

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Farmers the world over must produce 70% more food by 2050 in order to feed a projected population of 9 billion, even though a quarter of all arable land is highly degraded, according to the first-ever global assessment of the state of global land and water resources. The assessment, released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, found that the boost to crop yields brought on by new technologies, pesticides and high-yield crops is being negated by climate change and poor farming practices.

CLIMATE SUMMIT - Negotiators from around the world are in Durban, South Africa, for climate negotiations with few observers expecting much progress on formulating a binding climate change battle plan amid accusations wealthy countries are bullying those in the developing world. United Nations Environment Program Executive Director argues that climate policy is a work in progress and that any stumbling blocks can be overcome in the longer term.

HEALTH - Changes in donor contributions and allegations of mismanagement have forced the United Nations-backed Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria to announce a freeze on spending until 2014. Donor governments concerns over the fund's financial management and their own economic worries led to contribution cut backs that public health experts caution will leave millions across the developing world, particularly in Africa, without access to treatment.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - As governments gear up for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17) in Durban, South Africa, experts are warning that among climate change's greatest consequences in developing countries such as Bangladesh are risks to the agriculture sector, including an increased risk of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity.

INDIA - India is struggling to improve child malnutrition levels despite agricultural growth and overall economic expansion, and is unlikely to achieve significant gain without a coordinated national policy, development experts warn. India was able to decrease the rate 3% between 2000 and 2006, significantly less than experts would expect in a country experiencing rapid growth.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

CLIMATE CHANGE - The foreseeable absence of binding agreements to stabilise the global climate could give rise to increased regional cooperation to help Latin American countries adapt to the severe effects of climate change.

WFWO's Communications Team