPost, September 15

A bill that would end the Cuban travel embargo and ease restrictions on agricultural experts has enough votes to pass the House, but not enough to clear the committee it's currently stuck in, Rep. Collin Peterson said. "If we can get this bill to the floor, we have the votes to pass," he said. Currently the legislation is before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where it has yet to be scheduled for a mark up because there apparently aren't the votes for it on that panel, Peterson said, imploring members of the National Farmers Union to help

change that math. If it gets past that stage, Peterson said he's confident that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (who supports the measure) will schedule it for a floor vote in the lame duck session if the bill clears committee.
http://www.minnpost.com/derekwallbank/2010/09/15/21436/peterson_farmers_push_for_end_to_cuba_embargo

USTR, USDA Statement on Conclusion of Technical Working-Level Meeting between United States, Japan Regarding U.S. Beef, Beef Products, *Office of the United States Trade Representative, September 16*
Nefeterius McPherson, spokeswoman for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and Caleb Weaver, spokesman for the United States Department of Agriculture, issued a joint public statement following the conclusion of a technical working-level meeting between the United States and Japan regarding U.S. beef and beef products. "The discussions, led by Dr. John Clifford, Chief Veterinary Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Toshiro Kawashima, Director and Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Health Division of the Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, covered a wide array of technical topics related to BSE, including: current Japanese regulations and regulatory processes, Japan's risk assessment process for beef and beef products, and Japan's import inspection and border measures. The Japanese Government also sought clarification of developments in the United States related to BSE surveillance measures, among other areas."
<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/september/ustr-usda-statement-conclusion-technical-working>

MCC Board Meeting: Three Members MIA (Soon to be Four), *Center for Global Development, September 10*
After much to-ing and fro-ing, the MCC board meeting is back on for September 15. On the agenda: reforms of the MCC threshold program, completion of compacts in Honduras and Cape Verde, a new compact in Jordan, the beginning of this year's country selection process, and updates on concerns in Senegal and Senator Webb's critique of MCC contracts with non-U.S. companies. But the MCC board of directors is still missing three of its four public members, and come October, the fourth seat will be vacant too. If no action is taken, the MCC board won't have the quorum required to operate.
<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/09/mcc-board-meeting-three-members-mia-soon-to-be-four.php>

Secretary Clinton to Announce New global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves at Clinton Global Initiative September 21, *U.S. Department of State, September 16*
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will formally announce the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, a new public-private initiative to create a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions that will save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change. The announcement will occur at the Clinton Global Initiative's annual meeting on September 21 at approximately 1:00 p.m.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/09/147235.htm>

U.S. Participation in International Health Treaties, Commitments, Partnerships and other Agreements, *The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, September 2010*
This report provides a comprehensive look at U.S. participation in 50 significant international treaties and agreements that directly or indirectly touch on health issues. The U.S. role in such agreements has attracted renewed policy attention as a result of the Obama Administration's Global Health Initiative, which includes a focus on stronger multilateral engagement on global health and development issues. Such international agreements help to establish political and legal commitments, formalize international relationships, and coordinate roles and responsibilities internationally.
<http://www.kff.org/globalhealth/upload/8099.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Africa's Growth Potential: What does it mean for Transatlantic Development Cooperation?

Date: September 21, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Africa is expected to gain a billion new inhabitants over the next four decades. This seismic transformation will take place under severe constraints, at a time when climate change hits, food insecurity rises, and the potential for conflict intensifies. At the same time, the continent has shown important signs of progress over the last decade, which cannot be overlooked. Please join GMF for a roundtable luncheon with Jean-Michel Severino, Chairman of the French Partnership for Water, Senior Fellow of the FERDI and former Head of the French Agency for Development where he and his co-author Olivier Ray will discuss their new book on Africa, *Le Temps de l'Afrique*.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/africa%E2%80%99s-growth-potential-what-does-it-mean-transatlantic-development-cooperation>

Implementing Country-Led Agricultural Development: Updates on CAADP and Feed the Future

Date: September 22, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Oxfam America, Interaction, the Congressional Hunger Center, and the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa invite you to attend a briefing session with Richard Mkandawire and Estherine Fotabong of the Africa Union/NEPAD Agency and Ann Tutwiler of the Global Food Security Initiative, US Department of Agriculture.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/implementing-country-led-agricultural-development-updates-caadp-and-feed-future>

The Role of Fertilizer in Global Food Security and “World Phosphate Reserves and Resources” Report Release

Date: September 22, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

As we look to address the challenges of feeding a world of over 9 billion people in 2050, it will be necessary to raise agricultural productivity. This will need to take place while mitigating environmental constraints, such as shrinking availability of water and arable land. One of the key factors in global food security is access to and efficient use of inputs and resources. Fertilizers have been widely used in the developed world to help raise agricultural productivity. However, much of the developing world has not been able to effectively acquire and use such inputs to raise productivity. Given these issues, we welcome the opportunity to discuss the IFDC's soon to be released report “World Phosphate Reserves and Resources,” which analyzes the outlook for phosphate reserves, a key ingredient in fertilizer for agriculture. Please join CSIS, the IFDC, and our distinguished panelists for what promises to be an interesting discussion. RSVP to Kate Thompson at kthompson@csis.org or 202-775-3168.

U.S. Global Leadership Coalition – 2010 Washington Conference

Date: September 28th-29th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Join us at our September conference as we bring you informative and timely sessions with today's leading foreign policy luminaries, including addresses by David Gregory of NBC News' Meet the Press and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah.

<http://www.usglc.org/2010/08/05/2010-wash-conferenc/>

2010 Borlaug Dialogue - “Take It to the Farmers”: Reaching the World's Smallholders

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Inspired by the last words of Nobel Laureate and World Food Prize Founder Dr. Norman Borlaug, the 2010 Borlaug Dialogue international symposium will gather the top minds and foremost leaders in global agriculture, food, and development this October in Des Moines – with a special focus on the world's small-scale farmers.

<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2010.htm>

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

Date: Oct. 31st - Nov. 3rd, 2010

Location: Long Beach, CA

Plans are underway for the 2010 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, 31 October–3 November in Long Beach, CA. The year's Annual Meetings theme connects attendees to the growing global challenges of "Green Revolution 2.0: Food+Energy and Environmental Security." Consider joining your colleagues in Long Beach! More than 2,700 scientists, professionals, and students will present the latest research and discuss emerging trends in agriculture, energy, climate change, environmental science, and related issues. The Annual Meetings program features keynote and plenary lectures, 2,500 oral and poster presentations, an Exhibit Hall, Career Center, tours, workshops, and plenty of networking events. For additional information on the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, please visit: www.acsmeetings.org

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change

Date: October 31st – November 5th, 2010

Location: The Hague, The Netherlands

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change aims to develop a roadmap with concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments, policies, and measures with the transition to climate smart growth.

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

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th – 12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

<http://www.ricecongress.com/cmsdetail.php?id=1>

First Global Conference on Biofortification: From Discovery to Delivery

Date: November 11th – 12th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The First Global Conference on Biofortification is the first international effort to take stock of progress made in developing nutrient-rich crops, share lessons learned, and chart the future of biofortification. This three-day event will bring agricultural scientists, public health specialists, policymakers, donors, and business leaders together to move this emerging agricultural intervention for public health forward.

<http://www.harvestplus.org/content/first-global-conference-biofortification>

Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

Date: February 10th – 12th, 2011

Location: New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people's nutrition and health, and people's nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people's nutrition and health. This conference will inform, influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world's poor people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>

Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies

Date: June 2nd – June 5th, 2011

Location: Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

Humanitarian crises and the responses they trigger are evolving rapidly. This conference looks at the opportunities and threats for addressing these crises, as well as at the strengths and weaknesses of the actual responses. The conference provides a unique forum for both scholars and practitioners to present research and debate these issues. In particular, the conference focuses on four broad themes: Emerging from protracted crises; New Directions in Policy; Innovations in Humanitarian Practice; Advances in Public Health and Food Security in Crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Overview of the Agricultural Input Sector in Ghana, *International Food Policy Research Institute, September 2010*

Knowledge of the characteristics and size of the agricultural input sector of a country is critical for policymakers to design appropriate interventions that not only foster growth in the sector, but also support the agricultural development goals of the country. In 2009, the International Food Policy Research Institute and the International Fertilizer Development Center jointly conducted a census of agricultural input dealers in Ghana to fill a critical data gap on the nature of the country's agricultural input sector. This paper presents a detailed description of the sector's structure, market practices, and supply chain.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01024.pdf>

Livestock Marketing in Kenya-Ethiopia Border Areas: A Baseline Study, *Humanitarian Policy Group and Overseas Development Institute, July 2010*

This baseline study identifies structural issues behind livestock marketing in Mandera Central and West in Kenya and the Borana zone in Ethiopia. The study also aims to provide potential entry points for action to improve livestock marketing in the region.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4950.pdf>

Measuring the Effect of Transaction Costs for Investment in Irrigation Pumps: Application of Unobserved Stochastic Threshold Model to the Case of Nigeria, *International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

Small-scale private irrigation schemes (SPRI) have been the driving force behind the expansion of irrigated areas in Nigeria, despite government efforts to promote large-scale public irrigation schemes. SPRI allows adjustment of irrigation schedules in accordance with observed crop needs. The irrigated area in Nigeria is, however, far below its potential and an increase in farmers' investment in irrigation is essential. While Nigerian farmers' low level of investment in irrigation may be partly due to low returns, it is also the result of high transaction costs associated specifically with making such an investment. Although reducing transaction costs is important because the reduction provides farmers with a more enabling environment, transaction costs are often unobservable and little is known about what factors contribute to them. This article empirically assesses the effect of unobserved transaction costs for Nigerian farmers' when investing in irrigation pumps.

http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nsspwp15_1.pdf

Media Articles:

Interview with Shenggen Fan, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, September 15*

As world leaders gather in New York for a special summit convened by the United Nations to accelerate action on the Millennium Development Goals, Shenggen Fan, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute, warns that the goal of halving hunger enshrined in the first MDG runs the risk of not being achieved. He urges the global community to adopt a "business as unusual" approach to get back on track.

http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/september_15_2010.html

U.S. Meat Farmers Brace for Limits on Antibiotics, *New York Times, September 14*

Dispensing antibiotics to healthy animals is routine on the large, concentrated farms that now dominate American agriculture. But the practice is increasingly condemned by medical experts who say it contributes to a growing scourge of modern medicine: the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, including dangerous E. coli strains that account for millions of bladder infections each year, as well as resistant types of salmonella and other microbes.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/15/us/15farm.html>

World Pays High Price for Overfishing, Studies Say, *Reuters, September 14*

Decades of overfishing have deprived the food industry of billions of dollars in revenue and the world of fish that could have helped feed undernourished countries, according to a series of studies released this week.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68D4J020100914>

SEE ALSO: Fishing at the Base of the Pyramid, *Op-Ed, New York Times, September 14*
Overfishing krill would threaten the food chain of the entire Antarctic.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/15/opinion/15wed3.html>

Grain Riots in India as Millions Starve, *United Press International, September 14*

In India, thousands of tons of excess grain have been rotting away, officials said, as millions of people are starving. Following news reports of the rotting grain, the government admitted that more than 67,000 tons -- enough to feed 190,000 people for a month -- had rotted outside overflowing granaries. Officials were ordered by the Supreme Court to distribute to the poor 17.8 million tons of grain that was in imminent danger of rotting. The government, however, has yet to work out how it will distribute the grain.
http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/09/14/Grain-rots-in-India-as-millions-starve/UPI-73311284492952/

Australia Set for Bumper Wheat Crop, *Financial Times, September 14*

Australia is set for a bumper wheat harvest that could propel the nation's exports to their second highest level on record, according to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (Abare).
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/932c1ba0-bfcf-11df-9628-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: Australia Raises Wheat Harvest Forecast to 25.1 Million Tons, Abare Says, *Bloomberg, September 15*
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-14/australia-raises-wheat-harvest-forecast-to-25-1-million-tons-abare-says.html>

Corporate Land Grabs Threaten Food Security, *Op-Ed, Danielle Nierenberg and Ronit Ridberg, Christian Science Monitor, September 14*

Wealthy countries are buying up farm land in poorer countries -- with global consequences. These controversial land grabs hurt local workers and ecosystems, and dangerously tip the scale of the world's food economy.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2010/0914/Corporate-land-grabs-threaten-food-security>

The Farmer Teaching Haitians to Fish for Life, *CNN, September 14*

Far from his native Ivory Coast, fish farm developer Valentin Abe has been improving the lives of thousands of poor villagers in Haiti by teaching them how to become commercial fish producers. His fish-farming project has become a source of food and income for several communities in the small Caribbean nation that has been plagued by poverty, malnutrition and, more recently, the full force of a devastating 7.0 tremor.
<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/09/14/valentin.abe.fish.farming/>

Kenya: Malnutrition Levels in Northeast Stubbornly High, *International Regional Information Networks, September 13*

Malnutrition levels in pastoralist districts of northeastern Kenya have remained high, despite recent rains that boosted livestock productivity, the mainstay of the local economy, officials said.
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90458>

Big Agriculture is the Only Option to Stop the World Going Hungry, *Observer, September 12*

We need to look seriously at how we produce our food and how we eat it. Our self-sufficiency has dropped in the past decade from north of 70% to around 60%, according to official figures. Many experts think it may actually be nearer to just 50%. We import 60% of our vegetables. If this drift continues, we will be left exposed to the sort of events that triggered the riots in Africa. We need to make difficult decisions which a lot of people who regard themselves as serious foodies may find deeply unappetising. And we need to make them fast.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/sep/12/food-riots-farming>

In Farming, Small is Deadly, *Editorial, Doug Saunders, Globe and Mail, September 11*

The root problem is this: The world's poorest countries remain attached to the small, subsistence-level family farm. At a moment when African and Asian countries should be consolidating their land holdings into sustainable, high-yield agricultural businesses, there is a persistent hold on the least effective form of farming. Governments, such as India's Congress Party, are devoted to keeping people on the land. A wide range of misguided aid organizations and ecological groups sustains the myth that small is good. It isn't: In farming, small is deadly.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/in-farming-small-is-deadly/article1703259/>

Sowing Seeds of Fear, In Russia, Farmers Take to Fields as Supply Concerns Grow, *Wall Street Journal, September 11*

With Russia playing an increasing role in the international food chain, the health of the new winter wheat crop is being watched by traders, food companies and aid agencies around the globe, amid fears that the world could face a possible food shortage next year. A drought decimated the nation's spring wheat crop, prompting the government to halt grain exports. Farmers now are trying to plant their winter crop, which typically is bigger than the spring yield, but with dry soil and little rain on the horizon, it is looking likely that this next season also may be sparse.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704505804575484080120043198.html>

Green Revolution Plan Agreed at Ghana Meeting, *Science and Development Network, September 10*

A private sector-led drive to contribute to a 'Green Revolution' in Africa took a step forward last week with the agreement of a "very clear action plan" to draw the continent out of its food crises. The plan was drawn up at the first meeting of the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), in Accra, Ghana, which claims that, by including detailed mechanisms for monitoring and review, it will avoid the fate of other plans that have not achieved what they hoped for in Africa.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/news/green-revolution-plan-agreed-at-ghana-meeting.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

A Future Food Aid or Food Assistance Convention?, *Overseas Development Institute, July 2010*

This paper provides background to and a critical commentary on often complex international negotiations about the future of food aid and sets out the issues at stake that are otherwise the subject of informal discussions because of perceived political sensitivities.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4941.pdf>

Media Articles:

A Market Solution to Help the World's Poor?, *Editorial, Stephan B. Tanda, Managing Board Member, DSM, Huffington Post, September 14*

To be successful, this often requires companies to invest in partnerships with either humanitarian organizations and/or already existing local businesses to better understand market conditions and the consumer. For example, we are working with local manufacturers in countries such as South Africa and Bangladesh to provide fortified foods and nutritional supplements to those that suffer from hidden hunger, also known as micronutrient (vitamins and minerals) deficiency. The cost of adding micronutrients to food (fortification) is so low that local manufacturers do not necessarily need to incorporate the cost into the final sale price. However, given the size of the base of the pyramid market, when we magnify our sales to reach a large percentage of this demographic, then we are able to make a good profit. The most compelling rationale for this approach to development assistance, particularly from an MDG perspective, is that successful business models must stand the test of time.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephan-b-tanda/a-market-solution-to-help_b_719131.html

Development: Crumbs of Comfort, *Financial Times, September 15*

Moreover, in a sample of aid to six developing countries, Mr Clay found that the US used the recipient country's own financial management systems for only 16 per cent of its aid, the lowest share for all the big donors. Donors insisting on using their own financial systems risk creating duplication and expensive bureaucracy. The administration of President Barack Obama is aware of these criticisms and is undertaking an overall review of US assistance, but so far changes have only been on a small scale. Rajiv Shah, administrator of the US Agency for International Development, says that in a food security programme it launched this year, the US is shifting towards using recipient country systems, which means engaging with them at head-of-state level.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f575ec76-c0f8-11df-99c4-00144feab49a.html>

U.N. Chief Defends Poverty Draft from Critics, *Reuters*, September 15

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon defended against critics a draft U.N. declaration calling for global action to slash poverty, saying the text was the best that could have been achieved at the moment. Last week negotiators for the 192 U.N. member states completed the text, which says a set of U.N. goals aimed at drastically reducing poverty and hunger worldwide by 2015 are still achievable, despite severe setbacks caused by the global financial and economic crises. But some aid agencies criticized the 31-page declaration on the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is expected to be formally adopted at a Sept. 20-22 summit meeting of world leaders at the United Nations, as thin on specifics.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-51496120100915>

Ethiopia Won't Need Food Aid after 2015: Meles, *Agence France-Presse*, September 15

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said his often drought-ravaged country would not need food aid after 2015 as he formally launched a five-year development programme.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hWghZH6ZRP9dbi0A4fv3p_pPzXDg

Advocates Seek Progress in Global Development, *Politico*, September 15

With the deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals fast approaching, and world leaders gathering for a summit in New York next week, advocacy groups are presenting their own policy proposals on how progress can be made in global development.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0910/Advocates_seek_progress_in_global_development.html?showall

Future of UK Aid to India in Question, *Financial Times*, September 15

India is considering whether to decline UK government aid should London cut and reshape development assistance to its former colony.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/80292cc2-c0f7-11df-99c4-00144feab49a.html>

US Aid to Pakistan May Delay Non-Military Projects: Envoy, *Agence France-Presse*, September 15

US special envoy Richard Holbrooke said the use of a non-military aid package to fund flood relief instead in Pakistan may delay important water and energy projects in the country. "Thousands of thousands of people... are in desperate need of water, food and sanitation. The United States has given you more assistance faster than any other country, but it is not going to be enough," Holbrooke said.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hrd2eg8zYdJO_TuT46XK5MiB09IA

The Guardian Launches Global Development Website with Gates Foundation, *Guardian*, September 14

The Guardian has launched a new website in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help focus the world's attention on global development. The site will provide a new space for discussion and interaction on the biggest challenges affecting the lives of billions of people across the developing world, including poverty, hunger, infant mortality, adaptation to climate change and economic development.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/gnm-press-office/guardian-launches-global-development-site>

A More Effective Approach to Foreign Aid is Necessary, *Op-Ed*, Stan Soloway, President and CEO, Professional Services Council, The Hill, September 14

Recent proposals by Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) to establish an American-Pakistan Enterprise Fund to channel aid to that country should help focus the debate over the administration's

emerging international development policy. How much U.S. aid should be given directly to foreign governments and how much will be delivered in the form of technical assistance and training by U.S. voluntary organizations and development firms?

<http://thehill.com/opinion/letters/118793-a-more-effective-approach-to-foreign-aid-is-necessary>

Famine Threat in Africa's Sahel Eases – for Now, *Reuters, September 14*

Abundant rains in Chad have raised hopes for an end to severe food shortages but the effects will linger and lead to new difficulties across Africa's Sahel region in 2011, aid workers predict.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAF1OE68D0NH20100914>

Indian Children Still Underweight – after 20 Years of Interventions, *Guardian, September 14*

Inefficiency, the global financial meltdown and rising food prices have conspired to reverse progress made on poverty and hunger.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2010/sep/14/mdg1-hunger-poverty-india>

Leaders Should Remember Plight of the World's Hungry, *Letter to the Editor, Financial Times, September 14*

As the summit gets under way, we urge heads of state, governments and UN agencies not to forget the plight of the hungry and malnourished. We further call on them to agree a road map to meet the MDG hunger target. Such a road map must comprehensively address child malnutrition and make linkages between hunger and health, recognise the crucial role and rights of women as food producers and carers, and prioritise improving the affordability of nutritious foods.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cb986eb4-bf8c-11df-b9de-00144feab49a.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Pakistan: The Worsening IDP Crisis, *International Crisis Group, September 16*

The mainstays of PATA's economy – agriculture and, in Swat, tourism – were yet to recover before the July floods. Although tourism was unlikely to recover until a complete return to normalcy, reviving agriculture could and should have been a priority in the early stages of the reconstruction process to provide food and income. The floods have exacerbated the economic crisis in KPK's conflict zones, destroying crops, eroding agricultural lands and killing cattle, the main income source for many families. The full extent of their impact on public service delivery, the economy and livelihoods is yet to be assessed. According to an official from the ministry of food and agriculture, 100,000 acres of soil along the Swat river has been washed out; the official estimated it would take up to ten years to "restore the fertility of this critical area that feeds 50,000 people". Prior to the floods, some NGOs had distributed seeds, tools and livestock and were also providing technical assistance to vulnerable households. There were also cash-for-work programs to restore irrigation systems or to remove rubble from roads to facilitate farm-to-market access.

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/pakistan/B111%20Pakistan%20-%20The%20Worsening%20IDP%20Crisis.ashx>

Media Articles:

Pakistan's floods: A ruined country, *Economist, September 16*

The floods have wreaked untold harm on a place that has already suffered grievously. Pakistan derives about a fifth of its output from agriculture, and much of its most productive cropland is submerged or turned to bog. Perhaps a fifth of its cotton crop has been wiped out. Its artery of roads, bridges and irrigation works, weaving around the Indus, has been smashed. Local economists say the disaster has wiped out any prospect of economic growth this year. Inflation, which at 13% is already a scourge of the poor, is sure to rise.

<http://www.economist.com/node/17042150>

China Says Rich-Poor Divide Still Dogs Climate Pact Talks, *Reuters, September 13*

The prospects of a new global climate change pact still hinge on resolving the divisions between rich nations and the developing world, a top Chinese climate negotiator said in remarks.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68C0RS20100913>

Floods Spark Guatemala Food Crisis, *Aljazeera, September 11*

Two months of torrential downpour in Guatemala have severely damaged the country's food supplies. Corn and maize crops have been destroyed, and more than 100,000 people now rely on emergency food rations of cooking oil, beans, and soy flour. Overflowing rivers have also contaminated wells, making drinking water scarce.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/video/americas/2010/09/201091110301582896.html>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Media Articles:

Former Chilean President to Lead New U.N. Agency, *New York Times, September 14*

Michelle Bachelet, famous for breaking gender barriers by becoming the first woman elected president of Chile, will head the new global United Nations agency created to advance women's rights, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/15/world/15nations.html>

SEE ALSO: Michelle Bachelet's Appointment to Head UN Women, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, September 14*

"As long as I have known President Bachelet, the needs of women and marginalized populations have topped her list of priorities. She has broken barriers for women in Chile and throughout the region, and I am inspired by her passion, her expertise, and her courage to speak out on difficult issues. These are the indispensable qualities that make her an excellent choice to lead UN Women. As a longtime champion for the rights of women and girls and a proven political leader, President Bachelet is the ideal person to launch this important new agency that will help millions of people around the world improve their lives."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/09/147140.htm>

SEE ALSO: Former President Bachelet of Chile to Head United Nations Agency for Women, *Bloomberg, September 14*

The executive board of UN Women will have 41 members: 10 from the African group of member states, 10 from Asia, four from eastern Europe, six from Latin America and the Caribbean and 11 from western Europe and other areas, according to the General Assembly resolution.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-14/former-president-bachelet-of-chile-to-head-united-nations-agency-for-women.html>

SEE ALSO: UN to Name Chile's Bachelet to Head UN Women, *Politico, September 13*

"UN Women deserves a powerful voice at the UN, and President Bachelet is uniquely qualified to provide the credibility, talent and dynamism that it will need to begin its important work," Amb. Susan Rice said in a statement welcoming Bachelet's appointment. "As a pediatrician and epidemiologist and the first woman president in the history of Chile, President Bachelet is acutely aware of the challenges that affect women, particularly in the developing world," she continued. "As President, she was a tough and seasoned diplomat and a popular head of state who demonstrated a talent for bringing people together."

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0910/UN_to_name_Chiles_Bachelet_to_head_UN_Women.html

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Wheat Price Volatility: Panic is Baseless and Hurts Poor People, *Maximo Torero, Director, Markets, Trade and Institutions Division, International Food Policy Research Institute, September 13*

Apparent similarities between today's rising wheat prices and the food-price crisis of 2007-2008 are just that: apparent, not real. Suggestions to the contrary serve to drive up prices and hurt poor people, who spend much or most of their incomes on food. They need neither jittery markets nor ad hoc protectionism, which has exacerbated past food crises.

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

Natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean: Beyond Booms and Busts?, *World Bank, 2010*

Traditionally considered a curse for a nation's development, commodity wealth in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) could—on the contrary—represent a foundation for prosperity. The increased demand for minerals and agricultural commodities from Asian markets, especially China, is contributing to a rebound in economic growth as the region leaves behind the global crisis.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLAC/Resources/257803-1284336216058/FlagshipReport.pdf>

Media Articles:

Investments and Trade to Assure Access to Food Supplies, *Truth about Trade & Technology, September 16*

The banning of wheat exports by Russia and the export slowdown by Ukraine have reignited concerns about relying on food imports for food security that first arose with price increases for grains and oilseeds in 2007-08. Some governments and large companies responded by purchasing or leasing large tracts of land to produce food and export to their home country. Rather than rely only on huge development projects, part of the solution lies in increasing productivity on existing land and greater market involvement by smallholder farmers.

<http://www.truthabouttrade.org/news/editorials/trade-policy-analysis/16621-investments-and-trade-to-assure-access-to-food-supplies->

Delays Juice Cotton, Holdup in India Pushes Up Prices; Consumer Trickle-Down?, *Wall Street Journal, September 15*

Cotton prices hit fresh 15-year highs before backing down amid uncertainty over India's exports of the increasingly scarce fiber.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704652104575494271766959564.html>

Trade Helped Developing Countries Cut Poverty: Lamy, *Reuters, September 15*

The global trading system has helped developing countries fight poverty by preventing the rise of protectionism in the financial crisis, the head of the World Trade Organization said. WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said it was striking that emerging economies were now the most vociferous in calling for conclusion of the Doha round to open up world trade, as they stand to benefit further from a rewriting of global trade rules.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE68E0G720100915>

Not a Food Crisis, *Editorial, New York Times, September 12*

The world need not experience another food crisis as long as big agricultural producers do not follow Russia's example.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/13/opinion/13mon3.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Rival Candy Projects Both Parse Cocoa's DNA, *New York Times, September 15*

Scientists say they have determined the complete DNA sequence of the tree that produces cocoa beans, an accomplishment that is expected to vastly accelerate efforts to assure a stable supply of chocolate and to make it better-tasting and healthier. But there are two separate groups vying for credit in what some might

consider the research arm of a chocolate factory war. The candy maker Mars is expected to announce that a project it financed has essentially completed the raw sequence of the genome of the cacao tree, and that it would make the data freely available to researchers. The announcement upstages a consortium involving French government laboratories and Pennsylvania State University that is backed in part by a competitor of Mars, Hershey. This group says it has also completed the sequence, but cannot discuss it until its paper analyzing the genome is published in a scientific journal.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/15/business/15chocolate.html>

SEE ALSO: Scientists Unlock Cocoa Genome, Release to Public Domain, *Reuters*, September 15

Chocolate is not only sweet business, it's big business. In 2011, the global chocolate industry is expected to grow to \$13 billion. But all that chocolate is not without some pretty heavy costs. In any given year, pests and disease can wipe out an entire harvest for a cocoa farmer. In fact, crop losses from pests and disease inflict \$700 to \$800 million in damages to farmers each year, creating a devastating ripple effect for 6.5 million farmers in Southeast Asia, West Africa and South America that rely on cocoa production for their livelihoods.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS318992028620100915>

Pioneer Hi-Bred Buying S. Africa Seed Company, *Reuters*, September 15

Pioneer Hi-Bred, the agricultural unit of DuPont, said it was buying a South African seed company in an effort to expand its reach into corn production through Africa. Pioneer's purchase of a majority stake in Pannar Seed Ltd, which operates seed businesses in nine countries in Africa, is the latest move in a race by many major agricultural companies to stake a claim in Africa.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1514309820100915>

PotashCorp Finance Chief Swipes at BHP Bid, *Financial Times*, September 15

PotashCorp of Saskatchewan has sought to buttress its defences against BHP Billiton's \$39bn hostile takeover bid by telling investors it was in a powerful position to take advantage of rising fertiliser prices over the next few years.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/41307580-c0f1-11df-99c4-00144feab49a.html>

It's Corn Syrup by Another Name, *Washington Post*, September 15

The makers of high-fructose corn syrup asked the federal government for permission to sweeten its image with a new name: corn sugar.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/14/AR2010091406761_pf.html

SEE ALSO: Trade Group Asks for Sweetener Name Change, *Financial Times*, September 15

A national trade association has petitioned the US Food & Drug Administration for permission to jettison the official name of a widely used food sweetener – high fructose corn syrup – in favour of a new name, corn sugar. The request comes amid growing alarm in the US about rising obesity levels and the growing public perception that high fructose corn syrup is worse for the daily diet than table sugar.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2070b9a6-c054-11df-8a81-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: An -Ose Is an -Ose, *Op-Ed*, *New York Times*, September 15

Referring to high-fructose corn syrup as "corn sugar" would make it easier for consumers to tell that sugar has been added to a product.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/16/opinion/16thu4.html>

Kraft Foods, U.N. World Food Programme and KaBOOM! Join Forces to Celebrate Play and Fight World Hunger, *PR Newswire*, September 14

Kraft Foods today launched a worldwide initiative to celebrate play and fight world hunger. Through an app on Kraft Foods' corporate Facebook site, the company is encouraging consumers to upload photos of people at play. And for each photo provided, Kraft Foods will donate five meals (up to 500,000) to the United Nations World Food Programme's Fill the Cup campaign, which aims to feed more than 20 million children around the world who go to school hungry every day.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/kraft-foods-un-world-food-programme-and-kaboom-join-forces-to-celebrate-play-and-fight-world-hunger-102853354.html>

Monsanto and AgraQuest to Collaborate on Development of New Seed Treatments, *AgraQuest*,
September 13

Monsanto Company and AgraQuest, Inc. have entered into a collaboration to evaluate the potential use of AgraQuest's pipeline of biopesticide leads to develop seed treatments for Monsanto's core crops and vegetables. "Working with other innovative companies in the industry is a key part of Monsanto's approach to research and development in the field of agriculture," said Rob Fraley, chief technology officer for Monsanto. "AgraQuest has demonstrated success in developing and applying environmentally sound on-farm pest control options. This collaboration will further boost Monsanto's commitment to greater agricultural sustainability and could help us meet our stated goal of helping farmers double crop yields by 2030 while conserving natural resources."

<http://agraquest.com/news/2010/09/monsanto-and-agraquest-to-collaborate-on-development-of-new-seed-treatments/>

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