

NEWS BULLETIN

5 NOVEMBER 2012



GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT - Agricultural cooperatives provide small-scale food producers with what may be their best chance to compete in global markets, the head of the United Nations food agency said, adding that cooperative units were particularly important for farmers in the developing world.

HIV / AIDS - Scientists have come up with a test for the virus that causes AIDS that is ten times more sensitive and a fraction of the cost of existing methods, offering the promise of better diagnosis and treatment in the developing world.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Countries could save countless lives and greatly reduce health costs if forewarned about climate-sensitive infectious disease outbreaks months in advance: and that is becoming a possibility, according to the Atlas of Health and Climate, a report mapping the links between climate and diseases like cholera, malaria, dengue fever and diarrhoea.

AFRICA

FOOD / HUNGER - Africa could avoid food shortages if it reduces the tangled web of rules, fees and high costs strangling regional food trade and by putting large swathes of uncultivated land to productive use, a World Bank report says.

KENYA - Among populations at high risk of HIV, there is a high acceptance of pre-exposure prophylaxis - antiretroviral drugs use by HIV-negative people to reduce the risk of their acquiring HIV - a new Kenyan study has found.

SOMALIA - Heavy rains have displaced thousands of people in the mid-eastern regions of the self-declared republic of Somaliland, says a senior official.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN is taking steps to improve its routine immunization coverage, after a drop in coverage led to a sharp increase in measles outbreaks last year, killing more than 300 children.

BANGLADESH - The international community should strengthen its local coordination in times of disaster, says the Bangladesh government.

SRI LANKA - The Sri Lankan government is working to improve its disaster response capacity by sharing geographic data, say experts.

WFWO's Communications Team