

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



September 24th – October 1st, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Asia’s ability to feed itself is of fundamental importance not only to the people living in the region, but also to the world. One of the bright spots over the past half-century has been Asia’s capacity to lift many of its citizens out of poverty and ensure that they have plentiful, inexpensive supplies of food, including rice, the region’s main staple. But Asia still accounts for about 65% of the world’s hungry population, and the historical gains from the Green Revolution are increasingly at risk. Declining trends in agricultural research and rural investment may lead to long-term food supply shortages and increased vulnerability to the famines that used to plague the region.”*—Excerpt from “[Never an Empty Bowl: Sustaining Food Security in Asia](#),” Task Force Report by the Asia Society and International Rice Research Institute, September 2010.

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
- Background information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, can be found on the Initiative’s website: www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Extraordinary Joint Intersessional Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Grains and the Intergovernmental Group on Rice, UN Food and Agriculture Organization’s Committee on Commodity Problems, September 24

Global cereal supply and demand still appears sufficiently in balance. While acknowledging the sudden increase in prices and deterioration of prospects for cereal markets in recent months, for wheat in particular, the Groups did not conclude that this situation was indicative of an impending food crisis. Unexpected crop failure in some major exporting countries followed by national responses and speculative behaviour rather than global market fundamentals, have been amongst the main factors behind the recent escalation of world prices and the prevailing high price volatility. The Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) are most

adversely affected by these high prices. The Groups expressed sympathy towards countries which were affected by natural disasters.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/est/COMM_MARKETS_MONITORING/Grains/Documents/FINAL_REPORT.pdf

SEE ALSO: UN Meeting on Food Prices Seeks Transparency, *Washington Post*, September 24

Delegates at a special U.N. meeting prompted by worries over high food prices discussed a grain export ban by Russia and its impact on cereal markets, although experts said good harvests should help prevent a repeat of the price panics of a few years ago. A U.N. report released during the meeting found that, while grain prices have surged in part because of the ban, the outlook for this year's harvests is good and cereal stocks are adequate.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/24/AR2010092402266_pf.html

SEE ALSO: Price Volatility Threat to Food Security, but no Impending Crisis: FAO, *International Business Times*, September 27

<http://uk.ibtimes.com/articles/65863/20100927/un-fao-food-prices-riots.htm>

Never an Empty Bowl: Sustaining Food Security in Asia, *Asia Society and International Rice Research Institute Task Force Report*, September 2010

Asia's ability to feed itself is of fundamental importance not only to the people living in the region, but also to the world. One of the bright spots over the past half-century has been Asia's capacity to lift many of its citizens out of poverty and ensure that they have plentiful, inexpensive supplies of food, including rice, the region's main staple. But Asia still accounts for about 65% of the world's hungry population, and the historical gains from the Green Revolution are increasingly at risk. Declining trends in agricultural research and rural investment may lead to long-term food supply shortages and increased vulnerability to the famines that used to plague the region.

http://asiasociety.org/files/pdf/FoodSecurityTF_online.pdf

SEE ALSO: Rice Stockpile Increase, Futures May Help Stabilize Prices, Report Says, *Bloomberg*, September 27

Asian countries should increase rice reserves to help stabilize prices and improve food security in the region which is home to about 65 percent of the world's hungry, according to a report today

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-27/rice-stockpile-increase-futures-may-help-stabilize-prices-report-says.html>

SEE ALSO: Food Prices Rise as Asia Projects Stall, *Wall Street Journal*, September 26

Some countries with well-developed agricultural markets, including the U.S., have significantly boosted production. But in Asia, the source of much of the world's new food demand, some projects aimed at increasing production have been dropped or delayed amid the financial crisis, limiting the gains. Disputes over land ownership, lack of capital and concerns over environmental issues have held back other investments.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704760704575515750905898286.html?mod=oglenews_wsj

Africa's Green Revolution Will Founder Without Extra Global Funding, *Agnes Kalibata, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources for Rwanda and Joseph Sam Sesay, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security For Sierra Leone*, *The Guardian*, September 26

African countries like ours are pouring money into agriculture. But to achieve food security we need solid international support

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/sep/26/africa-green-revolution-global-support>

Estimated 1 Billion Adults Struggled to Afford Food in 2009, *Gallup*, September 29

While the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization reported Friday that the recent volatility in food prices is not a sign of an impending food crisis, Gallup surveys in 113 countries in 2009 underscore people's vulnerability to such fluctuations. An estimated 1 billion adults worldwide reported not having enough money at times to buy the food they or their families needed. A disproportionate percentage of people in sub-Saharan Africa are affected.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/143255/Estimated-Billion-Adults-Struggled-Afford-Food-2009.aspx>

African Voices, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow for Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, October 1

The development of agriculture in every country in the world has required government assistance. Rich countries like the U.S. and those of Europe could provide their own aid to their farmers – and continue to do so in massive amounts. But most African countries, so poor and so far behind in agriculture, don't have the resources to do it on their own. So they are reaching out – not for food aid to feed their people but for agriculture development aid so their people can feed themselves.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/10/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-african-voices.html>

SEE ALSO: Roger Thurow on Hunger, Five Books, September 25

Wall Street Journal reporter and editor of the [Chicago Council's Global Food for Thought blog](#), Roger Thurow says that when you look at the formation of the Christian coalition in the US in the 1980s, hunger and reduction of poverty were not on the list of core values. They were focused on abortion and gay marriage, but there are 2,000 references to hunger and poverty in the Bible – Matthew 25/35: 'For I was hungry and you gave me food.' What is more powerful than that?

<http://fivebooks.com/interviews/roger-thurow-on-hunger>

SEE ALSO: Africa must learn to feed itself, Op-Ed, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Globe & Mail, September 21

The way to an agricultural revolution in Africa has long been clear: Promote research, put the latest technology in the hands of the farmers and boost investment in rural infrastructure. It is the will that has been missing – at least until now, if we heed a rising chorus of African leaders.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/africa-must-learn-to-feed-itself/article1717277/>

Focusing on Life and the First 1,000 Days, Op-ed, Tom Arnold, CEO, Concern Worldwide, The Sunday Business Post Online, September 26

The New York forum generated a positive political outcome for Ireland. It demonstrated that Ireland continues to take an international leadership role on early childhood nutrition, one of the most important issues on which rapid progress can be made in working towards the Millennium Development Goals. Coming at a time when our reputation as economic managers has suffered, the good will generated by such leadership represents political capital for the country. We can use that political capital as we chart our way towards recovery. Doing the right thing- focusing on saving lives and investing in the future of the world's children - coincides with our political and economic self-interest.

<http://www.sbpost.ie/newsfeatures/focusing-on-life-and-the-first-1000-days-51859.html>

Democratizing Development Economics, Speech by Robert Zoellick, President, The World Bank Group, September 29

"We need to be able to meet new global challenges of dealing with risks facing economies and people. Our world is riskier than many supposed. These can range from natural disasters to health pandemics, wars and civil strife, oil and food price shocks, regional and global economic crises. Climate change adds to the risks. We need more analysis of food security, agricultural productivity growth, improved seed- varieties, and climate-resilient agriculture as we prepare to feed the additional 3 billion people expected by 2050."

<http://go.worldbank.org/N58SCW9BW0>

SEE ALSO: Research for Development, A World Bank Perspective on Future Directions for Research, The World Bank, September 2010

This paper provides an overview of the history of development research at the World Bank and points to new future directions in both what we research and how we research.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2010/09/29/000158349_20100929111750/Rendered/PDF/WPS5437.pdf

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

US Agriculture Chief Plays Down Food Fears, Financial Times, September 26

Tom Vilsack, the US secretary of agriculture, has played down recent increases in the price of wheat, corn and other food commodities, saying the world is not on the brink of a rerun of the recent food supply crisis. Mr Vilsack said food stocks were at higher levels than during the 2007-08 food crisis, which saw record prices for agricultural commodities and food riots in emerging countries. He added that market prices did not reflect real scarcities and would stabilise.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/68d069f8-c996-11df-b3d6-00144feab49a.html>

Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on the Administration's New Global Development Policy at the Annual U.S. Global Leadership Coalition Conference, U.S. State Department, September 28

ADMINISTRATOR SHAH: "In Ghana, despite effective governance and despite a reasonably robust growth environment, they have not made the kind of progress against food insecurity that you would want to see. And in 2008, when food prices went up, and in many of these countries more than doubled, people who spend 70, 80, 90 percent of disposal income securing food go hungry. You saw food riots throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and many parts of Asia. So we have our Feed the Future initiative. In doing this initiative, we've worked with the Government of Ghana that has developed a very robust and brave proposal to use the northern Ghana infrastructure and agriculture belt as their future breadbasket. MCC is building the road infrastructure there. USAID is supporting the agricultural research and extension activities that will reach farmers. We're working in partnership with the World Bank and, in this case, with a few other, DFID and CIDA from other countries, to concentrate their efforts in the north as well."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/09/148304.htm>

SEE ALSO: The Department of State's Role in Supporting the Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development, U.S. State Department, September 28

The Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development calls for the elevation of development as a core pillar of American power and charts a course for development, diplomacy and defense to reinforce and complement one another in an integrated, comprehensive approach to national security.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/09/148303.htm>

SEE ALSO: Road Under Construction: What does the PPD Mean for USAID?, Connie, Veillette, Center for Global Development, September 28

President Obama and Secretary Clinton have been quite vocal in pledging to rebuild USAID into "the world's premier development agency." The newly issued development policy does not make it clear just how that will happen, or if it will happen at all.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/09/road-under-construction-what-does-the-ppd-mean-for-usaid.php>

SEE ALSO: State Department Should Have Gone for More in QDDR Process, Steve Clemons, Huffington Post, September 25

While details of the QDDR are not yet public, we know that Hillary Clinton has stymied efforts to make the US Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator cabinet rank, preempted an effort for the agency to fully break away from state department guidance, and squashed the creation of a high-ranking Development Council in the National Security Council that would have authority to run various bureaus across government on key development, stabilization, and relief missions. But what Hillary Clinton hasn't done is elevate the team and personnel committed to international stabilization and development within her own department.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-clemons/state-department-should-h_b_739041.html

SEE ALSO: Development Community Welcomes New Obama Policy, Laura Rozen, Politico, September 27

The U.S. development community is pronouncing itself "thrilled" with the Obama administration's recently unveiled new development policy.

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

SEE ALSO: Restructuring USAID: Time to Match Rhetoric with Deeds, The Lancet, October 2

November 2008 saw Obama swept into power on a wave of optimism that brought people from Chicago to Nairobi onto the streets in celebration—the moment really was now. But as the months slipped by after the election, a creeping sense of inertia set in. 10 months after Obama's inauguration, USAID was still drifting without a leader at the helm. The Obama administration finally announced the appointment of Rajiv Shah as head of the agency in late 2009. Far from empowered, only three of

12 politically appointed positions at the agency are filled. All of which make Obama's recent remarks at the UN summit in New York sound uncomfortably like empty posturing.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61519-X/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61519-X/fulltext)

USDA's McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program Expected to Feed Nearly 400,000 Children in Haiti and Afghanistan, *USDA, October 1*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will donate 11,000 tons of rice, vegetable oil, yellow peas and lentils valued at more than \$21 million for projects that will help feed 390,000 children in Haiti and Afghanistan under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (McGovern-Dole) Program.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMj8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_2CbEdFAEU0joE!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/10/0501.xml

Obama Announces Thomas Nides to Replace Jack Lew, *Foreign Policy, September 29*

The White House announced President Obama's intention to nominate Morgan Stanley's Thomas Nides to be the next deputy Secretary of State for management and resources, replacing Jack Lew, who is waiting to be confirmed to be the director of the Office of Management and Budget.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/09/29/obama_announces_thomas_nides_to_replace_jack_lew

Lincoln, Chambliss Statement on China's Decision to Continue Duties on U.S. Poultry Products, *Press Release, Blanche Lincoln, U.S. Senator for Arkansas, September 27*

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln, (D-Ark.), and Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss, (R-Ga.), today issued the following statement regarding the Chinese Commerce Ministry's decision to finalize prohibitively high anti-dumping duties on imports of U.S. poultry products. The duties have been in place since February on a preliminary basis but the announcement confirmed that rates ranging from 43 percent up to 105.4 percent will continue to be imposed.

<http://lincoln.senate.gov/newsroom/2010-9-27-5.cfm>

SEE ALSO: A Game of Trade Chicken, Poultry protectionism shows where the U.S. and China are heading, *Editorial, Wall street Journal, September 28*

China's Commerce Ministry Sunday unveiled its final order in an antidumping investigation against U.S. poultry. Effective yesterday, Beijing is levying duties ranging from 50% to 104%, depending on the producer, on imports of products such as chicken feet. The Chinese government claims U.S. companies sell in the Chinese market at a price less than their cost of production. In a separate case in August, Beijing slapped countervailing duties of between 4% and 31% on the imports, claiming U.S. agricultural policies unfairly subsidize chicken production in America. These moves must be about politics because the economics of the cases make no sense.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704654004575517300721920676.html>

Challenges to Water and Security in Southeast Asia, *Senate Foreign Relations Committee, September 23*

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=4c2fd291-5056-a032-52fd-414f26c49704>

Joseph Yun, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southeast Asia: "By 2025, nearly two-thirds of the world's population will be living under waterstressed conditions, including roughly 1.8 billion people who will face absolute water scarcity (a level that threatens economic development as well as human health and well-being). Water scarcity and poor water quality will increase disease risks, undermine economic growth, limit food production, and become an increasing threat to peace and security."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Yun.pdf>

Richard Cronin, Senior Associate, The Stimson Center: "The Lower Mekong is very different than most other important rivers of the world in that some 60 million people depend directly on or indirectly on its almost unparalleled bounty of fish and annual load of silt that replenishes otherwise nutrient-deficient soil. This food resource is not only of vital importance to local livelihoods, but the rice produced with the Mekong's waters in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam's Mekong Delta is important to the global rice market. The people who depend on the river badly need to improve their standards of living and nutrition, but destroying the natural functions of the River is not the way to do this. Rather, the river and its bounty of fish and agricultural production have to remain the base of the Mekong counties' economic pyramid."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Cronin.pdf>

Aviva Imhof, Campaigns Director, International Rivers: "Fish are extremely important to food security in the Mekong Basin. Fish consumption in mainland Southeast Asia far exceeds most other places in the world. Per year, the average person in the Lower Mekong Basin eats 56.6 kilograms of freshwater fish products. This is over two times the average total fish consumption in Europe and America. In every Mekong country fish are the most important source of animal protein. Although the amount of animal protein from fish varies – from an average of 60% in Vietnam to as high as 79% in some Cambodian villages and 78% in the Khong district of Lao – it is well-established that fish protein is important to food security throughout the region. Fish are also an essential source of vitamins and minerals, helping to ward off the nutritional deficiencies that are sadly still too common."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Imhof.pdf>

Remarks to the Press from UNGA, Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S.

Department of State, September 24

ASSISTANT SECRETARY CARSON: "The greater engagement can be defined as meeting on a periodic basis with government officials from these two political entities, talking to them about development issues, including a range of health, education, agriculture, water projects that they might want to develop, looking for ways to strengthen their capacity both to govern and to deliver services to their people. In the past, we have not engaged these areas and political entities aggressively. We will now start to do so."

<http://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/spbr/2010/147922.htm>

Secretary Clinton Designates Special Coordinator for Haiti, U.S. Department of State, September 30

The Secretary is pleased to announce the appointment of Thomas C. Adams as Haiti Special Coordinator. The Haiti Special Coordinator's office will oversee U.S. government engagement with Haiti, including diplomatic relations and the implementation of a reconstruction strategy in partnership with the Government of Haiti, and other donors.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/09/148472.htm>

State Department Needs to Enhance Reporting Requirements and Evaluate Its Efforts to Increase U.S. Representation, Government Accountability Office, September 2010

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted an analysis of efforts by the Department of State (State) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide water and sanitation assistance to developing countries based on requirements included in the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005. Specifically, this GAO report "(1) describes USAID's accomplishments; (2) describes USAID's obligations of funds for water and sanitation assistance in fiscal years 2006-2009; (3) assesses the Department of State's (State) development of a U.S. water and sanitation strategy; and (4) examines State's designation of high-priority countries." Based on this analysis, GAO provided two recommendations to enable the State Department to fulfill requirements outlined in the Water for the Poor Act: "(1) ensure that the strategy for U.S. water and sanitation assistance addresses all requirements, including goals and benchmarks, and (2) clearly identify, in its mandated reports, the basis for its designations of high-priority countries

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d101028.pdf>

SEE ALSO: U.S. Employment at UN Agencies Falling Behind and Immediate Actions are Needed, GAO Report Shows, Office of Daniel Akaka, United States Senator for Hawaii, September 30

"The United States is the largest financial contributor to the United Nations organizations reviewed in this GAO report, and I am troubled to learn that the United States' representation in policy-making decisions and in senior-level positions at the United Nations has declined. The report also finds multiple challenges for those seeking employment with the U.N., including spouses who have trouble finding jobs and limited opportunities for promotions and professional development for U.N. employees," Sen. Voinovich said.

<http://akaka.senate.gov/press-releases.cfm?method=releases.view&id=6ac5218f-b296-48dc-8d09-e223f6334dbc>

SEE ALSO: U.S. Underrepresented at Several U.N. Agencies, Foreign Policy, October 1

Obama administration officials have spoken a great deal about their drive to reinvigorate U.S. participation in international organizations, including the United Nations. But last year, the American

presence and influence in several parts of the United Nations actually declined, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has found.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/09/30/us_underrepresented_at_several_un_agencies

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Food Crisis: A View from Europe

Date: October 6th, 2010

Location: Chicago, IL

Join speaker Sir Gordon Conway, professor of international development at Imperial College London and former president of the Rockefeller Foundation, for the next session in The Chicago Council on Global Affairs' *Roundtable on Global Agriculture and Food Policy*. Dr. Conway will offer a European perspective of the global food crisis and will share his thoughts on the recent volatility in world commodities markets. **This event is private and attendance is by invitation-only. For more information, please contact Hal Woods, senior editor and research analyst, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, at hwoods@thechicagocouncil.org.**

Africa's Potential

Date: October 12th, 2010

Location: Chicago, IL

Speaker: Eleni Gabre-Madhin, Chief Executive Officer, Ethiopia Commodity Exchange

Future global economic growth will increasingly come from emerging markets and Africa will play an important role. Jim O'Neill, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, believes it's not unreasonable to think Africa could become the next BRIC. A recent McKinsey profile lays out the case for sub-Saharan Africa as a destination for profitable new investment. As Africa strives to move beyond images of war, hunger, and poor governance, there are success stories that confirm the region is open for business. Next year, half of the world's 10 fastest growing economies are expected to be in Africa. Eleni Gabre-Madhin is one visionary who is working to unleash Africa's economic potential. When Dr. Gabre-Madhin launched the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX) in 2008, it was the first of its kind in Africa. With 85% of Ethiopia's population dependent on farming for their income, she is leveraging agricultural markets to catalyze broader economic growth, drive innovation, and to promote sustainable development.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago_council_event_corporate_detail.php?eventid=2280

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:

Global Food and Financial Crises: Lessons for Accelerating Food Production in Africa, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, September 18*

This paper critically reviews the effects of the global food and financial crises on developing countries, with specific focus on Africa. While assessments of the intertwined effects of the crises have often focused on short term transitory causal factors, this paper takes the view that the causes of the food crises in Africa are long

term and fundamentally structural. Policy measures to address the food crises should therefore focus on resolving the long term structural impediments to accelerated agricultural growth.

http://www.agra-alliance.org/files/1208_file_Akin_Adesina_Capetown_Final_Paper_for_AAAE_Presidential_Address_20September_2010_2_.docx

Food for All Forever, *Recommendation Report, The Danish Academy of Technical Sciences, September 2010*

Right now the international society does not know how to fully succeed in meeting the goal of assuring food security and ensuring long-term sustainable use of the natural resources upon which we all depend. This way of thinking about food for all and long-term sustainable use of the natural resources is new – but it is the right way forward. Thoughts need to be explored and actions taken before it is too late.

http://www.atv.dk/uploads/ATV_FOOD_FOR_ALL_FOREVER_final.pdf

Pro-Livestock Policy Initiative, Status and Prospects for Smallholder Milk Production, a Global Perspective, *FAO, October 2010*

The purpose of the present publication is to help readers gain a better understanding of the global dairy sector, and the opportunities, constraints and threats facing smallholder producers. To that end, the performance of 'typical' dairy enterprises and their external environment, and the impact of potential technical and policy interventions, have been analysed for selected developing and developed countries.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1522e/i1522e.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Small-scale Dairy Production: A Way Out of Poverty, *FAO, September 29*

Making smallholder dairy production more competitive could be a powerful tool for reducing poverty, raising nutrition levels and improving the livelihoods of rural people in many developing countries, FAO said in a new report on smallholder milk production.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44582/icode/>

A Viable Food Future, *The Development Fund, October 2010*

The aim of this report is to provide scientifically based facts, arguments and ideas for what is needed to meet some of the most important challenges in the world today. This report is about food and agriculture, it sees food as more than calories that fill people's stomachs, and it sees agriculture as more than producing and harvesting food.

<http://www.utviklingsfondet.no/filestore/ViableFuture-web.pdf>

Media Articles:

FAO Sounds Off on Impending Beef Crisis, *United Press International, September 30*

Food and Agriculture Organization officials attending a meat congress in Buenos Aires warned the world faced a developing crisis in beef production as global human population would soon outstrip the numbers that current or future supplies from livestock farming could feed.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/09/30/FAO-sounds-off-on-impending-beef-crisis/UPI-25091285875934/

SEE ALSO: More Meat Eaters Will Require Doubling of World Livestock, *Agence France-Presse, September 27*

With meat eating on the increase, livestock producers will have to double their output when the world population hits nine billion, experts attending the World Meat Congress said in Buenos Aires.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100927/sc_afp/argentinafarmlivestock_20100927233739

Hungry in Gaza, More and More, *IPS, September 29*

The combination of this agricultural destruction and the mortal Israeli imposition of a no-go zone on Gaza's border lands, encompassing roughly one-third of Gaza's arable land means that as of June 2009, 46 percent of agricultural land in Gaza was either inaccessible or out of production, impacting on the availability of fresh and nutritious produce in the Strip and affecting over 60,000 people earning a living from agriculture alone.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52996>

Subsidies Won't Keep Bread on Mozambican Tables, IRIN, September 29

In response to food price riots in early September, the Mozambican government has laid on a range of price cuts and subsidies to make life easier for the poor, and has promised to do some belt tightening of its own, but observers say the measures are unaffordable and will not address the deeper issues.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=90618>

Put Nutrition at the Heart of Agriculture, Say West African Leaders, Guardian, September 28

Ecowas says nutrition must be a core concern of agriculture rather than a problem needing an emergency response.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2010/sep/28/irin-africa-food-ecowas-agriculture>

Canada Expands Agricultural Cooperation with Mongolia, Wall Street Journal, September 28

Canada has increased its agriculture cooperation with Mongolia with the signing of an important Agriculture Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada said Tuesday in a statement.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100928-713728.html>

Growing Food in Greener Cities, Urban Horticulture Supplies Fresh Food, Creates Jobs, Recycles Waste, FAO, September 28

By 2025, more than half the developing world's population - an estimated 3.5 billion people - will be urban. For policy makers and urban planners in poor countries, greener cities could be the key to ensuring safe, nutritious food, sustainable livelihoods and healthier communities.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/45604/icode/>

Fish Farms, with a Side of Greens, New York Times, September 27

Aquaponics, which combines vegetable and fish farming, is still in its infancy, but interest is growing.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/28/business/energy-environment/28iht-rbofish.html>

Black-Eyed Pea Holds Tasty Promise for Africa, Agence France-Presse, September 27

The black-eyed pea, one of the world's oldest cultivated vegetables, is also one of the most promising as a nutritious food product, according to researchers who gathered in Senegal.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h7-d95JsgPPNFM36NNpX6VMEA1Qw>

Ugandan Cocoa Output May Rise 13% Next Season as New Trees Start Producing, Bloomberg, September 27

Cocoa production in Uganda, Africa's biggest producer of robusta coffee, may climb as much as 13 percent next season as new trees start bearing fruit, the state-run Cocoa Development Project said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-27/ugandan-cocoa-output-may-rise-13-next-season-as-new-trees-start-producing.html>

Singapore Looks to China for Food Security, New York Times, September 27

Singapore is eyeing a gigantic farming project in northeast China that could help the small, densely populated city-state diversify its food supplies, while offering export opportunities for its expertise in food safety and investment opportunities for its businesses.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/28/business/global/28iht-rbofsing.html>

Just because GM is Gaining Popularity Doesn't Make it Right, Editorial, Lucy Siegle, Guardian, September 26

The government has warmed to the idea of genetically modified food but sceptics are right to raise concerns.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/sep/26/gm-food-agriculture>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Paths to 2015, MDG Priorities in Asia and the Pacific, *United Nations, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, October 2010*

Despite rapid economic growth and falling levels of poverty, Asia and the Pacific still suffers from widespread hunger and malnutrition. In future, countries across the region will have to pay greater attention to food security, and ensure that poor people have access to the food they need to lead healthy and productive lives.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Reports/Asia-Pacific-MDG-2010/mdg-paths-to-2015.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2010, *Asian Development Bank, August 2010*

In 18 economies of the Asia and Pacific region, including the five most populous, more than 10% of the population lives on less than \$1.25 a day. Judging by progress to date, a third of the countries for which data are available will not meet the poverty reduction target by 2015. In 20 economies, again including the five most populous, more than 10% of the population are malnourished and most economies for which data are available will not meet the target of cutting by half the percentage of underweight children.

http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key_Indicators/2010/pdf/Key-Indicators-2010.pdf

Making Development Aid More Effective: The 2010 Brookings Blum Roundtable Policy Briefs, *Brookings Institution, September 2010*

From high-profile stabilization contexts like Afghanistan to global public health campaigns, and from a renewed focus on sustainable food security to the looming implications of climate change, development effectiveness is a central and hotly debated issue. Given the need to reform development assistance efforts within the current window of political opportunity, in these policy briefs Brookings experts and colleagues with other organizations offer a range of recommendations for influential global development actors that look beyond questions of increased resources for antipoverty services to the effectiveness of different approaches and to the systemic issues associated with the delivery of development outcomes.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/09_development_aid/09_development_aid.pdf

The Determinants of Aid and Volatility, *Brookings Institution, September 2010*

Flows of official development assistance (ODA) to recipient countries have been highly volatile over the past 40 years, and there is significant evidence that volatile aid can negatively impact growth through several channels; but less is known about the sources of the volatility. Using an auto-regressive conditional heteroskedasticity model, we generate conditional variances for total aid flows to all aid-recipient countries between 1960 and 2008. We then examine the effects of both recipient-country and donor-related factors on this resulting volatility. We find that some degree of volatility is caused by events in recipient countries, mainly civil wars and adverse regime change—all of which increase the unpredictability of aid flows. But larger, unexpected swings in aid tend to be due to the concentration of aid portfolios combined with the prevalence of donor herding.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/09_aid_volatility_desai_kharas/09_aid_volatility.pdf

Aid Effectiveness in Malawi: Options Appraisals and Budget Support, *Overseas Development Institute, September 2010*

This Project Briefing examines an attempt by the ODI to develop and apply a framework to enhance measurement of the net benefits of different options for aid delivery in Malawi by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) -- an options appraisal. It looks at why DFID has strengthened its economic appraisal and summarises the methodology and findings from Malawi. Finally, it considers the implications for operational practice and gives recommendations for the design of options appraisals in the future.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4729.pdf>

Reinvigorating the Pursuit of More Effective Aid in Uganda, *Overseas Development Institute, September 2010*

This Background Note sets out possible steps to improve aid effectiveness in Uganda, and ensure that the partnership between government and donors remains relevant.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4830.pdf>

Media Articles:

Set to Lead Again? New U.S. Engagement on Global Development, *Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, Global Economy and Development and Noam Unger, Fellow, Global Economy and Development Brookings, October 1*

What is more revolutionary, is the clear recognition that U.S. development policy must be about more than aid. Organizationally, alongside its long-term commitment to build up USAID to be the nation's lead development agency and the world's premier development agency, the White House has recognized the need to oversee a coherent global development strategy that factors in the broader array of development policy instruments in areas such as trade, investment, migration and agriculture. The administration's strategy indicates a commitment to a more comprehensive and coherent approach to supporting development outcomes.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0928_global_development_kharas_unger.aspx

The Future of Giving to Africa, *Economist, October 1*

John McArthur is the brain behind the brain of Professor Jeffrey Sachs. Mr McArthur heads Millennium Promise, the philanthropic arm of Mr Sachs's oft-praised and much-criticised Millennium Villages. Week in, week out, he tries to persuade companies and rich individuals to underwrite some of the running costs of the villages. There are 80 of them, in 10 countries. Mr Sachs conceived the villages as a solution to the end of poverty in Africa. A \$5m disbursement to each village, over five years, in a range of projects, was meant to germinate success in surrounding communities. Many of the villages have been successful, lessons have been learned, but they have not yet been scaled up to a point of significance. Baobab talked to Mr McArthur about aid to Africa and the continent's prospects.

http://www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2010/10/millennium_development_goals

Haiti Still Waiting for Pledged US Aid, *Associated Press, September 29*

Nearly nine months after the earthquake, more than a million Haitians still live on the streets between piles of rubble. One reason: Not a cent of the \$1.15 billion the U.S. promised for rebuilding has arrived. With just a week to go before fiscal 2010 ends, the money is still tied up in Washington. At fault: bureaucracy, disorganization and a lack of urgency.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5idZiVQhHcyG1gpBjzXaAmmk4_OtAD9IHE5B01?docId=D9IHE5B01

Opinion: Can Obama Reform the Aid Business, *Robert I. Rotberg, Global Post, September 29*

US leader proposes far-reaching changes in providing aid to poor countries.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/worldview/100927/opinion-can-obama-reform-the-aid-business?page=0.0>.

SEE ALSO: How Obama Was Brainwashed by the Microsoft Theory of Foreign Aid, *The New Republic, September 27*

<http://www.tnr.com/blog/foreign-policy/77932/altruists-in-wonderland-united-nations-millennium-development-goals-david-rieff>

US wants more aid recognition in Pakistan, *Seattle Times, September 29*

Concerned that U.S. help to Pakistan is not getting enough recognition, Washington is making a new push to get international aid groups it funds to advertise the fact. But it is meeting resistance from partners worried U.S. branding could prompt Taliban attacks.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2012992457_apaspakistanbrandingusaid.html

Obama on Foreign Aid: Trade will Improve the Third-World Quality of Life, *Christian Science Monitor, September 28*

President Obama's speech to the UN yesterday on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is somewhat encouraging to those of us who object to the current global aid regime. In an uncharacteristically pro-market speech, the President accepted that the current system of target-based aid is broken and badly needs to be reformed. Though he praised the MDGs, Mr Obama accepted that the only way to raise the quality of life of the

world's poor is to allow their economies to grow, and to this end he pledged for a new emphasis on trade with the developing world. Mr Obama, and like-minded policymakers in the UK, should follow this logic to its conclusion and accept that we cannot engineer or create growth through the dumping of aid onto the developing world.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Business/The-Adam-Smith-Institute-Blog/2010/0928/Obama-on-foreign-aid-Trade-will-improve-the-third-world-quality-of-life>

Will DfID Money Speak Louder than Words?, *Guardian*, September 27

Andrew Mitchell insists that DfID values agricultural research but only next year's spending review will tell.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/sep/27/agricultural-research-andrew-mitchell-dfid>

Bill and Melinda Gates Look on the Bright Side, Editorial, Sarah Boseley, *Guardian*, September 27

Bill and Melinda Gates believe there have been too many negative stories written about global development, talking up the dire plight of the poor and the dispossessed and under-playing the real benefits they believe aid is bringing about.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/sarah-boseley-global-health/2010/sep/27/maternal-health-bill-and-melinda-gates-foundation>

Aid slows to a trickle as Pakistan crisis enters a new phase, *The Lancet*, September 25

As the floodwater surges southwards, and Pakistan faces the likelihood of a public health emergency, the economic cost of the disaster threatens to run out of control. About a quarter of the country's harvest has been destroyed and next year's harvest is under threat. Sindh's agricultural losses are estimated at US\$1 billion. Much of the cotton crop—a crucial export—has been wiped out, and there has been massive damage to the country's infrastructure. This month, the IMF released a \$451 million emergency loan to Pakistan, which already owes its creditors some \$50 billion. But the \$460 million UN flash appeal for Pakistan—framed at a time when the catastrophe had yet to fully develop—is only two-thirds funded.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61470-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61470-5/fulltext)

Bill Clinton Raises Billions to Tackle Poverty, *Associated Press*, September 25

Former President Bill Clinton's three-day conference for VIPs with deep pockets generated nearly 300 new commitments valued at \$6 billion to tackle major global issues from poverty and disease to climate change.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iey-9eKIG-ccGNr6XXht20LLRaRQD9IEOJA80>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Special Issue: Wastewater Reuse, *Irrigation and Drainage Systems*, Volume 24, Numbers 1-2, June 2010

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/m326850103w0/?p=013164dc86a746ffb705efca3e8da702&pi=0>

Media Articles:

Urban Agriculture: Multi-Storey Farms in a City Centre Near You, *Financial Times*, October 1

With agricultural land under pressure from climate change, soil erosion and population increase, the solution is to create “vertical farms”, high rise buildings in or near cities that could be used to grow food.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e998886a-cceb-11df-9bf0-00144feab49a.html>

Nigeria Farmers Fear Crop Destruction in Floods, *Associated Press*, September 27

Farmers in northern Nigeria said they feared their crops were destroyed in weekend floods that started when two swollen dams overflowed and displaced 2 million people.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iVfKhpncsfYHTNoP-i7ovlRKiyAD9IG9MT00>

UN Sees Funds Threat to Climate Campaign, *Financial Times*, September 27

International agreements to fight the threat of climate change will not make any further progress unless rich countries deliver on their promises of almost \$30bn in short-term funding for developing economies, the UN's senior climate official has warned.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/318a65f4-ca52-11df-a860-00144feab49a.html>

A Climate Overhaul is Needed to Win Back Public Trust, *Op-Ed, Andrew Turnbull, Trustee, Global Warming Policy Foundation, Financial Times, September 26*

The UK government should demand the changes recommended are implemented immediately for the IPCC's forthcoming Fifth Assessment. Only if confidence is restored in the science will there be the trust with the public which policymakers need. Climate science needs to be less dogmatic, welcoming rather than suppressing diverse views, and candid about uncertainties. It needs also to recognise the strong natural variations upon which man-made emissions are superimposed.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/74c258e4-c9b8-11df-b3d6-00144feab49a.html>

Greening the High-Street: Big Brands and the Eco-Revolution, *Agence France-Presse, September 26*

Poisonous pesticides, soil pollution and water waste: high-street fashion has a lot to answer for in the environmental game. But can big brands use their global clout to drive the green revolution?

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gCrjLvqCM5Ac0EFz3VCfdnBR67Q>

Egypt and Thirsty Neighbors are at Odds over Nile, *New York Times, September 25*

Adding urgency, say diplomats and water experts in Egypt, investors from China and the Persian Gulf region have expressed interest in underwriting enormous agriculture projects in Uganda and Ethiopia, which would use Nile water. Egyptian water experts said that the upstream countries wasted colossal amounts of water that run off unused into swamps. The upstream countries point to Egypt's own wasteful practices, saying that 75 percent of Egypt's water is used for agriculture, most of it wasted by inefficient, old-fashioned practices.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/26/world/middleeast/26nile.html>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports

Stemming Girls' Chronic Poverty: Catalysing Development Change by Building Social Institutions, *Chronic Poverty Research Centre, 2010*

Childhood, adolescence and early adulthood remain for many girls and young women a period of deprivation, danger and vulnerability, resulting in lack of agency and critical development deficits. What happens at this crucial time in girls' and young women's lives can also reinforce their poverty status and that of their offspring, as well as influencing their movement into or out of poverty. In many cases, overlapping experiences of deprivation, foregone human development opportunities and abuse or exploitation perpetuate and intensify poverty for girls and young women over the life-course. This report addresses this gap by placing girls and young women centre stage, highlighting ways in which five context-specific social institutions inform and determine their life opportunities and agency.

http://www.chronicpoverty.org/uploads/assets/files/reports/Full_report.pdf

Media Articles:

A Less Visible Solution to Hunger, *Op-Ed, David Kauck, Senior Gender and Agriculture Specialist, International Center for Research on Women, Des Moines Register, October 1*

To make a significant dent in chronic hunger and jump-start economic growth, global food security strategies must tackle something less tangible than seeds, less visible than tractors: It's time for an approach that addresses the underlying social inequities between women and men that contribute directly to low productivity farming. To understand why we need to do more for women farmers, it helps to examine their unique place in the agricultural sector, particularly in Africa, where hunger is common and where most women work as small-scale farmers. In sub-Saharan Africa, it's women who often are responsible for

ensuring the nutritional well-being of their children. It's women who produce most of the food eaten at home. And it's women who have a strong role in farming crops for sale.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101001/OPINION01/10010328/-1/groupblogs/Guest-column-A-less-visible-solution-to-hunger>

UN Gives \$6 Million to Mothers in Niger, *Voice of America, September 27*

The United Nations is giving \$6 million in cash from its Children's Fund to mothers in Niger so they can buy food amidst widespread hunger in that West African country brought on by last year's lack of needed rain for crops.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/UN-Gives-6-Million-to-Mothers-In-Niger-103867089.html>

Michelle Bachelet, New Head of UN Women: Where There Is Poverty, 'The State Cannot Be Neutral', *The Nation, September 27*

The choice of Michelle Bachelet, the former president of Chile, to develop and then head a new and potentially powerful United Nations agency for women may well be the most important and smartest appointment Ban Ki-moon makes in his tenure as UN secretary-general.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/155028/michelle-bachelet-new-head-un-women-where-there-poverty-state-cannot-be-neutral>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Media Articles:

"Revolt, Migrate, or Die" – Why Food Security Matters, *The German Marshall Fund, October 1*

In the long run, solutions will mean tackling tough issues. This involves a serious attempt to reform agriculture subsidy and biofuels policies at home, as well as a renewed push to conclude stalled trade negotiations. The transatlantic partners, with their vast agricultural markets and advanced technical knowledge, should lead these efforts. The focus needs to be on both preventing further immediate shocks and beginning to establish a sustainable global food system.

<http://blog.gmfus.org/2010/10/01/revolt-migrate-or-die-why-food-security-matters/>

Cocoa Reined in by Favourable Weather, *Financial Times, September 30*

After four years of shortages that sent the price of cocoa to its highest level in three decades, traders almost unanimously believe that the cocoa market is set to move into a surplus in the 2010-11 marketing year. The looming oversupply has sent cocoa prices down by a third in the past two-and-a-half months.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a8f2209e-ccbb-11df-a1eb-00144feab49a.html>

Cotton Price Rally has Brazil Farms Expanding Crop, *Reuters, September 30*

Brazilian farmers are setting aside more land for cotton, enough to produce the country's biggest crop ever, and selling the harvest in advance to cash in on this summer's surge in prices to 15-year highs. With cotton expected to be up to three times as profitable as soybeans next season, farmers in the world's fifth largest cotton producer and consumer will devote as many as a third more acres to the fiber in 2010/11 than they did last season.

<http://www.forexyard.com/en/news/ANALYSIS-Cotton-price-rally-has-Brazil-farms-expanding-crop-2010-09-29T203936Z>

Brazil, China, EU Press US to Step Up in Doha Negotiations, *Agence France-Presse, September 29*

Brazil, China and the EU pressed the United States to show greater engagement in WTO talks on a global free trade deal amid concerns the world's biggest economy is failing in its leading role.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100929/bs_afp/wtotradeusfarm

SEE ALSO: WTO Urges U.S. to Show Leadership in Doha Talks, *Reuters, September 29*

The World Trade Organization called on the United States -- criticised by many trade partners for a lack of interest in trade policy -- to show leadership in global commerce.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-51821220100929>

"Food Intelligence" Could Cut Price Swings, IRIN, September 29

Accurate and timely information on the food stocks held by major grain exporters and importers, or "food intelligence", could help prevent sudden and abnormal price hikes that threaten food security.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=90626>

Emerging Markets Redraw the World Food Map, Financial Times, September 27

When the world was hit by a food crisis in 2007-08, one factor made it different from previous episodes: rising demand. Today that trend is as important as ever – and it frames a series of posts that beyondbrics will publish over the next two weeks exploring the production and consumption of food in emerging markets.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2010/09/27/bric-food-file-emerging-markets-redraw-the-world-food-map/>

Russia Could Lift Grain Export Ban this Year, Reuters, September 27

A Russian diplomat said the country's ban on grain exports could be lifted this year but also gave harvest figures showing Russia could ill afford to ship its grain abroad.

<http://www.forexyard.com/en/news/Russia-could-lift-grain-export-ban-this-yr-official-2010-09-27T154615Z-UPDATE-1>

SEE ALSO: Russian Wheat Embargo Likely to Raise Global Food Costs, The Fiscal Times, September 26

Food prices rose 5 percent worldwide from July to August, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. During recent food riots in Mozambique, 13 died and hundreds were injured before the government rescinded a 30 percent increase in bread prices. The uncertainty in the grain markets highlights the inability of major food-producing nations to agree on ways to limit volatility caused by bad weather and the kind of unilateral action recently taken by Russia.

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Issues/The-Economy/2010/09/26/Russian-Wheat-Embargo-Likely-to-Raise-Global-Food-Costs.aspx>

China Imposes a Steep Tariff on U.S. Poultry, New York Times, September 26

Days after it flexed its economic muscle in a diplomatic dispute with Japan, China continued to display a more assertive international economic policy on Sunday as it imposed steep tariffs on poultry imports from the United States.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/27/business/global/27yuan.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Kroger: No Fears on Price, Wall Street Journal, September 30

Grocer Kroger Co. vowed to pass along price increases by brand-name food manufacturers to consumers, expressing confidence that its private-label products will keep its sales strong. In recent months, food companies including ConAgra Foods Inc. and Sara Lee Corp. have complained that their commodity costs have been rising, though they haven't yet broadly raised wholesale prices.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703431604575522052340040576.html>

Sinochem Struggles to Mount Potash Bid, Financial Times, September 29

Sinochem of China is struggling to find partners to mount a counterbid for PotashCorp and derail BHP Billiton's \$39bn hostile takeover following the collapse of talks with a potential Russian partner. The failure of talks with UralKali, the Russian fertiliser group, is the latest setback for the state-owned Chinese chemical group after earlier approaches to a Canadian public pension fund, and Temasek, the Singapore's investment agency.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1e6bf9b2-cbf4-11df-bd28-00144feab49a.html>

Why is the Gates Foundation Investing in GM Giant Monsanto?, *Editorial, John Vidal, Guardian, September 29*

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's investments in Monsanto and Cargill have come under heavy criticism.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/sep/29/gates-foundation-gm-monsanto>

Ben & Jerry's No Longer 'All Natural', *Financial Times, September 28*

Ben & Jerry's, the upscale ice cream unit of Unilever, has agreed to remove the phrase "all natural" from its packaging in response to a complaint from a consumer pressure group. Ben & Jerry's capitulation to the Center for Science in the Public Interest is a rare case of a food company voluntarily agreeing to modify its product claims without the threat of government intervention.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f41f990c-ca8b-11df-a860-00144feab49a.html>

Brazil's Ethanol Producers Take a Big Bet on Biofuels, *Financial Times, September 27*

Brazil's sugar cane industry has recently been trumpeting that five of its processing mills have been approved by the US government to sell their ethanol in the US. The fact that the mills are bothering to go through the registration process, which includes filling out forms and allowing an engineering review, is significant, and shows renewables are no longer the pet project of many Americans. With the US perhaps distracted by its pressing economic difficulties, producers in other countries have started to get in on the act.

<http://blogs.ft.com/energy-source/2010/09/27/brazils-ethanol-producers-look-past-the-us-downbeat-mood-on-renewables-amid-economic-difficulties-to-its-future-as-a-big-market/>

Old Roots Tap New Customers, *Financial Times, September 27*

Small farmers like Mr Guerrero are the norm in Peru, where 88 per cent of agriculture is in the hands of farmers with less than 5 hectares and of those, 40 per cent own fewer than 1ha. Antonio Escalona, South Andean general manager of PepsiCo Foods, says the degree of fragmentation poses "a clear challenge" to the company's goal of producing 100 per cent of potatoes in-country. Under the company's agro-sustainability programme, which offers long-term contracts to small farmers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, farmers have improved information sharing and access to technical expertise with on-site Columbia University students. Brazil is now the only country where PepsiCo has a guaranteed 365-day domestic supply of potatoes, and researchers and small farmers are working on a new sunflower seed that is very low in saturated fats.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fd19a3fa-ca7b-11df-a860-00144feab49a.html>

Nestlé to Take on Pharmaceutical Sector, *Financial Times, September 27*

Nestlé is challenging the global drugs industry with plans to invest SFr500m (\$510m) over the next decade to support the creation of a standalone health science business to tackle obesity and chronic disease. The Swiss food group appointed Luis Cantarell, one of its most experienced executives, to "pioneer a new industry between food and pharma" that will develop products to combat diabetes, heart problems and Alzheimer's. The decision reflects a trend among food and pharmaceutical groups that are converging around high-margin non-prescription health products, for both humans and animals.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/dfa59814-ca04-11df-87b8-00144feab49a.html>

Bright Food in Talks to Buy United Biscuits, *Financial Times, September 26*

Bright Food, the Chinese food group, is in exclusive talks to buy United Biscuits in a deal that would value the maker of Jaffa Cakes and Hula Hoops crisps at almost £2.5bn including debt.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fa6ac89c-c99e-11df-b3d6-00144feab49a.html>

Ethanol Backers Cite Need for Wider U.S. Support, *Reuters, September 24*

Ethanol industry leaders said federal action is crucial to the industry's future, and they urged U.S. regulators and lawmakers to move forward with proposed increased blending levels as well as greater investment in broad biofuel infrastructure improvements.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE68N2CI20100924>

Agribusiness Centre Opens in Murang'a County, Kenya, Alliance for a Green Revolution, September 12

Banana farmers in Sabasaba, Central Kenya, officially opened an Agribusiness Centre in Murang'a Country to make it easier, faster and better for buying and selling tissue culture bananas and other farm produce. The Sabasaba Agribusiness Centre is made possible through a partnership between The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Kenya (AGRA) and TechnoServe.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1205>

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank