

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



SPECIAL EDITION – COVERAGE AND DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST FROM RECENT MAJOR EVENTS ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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RELEASE OF OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S GLOBAL HUNGER AND FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative: Consultation Document, U.S. Department of State, September 28

Reducing hunger will set off a positive ripple effect across people's lives, communities, countries—even continents. This cannot be accomplished by short term interventions; it requires addressing the underlying causes of chronic hunger. Advancing agriculture-led growth helps rural farmers—who are the majority of the world's food insecure population—to grow more food to feed their families and sell more of their products in commercial markets. Increased revenue generates greater income to buy more to meet their needs, allowing the poor to pull themselves out of poverty.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/130164.pdf>

Global Food Security: U.S. Commitment to Action, Fact Sheet, U.S. Department of State, September 25

More than one billion people — one sixth of the world's population — suffer from chronic hunger. Without enough food, adults struggle to work and children struggle to learn. Global food supplies must increase by an estimated 50 percent to meet expected demand in the next 20 years. Advancing sustainable agricultural-led growth increases the availability of food, keeps food affordable, and raises the incomes of the poor.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/129768.pdf>

Video: See the Future; Feed the Future; Change the Future, U.S. Department of State, September 25

<http://www.state.gov/s/globalfoodsecurity/129606.htm>

Briefing by Chief of Staff and Counselor Cheryl Mills on Food Security, *Cheryl Mills, Chief of Staff and Counselor to the U.S. Secretary of State, September 25*

You need to think about what's going to drive economic growth – agriculture. You need to think about one of the key underpinning pieces that is kind of enduringly a challenge, even when you have food, which is nutrition. And you need to think about what you do in the urgent moments, which is the emergency aid. The emergency aid is something we've done well and been getting right for a while. We have made significant investments in that space, and this is really about making similar investments in the agriculture space.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/sept/129649.htm>

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY/HIGH-LEVEL FOOD SECURITY MEETING
(Co-Hosted by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon)**

Partnering For Food Security: Moving Forward, *Proposal from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, September 26*

At the G8 “plus” meeting held in L'Aquila in July 2009, a joint statement was endorsed which expressed the commitment of participants to “take decisive action to free humankind from hunger and poverty through improving food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture,” and to work together to: 1) support country-led processes; 2) ensure a comprehensive approach to food security; 3) strategically coordinate assistance; 4) support a strong role for multilateral institutions; and 5) sustain a robust commitment of financial resources, including \$20 billion in resources pledged at the G8 Summit.

<http://www.state.gov/s/globalfoodsecurity/129626.htm>

Remarks at Food Security Event Co-Hosted with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon During the UN General Assembly, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, September 26*

Five principles were embraced at the G8 summit in Italy, and these principles will guide our efforts. The first of these principles is the need to invest in country-led plans. Second, we will address the underlying causes of hunger, by investing in everything from research to better seeds to insurance programs for small farmers to large-scale infrastructure projects that create sustainable, systemic change. And we will put women at the heart of our efforts, because most farmers of small holdings in the world are women. Third, we will improve coordination at every level. Fourth, we will leverage the benefits of multilateral institutions to support and help fulfill the country plans, because these institutions have the reach and resources to do more than any single country could do. And, fifth, we pledge a long-term commitment, based on accountability.

Text and Video: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/09/129673.htm>

U.S. Secretary of State and UN Secretary-General Convene Global Leaders To Act on Underlying Causes of Hunger, *U.S. State Department, September 26*

A meeting of more than 130 countries and other stakeholders to address underlying causes of global hunger was co-hosted today by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Reaffirming the key principles outlined at the L'Aquila G8 Summit in July, the meeting called upon a diverse array of speakers to discuss direct experiences, share best practices, and act strategically when addressing challenges.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/sept/129671.htm>

Ban, Clinton Push Global Strategy to Ease Hunger of 1 Billion, *Bloomberg, September 26*

Combating hunger that afflicts 1 billion people is a major foreign policy goal of the U.S., Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told diplomats from more than 100 countries at the United Nations.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=apCoQirpz62c>

UN urged to move on hunger, *Associated Press, September 27*

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday led calls for quick action to ensure global food security as millions suffer from hunger due to the economic crisis and climate change. Ahead of a world summit on food security in November, Ban and Clinton said the new efforts must

assist small farmers, many of them women, with agricultural expertise to improve crop yields and improve infrastructure to get surplus produce to markets.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j5tARzUluDkzC5-ynRoQ9IFejOgD9AV9I900>

CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

Remarks at the Clinton Global Initiative Closing Plenary, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, September 25*

Empowering the world's farmers to sow and harvest plentiful crops, and ensuring that the food they produce reaches people most in need, is a global challenge that lies at the heart of what experts refer to as "food security." The Obama Administration has developed an unprecedented initiative aimed at advancing food security worldwide. The scope and scale of this initiative represents an elevation of development as a key element of our foreign policy. And our approach represents a rethinking of development policies and priorities. If we can build partnerships with countries to help small farmers improve their agricultural output and make it easier to buy and sell their products at local or regional markets, we can set off a domino effect. We can increase the world's food supply for both the short and the long term; diminish hunger; raise farmers' incomes; improve health; expand opportunity; and strengthen regional economies.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/09/129644.htm>

Video: http://www.clintonglobalinitiative.org/ourmeetings/meeting_2009_annual_webcasts.asp?Section=OurMeetings&PageTitle=Webcast&Video=Archive&Day=4#video

Clinton unveils US food security initiative, *Agence-France Presse, September 26*

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton unveiled Friday a food security initiative launched by the Obama administration to combat hunger worldwide. The new initiative, which Clinton said elevated development to a "key element of our foreign policy," seeks to help farmers improve output and make technology and infrastructure investments to make agriculture "more productive and profitable" in developing countries. She said women, who form the majority of the world's farmers, would be placed at the heart of the efforts.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jvW_Cw0mHaP8QNmbccijk62ZCT3Q

Clintons close out NYC global issues conference, *Associated Press, September 26*

Clinton spoke about a new approach from the Obama administration in dealing with hunger issues — a food security initiative that attempts to help people around the world grow, buy and sell the food they need instead of focusing primarily on emergency food aid in times of crisis. Clinton said the new approach would include working with countries to implement plans that would help them improve their agriculture as well as plans that would invest in infrastructure and technology that would make farming more productive and selling agricultural produce easier. She said the efforts also would focus on women, who comprise the majority of the world's farmers. After she spoke, Bill Clinton lauded the program, saying he and other presidents had erred in focusing on emergency food aid and moving away from agricultural development to deal with global hunger.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iey-9eKlG-ccGNr6XXht20LLRaQD9AUK5RG0>

G-20 SUMMIT

Leaders' Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, *G20 Communiqué, September 25*

Sustained funding and targeted investments are urgently needed to improve long-term food security. We welcome and support the food security initiative announced in L'Aquila and efforts to further implement the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security and to address excessive price volatility. We call on the World Bank to work with interested donors and organizations to develop a multilateral trust fund to scale-up agricultural assistance to low-income countries. This will help support innovative bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve global nutrition and build sustainable agricultural systems, including programs like those developed through the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). It should be

designed to ensure country ownership and rapid disbursement of funds, fully respecting the aid effectiveness principles agreed in Accra, and facilitate the participation of private foundations, businesses, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in this historic effort. These efforts should complement the UN Comprehensive Framework for Agriculture. We ask the World Bank, the African Development Bank, UN, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP) and other stakeholders to coordinate their efforts, including through country-led mechanisms, in order to complement and reinforce other existing multilateral and bilateral efforts to tackle food insecurity.

<http://www.pittsburghsummit.gov/mediacenter/129639.htm>

KEY FACT SHEETS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

Partnering on Food Security:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/g20/Pittsburgh_Fact_Sheet_Food_Security.pdf

Support for the Most Vulnerable:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/g20/Pittsburgh_Fact_Sheet_Most_Vulnerable.pdf

Acting on our Global Energy and Climate Change Challenges:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/g20/Pittsburgh_Fact_Sheet_Energy_Security.pdf

G20 asks World Bank to set up agriculture fund, Reuters, September 25

The Group of 20 on Friday asked the World Bank to create a trust fund to increase agricultural investment in poor countries. The G20 said the fund should be designed so that money will be disbursed quickly and countries can decide for themselves where they want it spent. Agricultural investment in poor countries has shrunk over the last decade as development agencies focused more on health issues, including malaria and HIV/AIDS. The G20 did not set a timeline for creating the fund.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSLP40374420090925>

Remarks by President Obama at G20 Closing Press Conference, Transcript, The White House, September 25

To build new markets, and help the world's most vulnerable citizens climb out of poverty, we established a new World Bank Trust Fund to support investments in food security and financing for clean and affordable energy.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-G20-Closing-Press-Conference/

UPCOMING FAO HIGH-LEVEL EXPERT FORUM ON “HOW TO FEED THE WORLD IN 2050”

The High-Level Expert Forum (FAO, Rome, October 12-13, 2009) on How to Feed the World in 2050 will examine policy options that governments should consider adopting to ensure that the world population can be fed when it nears its peak of nearly 9.2 billion people in the middle of this century.

Expert Meeting Report, FAO Expert Meeting on How to Feed the World in 2050, September 2009

In the first half of this century, global demand for food, feed and fibre is projected to increase by some 70 percent, while crops may increasingly be used for bioenergy and other industrial purposes. New and traditional demand for agricultural produce will thus put growing pressure on already scarce agricultural resources. And while agriculture will be forced to compete for land and water with sprawling urban settlements, it will also be required to serve on other major fronts: adapting to and contributing to the mitigation of climate change, helping preserve natural habitats, and maintaining biodiversity. At the same time, fewer people will be living in rural areas and even fewer will be farmers. They will need new technologies to grow more from less land, with fewer hands. To consider these and associated questions, FAO convened a three-day meeting of Experts in Rome under the Chairmanship of Hartwig de Haen, former Assistant Director-General with responsibility for the Economic and Social Development Department.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/EM_report/EM_report.pdf

The special challenge for sub-Saharan Africa, *Expert Brief, Meeting on How to Feed the World in 2050, FAO, September 2009*

After decades of decline in per caput food production, a new optimism has emerged about the prospects for Africa and African agriculture. Growth in agriculture and in the economy as a whole has outpaced population growth, armed conflicts have been reduced, regional and sub-regional institutions are being strengthened, and good progress has been made in developing the business environment. There is wide agreement that African agriculture has enormous potential for growth thanks to its abundant natural resources.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues_papers/HLEF2050_Africa.pdf

The technology challenge, *Expert Brief, Meeting on How to Feed the World in 2050, FAO, September 2009*

Global agricultural production needs to increase by 70 percent by 2050 in order to feed an additional 2.3 billion people. Production will not need to grow as fast as in previous decades because of the slowdown in population growth rates, but incomes are growing, and the volume requirements are still remarkable: an additional one billion tonnes of cereals and 200 million tonnes of meat will need to be produced annually by 2050. In developing countries, 80 percent of the production increases are projected to come from increases in yields and cropping intensity and only 20 percent from expansion of arable land. In land-scarce countries, almost the whole of the production increases would be achieved by improving yields. But the fact is that globally the rate of growth in yields of the major cereal crops has been steadily declining. The challenge for technology is to reverse this decline, since a continuous linear increase in yields at a global level following the pattern established over the past five decades will not be sufficient to meet food needs.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues_papers/HLEF2050_Technology.pdf

Technical papers from the Expert Meeting on How to Feed the World in 2050

The below papers were commissioned by FAO to provide technical background material for the High-Level Expert Forum on "How to Feed the World in 2050" to be held at FAO, Rome, October 12-13.

Macroeconomic environment, commodity markets: A longer term outlook, *Dominique van der Mensbrugghe, Israel Osorio-Rodarte, Andrew Burns and John Baffes (World Bank)*

This paper concludes that the increased link between energy and non-energy commodity prices, strong demand by developing countries - when the current economic downturn reverses course - and changing weather patterns will be the dominant forces that are likely to shape developments in commodity markets.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/01-Mensbrugghe-et-al_MacroeconomicEnvironment.pdf

Poverty, growth and inequality over the next 50 years, *Evan Hillebrand (Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, University of Kentucky)*

Strong economic growth is the key to future poverty reduction. If the lagging non-OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries are able to transition to a sustainable higher growth path, the global poverty ratio will fall from about 21 percent in 2005 to less than 2.5 percent in 2050 and the number of people living in absolute poverty will decline another billion people. While the historical record is clear that market-friendly policies and competent governance are critical to growth, few economists are bold enough to claim they know the precise combination of policies, and how to implement and sustain those policies, to achieve this economic transition.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/02-Hillebrand_poverty-growth-inequality.pdf

World food and agriculture to 2030/2050: Highlights and views from mid-2009, *Nikos Alexandratos (former Chief of FAO's Global Perspective Studies Unit)*

The author examines the long-term projections in the FAO Study *World Agriculture: Towards 2030/50*, prepared in the years 2003-05 (from historical data to 2001 and base year 1999/20013) for selected broad country- and commodity-group aggregates. The objective of the examination is to establish if and to what extent the projections are still valid as predictions of what may be in store in world food and agriculture to mid-century. They test the projections against (a) actual outcomes, as far as available data permit, in the first

eight years of the projection period (to 2008), and (b) against the just-completed 10-year projections 2009-2018 of OECD/FAO, both with and without the quantities of crops used as biofuels feedstocks.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/03-Alexandratos-WorldAgto2050.pdf

World Agriculture in a Dynamically-Changing Environment: IFPRI's Long-term Outlook for Food and Agriculture under Additional Demand and Constraints, Siwa Msangi and Mark Rosegrant (*International Food Policy Research Institute*)

The authors explore the nature of several key drivers of change in food systems, and examine a number of possible entry points for policy intervention, in order to determine their effect on food prices and other market-driven outcomes. Among the drivers of change that they discuss are those of policy-driven growth in biofuel production, which has had a role to play in the rapid increase in food prices, along with other factors. They also look at some evidence that points towards the significant impact that climate change could have on the agriculture and agricultural prices in the future.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/04-Msangi_IFPRI_LongTermOutlookPaper_2009-07-30_SHSM.pdf

The resource outlook to 2050. By how much do land, water use and crop yields need to increase by 2050?, Jelle Bruinsma (*Consultant with the Global Perspective Studies Unit at FAO*)

The main purpose of this paper is to provide an indication of the additional demands on natural resources derived from the crop production levels in 2030 and 2050 as foreseen in the FAO 2006 projections.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/05-Bruinsma_ResourceOutlookto2050.pdf

How do climate change and bioenergy alter the long-term outlook for food, agriculture and resource availability?, Günther Fischer (*International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis*)

Biofuels development has received increased attention in recent times as a means to mitigate climate change, alleviate global energy concerns and foster rural development. Its perceived importance in these three areas has seen biofuels feature prominently on the international agenda. Nevertheless, the rapid growth of biofuels production has raised many concerns among experts worldwide, in particular with regard to sustainability issues and the threat posed to food security. This paper presents an integrated agro-ecological and socio-economic spatial global assessment of the interlinkages of emerging biofuels developments, food security, and climate change.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/06_Fischer_G_ClimateChange-Bioenergy-LongTermAg.pdf

Investment requirements under new demands on world agriculture: Feeding the world with bioenergy and climate change, Siwa Msangi, Simla Tokgoz, Miroslav Batka and Mark Rosegrant (*International Food Policy Research Institute*)

In this paper, the authors explore the sectoral spending that is needed to sustain global agricultural food production at the level needed to feed the world to 2050. They examine the key sectors most closely associated with agricultural performance and human well-being improvement, and see how these sectoral needs change under the additional challenge of the future climate change. The results of their analysis reveal a significant level of additional spending needed for key regions like sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, which hold most of the world's poor and undernourished, and which will be hard-hit by climate change. The role of irrigation becomes important for regions like Africa, which heavily depend on rainfed agricultural production. The need for roads is also crucial as a means for increasing the market access of producers and maintaining a vigorous level of performance within agriculture and other sectors.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/07-Msangi_IFPRI_InvestmentReqforAg.pdf

Capital requirements for developing countries' agriculture to 2050, Josef Schmidhuber, Jelle Bruinsma and Gerold Boedeker (*Global Perspective Studies Unit, FAO*)

This paper is an interim report on ongoing work at FAO to estimate investment requirements in developing countries' agriculture. The estimates presented in the paper are far from final and the narrative of future

trends and developments is far from complete. Estimates cover most capital items, without however singling out areas for public involvement, neither of domestic nor of foreign funding sources.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/08-Schmidhuber-et-al-Capital-requirements-agriculture.pdf

Investment in Developing Countries' Food and Agriculture: Assessing Agricultural Capital Stocks and their Impact on Productivity, *Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel, Gustavo Anriquez, Hartwig de Haen and Oleg Nivyevskiy*

The agricultural capital stock (ACS), measured as fixed assets in primary agriculture, has been growing steadily at the global level over the last three decades, although for most of this period at declining rates. Using a volume approach with country-specific constant values per asset to measure the ACS, the average annual rate of worldwide ACS growth fell from 1.1 percent between 1975 and 1990 to 0.5 percent between 1991 and 2007. This reduction was recorded in both developed and developing countries.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/09-Cramon-et-al_Investment-AgCapitalStocks.pdf

International investments in agricultural productions, *David Hallam (Deputy Director, Trade and Markets Division, FAO)*

There has been a recent resurgence of interest in international investment in agricultural land. Purchases and leasing of agricultural land in Africa by investors in various Gulf States for food production in support of their food security strategy have perhaps attracted most attention until now, although these are just one of a variety of actual or planned investment flows with different motivations. Other countries outside Africa are also being targeted and major investments have also been made or are being planned by Chinese and, rather controversially, investors of the Republic of Korea. Investment companies in Europe and North America are also exploring opportunities motivated by potentially high expected returns on investment partly due to higher food prices and especially where biofuel feedstock production is a possibility.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/10-Hallam-InternationalInvestments.pdf

Can technology deliver on the yield challenge to 2050?, *R.A. Fischer, Derek Byerlee and G.O. Edmeades*

This paper focuses on the yield prospects of wheat, rice and maize since these cereals dominate human diet, and since continued yield growth is considered the major route to meeting future global demand for food, feed and fuel. Prospects for yield gap closing are discussed. We remain skeptical of the medium-term prospects of genetic modification (GM) for yield per se, especially potential yield, but recognize that existing GM crops often deliver higher yields because of gap closing benefits (such as reduced pest losses).

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/11-Fischer-et-al_Technology-Challenge.pdf

Setting meaningful investment targets in agricultural research and development: Challenges, opportunities and fiscal realities, *Nienke Beintema and Howard Elliott*

The rate of growth in agricultural research and development (R&D) investment has been declining globally while a large number of developing countries have experienced negative growth rates over the past decade. Stagnating investment in sub-Saharan African agricultural research is particularly worrisome. Emerging challenges, such as adaptation to climate change and increasing variability of weather, water scarcity, and increased price volatility in global markets will be faced by many countries that are least able to adapt to existing stresses. This lends increasing importance to developing the human and institutional capacity in agricultural research at the national level to interact with regional and global efforts underway.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/12-Beintema-Elliott_InvestmentAgR_D.pdf

World agricultural trade challenges to 2050 and requirements for evolving structure of world trade rules compatible with food security for developing countries, *Alexander Sarris (Trade and Markets Division, FAO)*

The objective of this paper is to highlight and analyze several factors impinging on future agricultural trade developments, in order to identify possible needs for future global agricultural trade rules. The paper first documents the recent food events and discusses factors behind these developments. It analyses the pattern of

global agricultural market instability over the past 40 years and the factors that may affect it in the futures. New challenges facing the world agricultural trade system are analyzed next. Then a discussion of the growing vulnerability of some developing and least developed countries is illustrated. The paper finally tries to identify areas where the WTO system of rules on agricultural trade may need strengthening or adaptation. http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/13_Sarris_WorldAgriculturalTrade.pdf

Farm support policies that minimize distortionary effects, *Aziz Elbehri and Alexander Sarris (Trade and Markets Division, FAO)*

The recent world food crisis highlighted the critical issue of global food security and the need to enhance global agricultural production capacity to meet current and future food demand. Increased investment in agriculture and adequate incentives to farmers are required to meet this global challenge. A key question is how to shape and design support to farmers in both the developed as well as the developing world while minimizing those distortions to global markets that are potentially harmful to developing countries, and at the same time promoting global food supply adequacy, food security for the undernourished, and poverty reducing and growth incentives for the farmers in low income food deficit countries.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/14_Elbehri-Sarris_Farm-support-policies-minimize-distortionary-effects.pdf

Challenges and opportunities for African agriculture and food security: high food prices, climate change, population growth, and HIV and AIDS, *Hans P. Binswanger-Mkhize (Professor Extraordinaire at the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation at the Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa)*

Economic and agricultural growth have resumed despite continued high population, the AIDS crisis, and the onset of measurable climate change. The fight against HIV and AIDS in rural areas is lagging badly and will need to be intensified via participatory approaches to prevention, expansion of HIV and AIDS treatment to rural areas, and massive improvements in rural safety nets. To seize the agricultural growth opportunities that derive from recent policy and price trends, sub-Saharan Africa will have to support economic growth via continued sound macroeconomic policies, further improvements in the investment climate, and investments in infrastructure and institutions.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/15--Binswanger_Africa-Challenges-and-opportunities.pdf

Can the smallholder model deliver poverty reduction and food security for a rapidly growing population in Africa?, *Steve Wiggins (Overseas Development Institute)*

Will smallholder development deliver food security? It will help: more food availability is likely to tend to push down food prices, while increased incomes for the poor are likely to mean greater access to food. But this will not be sufficient. A substantial part of the problem of child malnutrition in areas such as West Africa comes from disease, not food supply. For better nutrition, the continent needs to do as much to ensure access to clean water, sanitation, and primary health measures, as to grow more food.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/16-Wiggins-Africa-Smallholders.pdf

African Agriculture in 50 years: Smallholders in a Rapidly Changing World? *Paul Collier and Stefan Dercon (University of Oxford)*

For economic development to succeed in Africa in the next 50 years, African agriculture will have to change beyond recognition. Production will have to have increased massively, but also labour productivity, requiring a vast reduction in the proportion of the population engaged in agriculture and a large move out of rural areas. The authors question the evidence base for an exclusive focus on smallholders, and argue for a much more open-minded approach to different modes of production. In the final part of the paper, the authors consider the recent African vogue for 'superfarms': the emergence of investments in vast tracks of land of thousands of hectares for food crop agriculture focused on exports, such as to the Middle East.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/17-Collier_Dercon_Africa-Smallholders-in-changing-world.pdf

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