IFAD Press Clippings

CNN
Entreprenuership key to escaping poverty
Asia’s recent history shows entrepreneurship and business are key drivers of economic development. Promoting entrepreneurship will help generate growth and create jobs in emerging markets Small and medium enterprises in developing countries face barriers to growth. Improving business environments in developing countries will open opportunities for western business. (23 Jan)

CNN
Agriculture must play ‘critical role’ in Africa’s future
More than two-thirds of African countries are net importers of agricultural products, with the continent importing $50 billion worth of food every year, according to U.N. figures. Geoffrey Livingston, regional economist for the eastern and southern Africa division at the International Fund for Agricultural Development says these mass imports represent a “huge missed opportunity for African producers.” “This is related to very poor yields in a lot of African countries that make it a requirement for countries to go out of their borders and go outside of the continent to meet food requirements for their people,” he says. (01 Feb)

Project Syndicate
Taking Back Globalization (by Olivier De Schutter)
Globalization has been wholeheartedly embraced in the service of feeding the world: bilateral and multilateral trade agreements have been put in place to allow food to flow from food-surplus to food-deficit regions. Yet this model has failed spectacularly. The food bills of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) increased five- or six-fold between 1992 and 2008. Imports now account for around 25% of their current food consumption. The more they are told to rely on trade, the less they invest in domestic agriculture. And the less they support their own farmers, the more they have to rely on trade. Countries that fall into this vicious cycle leave their citizens vulnerable to historically volatile prices on international markets, which means increased hunger and insecurity. (25 Jan)

One (blog)
Growth is no answer to poverty – report
South Africa is an example of how flawed a poverty reduction strategy focused solely on economic growth can be, according to a report published last week as the Group of 20 (G20) finance ministers met in Mexico. The report, titled Left behind by the G20, shows how inequality has increased since 1990 in 14 of 18 countries in the bloc, whose 20th member is the EU. Saudi Arabia was not included in the analysis due to a lack of data. Report available: http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/left-behind-by-q20 (24 Jan)

Tanzania Daily News
Crop Banks Will Help Cut Back on Poverty
PRESIDENT Jakaya Kikwete said early this week that the warehouse receipt system, which is still in its nascent stage, is here to stay. The government, the president said, will protect the system against any attempt to sabotage or eliminate it. It must flourish. The president believes that the system is of immense benefit to farmers. He is right. The system is a fabulous initiative that requires villages to have crop banks (warehouses) for storage of farm produce. The crops remain in storage the way money remains in a bank. (25 Mar)

The Guardian
Niger struggles to feed itself at the best of times – these are the worst of times
As Niger braces itself for a food emergency after late and erratic rains last year and a surge in food prices, humanitarian agencies are stepping up malnutrition screening so that children receive swift treatment to prevent permanent damage. It is also much less costly. At the best of times this vast landlocked country – whose estimated 14.7 million people mostly live along a narrow strip of arable land on its southern border – has trouble feeding itself. Even in “non-crisis” years, 300,000 children are treated for malnutrition – 15% of the world total. This year threatens to be particularly severe. (23 Jan) (also in PBS: In Philippines, Some See Birth Control as Path to Food Security)

CNN
Indonesia farmers: Crisis goes on
Thousands of small farmers have been evicted from the fields they have cultivated for generations, because local or national authorities are giving concessions to large companies to exploit the land. Many Indonesian farmers do not have any clear land titles, as it is estimated that only 40% of ownership can be proven by formal certificates. Moreover, some territories on the national mapping appear as “empty”, even if they have been inhabited for generations. (23 Jan)

Jakarta Post
Adapting to climate change: Learning from the grassroots
Under particular circumstances, local farmers have the capability to produce knowledge and action for adapting to and mitigating climate change. For a long time, local innovators have been working with fellow local farmers in managing farming practices. Based on their past experiences and their actions, they could produce several strategies, such as adaptation methods, to reduce the negative impact of climate change. We should give appreciation to local strategies in adapting and mitigating climate change, which have been developed by local and indigenous knowledge and wisdom. (26 Jan)

The Jakarta Post

Indonesia 'needs to work hard for MGDs’
With only three years left until the deadline, Indonesia needs to work hard to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an official says. Indonesia is seen to have made substantial progress in helping poor people improve their incomes and access to food, ensuring children go to school, supporting women and making childbirth safer. "But there is still a lot more work that needs to be done," said AusAID in Indonesia head Jacqui De Lacy on Tuesday. (01 Feb)

Jakarta Post

RI's food security remains fragile: Yudhoyono
President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Tuesday warned of lurking dangers in the country's ability to provide enough food to an ever-increasing population. "We're still fragile when it comes to food security. Demand is increasing because of the rising population. An increase in the middle class will also mean more food will be consumed as purchasing power gets stronger," Yudhoyono said. (08 Feb) (also from Jakarta Post: Editorial: Palm oil's carbon footprint and from Xinhua: U.S. to launch 15 mln USD program to support agribusiness, food security in Indonesia)

Times of India

When health is security (by Ela Bhatt)
Microfinance is now understood as a financial activity, but it actually emerged from development considerations. The need for access to capital was specifically articulated by women during the in Mexico City in 1975. The focus then was on the micro-person, the person with a micro status in society. The term 'microfinance' came much later and its association moved from savings to micro credit to financial services. However, the primary objective of microfinance has always been developmental in nature. It was all along aimed at removing poverty and hunger. But these two questions cannot be addressed adequately without factoring in the issue of health. (24 Jan)

BBC

'Sharp drop' in India poverty due to welfare programmes
Poverty in India has dropped sharply, the country's Planning Commission has said. From 2004-2005 to 2009-2010, the rate fell from 37.2% to 29.8%, which means around 360 million people currently live in poverty. Rural poverty has declined faster than urban poverty during this period. The Planning Commission said the main reason for the reduction in poverty was the government's increased spending on rural welfare programmes. (20 Mar)

Xinhua

World bank approves new financing instrument
The World Bank said Tuesday it has approved an innovative new financing instrument for its client countries that links the disbursement of funds directly to the delivery of defined results. The new instrument, which is called the Program-for-Results (PforR), would support government programs in a diverse range of countries and sectors, the World Bank said in a statement. "Enhancing development effectiveness by helping developing countries achieve results is central to the mission of World Bank," said Robert B. Zoellick, president of the World Bank Group. (24 Jan)

Jakarta Post

Will agrarian reform eradicate the poverty in farming sector? (Indonesia)
However the agrarian reform must not be understood merely as a concept of equality. This understanding might keep us away from the problem of poverty in the agricultural sector, which accounted for 63 per cent of total poor households in Indonesia. It takes more than just having land for wealth creation in the farming sector. Thus, agrarian reform must be understood more as a strategy to create opportunity in bringing farmers out of subsistence conditions to becoming net producer. (24 Jan) (also from Jakarta Post: RI agriculture dominated by aging generation)

Business Daily

Kenya: Treasury Steps in to Cushion Deposit-Taking Institutions
Treasury has come to the rescue of deposit-taking microfinance institutions (DTMs) with a multi-billion shilling credit facility to boost their lending and upgrade their technology. The institutions will receive low-cost loans for onward lending to poor households and cash to open new branches and upgrade their IT systems to facilitate processing of reports as required by the regulator. The funds will also cater for increased staff costs. Restructuring costs and higher regulatory expenses have slowed down the earnings of newly licensed deposit-taking micro finance institutions like Faulu Kenya and Kenya Women Finance Trust (KWFT). For this reason
Treasury is seeking to support the micro-lenders from a Sh7.16 billion credit facility created with the help of the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD). (25 Jan)

Business Daily
Kenya, Equity leads banks in State-guaranteed lending to farmers
The government has guaranteed five commercial banks’ lending to the agriculture sector, making it easier for farmers to access Sh5 billion in loans in time for the long rains expected to begin soon. Agriculture ministry signed the Sh500 million credit-guarantee scheme with Equity Bank, Co-operative Bank, Family Bank and Kenya Women Finance Trust. Equity Bank is currently in partnership with the government, Agra and IFAD where it has been provided with Sh212 million credit guarantee which enabled the bank to give Sh2 billion in loans to farmers. (11 Mar)

Financial Times
UK leads launch of $3bn green energy fund
International organisations and the UK government will launch a new public-private investment fund on Friday to provide seed finance for at least $3bn of green energy projects in emerging and developing countries. With the UK offering £110m of capital, the private equity fund aims to attract private finance to invest in commercial solar, wind and hydroelectric power plants, generating more than 7,000 MW of clean energy - the equivalent of two-thirds of the current renewable energy capacity of the UK. (26 Jan)

Bangkok Post
SRI LANKA'S MIGRANT LABOUR KEEPS ECONOMY AFLOAT
The old order has indeed changed. If plantation crops were the mainstay of the economy then, a fairly recent export has replaced the old staples. Instead of tea, rubber and coconuts, Sri Lanka now exports people. Migrant labour, both skilled and unskilled, has now become the biggest foreign exchange earner as remittances from Sri Lankans working abroad have replaced earnings from ready-made garments and tourism at the top of the list. (30 Jan)

IPS News
Indian Farmers Hostage to Middlemen
Agriculture experts blame the crisis faced by India's small farmers on a highly inefficient supply chain for perishable farm produce, a situation exploited by traders and middlemen. (09 Mar)

Times of India
Interest-free microfinance hope for poor Muslims
Making headlines in the recent past for crushing interest rates claiming lives of debtors, microfinance is now being offered with a more humane approach. The Human Welfare Foundation will now offer loans in the form of interest-free microfinance to the poor across the country including Hyderabad, said vice president of Jamat-e-Islami Hind Prof K A Siddique Hassan here on Saturday. In addition to interest-free loans, a support system for human welfare involving a network of activities focusing on healthcare, protection of civil rights, women's empowerment, disaster management and encouraging strict adherence to ethics in professions such as medicine is the need of the hour, he noted. (11 Mar)

Financial Times
China and IDB set up $1bn Latin American fund
China is setting up a $1bn fund with the Inter-American Development Bank to make equity investments in Latin America, in a new move into financing in a region where it is already a major trade partner. The fund, which should start operations this year, is a partnership between China's state-run Export-Import Bank and the IDB. Each side will put in $150m and the two banks are currently selecting asset management firms to manage the investments and raise funds from the markets, the IDB says. (19 Mar)

Yemen News Agency
Cabinet approves YemenInvest programme's financing agreement
The cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Mohammed Salem Basindwa approved on Tuesday a financing agreement for the YemenInvest-Rural Employment Programme. The agreement was signed between Yemen and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on November 10, 2011, under which IFAD grants 5,720,000 units of special drawing rights (SDRs) to Yemen as contribution to finance the YemenInvest Programme that aims to improve the economic condition of the poor in the rural areas. (27 Mar)

Investment Weekly News
Agriculture; Research Reports from Rural Development Provide New Insights into Agriculture
"An investigation was carried out through field visits to Jilin, Anhui, Shaanxi and Qinghai provinces and a comprehensive assessment was made of 12 IFAD projects in 13 provinces. The authors offer a systematic examination of the projects' impact on China's rural poverty reduction in five respects: food security, women and vulnerable groups, government policies on poverty reduction, state policies on rural finance, and institutional and capacity building of the Chinese government and the community," wrote C.M. Shuai and colleagues, Rural
Development. The researchers concluded: "It is concluded that IFAD projects have achieved outstanding results and far-reaching impacts, and have played an important role in rural poverty reduction." (31 Mar)

**CNN**

Most poor can't get banking services

Three quarters of the world's poor are living without a bank account, impeded by physical distance from banks and by bureaucratic roadblocks, according to a World Bank report. In a 2011 survey of 150,000 adults in 148 countries, it found that more than 75% of adults earning less than $2 per day are "unbanked" or do not use a formal financial institution. (20 Apr)

**The Economist**

Mobile money in Africa

Many people know that "mobile money"—financial transactions on mobile phones—has taken off in Africa. How far it has gone, though, still comes as a bit of a shock. Three-quarters of the countries that use mobile money most frequently are in Africa, and mobile banking in some of them has reached extraordinary levels. (28 Apr)

**Business Daily**

Kenya: Remittances by diaspora surge 53 per cent in three months

Kenyans working abroad increased by 52.6 per cent the amount of money sent home in the first quarter attributed to improved economic growth in North America and increased use of formal money transfer services. In the three months to March the country received Sh24.8 billion from the diaspora, compared to Sh16.3 billion in the same period last year. (02 May)

Kenya: Faulu Offers Mobile Credit to Airtel Customers

Hunger for credit in the country especially due to high interest rates by commercial banks, may now give room for expansion in other financial institutions. Faulu Kenya, a deposit taking microfinance, which has a customer base of about 400,000 has entered into partnership with Airtel Kenya which has over two million customers to provide small loans through mobile phones. The service dubbed 'Faulu Airtel Kopa Chapaa service' is targeted at customers in the lower end of the market, who seem to have been adversely affected by the increase in the interest rates which have gone up as high as 30 percent. (03 May)

**Worldwatch Institute (blog)**

Recognizing the Potential of Agricultural Cooperatives to Combat Hunger and Poverty

The United Nations has declared 2012 as the "International Year of Cooperatives." Cooperatives are business enterprises that are owned and controlled by the members they serve. The UN declaration aims to direct attention to the potential for cooperatives to contribute to socio-economic development. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) explains that agricultural co-operatives are important because they enable small-scale producers to take better advantage of opportunities offered in the market place and to make better use of natural resources. (30 Apr)

**Natural News**

Agriculture cooperatives could end hunger while boosting socio-economic development in impoverished regions

The UN has declared 2012 as the "International Year of Cooperatives." Agricultural cooperatives do exist currently. Now the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is pooling more resources to make the UN declaration for 2012 an eventual reality. IFAD has created training programs for small rural farmers to understand better basic natural farming techniques with no GMOs or excessive chemical use. This ensures fresher, healthier food for consumers while enabling farmers to enjoy higher profits within regional direct marketing networks. (05 May)

**The Huffington Post**

Microfinance for Slum Dwellers - Four Solutions that Work

Microfinance -- the provision of credit and other financial services to micro-entrepreneurs and small businesses that lack access to mainstream banking -- has proven to be a remarkably effective way to reduce poverty in cities across the developing world. The principle is simple: through access to credit and related resources, the urban poor are empowered to pull
themselves out of poverty. Still, as with all matters of finance and investment, the details matter -- especially as the goals of justice and financial inclusion have been so elusive in the past. Read on to learn about microfinance solutions from Cairo, Mumbai, Dhaka, and São Paulo, and then join the discussion on URB.im, the global network for just and inclusive cities. (08 Jun)

Food and Agriculture Organization

Cooperatives Crucial Allies in Fight Against Hunger

One of the only chances small-scale food producers have to gain competitive access to local and global markets is by banding together in cooperatives, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva told a meeting of the World Cooperatives Congress in Manchester today. "Cooperatives follow core values and principles that are critical to doing business in an equitable manner, that seeks to empower and benefits its members and the community it is inserted in," Graziano da Silva said in a keynote speech. "This is especially relevant in poor rural communities, where joining forces is central to promoting sustainable local development." (31 Oct)

Boston Globe

IFC, MasterCard Foundation partner in Africa

The World Bank partner devoted to developing the private sector and The MasterCard Foundation will spend millions of dollars so more impoverished Africans can get loans and other financial services, officials said Monday. At a Johannesburg news conference Monday, officials from the International Finance Corporation, which is part of the World Bank group, and The MasterCard Foundation said they would spend $37.4 million over five years to support banks and other institutions across Africa that provide small loans, a strategy known as microfinancing. (07 May)

Daily Trust

Pan-African Support Centre for Farmer Organisations Launched

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has launched a new initiative - Farmer Organisations Support Centre in Africa (FOSCA) - to support various farmer organisations in Ghana and across the continent FOSCA, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, hopes to develop the managerial, organisational and technical capacities of farmer organisations by linking them with service providers (SPs) that focus on demand driven and income-enhancing services. (08 May)

The Guardian Poverty Blog

Let's not kid ourselves that financial inclusion will help the poor

Funds for microfinance should not displace development spending on healthcare, education or infrastructure. Looking at the latest high-profile World Bank output promoting financial inclusion, as well as reflecting upon recent passionate comments in support of "universal financial inclusion" by the head of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, Tilman Ehrbeck, I couldn't stop myself from thinking "here we go again". (08 May) (also from CBS: Bangladesh slams Clinton over Grameen comments)

Zecco/AllAfrica

Microfinance Institutions Urged to Uphold Transparency

Members of Tanzania Institute of Microfinance Institutions (TAMFI) have been urged to do business transparently as a way to boost their revenues and image. Addressing
TAMFI members in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Lead Africa Analyst of Microfinance Information Exchange (MIX) based in Washington DC, Ms Audrey Linthorst, said that sharing information with peers, clients, shareholders and potential investors was paramount for the development of the sector. (10 May)

The Economist

Remittances: Over the sea and far away
The business of sending money across borders is lucrative, fast-growing and ripe for change. The World Bank reckons that cross-border remittances added up to $483 billion last year. These are mainly small amounts sent regularly by migrants to their families back home. As the number of migrants has swelled, so too have the remittances: by about 8% annually in recent years, says the bank. (19 May) (also in The Economist: Mobile payments: A wealth of wallets)

People Move (WB blog)

Migration and remittances during the crisis and beyond: A new book (by Dilip Ratha)
The Bank has just published a new book (edited by Sirkeci, Cohen and Ratha - see here) that documents the impacts of the recent financial crisis on migration and remittance flows. A common story line emerging from a number of regional and country specific experiences is the remarkable resilience of remittance flows during the crisis. (This book is available in the new library database) (14 Jun)

Boston Globe

Bangladesh announces probe into Grameen Bank units
Bangladesh has ordered a four-member commission to investigate 54 businesses linked to the pioneering microlender Grameen Bank founded by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. The probe came weeks after Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith said the bank's board had not authorized most of the affiliates. (16 May) (also from Washington Post: Microlender Sees Revival in Law as Losses Mount: Corporate India and from Boston Globe: Opportunity International to Expand Access to Financial Services in Tanzania)

Reuters

Grameen Foundation, KfW and CARE’s Access Africa Fund Invest in World’s First 100% Mobile Microfinance Institution
Grameen Foundation, KfW and CARE’s Access Africa Fund announced they have each purchased a 25 percent stake in Musoni Kenya, the first microfinance institution to provide financial services to the poor entirely via mobile phones. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, it provides microloans largely to people who are underserved by the formal financial sector. This investment will help Musoni Kenya grow its operations, deepen its penetration in rural areas. (21 May)

Modern Ghana

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) partners with EMRC for AFIF 2012
The United Nations’ agricultural development agency, IFAD, will spotlight the importance of financial tools for populations across Sub-Saharan Africa to ensure rural development and financial growth at this year’s EMRC Africa Finance & Investment Forum. "There is no single microfinance model – that is what IFAD's presentation at AFIF will focus on,” explains Michael Hamp, PhD, IFAD Senior Rural Finance Adviser. (22 May)

All About Finance (WB blog)

Can Financial Literacy Help Migrants Save on Remittance Costs? (by B. Zia & D. McKenzie)
In a new working paper published in the World Bank Working Paper Series, John Gibson, David McKenzie, and I look at exactly this question. While much of migration policy has been focused on reducing costs of remittances and introducing new and inexpensive transmission channels, relatively little attention has been paid to educating customers on such benefits. After all, this could be pretty low hanging fruit – tell migrants about a cheaper way of remitting and they will switch. (29 May)
Kenya: AGRA Launches Lending Scheme for Rural Farmers

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to scale up access to agricultural financing. The initiative dubbed Programme for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies (PROFIT) is a Sh2.9 billion six-year development program aimed at reducing poverty in rural areas. It is expected to avail financing for smallholders farmers by scaling up an ongoing initiative, through which a risk sharing facility of Sh435 million was provided by AGRA, IFAD and the Government involving 49,000 farmers in direct lending for farm inputs. (03 Jun)

Wall Street Journal

Allianz Looks to New Satellites to Insure Small Farmers

One of the world's largest insurance companies hopes to use new advances in satellite technology to sell insurance to some of the world's smallest rice farmers. German insurer Allianz SE (AZSEY, ALIZF, ALV.XE), working with a group of partners, is in the middle of a three-year pilot project to test the possibility of using new, highly detailed satellite images to significantly cut the cost of selling crop protection in even the most remote corners of the world. (31 May)

New York Times

The Microinsurance Revolution (by Tina Rosenberg)

Until then, the idea of life insurance for people with AIDS in South Africa was an oxymoron. Patient was working for one of the biggest insurance companies in South Africa on an AIDS awareness program, but it wouldn't insure him, and neither would any other company. "Every door slammed," he said. Then his doctor mentioned a brand-new possibility: AllLife, established to insure only H.I.V.-positive people. (06 Jun)

Reuters

Brazil's innovative 'banking correspondents' expand financial services to underserved areas

Brazil's program of using lottery outlets, post offices and small retailers to distribute financial products in places too small for bank branches pioneers a way to bring key services to economically underdeveloped areas, a new study found. A study of Brazil's "banking correspondents" by the Consortium on Financial Systems and Poverty shows that relying on the existing infrastructure of these other service groups can reduce the fixed cost of entry for providing banking services to underserved communities. (05 June)

Business Day Nigeria

Nigeria: “Microfinance banks move to raise N2m trust fund next year”

Microfinance banks operating in Lagos State have concluded plans to raise about N2 million for onlending to active poor next year. The National Association of Microfinance Banks (NAMB), Lagos chapter has officially rolled out a NAMBLA/BGL trust fund targeted at alleviating poverty in the country. The NAMBLA/BGL trust fund is a private fund set up to provide liquidity to microfinance banks at a single digit for onward lending to the active poor in Nigeria. (07 June)

Dawn

Pakistan - Remittances rise to $12bn in 11 months

Pakistanis sent over $12 billion during the last 11 months of the current fiscal year setting a new record while adding $2 billion in its record of last year. The State Bank reported on Monday that overseas Pakistanis remitted an amount of $12.069 billion during July 2011 to May 2012, showing an impressive growth of 19.54 per cent or $1972.69 million when compared with $10.096 billion received during the same period of the last fiscal year. (12 Jun)

Xinhua

Vice Premier pledges more support to China's rural cooperatives

Vice Premier Hui Liangyu on Monday pledged to increase legal protection and policy support to enhance the vitality of China's rural cooperatives, which have played a critical role in China's agricultural modernization. At a conference held in Beijing to mark 2012 as the first year of the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC), Hui praised
cooperatives for their role in ensuring China's social equity and promoting common prosperity. (11 June)

**FAO**

**FAO opens new liaison office for agricultural cooperatives**

FAO opened a new liaison office for cooperatives and producer organizations today in order to revitalize the Organization's collaboration with these organizations worldwide. The opening comes a few days after the International Day of Cooperatives, celebrated on Saturday, July 7.

"We are confident that this liaison office will allow cooperatives and producer organizations to have a stronger voice as FAO's key partners in ending hunger and poverty," said FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva at the opening ceremony, which was attended by representatives of the International Cooperative Alliance and the World Farmers Organization. (09 Jul) (see also latest issue of Rural21 with focus on cooperatives)

**People Move (WB blog)**

Migration and Remittances during the Global Economic Crisis and Beyond: Reflections on a new book

Migration and Remittances during the Global Economic Crisis and Beyond is a new book published by the Bank (edited by Sirkeci, Cohen and Ratha - see here). Alongside the main argument that remittances are largely proven to be resilient during the crisis, it reveals few more insights and poses a more questions than it answers. A decline in remittances and migration flows around world was expected at the beginning of the crisis. (This book is available in the new Library database.) (11 Jul)

**The Daily Star**

Leveraging South-South cooperation (by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Kanayo F. Nwanze)

Rural poverty and food insecurity continue to be serious challenges in many developing countries. But a new thrust for partnerships is providing a key to overcoming these challenges. The potential of South-South cooperation to advance development and poverty reduction is increasingly evident, especially as emerging economies increase their investments in developing countries of Asia and Africa. Based on the distinct but complementary experiences of Brac and IFAD, we are in full agreement that the greatest potential for South-South cooperation lies in knowledge transfer and sharing of know-how between middle income and least developed countries. (15 Jul) (also from The Daily Star: IFAD president due Monday and from Financial Express: IFAD president arrives today)

**The Guardian poverty blog**

South-south partnerships point way for food security and poverty reduction (by Fazle Hasan Abed and Kanayo Nwanze)

Knowledge transfer between middle-income and least developed countries has proven potential to transform lives of poorest. Based on the experiences of Brac and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), we believe the greatest potential for south-south co-operation lies in knowledge transfer between middle-income and least developed countries. Particularly important is the introduction of successful technologies and practices into countries where smallholder farmers can be assisted to build agriculture businesses that will lead to food security and rural development. (19 Jul)

**The Guardian development blog**

Talk point: the Sahel hunger crisis and global food security

Food insecurity is dominating development debates. We want to know whether you think solutions are still out of reach. As part of the debate, this month's Global development podcast will look at the food crisis in west Africa's Sahel region. The
latest figures from aid agencies suggest that at least 18 million people are at risk of food shortages in Niger, Chad, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Senegal, and one million children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition. Our podcast will feature Slanwa Gaston from Tearfund's Niger office, Denise Brown, head of the World Food Programme’s Niger office, and Mariana Merelo Lobo, head of operations at Action Against Hunger, which works in Niger, Mali, Chad and Somalia. (17 Jul) (also in Financial Times: Russia and Kazakhstan add to grain fears)

People, Spaces, Deliberation (WB blog)

‘Aadhaar’ is Reaching India’s Poor, but at What Price?
Since the Unique Identification Authority of India embarked on its unique identification project (UIDAI) in 2010, an estimated 200 million people have voluntarily enrolled. The UIDAI has sparked a lot of controversy in the public space from various groups. This has not stopped the project's leader, Mr. Nandan Nilecani, who is determined to make a change and to better the lives of the poor. (17 Jul)

PR Newswire

Somali Diaspora can Play a Vital Role in Fostering Development Across the Region
The international Somali diaspora can help to stimulate the region through remittance finance, according to the CEO of Africa's largest remittance company. Dahabshiil, the largest private sector employer in the Somali region, plans to work with IFAD to leverage the contributions of diaspora communities and encourage economic sufficiency through investment in sustainable agriculture - particularly in rural areas in Somalia 18Jul

Business Day Nigeria

Nigeria: “Endless waiting for micro finance development fund”
The first half of 2012 has ended. The Microfinance Development Fund (MDF) or call it the Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Fund which the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) pronounced to set up to support microfinance banks is yet to be implemented. This raises concern among operators of microfinance banks who are asking when this fund will be established. (18 Jul)

Financial Times

Money under the mattress is no longer necessary
Banking in remote areas presents challenges and opportunities everywhere. Jane Bird finds services in less advanced economies must be adapted to the needs of newcomers Most people in the more remote parts of the developing world keep their money under the mattress, offering the financial services industry a huge opportunity to win new customers. But gaining the trust of people unaccustomed to bank accounts is difficult, as is delivering services to often isolated and inaccessible areas. (14 June)

Tanzania Daily News

Plans Afoot to Insure Farmers
The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) and the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) are finalising the formation of a special unit to oversee the establishment of an insurance cover for crops and farms to ensure farmers are indemnified from various risks, especially the vagaries of weather. (19 Jun)

Modern Ghana

The Africa Finance & Investment Forum comes to successful conclusion, exceeding all expectations.
The Africa Finance & Investment Forum 2012 (AFIF) came to a successful conclusion as delegates from across Africa, Europe and other parts of the world gathered for three-days of discussions and workshops on the financial tools needed to support the growth of SMES and cooperatives in Africa. Some 250 decision makers from 37 countries around the globe, of which 25 sub-Saharan African countries, were present. (27 Jun) (also from France24: Deadly clashes break out in northern Mali and from Washington Post: 100 missing in Ugandan landslide)

The Guardian development blog

Microinsurance: providing a more stable future for small-scale farmers?
The ILO estimates the number of people covered by microinsurance has increased almost 6.5 fold in five years, reaching nearly 500 million worldwide, with China and India leading the charge. The ILO says 60% of the people around the world who are covered by microinsurance live in India, followed by Latin America (15%) and Africa (5%). (29 June)

Daily Trust Nigeria

FG targets $300bn earning from agric by 2030
Speaking at the first International Microfinance investors’ conference of the Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN) in Abuja on Wednesday, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, said government has made this a focal target that must be realized. Country Programme Manager of the International Food and Agricultural Development (IFAD), Atsuko Toda, said access to finance by rural dwellers plays a central role to realizing the agricultural transformation agenda. (20 Jul)

Private Sector Development (WB blog)

What’s Next for Mobile Money?
Kenya-based M-PESA remains the global leader, and the benefits from increased market efficiency, consumer risk-sharing and third party utilizations are significant. But mobile money can no longer be considered an isolated phenomenon, and as it matures, a variety of new challenges and benefits will influence its developmental potential. (31 Jul)

Business Recorder

World Bank offers grants, debt help for Myanmar
The World Bank on Wednesday pledged $85 million in development grants to Myanmar and assistance for the former pariah state to clear its arrears as part of efforts to support political reforms. The announcement came as the World Bank and the Manila-based Asian Development Bank both opened offices in the impoverished country, which is emerging from decades of military rule under a new reformist government. (02 Aug) (also from The News: Microfinance offers lifeline to Myanmar rural poor)

Tanzania Daily News

Experts Tout for PPP in Agriculture
INSUFFICIENT involvement of the private sector in agricultural development is a reason for slow pace in transformation of the sector into commercial farming as the potential driver for economic growth and poverty reduction. This was said over the weekend in Dar es Salaam by the Principal Economist in the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives Ms Margreth Ndaba at the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) multi-stakeholder dialogue. (30 Jul)

Financial Times

Aid will not sustain Afghanistan’s economy (comment by Ahmed Rashid and Alexis Crow)
As all too often in the developing world, there is a tension between the foreign ownership of many projects and public services, and Afghans’ desire to design and implement such projects themselves. Western institutional aid has such difficult monitoring and accounting rules that most Afghans cannot benefit from it. Western state-driven development agencies are ill equipped for encouraging the local private sector. (31 Jul) (also from Al Jazeera: US building projects in Afghanistan ‘a waste’)

Private Sector Development (WB blog)
Promoting Financial Inclusion: Is Mobile Money the Magic Bullet?
According to a recent data released by the World Bank, gaining access to financial services does not necessarily mean that such services will be adequately used. In other words, individuals who do not use financial services are not necessarily constrained by participating in the financial sector. The survey shows that 65% of unbanked adults do not use financial accounts due to: lack of money; suitability of financial products and services; and/or high cost associated with low transaction amounts such population segments usually undertake. (06 Aug)
FINCA Jordan launches Youth Financing Project
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA) Jordan Tuesday signed an agreement to launch Youth Financing (YF) project to help enhance micro and youth business environment as part of USAID country's initiative for reducing poverty. Under the agreement, FINCA proposes to ensure that the most disadvantaged segments of the population are able to reap economic benefits through microfinance. (07 Aug)

East African Business Week

"Uganda: Microfinance Institutions Boost Poor Savings"
The myth that the poor do not save will soon be forgotten said Moses Kaggwa, Commissioner for Micro Finance, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) during the National Microfinance Conference at Hotel Africana recently. “The myth that the poor do not save has been shattered by Micro finance institutions, the poor actually save and they are credit worthy,” explained Kaggwa. Kaggwa however noted that despite the so many micro finance institutions and banks in place, there are still a large number of Ugandans who are financially excluded. (07 Aug)

The Hindu

Micro-credit new mantra of livelihood in Rajasthan (India)
Micro-credit is the new mantra of livelihood generation and rural development in Rajasthan with the desert State emerging as a hub of projects promising to improve financial condition of villagers. Three ambitious livelihood programmes launched by the Rajasthan Gramin Ajeevika Vikas Parishad (RGAVP) are serving the rural poor in a meaningful way. The three livelihood generation projects are the World Bank-funded Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Project, International Fund for Agricultural Development-funded Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan Project and the Centrally-sponsored National Rural Livelihood Project. (09 Aug)

AllAfrica / IFPRI

Africa: Effective U.S. Drought Response Can Prevent Another Global Food Crisis (by Shenggen Fan)
Several urgent actions must be taken to address the current situation in order to prevent a potential global food price crisis: Monitor the situation. Key institutions, including the USDA, FAO, UNCTAD, the World Bank, and the World Food Programme (WFP), and G20 supported initiatives like Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in collaboration with local partners, should pay close attention to developments in food supply, consumption, prices, and trade, as well as agricultural commodity speculation. This will help quickly detect any imbalances and facilitate swift responses. (08 Aug)

(Also from Bloomberg: Global Food Reserves Falling as Drought Wilts Crops: Commodities)

Jakarta Post

Indonesia: “President urges local banks to provide more micro loans”
President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono says banks should provide more micro loans to upstream industries such as agriculture and fisheries, to reduce poverty and unemployment. “Micro loans must from now on be spread to upstream industries, and not just downstream industries, as is the case right now,” the President said as quoted by Antara news agency on Friday in Jakarta. (13 Aug)

Macauhub

Rural finances under debate in Maputo, Mozambique in September
The Mozambican capital, Maputo, from 12 to 14 September is due to host the 6th seminar on rural finance in Africa, entitled, Provision of methodologies for effective rural finances for increasing productivity,” an official said in Maputo. The event is
organised by the Ministry for Planning and Development along with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Rural Finance Knowledge Management Partnership, the Swedish Cooperation Centre (CCS) and the International Cooperative Alliance (ACI). (22 Aug)

Project Syndicate

Safeguarding Asia’s Growth

The region’s success has been underpinned by dynamic growth in China and India, which account for almost 60% of the continent's total GDP in purchasing power parity terms. But Asia cannot be complacent: financial systems remain fragile; economies are burdened with high fiscal and current-account deficits; and Asia remains too heavily dependent on North American and European export markets, increasing its vulnerability to external shocks. (21 Aug)

New York Times

An Attack on Grameen Bank, and the Cause of Women

This month, the Grameen Bank, the organization that won the Nobel Peace Prize for extending small loans to impoverished village women, has come under renewed attack from the government of Bangladesh. Last year, I reported that the government was attempting to forcibly remove the bank’s founder, Muhammad Yunus, from his position as managing director on the pretense that Yunus, then 70, was beyond the official retirement age. (22 Aug)

The Economist

Mobile-money services: Let us in

Mobile money would transform even more lives in poor countries if regulators got out of the way. In 2007 Safaricom, the biggest mobile operator in Kenya, launched M-PESA, a service that allows money to be sent and received using mobile phones. It has since signed up 15m users, is used by 70% of the adult population and has become central to the economy: around 25% of Kenya's GNP flows through it. (25 Aug) (also in The Economist: Innovation in Africa: Upwardly mobile)

Leadership

Nigeria: Why Microfinance Banks Failed in Their Role As Grassroots Economic Developers

While microfinance banks were established to grow the economy from the lower wrung of the ladder, their performance in recent times is indicative of failure to support the unbanked sector and the downtrodden. FLORENCE UDOH examines the challenges and efforts by financial regulators aimed at repositioning the banks. (26 Aug)

The New Times

Rwanda: Microfinance Sector Triumphs Over Poverty

Government's efforts to tackle poverty are bearing fruits courtesy of the fast growth of the microfinance sector. According to statistics, loans disbursed through the sector rose by 25 per cent in the first six months of 2012. By the end of June 2012, a total of 362 out of 416 SACCOs were fully licensed, up from 139 at the same period last year. The microfinance sector is comprised of microfinance institutions and savings and credit cooperatives commonly known as SACCOs. (28 Aug)

Economic Times

New Delhi: Centre for easy credit to rural population

The Centre plans to make bank credit access easier for rural population, especially in states were poverty is high: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The high demand in these states clearly indicates that there has been an expansion of self-help groups. However, the low level of credit disbursal presents a worrying situation. Without expansion in bank linkage, these groups will have little or no impact in improving rural livelihoods. (06 Sep)

Business Day

Getting mobile banking right

M-PESA, Kenya's popular mobile money transfer system via mobile phones, has inspired several similar models all over the world. Kenya's mobile penetration plus the simplicity and effectiveness of M-PESA are reasons for its popularity – 68 percent of
Kenyans use their mobile phones to transfer money. Soon, remittances from the UK to a dozen African countries should be possible via Barclays Bank’s pingit, a money transfer app that can now be downloaded by non-customers of Barclays with smartphones to send and receive money. (06 Sep)

AME Info
Global Islamic Microfinance Forum to be held in UAE
The Global Islamic Microfinance Forum on Islamic Microfinance is going to be held in U.A.E on 8th December, 2012. While briefing about the purpose and aims of this Forum, Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics, Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, said that poverty is going up due to the failure of present microfinance system whereas in order to solve this problem, whole world is looking towards Islamic Microfinance. He further said that now the time has come that the International Organization like UN, ADB, IFC, USAID, GIZ, DIFD, and IFAD etc. play their role to alleviate poverty from the world by including Islamic Microfinance in the strategies to reduce poverty. (08 Sep)

New York Times
In West Bengal, Cashless Microfinance Opens Doors for Women
A debt crisis in India’s microfinance sector in Andhra Pradesh in 2010 revived the question of how to help the hard-core poor without forcing them into a debt trap. Now it appears that microfinance institutions may have had an alternative all along. Bandhan’s Targeting the Hardcore Poor program was inspired by one pioneered by BRAC, a community development group, in Bangladesh in 2002. Bandhan’s program is not for profit and offers cash-free grants to selected participants in poor villages for 24 months. A “grant” refers to everything a borrower may need to start and ply a sustainable trade — everything, that is, but cash. (25 Sep)

The New Vision
Africa: Up Funding for Agriculture, Annan Tells African Leaders
Agricultural transformation can be achieved if African governments up their game in funding of the sector, the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said on Thursday. Annan, also the chairman of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), said rural farmers who act as the food basket in the continent need more support from their governments. “These farmers need more support. I urge African governments to increase funding for agriculture and improve infrastructure. But we also need to give the farmers more respect,” said Annan ahead of the opening of the three-day AGRA Forum at Nguuroto Mountain Lodge in Arusha. (27 Sep) See also: Vanguard, RDNA

The Observer
East Africa: EAC Discusses Food Security
East African governments, business, farmers, civil society, media and academic communities are reviewing policy efforts on how trade can address food security in the region. As climate changes continue to alter agricultural and trade patterns, causing additional large-scale hunger in the five EAC countries, stakeholders in the region are calling for appropriate policies to lift the countries out of poverty. (25 Sep)

Conservation International
Vital Signs Gains Support at African Green Revolution Forum
Feeding the world’s growing population in the next 40 years will require a 70-100% expansion in food production — and we can’t do it without Africa. The importance of the role African agriculture will play in this increase was firmly established this week at the African Green Revolution Forum, an event organized to facilitate one of the continent’s key goals: scaling up investment and innovation for sustainable agricultural growth and food security. Panelists included Dr. Roy Steiner (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), Dr. Mohamed Beavogui (International Fund for Agricultural Development), Dr. Robert Berendes (Syngenta) and Dr. Geoffrey Kirenga (SAGCOT Centre), who discussed the relevance of Vital Signs as the standard for tracking agricultural sustainability in the context of SAGCOT and initiatives like Grow Africa and the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (28 Sep)

Rwanda Focus
Annan, Melinda Gates Call for More Action to Improve Agriculture
The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)’s chairman Kofi Annan and Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, on Wednesday
challenged African governments to make more efforts towards agricultural transformation. "African governments should carry out research and come up with right policies, providing infrastructure for agriculture and supporting their farmers," Annan said at the beginning of a 3-day African Green Revolution Forum 2012 taking place in Arusha, Tanzania. Annan therefore urged African governments to invest in the sector not only for food security, but also because it has a huge potential to reduce the unemployment rate. (28 Oct).

Financial Times
Small farmers can land a knockout blow against poverty - comment by Barbara Stocking, Chief Executive of Oxfam GB
Agriculture is critical to developing economies. But the debate about farming is too often polarised between extreme views that hold back its future. On one side, there is the "big is beautiful" brigade. They argue that poor countries should follow Brazil's model of large-scale commercial agriculture, replacing small farms with enterprises big enough to take advantage of economies of scale. On the other side are those who insist that promoting large-scale agriculture would lead to the exploitation of poor people in the name of international trade. The solution, as is often the case in such polarised debates, can be found somewhere in the middle of these two very different views. (01 Oct)

Jordan Times
Queen Rania meets with microfinance sector representatives
Her Majesty Queen Rania on Wednesday met with representatives of several microfinance organisations and beneficiaries, in a meeting that highlighted the successes and challenges of the growing sector. Her Majesty stressed the importance of increased coordination and cooperation amongst the different microfinance institutions, in order to align their work and combine efforts, saying that there needs to be "special emphasis on empowerment of entrepreneurial youth". (03 Oct)

Reuters
Insuring African farmers against climate catastrophe
From floods to drought, microfinance companies are looking at ways for farmers in developing countries to cope better with the vagaries of climate change. According to the Microcredit Summit Campaign, there were over 137 million very poor families worldwide with a microloan in 2010. The industry has grown increasingly sophisticated, though it has also gained a bad reputation in parts of the world for selling very high-interest loans to very poor people, with the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh curbing their use. Microfinance companies are now looking to extend their reach with crop insurance in Africa. Small farmers in African countries cannot get regular crop insurance, but a successful project in India uses weather stations to calculate the weather and its possible impact on harvests within reach of those stations, working out claims automatically. (03 Oct)

FOMIN blog
Del Microcrédito al Microahorro
La historia de las microfinanzas muestra cómo en los años 70 las instituciones financieras lograron llegar a personas que se pensaba no eran sujetos de crédito, a través del microcrédito con garantía solidaria como respaldo, permitiendo así el acceso a servicios financieros por parte de población que estaba desatendida. De igual forma gestionaron donaciones para ajustar la infraestructura y capacitar al personal, con el fin de lograr una estrategia de negocio viable con metodologías que se ajustaban a este nuevo segmento. (17 Oct)

Jakarta Post
Yudhoyono receives int'l recognition for microfinancing
President Susilo Bambang Yu-dhoyono received a letter of recognition on Monday from the international microfinance community for his outstanding achievement in microcredit programs, which has been considered successful in reducing poverty and unemployment. The recognition was presented by the director of the Global Microcredit Summit Campaign, Larry Reed, representing the international community of microfinance during a two-day International Microfinance Conference (IMC) in Yogyakarta. (23 Oct)

Huffington Post
Andrew Wainer: Remittances and Immigration
Remittances allow families to send their children to school, eat more nourishing meals, visit the doctor, and pay their rent. World Bank research indicates that in
Latin America, a 10 percent increase in the remittances-to-GDP ratio results in a 3.7 percent decrease in moderate poverty and a 2.9 percent decrease in extreme poverty. The United Nations-affiliated International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) states "Families receiving remittances are--by virtue of the remittances--no longer among the poorest of the poor." (24 Oct)

Jakarta Post

Indonesia: "Financial literacy: Helping overseas migrant workers create wealth"

Indonesia’s 4 million overseas migrant workers and their families are underserved by formal financial services and possess limited levels of financial literacy. Improving not only access to formal financial services, such as savings, credit, remittance and insurance products, but also awareness of these products and the skills necessary to use them, could greatly improve the well-being of migrant workers’ households. Access to financial products and financial literacy are of particular importance for managing the vast amounts of remittance funds sent home by Indonesian migrant workers, which total to nearly US$7 billion annually. Starting in 2009, the World Bank undertook a pilot program to assess the impacts of providing financial literacy training to these households. The program found that financial literacy training for Indonesian migrant workers and their families has significant impacts on financial knowledge and behavior. (29 Oct) (also see APR Occasional paper number 15: Remittances, growth and poverty. New evidence from Asian countries)

Rwanda Focus

Co-Operative Banks Is the Way to Go

African ministers in charge of cooperatives have declared that savings and credits coops are the way to go. The ministers, who were addressing the press on the sidelines of the 10th International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Ministerial Conference in Kigali yesterday, believe finances are a major hindrance to the growth of cooperatives. "Finance is an issue to most of our cooperatives, access to bank services is difficult for them as some banks are not there to serve small businesses. (29 Oct)

Private Sector Development (WB blog)

A Global Wave of Financial Inclusion Targets?

On October 23, Nigeria joined a fast-growing list of countries making headline commitments to financial inclusion targets and actions, by launching a new Financial Inclusion Strategy. A total of 35 countries have now made commitments through the 'Maya Declaration' of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (a global network of financial regulators), including 19 as recently as September 2012. (02 Nov)

Project Syndicate

What’s Troubling India? (by Kenneth Rogoff)

Unfortunately, for a country as poor as India, only sustained rapid growth can lead to enduring development gains. India’s poverty rate (an indicator that is admittedly both conceptually and practically difficult to measure) fell by half between 1981 and 2010, to just under 30% – a remarkable achievement. But faster-growing East Asia has experienced significantly greater progress, with the poverty rate falling from 77% to 14% over the same period. (02 Nov)

San Francisco Business Times

Dahabshiil CEO and Dr Laura Hammond Discuss Preliminary Findings of Remittance Research

Abdirashid Duale, CEO of Dahabshiil - one of Africa’s largest remittance businesses - today discussed the economic future of the Somali territories at an event at London’s prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Mr Duale joined senior lecturer and expert on the Somali regions Dr Laura Hammond in discussing the preliminary findings of new research into the diaspora’s role in promoting economic development through remittance finance. Addressing the question of distribution between urban and rural areas, Mr Duale said: "In my experience, remittances have been instrumental in alleviating poverty and nurturing local economies in some of the
Somali territories’ most remote locations. Particularly through its work with IFAD, Dahabshiil has invested heavily in expanding its network of money transfer agents in order to reach those communities.” (07 Nov)

**Al-Watwan Comoros**  
Microfinance aux Comores : Deuxième édition de la Journée nationale.  
Les activités de la Journée nationale de Microfinance ont été lancées, samedi 3 novembre au Retaj Moroni hotel, sous la présidence du ministre des Finances. “Notre profonde conviction repose sur la nécessité de bâtir un système financier capable de prendre en compte les aspirations des populations démunies en évitant toute forme d’exclusion”, a confié le vice-président Mohamed Ali Soilih. (05 Nov) (note: IFAD is mentioned in this article)

**Gulf News**

Xpress Money, PNB launch remittance card  
Xpress Money, announced the launch of India’s first remittance card — the PNB Xpress Money Remit Card — in partnership with Punjab National Bank (PNB). PNB Xpress Money Remit Card is a prepaid product that features a unique combination offering dual benefits of “Debit + Remit” that will make it easier for a customer in India to access funds remitted to them by loved ones residing abroad. (05 Nov)

**Development Marketplace (WB blog)**

How can microfinance support social enterprises in Egypt?  
Ranya Abdel-Baki is the former Executive Director of Sanabel. The Microfinance Network of Arab countries. Ranya spoke with the World Bank Development Marketplace about the state of the Microfinance sector and Microfinance Institutions (MFI) in the region. She also explains why MFIs have been seen by many as the only sustainable and financially viable inclusive business or social enterprise model in the region and where she hopes to lead Sanabel within that context. (13 Nov)

**AllAfrica.com**

Conservation Agriculture Is the Way to Go  
Windhoek In light of the adverse effects of climate change, the logical route for Namibia is to embark on adaptation strategies such as changing from conventional ways of ploughing to environmentally friendly ways, to practise conservation agriculture. As a result, the UNDP-Global Environment Facility’s Community Based Adaptation (CBA) project is working with communities to build resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in agro-pastoral communities - and to foster community participation in the identification of climate drivers, risks and adaptive solutions. (18 Nov)

**The Economist**

Development in India: A tale of two villages  
In rural India there is hope that the worst policies can be improved. Over the past few years, the government in the capital, Raipur, 200 miles (320 kilometres) away, has been trying to improve India’s notoriously corrupt and ineffective social-safety nets. The system provides cheap food and make-work schemes for the poor. Yet a huge chunk of the money never reaches the intended beneficiaries. (17 Nov)

**New York Times**

What Land Can Do  
The poorest people in the world are those who don’t have land. In India, landlessness is a better predictor of poverty than illiteracy or belonging to castes at the bottom of society. At least 17 million rural households in India are completely landless, living on others’ land and working as sharecroppers or day labourers tending other peoples’ crops. Landlessness is a huge problem all over the world. More equal distribution of land is a valuable goal — it is efficient in both fighting poverty and producing food. But redistributing land is one of the most difficult and controversial of all political tasks. A history of land reform is a history of revolution. The concentration of land in the hands of the rich is a prime source of conflict. (21 Nov)

**South China Morning Post**
Microcredit schemes struggling to aid China's rural poor
Providing small loans to help reduce poverty has been widely successful globally, but various problems hamper similar moves on the mainland. The first investments by a long-awaited fund dedicated to helping the poor through financial services has helped shed light on the huge hurdles still facing microcredit organisations in rural China. (10 Dec)

The Herald

“Zimbabwe: Govt Bemoans High Microfinance Interest Rates”
GOVERNMENT is concerned with the punitive interest rates charged by microfinance institutions at a time the tide of inflation has been tamed, Acting Secretary for Small and Medium Enterprises and Co-operative Development Mrs Ethel Habangana has said. She was speaking at the official launch of the Zimbabwe Microfinance Wholesale Facility (ZMWF) in Harare yesterday. (12 Dec) (also from The New Times, Rwanda: Micro-Finance to Offer Insurance Support to Farmers)

Daily Times

Seal of Excellence launched
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Microcredit Summit Campaign have collaborated to launch the global initiative of Seal of Excellence for Poverty Outreach and Transformation in Pakistan, which will recognise those microfinance institutions doing the most to help poor households lift themselves out of poverty and improve their lives. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has provided financial support for this exercise, which is also being replicated in Jordan, Bolivia, India, Senegal, Peru, South Africa and the Philippines. (14 Dec)

The News International

PPAF, MSC launch ‘Seal of Excellence’
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Microcredit Summit Campaign (MSC) have collaborated to launch the global initiative of Seal of Excellence for poverty outreach and transformation in Pakistan, which will recognise those microfinance institutions doing the most to help poor households lift themselves out of poverty and improve their lives, says a press release. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has provided financial support for this exercise, which is also being replicated in Jordan, Bolivia, India, Senegal, Peru, South Africa and the Philippines. The overall goal of Seal of Excellence is to accredit microfinance institutions, which are responsible, genuinely inclusive and contributing to positive change in the society. (16 Dec)

The Point

Gambia: Micro-Finance Operators Trained On Agriculture Lending Programme
The Rural Finance Project (RFP), a project from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) ongoing three projects in The Gambia at the weekend ended a four-day intensive training on Agricultural Lending for micro-finance institutions operating in the country. The synergy, which assembled participants from different micro-finance institutions in the country, is meant to equip them with knowledge and skills to be able to establish a viable agricultural lending operation and to further improve service delivery at different micro-finance institutions in the country. (13 Dec)

Ghana Business News

Ghana’s Rural Enterprises Programme III estimated to cost GH¢382m
An appraisal report shown that the phase cost a total of – the African
the International Fund
Government of Ghana (GH¢48.35 million), District Assemblies (GH¢78.74 million), Beneficiaries (GH¢23.08 million) and Participating Financial Institutions (GH¢17.31 million). The programme is expected to start March 2013 and completed December 2017 with last disbursement of funds expected in March 2018, according to the report. The project will be implemented in 161 out of 170 rural districts in Ghana. According to the AfDB report, the sector goal of REP III is to improve the livelihoods of rural micro and small-scale entrepreneurs (MSEs). (03 Jan 2013)
India Aims to Keep Money for Poor Out of Others' Pockets

India has more poor people than any nation on earth, but many of its antipoverty programs end up feeding the rich more than the needy. A new program hopes to change that. On Jan. 1, India eliminated a raft of bureaucratic middlemen by depositing government pension and scholarship payments directly into the bank accounts of about 245,000 people in 20 of the nation's hundreds of districts, in a bid to prevent corrupt state and local officials from diverting much of the money to their own pockets. Hundreds of thousands more people will be added to the program in the coming months. In a country of 1.2 billion, the numbers so far are modest, but some officials and economists see the start of direct payments as revolutionary a program intended not only to curb corruption but also to serve as a vehicle for lifting countless millions out of poverty altogether. (06 Jan)

Times of India

India: “Study shows micro-credit has empowered women”

Micro-credit has helped women have a larger influence over their children-related decisions, says a study by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A). IIM-A conducted an impact evaluation study on Bandhan, a microfinance institution based in West Bengal. The study was done with an objective to assess the impact of microcredit and other development interventions being made in the lives of the underprivileged. The study found positive women empowerment effects concerning the women member's influence over children-related decisions like educational expenses, family planning, girl education, daughter's marriage, among other things. The study says that the average annual household net income from all sources went up by Rs 13,231, representing a 13.81% increase. This increased income did not come at the cost of increased risk exposure for the households, as measured by fluctuation of monthly income over the past three years. (07 Jan)

The New Times - Rwanda

From Rwf1,000 a Day to Millionaire

With three children and a wife, he had to devise means of how his Frw1,000 daily wage would sustain his family and meet their basic needs. The school drop-out who earned that meagre stipend from doing menial chores in people's farms was always looking for in the far horizons in search of the answer to the lingering burden in his home. Demands for food, soap, rent, clothing, school fees, medication and all the other basics were the subject of a constant nagging from the wife. Every time she would remind him of something needed at home, it felt like he was listening to a scratched infuriating music CD because he was not able to meet most of his family's needs with only Frw1,000 a day. Jean Baptiste Nizeyimana, 30, a resident of Gatsibo district, is a living testimony to the fact that hard work and determination leads to success. (07 Jan)

Jakarta Post

Commercializing agriculture

Indonesia has emerged as one of the fastest growing economies in Asia amid the global economic slowdown. Strong domestic demand, accompanied by structural reform of the financial sector, has formed the foundation of Indonesia's economic resilience. Despite the success story of its overall macroeconomic performance, Indonesia's agriculture sector, once renowned for being Indonesia's main engine of growth, is facing various challenges to survive.
Statistically speaking, the World Bank’s world development indicators show that the share of Indonesia’s agriculture sector in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) declined from 17 percent in 2000 to 15 percent in 2011. During the same period, the sector’s average annual growth was less than 3 percent, lower than the country’s average real GDP growth of around 5 percent. Moreover, around 60 percent of the poorest Indonesians are smallholders who live on small farms with poor productivity.

The New Times
MFI to Devis Ways to Make Agro-Lend...
A new initiative that will safeguard micro-finance institutions (MFIs) against bad agro-loans is in the offing. The product is aimed at encouraging MFIs to lend to the agricultural sector without fear of incurring losses. “Agriculture has high risks, but we are trying to develop a product that will assist MFIs lend to the sector without making losses,” Rita Ngarambe, the executive secretary of the Association of Micro-finance Institutions of Rwanda (AMIR), said in an interview yesterday. “We are working with OXFAM to develop the product, which we shall share with MFIs. We hope they will start lending to farmers without reservation in the near future.” Agriculture in Rwanda depends on unpredictable weather conditions, creating uncertainty in production, which banks see as risky venture. Besides, many farmers do not have financial management skills, meaning that they cannot efficiently use the loans acquired. (10 Jan)

The Herald - Zimbabwe
Expedite Farmers’ Loans, Made Urges Agribank
Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development Minister Joseph Made on Thursday challenged Agribank to speedily process farmers’ loans to allow them to buy fertilisers and save crops from leaching induced by the obtaining wet spell. Minister Made said should the wet spell persist, farmers would need to apply more top dressing fertiliser to replenish nutrients that would have been leached. “Farmers do not have money but they urgently need to secure more top dressing fertilisers so Agribank should speedily process the loans. “Those who have the fertilisers must also be cautious when they apply them to avoid applying it on rainy days, which leaves the fertiliser prone to being washed away,” said Minister Made. He urged farmers to closely monitor weather bulletins and work with their extension officers to curb potential wastage of fertilisers. (19 Jan)

Jakarta Post (Indonesia)
RI calls for engagement of farmers on food security
At the start of the first senior officials’ meeting of 2013 on Friday, Indonesia called on fellow members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to involve farmers in ensuring food security in the region. Acknowledging the important role of farmers, particularly in emerging Asian economies, Agriculture Minister Suswono said smallholder farmers should be more engaged in the regional food supply chain to allow them to reap financial benefits from ongoing development and the process of achieving food security. “Only by working with farmers can we revive and sustain the spirit of growth with equity,” he said in his opening speech at the meeting of APEC’s Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) in Jakarta on Friday. (26 Jan)

The Daily Star
Remittances from major countries shoots up
Remittance from major countries except the US shot up by 16-55 percent year-on-year in 2012, due to an increase in Bangladesh wage earners abroad and their incomes. Inflows from the US have dropped 2.5 percent to $1.67 billion.
in 2012 from the previous year, due to the sluggish economy. Bangladesh typically receives the third highest amount of remittance from the US. "Many of the Bangladeshi working in the US are on a temporary payroll. They are saving for the rainy weather instead of sending money back home," said an official of the ministry of expatriate welfare and overseas employment. (22 Jan)

**Nigeria Communications Week**

**Borno Partners IFAD, World Bank on Rural Development**

Ahaji Mohammed Damchida, Borno state commissioner for agriculture, has said that the state has agreed to implement the concept and programmes of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which is aimed at transforming the rural areas and enhancing the living standard of people at the grass root. The commissioner disclosed this while receiving IFAD and World Bank officials in his office at the Musa Usman secretariat Maiduguri. He added that government has made budgetary allocation this year to take care of IFAD programmes in the state, which include food security, land degradation and eradication of poverty. The commissioner said that, he was marvelled at the level of agricultural transformation in Israel when he visited the country sometime last year. According to him, the turnaround in agricultural development was informed by IFAD contribution to the development of the sector. (29 Jan)

**Daily Times**

**PPAF pioneers crop, livestock insurance for farmers**

The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has launched the first-ever indexed and hybrid weather micro-insurance products to facilitate and compensate small farmers in Pakistan. Presided over by Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Commissioner Muhammad Asif Arif, a simple ceremony to this effect was arranged at a local hotel, which was attended by representatives of State Bank of Pakistan, the World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), KfW, German Development Bank, UKAID, Tameer Microfinance Bank, National Disaster Management Authority, Pakistan Microfinance Network, government bodies, insurance companies and others. Addressing the occasion, Arif said that micro-insurance stands at a critical juncture in Pakistan. He commended PPAF on for introducing revolutionary indexed crop and livestock insurance products in Pakistan. (29 Jan)

**The Express Tribune**

**Pakistan: "Crop, livestock insurance products launched"**

The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has launched the first-ever weather-indexed micro-insurance products to facilitate and compensate small farmers in Pakistan. In this connection, a ceremony was arranged here on Tuesday, presided over by Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Commissioner Muhammad Asif Arif and attended by representatives of the State Bank of Pakistan, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), KfW – German development bank, UKAID, Tameer Microfinance Bank and others. PPAF Chief Executive Qazi Azmat Isa attributed the micro-insurance initiative to close collaboration between PPAF and IFAD. He said farmers are badly affected by climate change, fluctuation in prices of their produce and poor quality of agricultural inputs and micro-insurance would prove to be a vital instrument in fight against poverty. (also reported in the Business Recorder) (30 Jan)

**Individual.com**

**Azerbaijan's state credit institution doubled profit in 2012**

Profits at the Azerbaijani non-bank credit organisation Aqrarkredit reached 438,900 manat by the end of 2012, which is double that of the previous year, a statement from the organisation published in the official press on Tuesday says. In 2011, the credit institution earned a profit of 221,500 manat. 'Revenues of the credit institution in the past year amounted to 4.105 million manat', the statement said. Total assets amounted to 26.6 million manat (a 2.7 per cent increase) including the loan portfolio at 17.7 million manat (6.6 per cent increase) as of Jan.1, 2012. Loans worth 3.1 million were granted to 682 business entities and groups of borrowers through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under the projects 'Development of agriculture in the north-east' and 'Development of agriculture in the north-west'. (29 Jan)

**The Guardian Development Blog**

Migration and development: turning debate into policy change
The impacts of migration on development are widely acknowledged but not always acted upon. As Dilip Ratha of the World Bank explains: "Since [migration] directly challenges national identity and sovereignty, it is not easy to arrive at a consensus on specific migration targets." The inter-agency Global Migration Group, refers to this dilemma as "the gap between talk and action" and set out in 2010 to provide governments and development partners with a handbook to help them develop a strategy around migration and development (M&D) (pdf). (28 Jan)

The Guardian

Migrants' billions put aid in the shade
For decades it was a largely unnoticed feature of the global economy, a blip of a statistic that hinted at the tendency of expatriates to send a little pocket money back to families in their home countries. But now, the flow of migrant money around the world has shot up to record levels as more people than ever cross borders to live and work abroad. It's known as remittance money, and in 2012 it topped $530bn (£335bn), according to the latest World Bank figures. The amount has tripled in a decade and is now more than three times larger than total global aid budgets, sparking serious debate as to whether migration and the money it generates is a realistic alternative to just doling out aid. If remittances at the level recorded by the World Bank were a single economy, it would be the 22nd largest in the world, bigger than Iran or Argentina. (30 Jan)

The Guardian

Liberia urged to invest remittances, not just spend them on everyday needs
The Western Union booth in the Monoprix supermarket in Monrovia, Liberia, is doing brisk business. Alnetra Zaroe, 27, is collecting money from her father, who has been living in the US for eight years. On her monthly visits to the store in busy Benson Street, she collects $150 (£95), which once helped her pay for university tuition fees but now goes towards food and school costs for her extended family. "It's a large family – cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews – so we have to spend the money wisely," says the businesswoman, who distributes the cash to relatives. "I help my dad care for the family." She says the family would struggle without the cash. "Instead of two meals a day, we'd just have one." According to World Bank figures published in November, remittances to Liberia in 2011 were estimated at $360m, the equivalent of 31% of its GDP and more than half the amount it received in aid that year. Taken as a share of GDP, Liberia is the world's second-highest remittance recipient, behind Tajikstan, and the figure is predicted to have increased to $378m last year. However, some people claim that remittances are not helping Liberians in the long term nor pulling people out of poverty. Liberia ranked 182nd out of 187 countries in the UN's 2011 human development index. Money tends to be spent on immediate, basic needs – food for the family, children's school fees – rather than invested or saved. Taa Wongbe believes this has to change. (31 Jan)

The Guardian

Remittances, migration and the post-2015 development agenda
Remittances – money sent home by migrants to family and friends – have tripled in the last decade to record levels. The amount is three times larger than global aid budgets. In a special report last week, we unpicked the latest World Bank estimates of how much is sent, and to where, to see how migrants' money has become a huge part of many economies. We also looked at the stories underneath the numbers, particularly the impact of remittances in poor countries. Using the Bank's figures for 2011, our interactive guide offers the chance to select a country and find out the inflows and outflows of remittances. (05 Feb)

East African

New disaster pool to insure African ventures
Nine African countries are set to be part of the region's first disaster risk pool, expected to begin operations this year, as the continent's insurance industry turns to technology to boost uptake of its services. Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania, which have experienced drought in the past, have signed up for the Pan-African Disaster Risk Pool. In Southern Africa, the flood-prone Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique are part of the programme, known as African Risk Capacity (ARC). "The ARC initiative enhances the ability of African countries to respond to disaster and makes them less reliant on international aid," said C D Glin, Rockefeller Foundation's associate director for the Africa regional office. He said the premiums each country would contribute to the pot and the maximum compensation due to each are currently being assessed and
should be finalised this year. Rockefeller Foundation contributed the initial $1 million to the ARC initiative in 2010, with UK’s Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency and the International Fund for Agricultural Development contributing a combined $10 million. (03 Feb)

AlertNet

Haiti launches micro-finance catastrophe insurance program

When Hurricane Sandy struck Haiti late last year, the home Guerda Pierre shares with her three children and mother in Cabaret, north of Port-au-Prince, was flooded - and so was the merchandise she sold to make a living. “The books, the food, everything was wet after Sandy,” said Pierre. The plantain plants and beans in her garden were also destroyed. But unlike the majority of Haitians, Pierre had an insurance policy. As a borrowing client at Fonkoze, a Haitian microcredit organization, she was automatically covered under its natural disaster insurance policy. Through MiCRO (Microinsurance Catastrophe Risk Organization), she had her existing debt wiped clean, a new credit account with Fonkoze instated for the same amount. And she received a payout of about $60 to help her get back on her feet quickly. (29 Jan)

AllAfrica.com

IFAD Grant for Somalia in Response...

Following the recent call by Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Government of Somalia, to its diaspora abroad to invest in the reconstruction of the country, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) announced a new programme that will leverage more than US$1 billion sent home by Somalis annually. Remittances from Somalis living abroad are estimated to equal up to 50 per cent of the gross domestic product, which is vital for the country's economy. Rebuilding Somalia through the Diaspora Investment in Agriculture (DIA) initiative and working with the Federal Government of Somalia and the United States Department of State's International Diaspora Engagement Alliance, (IdEA) IFAD will provide a grant worth $1.5 million to finance innovative diaspora projects. To encourage cross-border investment in agriculture, improve food security and increase rural employment, amounts ranging from $20,000 to $100,000 will be provided to implement the projects. (Also reported in: UN News centre English; French service; Spanish service, Individual.com) (04 Feb)

United Nations Multimedia

Indonesia: Surviving the Flood

Rita Rondunuwu Jakarta is recovering from yet another flood. But Indonesia is no stranger to natural disasters. In fact, there is a flood here almost every month. Often deforestation on mountain slopes loosens the soil and heavy rain leads to landslides. Four months ago, Lemusa village on Sulawesi island was buried under six metres of mud. In one night, most people lost their homes and their farms – their only source of income. Rita Rondunuwu can no longer farm, but she is one of the lucky ones. With support from the Indonesian Government and the UN agency IFAD, Rita was able to access funds for her weaving business, as we find out from this report by IFAD's Joanne Levitan. Duration:3'45" (05 Feb)

Daily Trust

How Insurance Can Help Solve Hunger Issues - Swiss Re Report

Swiss Re has suggested ways insurance can help solve food insecurity globally particularly in insecure food countries like Nigeria. Swiss Re said in a recent report that insurance can play a big role in aligning production incentives, raising awareness of the importance of risk mitigation and encouraging investment in agricultural efficiency. Swiss Re's Asia chief economist Clarence Wong said in the report that "Insurance is an integral piece of the puzzle" - the food insecurity puzzle. The report's co-author Amit Kalra said: "Tapping the full power of agricultural insurance in emerging markets requires a lot: proactive and enabling government policies, supportive infrastructure, innovative products, cost-effective business models, new distribution channels, and advanced technology…. (05 Feb)

New African

Supporting Rural Zambian's Livelihoods

The Development Bank of Zambia and its development partners such as IFAD are underpinning the country's agricultural sector. The Zambian government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have launched a Rural Finance Programme (RFP) that is managed by the Zambian Ministry of Finance.
Operating within the framework of the Financial Sector Development Plan, the RFP serves to promote sustainable financial services in Zambia's rural areas. One of the five components of the RFP is a Credit Facility for Small-Scale Production, which aims to promote improved access to credit for smallholder farmers by supporting linkages between financial institutions and rural producers. The Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ) is the managing agent of this facility, which started operating a pilot phase in 2010. (06 Feb)

Mena Report – Jordan
Somalia : IFAD approves USD1.5M for SOMALIAN DIASPORA projects

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has approved a grant worth USD 1.5 million to fund Innovative Diaspora projects in Somalia in a fresh initiative to tap investment. IFAD said funds between $20,000 and $100,000 will be offered to implement projects like cross-border investment in agriculture, boost food security as well as rural employment. The initiative, Rebuilding Somalia through the Diaspora Investment in Agriculture (DIA) and working with the government of Somalia and the U.S. Department of State's International Diaspora Engagement Alliance (IDEA), IFAD will offer a grant worth $1.5 million to fund innovative Diaspora projects.

IFAD, President, Kanayo F. Nwanze, said: "We must harness this often-times invisible investment in agriculture, particularly in post-conflict countries and fragile states. Helping the Diaspora invest in agriculture represents an opportunity to mobilize new resources to achieve our common goal." (also reported in Amsterdam News: Global Policy Forum)(06 Feb)

Bangladesh Daily Star
Microlino recipients fall for first time

The number of the world’s poor who benefited from microcredit has declined for the first time, largely due to alleged abuses in India, uncertainty in Bangladesh and a lack of innovations. After more than a decade of sharp growth, the number of microlino recipients slipped to 195 million in 2011 from 205 million a year earlier, the Microlino Campaign, which promotes microfinance, said in a report. "We can attribute all of the reduction in clients to events in Asia: over lending in a few markets in India led to a government crackdown, and, in Bangladesh, a maturing market coupled with political uncertainty led many lenders to scale back," said Larry Reed, director of the campaign. "This is a wake-up call to the industry about the need to focus more on the growth of our clients’ businesses than on the growth of the institutions that provide them financial services." It was the first drop since 1998 when the campaign began tracking the data. (06 Feb)

The Star
Kenya: Mobile Money Moved Sh1.4 Trillion in 2012

THE amount of money transacted by Kenyans using their mobile phones grew by over 50 per cent to hit Sh1.4 trillion in the financial year ended June 30 2012, Central Bank data shows. The rapid growth of the mobile phone money transfer service usage from the Sh919 billion mark in 2011 was helped by a 39.51 per cent growth in the number of transactions. The number of transactions increased from 364.06 million in the year to June 30, 2011 to 507.90 million transactions in the year to June 30, 2012. In the period, the customer base of persons using services such as M-pesa, Airtel Money, Orange Money and Yu Money increased by 10.06 percent from 17.99 million customers to 19.8 million customers. (19 Feb)

Pacific Islands News Association
Financial literacy for PNG farmers: Treasurer Polye

Rural Papua New Guinean farmers need to be financially literate and have access to financial institutions to be successful, according to Speaking after returning from an International Development (IFAD) summit in Rome, Italy, Treasurer Don Polye said he had highlighted "financial inclusion" and PNG in driving this endeavour. "Small-scale requires large capital injection in a third-world economy such as PNG," he said. "PNG needs to develop a nucleus-type agricultural programme through government direct equity participation. "In such a programme, small-scale farmers and small-medium enterprises (SMEs) will be integrated into impact agricultural programmes."... (20 Feb)

Ghana News Agency
Minister asks micro-finance institutions to support agricultural production

Mr Clement Kofi Humado, Minister of Food and Agriculture, gave the advice at the launch of phase II of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP2A) in Accra. He said a generation of new technologies and
release of new crop varieties do not by themselves result into increased agricultural yields, unless we provide a complementary enabling environment that facilitates the uptake of these technologies by our farmers. Mr Humado pledged the support of his Ministry to assist farmers to break the back of poverty to improve upon their standard of living and welfare through agricultural productivity increase and increased farmer incomes. He expressed the hope that WAAPP2A would improve technologies to assist Ghana achieve food self-sufficiency and contribute as a major exporter of the commodity to the world. The WAAPP2A aims at contributing to agricultural productivity; strengthen national mechanisms, regulations and institutions for regional cooperation, ... (20 Feb)

The Swazi Observer
Banking sector assets now at E12.2bn
Minister of Finance Majozi Sithole, in his 2013/14 National Budget Speech, said the banking sector's overall profit increased from E273 million in September 2011 to E283 million in September 2012. To allow more people to save and borrow, the government established a Microfinance Unit with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development. This unit has supported the introduction of mobile money and will develop the micro-finance sector. (25 Feb)

Reuters
Indian bank finds profits where others fear to tread
Starting three years ago with a business remodelling plan, India's Ratnakar Bank has ventured where few deposit-taking lenders have gone before. The private equity backed company, whose top ranks are now filled with pros from Wall Street banks, has expanded its business into India's poor, rural areas, a tough market long neglected by the country's financial groups. (24 Feb)

Why India remains top of remittances league
In 2012, India topped the list with $70bn (£824m) of remittance inflows, followed by China ($66bn), the Philippines and Mexico ($24bn each), Nigeria ($21bn), according to the latest World Bank figures on migration and remittances. Nothing surprising about that: India has been the top recipient of remittances in the world for 15 of the past 23 years and the past five years in a row. (26 Feb)

Bao Moi.com - Vietnam
US$28.6 million provided to poor households in Quang Binh
The SRDP will focus on rural economic development. Nhan Dan – A US$28.6 million project aiming to increase incomes and reduce vulnerability of poor households in rural areas will be implemented in the central province of Quang Binh, with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The sustainable rural development project (SRDP) will invest in sustainable and environmentally-friendly rural development models that benefit the poor, develop value chains and market linkages, promote rural financial services, and enhance the competitiveness of the local rural economy. The SRDP, which is expected to have a duration of five years, will be carried out in 62 communes throughout the six districts of the province, starting in 2013. (06 Mar)

Individual.com – The Gambia
Rural Finance Project Team On Countrywide Visaca Tour
Rural Finance Project, (RFP) International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD's ongoing project in The Gambia team recently embarked on a countrywide tour for the pre-selection of potential Village Savings and Credit Associations (VISACAs) communities' expansion. The team began its countrywide tour on 2nd March 2013 and was expected to end it on 5th March, this month. The team included RFP, Micro-Finance Department of Central Bank of The Gambia, Micro-Finance Promotion Centre (MFPC), National VISACA Technical Service Provider (NAVISACA), and VISACA Apex. In an interview with journalists, Mr. Lamin J.S Fatajo, RFP's Project Coordinator, who is leading the team, said the purpose of the pre-selection for expansion of VISACA systems in the country is in line with their project objectives. Noting that rural people will have the opportunity to deposit their monies, lend and borrow for wealth creation and poverty eradication. (06 Mar)

Lebanon Daily Star
World Bank grants Jordan $70 mn loan to ease youth unemployment
The World Bank has granted Jordan $70 million in financing to help it to extend small loans to young people in depressed rural areas that have suffered most from the country's sluggish economic growth. With almost 40 percent of the country's seven million population aged under 15, youth unemployment is a particular problem and has almost doubled over the past decade. There are at least 50,000 new entrants to Jordan's labour market every year. "This loan will support the creation of much needed employment ...
opportunities for Jordan's growing population of young people," the World Bank's Belhaj said in a statement, adding that it will also alleviate poverty and boost economic growth. (06 Mar)

**Afriquejet.com**

**Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme CAADP**

CAADP partnership platform meeting underway in Ethiopia - The ninth edition of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) partnership platform meeting opened here Monday with a call on stakeholders to sustain and improve on the achievements recorded in the last decade of the programme (26 Mar)

**UzDaily.com**

**Tashkent host seminar on development of electronic money services**

A working session regarding the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) joint project "Development of electronic money services in Central Asia" was held in Tashkent. The postal services representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Russia and Uzbekistan took part in it. The UPU coordinator on financial services Mr. Nanba conducted the session. During the meeting the first achieved results on the project were discussed, the project regional plan and budget, the possibilities of implementation of the service "urgent money orders" were determined (01 Apr)

**Capitol FM – Nairobi**

**Africa can feed itself and feed the World.**

Last week hundreds of Africans gathered at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, to take stock of the continent's progress and challenges in the agriculture sector. The assembly had been brought together under the auspices of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Plan Partners Platform (CAADP-PP). The general consensus at this meeting, as in many others in the past, was that Africa can feed itself and feed the world (03 Apr)

**The New Times - Rwanda**

"Rwanda: Microfinance Institutions Call for Review of Tax Laws"  
For the past two years or so, the micro finance sector has been calling for industry-friendly laws, arguing that their services help the most needy citizens, besides supporting the government's efforts to eradicate poverty. According to Peter Rwema, the director of research and development at the Association of Microfinance Institutions of Rwanda, tax laws are stifling service delivery and sector growth and, therefore, should be amended. He also notes that the leasing law, which was prepared in 2010 should be passed. Rwema had a chat with Business Times' Peterson Tumwebaze about these and other issues affecting the industry. Micro-finance institutions have called on the government to pass the long-shelved lease law and review other tax laws and make them sector-friendly. (04 Apr)

**IPS**

**World Bank to Strengthen Focus On Land Rights**

The World Bank will be placing stronger emphasis on issues of land tenure and socially and environmentally sustainable agricultural investing, it announced Monday. The bank, one of the world's largest development lenders, also formally reiterated its concern over the large-scale corporate "land grabbing" that has affected vast swathes of Africa in recent years. Without these guidelines, we'd be left with anarchy. "The World Bank Group shares these concerns about the risks associated with large-scale land acquisitions," World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said in a statement from the bank's Washington headquarters Monday. "Securing access to land is critical for millions of poor people. (09 Apr)

**Manila Bulletin**

**Empowering Inay**

The Inays (mothers) of the nation may actually be the unheralded sector that will quietly save our economy and ensure the "inclusive" growth that has so far eluded our captains of industry and erudite economic gurus. Poor landless rural women are proving to be the most reliable sector when it comes to consistent savings and faithfulness in paying loan obligations. Leading the group of Philippine microfinance institutions extending savings and credit facilities to this sector is the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) which is now helping about 2 million low-income Filipinos, primarily the very poor landless women in rural areas whom they fondly call Inay. (16 Apr)
CPI Financial

“Islamic microfinance market size touches $1 billion”

The Islamic microfinance industry is rapidly progressing due to its superior performance for poverty alleviation, according to the CEO of AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) Islamic microfinance is rapidly gaining acceptance in Muslim and Non-Muslim countries due to its remarkable performance in poverty eradication; because of which, this industry is making quick progress: "According to our careful estimate Islamic microfinance market's worth has reached $1 billion," said Muhammad Zubair Mughal, the Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda while, addressing the International Islamic Finance conference as a Guest of Honour… Due to Islamic microfinance's significant role in reducing poverty, international donor institutions and multilateral organisations like USAID, IDB, ADB, IFAD, UNDP, World Bank and IFC etc. have clearly explained their policies in different countries to further strengthen Islamic microfinance, which will ensure the quick advancement of Islamic microfinance in near future. (18 Apr)

Islamic Finance News

YEMEN: The IDB, International Fund for Agricultural Development and European Union to collectively fund Yemen's rural employment program

YEMEN: The IDB, along with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the European Union, will collectively provide US$40 million to the Yemen Economic Opportunities Fund for the development of SMEs in the country's rural areas... (18 Apr)

Individual.com

NACCUG's Savings Increased to D440 Million in 2012

Savings at the National Association of Cooperative Credit Union (NACCUG) have increased from D367M to D440M in 2012, representing a growth of D73M by 67 credit unions, its board chairperson has disclosed. Baboucarr Fatty made the disclosure at the 22 annual general meeting of NACCUG, held over the weekend at its headquarters in Kanifing. The AGM that centered on the theme, "Creating a brighter Gambia through credit unions", was meant to approve the 2012 accounts and reports of the directors Jallow also disclosed that NACCUG's overall assets have increased from D42.3M to D47.2M in December 2012, representing 12 percent increment. The body through its partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and The Gambia government, he further revealed, received a grant in the form of three motorbikes, amounting to D210, 000, meant to facilitate NACCUG monitoring and outreach programmes especially in the rural areas. (17.04)

The Guardian

Building bridges between agribusiness and development
Aligning agribusiness and development means taking a holistic approach - our panel suggest 14 crucial factors to making it work (18 Apr)

Graphic Ghana

German bank to fund value chain operators in Agric sector
Ghana News plugins Value chain operators in the agricultural sector are to benefit from a 34 million euro support from the German Development Bank to address medium to long-term financing needs of the sector. The money would be disbursed through a refinance facility with the Bank of Ghana known as the Outgrower and Value Chain Fund. Addressing an opening session
of a workshop on agricultural financing, the Programme Manager, Market Oriented Agriculture Programme of Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Dr Paul Schuetz, said it was expected that more banks would take advantage of the financing opportunities in agricultural value chains to increase the levels of financing to the agricultural sector in the country. The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), with funding from the Northern Rural Development Growth Programme of the African. (26 Apr)

New Vision – Uganda
Employment key to poverty eradication

Poverty eradication and financial empowerment can only be address if issues of unemployment are tackled Brac founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said on Monday. "Countries in Sub Saharan Africa such as Uganda have issues of poverty and low literacy. We want to help Uganda get its people out of poverty, but this needs joint effort," he said. Abed, the World's renowned leading Non-Governmental Organisation (BRAC) founder and chairperson made remarks during the opening of a three day Global Learning Meeting (GLM) held at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel in Entebbe yesterday. (26 Apr)

The Guardian

Crowdsourcing the next global development agenda
The United Nations is using digital media and mobile phone technology to enable people from across the world to take part in setting the next generation of anti-poverty goals. For the first time in history, the United Nations is engaging hundreds of thousands of people around the world in shaping an important global agenda: the next generation of anti-poverty goals. (07 May)

Daily Trust – Nigeria
Why Nigeria won't achieve MDGs by 2015

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume (PDP, Borno South) is chairman, Senate Committee on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this interview, Ndume says Nigeria has not done much to achieve the eight MDGs with two years to 2015. (07 May)

Reuters

MasterCard to Power Nigerian Identity Card Program
13 Million Cards to be issued first, in largest card rollout of its kind in Africa The Nigerian National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) and MasterCard today announced at the World Economic Forum on Africa the roll-out of 13 million MasterCard-branded National Identity Smart Cards with electronic payment capability as a pilot program. The National Identity Smart Card is the Card Scheme under the recently deployed National Identity Management System (NIMS). This program is the largest roll-out of a formal electronic payment solution in the country and the broadest financial inclusion initiative of its kind on the African continent. As part of the program, in its first phase, Nigerians 16 years and older, and all residents in the country for more than two years, will get the new multipurpose identity card which has 13 applications including MasterCard’s prepaid payment technology that will provide cardholders ... (08 May)

Nigeria Intel
$2b global funding coming for processing zones
The proposed Staple Crop Processing Zones (SCPZ) to be established by the Federal Government have attracted $2 billion worth of commitment from global development partners, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, has said. Adesina, who spoke at the maiden meeting of Agribusiness Group Summit in Abuja, yesterday, said apart from the World Bank which is providing $1 billion, the initiative will also provide tax incentives for local and foreign investors who are willing to invest in the zones. He said: "Global financial institutions have endorsed the staple crop processing zones. Development partners have rallied around the agricultural transformation agenda with commitments totaling $ 2 billion, including the World Bank with $ 1 billion, the African Development Bank (AfDB) with $500 million, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with $100 million, the International Fund for Agricultural Development ... (28 May)

Voice of Nigeria

Nigeria to become Africa's largest rice producing country
Nigeria to become Africa's largest rice producing country Halima Umar Saleh, Abuja Nigeria is on its way to turning its agricultural sector into a global power house, as it aims to become the largest rice producing country in Africa by the end of 2014. The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina said this while highlighting the successes the sector had recorded over the last two years at the ministerial platform in Abuja. Dr. Adesina said, Nigeria used to be a major player in the global agricultural market and it was self-sufficient in food production. Dr Adesina said that Global development
institutions such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, **International Fund for Agricultural Development**, USAID, Japanese Cooperation Agency, the China EXIM Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have all rallied around Nigeria’s Agricultural Transformation. (17 Jun)

**Project Syndicate**

**Harnessing the Remittance Boom**

For more than a decade, Asia’s economies have been on the move – and so have its people. The scale of migration from rural to urban areas and across international borders is historically unprecedented, and twenty-first-century Asia is its focal point. In Asia’s developing countries, the power and potential of remittances – the money that migrant workers send home to their families (many of whom live in poor and remote areas) – is immense. Currently, over 60 million migrant workers from the Asia/Pacific region account for more than half of all remittance flows to developing countries, sending home about $260 billion in 2012. In order to establish such channels, we must scale up key initiatives, identify new opportunities, and map out the road ahead. The fourth Global Forum on Remittances, which runs May 20-23 in Bangkok, will do just that. Convened by the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** and the World Bank, the forum will bring together policymakers, private-sector players, and civil-society leaders to chart a course for leveraging the development impact of remittances sent home each year in Asia and around the world. *(also reported in: Humanitarian News blogs, The New Dawn – Liberia),(18 May)*

**UAE Exchange Blog**

**Remittances to Asia Key Focus at Global Forum**

Summary: Global Forum on Remittances for 2013 will discuss industry growth opportunities in Asia, the latest pivot in remittances. The Global Forum on Remittances (GFR) for 2013 will be held from May 20, 2013 to May 23, 2013, in Bangkok. This year, GFR will focus on opportunities and challenges facing the remittance industry in the Asia-Pacific region. GFR is an event by the World Bank and **The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**. More than 300 participants including government representatives, industry experts and remittance business executives, are expected to take part in the event. Titled “Sending money home to Asia – GFR2013,” GFR2013 will see participants discussing the Asia-Pacific remittance market. *(19 May)*

**NPR**

**Does Microcredit Deliver On Its Promises?**

The idea behind microcredit is that if you give poor people in developing countries access to credit, the ability to borrow, they will use that money to start or expand businesses which will eventually help them pull themselves out of poverty. But ever since these programs boomed in the early 2000's, questions have been raised about how effective they are. We wrote about the backlash against this type of lending in 2011. Back then, some early studies had found limited benefits for borrowers. Now, the results of the longest running study on this issue have been analyzed by a couple economists we've talked to before on Planet Money, Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee. Their paper on microcredit loans in Hyderabad, India suggests it might be time to "rethink" the role of microfinance. ...In contrast to the claims sometimes made by MFIs [microfinance institutions] and others, demand for microloans is far from universal. By the end of our three-year study period, only 38 percent of ... *(30 May)*

**Equities.com**

**Remittances Can Transform Rural Areas**

The Global Forum on Remittances jointly organized by the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** and the World Bank ended on 23 May 2013, with the private sector, civil society and policymakers determined to make every dollar count that migrants send home to their families in rural areas. More than 350 participants from across the globe gathered in Bangkok for the three-day Forum, which ended with a key message from delegates and participants: Empowering the millions of remittances recipients in rural areas can provide a pathway out of exclusion, as well as improved livelihoods. *(also: All Africa, CPI Financial – UAE)* *(28 May)*

**Master Card**

**Too Much Cash and Cost in Remittances**

... attended the Global Forum on Remittances hosted by the **UN agency IFAD** and the World Bank where I was asked to speak about the... *(18 Jul)*

**Agri Marketing**

**U.N.: Investing In Small-Scale Farmers Can Help Lift Over 1 Billion People Out Of Poverty**

Given the right conditions and targeted support, small farmers can unleash a new and sustainable agricultural revolution, the United Nations environment agency a partner agricultural development organization reported today on the eve of World Environment Day. According to the report, "Smallholders, Food Security and the
Environment, an estimated 2.5 billion people who manage 500 million smallholder farm households provide over 80 per cent of the food consumed in much of the developing world, particularly Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The report, commissioned by the UN Environment Programme’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), also shows that most of the 1.4 billion people living on less than $1.25 a day live in rural areas and depend largely on agriculture for their livelihoods. (also reported in: Agri Marketing, Care 2, KMTR News Source, Nigeria Intel, Polity.org.za) (06 Jun)

**The Guardian**

*Here comes the sun: Kenya farmers texted weather forecasts –*  
In the heart of Kenya, Christian Community Services Mount Kenya East is working with remote farming communities experiencing increasingly erratic weather patterns. Sending small-scale farmers weather forecasts by text, translated into their local language, provides them with valuable information before they plant crops. The project is funded by UK aid and Christian Aid (11 Jun)

**The Guardian**

*New food security alliance is timely for Malawi’s path out of poverty*  
At the nutrition for growth summit, held in London this month, Malawi became a member of the G8’s new alliance for food security and nutrition (18 Jun)

**CNN**

*Land rights, not land grabs, can help Africa feed …*  
Nothing better sums up Africa’s extraordinary mixture of challenges and opportunities than agriculture. On the one hand, Africa is home to one in four of the world’s hungry and is the only continent which fails to grow enough food to meet its own (18 Jun)

**The Daily Star**

*The Jackfruit Jackpot*  
Around 13 journalists from all over the world flew to Indonesia earlier this month to participate in the IFAD-sponsored training programme c… (28 Jun)

**The Guardian**

*Cassava on eBay? M-Farm SMS helps Kenya’s farmers get better prices*  
Smallholder farmers stymied by lack of information can see realtime market prices for their produce, and now they want to sell to Tesco, too (04 Jul)

**Vietnam Net**

*Farmers struggle against “shocks”*  
How to make the rural picture brighter, to help farmers in Vietnam overcome the ‘shocks’ and escape poverty was the hot topics at the recent conference… (04 Jul)

**Daily Times**

*Dar to inaugurate 2-day Microfinance Summit tomorrow*  
ISLAMABAD: The summit is hosted by the Economic Affairs Division, and has been arranged by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN) in collaboration with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and UKaid…. (07 Jul)

**The Express Tribune**

*Dar stresses on microfinance as key to economic growth*  
Also present at the occasion was Matteo Marchisio, IFAD country programme manager, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who spoke of the integral role IFAD has played in developing the microfinance sector in the region…. (also reported in Associated Press of Pakistan, Business Recorder..) (08 Jul)

**The Financial Express**
Women entrepreneurs may see a future with this bank

India: For many women entrepreneurs, who are trying to set up their own business — be it an achaar and papad-making venture in a village, small bou... (08 Jul)

The Guardian

How can we provide enough jobs for young people in Africa?

Africa should focus on how to secure development and drive economic growth with inclusion. We must look beyond the macro fundamentals of gro... (08 Jul)

European Commission

Just published - Brochure 'Agribusiness and Development: ...

• ... mean for responsible action and policy in African agribusiness? Thomas Elhaut, Director of Statistics and Studies for Development Division International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).. (09 Jul)

TrustLaw

Cheap loans offer Indonesians alternatives to rice growing as rainfall decreases

... leave their home in search of work thanks to a scheme set up by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project... (10 Jul)

Associated Press of Pakistan

Microfinance Summit recommends increasing outreach to millions

... (PPAF) and Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN), with support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World...(also reported in: Dunya News, International News Network, Online News Pakistan) (10 Jul)

ABC Radio Australia

Fiji leaders see link between climate change and disaster risk

There's a strong link between climate change and disaster risk. It's an issue being discussed at the first Joint Meeting of the Pacific ... (10 Jul)

Project Syndicate

What is Resilience?

'Resilience,' like love, is difficult to define. Yet everyone – from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to government agencies, co... (05 Jul)

African Development Bank

AfDB Group in North Africa in 2013 - Promoting Resilience and Inclusive Growth

The African Development Bank (AfDB) encourages North African countries to find ways of building resilience against crises that could ... (11 Jul)

Devex

This time, Africa can end hunger

Earlier this month, away from the shadows of the G-8 and distinctly apart from its power and profile, African nations quietly entered a pact... (11 Jul)

New Vision

Stop failing SACCOs - minister warns politicians

Also the minister revealed a move to phase out the rural financial services programme (RFSP) at the end of this month which the Government, together with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has been implementing to support SACCOs across the country. She however assured the locals that Government
was in its advanced stages of negotiating another project with IFAD on financial inclusion to strengthen SACCOs for sustainability and also support the community based self-help groups (Nigiina) as an additional means of enhancing financial inclusion. (27 Jun)

**IPS**

**Insuring Ghana’s Smallholder Farmers Against the Weather**

Smallholder farmer Suleman Mustapha Simbia, 40, is pleased with the introduction of an insurance initiative... (18 Jul)

**Inamibia.co.na**

**Namibia sees worst drought in 30 years**

Windhoek - Namibia, sub-Saharan Africa’s driest country, is suffering its worst drought in a generation, with more than 100 000 children at ... (19 Jul)

**IPS**

**Ensuring Microcredit’s Primary Goal Is Changing Lives**

Microfinance is essentially social, but its expansion and evolution towards diversified financial services for those who are excluded from t... (22 Jul)

**Devex**

**USAID and Muhammad Yunus: partners in ‘social business’**

But the Nobel Prize winner’s ‘long-standing battles with USAID’ were not enough to stop his new venture Yunus Social Business from signing a... (24 Jul)

**Individual.com**

**Rural Poverty and Rural Finance Project [column]**

The Gambia: ... limited use of inputs, low productivity and low income. In 2008, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) approved a..... (also reported in Foroyaa Newspaper) (31 Jul)

**Manila Bulletin**

**Migrants’ remittances boost rural economies**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said at a recent forum at its headquarters in Rome, Italy, that remittances — (also reported in Tempo) ... (30 Jul 2013)

**Le Sahel**

**Visite du président du Fonds International du Développement Agricole : D’importantes réalisations faites en direction des populations rurales dans la région de Maradi**


**Xinhua News Agency**

**Report shows Bangladesh avoids microcredit crisis in 2008**

... center indicates that during the period 2008 to 2010, Bangladesh microfinance institutions (MFIs) successfully averted a microcredit... (30 Jul)

**Namibian**

‘Ninja’ Microfinance Can Dent Poverty

As I write this article, I am in Kenya analysing the Kenyan microfinance for youth development. I make no reference to the discovery that drinking water from the tap in Kenya is done at own peril. I have also not decided which is the most delicious between Kenya’s ‘Nyamachoma’ and Namibia’s ‘Kapana’. Kenya cutting ministries from 44 to 18 is also not discussed herein for there shall be another time for that. (05 Aug)
Daily News – Tanzania
Da es Salaam Agribank wins applauds in Maputo
...During a discussion on 'Financing Agriculture' Bernadette Mukonyara from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)said the f... (07 Sep)

Palestine News Agency
Microfinance Sector Gets Boost from Groups
(WAFA) - The Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD) Wednesday signed an equity agreement for a total amount of $5.3 million with ..... (12 Sep) West Bank!

Guardian.co.uk
'Back in black: has microfinance matured?'
... its reputation, but what lessons can be learned and what how will microfinance evolve? Join the debate on Thursday, 3 October from 1pm..... (30 Sep)

The Guardian
Somalia remittances: Barclays gives further reprieve to money-transfer firm
British bank extends deadline for Dahabshiil account closure, but condemns injunction application as baseless (30 Sep) Huffington Post
Feeding 1 Billion People Through Agriculture Finance
Feeding 1 Billion People Through Agriculture Finance (11 Oct)

Guardian.co.uk
'11 verdicts on microfinance'
Can smarter regulation restore faith in microfinance or does it need to be completely overhauled? Our live chat panelists offer their ... (23 Oct)

The New York Times
Where food security begins
I was glad to see small farmers get their due as key players in world food security in Mark Bittman's "How to feed the world" (Oct. 15). The... (22 Oct)

AllAfrica.com
MICAF Out to Create Basket Fund for Capacity Building Purposes - Fatajo PC
... government of the Gambia through the Rural Finance Project funded by IFAD to work with them for the period of two years. According to.... (22 Oct)

Elitehusky's: Planet in Motion
The Philippines: Mobile Money
... The cell phone provider Globe Telecom with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, came up with... (29 Oct)

BBC
The Bangladesh poor selling organs to pay debts
... several villagers here have resorted to selling organs to pay back microcredit loans that were meant to lift them out of poverty.... (28 Oct) good response by BRAC!

New York Times
Microcredit for Americans
Microloans, born of anti-poverty efforts in developing countries, are attracting American clients who do not qualify for credit cards. ... (29 Oct)

Jakarta Post
Medan to host annual palm oil conference


... discussions from key experts around the world, including Global Food Security champion Tim Benton and Alain Rival, coordinator for... (31 Oct)

LiveMint - The Wall St. Journal

What drives private banks’ interest in rural areas?
The rapid increase of rural incomes and consumption with a shift in expenditure patterns has altered business perceptions in INDIA (05 Nov)

Individual.com

Summit Delegates Propose Agric Development Bank
... the government of The Gambia, Central bank of The Gambia and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on the theme;... (07 Nov)

Christian Science Monitor

Mobile banking without a phone: Here comes the bank van
In Uganda, Rwanda, and the Philippines mobile banking vans reach out to the rural poor as an alternative to cell phone banking schemes. ... (11 Nov)

Individual.com

IFAD-Funded Projects Link Beneficiaries With Micro-Finance Institutions
The International Fund for Agricultural Development Project (IFAD) supported projects in The Gambia such as Rural Finance Project (RFP), ... (12 Nov)

New Vision

Microfinance regulatory body in the offing
... parishes and villages in Uganda. Government in collaboration with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is working on... (12 Nov)

Guardian.co.uk

'Microcredit has been a disaster for the poorest in South Africa'
... pushed them further into debt Share Milford Bateman in Opatija Microcredit has funded many new spaza shops – but are they drivers ... (21 Nov)

Ghana Business News

Ghana launches $192.8m Rural Enterprises Programme
... funded by the government, which is providing about $74 million, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, $31.78 million and....(also reported in: Business Ghana, Ghana News Agency, Peace FM) (04 Dec)

Devex

Agriculture development — a risky business
So let's manage risk. That's why a conference room at the International Fund for Agricultural Development's headquarters in Rome was packed last week for the launch of the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management

PHILDEVFINANCE

UN unit lauds SB Corp microfinance programme in The Philippines
... Fund for Agriculture Development of the United Nations (UN-IFAD) has rated the Rural Micro-Enterprise Promotion Program (RUMEPP)... (11 Dec)

Reuters Alertnet

Financial Services For Rural Poor Vital, Say Queen Maxima And Top U.N. Officials
Queen Máxima traveled with .... and Adolfo Brizzi, the Director of the Policy and Technical Advisory Division at the International Fund for... (14 Dec 2013)
**Tanzania Daily News**

- **Tanzania: 50 Percent Bank-Client Plan Launched** "WFP has been procuring farmers' produce

**Repubblica TV** – Iran, donne e sviluppo: il progetto IFAD di microfinanza in Iran

- **Interview with Matteo Marchisio** – Iran, women & development: IFAD microfinance project in Iran
  

**IRIN**

- **Beyond remittances, diaspora and development**
  
  The [African diaspora and migrants](http://www.ifpri.org/en/analytical-series/diaspora-and-development) have for years been instrumental in helping family and friends at home get by, as huge annual remittance f... *(08 Jan 2014)*

**Nigeria Daily Independent**

- **World Bank, AfDB to support SCPZs with over $600m**
  
  ... especially the World Bank, DFID, the African Development Bank, the [International Fund for Agricultural Development](http://www.ifpri.org/en) [IFAD], United... *(15 Jan)*

**Tanzania Daily News**

- **9bn/- to Help Small Farmers**
  
  ... like Rural Finance Knowledge Management Partnership (KMP), [International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)](http://www.ifpri.org/en) and African... *(28 Jan)*

**Uganda Daily Monitor**

- **Somalia turns to Diaspora for investment**
  
  ... (nearly Shs4 trillion) annually to their relatives. Last year, the [International Fund for Agricultural Development](http://www.ifpri.org/en) said it would provid... *(29 Jan)*

**Vietnam Business Forum**

- **Ha Giang Effectively Tapping All Potential for Breakthrough Economic Growth**
  
  ... (UNDP), the [International Foundation for Agricultural Development (IFAD)](http://www.ifpri.org/en), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Swedish... *(29 Jan)*

**Brookings**

- **Foresight Africa 2014: It's Not Just Money That is Needed**
  
  Using a Bundled Approach to Increase Productivity in the **AU's Year of Agriculture** *(29 Jan)*

**Zachimalawi**

- **Oilng Malawi's backbone with rural finance**
  
  ... therefore, that the [International Fund for Agriculture Development (Ifad)](http://www.ifpri.org/en) - which has no country office in Malawi, but has been... *(02 Feb)*

**Swazi Observer**

- **IFAD smallholder farmers to get funding**
  
  A financial product that will assist farmers participating in the [International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)](http://www.ifpri.org/en) project in ... *(07 Feb)*

**Uganda Daily Monitor**

- **Government seeks Shs400b for microfinance**
  
  Government partnership with the [International Fund for Agricultural Development](http://www.ifpri.org/en) is seeking a loan of Shs400 billion to inject in ..... ... *(also reported in Hispanic Business magazine)* *(11 Feb)*
Reuters
Twenty-five world-class studies to make their grand debut at the 2014 International Summit of Cooperatives... workers. Despite their great resilience in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, cooperatives are no strangers to financing.... (19 Feb) Roadmap for Worldwide Financial Services Innovation: Growth and Effectiveness in the Cooperative Banking and Mutual Insurance Sectors

Individual.com
Nema Project Signs MOU With Reliance Financial Services... country. He further stated that this was why within the project, IFAD and the Gambia government developed the NEMA project in order to... (24 Feb)

Times of Swaziland
RDF’S ABILITY TO STOP POVERTY QUESTIONED... the assistance of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) last year states that about 66 per cent of the population is... (24 Feb)

Individual.com
Grace Mugabe Land Seizures Put Interfresh in Dire Straits
... million it got from the IDCSA. According to the documents, AfDB, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), IDBSA, Agence... (01 Mar)

AllAfrica.com
Mozambique: Mozambican Public Debt Is Sustainable, Says Finance Minister... Development Bank (ADB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The main... (06 Mar)

The Guardian
Food system that fails poor countries needs urgent reform, says UN expert... the right to food champions agroecology as sustainable alternative to existing framework (10 Mar)

RFD TV
IFAD learns from Tanzania warehouse system... In the remote village of Qash in northern Tanzania, farmers developed a warehouse receipt system that initially helped their profits rise, b... (13 Mar)

Awareness Times
Sierra Leone News: Agric Minister takes door-step banking to farmers... agriculture. So far, he said his ministry in collaboration with IFAD has constructed 51 out of 66 village banks and 17 community... (13 Mar)

Inter Press Service
Brazilian Innovation for Under-financed Mozambican Agriculture... Some of the technological excellence that revolutionised Brazil’s tropical agriculture is reaching small producers in Mozambique. But it is ... (12 Mar)
Zambia, IFAD to seal 26.3 mln USD loan to finance rural development

Contributed by NAMPA / Xinhua. (also reported in: Xinhua News Agency, China.org.cn) (18 Mar)

Ecosystem Marketplace

How To Unlock Agricultural Finance To Save Forests And Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Farms

This should be good news for forests and forest carbon because agriculture is the biggest driver of deforestation. If buyers demand deforestation... (18 Mar)

HispanicBusiness.com

Treasury signs deal to extend credit to farmers

... sharing facility extended by the Treasury in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, is expected provide.... (26 Mar)

The Guardian

African philanthropy: the new drivers of development
Remittances to Africa could transform local philanthropy and put the continent on path of self-development (07 May)

HispanicBusiness.com

Sierra Leone: BANK OF SIERRA LEONE launches $3million in V-Reg. CoSS software
... of acquiring this system solution is US $3,167,745.27 of which the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) provided a... (20 May)

The Gleaner

Major Industry Players For C’bean Micro-Finance Forum
for the Caribbean Microfinance Forum V (CMF V) this week. Including AFI (31 May 2014)

WWF South Pacific

Ghizo women save for the future and fisheries
... the micro-finance component of the Inshore Fish Aggregating Devices (IFAD) Solomon Islands project that aims to enhance the lives of coastal artisanal..... (03 June 2014)

Meat Trade News Daily
Pakistan - AlHuda CIBE Eyes African Islamic Finance Market
... e.g. African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, GIZ, IFAD and world bank can play a pivotal role in this direction to... (04 Jun)

Obuoba Fm
BoG seeks tough measures for micro finance institutions
... Institutions Network with support from Ghana Ministry of Finance and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), was on the... (04 Jun)
Christian Science Monitor

Women-run food banks provide cereal grains to poor farmers
... pm EDT A unique food bank in Niger supported by supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is reducing... (10 June 2014) relevant to PARM?

The Guardian

Microfinance and business education key to rural development in Asia
With villagers heading for Asia's mega-cities, more needs to be done to create opportunities in rural areas (12 June 2014)

Daily Nation

MEYER: Kenya is right to look East, but still needs its old friends
... largest source of development funds as well as the major source of remittances from Kenyans working abroad. And yet Kenya has good... (13 Jun)

FinanzNachrichten.de

MIX Appoints New CEO Jeffrey Binstock To Lead MIX Into New Era of Growth for the Organization and The Microfinance Sector
... Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CGAP, The MasterCard Foundation, IFAD, DFID, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, and Citi... (19 Jun)

Impatient Optimists

Mobile Money in Bangladesh: Shifting from Scale to Innovation
Fazle Abed, BRAC’s founder and chairperson responded when Shahid Ullah told him about the bKash agents that BRAC had just finished recruiting... (18 Jun 2014)

Financial Express Bangladesh

IFAD honoured for innovative agri financing project in BD
... farmers in Bangladesh access to vital financial services, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on Wednesday..(also reported in: European Bank for Reconstruction & Development, US Treasury). (23 July 2014)

Wall Street Business Network

New Financing Agreement to Strengthen Rural Financial Sector in Zambia

MyRepublica.com

Lack of counseling, cheap credit slackening entrepreneurship
... and problems to starting enterprise in Nepal, organized by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Manju Gurung,... (29 Jul)

Zambia Daily Mail

More money for farmers
THE International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Zambia have signed a US$26.315 million agreement for a project aimed at providing rural financial services to small-scale farmers. (28 July 2014)
VietnamPlus

Seminar discusses micro-finance activities in rural development
... Government and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) signed in Italy last year. Its target is to sustainably... (31 Jul)

The Huffington Post

How Small Loans Mean Big Changes For Rural Women
In most countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, poverty is concentrated in the rural areas, where approximately 125 million people liv... (12 Aug)

Economic Times

Provide small farmers social, financial entitlements in India...
... occur due to several factors, including natural disasters, a top (IFAD) official said here today. 'We keep on emphasising on... (08 Aug) (also reported in: AllVoices, Big News Network, New Indian Express) 10 Aug 2014

Nigeria Daily Independent

FG, IFAD increase support to rural financing by N6b RUFIN Nigeria
... Emefor Correspondent, Abuja The Federal Government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development [IFAD] have increased... (10 Aug 2014)

AllAfrica.com

Addressing Rural Poverty Through Co-Operative Societies
... the Federal Department of Cooperatives under the Federal Government/International Fund for Agricultural Development (FGN/IFAD) Assisted Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN), Nigeria.... (19 Aug 2014)

Swazi Observer

Swaziland Govt wants financial inclusion increased by 25% to 75%
... the ministry of finance which is supported by government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). MFU, Rural Finance and Enterprise Development Programme RFEDP...... (20 Aug 2014)

Global shifts like population growth, natural resource constraints and extreme weather are creating new challenges for corporations with global supply chains, causing disruptions, delays and cost increases. Sustainability and risk management professionals will play a crucial role in identifying, quantifying and mitigating risks arising from hazards like coastal storms, droughts, fires and floods.

The Guardian

Global remittance industry choking billions out of developing world
Huge fees and restrictive practices by handful of firms cost poorer countries up to $16bn a year, says World Bank (18 Aug 2014)

IFAD social reporting blog

Can I Cash in and Cash out here?
... Thematic Group and the Better than Cash Alliance held a seminar at IFAD on 21 August. 'Empowering people through electronic payments' ..... (22 Aug 2014)
The Observer – Uganda
IFAD in move to strengthen Saccos
The International Fund for Agriculture Development (Ifad) is funding the project. To implement the project, Uganda Cooperative Savings and Credit Cooperatives... (26 Aug 2014)

The Cambodia Daily
Smartphone Software to Help Rice Farmers
The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) piloted the scheme last week in Kandal province, where farmers visited their fiel... (27 Aug)

Uganda Daily Monitor
Shs78b equity fund launched to boost agriculture production
... partner with the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to manage the fund. The fund is premised on a profit-sharing... (27 Aug)

Bangladesh Daily Star
Micro-entrepreneurs grow with PKSF support: survey
... of Tk 80,000. The project was launched in 2008, financed by PKSF, International Fund for Agricultural Development and partner... (27 Aug 2014)

Reuters
Modi to launch plan for every Indian household to have bank account
... blocked a global trade deal, saying it threatened the interests of poor farmers. Under the banking scheme, account holders would get a... (27 Aug)

Devex
Can crowdfunding help finance the 'missing middle?'
What does a social business do when they don't have a rich uncle to help them go from microenterprise to a small- or medium-sized enterprise... (27 Aug)

The Huffington Post
Savings Groups, Mobile Phones And A New Solution For Rural Women
The Problem: The Poor -- Especially Women -- Are Excluded From Financial Services. (26 Aug)

The Guardian
Digital payments could help billions of people without access to banks
World Bank report says mobile money and electronic transfers could bring financial services to 2.5 billion marginalised people (27 Aug)

MaliJet
Coopération Mali / Canada : 29 milliards de fcfa pour appuyer le secteur rural sectorielle et inclusive pour le développement de la microfinance et sera conduit en partenariat avec le Fonds international de développemen... (28 Aug)
Devex

4 tips to implementing effective and efficient microfinance programs
Despite being place for more than 20 years, microfinance has yet to achieve its full potential, some experts suggest. (02 Sep 2014)

IRRI News

National workshop focuses on raising the productivity of Indonesia’s unfavourable rice areas
... in the rainfed lowlands. The national workshop was supported by the IFAD-Drought project under the Consortium for Unfavourable Rice... (03 Sep)

No MFB Will Go down During Our Time- Whensu - Nigeria
The President, National Association of Microfinance Banks (NAMB), Mr Valentine Whensu has pledged his commitment in ensuring that no Microfinance Bank (MFB) runs down during his tenure as president. Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) had been... (08 Sep)

Bangladesh Daily Star

Mexico summit pledges to serve microfinance clients better
... and Governor of Yucatan State Rolando Rodrigo Zapata Bello pose with microcredit borrowers under a government-sponsored programme in... (08 Sep)

Harvard Business Review

Mobile Money Is Driving Africa’s Cashless Future
The evolution of African markets faces significant barriers: cost, distance, and a lack of infrastructure. Less than 30% of the population h... (19 Sep 2014)

Vietnam Cashew Association

Empowering farmers in Tanzania through the warehouse receipt system
... not to lose. The warehouse receipt system, introduced through the IFAD-supported Agricultural Marketing Systems Development Programme... (29 Sep)