

NEWS BULLETIN

28 March 2011



AFRICA

ETHIOPIA - Ethiopia has little time for critics of its large-scale land-leasing policy, insisting the millions of dollars of foreign investment will create jobs, improve domestic agricultural expertise and reduce both poverty and the country's chronic food insecurity.

NAMIBIA - Teaching was suspended indefinitely in at least 120 schools in the four northern regions because the institutions are now flooded. Recent heavy downpours caused flooding at numerous schools endangering the lives of school-going children on a daily basis.

NIGERIA - Farmers are being targeted as beneficiaries to an insurance arrangement under a policy thrust that acknowledges the role of agriculture in terms of employment and income generation, poverty reduction, raw materials production, as well as attainment of Vision 20/2020 and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets.

ASIA & PACIFIC

LAOS - Food insecurity is widespread in Laos, and sustainable insect farming will provide income for farmers as well as food, according to the site's sponsor, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

MYANMAR - A 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit Myanmar near the Thailand border Thursday damaging homes, bridges and other infrastructure, and leaving at least one person dead. Myanmar authorities have released little information about damage estimates or plans for an official response.

NORTH KOREA - A UN study has found that a quarter of the population of North Korea, or some 6 million people - largely children, women and the elderly - are in desperate need of international food assistance. The world body on Thursday urged the country's authoritarian government to allow food aid to reach civilians who most need it, as well as to cease subjecting political prisoners to torture and imprisonment in labor camps.

SRI LANKA - More than seven months after the European Union (EU) suspended its preferential trade agreement with Sri Lanka in protest over the country's human rights record, the subsidy cut has had little impact on the sector targeted, according to government officials.

WFWO's Communications Team