

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## **GLOBAL**

**FOOD** - Challenges associated with doubling the global food supply to meet population demands in the coming decades can be overcome in a way that simultaneously promotes sustainability, according to a paper being published in the journal Nature. Researchers argue investing to increase yields on existing agricultural land in developing regions rather than converting forests and increasing efficiency in agricultural regions where yields are presently high could alleviate food supply pressure.

## **AFRICA**

**TECHNOLOGY** - Within the next several years, more people in sub-Saharan Africa will have access to mobile phone networks than electricity. The growing penetration of mobile technologies is spurring African schools and universities to explore using the technology to assist in teaching, in primary schools in Tanzania, in distance learning in South Africa and through ground-breaking applications in Kenya.

**HORN OF AFRICA** - A new report on global hunger pinpoints factors at the heart of spikes in food prices it says are exacerbating the unfolding food crisis in the Horn of Africa. Released ahead of World Food Day on Oct. 16, the report calls for action to control price volatility in the global food market and protect the world's poorest from the scourge of famine.

## **ASIA**

**BANGLADESH** - By some measures, Bangladesh is modernizing rapidly - one in two residents now owns a cell phone. However, when it comes to basic sanitation, progress is clogged.

**INDIAN** authorities are working to clarify poverty definitions amidst demands for authorities to do more to alleviate poverty. Officials are considering various measures including biometric identification cards that would allow every Indian to open a bank account and remove the need for middlemen who take percentages from poor Indians without proper identification credentials.

**PAKISTAN** - A newborn baby dies every four minutes in Pakistan. It was not always so. With a sound population policy set out in the 1950s, Pakistan was second only to Sri Lanka in infant and neonatal survival rates during the 1960s and 1970s (compared to Bangladesh, India, Iran and Nepal). But the country has seen considerable sliding down of its health indicators for mothers, infants and newborns.

## **LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN**

**ARGENTINA** - Rural and indigenous women in northern Argentina, hit hard by the expanding agricultural frontier, deforestation and the spraying of toxic pesticides, spoke out about their problems and set forth proposals for discussion at the next global summit on climate change.

WFWO's Communications Team