

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

FOOD - Boys learning new ideas of masculinity around campfires in rural Africa and "sisterhoods" formed to provide a common voice to women are starting to change attitudes about African women farmers, say the authors of a forthcoming book about gender and agriculture. But it will take many more such efforts to support women food producers, who make up 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries. In some countries, that number rises to 70 to 80 percent.

ETHIOPIA is preparing for a flood of medical doctors within "three to four years", an influx meant to save a public health system that has been losing doctors and specialists to internal and external migration.

GUINEA-BISSAU - Cashew nut farmers and traders in Guinea Bissau have been left holding tonnes of produce after India slashed imports, and the low prices being offered are increasing hardship in the coup-prone West African country.

MALAWI - Prolonged dry spells followed by poor harvests in Malawi's maize-growing central and southern regions have created widespread food shortages, yet it has taken months to fully determine the extent of the crisis, and it may take several more to fund and implement a comprehensive response.

SOUTH SUDAN - In South Sudan, decades of civil war have resulted in widespread trauma, and the chronically underdeveloped nation is struggling to provide facilities, staff and treatment for those in need of mental healthcare.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CAMBODIA - Floods and droughts are two leading causes of agricultural losses in Cambodia, where farmers have begun using solar power to manage their water supply and counter the impact of increasingly erratic weather patterns.

MYANMAR - Human rights violations by the Burmese army in Myanmar's eastern Karen State are continuing, says a new report by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR).

SRI LANKA - Soaring temperatures in Sri Lanka's dry zone are likely to heighten the risk of chronic kidney disease, experts warn, as residents increasingly consume poor-quality drinking water.

WFWO's Communications Team