NEWS BULLETIN

World for World
Organization

GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - A shift toward ecological agriculture in the developing world could double food production in a decade, increasing effectiveness and helping safeguard the environment, the UN says in a new report. Pilot projects using methods including insect-trapping plants and weed-eating ducks have resulted in up to 80% increase in crop yields in as little as three years.

FOOD - Rising prices for oil, coupled with lower crop yields exacerbated by the effects of climate change, are likely to contribute to record-high prices for food worldwide through the end of the year, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. An index of 55 food commodities rose 2.2% last month, and a UN economist said the "high, volatile prices will continue in 2011 and even in 2012."

AFRICA

KENYA - Portable energy-saving stoves that use less wood are helping impoverished residents in Nairobi, Kenya, improve their health while simultaneously reducing pollution and decreasing the rate of illegal wood harvesting from the Ngong Forest Sanctuary. UN officials have linked inefficient cooking stoves to pollution driving climate change.

SUDAN - Southern Sudanese living in the North are on the move. More than 246,000 have left since October 2010, and thousands more continue the trek southwards, filled with hope and excitement at the prospect of starting life in their new country.

UGANDA - Thousands of people in 36 districts in Uganda are at risk of serious food and water shortages due to drought attributed to the La Niña weather phenomenon.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - Targeted killings of cibilians in Afghanistan doubled last year, and the overall civilian death toll rose by 15 percent, the United Nations has said. Insurgents were responsible for 75 percent of the overall civilian death toll.

BANGLADESH - Outbreaks of H5N1 bird flu among poultry in Bangladesh - already three times higher this year than the same period last year - have caused "serious concern" for the authorities.

WFWO's Communications Team