

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

NIGERIA - It is the start of the rains in northern Nigeria, and farmers are out sowing their fields. They know that the next three months will be the belt-tightening lean season, when households need to be prudent to get by, but hardship will give way to the harvest in September.

SWAZILAND - A strike called by Swaziland's largest teachers' union demanding a below-inflation salary increase is beginning to spread across the country - after the government refused to entertain any wage demands - and has led to sporadic clashes and arrests.

ASIA & PACIFIC

GREEN ECONOMY - The just-ended United Nations sustainable development summit in Rio de Janeiro has exposed the discomfort that many developing Asian countries have over buzz words like 'green economy' and 'green growth' in development diplomacy. With the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the U.N. regional development arm, endorsing these concepts, the body's 58 member-countries find themselves at odds with Asian giants like China.

BANGLADESH - Government and aid workers are rushing to assist thousands of people affected by flash floods and landslides that have killed at least 110 and stranded thousands more in southeastern and northeastern Bangladesh.

MIDDLE EAST

SOMALIA - Humanitarian aid to Somalia, where 3.4 million people are expected to continue to need food and non-food support for the next six months, should be scaled up particularly in south-central agro-pastoral areas following poor March-May 'Gu' rains, say aid agencies.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

FOOD - In the face of the challenge of producing more food in a changing climate, farmers in Cuba are coming up with alternatives like planting drought-resistant crops and digging ponds to guarantee water supplies, in order to keep food on the table during times of drought, heavy rains or hurricanes.

BRAZIL - Birth rates in Brazil have dropped to levels seen in more developed countries, in part, because of far-reaching family-planning practices that are being held up as a model for slowing population growth and reducing unsustainable levels of consumption.

COSTA RICA - For about 20 years, Costa Rica has been implementing green technology practices, such as payment for environmental services, that continue to be debated by the world's biggest polluters. Water taxes were increased, for example, but 25% collected is set aside for watershed-based services. Deforestation was banned, with landowners able to collect for forest-generated benefits.

WFWO's Communications Team