

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE - A fast-track technology called marker-assisted selection, or molecular breeding, is helping agronomists more quickly adapt crops to global warming and the accompanying challenges, such as drought, floods, disease and shifts in climate. The technology could usher in a green revolution for the 21st century.

HEALTH - An estimated 3 billion of the world's population cook over potentially toxic open fires, and the UN World Health Organization estimates that 2 million deaths annually can be linked to cookfire pollution.

AFRICA

REFUGEES - The United Nations refugee agency has deployed staff to assist some 20,000 people who have been forced to flee fighting between Government troops and rebel Tuareg groups in Mali. Most of those uprooted by the violence in the Azawad region of northern Mali that began in mid-January have fled to Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR - Recent reforms in Myanmar have already had a positive impact, the United Nations expert on the human rights situation in the country said today, but warned that serious challenges remain and must be addressed to strengthen the transition to democracy.

SRI LANKA - A decrease in donor funding is contributing to the slow pace of landmine clearance in the north of Sri Lanka two years after civil war officially ended in the country. It will take another 10 years to completely eradicate mines from a remaining 126 square kilometers of territory, according to the UN Development Programme.

MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - The United Nations Children's Fund today sounded the alarm about the plight of children caught up in the bloodshed in Syria, where nearly 11 months of violence have led to the deaths and injuries of hundreds of young people.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

CUBA - More than a decade ago, solar electricity changed the lives of several mountain communities in Cuba. Now this and other renewable power sources are emerging as the best options available to develop sustainable energy across the island.

WFWO's Communications Team