

NEWS BULLETIN



9 February 2011

GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations rural development fund said it has made significant progress in improving gender equality and strengthening the role of women in agriculture production, but noted that more remains to be done to help women reap the benefits of rural development.

UNITED NATIONS - Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro stressed that sustainable development is key to United Nations efforts to reduce poverty and raise people's living standards, and underlined the importance of the Organization's regional commissions in formulating coherent development policies.

AFRICA

Africa - HIV is a tough enough diagnosis, but when one contracts a strain of HIV resistant to some life-prolonging medicines, treatment options are limited. A new study has found that transmitted HIV drug resistance may be on the rise in Africa, and the authors warn that unless resistance surveillance is increased, the continent's treatment programmes could suffer.

MOZAMBIQUE - The Mozambican government and its partners are looking at the current level of deforestation and at new strategies to reverse the trend.

SOUTHERN AFRICA - A decade after heavy floods wrecked havoc in Southern Africa, the region is better prepared to monitor and respond to seasonal flooding. This is thanks as much to the growing strength of transboundary institutions as it is to technical improvements.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - All parties in Afghanistan should do more to protect children in armed conflict: Taliban insurgents must stop recruiting child soldiers or using them as suicide bombers, while the government must clamp down on the recruitment and/or sexual exploitation of boys by pro-government militias, the UN and human rights organizations say.

CHINA - The wheat crop in China, the world's largest producer of wheat, is under threat from severe drought, according to the UNFAO. Already the drought - which government sources say is the worst in 60 years in some areas, and in 200 years in others - has caused prices to surge globally, while future moves by China to import food could drive grain prices even higher.

INDIA - Villagers in India pushing for an international ban on the pesticide Endosulfan are being met with stiff resistance from the country's government. The government - part owner of one of the three companies that manufacture the low-cost pesticide - says that health concerns are limited to the region of Kerala, and that a ban would threaten food security, especially crops such as tea, cotton and rice.

THAILAND/CAMBODIA - NGOs working along the Thai-Cambodian border are monitoring clashes between the two countries near a disputed temple and are extremely concerned about the reported displacement of up to 30,000 people.

WFWO's Communications Team