

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Representatives from governments and farm groups from 20 countries are slated to meet with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in coming months to examine how best to cope with the record-setting increases in food prices. "It is essential that countries consider their policy options and steer away from decisions that might exacerbate the situation," said a UN official.

DEVELOPMENT - Millions of women from poor countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America have left their children behind to work abroad in the hopes of provided a better economic future for their families. UN Population Fund deputy executive director said, "It is one of the biggest untold stories of this century. These women make a huge contribution but their contribution doesn't show up in an official database and so too often we ignore it."

FOOD - Small-scale farmers can double food production in a decade by using simple ecological methods, according to the findings of a new United Nations study released today, which calls for a fundamental shift towards agroecology as a poverty alleviation measure.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - As reports by Human Rights Watch and formal documentation from the UN Human Rights Commission decry the worsening human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

MALAWI - Two-thirds of Malawi's two-million strong urban population live in slum conditions without proper toilets.

SOMALIA - Record charcoal prices in Somalia's self-declared independent region of Somaliland are threatening the livelihoods of many poor urban families who have limited alternative energy sources.

SOUTHERN AFRICA - Farming is a risky business anywhere in the world, but especially if you are a subsistence farmer in southern Africa, where a few weeks of too much or too little rain can wipe out your one hectare of maize and your ability to feed your family in the coming months.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Scientists are using selective plant breeding known as bio-fortification to mass produce a high-zinc rice in Bangladesh within the next five years that can reduce micronutrient shortages.

LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO - While Mexico is earning more revenue from oil exports, the cost of food imports has risen to the point where food security is threatened.

WFWO's Communications Team