

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



September 25<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

**PLEASE NOTE – THE SPECIAL EDITION OF GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT THAT WAS RELEASED SEPTEMBER 29<sup>th</sup> IS ATTACHED AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A .PDF AT [WWW.THECHICAGOCOUNCIL.ORG/GLOBALAGDEVELOPMENT](http://WWW.THECHICAGOCOUNCIL.ORG/GLOBALAGDEVELOPMENT). THE BRIEF INCLUDES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE RELEASE OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S GLOBAL HUNGER AND FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL COVERAGE AND DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST FROM RECENT MAJOR EVENTS ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.**

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### KEY ARTICLES

**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>

**Food for thought**, *Per Pinstrup-Andersen (Professor, Cornell and Copenhagen Universities, Member of the Leaders Group of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Project on Global Agricultural Development), Barbara Stocking (Chief Executive, Oxfam), and Kanayo Nwanze (President, International Fund for Agriculture Development), Science & Technology, Issue 4, September 2009*

Food security is an issue likely to be prominent for many years to come. Despite \$20bn being pledged in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, deep concerns – compounded by the impacts of the global economic downturn on developing countries – remain regarding international efforts to support the world's poor.  
[http://www.publicservice.co.uk/article.asp?publication=Science%20and%20Technology&id=397&content\\_name=Special%20focus:%20the%20global%20food%20crisis&article=12673](http://www.publicservice.co.uk/article.asp?publication=Science%20and%20Technology&id=397&content_name=Special%20focus:%20the%20global%20food%20crisis&article=12673)

**Prospects Good for Africa Agriculture**, *VOA News, September 28*

After decades of decline, sub-Saharan Africa's agricultural sector grew more than three and a half percent last year. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says nearly all the growth was due to smaller farms. The FAO calls the improvement "a break with the past" and says the outlook for the agricultural sector is "improving."

<http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-09-28-voa24.cfm>

*See Also: 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](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues_papers/HLEF2050_Africa.pdf)

**To feed a need**, *Financial Times, October 1*

The problems in India's rural sector are well documented. About 72 per cent of the country's 1.14bn people live in rural areas, yet agriculture produces only about 21 per cent of gross domestic product. Small and marginal farmers, those with two hectares (five acres) of land or less, comprise three-quarters of the nation's farming households but own less than one-quarter of its farmland. In the poorest states, such as Bihar, small and marginal farmers comprise about 96 per cent of those working the land, industry experts say.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f9d61a3a-aebf-11de-96d7-00144feabdc0.html>

**Are investors missing out on sub-Sahara Africa?**, *Alonzo Fulgham (acting administrator, USAID), Op-Ed, Christian Science Monitor, September 29*

Normally, by the time an investment tip makes its way into a newspaper, conventional wisdom says the money is already off the table. Not so in the case of sub-Saharan Africa. American investors and companies are overlooking an investment opportunity in plain sight. And the smart money will climb aboard before the economic tide rises. The rest will miss a fast-moving boat. The territory in most business sectors is wide-open. Prime areas include agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, information technology, tourism, telecommunications, and textiles.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0929/p09s01-coop.html>

**Farmland and climate change: Seasonally adjusted**, *Economist, October 1*

Since time immemorial, farmers have planted their crops according to the seasons. "That is what my forefathers have been doing," says Mohammad Ilisasuddin in Shibganj, in northern Bangladesh, but now "the weather does not seem right for what we have done traditionally." Seasonal planting is "useless", agrees Florence Madamu, a smallholder in Bulirehe, in western Uganda. "The sun is prolonged until the end of September and whenever it rains, it rains so heavily it destroys all our crops."

[http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14540051](http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14540051)

**After the Crisis?**, *Robert B. Zoellick (President, The World Bank), Speech at The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University, September 28*

Over time, Africa can also become a pole of growth. The messages I hear in most African countries are the same: Africans want energy, infrastructure, more productive agriculture, a dynamic private sector, and regionally integrated markets linked to open trade. The Doha Round could cut, discipline, and even eliminate some agricultural subsidies that for years were left outside the rules-based trading system. It could modestly open markets for manufacturing and agricultural goods in developed and major developing economies.

<http://go.worldbank.org/P9KRU4CZ00>

*See Also: Zoellick - World Bank faces financing constraints, Reuters, September 29*

World Bank President Robert Zoellick warned the poverty-fighting institution could face serious financing constraints by the middle of next year if lending to developing countries continues at its current record pace.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN29142221>

**America has passed on the baton**, *Jeffrey Sachs, Op-Ed, Financial Times, September 29*

We are not out of the woods, of course, a point emphasised by every speaker at the G20 summit. It is not only because the small number of rejectionist nations poses real threats to the world, as do a larger number of states imploding under extreme poverty, hunger and environmental shocks. It is also because every G20 country is burdened by political institutions poorly designed for 21st-century problems and each is being overtaken by events: energy scarcity, financial systems out of control, food scarcity, water shortage, climate shocks, gaping budget deficits and more.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4bee5524-ad28-11de-9caf-00144feabdc0.html>

*See Also: Sachs on the Fight Against World Hunger, The Daily Beast, September 21*

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2009-09-21/sachs-on-the-fight-against-world-hunger/>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Remarks at the Corporate Council on Africa's Seventh Biennial U.S.-Africa Business Summit**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, October 1*

It is time to recognize too that the reform of the agricultural sector is essential to Africa's future growth and prosperity, and that investing in people, especially women, will enable Africa to move much more quickly toward the kind of sustainable future that we all are hoping for. Revitalizing and modernizing the agricultural sector in Africa is a smart investment for all of us to make, and I invite those of you who have any involvement in agriculture to work with us, to work with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program that provides such a good model.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/10/130182.htm>

**PEPFAR, USAID and General Mills Partner to Improve Food Processing in Africa**, *U.S. Department of State, September 28*

This partnership will improve the capacity of small and medium-sized food businesses across sub-Saharan Africa to produce healthy, fortified food products. The partnership will link the technical and business expertise of General Mills and up to nine additional food companies with up to 200 small and medium-sized mills and food processors in 15 sub-Saharan African countries. The long-term vision shared by General Mills and the U.S. Government is for the partnership is to engage multiple food companies and food industry-related associations to provide similar expertise to processors in Africa.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/sept/129689.htm>

**U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal S. Wolin remarks to the Corporate Council on Africa's U.S.-Africa Business Summit**, *September 30*

For most of Africa's poor, farming is the only source of income and the only path out of poverty. Yet the obstacles that small-hold farmers face are significant: limited access to quality seeds and fertilizer, little or no access to credit or insurance, poor irrigation infrastructure, difficulty in transporting crops from the farm to market for lack of roads. Maximizing Africa's agricultural potential, however – waging Africa's own green revolution – will require a new approach that is based on the full commitment of African nations. It will

require both the focused dedication of fiscal resources and the implementation of policy reforms to address the full range of challenges farmers face.

[http://www.isria.com/pages/30\\_September\\_2009\\_208.php](http://www.isria.com/pages/30_September_2009_208.php)

See Also: **US Says Ready To Aid Crisis-Hit Africa, But Seeking Progress**, *Nasdaq*, September 30

[http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-](http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=200909301004dowjonesdjonline000482&title=us-says-ready-to-aid-crisis-hit-africabut-seeking-progress)

[story.aspx?storyid=200909301004dowjonesdjonline000482&title=us-says-ready-to-aid-crisis-hit-africabut-seeking-progress](http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=200909301004dowjonesdjonline000482&title=us-says-ready-to-aid-crisis-hit-africabut-seeking-progress)

**Fighting chronic hunger: The time is now for global food security**, *Blake A. Selzer (Senior Policy Advocate, CARE), The Hill's Congress Blog*, September 29

More than one billion people – one sixth of the world's population -- suffer from chronic hunger. We have the means to slash that shameful figure. The question is do we have the political will?

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/60681-fighting-chronic-hunger-the-time-is-now-for-global-food-security>

**Senators Unveil Draft Climate Bill**, *Wall Street Journal*, September 30

Two Senate Democrats Wednesday unveiled climate legislation that aims to drastically cut greenhouse-gas emissions beginning in 2012, starting an effort that threatens to divide the party amid opposition from coal, manufacturing and oil interests. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry outlined the measure, which would cut emissions from 2005 levels 20% by 2020 and more than 80% by 2050.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125432784392453017.html>

Summary of Bill: <http://kerry.senate.gov/cleanenergyjobsandamericanpower/pdf/Summary.pdf>

See Also: **Senate climate bill leaves out ag wishes**, *Des Moines Register*, September 30

A climate bill introduced in the Senate today lacks many of the provisions sought by farm groups to ensure that growers could get paid for carbon-storing practices, such as reduced tillage.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090930/BUSINESS01/90930045/1029/BUSINESS>

See Also: **So How Does The Senate Climate Bill Stack Up To The House Version?**, *The New Republic (Vine Blog)*, September 30

<http://www.tnr.com/blog/the-vine/side-side-the-senate-climate-bill-vs-the-house-bill>

**Value of climate credits, foreign ownership concern U.S. farmers**, *Des Moines Register*, September 27

Farmers believe they can play a part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but they want money for what they do. That demand is proving to be tough for Congress to do.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090927/BUSINESS03/909270332/1029/BUSINESS>

**CIA opens center for climate change**, *United Press International*, September 28

The Central Intelligence Agency announced plans to launch a center on climate change to examine the potential security risks of environmental issues. The CIA said it was working on its new Center on Climate Change and National Security to examine the national security impact of environmental issues such as population shifts, rising sea levels and increased competition for natural resources.

[http://www.upi.com/Security\\_Industry/2009/09/28/CIA-opens-center-for-climate-change/UPI-43451254151268/](http://www.upi.com/Security_Industry/2009/09/28/CIA-opens-center-for-climate-change/UPI-43451254151268/)

**Industry Leaders Create Microfinance Investing Standards**, *Wall Street Journal*, September 25

As the microfinance industry becomes more sophisticated and thus more complex, the need for metrics, transparency and regulation are becoming clearer to industry leaders in order to scale and continue the programs. Amidst a boom of for-profit investment opportunities to address social and environmental problems, industry leaders including J.P. Morgan Chase, Prudential Financial Inc., Citigroup, and Deutsche Bank announced a new coalition to create reporting and investing standards. Joined by the Rockefeller Foundation and USAID, the private-public partnership announced the Global Impacting Investing Network, or GIIN, at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090925-706582.html>

See Also: **'Microland' For The Poor**, *Forbes*, September 29

A lot of big ideas sweep through the foreign aid community. Microcredit--the practice of extending tiny loans to the poor to kickstart entrepreneurship--has been considered a boon in alleviating poverty.

<http://www.forbes.com/2009/09/28/cgi-microland-rural-development-institute-opinions-columnists-elisabeth-eaves.html>

**President Obama Announces Intent to Nominate Daniel W. Yohannes as Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, *The White House, September 18***

Daniel W. Yohannes is President and CEO of M&R Investments, LLC, a privately-held investment firm specializing in real estate, financial institutions and the green energy sector. Previously, he served as Vice Chairman of U.S. Bank for the Commercial Banking Group, Consumer Banking Group and as Head of Integration for Community and Public Affairs. In this role, his responsibilities included leading the integration of U.S. Bank and Firststar, which resulted in the 6th largest bank in the country. From 1992 to 1999, Yohannes was President and CEO of U.S. Bank (formerly Colorado National Bank), where he grew the Colorado franchise from \$2 billion to \$9 billion in assets. From 1977 to 1992, he worked at Security Pacific Bank (now Bank of America), where he held a number of leadership roles. Yohannes is on the Board of the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center, the Denver Art Museum, the University of Colorado Medical School and Project C.U.R.E., which provides medical supplies to 110 countries. Yohannes holds a B.S. in Economics from Claremont McKenna College and a M.B.A. from Pepperdine University.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-9/18/09/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-9/18/09/)

**Hearing to review the implementation of the research title of the 2008 Farm Bill, *Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research, September 30***

Rajiv Shah, Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture:

<http://agriculture.house.gov/testimony/111/h093009/Shah.pdf>

D.C. Coston, Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension, North Dakota State University, on behalf of The Board on Agriculture Assembly, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities:

<http://agriculture.house.gov/testimony/111/h093009/Coston.pdf>

Mr. Joseph H. Layton, Jr., soybean, corn, and grape producer, on behalf of National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research: <http://agriculture.house.gov/testimony/111/h093009/Layton.pdf>

*See Also: USDA agricultural research ripe for overhaul: Shah, Reuters, September 30*

The U.S. Agriculture Department could get better results from its agricultural research spending if it focused on a narrower list of priorities, Rajiv Shah, the USDA's top research official, said. Shah, who led research at the Gates Foundation before the Obama administration named him to his USDA post, said he will use his role as "Chief Scientist" to focus resources around priority areas, seeking breakthroughs in food safety, food security, climate change, biofuels and human nutrition.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN3021583420090930?sp=true>

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## **NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS**

**Climate change: Impact on agriculture and costs of adaptation, *International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009***

This Food Policy Report presents research results that quantify the impacts of climate-change, assesses the consequences for food security, and estimates the investments that would offset the negative consequences for human well-being. This analysis brings together, for the first time, detailed modeling of crop growth under climate change with insights from an extremely detailed global agriculture model, using two climate scenarios to simulate future climate. The results of the analysis suggest that agriculture and human well-being will be negatively affected by climate change.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/pr21.pdf>

*See Also: Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture - Factsheet on Sub-Saharan Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009*

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/20090930fssa.pdf>

See Also: **Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture - Factsheet on Asia**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009*

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/20090930fsasia.pdf>

See Also: **Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture - Factsheet on Middle East and North Africa**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009*

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/20090930fsla.pdf>

See Also: **Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture - Factsheet on Latin America and the Caribbean**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009*

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/20090930fsla.pdf>

### **International Food Assistance: USAID Is Taking Actions to Improve Monitoring and Evaluation of Nonemergency Food Aid, but Weaknesses in Planning Could Impede Efforts**, *U.S. Government Accountability Office, September 2009*

*Accountability Office, September 2009*

In passing the Food for Peace Act in 2008, Congress authorized up to \$22 million annually for fiscal years 2009 to 2012 to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to improve, monitor, and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of nonemergency food aid programs. Through analysis of agency documents; interviews with agency officials, experts, and partners; and visits to Bangladesh and Haiti, this mandated report reviews (1) USAID's plans and actions to improve its monitoring and evaluation of nonemergency food aid programs and (2) the extent to which USAID has integrated its monitoring and evaluation of nonemergency food aid with program management.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d09980high.pdf>

Full Report: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09980.pdf>

### **Climate change and bioenergy challenges for food and agriculture**, *Expert Brief, Meeting on How to Feed the World in 2050, FAO, September 2009*

Agriculture both affects and is affected by climate change. No other sector is more climate-sensitive.

Agricultural and food production in developing countries will be adversely affected by climate change, especially in countries that are already climate-vulnerable, and that have low incomes and high incidence of hunger and poverty. Adaptation of the agriculture sector to climate change will be costly but necessary for food security, poverty reduction and maintenance of ecosystem services. Reduction and removal of greenhouse gases from agriculture will also be necessary, if global mitigation efforts are to be successful.

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues\\_papers/HLEF2050\\_Climate.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues_papers/HLEF2050_Climate.pdf)

### **Harnessing Agriculture for Development**, *Oxfam, October 2009*

This report reflects Oxfam's emphasis on the role of sustainable livelihoods in rural areas, particularly agriculture, in reducing poverty and inequality. It also analyses the main challenges we face in the 21st century: identifying which actors have the power to promote the necessary political changes and setting out the elements of a political agenda able to strengthen an agricultural sector made up of millions of small farmers from around the world.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/trade/downloads/research\\_harnessing%20agriculture\\_250909.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/trade/downloads/research_harnessing%20agriculture_250909.pdf)

### **Non-distorting support measures to farmers**, *Expert Brief, Meeting on How to Feed the World in 2050, FAO, September 2009*

The recent world food crisis highlighted the critical issue of food security, the fragility of the global food system and the need to expand agricultural production capacity in both the developed and developing countries to meet current and future food demands. A key issue is how to shape and design support to farmers in both the developed and developing world while minimizing 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, especially smaller ones, in low-income food-deficit countries.

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues\\_papers/HLEF2050\\_Trade.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/Issues_papers/HLEF2050_Trade.pdf)

**Climate Change and Impacts on Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific**, *Asian Development Bank, September 2009*

The ADB-sponsored agriculture sector study, carried out by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), uses predictions of global climate models to develop scenarios to 2050 for Asia and to derive implications for food security. The study recommends cost-effective adaptation responses that could build greater climate resilience into the agriculture sector in Asia and the Pacific.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Building-Climate-Resilience-Agriculture-Sector/Building-Climate-Resilience-Agriculture-Sector.pdf>

*See Also: Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank, September 2009*

The draft study discusses how climate change is likely to influence population displacement, migration and settlement patterns and examines how this will impact development in five sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Climate-Change-Migration/Climate-Change-Migration.pdf>

**The Costs to Developing Countries of Adapting to Climate Change: New Methods and Estimates**, *The Global Report of the Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change Study, Consultation Draft, World Bank, September 2009*

The World Bank is working with seven pilot countries—Bangladesh, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Samoa and Vietnam on a new study—the Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change. The study is funded by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Netherlands, and Switzerland and will help inform the international community's efforts to provide new and additional resources to developing countries through a better understanding of the global costs of adapting to climate change.

*Full Report:* <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCC/Resources/EACCReport0928Final.pdf>

*Exec. Summary:* <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCC/Resources/EACCExecutiveSummaryFinal.pdf>

*See Also: World Bank Forecasts \$100 Billion Annual Climate Cost, Bloomberg, September 30*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601130&sid=auGuETV2KCGc>

**Women's participation in agricultural research and higher education key trends in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, October 2009*

Female farmers play a vital role in African agriculture, accounting for 60 to 80 percent of the agricultural workforce. However, agricultural research and higher education are disproportionately led by men. There is an urgent need for a greater representation of women in the field of agricultural science and technology (S&T) in Sub-Saharan Africa. Female scientists, professors, and senior managers offer different insights and perspectives to help research institutes to more fully address the unique and pressing challenges of both female and male farmers in the region.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/asti-award-brief-1.pdf>

**Aid for trade facilitation**, *World Bank, September 2009*

Does foreign aid spent on trade facilitation increase trade flows of developing countries? There is an on-going and high profile discussion of aid-for-trade associated with the Doha negotiations of the World Trade Organization. There continue also questions about how best to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The analysis in this paper explicitly considers how to target aid most effectively to increase trade a fundamental question related to the crisis and policy debate over restarting the world trading system.

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/09/28/000158349\\_20090928110357/Rendered/PDF/WPS5064.pdf](http://wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/09/28/000158349_20090928110357/Rendered/PDF/WPS5064.pdf)

**Women and Rural Employment: Fighting Poverty by Redefining Gender Roles**, *Policy Brief, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, August 2009*

About three quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas. Among those, women constitute a particularly vulnerable, yet crucially important group for social and economic development. Investing in rural women is thus not only a moral imperative; it can also be a promising strategy to effectively fight poverty and hunger.

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/ak485e/ak485e00.pdf>

**Greenhouse gas mitigation: Issues for Indian agriculture**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, September 2009*

By some estimates, agricultural practices account for 20 percent of India's total greenhouse gas (GSG) emissions; thus, cost-effective reductions in agricultural emissions could significantly lower India's overall emissions. They find great opportunities for cost-effective mitigation of GHGs in Indian agriculture.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00900.pdf>

**World Economic Outlook: Sustaining the Recovery**, *International Monetary Fund, October 2009*

The World Economic Outlook (WEO) presents the IMF staff's analysis and projections of economic developments at the global level, in major country groups (classified by region, stage of development, etc.), and in many individual countries. It focuses on major economic policy issues as well as on the analysis of economic developments and prospects.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2009/02/pdf/text.pdf>

*See Also: Country and Regional Perspectives, World Economic Outlook, International Monetary Fund, October 2009*

Growth in Africa has slowed significantly as a result of the collapse of global trade and disruptions in global financial markets, but growth is expected to regain momentum as the global recovery gets under way.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2009/02/pdf/c2.pdf>

**Infrastructure for a Seamless Asia**, *Asian Development Bank, September 2009*

In view of Asia's enormous untapped economic potential and the ongoing global economic and financial crisis, the challenge now is to build efficient and seamless connections across Asia and thus to the rest of the world for a more competitive, prosperous, and integrated region. The key message of the book is that now is the time to forge ahead with the goal of integrating this vast and diverse region—for the benefit of all its citizens and for a lasting and shared prosperity—through building pan-Asia infrastructure connectivity.

<http://www.adbi.org/files/2009.08.31.book.infrastructure.seamless.asia.pdf>

**Scenarios and Challenges for Feeding the World in 2050**, *Summary Report, Agrimonde, June 2009*

Research on the world's agricultural production and food, as regards its approach to the objective of sustainable development, has become the subject of countless studies and debates. It is one of the fields in which positions and even ideologies enter into conflict and emerge in the geopolitical arena. Issues of international regulations for the management of public goods and international trade are concerned, as are conceptions of the science-society nexus, of progress, and ultimately of the future of our planet.

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert\\_paper/Inra\\_Cirad\\_2009 -  
Agrimonde Summary Report draft .pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/docs/expert_paper/Inra_Cirad_2009_-_Agrimonde_Summary_Report_draft.pdf)

**The complementarity of MDG achievements : the case of child mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *The World Bank, September 2009*

This paper analyzes complementarities between different Millennium Development Goals, focusing on child mortality and how it is influenced by progress in the other goals, in particular two goals related to the expansion of female education: universal primary education and gender equality in education.

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/09/23/000158349\\_2009092313  
4848/Rendered/PDF/WPS5062.pdf](http://wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/09/23/000158349_20090923134848/Rendered/PDF/WPS5062.pdf)

**Behind the Curve: Corrupt governments cash in on the Millennium Challenge Corporation's outdated metrics**, *J. Peter Pham, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Fall 2009*

This failure of foreign aid suggests that simply increasing assistance levels will not necessarily buy more development.

[http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/behind\\_the\\_curve/](http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/behind_the_curve/)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **UN General Assembly Meeting**

*Date:* September 23-30, 2009

*Location:* New York, NY

President Obama scheduled to address the assembly on September 23.

For a preliminary outline of agenda items, see

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/50](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/50)

For the Assembly's "Resolution on Agriculture and Food Security," developed March 17, 2009, see

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/484/89/PDF/N0848489.pdf?OpenElement>

### **7th Biennial U.S.-Africa Business Summit: Realizing the Investment Power of Africa**

*Date:* September 29 – October 1, 2009

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

In addition to an agribusiness plenary, participants will have the opportunity to attend more than 50 industry-specific sessions and workshops on other promising sectors in Africa, including infrastructure, natural resources, health, financing, power, social responsibility and tourism.

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=a83433d4-f64f-4adb-aeda-0525c94ca0eb>

### **Agriculture for Development and Food Security in the Americas**

*Date:* October 1, 2009

*Location:* Washington, DC

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Organization of American States (OAS) are organizing a high level Food Security Conference on food security in the Americas. The conference will be an opportunity to follow up on the agreements reached at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, in advance of the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life, to be held in Jamaica (October 25-31).

*See Also: OAS and Agriculture Institute support investment to guarantee food security, Caribbean Net News, October 2*

<http://www.caribbeanetnews.com/news-19108--38-38--.html>

### **Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change in the Developing World: What will it Cost?**

*Date:* October 5, 2009

*Location:* International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/agricultural-adaptation-climate-change-developing-world-what-will-it-cost>

### **Annual Meeting of the World Bank and IMF**

*Date:* October 6-7, 2009

*Location:* Istanbul, Turkey

<http://www.imf.org/external/am/2009/schedule.htm>

### **How to Feed the World in 2050 High-Level Expert Forum**

*Date:* October 12-13, 2009

*Location:* Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/wsfs/forum2050/about-the-forum/en/>

### **2009 World Food Prize and "Borlaug Dialogue" Symposium: Food, Agriculture, and National Security**

***Date:* October 14-16, 2009**

***Location:* Des Moines, IA**

The formal awarding of the \$250,000 World Food Prize will be the cornerstone of a week-long series of events that will attract several hundred government officials and policymakers, private-sector and agribusiness executives, academics and scientists, and NGO and development-agency leaders from over 65 countries. The "conversations" of the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium will this year focus on the connection between food and agriculture and national and international security and cooperation, with speakers including renowned global CEOs, agricultural ministers and diplomats, noted intelligence and security experts, and other eminent leaders in agricultural and rural development.

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:** [Bill Gates](#) (Co-Chair, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation); [Tom Vilsack](#) (Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture); [Alonzo Fulgham](#) (Acting Administrator, United States Agency for International Development); [Indra Nooyi](#) (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, PepsiCo); [Patricia Woertz](#) (Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Archer Daniels Midland Company); [Jeffrey Sachs](#) (Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University); [Namanga Ngongi](#) (President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa); [Joachim von Braun](#) (Director General, The International Food Policy Research Institute); [Catherine Bertini](#) (Professor, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University; 2003 World Food Prize Laureate); [Per Pinstrup-Andersen](#) (H.E. Babcock Professor of Food, Nutrition and Public Policy, Cornell University; 2001 World Food Prize Laureate); [Richard Williamson](#) (Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP; Former U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan)  
*Agenda:* <http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009/agenda.htm>  
*Register Now:* <http://www.worldfoodprize.org/Registration/2009/09Registration.htm>  
*Speaker's Biographies:* <http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009/speakers.htm>

### **FAO Summit on Food Security**

*Date:* November 16-18, 2009

*Location:* Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/29219/icode/>

### **CABI Global Summit: Food security in a climate of change**

*Date:* October 19-21, 2009

*Location:* London, UK

The CABI Global Summit will bring together environment and agriculture ministers and other senior government officials from around the world. Also attending will be major funding organizations and representatives from international development and corporate organizations. Together, they will consider policies, practices and technologies that can help improve food security against this background of change. [https://www.cabiglobalsummit.com/delegate\\_landing.aspx](https://www.cabiglobalsummit.com/delegate_landing.aspx) (registration available)

### **London Business Conferences hosts 3rd Sustainable Agriculture Summit**

*Date:* November 30-December 1, 2009

*Location:* London, UK

<http://www.carbonoffsetsdaily.com/uk-carbonmarketnews/farmers-groups-join-london-sustainable-agriculture-summit-november-2009-12122.htm> (registration available)

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### **Zimbabwe farm violence worsening - farmers union, Reuters, Septmeber 30**

Violence on Zimbabwe's farms, which were once the country's economic mainstay, is worsening and farmers are taking "an even bigger hiding" than before, the country's Commercial Farmers Union said. Disruptions to farming were still enormous, possibly denting hopes that the country would kickstart its agriculture sector and end years of hunger and falling output.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSLU213069.CH.2400>

*See Also: World Bank injects \$74 mln into Zimbabwe's agriculture, Agence-France Presse, September 30*

The World Bank announced a 74-million-dollar grant to revive Zimbabwe's agriculture sector.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gHDuMWIa92i1V3J6okgSjFWQx5kQ>

### **East Africa hit by hunger crisis, Financial Times, September 29**

More than 23m people across east Africa are facing severe hunger amid the worst humanitarian crisis in the region for 10 years, as aid agencies struggle to raise the funds to feed them. A prolonged drought has caused widespread crop failures, killed thousands of cattle and kept food prices high, leaving much of the population struggling to survive in the driest regions of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/eac29728-ac60-11de-a754-00144feabdc0.html>

*See Also: East Africa drought in fifth year, millions hungry, Reuters, September 29*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSLT082635.CH.2400>

**Africa needs to harmonise GM laws says industry**, *Reuters, September 29*

Africa should put aside national interests as the continent moves to harmonise GM laws to boost food security, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) said. The world's poorest continent, where agriculture contributes up to a quarter of GDP in some countries and is an important source of foreign revenue, is increasingly turning to genetically modified crops to bolster food supplies.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE58S0IK20090929>

**Global food security plans too narrow – analyst**, *Reuters, September 29*

Global plans to reduce hunger by boosting food production are too narrowly focused on farming without considering how to slow population growth or halt climate change, long-time environmental analyst Lester Brown said.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE58S5ID20090929>

**Agricultural Prices**, *National Agricultural Statistics Service, September 2009*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/AgriPric/2000s/2009/AgriPric-09-29-2009.pdf>

*See Also: Wheat Heads for Longest Drop in 50 Years on Ample Global Supply*, *Bloomberg, September 30*

Wheat is headed for the sixth quarterly drop, the longest losing streak in at least five decades, on speculation global supply will exceed demand as output grows in major exporters and imports decline.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=ar0AUeh6tQQo>

*See Also: Corn Gains to Highest in Almost Two Weeks as U.S. Harvest Lags*, *Bloomberg, September 29*

Corn advanced to the highest for almost two weeks as the U.S. harvest fell behind the pace of recent years because planting delays in May and below-normal temperatures in July and August slowed crop development.

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aEVPtfAax\\_vl](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aEVPtfAax_vl)

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**New African-European Partnership Launched to Strengthen Parliamentary Action in Support of African Agricultural Development**, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, October 2*

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) announced a new partnership to support African parliamentarians as they promote policies to help smallholder farmers make the transition from subsistence to market-oriented agriculture, a change that will require a comprehensive transformation of Africa's agricultural system.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1016>

*See Also: Mobilising Parliamentary Action towards Agriculture, Food Security and Development in Africa*, *Speech by Dr. Akinwumi Adesina (Vice President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa), October 2*

But while we have come a long way as a continent, the journey ahead is daunting still. Today, more than 200 million Africans go hungry every day. More than 33 million children are undernourished. And the hungriest of all are the families of our farmers.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1018>

**China's eye on African agriculture**, *Asia Times, October 1*

The latest iteration of the Sino-African relationship involves China's burgeoning interest in African agricultural resources. While some commentators have already labeled China's agricultural investment in Africa as self-serving, Chinese leaders are adamant that their actions are being misrepresented. Is China's investment in African agriculture primarily self-interested? In order to better determine the nature and intention of China's food policy in Africa, it is necessary to examine the details and context of China's agricultural investment in Africa thus far.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China\\_Business/KJ02Cb01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China_Business/KJ02Cb01.html)

**Are Development Dollars in Pakistan Being Well Spent?**, *TIME*, October 1

Under legislation approved by the Senate last week and by the House on Wednesday, Pakistan can expect to receive \$1.5 billion of non-military (or civilian) aid for each of the next five years, which triples previous levels and will roughly balance out the amount of military aid the U.S. gives to Pakistan. But getting the money is only half the battle; how well it works — and whether it helps to change strong anti-American sentiment — depends on getting it to the right people and projects on the ground.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1927018,00.html>

*See Also: Forward in Pakistan*, Editorial, *Washington Post*, September 29

The new civilian aid program, passed by the Senate last week, would provide \$1.5 billion for education, energy and other development programs for the next five years. As much as feasible, the administration must direct this aid to specific projects, rather than simply dump it into the Pakistani government's coffers.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/28/AR2009092803063.html>

*See Also: State Dept. rethinks how to deliver aid to Pakistan*, *USA Today*, October 2

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-10-01-pakistan-aid\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-10-01-pakistan-aid_N.htm)

**U.S. Delays Somalia Aid, Fearing It Is Feeding Terrorists**, *New York Times*, October 1

The official emphasized that the delays had not caused any interruptions in food aid delivery, something United Nation officials confirmed, though they said the uninterrupted flow of emergency food into Somalia was possible only because of leftovers from last year's budget and agencies' borrowing from themselves until new money comes in. The State Department also says that it plans to resume full shipments and that the delayed aid will be distributed soon.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/02/world/africa/02somalia.html>

**Growing Power will take ideas to Africa**, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, September 30

A global action group founded by former President Bill Clinton has committed to helping a nonprofit Milwaukee urban farm raise \$1.9 million to build a model for a local food system in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/62766677.html>

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**ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)**

**When Things Hot Up**, Editorial, *Times of India*, September 29

Energy security, food security, water security, habitat security and health security will all be affected directly by climate change. Hence the response to geopolitical challenges arising from climate change should be folded into a broader strategic framework that addresses the core issue of how to cope with the impact of climate change on people's well-being and development prospects.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/opinion/edit-page/Top-Article-When-Things-Hot-Up/articleshow/5065540.cms>

**Third World population controls won't save climate, study claims**, *Guardian (U.K.)*, September 29

The population explosion in poor countries will contribute little to climate change and is a dangerous distraction from the main problem of over-consumption in rich nations, a study by the International Institute for Environment and Development has found. The study concludes that spending billions of pounds of aid on contraception in the developing world will not benefit the climate because poor countries have such low emissions.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6852853.ece>

*See Also: The implications of population growth and urbanization for climate change*, David Satterthwaite, *Environment and Urbanization* 21 (2)

<http://eau.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/21/2/545>

**So Shall You Reap**, *Newsweek*, September 25

You might think a little global warming is good for farming. Longer, warmer growing seasons and more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)—what plant wouldn't love that? The agricultural industry basically takes that stance. But global warming's effects on agriculture would actually be quite complicated—and mostly not for the better.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/216175/output/print>

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## WOMEN

**Climate change to hit Asia's rural women most: ADB**, *Business Standard (India)*, September 30

Rural women from developing nations in Asia will be among those most affected by climate change which poses fundamental threats to the region's food and energy security, according to studies funded by the Asian Development Bank.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/climate-change-to-hit-asia/s-poor-people-rural-women-most-ADB/74638/on>

*See Also: Climate Change and Impacts on Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank, September 2009*

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Building-Climate-Resilience-Agriculture-Sector/Building-Climate-Resilience-Agriculture-Sector.pdf>

**Women's Rights in Developing World Receive New Focus**, *VOA News*, September 25

Women's issues are moving towards center stage in the global campaign to end poverty around the world. This week, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and U.S. President Barack Obama spoke of the need to provide greater assistance to women in the poorest areas of the world, while last week the United Nations created a new super agency to tackle women's social and economic plight.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-09-25-voa29.cfm>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**Food security deals alarm ex-WTO head**, *Gulf Times*, September 30

Rich nations are practising a modern form of colonialism by acquiring farmland in poorer countries in a quest to guarantee their food security, said the former director-general of the World Trade Organisation. "It is a new elephant in the room," said Mike Moore, who was also prime minister of New Zealand in 1990. "I think it is the wrong policy because I don't think food security will be guaranteed in the future because you own colonies overseas. The English found that out with sugar."

[http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=317405&version=1&template\\_id=36&parent\\_id=16](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=317405&version=1&template_id=36&parent_id=16)

**WTO's Lamy: give Doha negotiators more flexibility**, *Reuters*, September 29

G20 leaders must give their negotiators more flexibility to let them reach a global trade deal and conclude the long-running Doha round, the head of the World Trade Organisation said. Renewed promises by leaders from the Group of 20 major economies at their Pittsburgh summit to reach a deal were not enough, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said. "It is now incumbent upon them to 'walk the talk'," he told the WTO's public forum.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idINIndia-42758720090929>

*See Also: G20 leaders pledge quick action on Doha deal: draft, Reuters, September 25*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-G20Pittsburgh/idUSTRE58074R20090925>

**Dialing for Answers Where Web Can't Reach**, *New York Times*, September 27

In remote areas of Africa, Question Box answers callers' questions about crop prices, planting techniques or the best soccer team.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/28/technology/internet/28village.html>

**Mobile marvels**, *Economist*, September 24

In poor countries data services such as mobile-phone-based agricultural advice, health care and money transfer could provide enormous economic and developmental benefits. Beyond that, mobile networks and low-cost computing devices are poised to offer the benefits of full internet access to people in the developing world in the coming years.

[http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14483896](http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14483896)

*See Also: **Eureka moments**, Economist, September 24*

New data services that provide agricultural advice and price information, improve the provision of health care and allow quick and easy money transfers hold out the promise of extending the benefits of mobile phones still further.

[http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14483872](http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14483872)

*See Also: **Beyond voice**, Economist, September 24*

Michael Gizamba, a local village-phone operator, offers to help using Farmer's Friend, an agricultural-information service. He sends a text message to ask for a seasonal weather forecast for the region.

Before long a reply arrives to say that normal, moderate rainfall is expected during July. Mr Makawa decides to plant his tomatoes. There is also Google Trader, a text-based system that matches buyers and sellers of agricultural produce and commodities. Sellers send a message to say where they are and what they have to offer, which will be available to potential buyers within 30km for seven days.

[http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14483848](http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14483848)

*See Also: **Finishing the job**, Economist, September 24*

Obstacles remain even to universal mobile access, and beyond that to universal internet access. One problem is a lack of backbone links, particularly to Africa. But a series of new cables is in the works to improve Africa's connectivity with the rest of the world, increasing capacity and reducing the cost of internet access. The first of these, the SEACOM cable, eastern Africa's first modern submarine cable, was completed in July.

[http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14483856](http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14483856)

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**View from the Top: Mike Mack, chief executive of Syngenta**, *Financial Times, October 2*

Question: How is the world going to feed the 9bn people predicted by 2050? Answer: I think we have the means to do this with technology that is either in place right now for farming or in the pipeline. But we have to get a bit more serious about making the necessary trade-offs between reliable and robust trade, for example, versus food self-sufficiency, and so it is going to take governments and a lot of things coming together. But I'm an optimist.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/529a0e9e-aeeb-11de-96d7-00144feabdc0.html>

**Nestle stops buying Mugabe farm milk**, *Associated Press, October 2*

Nestle says it will stop buying milk from Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's wife's farm after facing worldwide boycott threats.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091002/ap\\_on\\_re\\_af/af\\_zimbabwe\\_nestle](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091002/ap_on_re_af/af_zimbabwe_nestle)

**Kraft given deadline for Cadbury bid**, *Financial Times, September 30*

Kraft is under pressure to make a formal takeover bid for Cadbury by November after the UK's Takeover Panel gave it less than six weeks to put an offer on the table or walk away.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/80be67e2-ada2-11de-bb8a-00144feabdc0.html>

**African Leaders Need to Create the Right Climate for Business**, *AllAfrica.com/America.gov, September 29*

Speaking at a luncheon held in his honor on the eve of the Corporate Council on Africa's (CCA's) Seventh Biennial U.S.-Africa Business Summit, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete said now is the time for business to position itself strategically for future opportunities in Africa. Kikwete spelled out five key sectors for business investment across Africa: infrastructure, the lack of which is strangling economic development across the region, he said; agriculture and agribusiness; natural resource development; tourism; and financial services.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200909300795.html>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*