



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The aid community may now refer to an online cropping calendar to determine when seeds need to be planted and harvested in 43 countries in Africa. The calendar, which was created by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, is intended to reduce the likelihood of a food crisis by providing up-to-date planting schedules that reflect climate conditions and disasters, such as flood and drought.

ENVIRONMENT - Support is growing for more research and development of geoengineering technology as short-term measures to help battle global warming as governments struggle to agree on ways to decrease the world's dependence on fossil fuels and transition away from a carbon-based economy. Critics worry geoengineering, such as efforts to replicate the natural mitigation caused by a volcanic eruption's ability to reduce the amount of sunlight reaching Earth and affect global temperatures, will have unforeseen consequences and may ultimately increase the pace of climate change.

HEALTH - More than two million child deaths could be prevented every year if hygiene, sanitation and water supplies around the world were improved, according to public health experts. Public health researchers from the United States and Europe published a series of studies on Monday in the *Medicine* journal. They claimed that bad sanitation and unclean drinking water, together with poor hygiene, accounted for seven per cent of global diseases and nearly 20 per cent of all child deaths. In 2010 a total of 2.6 billion people across the world still did not have access to basic toilet facilities, according to the researchers. They also found huge disparities when comparing sanitation coverage in industrialised and developing countries, and in urban and rural areas within them.

■AFRICA

MALAWI - In Malawi, UN AIDS estimates that 91,000 children under 15 are living with HIV. Amongst the 27,000 of these children with advanced HIV and low CD4 counts, just under two-thirds are receiving anti-retroviral therapy.

SOUTH AFRICA - Researchers are testing a new combination of tuberculosis drugs on patients in South Africa which they are hoping will shorten the treatment term of the disease to six months.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

INDONESIA - All eyes are on Indonesia and its forest policy as climate- change negotiations continue in the upcoming global talks in Mexico, against the prospect of billions of dollars flowing from the planet's major polluters to the developing world to slow global warming. The forests in South-east Asia's largest country will be among those coming under scrutiny during Nov. 29 to Dec. 10, 2010 climate change meetings in the Mexican resort city of Cancun, environmentalists say. These meetings are the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 6th conference of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

MYANMAR - Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy leader in Myanmar who was released over the weekend after seven years of detention, said she would appeal a ruling that declared her political party illegal. "To achieve democracy," she said, "we need to create a network, not just in our country but around the world."

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - Papua New Guinea is falling back in its struggle to record and treat tuberculosis three years into a five-year, US\$19 million plan to reach 80 percent of the country with the World Health Organization's Stop TB Strategy, according to the programme's funder and local health authorities.

THAILAND - Heavy rain flooded most of Thailand this past month, affected nine million people in 51 of the country's 75 provinces, and underscored the country's need for better community disaster preparedness, government officials say.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - More than 900 Haitians have died, and nearly 15,000 have been hospitalized, from effects of cholera. Health officials say that the disease has yet to peak in the earthquake-stricken country, and the United Nations estimates that some 270,000 people could be affected in years to come.

WFWO's Communications Team