

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



January 15th – January 21st, 2011

Quote of the Week: *“Instead of merely providing food aid in times of emergency, we are helping countries develop their own agricultural sectors, so that they can feed themselves. We launched Feed the Future – bringing together resources across the federal government and engaging in deeper partnerships to extend the impact of our efforts. We are now leveraging more investment from countries themselves and from other donors. Firms ranging from General Mills to local African seed companies are all doing more. As a result, in just five of our twenty focus countries we will be able to help nearly 6.5 million poor farmers – most of them women – grow enough food to feed their families and break the grip of hunger and poverty for tens of millions of people.”*
– Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, January 19th, 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.
- To receive *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please register [here](#).
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The Modern Development Enterprise, *Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, Center for Global Development, January 19*

When we unveiled our government strategy for meeting the Millennium Development Goals, we recognized the enormous development progress the world had made in recent decades. Since 1990, hundreds of millions of people have moved out of poverty and suffering and the number of children that die before the age of five has dropped by a third. But we also realize that much more is yet to be done and simply doing more of the same would not lead to further success. As a result, we've changed the way we work in each of our areas of focus. Instead of merely providing food aid in times of emergency, we are helping countries develop their own

agricultural sectors so they can feed themselves. We launched Feed the Future, bringing together resources across the federal government and engaging in deeper partnerships to extend the impact of our work.
<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2011/sp110119.html>

SEE ALSO: US Development Agency to Take Inspiration from Venture Capitalists, *Guardian*, January 20

Head of USAID, Rajiv Shah, says the agency will become "more business-like" in a bid to cut costs and shore up US support for development reforms.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/jan/20/usaaid-rajiv-shah-development-business>

SEE ALSO: Reaction to Shah's Speech, *Modernizing Foreign Assistance*, January 20

David Beckmann, co-chair of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, called Shah's speech "extraordinary and hard-hitting" and ongoing USAID reforms "essential and timely," urging the Obama administration to work with policymakers from both parties to draft legislation that will "enshrine this new development business model in law in order to drive long-term results."

<http://www.modernizingforeignassistance.org/blog/2011/01/20/media-spotlight-reaction-to-shah%E2%80%99s-speech/>

Global Effort to Calm Food Prices, *Washington Post*, January 15

Faced with rising international food prices, governments around the world are cooking up measures to protect domestic supplies and keep a lid on prices at home. Russia has banned grain exports until the end of the 2011 harvest. South Korea and the Philippines have suspended some of their import duties on foodstuffs such as fish and powdered milk. In December, Sri Lanka released rice stocks and re-imposed a price ceiling that had been removed in October. And across the Mideast and North Africa, governments have kept food prices low by using big subsidies.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/14/AR2011011406859.html>

SEE ALSO: The G20's Next Project: Solve Global Crisis of Unstable Food Prices, *Globe and Mail*, January 21

The Globe and Mail has learned that, for first time, the work of the G20 will be expanded to include a special meeting of agriculture ministers who will advise leaders on ways of averting skyrocketing food prices. The solutions are far from easy. The idea of liberalizing trade policies – to tackle Russian wheat export bans or addressing concerns about speculators in commodities markets – is deeply contentious.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/the-g20s-next-project-solve-global-crisis-of-unstable-food-prices/article1878209/>

USAID Chief Faces Republican Budget Cutters, *Reuters*, January 19

With Republicans ready to slash foreign aid, the head of the U.S. development agency pledged on Wednesday to cut millions of dollars in costs as the Obama administration seeks to salvage foreign assistance as a key plank of U.S. foreign policy. Rajiv Shah, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), said administrative reforms, procurement changes and better contract management would save hundreds of millions of dollars -- but only if USAID is allowed to push ahead with its plan to expand and restructure.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/interview-us-aid-chief-faces-republican-budget-cutters/>

SEE ALSO: 165 Republicans Endorse Defunding USAID, *Foreign Policy*, January 20

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/01/20/165_house_republicans_endorse_defunding_usaid?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+foreignpolicy%2Fthe+cable+%28The+Cable%29

Unilever Says 'New Business Model' Necessary for Food Security, *Bloomberg*, January 18

Unilever, the world's second-biggest consumer-goods maker, said companies must target sales growth without increasing their consumption of natural resources to ensure food security in the future. "We need to grow differently," said Chief Executive Officer Paul Polman, according to the e-mailed text of a speech scheduled for delivery this evening in London at the annual City Food Lecture. "We cannot choose between growth and sustainability. We have to deliver both."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-18/unilever-says-new-business-model-necessary-for-food-security.html>

The Consequences of Costly Nosh, *Economist*, January 20

What record food prices mean for business. High prices are good for farmers. Low prices are good for consumers. "And we are in the middle," says Alberto Weisser, the boss of Bunge, a trader of agricultural commodities. After poor harvests in Russia, Canada and Ukraine last year, a recent heatwave in Argentina and floods in Australia that wiped out much of the country's wheat crop, everyone is grappling with pricey food. Private-label makers will sell more, but since raw materials are a higher proportion of their total costs (they don't advertise as much as posh brands), they will suffer. Most will lose more than they gain from food-price inflation. If it continues, they will have to raise their prices too. But Mr. Weisser is optimistic that supply bottlenecks will soon ease. "Next year prices will come down," he says. "Farmers have so many incentives to plant more."

http://www.economist.com/node/17970938?story_id=17970938&fsrc=rss

Gender Dimensions of Agricultural and Rural Employment: Differentiated Pathways out of Poverty, *FAO, IFAD, 2010*

Gender equality is an essential component of sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. Equitable access to more and better jobs in rural areas enables rural women to become effective economic actors and engines of growth, as well as to produce or acquire the food, water, fuel and social services their families need. The important gaps in data availability and analytical work in many key areas handicap policy makers' efforts to address these crucial issues adequately when designing poverty alleviation and growth strategies. The report reflects the latest thinking on the gender dimensions of rural poverty.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1638e/i1638e.pdf>

SEE ALSO: UN Report Highlights Disadvantages Faced by Women in Agricultural Employment, *UN News Centre*, January 21

Women continue to reap less benefits from employment in agriculture than men in rural areas, and the recent global financial and food crises have slowed down progress towards gender equality in farming-related labour, three United Nations agencies said in a joint report unveiled today.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37334&Cr=rural&Cr1=>

Agriculture – Can it Be a Cash Cow for Investors?, *Financial Times*, January 16

Might the era of the yeoman farmer be upon us? A clutch of investment advisers say so, claiming that buying arable land is a sounder idea than taking out futures contracts if you are hoping to profit from rising food prices. There are just a handful of institutions with agriculture divisions (Macquarie, Prudential, Rabobank and UBS are well-placed in the area) and even fewer funds on offer. But interest in land holdings across Brazil, Canada, Africa, Australia and New Zealand is growing, particularly among pension funds as well as private equity and sovereign wealth funds.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d5ecf8e4-2012-11e0-a6fb-00144feab49a.html#axzz1BcFSulam>

African Paradox, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog*, January 21

Once again, the great paradox of Africa emerges: hunger in one part of a country, food surplus in another. A persistent drought is biting hard in the northern and eastern reaches of Kenya, threatening herders and their livestock. Already, the World Food Program is feeding about 1.6 million people. This week the government said the number of Kenyans requiring food relief would increase to five million in the next three months. At the same time, farmers in the Rift Valley are sitting on surplus maize following good harvests last August. "Can the government tell us what food shortage they are talking about? Most farmers have maize but there is no market," a North Rift parliamentarian was quoted as saying in the Kenyan newspaper, Daily Nation.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/01/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-african-paradox.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Speaks Before the House Committee on Agriculture, *USDA, January 20*

"The rapid adoption of GE crops has coincided with the rapid expansion of demand for organic and other non-GE products, resulting in real, practical difficulties for some non-GE producers to meet the need of their markets. These conflicts have produced ongoing litigation and resulted in uncertainty for producers and technology innovators. We are at a crucial juncture in American agriculture where the issues causing the litigation and uncertainty must be addressed, so that the potential contributions of all sectors of agriculture can be fully realized."

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMj8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_1wkA5kFaGuQBXeASbmn4uBgbe5hB5AxzA0UDfzyM_N1W_IDS7zdFRUREAZXAypA!!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfUDhNVIZMVDMxMEJUMTBJQ01IMURERDFDUDA!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2011%2F01%2F0025.xml

SEE ALSO: Vilsack Maps Out USDA's Biotechnology Issues, *Southeast Farm Press, January 20*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today spoke before the House Committee on Agriculture on issues critically important to U.S. agriculture. "Over the past 20 years, due to improved plant breeding practices and biotechnology, yields have increased and new varieties are being developed that will resist pests and drought, and reduce the amount of water and fertilizer needed to raise a crop. Recognizing the benefits of these products, today, more farmers are planting biotech varieties of crops. We believe that biotechnology stands to play a significant role in our effort to support our drive toward energy independence, conserve our natural resources, and meet the world's growing demand for food, feed, fiber, and fuel."

<http://southeastfarmpress.com/government/vilsack-maps-out-usdas-biotechnology-issues>

Peterson Announces Agriculture Committee Democrats, *House Committee on Agriculture – Democrats, January 19*

U.S. House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin C. Peterson, D-Minn., today announced the Democratic members who will serve on the Agriculture Committee during the 112th Congress. The Democratic Caucus today named 20 Democrats, including 13 returning members and seven new members, to the House Agriculture Committee.

<http://democrats.agriculture.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1089>

Farr Named Highest-Ranking Democrat on House Ag Subcommittee, *Hagstrom Report, January 19*

The House Democratic caucus on Wednesday named Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., the highest-ranking Democrat on the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. Farr has long been an advocate for the fruit and vegetable industry and domestic and international food aid programs.

www.hagstromreport.com

Ag Undersecretary Miller Resigns, *Hagstrom Report, January 19*

Agriculture Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Jim Miller confirmed today that he has resigned. Miller, who worked for Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., on the 2008 farm bill, said he would return to Capitol Hill, but could not say more at this time.

www.hagstromreport.com

SEE ALSO: Miller Scuse Named Acting Undersecretary after Miller's Resignation, *Hagstrom Report, January 19*

www.hagstromreport.com

Obama-Hu News Conference Video and Transcript, *President Barack Obama, Wall Street Journal, January 19*

"We're renewing our long-running cooperation in science and technology, which sparks advances in agriculture and industry. We're moving ahead with our U.S.-China clean energy research center and joint ventures in wind power, smart grids and cleaner coal. I believe that as the two largest energy consumers and emitters of greenhouse gases, the United States and China have a responsibility to combat climate change by

building on the progress at Copenhagen and Cancun, and showing the way to a clean energy future. And President Hu indicated that he agrees with me on this issue.”

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2011/01/20/transcript-of-the-obama-hu-news-conference/?KEYWORDS=agriculture>

House Panel Eyes Reforms in U.N., *Washington Times*, January 17

The new Republican majority in the House is poised to revive some old battles over the U.S. government's financial contribution to the United Nations, vowing once again to use the power of America's purse to force what it calls needed reforms at the world body. New House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen told *The Washington Times* that she plans to use the threat to withhold U.S. dues payments to force U.N. officials to cut costs and clean up the organization's image, a sharp break from the approach and political rhetoric used when Democrats ran the House.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jan/17/house-panel-eyes-reforms-in-un/>

Clinton is Proving that a Feminist Foreign Policy is Possible – and Works, *Guardian*, January 16

The secretary of state has explicitly placed women's needs at the heart of US thinking about long-term security. She is the most powerful politician to advance an explicitly feminist agenda. Even in that most delicate and crucial relationship with China – on which the world's attention will be fixed this week for the Chinese president's visit to the US – Clinton has gone out of her way to press feminist issues. In China's case, she has highlighted the country's growing gender imbalance caused by the high abortion rate of female fetuses. Inevitably, some see it as a recasting of US imperialism, others as a force for the progressive good. I'll come on to what it stacks up to, but the first point is to marvel at how she has got away with it.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2011/jan/16/hillary-clinton-feminist-foreign-policy>

UPCOMING EVENTS

IFAD Conference on New Directions for Smallholder Agriculture

Date: January 24th – 25th, 2011

Location: Rome

IFAD is organising an International Conference on “New Directions for Smallholder Agriculture” on 24-25 January 2011 in Rome, Italy to discuss the future of some 500 million smallholders. In much of Africa and South Asia, small farms still account for the largest share of agricultural output. Smallholders have proved remarkably persistent; the area operated in small farms in the developing world appears to be rising, and the average farm size continues to decline in large parts of the developing world. Most of the smallholders and their dependents, some two billion of them, live in poverty, are more fragmented than before, and have limited capacity to link up to market opportunities.

<http://www.ifad.org/events/agriculture/index.htm>

The Famous Purdue Fish Fry

Date: February 5th, 2011

Location: Indianapolis

Purdue Agriculture is pleased to host yet another nationally prominent speaker to keynote the Ag Fish Fry. Dan Glickman has a long record of public service to agriculture stakeholders, including 18 years in the U.S. House of Representatives during which time he served on the House Agriculture Committee. He was appointed Secretary of Agriculture in 1995 and served until 2001. Mr. Glickman is now involved in global agricultural concerns, serving as the Vice Chair of the World Food Programme, and he serves as the co-chair of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. His board memberships include the Chicago Mercantile Exchange; the National 4-H Council; Food Research and Action Center, a domestic anti-hunger organization; and the Center for U.S. Global Engagement.

<http://www.ag.purdue.edu/agalumni/Pages/2011FishFry.aspx>

The Politics of Hunger

Date: February 7th, 2011

Location: Chicago, IL

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs welcomes David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World in conversation with Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Deadly food riots in Mozambique this past fall have illustrated that the world is perilously close to a new global food crisis. Natural disasters and reduced exports of staples, such as wheat, have pushed prices of commodities from soybeans to sugar up significantly in the past six months. Food prices are forecast to hit all time highs in 2011, generating concerns about global food supply and reserves. With the United Nations reporting that over 925 million people suffer from hunger globally, the G-20 has taken steps to fight food insecurity by pledging \$22 billion toward agricultural development, but is this move enough to prevent a new food crisis? Join us for a conversation with David Beckmann and Roger Thurow as they discuss the present politics of hunger in the context of a looming global food crisis.
http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/files/Event/FY11_Events/02_February_2011/The_Politics_of_Hunger.aspx
[x](#)

Global Agriculture in the 21st Century

Date: February 8th, 15th, and 22nd, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International studies presents this professional skills course to provide analysts and practitioners involved in agriculture and food issues or policies an overview of the mix of considerations that will impact the agricultural sector in the future. It is specifically offered as an interdisciplinary class with a non-theoretical bias.

For further details and to reserve a place, please contact mleinz@jhu.edu

The Corporate Council on Africa Agribusiness Working Group Rollout Event

Date: February 9th, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

The Agribusiness Working Group seeks to be a private sector voice to foster an enabling environment for investment in Africa's agricultural value-chains through better coordination of government development policies and private sector investment. Areas of focus will include: trade and investment; financing; agricultural technology, natural resource management & value chain enhancement; technical assistance; capacity building and stakeholder alignment.

<http://www.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=6d4d884c-e8ba-453e-aa93-36e83585e5a3>

Launch of the UK Global Food and Farming Futures Foresight Project Report

Date: February 9th, 2011

Location: London

The report will look out to 2050 and take a global view of the food system, considering issues of demand, production and supply as well as broader environmental issues. Because of the report's global perspective, the work will draw heavily on the skills and perspectives of leading experts and stakeholders from around the world. As with all Foresight reports, the Foresight Global Food and Farming Futures report will seek to apply leading scientific and other evidence and futures analysis to identify critical issues and their consequences, and to identify and analyse possible policies and interventions for addressing those challenges.

Please RSVP to James Birch on birchj@parliament.uk <<mailto:birchj@parliament.uk>>

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>

USDA's 2011 Agricultural Outlook Forum: Today's Strategies & Tomorrow's Opportunities

Date: February 24th – 25th, 2011

Location: Arlington, VA

Secretary Tom Vilsack will deliver the Forum's keynote address followed by a distinguished speaker. Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will deliver the Forum's welcome. Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will discuss the Domestic and Foreign Agricultural Economic Outlooks. Plenary and session speakers will be announced in the near future. Twenty-five breakout sessions will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to risk management, foreign trade and domestic markets, rural communities, conservation and the environment, renewable energy, broadband, nutrition and food safety, dietary guidelines, land tenure issues, and sustainability. The Forum also will feature traditional commodity and supply and demand outlook sessions.
<http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>

Getting Down to Business: Building Partnerships to Expand African Agricultural Development

Date: March 1st-2nd, 2011

Location: Washington, DC

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa is pleased to announce the third annual US-Africa Forum.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/getting-down-business-building-partnerships-expand-african-agricultural-development>

7 Billion to Feed: Can We Do It?

Date: March 3rd, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

Women Thrive Worldwide presents their Third Annual International Women's Day Breakfast.

For more information, contact aenglish@womenthrive.org

CARE's 2011 Conference & International Women's Day Celebration

Date: March 8th-10th, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

The CARE Conference & International Women's Day Celebration will unite hundreds of CARE supporters — individuals, partner organizations, major donors and corporate partners. Together, we'll come together as part of the movement that is bringing hope to millions of poor women, families and communities around the world. At CARE's conference, participants will learn why CARE places women and girls at the heart of our efforts to fight poverty. When equipped with the proper resources, women rise to overcome the great challenges they face. Every day women are leading the way for lasting change for all.

<http://www.careconference.org/>

COMESA Investment Forum 2011

Date: March 23rd – 24th, 2011

Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The conference will provide an interactive platform to find out first-hand about the opportunities in the region, where investors and business leaders are putting their money, and how they are going about generating high long-term returns. The agenda will focus on 5 key sectors: Trade, Finance, Logistics, Agriculture/Agribusiness and Infrastructure.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/comesa-investment-forum-2011>

Agriculture 2.0

Date: April 11th – 12th, 2011

Location: San Francisco

This event will be the 5th installment in the conference series and for the first time we are adding several tracks to a multi-day format. This expansion will facilitate the creation of a commercial marketplace for the industry—a first of its kind, one-stop shop not only for venture capitalists and early stage companies, but also for senior decision makers in agribusiness and farmland funds, commodities experts, growth stage and institutional investors, key industry insiders, and policy makers. They all come together at Agriculture 2.0 with one intent – to catalyze and capitalize on this rapidly evolving industry.

[https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520\(1\)&utm_content=&step=start](https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520(1)&utm_content=&step=start)

19th Annual Food and Ag Policy Conference

Date: April 13th – 14th, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

<http://www.informaecon.com/WashMarkCalendar2011.pdf>

CropLife America National Policy Conference: Lost in Translation? Deciphering the Discourse on Modern Agriculture

Date: May 12th, 2011

Location: Washington, DC

The CropLife America National Policy Conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of agriculture, food safety and security, agricultural technology and policy to offer highly diverse perspectives and engage in frank discussions on all issues facing modern agriculture. Our Master of Ceremonies will again be Marc Gunther, contributing editor at FORTUNE magazine and a senior writer at Greenbiz.com who has appeared on NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/nationalpolicyconference>

Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies

Date: June 2nd – June 5th, 2011

Location: Tufts University, Medford, MA

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; and advances in public health and food security in crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

Chicago Council Job Announcement: Project Manager/Lead Researcher, Agriculture & Health

The Chicago Council is accepting applications for a Project Manager/Lead Researcher position to support a new initiative exploring the linkages between shifting agricultural and food production trends, food availability, and the rise in non-communicable diseases. For a full position description and how to apply, please visit: http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago_council_career_details.php?career_id=41

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Common-Pool Resources – A challenge for Local Governance, IFPRI, January 2011

A functioning natural resource base plays a significant role in the livelihoods of people of the Mekong Delta who rely heavily on agriculture and fishing. The harvest of aquatic animals as a source of protein is essential to the countries, representing the most intensive worldwide fishery in terms of catch per person (Baran 2005). Fish products in Cambodia, for example, represent an estimated 75 percent of animal protein intake in the diet of a Cambodian, which is exceptional by global standards (Ahmed et al. 1998). In Vietnam, the Mekong Delta region accounts for almost half of Vietnam's rice and fish production and thus is also an important source for foreign exports (Ratner 2003). However, sustainable resource management in Cambodia and Vietnam faces severe challenges.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/common-pool-resources-challenge-local-governance>

Strengthening Innovation Capacity of Nigerian Agricultural Research Organizations, IFPRI, January 2011

Strong agricultural research and development (R&D) is crucial for improving agricultural productivity and efficiency, which in turn both lead to agricultural development, food security, and poverty reduction. However, several studies have shown that in many developing countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

there is persistent underinvestment in R&D and weak research capacity, both of which continue to undermine agricultural productivity and growth in these countries.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/strengthening-innovation-capacity-nigerian-agricultural-research-organizations>

Monitoring Global Commodity Prices, IFPRI, January 21

Following its launch of global wheat price tools in early January, The Food Security Portal, facilitated by IFPRI, has launched a new series of global food price tools for monitoring quantitative and qualitative information related to the international maize and soybean markets. With these tools, users will be able to combine time series of international agricultural commodity prices with other related information such as real-time news stories and synopses of major events related to global commodity price fluctuations.

<http://www.ifpri.org/blog/monitoring-global-commodity-prices>

Media Articles:

How Can We Feed 9 Billion?, Telegraph, January 21

The world's population is set to soar in the coming decades – but food supplies are already under pressure. Meanwhile, Britain and Europe have turned their backs on a great agricultural revolution. If the food supply is wobbling now, most people prefer not to think about what it could be like in 2050. By then, there will be another 2.5 billion open mouths, as the global population bursts its corset and balloons outwards by 70 per cent. Will they have anything to eat? Can agriculture almost double its capacity?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/8258167/How-can-we-feed-9-billion.html>

How Can We Feed the World and Still Save the Planet, Guardian, January 21

Chronic underinvestment in agriculture over the last 20 years combined with trade liberalisation has trapped many developing countries in a vicious cycle of low agricultural productivity and dependence on cheap food imports, he argues. The one exacerbates the other as local farmers struggle, and fail, to get a decent price for their produce in competition with imports, which have often benefited from government subsidies.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jan/21/olivier-de-schutter-food-farming>

Active Participation of Institutions and Farmers Vital to Achieve Food Security, AllAfrica, January 20

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arefaine Berhe, stressed the need for enhanced contribution of all government institutions and farming communities in development programs towards achieving food security. Pointing out that the importance of farmers' experience in outlining agricultural infrastructure facilities, Mr. Arefaine highlighted the contribution of soil and water conservation programs under implementations on the part of farmers in raising productivity. He called on farmers to engage in the production of milk and honey as well as poultry and bee breeding.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201101210372.html>

Pesticides could be Behind Honeybee Demise, Telegraph, January 20

Pesticides are making honey bees far more susceptible to disease, according to new research than links a new group of chemicals to the recent collapse in the bee population.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/8271659/Pesticides-could-be-behind-honeybee-demise.html>

World Food Shortage in 10 Years, Herald Sun, January 19

A global population explosion combined with the steady effects of climate change are forecast to create a worldwide food shortage in the next 10 years, but the news isn't all bad for some countries. The United States, China, Ethiopia and parts of northern Europe are among the select few expected to be able to grow more crops as a result of changes in temperature and rainfall, according to a study. However, those gains will not be enough to stave off an increase in world starvation and price spikes for food as a result of a shortfall in three of the four main cereal crops, said the report by the Universal Ecological Fund, a non-profit group.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/world/world-food-shortage-in-10-years/story-e6fr7lf-1225991126558>

Spike in World Food Prices. It's More than Bad Weather, *Christian Science Monitor*, January 19

Food price inflation takes a human toll, and a political and economic one, as well. Bad weather had a lot to do with this most recent surge, but the point Lugar seemed to be making was that floods and drought are not the only causes of "food insecurity." He pointed to the environmental tussle in the US over genetically modified alfalfa as holding a lesson for Africa, which strongly resists "GM" seeds and crops.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2011/0119/Spike-in-world-food-prices-It-s-more-than-bad-weather>

7.3 Million Afghans are 'Food Insecure', *UPI*, January 19

World Food Program said its aim is to provide food assistance to the nearly 7.3 million Afghans suffering from a shortage of food. About 31 percent of the Afghan population was identified as "food-insecure" by a 2007 report on national risks.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2011/01/19/73-million-Afghans-are-food-insecure/UPI-83811295441965/

Bacteria Bigger Threat to Citrus than Cold Weather, *Business Week*, January 19

While Florida farmers have lost some of their crop to cold weather for the second year in a row, they say a fast-spreading, incurable bacteria presents a greater threat to their trees and the citrus industry. Citrus greening has destroyed groves in the U.S., Brazil, Asia and Africa. Detected in Florida in 2005, it leaves fruit sour, malformed and unusable. Eventually, it kills the tree.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9KRL9IG0.htm>

Fertilizer Microdosing on Degraded Soils in Sub-Saharan Africa, *Farming First*, January 18

Land degradation affects more than half of Africa, leading to a loss of an estimated US\$42 billion in income and 5 million hectares of productive land each year. A precision-farming technique called "microdosing" is helping farmers address the problem of soil infertility.

http://www.farmingfirst.org/2011/01/fertilizer-microdosing-on-degraded-soils-in-sub-saharan-africa/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29

Wheat Research for a Hotter, More Crowded Planet, *New York Times*, January 18

A \$25 million grant for wheat and barley genetics research will help agronomists develop varieties suited for a warmer world with more mouths to feed. Headed by the University of California, Davis, the grant will allow 55 researchers, plant breeders and educators across 21 states to examine how evolving wheat and barley varieties -- which use similar technologies in breeding labs -- respond to biotic (pests and diseases) and abiotic (floods and droughts) stresses.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/01/18/18climatewire-wheat-research-for-a-hotter-more-crowded-plan-4381.html>

Dutch Scientist Advocates Bugs as a Green Superfood, *BBC*, January 18

Dutch scientist Arnold van Huis has advocated bugs as a healthy, green, alternative food, saying it is time to break old eating habits. Insect dishes could be the answer to the global food crisis, shrinking land and water resources and climate-changing carbon emissions, he argued.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-12216355>

Fighting Poor Nutrition with Biofortified Sorghum, *Farming First*, January 17

Africa continues to slip behind in meeting basic nutritional needs, with sub-Saharan Africa accounting for half the deaths of children under the age of five within the developing world. The Africa Biofortified Sorghum (ABS) project is a public-private consortium that seeks to use biotechnology to develop a more nutritious and easily digestible sorghum that contains increased levels of essential nutrients, especially lysine, vitamin A, iron and zinc.

http://www.farmingfirst.org/2011/01/fighting-poor-nutrition-with-biofortified-sorghum/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29

UN Issues Draft Guidelines to Reduce Fish Thrown Back Into Ocean, *Bloomberg, January 17*

The United Nations released the first global draft guidelines for the management of ocean fishing, to help cut back the number of fish caught accidentally and then thrown back into the sea either dead or dying. Unmanaged so-called bycatch fish and discards which include turtles, seabirds, dolphins and sharks, threaten the long term sustainability of fisheries and affect the livelihoods of millions of fishing industry workers, according to the UN. The amount of fish in the current bycatch total may be more than 20 million tons a year, the UN said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-17/un-issues-draft-guidelines-to-reduce-fish-thrown-back-into-ocean.html>

Indonesian Crop Failures Add to Food Fears, *Financial Times, January 16*

Indonesian farmer Ujang Majudin pointed to rows of rotting chili peppers, tomatoes and egg plants as clouds gathered again over his fields, already water-logged by incessant rain. With sharply declining yields and revenue, he faces the toughest season since taking over the family farm 15 years ago. "If the situation doesn't get better, I have no choice but to lay people off if I am going to survive," he said.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e51a4270-219a-11e0-9e3b-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/2011117/nbe/WorldNews/product#axzz1BcFSulam>

In Corrupt Global Food System, Farmland is the New Gold, *AllAfrica, January 13*

Food prices are even higher now in many countries, sparking another cycle of hunger riots in the Middle East and South Asia last weekend. While bad weather gets the blame for rising prices, the instant price hikes of recent times are largely due to market speculation in a corrupt global food system. The 2008 food crisis awoke much of the world's investment community to the profitable reality that hungry people will do almost anything, even sell their own children, in order to eat. And with the global financial crisis, food and farmland became the "new gold" for some of the biggest investors, experts agree.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201101140258.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Linking Poor Rural Households to Microfinance and Markets in Ethiopia, *USAID, Feinstein International Center, CARE, REST, 2010*

This report presents the findings of the first two stages of an assessment of the PSNP Plus project in Raya Azebo woreda in Tigray. These assessments are part of a broader longitudinal impact study of the PSNP Plus project, which targets poor, rural households in food insecure areas that benefit from the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP). The goal of PSNP Plus is to move households towards graduation from PSNP through market-driven approaches to diversify their livelihoods, build assets and link to financial services and markets. Though findings are preliminary, they do indicate that well-designed and well-implemented value chain activities, in concert with specific types of credit, can translate into a fairly immediate impact on household income for the poor.

<https://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/download/attachments/41421333/PSNP-Raya.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1295450502000>

Media Articles:

Rising Food Prices May Hit World Food Program Budget, *Reuters, January 19*

The World Food Programme's budget could come under pressure this year if food prices continue to rise, a senior official with the U.N. agency said on Wednesday. The WFP, which brings food assistance to over 90 million people and sources most of its food from local countries it operates in, said it expected to have a budget of around \$6 billion this year, about the same as in 2010. "Our donors are in this era of austerity and they are rightly seeking ... that we stretch every penny we get from them. It is tight," Sheila Sisulu, deputy executive director with the WFP, told Reuters.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-54265220110119>

UN and Government Map Out Common Food Aid Strategy, *UN News Centre, January 19*

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Afghanistan are mapping out a common strategy for providing food aid to millions of vulnerable Afghans over the next three years.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37312&Cr=afghan&Cr1=>

India Pushes for National Microfinance Rules, *Financial Times, January 19*

India's central bank experts have called for a nationwide regulatory regime for microfinance institutions – including a cap of 10 per cent to 12 per cent on microlenders' interest margins – to facilitate the extension of credit to poor borrowers while preventing exploitation. The proposals, which are likely to serve as the framework for new Reserve Bank of India rules for the sector, come as the microfinance industry struggles to survive an intense regulatory backlash prompted by mounting concern that overlending by aggressive, for-profit microlenders has created serious hardships for the very poor borrowers they claim to be trying to help.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/89555e5c-23de-11e0-8bb1-](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/89555e5c-23de-11e0-8bb1-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=crm/email/2011120/nbe/AsiaPacificBusiness/product#axzz1BcFSulam)

[00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=crm/email/2011120/nbe/AsiaPacificBusiness/product#axzz1BcFSulam](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/89555e5c-23de-11e0-8bb1-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=crm/email/2011120/nbe/AsiaPacificBusiness/product#axzz1BcFSulam)

China's Lending Hits New Heights, *Financial Times, January 17*

China has lent more money to other developing countries over the past two years than the World Bank, a stark indication of the scale of Beijing's economic reach and its drive to secure natural resources. The volume of overseas loans by the two banks indicates how Beijing is forging new patterns of China-led globalisation, as part of a broader push to scale back its economic dependency on western export markets.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/488c60f4-2281-11e0-b6a2-](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/488c60f4-2281-11e0-b6a2-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/2011118/nbe/WorldNews/product#axzz1BcFSulam)

[00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/2011118/nbe/WorldNews/product#axzz1BcFSulam](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/488c60f4-2281-11e0-b6a2-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/2011118/nbe/WorldNews/product#axzz1BcFSulam)

SEE ALSO: China Banks Lend More than World Bank, *BBC, January 18*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12212936>

Developing Economies Claim Largest Share of Foreign Investment, *Wall Street Journal, January 17*

Developing economies attracted more than half of all foreign investment in 2010, the first time that has happened since records began in the 1970s. The rising share of developing economies reflects their stronger growth in the wake of the global financial crisis and the recession it caused, although it's likely that share will fall again as investment flows to developed economies recover.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110117-706020.html>

Send Foreign Aid to where it is Really Needed, *Telegraph, January 16*

As one of the world's richest nations, Britain has a moral commitment to help others. But at the moment, 40 per cent of our aid goes through multinational organisations such as Unesco and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, both of which have been accused of failing to ensure that aid reaches the people who actually need it, and of handing money to repressive, kleptocratic African rulers. And it gives us no pleasure to report, as we do today, that some of DfID's funds are not being spent abroad at all, but here in Britain, on "raising awareness" of poverty in Africa and other deprived nations.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/8262155/Send-foreign-aid-to-where-it-is-really-needed.html>

UN Chief Outlines Priorities for 2011, *UN News Centre, January 14*

From promoting sustainable development and mitigating climate change to empowering women to keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today laid out the United Nations agenda for the coming year. "Success in rising to the challenge does not belong to any one of us," he told the 192-member General Assembly, listing eight priorities for 2011.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37274&Cr=ban+ki-moon&Cr1=>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Media Articles:

2010 Hits Global Temperature High, *BBC, January 20*

2010 was the warmest year since global temperature records began in 1850 - although margins of uncertainty make it a statistical tie with 1998 and 2005. Regions of the world experiencing particularly warm conditions during 2010 included Africa, southern and western Asia, and the northern extremities of North America, including Greenland.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-12241692>

AB Foods Says Fluctuating Winter Temperatures May Hold Back Growth in 2011, *Bloomberg, January 20*

Associated British Foods Plc, the U.K. sugar producer that owns Primark clothing stores, said fluctuating temperatures and higher costs for cotton and wheat may hurt profit in the coming year, sending the shares lower. Growth will be "moderated by the eventual impact of the adverse weather conditions on U.K. sugar production," the London-based company said today in a statement, adding that Primark's margins will be affected by soaring cotton expenses.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-20/ab-foods-says-weather-may-hold-back-growth-in-coming-year.html>

Drought May Hit Food Supply in Horn of Africa, *Reuters, January 19*

Growing signs of drought in the Horn of Africa could lead to food shortages in Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia, while rising food prices may put its budget under pressure, the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Wednesday. "Certain regions that are prone to drought and weather variation are showing signs of cyclical food shortages," Sheila Sisulu, deputy executive director with the U.N. agency, told Reuters. "The Horn of Africa immediately comes to mind.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE70I0LX20110119>

On the Frontiers of a Warming World, 925 Million Undernourished People, *Reuters, January 18*

Because of global warming and trends in population, dramatic movements in the food economy are likely here to stay. The rapid surge in staple food prices in 2008 that sparked global riots and sent millions into poverty is back. Now, researchers say that because of global warming and trends in population, these dramatic price movements in the food economy are likely here to stay.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS179345870320110118>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Media Articles:

Fighting Hunger with Ideas from Africa, *Voice of America, January 17*

As population growth, resource depletion and climate change strain the world's food supplies, a new report highlights solutions from some unexpected places. Sub-Saharan Africa harbors most of the world's hungriest countries. Here in one of the largest slums of Africa, Danielle Nierenberg, a researcher at the Worldwatch Institute, said there's something surprising and hopeful. "We've met with some great women farmers who are doing this really innovative way of growing food so they don't have to buy anything from the market."

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Fighting-Hunger-With-Ideas-From-Africa-113881464.html>

Remarks by Secretary Clinton at Taping of MBC's Katam Nawaem, *Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, January 16*

"So when I talk about women's voices, I know women's voices are important in the home. I know that women are very often decision-makers in the family. I know that in society, women influence greatly what goes on in the lives of the society. But now, we're seeing women's voices like the three of yours emerge in a more public way. Change is inevitable. It's a question of how that change goes forward, whether it will be in a way that enhances the respect for culture, history, and identity, or whether it will try to turn the clock back and make it very difficult for societies to move forward."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/01/154703.htm>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Media Articles:

Art of the Deal, *USAID, December 2010/January 2011*

One of Afghanistan's greatest economic strengths lies in its ever-growing agriculture sector. For three days last October, nearly 35,000 international and Afghan visitors streamed into the Kabul International AgFair 2010, providing a strong indication that the world is ready for Afghanistan's cashmere, nuts, and fresh and dried fruit. All told, the AgFair would go on to generate almost \$2 million in business deals and more than \$6 million in potential deals over three days. More than 40 business representatives from Argentina, Australia, China, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated in the event, all looking to make deals with Afghans.

http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/fl_jan11/FL_jan11_AFdeal.html

Is the Doha Round Delivering on Poverty?, *IRIN, January 20*

Skepticism marked discussions at a just-ended global poverty summit in Johannesburg on whether the Doha Development Round of negotiations at the World Trade Organization could help reduce the number of poor people in developing countries.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=91684>

Export Orders Worth \$45 Billion Signed, *Financial Times, January 19*

US and Chinese officials touted a \$45bn package of export deals on Wednesday to coincide with the state visit of Hu Jintao, the Chinese president, but the largest contract was in fact a reiteration of a previously announced order. US companies have been critical of China in the past 12 months, pressing the administration of Barack Obama to toughen defence of their intellectual property rights and their ability to access lucrative Chinese government procurement contracts.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/87e12b82-23f7-11e0-bef0-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=crm/email/2011120/nbe/AsiaPacificBusiness/product#axzz1BcFSulam>

Record Food Prices Causing Africa Riots Stoking U.S., *Bloomberg, January 18*

The same record food prices causing riots in Algeria and export bans in India are allowing President Barack Obama to combine the biggest-ever U.S. farm exports with the tamest inflation since the 1960s.. Governments from Beijing to Belgrade are boosting imports, limiting sales or releasing stockpiles to curb food inflation. Higher prices will push U.S. agricultural exports up 16 percent to a record \$126.5 billion this year, according to a USDA forecast. While U.S. consumers haven't been squeezed so far, grocers from Winn-Dixie Stores Inc. to SuperValu Inc. have said they plan increases. Commodities will keep rising, according to a Bloomberg survey of more than 100 analysts and traders.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-18/record-food-prices-causing-africa-riots-stoke-u-s-farmers-export-gains.html>

Awaiting Davos, WTO Ag Negotiators 'Tread Water', *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, January 19*

Despite plans to "hit the ground running" in January, farm trade negotiators in Geneva are "treading water" while they await a political signal from an upcoming meeting of influential trade ministers in Davos, officials have acknowledged.

<http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/99385/>

EU Executive Talks Down Food Price Crisis, *Reuters, January 14*

The European Union's executive sought on Friday to play down the risk of a repeat of 2008's food price crisis, saying current world grain stocks were much higher than then, but warned the era of cheap food had ended.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/cameroonNews/idAFLDE70D1CE20110114?sp=true>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

ADM Funds Research to Aid Poor Farmers, *Des Moines Register*, January 19

Agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland Co. is giving \$10 million toward research into ways to help poor farmers around the world keep their crops from spoiling. Post-harvest losses are a major problem in Africa and other parts of the world, where smallholder farmers lose much of their grain to insect damage because it isn't stored properly. Private organizations and research groups have been struggling to come up with practical ways to solve the problem.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/01/19/adm-funds-research-to-aid-poor-farmers/>

Cargill Agrees \$24 Billion Spin-off of Mosaic, *Financial Times*, January 19

Cargill, the largest privately held US company, has agreed to spin off its 64 per cent stake in fertiliser producer Mosaic in a \$24.3bn deal that could satisfy a restive shareholder. The announcement comes as rising global food demand and strained supplies have sent the price of fertiliser soaring.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/27cdb1c4-2367-11e0-8389-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/2011119/nbe/USMorningHeadlines/product#axzz1BcFSulam>

Food Giant Accused of Enslaving Workers, *UPI*, January 17

Argentine authorities are accusing the giant Dutch agribusiness firm Nidera of slave-like exploitation of farmworkers. The company denies the allegations. On Dec. 30, police raided a Nidera corn plantation in San Pedro, near Buenos Aires, and found 133 seasonal workers in conditions resembling "a concentration camp," health official Julio Caraballo told the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant*.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2011/01/17/Food-giant-accused-of-enslaving-workers/UPI-44251295284164/

ADM Gave University of Illinois Millions to Study World Grain Supplies, *Chicago Business*, January 17

Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. is making a multimillion-dollar grant to help the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign find ways that developing countries can better protect the world's grain supplies from pests and disease.

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20110117/NEWS07/110119874/adm-giving-u-of-i-millions-to-study-world-grain-supplies#ixzz1BKKaZTyk>

Davos 2011: Unilever's Paul Polman Believes We Need to Think Long Term, *Telegraph*, January 15

As world business and political leaders prepare to gather in Davos, Unilever CEO Paul Polman tells Kamal Ahmed about the latest threat to the global economy. At its most basic, he argues, consumer-facing businesses need to rip up their business models and start again – working in partnership with local producers, NGOs and governments in ways that are sustainable. Growth and environmental degradation need to be "de-coupled", he says, explaining that Unilever wants to double its turnover at the same time as reducing its environmental impact.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financetopics/davos/8261178/Davos-2011-Unilevers-Paul-Polman-believes-we-need-to-think-long-term.html>

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank