

NEWS BULLETIN

22 February 2011



GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Investing in rural youth in developing countries is vital to eradicating poverty in those communities and ensuring global food security, the head of the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development stressed.

UNITED NATIONS - Faced with soaring food prices for the second time in three years, senior United Nations experts today called for greater investment in agriculture from both the public and private sectors to increase smallholder productivity.

ENVIRONMENT - About 2% of global economic output should be redirected annually to developing a global "green economy," the UN Environment Program says. The object would be to steer about \$1.3 trillion a year away from industries that overuse resources to 10 other key areas. The new investments would help avoid repeated economic shocks from dependence on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse-gas output.

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - With literacy and school-enrolment rates among the lowest in the world, the continuing fighting between local rebel groups is putting even more pressure on CAR's fragile education system.

LESOTHO - A new joint programme is changing the way the Lesotho government and its development partners deliver aid by getting different government departments, UN agencies and civil society organizations working together to help mothers and their families.

ASIA & PACIFIC

Asia Region - Three decades after the disease came to light, 90 percent of Asian countries still have laws discriminating against people with HIV/AIDS and those at risk of catching the virus, a high-level panel says. Such laws and social stigma prevent people accessing much-needed health services and undermine the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programmes, the panel told journalists in Bangkok on the eve of an Asia-Pacific regional meeting to tackle this issue.

MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA's decision to make cash payments to thousands of vulnerable families and reduce some taxes could help stem food insecurity and rising poverty, but many still do not have enough to eat, say experts.

WFWO's Communications Team