

Global Food for Thought



CONTENT

September 29-October 5, 2017

Key Articles

[Global Development Activities](#)

[US Government Activities](#)

[Big Ideas and Emerging Innovations](#)

[Food and Agricultural Issues](#)

[Nutrition and Health](#)

[Environment, Water, and Climate](#)

[Gender and Generational Inclusion](#)

[Market Access, Trade, and Agribusiness](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

KEY ARTICLES

[Supermarkets are Creating an Obesity Crisis in African Countries, Experts Warn](#), *Guardian*, October 3

Changing dietary habits are creating an obesity crisis in African countries as middle-class people buy their food from supermarkets rather than eating food they grow. Middle-class shoppers tend to buy processed foods, high in sugar and fat, rather than fresh food.

SEE ALSO: [Obesity and Diabetes Rising across Africa According to Imperial Study](#), *Imperial College London*, June 5

[EU Set to Delay Vote on Weed-Killer Glyphosate](#), *Reuters*, October 1

Health experts from EU countries are expected to discuss the license extension for the herbicide glyphosate, but will only vote on the issue later this year. The European

Chemical Agency concluded in March that glyphosate should not be classified as causing cancer. The European Commission will only pass a 10-year extension if it is supported by a majority of states.

Win-Win Strategies for Climate and Food Security, *International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, October 2*

Climate policies that target agriculture and forests could lead to increased food prices, but reducing deforestation and increasing soil carbon sequestration in agriculture could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions while avoiding risk to food security. As countries look to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, many see potential in their forests and farms.

SEE REPORT: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Agriculture Without Compromising Food Security, *Environmental Research Letters, October 2*

China's US Soybean Imports Face Delays as Hurricanes Hit Crop Quality, *Reuters, October 4*

China's soybean imports from the United States are likely to be delayed by at least two weeks as suppliers struggle to find high-quality beans following crop damage from hurricanes. Shipment delays are driving up soymeal and soy-oil prices in the world's biggest importer of soybeans. China buys about 65 percent of soybeans traded worldwide.

[Back to Top](#)

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Rwanda Hosts a Global Conference on Poultry Industry Development, *All Africa, October 5*

Global actors in poultry industry are meeting in Kigali to discuss the industry development on the African continent. Themed "Poultry Africa 2017," the 2-day event has brought together over 1000 key players in poultry industry mainly from Europe, North America, Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa to discuss the development of the poultry industry in Africa.

Stanford Launches Research Center Focused on Global Poverty and Development, *Stanford News, October 2*

Stanford University is creating the Stanford Center on Global Poverty and Development. The center—which has more than 100 affiliated faculty from across the university—is a joint venture between the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy

Research and the Stanford Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies, known as Stanford Seed.

2017 Equator Prize Winner Empowering Women for Widespread Sustainable Change, *Food Tank*, September 30

The UN Development Program recently announced the winners of the 2017 Equator Prize, recognizing 15 local and indigenous communities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Swayam Shikshan Prayog in Maharashtra, India, won for its unique, women-led, and climate-resilient agroecological farming model.

[Back to Top](#)

US GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

US to Present Dairy Demands at Next Round of NAFTA Talks, *CBC News*, October 5

American negotiators are expected to present their dairy sector demands during the next round of NAFTA talks. The United States will be looking for increased access to Canada's dairy and poultry markets, according to US Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue. "Obviously we need to keep these markets open," Perdue told a public forum.

Trump Opposes EU-UK Agri-Deal in Blow to May's Brexit Plans, *Financial Times*, October 5

The Trump administration has joined a group of countries objecting to a deal between the United Kingdom and European Union to divide valuable agricultural import quotas, in a sign of how the United States and others plan to use Brexit to force the United Kingdom to further open its sensitive market for farm products.

[Back to Top](#)

BIG IDEAS AND EMERGING INNOVATIONS

Creative Distillers Tackle Food Waste, Redefining "Getting Trashed," *NPR*, October 3

A pair of wine distillers discovered that the sugars in almost-stale bread, bagels, and cakes destined for the landfill could be distilled into premium vodka. They make all of

their wine from these bakery products by collection 1,200 pounds a week. Each bottle vodka is made with two pounds of food waste.

Phone-Powered Ai Spots Sick Plants with Remarkable Accuracy, *Wired*, October 2

Researchers have developed a smartphone-based program that can automatically detect diseases in cassava, the most widely grown root crop on Earth. It's a glimpse at a future in which farmers in the developing world trade the expertise of a handful of specialists for increasingly powerful technology. Researchers say they can adapt the system to work with other crops relatively easily.

SEE ALSO: Disease Identification App to Boost Food Security in Africa, *Famer's Weekly*, October 5

Study Shows Genetically Modified Soybean Oil Causes Less Obesity and Insulin Resistance but Negatively Impacts Liver Function, *UCR Today*, October 2

Researchers at the University of California, Riverside have tested a genetically-modified soybean oil used in restaurants and found that while it induces less obesity and insulin resistance than conventional soybean oil, its effects on diabetes and fatty liver are similar to those of conventional soybean oil. Soybean oil is the major vegetable cooking oil used in the United States, and its popularity is on the increase worldwide.

SEE REPORT: Omega-6 and Omega-3 Oxylipins are Implicated in Soybean Oil-Induced Obesity in Mice, *Nature Scientific Reports*, October 2

[Back to Top](#)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Why Factory Farming is not Just Cruel—But Also a Threat to All Life on the Planet, *Guardian*, October 4

As the global demand for cheap meat grows, the expansion of agricultural land is putting more pressure on our forests, rivers, and oceans. Regenerative farming—a broad term that includes all sorts of practices such as rotational grazing, tree planting, improving soils, reducing chemical inputs, silvopasture and increasing biodiversity—is our only hope and a movement whose time has come.

Curb Animal Antibiotics to Stop Spread of Resistance, Say Health Experts, *Reuters*, October 3

Despite some countries taking measures to curb their use in agriculture, populous nations such as China and India are increasing their antibiotic use on farms. The

World Health Organization has warned that infections resistant to antibiotics are the world's greatest health threat. The more antibiotics are given to animals, the more likely drug-resistant bugs will affect people's health.

[Back to Top](#)

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Skipping Breakfast Tied to Higher Risk of Hardening in Arteries, *Reuters*, October 2

People who skip breakfast may be more likely to develop atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, than individuals who start each day with a hearty meal, even after researchers accounted for other risk factors for heart disease. Previous research has linked skipping breakfast to a higher risk of problems that can lead to heart disease such as obesity, diabetes, and high cholesterol.

SEE REPORT: Hearty Breakfast for Healthier Arteries, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, October 10

EU and FAO Bring Combined Weight to Bear on Food Waste, Antimicrobial Resistance, *FAO*, September 29

EU Commissioner of Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis and FAO director-general José Graziano da Silva agreed to ratchet up collaboration of the two organizations to address food waste, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance in supply chains. Globally, one-third of all food produced for human consumption each year is lost or wasted, causing massive financial losses while squandering natural resources.

[Back to Top](#)

ENVIRONMENT, WATER, AND CLIMATE

Winer Crops at Risk as Muted Monsoon Cuts Water Level, *Economic Times*, October 4

The monsoon season is critical to India's agriculture sector as it directly waters more than half of all farm land and helps fill dams that irrigate crops, such as wheat and mustard, during winter. This year's monsoon was below normal, with 17 percent of the country receiving insufficient showers.

Grazed and Confused? New Report Gives the Lay of the Land on Grazing Livestock's Climate Impact, *The Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food*, October 3

An international research collaboration has shed light on the impact that grass-fed animals have on climate change. The report dissects claims about so-called “grass-fed” beef, the greenhouse gases the animals emit, and the possibility that, through their grazing actions, cattle can help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

SEE REPORT: [Grazed and Confused](#), *Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food*, October 3

[Back to Top](#)

GENDER AND GENERATIONAL INCLUSION

Educating Girls: The Key to Tackling Global Poverty, *Guardian*, October 3

Access to education shouldn't be determined by a child's gender. Educating girls gives them the freedom to make decisions to improve their lives, which has deep social implications. Giving girls access to schooling is a central part of eradicating global poverty, as better educated women tend to be healthier, participate more in formal labor markets, have fewer children, and marry later.

100 Women: Are Rural Women Smashing the Glass Ceiling of Agriculture?, *BBC News*, October 2

In farms across the world, women are becoming a larger part of the workers. On average, women make up 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries. Over the past two decades, experts have observed the feminization of agriculture. However, female landholders are proportionally less than male holders in virtually every country where data is available.

Inclusive, Diverse, Non-Hierarchical: Women Who Work Together in Kitchens, *Guardian*, September 29

We are all familiar with the paradox: acts of feeding are associated with women, but remain limited to the domestic realm, while professional cooking is dominated by men. But that is changing. The internet and social media have helped blur the boundaries between the private and public, and it's definitely for the better when it comes to food—and to the visibility of women cooks.

[Back to Top](#)

MARKET ACCESS, TRADE, AND AGRIBUSINESS

Vegetable Oils Give a Lift to FAO Food Price Index, *FAO, October 5*

Global food prices rose slightly in September, as firmer prices of vegetable oils and to a lesser extent dairy products offset declining prices for staple cereal grains. The FAO Food Price Index averaged 178.4 points for the month of September, up 0.8 percent from August. World trade in cereals is expected to rise slightly over the marketing year to reach a record 403 million tons.

Malaysia-Vietnam Agriculture and Commodities Bilateral Trade to Touch \$15 Billion by 2020, *New Straits Times, October 4*

Malaysia-Vietnam agriculture and commodities bilateral trade is expected to touch \$15 billion by 2020 from the current \$12 billion per year, thanks to win-win collaboration. In the first seven months of this year, trade turnover for commodity-based commodities and commodity-based products between Malaysia and Vietnam rose 27 percent.

UK and EU Strike Initial Deal on WTO Quotas in Brexit Breakthrough, *Financial Times, October 3*

The United Kingdom and Brussels have reached an understanding on sharing out the tariff-rate quotas that govern the import of farm products into the European Union from countries outside the bloc. Under the proposed UK-commission deal, the quotas would be divided up according to where the goods were previously consumed.

[Back to Top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Esca Bona 2017

Date: October 16-18

Location: Austin, TX

2017 Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium

Date: October 18-20

Location: Des Moines, IA

World Leadership Conference: Global Citizens: Interconnected, Inquisitive, Engaged

Date: October 26-27

Location: Houston, TX

CIAT 50th Anniversary Celebration

Date: November 8-9

Location: Cali, Colombia

BCFN 8th International Forum on Food and Nutrition

Date: December 4-5

Milano, Italy

[Back to Top](#)

[Home Page](#)

[Publications](#)

[Experts](#)

[Membership](#)

Subscribe to *Global Food for Thought*

