

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE is emerging as a growing threat to food security and agricultural yields at a time when farmers must produce yet more food to feed the world's rising population, writes a group of experts. Agriculture should be front and center in climate treaty talks, they write, with binding goals buttressed by meaningful financial assistance to poor countries struggling to meet them.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Despite persistent campaigning by child-rights advocates and multistakeholder actions with the private sector, child labor, trafficking and slavery remain features of the global cocoa industry. UN estimates as many as a half-million children are working in the cocoa industry in Cote d'Ivoire, helping to produce chocolate associated with some of the world's best-known brands.

KENYA - Kenyan officials are turning to solar-powered pumps to help farmers manage the effects of climate change, secure a stable water supply and improve food security. Authorities have teamed up with the private sector to install 2,000 solar systems that are made up of a solar panel, pump, purification system and holding container.

SWAZILAND is still short of lab reagents needed for CD4 count testing, which is used to initiate and monitor patients on antiretroviral treatment, and HIV-positive people are growing increasingly frustrated as the country enters its fourth month without a way to establish the strength of their immune system.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PAKISTAN - Child malnutrition and vaccination refusals are hindering Pakistan's effort to battle polio, and the health community is seeking new ways to address the problem. Despite authorities' backing for an ambitious vaccination program last year, the number of cases in 2011 actually increased over 2010.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL's new president has moved quickly to emerge as a powerful female leader, surrounding herself with powerful women and bringing some of Brazil's matriarchal social traditions into the country's political structure. Dilma Rousseff is Brazil's first female head of state, and one year into her tenure enjoys broad popularity among Brazilians for her efforts.

MEXICO - The development of the green economy is the subject of pitched debate among specialists. While some believe it will deepen social inequalities and increase corporate control over natural and biological resources, others highlight its potential role in protecting the environment and creating employment.

WFWO's Communications Team