



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - The United Nations climate change talks in Cancún have concluded with a package of decisions to help countries advance towards a low-emissions future, delivering what the world body's top officials have hailed as a victory in the battle against one of today's biggest challenges.

FOOD - Conservationists and scientists have joined forces in a bid to identify wild relatives of the world's 23 most-utilized food crop species and secure long-term food security. Participants hope to use digital mapping technology to create a cache of climate-change-resistant seeds that can replace current standard crops if necessary.

HEALTH care-associated infections, an avoidable scourge estimated to affect hundreds of millions of people globally, are at least twice as high in the developing world as in high-income countries, according to the first review of its kind, co-authored by a United Nations health official.

■AFRICA

CONGO - The number of people killed by an outbreak of wild polio virus in the Republic of Congo has reached 200, officials said, as the second of three rounds of mass vaccination began.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Sexual harassment against girls and women in Bangladesh is turning deadly: 28 women have committed suicide this far this year and another seven attempted it to escape frequent sexual harassment, says a human rights organization.

MYANMAR - With on-going fighting in the north and continued food insecurity nationwide, researchers warn that combating the significant increases in the production and trafficking of opium and amphetamines in Myanmar will be difficult.

PAKISTAN - More than four months after monsoons triggered mass flooding in Pakistan, relief agencies continue to struggle to reach villages still underwater. Millions of people remain displaced and in need of basic aid supplies.

■MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - Claims that climate change will leave 4,000 square kilometres of Egypt under water and ten per cent of the population homeless have led to a dispute within the academic community about the country's environmental future.

WFWO's Communications Team