

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



September 2nd – 10th, 2010

Quote of the Week: “Investing in women is also a key pillar of the President’s Feed the Future Initiative, which was developed under Secretary Clinton’s leadership. It is a \$3.5 billion commitment to strengthen the world’s food supply, so farmers can support their families and food can be available more broadly. It focuses on sustainably reducing hunger through greater agriculture productivity and recognizes that most of the world’s food is grown, harvested, stored and prepared by women who comprise the great majority of the world’s small-holder farmers. To that end, it recognizes that women farmers have specific needs for training, access to financial services, markets and decision-making if they are to become more agriculturally productive. In some regions, women produce 70% of food, earn 10% income, and own only 1% of land. The reform of land tenure and property rights, as well as inheritance laws, can help advance women in farming and help to secure the world’s food supply.”— Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State, “[Making the Most of the Millennium Development Goals Summit: Advancing Progress Through the Empowerment of Women and Girls](#),” Remarks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, September 7, 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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CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

[Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

[Environment \(Water/Climate\)](#)

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The importance of global food security, *Editorial, Financial Times, September 5*

A second food crisis in as many years is a wake-up call. At a meeting in the Italian town of L’Aquila last year, the leaders of the G8 pledged to enhance global food security to prevent a repetition of the 2007-08 shortages. Last week’s extension of Russia’s grain ban and eruption of food riots in Mozambique shows how

much needs to be done to meet this goal. Things can be done. Most importantly, there is a need for greater investment in irrigation and other measures to improve land quality as well as crop resilience. Developed countries have focused too much on food aid rather than providing development assistance. The US, for instance, spends 20 times more on the former than the latter in Africa, according to a report last year from the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. This balance needs to change.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/99e85348-b915-11df-99be-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Agriculture: Don't starve thy neighbour, *The Economist*, September 9

The best way for countries to adjust to the shocks and disruption would be for markets to become deeper and more resilient. Instead, they are getting shallower and more vulnerable. Reversing this trend is in everybody's interest. But how?

http://www.economist.com/node/16992151?story_id=16992151

SEE ALSO: The food crisis, *Op-ed, Martin Walker, UPI Editor Emeritus, UPI*, September 7

The deaths of 10 people during food riots in Mozambique last week, combined with Russia's renewed ban on wheat exports and floods that threaten crops in Pakistan, Canada and Argentina, have revived fears of the food shortages that rocked the world two years ago. Welcome to the future. The combination of population growth, richer diets and the erosion of arable land means that there will be pressure on food supplies for decades to come.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Analysis/2010/09/07/Walkers-World-The-food-crisis/UPI-42561283854380/

SEE ALSO: No food crisis seen, but greater market stability needed, *FAO*, September 7

Food commodities markets will remain more volatile in years ahead and the international community will need to develop appropriate ways of dealing with that, a top FAO official said today. Responding to questions concerning the current turbulence on international food markets, Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development, said the G20 could take the lead in devising measures to ensure greater market stability over the medium and long term.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/45178/icode/>

Fears grow over global food supply, *Financial Times*, September 2

Vladimir Putin's announcement extended an export ban first introduced last month until late December 2011, sending wheat and other cereals prices to a near two-year high. It came as the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation called an emergency meeting to discuss the wheat shortage.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/5f6f94ac-b6bc-11df-b3dd-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: U.N. Raises Concerns as Global Food Prices Jump, *New York Times*, September 3

With memories still fresh of food riots set off by spiking prices just two years ago, agricultural experts on Friday cast a wary eye on the steep rise in the cost of wheat prompted by a Russian export ban and the questions looming over harvests in other parts of the world because of drought or flooding.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/04/world/04food.html>

Rising Global Interest in Farmland: Can it yield sustainable and equitable benefits?, *World Bank*, September 2010

There are one billion hungry people worldwide. The food and fuel price spike in mid-2008 and continuing price volatility have underscored the vulnerability of the world's food system to shocks – such as the losses in crop production in the summer of 2010 that prompted Russia to ban wheat exports, leading to an increase in wheat prices of more than 70 percent in five weeks. These price spikes have had a number of repercussions, including a desire by countries dependent on food imports to secure food supplies in the face of uncertainty and market volatility, speculation on land and commodity price increases, and a search for alternative energy sources. These factors have prompted a sharp increase in investor interest in acquiring significant quantities of farmland, water, and forested areas in both developing and emerging countries.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/ESW_Sept7_final_final.pdf

SEE ALSO: World Bank backs investment in global farmland, *Financial Times*, September 7

The World Bank has backed the controversial practice of countries selling large tracts of agricultural land to overseas investors but is urging vendors to demand much more to increase their farming productivity and peoples' livelihoods.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0778c538-baaf-11df-b73d-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: Large Land Deals Threaten Farmers, World Bank Says, Bloomberg, September 7
Foreign purchases of agricultural land from Mozambique to Cambodia pose “significant risks” to the livelihoods of farmers in countries with “weak land governance,” the World Bank said in a report. Large-scale purchases raise “a real concern about the ability of local institutions to protect vulnerable groups from losing land on which they have legitimate, if not formally recognized claims,” according to the report by the Bank’s Agriculture and Rural Development department.
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-09-08/large-land-deals-threaten-farmers-world-bank-says.html>

Toward Sustainable Agricultural Systems in the 21st Century, National Research Council, 2010
In the last 20 years, there has been a remarkable emergence of innovations and technological advances that are generating promising changes and opportunities for sustainable agriculture, yet at the same time the agricultural sector worldwide faces numerous daunting challenges. Not only is the agricultural sector expected to produce adequate food, fiber, and feed, and contribute to biofuels to meet the needs of a rising global population, it is expected to do so under increasingly scarce natural resources and climate change. Growing awareness of the unintended impacts associated with some agricultural production practices has led to heightened societal expectations for improved environmental, community, labor, and animal welfare standards in agriculture.
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12832

Flood-ravaged Pakistan could use a helping hand, Op-ed, James Baker, former U.S. Secretary of State, Houston Chronicle, September 2
We are witnessing a tragedy of epic and frightening proportions that precedes what experts predict will be further human suffering. Four weeks of heavy monsoon rains have produced wave after wave of deadly flood waters from the Indus, Kabul and Swat Rivers and their tributaries. To date the flooding has washed away a million homes and left additional millions homeless, decimated crops, killed countless livestock, and inflicted billions of dollars worth of damage. Meanwhile, the high waters continue to spread.
<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/editorial/outlook/7184342.html>

UN goals to slash poverty, hunger achievable: draft, Reuters, September 10
A set of U.N. goals aimed at drastically reducing poverty and hunger worldwide by 2015 are achievable, despite setbacks caused by the global financial and economic crises, a draft document said. The 27-page draft declaration on the U.N. Millennium Development Goals is expected to be formally adopted at a September 20-22 summit meeting at the United Nations which U.S. President Barack Obama and other world leaders are expected to attend.
<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE68902920100910>

SEE ALSO: UN accord on Millennium Development Goals summit, AFP, September 10
World powers have reached an accord, after weeks of tough talks, on a document to be adopted at a Millennium Development summit this month for which Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is seeking billions of dollars of new funding.
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j8JWCeEZ0xiwt_NnqxLwvBhePQsQ

Roger Thurow Interviews Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Tanzanian Prime Minister Mizengo P. Pinda, Global Food for Thought Blog, September 10
While attending the [African Green Revolution Forum \(AGRF\)](#) in Accra, Ghana, last weekend, Roger Thurow, senior fellow for global agriculture and food policy at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, interviewed Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary General and Chairman of the Board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and Mizengo P. Pinda, Prime Minister of Tanzania, on how to promote investments and policy support for driving agricultural productivity and income growth for African farmers.
<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/09/roger-thurow-interviews-kofi-annan-and-tanzanian-prime-minister.html>

Food Security Efforts Get Boost from International Experts, VOA, September 6
Fifteen experts from around the world have been enlisted to help to help formulate policies to ensure food security and avoid a repeat of the food crisis of a few years ago. They’ll serve as advisors to the Committee on

World Food Security, an inter-governmental body of the United Nations. **Among those named to the High-Level Panel of Experts is Catherine Bertini, former head of the U.N. World Food Program. Bertini, now a professor at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at the University of Syracuse.**

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-food-security-bertini-6sept10-102285294.html>

SEE ALSO: CFS appoints Experts' Steering Committee, *FAO, September 3*

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has appointed 15 world-class experts to form the Steering Committee that will lead its new advisory body, the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE).

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/45086/icode/>

Africa: Leveraging the Crisis into a Development Takeoff, *World Bank, September 2010*

Africa's precrisis growth and poverty reduction was the result of increased external resources, a buoyant global economy and—crucially—improved economic policies. Although it is still the world's poorest region, the prospects for resuming growth are good. Additional resources and further policy reforms could launch the continent on a path of sustained growth and poverty reduction.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP30.pdf>

Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries Are Leading the Way, *Steve Radelet, Senior Advisor on Development in the Office of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Center for Global Development, September 2010*

Since 1995, seventeen African countries have defied expectations and launched a remarkable, if little-noticed, turnaround. These countries are putting behind them the conflict, stagnation, and dictatorships of the past and replacing them with steady economic growth, deepening democracy, improved governance, and decreased poverty. Five fundamental changes are at work: (1) more democratic and accountable governments; (2) more sensible economic policies; (3) the end of the debt crisis and changing relationships with donors; (4) the spread of new technologies; and (5) the emergence of a new generation of policymakers, activists, and business leaders.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424419_file_EmergingAfrica_FINAL.pdf

2009 Annual Report, *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, September 2010*

We have already committed more than \$1.5 billion to programs strengthening agricultural infrastructure and resources in the developing world—from seeds and soil to farm management and market access—so progress against hunger and poverty is sustainable over the long term. “History has shown that almost no country has managed a rapid rise from poverty without increasing its agricultural productivity,” explains Sylvia Mathews Burwell, president of the foundation's Global Development Program. “In sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture represents two-thirds of all employment and about a third of GDP. If prosperity is to grow on the continent, agricultural productivity must grow with it.”

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/annualreport/2009/Documents/bill-and-melinda-gates-foundation-2009-annual-report.pdf>

SEE ALSO: 2009 Annual Report: Letter from Jeff Raikes, *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, September 2010*

I think in terms of the next five years because 2015 will be a landmark year. In 2000, the United Nations took the historic step of setting specific targets in eight areas of global health and development. It called them the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and it gave the world 15 years—until 2015—to meet them. The MDGs set the clearest health and development agenda the world has ever had, and the decade since they were ratified has seen more progress than any other 10-year period in history.

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/annualreport/2009/Pages/letter-from-jeff-raikes.aspx>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Making the Most of the Millennium Development Goals Summit: Advancing Progress Through the Empowerment of Women and Girls, *Remarks by Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, September 7*

“Investing in women is also a key pillar of the President’s Feed the Future Initiative, which was developed under Secretary Clinton’s leadership. It is a \$3.5 billion commitment to strengthen the world’s food supply, so farmers can support their families and food can be available more broadly. It focuses on sustainably reducing hunger through greater agriculture productivity and recognizes that most of the world’s food is grown, harvested, stored and prepared by women who comprise the great majority of the world’s small-holder farmers.”

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2010/146926.htm>

Remarks on United States Foreign Policy, Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, September 8

“When our troops come home, as they are from Iraq and eventually from Afghanistan, we’ll still be involved in diplomatic and development efforts, trying to rid the world of nuclear dangers and turn back climate change, end poverty, quell the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, tackle hunger and disease. That’s the work not of a year or even of a presidency, but of a lifetime. And it is the work of generations.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/09/146917.htm>

SEE ALSO: Secretary Clinton’s CFR Speech Falls Short on Development and Aid Reform, ModernizeAid Blog, September 9

In the Secretary’s 70-minute address, she covered many topics yet was able to devote just 5 minutes to development—illustrating how other responsibilities of the State Department often crowd out attention to development.

<http://www.modernizingforeignassistance.org/blog/2010/09/09/mfan-statement-secretary-clinton%25E2%2580%2599s-cfr-speech-falls-short-on-development-and-aid-reform/>

Straight talk with ... Rajiv Shah, Nature Medicine 16, 941 (2010)

Rajiv Shah was less than a month into his position at the helm of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) when the catastrophic earthquake that hit Haiti propelled him to the frontline of an international relief effort. To meet the challenge, Shah relied on his previous experience in leadership roles at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and at the US Department of Agriculture to help launch the largest urban food distribution effort in history and a vaccination campaign that reached more than a million people. With Haiti now in a state of long-term reconstruction, Shah’s focus is shifting toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the eight major areas of international development that the world agreed to address by 2015. Ahead of the MDG Review Summit this month in New York, Elie Dolgin spoke to Shah about how he plans to make progress toward reaching the targets.

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v16/n9/full/nm0910-941.html>

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Recognizes Work of USDA Experts Who Served in Afghanistan and Iraq, USDA, September 8

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recognized the efforts of more than 20 USDA employees who served as civilian agricultural experts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The agricultural experts were part of the Obama Administration’s commitment to provide civilian assistance abroad to help promote long-term economic development. About 85 percent of Afghans derive their livelihood from agriculture and 78 percent of the Afghan labor force works in agriculture. Agriculture represents 10 percent of Iraq’s overall economy. Because agriculture is so important to both Afghanistan and Iraq, agricultural development is playing a major role in establishing stability and security in both countries.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMj8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_1wkA5kFaGuQBxeASbmnu4uBgbe5hB5AxzA0UDfzyM_N1W_IDs7zdFRUREAZXAypA!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfUDhNVIZMVDmXMEjUMTBJQ01IMURERDFDUDA!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/09/0449.xml

African and U.S. Universities Partner to Tackle Development Challenges across Africa, USAID, September 8

USAID and Higher Education for Development announced that 11 innovative new partnerships between 22 universities in Africa and the United States have each been awarded up to \$1.1 million for activities to address issues including food security and agriculture, solar energy, health care, education, and water in Africa. These

partnerships will maximize the resources of U.S. institutions while placing African universities in the lead to capitalize on their on-the-ground knowledge, proximity to the challenges, and build their own capacity to better address these challenges.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100908.html>

Russia OKs more US plants for poultry exports-*USDA, Reuters, September 8*

The U.S. Agriculture Department said all but one of the 26 poultry and slaughter plants it determined were eligible to ship poultry to Moscow have been cleared by Russian officials.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0810841620100908>

SEE ALSO: Remarks by The Honorable Tom Vilsack Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Media Briefing Regarding Strength of Rural Economy and Growth of Farm Exports, August 31

“The President has been personally involved and engaged in the discussions on the Russian poultry issue, and there are approximately 26 facilities that we would like Russia to be able to do business with. They've basically given us the signoff on about half of those facilities. The other half, we are working through a process that will open up opportunities in the very near future, so I'm convinced this market is going to be pretty robust and that we're going to see shipments very, very soon, and I think this forecast reflects that.”

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/09/0436.xml>

The Role of Agriculture in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, *USDA Economic Research Service, September 2010*

Agriculture could play a prominent role in U.S. efforts to address climate change if farms and ranches undertake activities that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or take greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere. These activities may include shifting to conservation tillage, reducing the amount of nitrogen fertilizer applied to crops, changing livestock and manure management practices, and planting trees or grass. The Federal Government is considering offering carbon offsets and incentive payments to encourage rural landowners to pursue these climate-friendly activities as part of a broader effort to combat climate change. The extent to which farmers adopt such activities would depend on their costs, potential revenues, and other economic incentives created by climate policy. Existing Federal conservation programs provide preliminary estimates of the costs of agricultural carbon sequestration.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EB15/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Eliminating Hunger: The People and Congress

Date: September 13th, 2010

Location: National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World and this year's winner of the World Food Prize, will speak on “Eliminating Hunger: the People and Congress” at a Press Club luncheon. The luncheon begins at 12:30 p.m. Reserve by calling (202) 662-7501 or e-mailing reservations@press.org. The cost of the luncheon is \$17 for National Press Club members, \$28 for their guests and \$35 for the general public.

U.S. Global Leadership Coalition – 2010 Washington Conference

Date: September 28th-29th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

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

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

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

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

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

Location: Long Beach, CA

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

The 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>

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/>

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:

Haiti: Seed System Security Assessment, *Assessment funded by USAID, September 2010*

A Seed System Security Assessment (SSSA) was carried out in Haiti in May- June 2010. The work assessed the impact of the 12 January 2010 earthquake on households and agricultural livelihoods, including possible changes in assets, land holdings, labor availability, income generation activities, crop profiles and seed use. The work also analyzed acute seed security issues, monitoring farmers' seed procurement strategies and examining the effects of any aid given. As a third thrust, the SSSA focused in on chronic seed security problems, including insights on seed/grain markets, agricultural product transformation and access to modern varieties. Hence the foci included 'very short term', as well as short and medium term issues.

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/faculty/McGuire/SSSA-Haiti-2010-final-report-August-2010>

Media Articles:

Greening Project Creates Income and Food Security, *IPS, September 10*

Frances Mandla is visibly filled with pride. Together with her colleague, Nouniform Nqevu, she stands tall and smiling in front of a wide bed of lush spinach. The harvest will be their ticket to a better life. A life where there is enough money to buy food, clothes and pay school fees. Mandla, 61, and Nqevu, 63, are part of an urban green renewal project, which was launched in April in their community.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=52786>

Kenya May Double Corn Output on Fertilizer, Standard Bank Says, *Bloomberg, September 9*

Kenya could double its output of corn, the nation's staple food, by increasing its use of fertilizers, said Jacques Taylor, head of agricultural banking at Standard Bank Group Ltd. "The combination of hybrid seed varieties and fertilizer in Kenya can increase corn yields between 40 percent and 100 percent," Taylor said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-09-09/kenya-may-double-corn-output-on-fertilizer-standard-bank-says.html>

Scientists bring hope of better crops, *The Africa Report, September 8*

Frequent warnings about approaching agricultural epidemics must be balanced with the solid advances made in producing hardier and higher-yielding varieties of Africa's staple crops.

<http://www.theafricareport.com/archives2/business/3295629-scientists-bring-hope-of-better-crops.html>

Russia Hopeful on Winter Wheat, *Wall Street Journal, September 7*

Russia may sow the same amount of winter grain this year as in 2009, government officials and farmers said, although much-awaited rainfall in the country's breadbasket region was sparse and experts called the crop projections overly optimistic.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704358904575477460246521810.html>

SEE ALSO: Russia's wheat farmers fear for next year's crop, *Financial Times, September 6*

Having lost this year's crop after a devastating drought, farmers in Russia's grain belt have begun planting their winter wheat again, gambling that rain might at last fall in their parched farmland.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8ce9980a-b9e2-11df-8804-00144feabdc0.html>

Report: N Africa fish threatened with extinction, *Associated Press*, September 7

Researchers at an international water conference in Stockholm said that 21 percent of freshwater species in northern Africa are threatened with extinction.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jxZNwUllmnvmsaPP-grc0B12taKgD9I33B780>

Mozambique bread riots may be warning sign on African food security, *Christian Science Monitor*, September 6

As global wheat prices rise, Africans are feeling the pinch when buying something as simple as bread.

Mozambique bread riots could be a warning sign for African nations who have leased fertile agricultural land to foreign countries.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/Africa-Monitor/2010/0906/Mozambique-bread-riots-may-be-warning-sign-on-African-food-security>

In Russia, a Shortage Triggers Soviet Habits, *New York Times*, September 6

To find buckwheat, a beloved food staple, some Russians are falling back on scrounging habits honed under Communism.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/07/world/europe/07russia.html>

Bank plans 100 million dollar scheme for African farmers, *Agence France Presse*, September 3

Standard Bank Africa announced a 100 million dollar scheme to reach some 750,000 small scale farmers in Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda in a bid to boost output.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jCf-o9q84b6lVjf-q2DSz1ztFagg>

Africa starting to take agriculture seriously: Annan, *AFP*, September 2

Nobel Peace laureate and former UN secretary general Kofi Annan said calls on African governments to give priority to agricultural funding are starting to bear fruit. "We have long called on African governments to break from the past practices of underfunding agriculture and curtailing the development of the private sector," Annan said at a forum in the Ghanaian capital. "Now this ...is happening. African governments are making changes," he said, citing at least five countries where notable strides have been recorded.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i3FksdlQJ6-E52DQE03t6EpAzPmA>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Beyond Short-Term Thinking: How to Spend Billions Well in Pakistan, for Them and for Us, *Center for Global Development*, September 2010

The United States spent over \$10 billion in mostly military assistance in Pakistan between 2002 and 2008, but the money has done little to further development, purchase a reliable ally in Afghanistan, or deny al-Qaeda and affiliated groups safe havens in Pakistan's tribal regions. For years, the need to incorporate development assistance as a major part of U.S. strategy in Pakistan has become more and more clear. Today, with the Kerry-Lugar-Berman legislation authorizing \$7.5 billion of economic assistance to Pakistan, the question is how to invest the money smartly to bring about long-term development improvements.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424399>

Aid to Developing Countries: Where does the UK Public Stand?, *Institute of Development Studies*, September 2010

Despite severe austerity measures and cuts to public services, more than 6 out of 10 people still think that it is morally right for the UK to help developing countries. New survey results published today by the Institute of Development Studies reveal that 62 per cent of people think it is our obligation as human beings to help the world's poor people.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/download.cfm?downloadfile=ECAA668D-9FF0-2D65-29FD48B9AE0984FB&typename=dmFile&fieldname=filename>

SEE ALSO: Britons think development aid for poor countries is wasted, *Guardian*, September 8
More than half of Britons think development aid is wasted and do not support the coalition government's policy of ring-fencing assistance for poor countries, a survey shows.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/sep/08/british-want-to-cut-aid>

Media Articles:

After 30 years, nutrition strategy revamp at hand, *IRIN*, September 10

Aid strategies for treating children suffering moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) have remained virtually unchanged for 30 years. As part of UN-led efforts to revamp policy, several initiatives in West Africa are examining how best to treat the condition, a major cause of death and disease worldwide.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90440>

Food Crisis Worsens in West Africa, *New York Times Green Blog*, September 7

Torrential rains and flash floods that swept through cities and villages in West Africa in late August have intensified a food crisis in the region, leaving upwards of 10 million people suffering from severe food shortages, the United Nations and relief organizations warned last week.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/07/central-african-food-crisis-worsens/>

Saying "Nuts" to Hunger, *Jeffrey Sachs, Huffington Post*, September 6

The article describes a special peanut-based fortified "ready-to-use therapeutic food" (RUTF) with the brand name Plumpy'Nut, which is produced under a patent held by the French company Nutriset. This peanut-based and micronutrient rich paste has proven to be effective in addressing acute malnutrition in famine conditions resulting from crop failures, war, and other causes. It is critical, however, that we not confuse the many types of hunger and malnutrition (poor nutrition) around the world. Plumpy'Nut is not a miracle cure for global hunger or for global malnutrition. Plumpy'Nut addresses only one kind of hunger -- acute episodes of extreme food deprivation or illness, the kind mainly associated with famines and conflicts.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-sachs/saying-nuts-to-hunger_b_706798.html

SEE ALSO: The Peanut Solution, *New York Times Magazine*, September 2

An easy-to-produce paste may help cure malnourishment around the world. But who owns the recipe?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/05/magazine/05Plumpy-t.html>

Floods in Pakistan Carry the Seeds of Upheaval, *New York Times*, September 5

The floods are still devouring villages and farmland in the southern province of Sindh, and about 800,000 people remain stranded and without food, Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Food Program of the United Nations, said in an interview during a visit to Pakistan last week. Nearly 10 million people are considered short of food and their situation will remain precarious for six months to a year, she said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/06/world/asia/06pstan.html>

60 states to lobby U.N. for currency transaction tax, *Reuters*, September 1

A group of 60 nations, including France, Britain and Japan, will propose at the U.N. this month that a tax be introduced on international currency transactions to raise funds for development aid, ministers said.

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE6806F220100901>

SEE ALSO: Globalizing Solidarity: The Case for Financial Levies, *Report of the Committee of Experts to the Taskforce on International Financial Transactions and Development*, July 2010

http://www.leadinggroup.org/IMG/pdf_Financement_innovants_web_def.pdf

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Water Storage in an Era of Climate Change: Addressing the Challenge of Increasing Rainfall Variability, *International Water Management Institute (IWMI)*, September 2010

Against a backdrop of extreme weather wreaking havoc around the world, a new report warns that increasingly erratic rainfall related to climate change will pose a major threat to food security and economic growth, especially in Africa and Asia, requiring increased investment in diverse forms of water storage as an effective remedy.

http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Blue_Papers/PDF/Blue_Paper_2010-final.pdf

SEE ALSO: Will Shipping Water from Alaska to India Help Solve the Water Crisis?, *Time*, September 6

IWMI suggests the better way to secure water supply, particularly for the rural poor who rely on rainfall for farming, is to develop combined systems of large and small-scale options like using water from wetlands, groundwater, and collecting rainfall in ponds, tanks and reservoirs. "Unless we can reduce crippling uncertainty in rainfed agriculture through better water storage, many farmers in developing countries will face a losing battle with a more hostile and unpredictable climate," Matthew McCartney, the report's lead author and a hydrologist at IWMI, said.

<http://ecocentric.blogs.time.com/2010/09/06/will-shipping-water-from-alaska-to-india-help-solve-the-world%E2%80%99s-water-crisis/>

SEE ALSO: Diverse water sources key to food security: report, *Reuters*, September 6

Increasingly erratic rainfall patterns related to climate change pose a major threat to food security and economic growth, water experts said, arguing for greater investment in water storage.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE68500L20100906>

Improving wastewater use in agriculture: An emerging priority, *World Bank*, September 2010

Wastewater use in agriculture is a growing practice worldwide. Drivers include increasing water stress, in part due to climate change; increasing urbanization and growing wastewater flows; and more urban households engaged in agricultural activities. The problem with this trend is that in low-income countries, but also in many middle-income countries, it either involves the direct use of untreated wastewater or the indirect use of polluted waters from rivers that receive untreated urban discharges. This paper aims to highlight the growing importance of improving wastewater use in agriculture across the spectrum from lower to high-income countries.

<http://go.worldbank.org/XJLCS83180>

The wealth of waste: The economics of wastewater use in agriculture, *FAO*, September 2010

The use of reclaimed water in agriculture is an option that is increasingly being investigated and taken up in regions with water scarcity, growing urban populations and growing demand for irrigation water. This report presents an economic framework for the assessment of the use of reclaimed water in agriculture, as part of a comprehensive planning process in water resource allocation strategies to provide for a more economically efficient and sustainable water utilization. Many regions of the world are experiencing growing water stress. This arises from a relentless growth of demand for water in the face of static, or diminishing, supply and periodic droughts due to climatic factors. Water stress is also caused by pollution from increasing amounts of wastewater from expanding cities, much of it only partially treated, and from the contamination of aquifers from various sources. Such water pollution makes scarcity worse by reducing the amount of freshwater that is safe to use. Water scarcity in all its aspects has serious economic, social and even political costs.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1629e/i1629e.pdf>

Media Articles:

Syrian drought 'really bad', *UPI*, September 10

Lingering drought in parts of Syria is having an impact on food security and leaving millions of people in a state of extreme poverty, the United Nations said. Syria has suffered from drought for four consecutive years.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/09/10/Syrian-drought-really-bad/UPI-35781284131379/

Peru water wars threaten agricultural export boom, *Reuters*, September 9

Peru is South America's third-largest country and a top exporter of high-value specialty crops like asparagus. Farmers say it could become a breadbasket like Brazil or Argentina, well-positioned to feed a growing global population. But it suffers from acute water shortages on its Pacific Ocean coast and they are expected to

worsen as its ice fields in the Andes, the world's largest collection of tropical glaciers, melt because of climate change.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6885QF20100909>

World Bank's Climate Change Envoy Steers Around Hot-Button Issues, *New York Times*, September 9

An economist by training, Steer has worked at the World Bank since the 1980s, and has led operations in both Indonesia and Vietnam. He was the chief author of the World Bank's first World Development Report on the environment and is the former head of the bank's environment department. Most recently, he served as policy director at the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), but he returned to the World Bank's shimmering glass and steel headquarters in Washington, D.C., this year at the request of President Robert Zoellick.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/09/09/09climatewire-world-banks-climate-change-envoy-steers-arou-12297.html>

Disaster plan: cities need to adapt for climate change, *Financial Times*, September 7

Arguments still rage among scientists over how severe the effects of climate change are likely to be, and years of research on this issue have failed to eliminate the enormous uncertainty that surrounds it. The possible scenarios range from a world where the troublesome effects of warming in some regions are to some extent offset by benefits in others, to one where agriculture is wiped out across huge swathes of the globe and shifting rainfall patterns bring severe droughts and floods.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/62f74d08-b05f-11df-8c04-00144feabdc0.html>

Weird Weather in a Warming World, *Op-ed, Andrew Revkin, The New York Times*, September 7

Many scientists believe that sub-Saharan Africa will be particularly vulnerable in the coming decades to climate-related dangers like heat waves and flash-flooding. But global warming is the murkiest of the factors increasing the risks there. Persistent poverty, a lack of governance and high rates of population growth have left African countries with scant capacity to manage too much or too little water.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/08/opinion/08revkin.html>

Green vision: the search for the ideal eco-city, *Financial Times*, September 7

Another key consideration for eco-cities, which will only increase in importance, is food security, says Claris. "Cities that rely on food being imported over long distances could find that it is expensive and leaves them vulnerable to shortages," she warns. One way of helping to avoid food crunches would be to encourage urban gardening and ensure that there are areas on the outskirts of cities for crop growing.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c13677ce-b062-11df-8c04-00144feabdc0.html>

Study: Pollination down with bee decline, *UPI*, September 7

A decline in the world's bee population has been accompanied by a drop in pollination critical to the world's food supplies, a Canadian researcher says. A University of Toronto scientist has found the first evidence of a downward trend in pollination and a possible link to climate change as a cause, a university release says.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2010/09/07/Study-Pollination-down-with-bee-decline/UPI-26651283890650/

Erratic global weather threatens food security, *AFP*, September 6

The drought in Russia and floods in Pakistan are part of a global trend of unpredictable weather patterns and rainfall that threaten food security, experts gathered in Stockholm said. "We are getting to a point where we are getting more water, more rainy days, but it's more variable, so it leads to droughts and it leads to floods," Sunita Narain, the head of the Centre for Science and Environment in India, told AFP. "That is leading to huge amounts of stress on agriculture and livelihoods," she said, adding that "climate change is making rainfall even more variable."

http://green.yahoo.com/news/afp/20100907/sc_afp/environmentwaterfoodsecuritywarmingsweden.html

BANGLADESH: Population pressure, climate change drive search for new rice varieties, *IRIN*, September

To adjust to the unreliable rains, local farmers for the past 20 years have been using 'pariza', an indigenous rice that requires less irrigation and can be harvested off-season, from May to August, between the dry season 'boro' rice and the monsoon 'aman' rice.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90397>

Mozambique's food riots – the true face of global warming, *Raj Patel, The Guardian, September 5*

The violence in Maputo is just the latest manifestation of the crippling shortcomings of the global economy.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/sep/05/mozambique-food-riots-patel>

Farmland comes at expense of forests, *UPI, September 3*

More than 80 percent of the new farmland created in the tropics since 1980 has come from felling forests, which drives global warming, researchers say. A study led by a Stanford University researcher says global agricultural expansion cut huge swaths through forests, mostly tropical forests, from 1980 to 2000 when half a million acres of new farmland was created, a university release said.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2010/09/03/Farmland-comes-at-expense-of-forests/UPI-45821283554981/

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

Progress for Children: Achieving the MDGs with Equity, *UNICEF, September 2010*

Stunting, an indicator of chronic undernutrition, remains a problem of larger magnitude than underweight. In the developing world, children living in rural areas are almost 1.5 times as likely to be stunted as those in urban areas. Children in the poorest 20 per cent of households are twice as likely to be stunted as children in the richest 20 per cent of households.

http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Progress_for_Children-No.9_EN_081710.pdf

SEE ALSO: Narrowing the Gaps to Meet the Goals, *UNICEF, September 2010*

A new UNICEF study has arrived at a surprising and significant conclusion: An equity-based strategy can move us more quickly and cost-effectively towards meeting Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 – reduce child mortality and improve maternal health – than our current path, with the potential of averting millions of maternal and child deaths by the 2015 deadline.

http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Narrowing_the_Gaps_to_Meet_the_Goals_090310_2a.pdf

A Fair Chance at Life, *Save the Children, September 2010*

Four million child deaths could have been prevented over ten years if countries had made the same effort to help poor children as better-off ones, Save the Children said today.

http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/what_we_do/every_one/reports/MDG_Summit--

[A Fair Chance at LifeFINAL--Embargo7Sept2010.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/what_we_do/every_one/reports/MDG_Summit--A_Fair_Chance_at_LifeFINAL--Embargo7Sept2010.pdf)

SEE ALSO: Fairer spending could save 4m children by 2020, says report, *The Guardian, September 6*

Save the Children says millennium development goal on infant mortality at risk as poorest miss out on resources.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/sep/06/fairer-spending-could-save-4m-children>

Media Articles:

Five African Women Scientists Honored by AU, *VOA, September 9*

Professor Mary Abukutsa of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology won for her research on production of indigenous vegetables in poor countries, and her work as a determined promoter of agricultural biodiversity. She sees the award as an end in itself, because it gives other women a belief in themselves.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Five-African-Women-Scientists-Honored-by-AU-102548929.html>

Empowering Women Through Literacy Empowers Us All, *AllAfrica.com*, September 8

Her story is the story of almost 800 million people. It's a story about textbooks and teachers that never were. The schools were there for Lourença de Brito. She just couldn't attend them. At an early age in the archipelago nation of Cape Verde, de Brito had to work in subsistence agriculture. Education wasn't an option.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201009090006.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Media Articles:

Wheat prices: Field events, *The Economist*, September 9

Many poorer countries are fearful that rising food prices will spark more of the same: in the earlier crisis violent protests shook many countries including Egypt, Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, Uzbekistan and Bolivia. To head this off Egypt, the world's biggest importer of wheat, as well as Tunisia, Algeria and Jordan, have all reacted to the Russian ban by buying extra wheat on the spot market. It is likely that these and other countries have sought to secure supplies by buying wheat futures too, though the opacity of that market makes buyers' identities unclear.

http://www.economist.com/node/16994407?story_id=16994407

SEE ALSO: With Global Food Prices Rising, What Can Investors Do?, *CNBC*, September 9

Growing fear over surging food prices will affect not only consumers around the world, but also investors, who will face an array of sometimes-conflicting choices as grain shortages and demand increases cause havoc in financial markets.

<http://www.cnb.com/id/39078802>

SEE ALSO: Wheat price spike raises food insecurity: UN expert, *Reuters*, September 7

Riots over high bread prices in Mozambique and food shortages elsewhere should be a wake-up call for governments which papered over food security problems that arose two years ago, a United Nations expert warned. "Donors have not delivered on their promises," Olivier De Schutter, the U.N. special rapporteur on the right to food, said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJQE68607E20100907>

SEE ALSO: Food price surge is a wake-up call, *Letter to the Editor by Ms Kirtana Chandrasekaran, Mr John Hilary, Mr Julian Oram, Ms Emma Hockridge and Mr Tim Rice*, *Financial Times*, September 6

We are facing an unprecedented "wake-up call" over global food supplies but there are fundamental flaws in the stock answer given by many agribusinesses and even from some in the Food and Agriculture Organisation – further intensification of industrial crop and livestock.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f40fe2fe-b943-11df-99be-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Ramadan demand prompts rise in food prices, *Financial Times*, September 5

Sharply rising meat prices in the Arab world have hit celebrations for the holy month of Ramadan, during which tradition dictates that families host large meals, and prompted concerns over food price inflation across the region.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2142c216-b906-11df-99be-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Harvest fears push up global grain prices, *Financial Times*, September 3

The price of wheat, corn and other cereals rose after Russia said it would extend a grain export ban by nearly a year and traders cut further their forecast for global crops.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/25e25910-b77d-11df-8ef6-00144feabdc0.html>

Let's counter the damage of subsidies, *Letter to the Editor, Trineesh Biswas*, *Financial Times*, September 8

The financial crisis has squeezed aid budgets in wealthy nations. It has not managed to squeeze lavish farm subsidies. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development found that rich governments increased payments to agricultural producers in 2009. Why not tax farm subsidies like a pollutant, and use the revenues to counter some of the damage?

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0f2a6420-bad8-11df-9e1d-00144feab49a.html>

For the poor, cellphones can offer lifeline, *Washington Post*, September 8

For the world's poorest, cellphone technology carries opportunity, aid groups say, as text messages and other mobile applications have created a new platform to reach the most remote farms and crowded urban slums of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/07/AR2010090706625.html>

Cocoa price falls at Ivory Coast forecast, *Financial Times*, September 8

Cocoa prices tumbled to a one-year low as traders sold the commodity used in chocolate production on forecasts of a strong crop in Ivory Coast, the top producer that accounts for 40 per cent of output.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e665bbdc-bb6a-11df-a136-00144feab49a.html>

Riots in Mozambique: The angry poor, *The Economist*, September 9

The government has blamed the rise in the cost of bread on soaring global wheat prices. But that is not the main factor. It has more to do with a sharp fall in the metical, Mozambique's currency, coupled with this year's poor harvest in the country's south, due to drought. Despite vast swathes of potential farmland, only a small proportion is developed, so the country relies on imported food, mostly from its rich neighbour, South Africa. In the past 12 months the metical has dived against the rand.

http://www.economist.com/node/16996835?story_id=16996835

SEE ALSO: Ominous signal in Mozambique food riots, *Andrew Meldrum, GlobalPost*, September 9

Economic growth not enough to prevent population from violently reacting to rising food prices.

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/africa/100908/mozambique-food-riots-ominous-signal>

SEE ALSO: Maputo drops bread price rise, *Financial Times*, September 7

Mozambique has reversed its decision to raise bread prices by 30 per cent after a wave of food riots in which 13 people were killed, the clearest sign of how African governments are struggling amid rising global food prices.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/45cbd546-ba9b-11df-b73d-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: Mozambique food riots belie African agricultural success, *Christian Science Monitor*, September 7

Mozambique's food riots in the capital city of Maputo reinforce the pessimistic outlook for Africa's food future, but several places on the continent are producing food surpluses.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/Africa-Monitor/2010/0907/Mozambique-food-riots-belie-African-agricultural-success>

SEE ALSO: Seven die in Mozambique food rioting, *Financial Times*, September 2

The first food riots since the 2007-08 crisis have left seven people dead and at least 280 injured in Maputo, the Mozambican government said. The unrest in the country's capital followed the government's decision to raise bread prices by 30 per cent.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/90cf28b2-b6c8-11df-b3dd-00144feabdc0.html>

S.Africa looks to China for agriculture deals, *Reuters*, September 6

South Africa will continue talks with China to attract new investment into agro-processing plants and find a market for the country's surplus maize, the agriculture minister said. South Africa, the continent's largest producers of maize, produced a surplus of about 4 million tonnes for the 2009/10 season, but with limited markets and poor prices has struggled to sell the surplus internationally.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE6850CU20100906>

New Delhi set to fuel cotton price rise, *Financial Times*, September 6

Cotton prices, already at a 15-year high, could rise even further after India, the world's second-largest exporter, unexpectedly extended export restrictions on the fibre, reversing promises made three weeks ago.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fa6b3090-b9de-11df-8804-00144feabdc0.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Reports

Water Stewardship: Good for Business, Good for Society, *PepsiCo*, September 2010

Agriculture represents about 70 percent of global water consumption, and more than 90 percent in developing economies. Since agriculture is vital to our business, reducing water use in our agriculture supply chain is critical, and we have implemented a number of programs to achieve this goal.

http://www.pepsico.com/Download/PepsiCo_Water_Report_FNL.pdf

Media Articles:

USDA is sued over permits for genetically altered sugar beets, *Los Angeles Times blog, September 9*

A group of farmers and environmentalist organizations sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Thursday, challenging the agency's recent decision to allow some operators to plant genetically altered sugar beet seeds. The complaint (which can [be read here](#)) alleges that the federal agency's decision goes against a recent court ruling that banned farmers from planting GMO sugar beets that had been engineered by agribusiness giant Monsanto Co., and designed to be resistant to the weed-killer Roundup.

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/money_co/2010/09/gmo-sugar-beet-monsanto-usda-lawsuit.html

Sinochem in push to foil BHP's Potash plan, *Financial Times, September 8*

Sinochem, the Chinese state-owned chemicals group, is trying to recruit at least one sovereign wealth fund and a Canadian pension fund for a consortium to block BHP Billiton's \$39bn hostile takeover of PotashCorp of Canada.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f2174100-baf5-11df-9e1d-00144feab49a.html>

SEE ALSO: BHP needs to strike balance on Potash price, *Financial Times, September 6*

Three weeks after BHP made its initially secret \$39bn approach to PotashCorp, the Anglo-Australian mining company is facing conflicting pressures over the price it might have to pay to secure its target.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/89d7ada2-b9e5-11df-8804-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Beijing eyes counterbid for PotashCorp, *Financial Times, September 3*

The Chinese government has backed Sinochem, the state-owned chemicals giant, to pursue a counterbid that could trump BHP Billiton's \$39bn hostile offer for PotashCorp in a sign of Beijing's interest in securing global resources.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8591b9a2-b785-11df-8ef6-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Potential PotashCorp deal questioned, *Financial Times, September 3*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/42824a34-b6e3-11df-b3dd-00144feabdc0.html>

Reforming Meat, *Editorial, New York Times, September 7*

Early in the last century, the federal government tried to create competition in the meatpacking industry by breaking up the five corporations that controlled it. The result is that four big corporations control it now: JBS, Tyson Foods, Cargill and National Beef Packing. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack wants to try again, and we fully support him. In fact, we'd like to see him go much further.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/08/opinion/08wed3.html>

SEE ALSO: Beef Recall Heats Up Fight to Tighten Rules, *New York Times, September 2*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/03/business/03beef.html>

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