

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



September 3rd – September 9th, 2011

Quote of the Week: –*“In this period of belt-tightening and economic uncertainty, some seem to think that foreign assistance is a luxury we can no longer afford. However, with one out of five American jobs tied to international trade, and our fastest growing markets – accounting for roughly half of U.S. exports – located in developing countries, America can’t afford a course of isolation and retreat. Our economic fate is interconnected with the rest of the world, and the collapse of developing economies will unavoidably mean our own decline. Aid is not a gift. The United States provides foreign assistance because it serves our interests. Helping countries become more democratic, more stable, more capable of defending themselves and better at pulling themselves out of poverty is just as important for us as it is for them. Our task therefore, is to make sure that we provide this assistance in the most efficient and effective way.”* – Remarks by Congressman Howard Berman at American Enterprise Institute, September 8, 2011

For more information:

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

Global Food Price Monitor: FAO Food Price Index, FAO, September 2011

The FAO Food Price Index averaged 231 points in August 2011, nearly unchanged from July and 26 percent higher than in August 2010. International prices of wheat which had decreased for three consecutive months

increased by 9 percent in August. The benchmark US wheat price averaged USD 336 per tonne, 24 percent higher than in August last year. Prices increased on concerns over reduced supplies of high quality wheat this season and delays in the 2011 United States spring wheat harvest.

http://www.fao.org/giews/english/gfpm/GFPM_09_2011.pdf

SEE ALSO: Global Food Prices likely to Stay at Historic Highs, threatening Food Riots, Famine, *Rudy Ruitenberg, Washington Post, September 8*

The cost of living is rising across the world. U.S. consumer prices advanced 0.5 percent in July as food and energy costs rose. World food output will have to rise 70 percent by 2050 as the global population climbs to 9.2 billion from an estimated 6.9 billion in 2010.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/global-food-prices-likely-to-stay-at-historic-highs-threatening-more-food-riots-famine/2011/09/08/gIQAncd2BK_story.html

SEE ALSO: Tracking the Global Food Situation, *Justin Gillis, New York Times, September 8*

The latest numbers suggest that the situation with the global food supply continues to be deeply worrisome. The index is now down 7 percent from its all-time high in February.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/09/08/tracking-the-global-food-situation/>

Let's Reclaim the Post-9/11 Unity, *Opinion, President Barack Obama, USA Today, September 9*

We can regain the sense of common purpose that stirred in our hearts 10 years ago. As a nation, we face difficult challenges, and as citizens in a democratic society we engage in vigorous debates about the future. But as we do, let's never forget the lesson we learned anew 10 years ago — that our differences pale beside what unites us and that when we choose to move forward together, as one American family, the United States doesn't just endure, we can emerge from our tests and trials stronger than before.

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/story/2011-09-08/Obama-Lets-reclaim-the-post-911-unity/50318994/1>

G20 Experts to Meet on Food Security Solutions, *Joe DeCapua, VOA News, September 8*

Agricultural experts from the G20 countries will meet to find ways to match the latest research and technology to the growing demand for more food. It's estimated the world's population will grow to nine billion by 2050. The G20 countries called on U.N. agencies, the World Bank, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research. That coordination includes looking at long-term solutions and not just immediate crises, like the drought in the Horn of Africa.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-g20-agriculture-8sept11-129449883.html>

Somalia's Biggest Famine in Decades claiming the Smallest of Victims First, *Sudarsan Raghavan, Washington Post, September 7*

The scenes at Banadir Hospital reflect the immense challenge facing this Horn of Africa nation, already besieged by multiple woes, from civil war to radical Islamist militants to a weak transitional government incapable of governing effectively, despite massive support from the US and its allies. This week, the scale of the challenge came into sharper focus. Tens of thousands have died, U.N. officials say. Most are children.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/inside-a-mogadishu-hospital-a-struggle-to-treat-the-smallest-victims-of-famine/2011/09/06/gIQAgnn8J_story.html

SEE ALSO: U.N. Officials Say Famine Is Widening in Somalia, *New York Times, September 5*

The UN added the entire Bay region, where nearly 60 percent of children are acutely malnourished, to the list of famine-stricken areas. Somalia has lurched from crisis to crisis since its central government collapsed in 1991.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/06/world/africa/06somalia.html>

SEE ALSO: Somalia Famine Spreads to New Region in South, *Christian Science Monitor, September 6*

More than 750,000 of the country's nearly 8 million people now at risk of starvation. The US is by far the largest single donor of drought-related assistance to the Horn of Africa, having provided more than a half-billion dollars of assistance.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Foreign-Policy/2011/0906/Somalia-famine-spreads-to-new-region-in-south-warning-issued-on-aid>

SEE ALSO: Find out which Countries have Donated Funds So Far, *Guardian, September 5*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/01/drought-food-crisis-africa-data>

Preventing the Next Famine In Africa, *Opinion, Dan Glickman and George Rupp, Fox News, September 6*
Innovative U.S. development efforts in the food security area are revolutionizing agriculture and working to end the cycle of famine in the Horn of Africa. Efforts cover the full cycle of planting, harvesting, selling and consuming food products. Farmers gain better access to fertilizers and improved seeds that withstand droughts and work to provide modern storage facilities so huge percentages of crop yields are not just left to spoil. By planning ahead, and investing a small amount in prevention now, we save lives and money down the road.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2011/09/06/preventing-next-famine-in-africa/>

Famine in the Horn of Africa: How Have Things Changed?, *Economist, September 5*

The famine has prompted a shift in American foreign policy, for now at least. Robert Paarlberg argues that the American administration has focused on counter-terrorism in Somalia at the expense of investing in agriculture or helping the people. Mr Paarlberg argues that the famine in the 1980s coincided with a drop in official American funding for farmers in Africa. Again, Mrs Clinton seems determined not to make the same mistake. She underlined the importance of spending on long-term recovery in the Horn of Africa.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2011/09/famine-horn-africa-0>

Agriculture's Greatest Challenge, *Charles Johnson, Progressive Farmer, September 2011*

About seven billion people now live on the planet. Over the next four decades, the equivalent of more than one and a half Chinas will be added, and, by 2050, world population will hit nine billion. "The future is extremely bright for the U.S., where farmers should see higher-than-historic prices. It will still be a commodity business, and there will be a lot of volatility around that trend line, but things look very positive long-term," says Robert Thompson, who through the years has served as Purdue University's agriculture dean, the World Bank's director of rural development and USDA's assistant secretary for economics, among other positions.

<http://ht.ly/6hPbE>

"Remembering the Post-9/11 Promises to Raise Foreign Aid", *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, September 9*
After the shock of September 11, the President and the nation also understood that fear and misery in poor countries could create a toxic environment for resentment and terrorism. Politicians from both parties emphasized that America needed to emphasize its generosity and goodwill throughout the world. The crafting of post-9/11 public policy began to reflect this. Reducing poverty in the developing world became a prime pillar of U.S. foreign policy. In November 2001, the U.S. took the lead in launching a new round of world trade talks in Doha, Qatar, designed to bring the poorest countries more fully into the global trading system. This was dubbed the "development round."

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/09/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-remembering-the-post-911-promises-to-raise-foreign-aid.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Global Partnership Act of 2011, *House Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 8*

The Global Partnerships Act of 2011 is a discussion draft of a bill to replace the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which serves as the foundation for U.S. international aid programs, as well as the Arms Export Control Act, which contains additional authorities for arms sales and military assistance. This proposal modernizes the full spectrum of foreign assistance programs, from development to democracy to self-defense.

<http://democrats.foreignaffairs.house.gov/112/DraftDiscussion/Discussion%20Draft%20GPA.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Global Partnership Act: Summary Analysis

<http://democrats.foreignaffairs.house.gov/112/DraftDiscussion/Section%20by%20Section%20--%20clean.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Full Text: Global Partnership Act of 2011

<http://democrats.foreignaffairs.house.gov/112/DraftDiscussion/Discussion%20Draft%20GPA.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Back to the Future, *Opinion, Gregory Adams, The Hill, September 7*

As the world has changed over the last five decades, the Foreign Assistance Act has been amended in an effort to catch up. But these changes haven't always been consistent or logical or even timely. The ideal solution would be to redraft it for our day and age. The biggest advantage of a rewrite is the opportunity it brings for a renewed consensus about what U.S. Foreign Assistance programs should be aiming to achieve.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/179983-back-to-the-future>

FY 2012 Agriculture, Rural Development FDA Appropriations, *U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, September 7*

The FY 2012 bill provides \$1.562 billion for PL 480 Title II, as compared to \$1.5 billion in FY 2011. The Public Law 480 Title II program provides emergency food assistance to the most vulnerable areas in the world. The bill provides an increase for PL 480 Title II to reflect the increased demand for humanitarian food assistance especially with the unprecedented famine in the Horn of Africa. The McGovern-Dole Program, which provides school meals to the world's poorest children, is funded at \$188 million, as compared to \$199 million in FY 2011.

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=8af3a7f2-4f62-4dab-ba9f-108744d63c58>

SEE ALSO: Senate Coughs Up \$50 Million for FDA Food Safety Efforts, *Lara Seligman, National Journal, September 7*

The Senate Appropriations bill provides \$19.78 billion for USDA for FY 2012, a decrease of \$138 million from this year. It gives FDA \$2.497 billion, up from \$2.447 billion in FY 2011. The House version of the bill, approved 217-203 in June, would cut FDA's budget by \$285 million, or 11 percent. This includes an \$87 million cut to food safety, and a \$35 million cut to USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, which is responsible for meat, poultry, and processed-egg inspection.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/healthcare/senate-coughs-up-50-million-for-fda-food-safety-efforts-20110907?>

Household Food Security in the United States in 2010, *USDA ERS, September 2011*

An estimated 85.5 percent of American households were food secure throughout the entire year in 2010. The remaining households (14.5 percent) were food insecure at least some time during the year, including 5.4 percent with very low food security. 51 percent of all food-insecure households participated in one or more of the three largest Federal food and nutrition assistance programs during the month prior to the 2010 survey.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err125/>

SEE ALSO: Demand for Food Stamps Remains High, *Sara Murray, Wall Street Journal, September 2*

The number of Americans receiving food stamps dropped in June from declining disaster assistance, but there's still little sign of waning demand for the food assistance program. Food stamp rolls have risen 9.5% in the past year, though recent months show the pace of growth is slowing.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2011/09/02/demand-for-food-stamps-remains-high/>

SEE ALSO: Food Stamp Participation on the Rise, *Christian Science Monitor, September 3*

The latest data shows that in June, 226,752 recipients were removed from the food stamps program, while participation continued to increase 9.47% on a year-over-year basis and household participation increased 11.76%.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Business/Paper-Economy/2011/0903/Food-stamp-participation-on-the-rise>

Joint Statement Between the European Commission and the United States Government on Efforts to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU), *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, September 8*

IUU fishing constitutes one of the most serious threats to the conservation and sustainable exploration of marine biological resources in the world's oceans. The EU and the US each play a key role in the commercial exploitation of fishery products globally. This conveys a vast responsibility on both sides for the protection of the oceans' vital food and marine biological resources.

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/iuu/docs/statement_online_handout.pdf

SEE ALSO: U.S. and European United Against Illegal Fishing, *New York Times*, September 7

The EU and the US rank first and third as the world's top seafood importers, with Japan ranked second. The Obama administration puts the global cost of illegal fishing to legal fishermen and coastal communities at up to \$23 billion of seafood and seafood products annually.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/09/07/u-s-and-europeans-unite-against-illegal-fishing/>

SEE ALSO: Scientists Call for End to Deep-Sea Fishing, *Washington Post*, September 6

Describing the open ocean as "more akin to a watery desert," the scientists argue that vessels have targeted patches of productive areas sequentially, depleting the fish there and destroying deep-sea corals before moving on to new areas.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/scientists-call-for-end-to-deep-sea-fishing/2011/08/30/gIQApJc7J_story.html

The U.S. Civilian Uplift in Afghanistan Has Cost Nearly \$2 Billion, and State Should Continue to Strengthen Its Management and Oversight of the Funds Transferred to Other Agencies, *Office of Inspector General at Department of State*, September 8

The U.S. civilian uplift in Afghanistan represents a significant investment of resources. The number of civilian employees deployed or assigned to deploy to Afghanistan has increased by 720, from 320 in January 2009 to a total of 1,040 through the end of FY 2011, at a cost of nearly \$2 billion. State and USAID account for the majority of uplift personnel, contributing a combined 74 percent of uplift personnel through FY 2011. Uplift personnel are implementing multiple programs to advance governance, rule of law, and development.

http://www.sigar.mil/pdf/audits/SIGAR_Audit_11-17_Civilian_Uplift.pdf

Members Named to Severn Agricultural Trade Advisory Committees, *USDA*, September 8

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and US Trade Rep. Ron Kirk announced the appointment of 148 private-sector members to the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee and six Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees. Congress established the advisory committee system in 1974 to ensure a private-sector voice in establishing U.S. agricultural trade policy objectives to reflect U.S. commercial and economic interests

<http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/09/0394.xml>

USDA Rolls Out First Themed MyPlate Healthy Eating Message: Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables, *USDA*, September 7

Secretary Vilsack announced the first themed message, Make Half Your Plate Fruits and Vegetables, supporting the new MyPlate food icon and the First Lady's Let's Move! Initiative through a new national private-sector partnership program. New messages in the months to come will include Enjoy Your Food, But Eat Less; Drink Water Instead of Sugary Drinks; Make at Least Half Your Grains Whole Grains; and Avoid Oversized Portions.

<http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/09/0392.xml>

Agricultural Biotechnology for Development, *USAID*, August 2011

USAID's goal is to promote access to the tools of biotechnology by scientists and by smallholder farmers around the world. USAID supports crop improvement at all stages of the pipeline from laboratory research to field trials to commercialization and delivery of technology, thereby ensuring that research investments lead to new crops in farmers' fields.

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/agriculture/pdfs/2011/English_4pg_brochure_Web.pdf

First Lady Names Respected Pediatrician Judith S. Palfrey, M.D. to Lead Let's Move! Program, *White House*, September 2

Dr. Palfrey has been a pediatric clinician and teacher for over 30 years. At Harvard Medical School, Dr. Palfrey was appointed as the first incumbent of T. Berry Brazelton Professorship of Pediatrics. Most recently, she directed the global health efforts of the Department of Medicine at the Children's Hospital in Boston. She has served this past year as immediate past president of AAP.

<http://m.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/02/first-lady-names-respected-pediatrician-judith-s-palfrey-md-lead-lets-mo>

Debt Supercommittee Faces Super-Sized Challenges, *Rosalind S. Helderman*, *Washington Post*, September 7

Their goal is to cut \$1.5 trillion over the next decade. But if they can't come up with at least \$1.2 trillion in savings — or if Congress does not adopt their recommendations by the end of the year — government spending will automatically be cut by \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years, split evenly between defense and domestic programs.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supercommittee-faces-super-sized-challenges/2011/08/31/gIQAazlr9J_story.html

SEE ALSO: Congressman Jeb Hensarling's Statement, Co-Chair

<http://hensarling.house.gov/issues/reigning-in-washington-spending/2011/08/hensarling-statement-on-joint-deficit-reduction-committee.shtml>

SEE ALSO: Senator Patty Murray's Statement, Co-Chair

http://murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/newsreleases?ContentRecord_id=618fe18c-e880-4112-a2da-f7b22dc71679

China's Rise Isn't Our Demise, *Opinion, Joseph R. Biden Jr., New York Times, September 7*

I remain convinced that a successful China can make our country more prosperous, not less. As trade and investment bind us together, we have a stake in each other's success. On issues from global security to global economic growth, we share common challenges and responsibilities — and we have incentives to work together. We often focus on Chinese exports to America, but last year American companies exported more than \$100 billion worth of goods and services to China, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs here.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/08/opinion/chinas-rise-isnt-our-demise.html>

Famine Spreads in Somalia, *Opinion, Nancy Lindborg, USAID Impact Blog, September 6*

The US is providing over \$600 million in assistance to help those affected by drought in the Horn of Africa, including \$102 million in assistance to help those in Somalia. U.S. assistance provides food, treatment for the severely malnourished, health care, clean water, proper sanitation, hygiene education and supplies. We continue to look for innovative ways to get assistance into southern Somalia.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2011/09/famine-spreads-in-somalia/>

Taking on Global Challenges through Science, Diplomacy, and Development, *Opinion, Alex Dehgan, USAID Impact Blog, September 1*

The PEER program will accept and competitively select research proposals that leverage NSF-funded projects to accelerate solutions to our global development challenges. PEER funding may be used to train students and faculty, equip laboratories and field stations, and fund research, leveling the playing field between developing country scientists and American scientists and building scientific networks to address global challenges.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2011/09/taking-on-global-challenges-through-science-diplomacy-and-development/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Exploring the Intersection of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health

Date: September 19, 2011

Location: New York, NY

PepsiCo in partnership with the Business Council for the United Nations and United Nations Foundation will host a breakfast briefing on the policies governing what we grow and eat, their relationship to public health trends - and why this could be the next global health debate. A new report by The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, examining the links between agriculture, diets, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), will be released at the briefing. RSVP by September 12th to Ryan Travers at rtravers@apcworldwide.com or 202-778-1476. Space is limited.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/files/Studies_Publications/TaskForcesandStudies/Non-Communicable_Diseases/Healthy_Agriculture_and_Non-Communicable_Diseases_Project.aspx

The Food Dialogue

Date: September 22

Locations: Washington, D.C.; New York City, N.Y.; Fair Oaks, I.N; Davis, C.A.

The U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance will hold The Food Dialogues – the launch of a new effort to bring

together different viewpoints on farming and ranching and the future of food to solve our most challenging problems. USFRA is inviting people with different backgrounds, farmers of all shapes and sizes as well as our agribusiness partners to be part of the discussion. The Food Dialogues will feature a series of panels in key locations around the U.S. on the food issues Americans say they have the most questions about. There will also be opportunities for people to participate virtually.

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

World Food Prize 25th Anniversary

Date: October 12th – 14th, 2011

Location: Des Moines, IA

The World Food Prize will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this fall during the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium and the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. The topic of the symposium this year is "The Next Generation" and will focus on future leaders, challenges and technologies in the fight against hunger. This year, events will also include the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a permanent home for the World Food Prize and an event center and educational facility to honor humanitarian heroes and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders. Stay tuned and learn more at www.worldfoodprize.org.

2nd Annual Global Harvest Initiative GAP Report™ Announcement Luncheon

Date: October 12, 2011

Location: Des Moines, IA

The Global Harvest Initiative will release its 2nd Annual Global Agricultural Productivity Report™ (GAP Report™) at the 2011 World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa on October 12, 2011. The GAP Report™ serves as a benchmark of agricultural productivity and measures the difference between the current rate of agricultural productivity growth and the pace required to sustainably meet the future agricultural needs of the nine billion people expected to inhabit the Earth by 2050. Learn more and RSVP at

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1963977309>

American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting

Date: October 16th – 19th, 2011

Location: San Antonio, TX

The American Society of Agronomy, together with the Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America, will host their International Annual Meetings, which brings together 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and students. The theme of the this year's meeting is "Fundamental for Life: Soil, Crop, & Environmental Sciences," and features the symposium, "Feed the Future -- Global Food Security," one of hundreds of symposia and sessions that will be presented throughout the week. For more information, visit

www.acsmeetings.org

Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies Report Launch

Date: October 7, 2011

Location: London, United Kingdom

260 million adolescent girls live in rural areas of the developing world, and hold a key to unlocking a prosperous future for themselves, their families, and their communities. Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies evaluates the role of adolescent girls in the developing world and identifies opportunities for national governments and bilateral donors to equip these girls to be agents of economic and social change. Catherine Bertini, former executive director of the UN World Food Program, serves as the project's chair.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/files/Studies_Publications/TaskForcesandStudies/GirlsRuralEconomies/Release_Event_Information.aspx

2011 Africa Prize for Leadership

Date: October 22, 2011

Location: New York, NY

The Africa Prize honors a distinguished African man or woman who has exhibited exceptional leadership in bringing about the sustainable end of hunger at the national, regional or continent-wide level. The 2011 Annual Fall Event will include the awarding of The Hunger Project's Africa Prize for Leadership for the

Sustainable End of Hunger. The laureates for the 2011 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger: President of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika and Liberian Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Florence Chenoweth.

http://www.thp.org/what_we_do/key_initiatives/honoring_africa_leadership/2011

Future-Proof Farming

Date: November 9, 2011

Place: Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy needs to meet growing challenges that range from food security and safety to ecological sustainability and climate change. Meanwhile, Europe's farmers face a variety of ecological challenges, yet agriculture can contribute much to the creation of an environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy. Representatives from the farming sector will go into discussion with EU policymakers and experts from academic circles and civil society to debate the challenges facing European agriculture, European farmers and the role a reformed CAP should play in solving the world's food challenges.

<http://www.friendsofeurope.org/Contentnavigation/Events/Eventsoverview/tabid/1187/EventType/EventView/EventId/1066/Futureproofing.aspx>

Agricultural R&D: Investing in Africa's Future

Date: December 5-7, 2011

Location: Accra, Ghana

ASTI, together with the International Food Policy Report Institute, and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, is convening a conference on agricultural R&D in Africa focused on the following themes: 1. Levels and Stability of Agricultural R&D Investments; 2. Human Resource Development of Agricultural R&D; 3. Aligning and Rationalizing Institutional Structures; and 4. Measuring and Improving the Effectiveness of R&D Systems.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/agricultural-rd-investing-africa-s-future>

World Biofuels Markets

Date: March 13th – 15th, 2012

Location: Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will share their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

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

Jobs, Food & Farming

Date: March 19-21, 2012

Location: Accra, Ghana

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: 1) Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agri-food sector in Africa; 2) The dynamics of change in different components of the agri-food sector and the implications of these dynamics for young people; 3) The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agri-food sector. The conference will be co-hosted by the Future Agricultures Consortium based at the Institute of Development Studies and the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research.

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/index.php>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Livestock Production and Marketing, IFPRI, September 2011

The livestock is an important sub-sector within Ethiopia's economy in terms of its contributions to both agricultural value-added and national GDP. Focusing on four key livestock classes—cattle, sheep, goats, and chicken—this chapter undertakes three tasks: (1) it provides a characterization of the livestock subsector, (2) it assesses livestock and livestock product value chains based on primary data, and (3) analyzes the trends in

marketing and trade of live animals and animal products.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/esspwp26.pdf>

Media Articles:

Iron-Rich 'Super Rice' Signals Hope for Poor Nations, *Fox News, September 8*

Australian scientists have fortified rice so it can meet daily iron needs in a breakthrough that could create a super food for the world's under-nourished. Alex Johnson, from the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, says the GM rice has up to four times more iron than conventional rice and twice as much zinc. Rice is the main food source for roughly half the world's population.

<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2011/09/08/iron-rich-super-rice-signals-hope-for-poor-nations/>

Attack of the Superweed, *Jack Kaskey, Businessweek, September 8*

Superweeds represent a growing problem for Monsanto, whose \$11 billion of annual sales are anchored in crops genetically engineered to tolerate Roundup, the world's best-selling weedkiller. Dow Chemical, DuPont, Syngenta, and Bayer are engineering crops to withstand alternative herbicides that can kill the weeds Roundup no longer can.

<http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/attack-of-the-superweed-09082011.html>

We Need Better Measures of Food Insecurity, *Opinion, Derek D. Headey, SciDev, September 8*

Even in the best of times, it is often difficult to say confidently whether hunger or poverty is higher in one country or another. And self-assessments could obviously suffer from a number of biases. To gauge the impact of economic shocks on food insecurity, we need to do even better. We need more regular welfare surveys that go beyond calorie and income indicators to look at diets as a whole. This is because poor people can react to crises in ways that are not always obvious beforehand.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/agriculture-and-environment/food-security/opinions/we-need-better-measures-of-food-insecurity.html?>

Farmers Press GOP on Hiring, *Mariam Jordan, Wall Street Journal, September 7*

Recent Republican solidarity on illegal immigration is showing cracks under pressure from agriculture groups, with two GOP congressmen floating programs that would make it easier for foreigners to work legally in U.S. fields and orchards. Labor researchers say more than 1.4 million people are employed as field workers in the U.S. each year, and the Labor Department estimates more than half of them are here illegally.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903648204576554830735887802.html>

Missouri, Texas Researchers use Drought Machine to Help Develop Hardier, Heat-Resistant Crops,

Associated Press, September 7

The drought simulator — think motorized greenhouse on rails — allows Missouri researchers to mimic short dry spells as well as persistent or even severe droughts. A handful of similar machines can be found elsewhere in the U.S. and overseas, particularly in China and India. They give scientists an edge by letting them control precisely how much water plants receive.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/missouri-texas-researchers-use-drought-machine-to-help-develop-hardier-heat-resistant-crops/2011/09/07/gIQAeRnb8J_story.html

A Famine-Proof World Requires Investment In Farm Research, *Lloyd Le Page, Des Moines Register,*

September 5

Once again the Horn of Africa is suffering a hunger crisis of dizzying magnitude. Despite the wondrous benefits of investment in agricultural development, in the last 25 years, wealthy countries have shrunk their budgets for international agriculture at an alarming rate. Some of the larger necessary programs, such as Feed the Future, now faces severe budget cuts in Congress when it should instead be protected as one of the government's smartest investments.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110906/OPINION01/309060043/0/COMM/?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Mauritania Makes a Fresh Attempt to Boost Agriculture, *Guardian, September 2*

In a bid to reduce food insecurity, the Mauritanian government is turning to several new approaches to agriculture. The new strategies follow a period that focused on training for smallholder farmers, the introduction of mechanization for large-scale production, and guaranteeing good prices to farmers as a means of ensuring a steady supply of produce.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/sep/02/mauritania-attempt-boost-agriculture-farming>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Media Articles:

Al-Shabaab's Withdrawal Offers an Opportunity Not to Be Missed, *Stephen Groff, Guardian, September 9*
Fragile security on the ground is no excuse for ad-hoc engagement. Long-Term solutions will only come by consolidating a viable political settlement and strengthening security and justice, while working with local communities to complement relief efforts with delivery of services and support for livelihoods. To begin with, famine-response humanitarian funding needs to be coupled with rapid and flexible recovery financing.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/sep/09/al-shabaab-withdrawal-opportunity-somalia>

U.N. Humanitarian Chief Amos to Visit North Korea, *Patrick Worsnip, Alert Net, September 8*
Amos is planning to tour the impoverished country from Oct. 17-21 as part of an Asian trip. North Korea has pleaded for food aid due to bad weather and the impact of international sanctions imposed for its nuclear program, winning donations in recent months from Russia, the EU and U.N. organizations. But South Korea and the United States have so far refused food aid.
<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/un-humanitarian-chief-amos-to-visit-north-korea/>

Obama's "Smart Power" Plan Risks Death of 1,000 Cuts, *Susan Cornwell and Andrew Quinn, Reuters, September 7*
The State Department and the USAID could be chopped back significantly. Food aid to hungry countries, training for political parties in young democracies, improved medical services for expectant mothers and the U.S. response to natural disasters such as earthquakes and droughts could be hit in a major scale-back of U.S. assistance. As the worst famine in decades stalks millions in East Africa, 29 percent would be cut from the overall account that funds Obama's initiative for fighting global hunger, "Feed the Future."
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/07/us-usa-budget-power-idUSTRE78613G20110907/>

SEE ALSO: World Environment Programs in Budget Crosshairs, *Reuters, September 7*
Global conservation programs have all gotten help from the U.S. government, and they are probably prime targets of the budget-cutting congressional "super committee," since they sit at the crossroads of two things Americans don't like spending much money on: foreign aid and the environment.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/07/us-usa-budget-environment-idUSTRE7860U120110907>

Senator Kirk: Stop Aid to Pakistan, *Abdon M. Pallasch, Chicago Sun-Times, September 7*
Sen. Kirk is offering a bold proposal to save the US money and punish a disloyal ally: Cut off all aid to Pakistan. The US has spent about \$22 billion in foreign aid on Pakistan over the past decade, building schools and clinics, working with the Pakistani military.
<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/7501538-418/senator-kirk-stop-aid-to-pakistan.html>

Engagement is Good for Virginia's Economy, *Opinion, Anne Lynam Goddard and John Hager, Richmond Time Dispatch, September 7*

The international affairs budget is not charity. It is a critical investment in our own economy and national security here at home. As 95 percent of the world's consumers are outside the U.S., we have to enter those markets if we are going to be major competitors in the global economy. If we do not, we risk falling behind. International affairs program also help to protect our national security.
<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/oped/2011/sep/07/tdopin02-goddard-amp-hager-engagement-is->

[good-for--ar-1289647/](#)

Improving US Soldiers' Role in Development, *Guardian*, September 6

Of that, \$1bn in 2009 (almost one-eighth of total spending) went to pure development programs through the Commander's Emergency Response Program. To date, Congress has appropriated \$2.64bn for CERP in Afghanistan alone. As the US military's counterinsurgency strategy has evolved over the last decade, stabilization and development have taken center stage.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/sep/06/afghanistan-us-military-development-conflict>

Turkey Enters Foreign Aid Business, *Ayla Albayrak*, *Wall Street Journal*, September 5

The government proudly declared the amount of aid they had gathered together to send to fellow Muslims in Somalia: More than \$237 million. More than Muslim principles of brotherhood are at work here. Last year, President Abdullah Gul spelled out Turkey's ambition to raise its foreign aid game, boosting its aid budget above \$1 billion as it sent support to Japan, Haiti, Pakistan, Palestine and Sudan, among others.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/emergingurope/2011/09/05/turkey-enters-foreign-aid-business/>

GOP Rivals should be Ronald Reagan Strong, *Opinion*, *Frank Carlucci*, *Politico*, September 4

Our international affairs budget is 1 percent of the federal budget. And Reagan saw the wisdom of this investment and the real benefits it brings to the American people. Reagan said, "The ultimate importance to the US of our security and development assistance programs cannot be exaggerated. The programs and activities will enable the US to continue its contribution to the achievement of a secure and stable international environment." Reagan was right then, his words are even more meaningful today.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0911/62497.html#comments>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Current Extreme Weather and Climate Change, *Climate Communication*, September 7

Recent weather events such as deadly heat waves and devastating floods have sparked popular interest in understanding the role of global warming in driving extreme weather. These events are part of a new pattern of more extreme weather across the globe, shaped in part by human-induced climate change.

<http://climatecommunication.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Extreme-Weather-and-Climate-Change.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Climate Report links Extreme Weather Events to Global Warming, *Dan Vergano*, *USA Today*, September 8

Leading climate scientists outlined how increasing global atmospheric temperatures and other climate change effects -- triggered by industrial emissions of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and methane -- are loading the dice for the sort of extreme weather seen this year.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/09/climate-report-links-2011-extreme-weather-events-to-global-warming/1>

Media Articles:

Clean Water Technology could Spark Another Green Economy, *Leon Kaye*, *Guardian*, September 9

With a surging population, increased demands for water, and depleted sources, fields like nanotechnology and green chemistry will see a boom. This technology will come at a higher price for businesses and consumers. A new reality will soon hit all of us: water, for millennia practically free, will have a higher cost.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/clean-water-technology-sustainable-green-economy>

The Haze is Back in Southeast Asia, *Patrick Barta and Celine Fernandez*, *Wall Street Journal*, September 9

The soupy haze has been a recurring event since the 1990s, and is largely caused by fires set — often illegally — to clear land for agricultural and other development in parts of the Indonesian archipelago. Complaints about the haze picked up in Malaysia and Singapore over the past week, with air quality readings reaching an

unhealthy level of 101 in at least one area.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/dispatch/2011/09/09/the-haze-is-back-in-southeast-asia/>

U.N. Chief Calls for Climate Change Action, *Kristen Gelineau, Time, September 8*

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that urgent action was needed on climate change, pointing to the famine in the Horn of Africa and devastating floods in northern Australia as examples of the suffering caused by global warming. Scientists say there could be a severe impact on agriculture, sea levels, water resources and human health were the temperature to rise more than 2 degrees Celsius.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2092373,00.html>

Clean Water in the Face of Cholera, *Opinion, Stacey McMahan, Huffington Post, September 8*

Clean water remains one of the core hurdles we have faced during our time on the ground. Clean drinking water is an integral part of recovery, which will be ongoing in Haiti for decades. Properly implementing access to clean drinking water and education on safe structures are just the first steps down the long path to recovery and we are working to ensure each of our projects is part of a longer term solution.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stacey-mcmahan/clean-water-in-the-face-o_b_953078.html

Water Woes Mar Singh's Dhaka Trip, *Tom Wright, Wall Street Journal, September 5*

India's water wars with her neighbors are starting to bubble again. The Teesta, like many rivers that India shares with Bangladesh, has caused bilateral tensions in the past. West Bengal relies on the waters for agriculture. Meanwhile, over on its western border, India's water disputes with Pakistan are getting worse.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2011/09/05/water-woes-mar-singhs-dhaka-trip/>

Drought in Eritrea: Hunger Despite Government Denials, *Martin Plaut, BBC, September 4*

Eritrea, says it has escaped the crisis, reaping a bumper harvest earlier this year. But evidence is now mounting that the real situation in the secretive country may be rather different, with up to two in three Eritreans going hungry. Satellite imagery from weather monitoring group the Famine Early Warning System shows below average rainfall from June to September.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14779344>

Reducing Soot is Fastest Way to Slow Climate Change, *Rosanne Skirble, VOA News, September 2*

Stanford University professor Mark Jacobson developed the first computer models to measure the presence of soot in the atmosphere. He calculates that soot accounts for between 15 and 20 percent of global warming. Jacobson says climate models that ignore this cloud absorption phenomenon underestimate the effects of black carbon in the atmosphere. His research found that airborne soot quickly burns off cloud cover.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/environment/Study-Reducing-Soot-is-Fastest-Way-to-Slow-Climate-Change-129070528.html>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

Do Shocks Affect Men's and Women's Assets Differently?, *IFPRI, September 2011*

Reflecting differences in country and context, dowry and wedding expenses took their toll on wives' land in Bangladesh, and illness shocks also had a large detrimental impact on wives' assets in Bangladesh, while death negatively affected wives' assets in Uganda. Within households, however, it appears that in Bangladesh, husbands' land and assets were more negatively affected by covariate shocks relative to wives' assets, whereas in Uganda, husbands' assets were relatively protected against covariate shocks relative to wives' assets.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01113.pdf>

At a Crossroads: Sierra Leone's Free Health Care Policy, *Amnesty International, September 2011*

Pregnant women and girls in Sierra Leone continue to face serious challenges in accessing drugs and medical care that are crucial to ensure safe pregnancy and childbirth. The healthcare system remains dysfunctional in

many respects. Disparities persist between rural and urban maternal health services; the quality of care is frequently substandard, and many women continue to pay for essential drugs, despite the free care policy. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR51/001/2011/en/4de27bf1-aebb-4944-8005-1458b4c44edb/afr510012011en.pdf>

SEE ALSO: South Leonean Women Forced to Pay for “Free” Health Service, *Alert Net*, September 6
Health care in the West African nation is frequently substandard, disparities persist between rural and urban maternal health services, and in some clinics drugs are simply unavailable. Sierra Leone still has one of the worst maternal mortality rates in the world. <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/sleonean-women-forced-to-pay-for-free-health-service-amnesty>

Media Articles:

Slow Progress in Reducing Maternal Mortality, *Isaiah Esipisu, IPS, September 8*

In Kenya, findings from a survey in June found that 64 percent of all women who gave birth in public health facilities were not given necessary medication. More than one third of all women who wanted to give birth at medical facilities complained of being neglected or mistreated by medical practitioners.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105022>

Fellowships for African Women Scientists a Big Hit, *Maina Waruru, SciDev, September 7*

The African Women in Agricultural Research and Development fellowship program has been inundated with applicants. The scheme, which imparts leadership, science, networking and partnership skills to women scientists working in agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa, has already mentored 180 women, and a further 70 women were awarded the two-year career-development fellowships in August. AWARD fellows are involved in research in 16 fields of agricultural research and development.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/science-and-innovation-policy/gender/news/fellowships-for-african-women-scientists-a-big-hit.html>

An Outlet for Afghan Women Online, *Nilanjana Roy, New York Times, September 6*

If Tabasom wants to meet other Afghan writers or to use the Internet, she faces not just a four-hour walk but other constraints. And yet, like the 75 or so participants in an unusual initiative called the Afghan Women's Writing Project, Tabasom has found ways over the last two years to tell her story. To remain part of the workshop, the women must reside in Afghanistan and file at least once a month. The project maintains a certain level of secrecy to protect its writers.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/07/world/asia/07iht-letter07.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

FAO Cereal Supply and Demand Brief, *FAO, September 8*

Cereal Production expansion in 2011 not sufficient to stop the drawing down of inventories. After a sharp decline in 2010, world cereal production is forecast to rebound in 2011 but the extent of this recovery is now expected to be less significant than was anticipated earlier in the season. Among the major cereals, the maize supply situation is a cause for concern, a factor which is already reflected in the high international maize prices. Overall, the FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 253 points in August, up 2.2 percent from July and 36 percent higher than August 2010.

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/csdb/en/>

Media Articles:

Canada Is Taking Aim at Its Wheat Monopoly, *Mark Peters and Paul Vieira, Wall Street Journal, September 9*

The Canadian Wheat Board is poised to lose its monopoly grip on the country's wheat sales. Prices for Canadian wheat could fall more than usual at harvest time next summer if the board is eliminated. Exchanges

anticipate that Canadian farmers will turn to futures markets in full force once the wheat board goes away, and they and grain handlers already are jockeying for the expected new opportunities.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904537404576552354106792900.html>

Highly Leveraged Agriculture Will Keep Food Prices Volatile And High, *Agustino Fontevicchia, Forbes, September 9*

With food prices remaining stubbornly high near record levels, price swings and volatility have come to constitute a new normal in the commodities complex. As the global population continues to grow, farmers and ranchers will face heightened pressure and relentless volatility as they produce food to feed the world. Volatility is here to stay, because a simple weather event can cause substantial damage.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/afontevicchia/2011/09/09/highly-leveraged-agriculture-will-keep-food-prices-volatile-and-high/>

China's Food-Driven Inflation Won't Hit Global Economy Soon, *Bloomberg, September 8*

China's price pressures are driven primarily by food costs, and it will be some time before the country will export inflation to the rest of the world economy. Most of the fastest rising prices in China are for food products like pork and vegetables which have locally set costs, so price pressures are unlikely to spread through the global economy.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-09-08/china-s-food-driven-inflation-won-t-hit-global-economy-soon.html>

SEE ALSO: China Food Prices Continue Climb, *Wall Street Journal, September 6*

China's food prices continued to rise last week with pork prices hitting a record high.. Meanwhile, prices of vegetables, edible oil, flour and rice rose at a slightly moderated pace last week from a week earlier, while prices of aquatic products were little changed during the period.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904537404576554152480116370.html>

China Could Sow the Seeds of GM Crops Growth, *Caroline Henshaw, Wall Street Journal, September 8*

Sir Gordon Conway of Imperial College, London, said he expected China to approve genetically-modified crops for mainstream cultivation as early as 2012. For advocates of biotechnology, GM is a key tool for boosting world food output. Yet in many parts of the world, governments remain highly skeptical of GM crops. Higher food prices have put more pressure on EU lawmakers to relax rules on GM imports. Certainly in the broader debate on how to feed the world sustainably, GM cannot be put aside

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/09/08/china-could-sow-the-seeds-of-gm-crops-growth/tab/print/>

India Allows Wheat Exports for the First Time in Four Years, *Bloomberg, September 8*

India, the second-biggest grower of wheat, allowed private companies to export the grain for the first time in four years. India likely harvested a record 85.93 million tons of wheat in the year ended June 30, a 6.3 percent increase from a year earlier, while rice output totaled 95.32 million tons, up from 89.1 million tons.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-08/india-allows-wheat-exports-for-the-first-time-in-four-years-1-.html>

Russian Visitors Say 2010 Crop Woes Gone, *Dan Piller, Des Moines Register, September 7*

The drought of 2010 that cut into Russian wheat production, taking the country out of the world grain export markets and helping touch off the current boom in corn and wheat prices has been replaced this year by a bumper wheat crop. Russia and the Ukraine sell primarily to Asian and Middle Eastern countries. The presence of wheat as a potential feed for cattle has served as a brake on corn prices in the export markets.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/07/russian-visitors-say-2010-crop-woes-gone/>

EU Court puts Limits on Modified Honey, *Gabrielle Steinhauser, Bloomberg, September 6*

Honey that contains traces of pollen from GM crops needs special authorization before it can be sold. The EU has strict guidelines on authorizing and informing consumers about foods containing GMOs -- a policy that has caused problems for producers of genetically modified seeds such as U.S.-based Monsanto Co. that are used to much laxer rules in other parts of the world.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9PJ5H301.htm>

How to Feed the World?, *Caroline Henshaw, Wall Street Journal, September 5*

According to the FAO, world food prices hit a record high this year and continue to hover at historical levels, pressured by poor output and emaciated world stocks. Climate change has put more pressure on stretched world resources in breadbasket regions in the U.S., India and Africa. And now, with global cereals demand expected to rise by a billion tons over the next four decades, many warn the era of low food prices is over.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/09/05/how-to-feed-the-world/>

Interview with Peter Brabeck-Letmathe: Can the World Still Feed Itself?, *Wall Street Journal, September 3*

The energy stored in a bushel of corn can fuel a car or feed a person. And increasingly, thanks to ethanol mandates and subsidies in the U.S. and biofuel incentives in Europe, crops formerly grown for food or livestock feed are being grown for fuel. The USDA's most recent estimate predicts that this year, for the first time, American farmers will harvest more corn for ethanol than for feed. In Europe some 50% of the rapeseed crop is going into biofuel production while "world-wide about 18% of sugar is being used for biofuel today."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904787404576529912073080124.html>

While Some Kenyans Starve, Others have Bumper Crop, *Yahoo News, September 2*

In central and western Kenya, farmers have had a bumper crop of plump ears of corn and earthy potatoes. Yet in the north, skeletal children wait for food aid amid a growing emergency. Small farmers in western Kenya — which has had steady rains and a good harvest — say they don't move their crops to the drought-ravaged north because it costs too much to store and transport them and they are not assured of a market.

<http://news.yahoo.com/while-kenyans-starve-others-bumper-crop-174356582.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

China Green Agriculture Sees 4Q Profit, *MSNBC, September 9*

China Green Agriculture Inc. said that its fourth-quarter net income rose 57 percent as the fertilizer company benefited from stronger sales and a recent acquisition. The company said it was helped by stronger demand for fertilizer products and its acquisition during the first quarter of granular fertilizer maker Gufeng Chemical Products Co., which added \$40.3 million to its total revenue for the period.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44462845/ns/business-personal_finance/#.Tmrb5RwwGj0

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