

Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative
for Policy Dialogues
- ACCID -

FANRPAN
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

The Position of African Civil Society



A service (1-18 December 2009) alerting readers to key policy documents and perspectives, with a special emphasis on agriculture and climate change, brought to you by Mr Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General, COMESA and Chairman of FANRPAN Board of Governors

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Yesterday's alert:
[Perspectives on agriculture, climate change](#)

Tomorrow's alert:
[African perspectives on climate change](#)

Copenhagen: 'A deal without agriculture, is no deal'

Reminder: Agriculture and Rural Development Day

Agriculture and Rural Development Day will take place in Copenhagen on Saturday, 12th December 2009. The [event](#) will attract a big grouping of policy makers, donor agencies, researchers and activists involved in the broad agricultural sector from developed and developing countries. This digest brings you a selection of news articles relevant to the discussions.

The collision between climate and food security

ScienceAlert

As world leaders head to Copenhagen next month, back home we are left to consider how climate change is affecting our ability to grow food and feed the world. Legislators may still be thrashing out the form of an Emissions Trading Scheme, but the harder thinking must now focus on the longer-term collision between climate change and agriculture and what this means for global food security...

Global warming threatens China harvests: forecaster

Reuters

Beijing: Droughts and floods stoked by global warming threaten to destabilize China's grain production, the nation's top meteorologist has warned, urging bigger grain reserves and strict protection of farmland and water supplies. Extreme weather damage can now cause annual grain output in China, the world's biggest grain producer, to fluctuate by about 10 to 20 percent from longer-term averages...

Climate bill can benefit farmers despite higher costs, USDA says

New York Times

New York: Farmers have more to gain than lose from a cap-and-trade regime for greenhouse gases, despite estimates that they could see significantly higher production costs, according to a new analysis from the Agriculture Department. An expanded economic study, which USDA released yesterday, estimates that farmers with energy-intensive crops could see their cost of production per acre go up to nearly 10 percent over the next 50 years...

CARE International launches food security programme

Business Ghana, 30 November 2009

Accra: CARE International has launched a 15-year "Agriculture and Food Security Programme" for the Northern Savanna Zone to improve food security in the area. The Savanna Zone comprised northern Ghana, parts of Brong Ahafo and Volta Regions...

NZ farmers want to be excluded from ETS

Otago Daily Times, 30 November 2009

Dunedin: The Government appears to have put to one side the specifics of how agriculture will fit in to the emissions trading scheme (ETS) as it focuses on integrating other parts of the economy. Federated Farmers was forced recently to concede defeat in its battle to exclude the sector from the ETS, with the Government passing an amendment Bill that offered concessions of a longer phase-in period before agriculture meets the full cost of its emissions...

American farmers must step up on climate change

Des Moines Register, 30 November 2009

Des Moines: Next month, I travel to Copenhagen for the UN Climate Change Negotiations with two Drake agricultural law students. We are part of the Iowa UN Association delegation going to witness the international talks on possibly the most significant environmental, social and political issue shaping our futures...

[Kenyan tea producers battle climate change](#)

AlertNet, 1 December 2009

Meru: Michimukuru's tea is considered top quality on the world market. From the remote hills of Meru, 300 kilometers (187 miles) northeast of Kenya's capital of Nairobi, packets of tea bags find space on the shelves of London's top supermarkets. And for the 9,000 farmers in Michimikuru, tea is almost the sole source of household income and one of the East African country's major cash crops...

[Lake Victoria meeting fails to address key resource concerns](#)

The East African, 1 December 2009

Nairobi: Despite talks to jointly harness shared resources for regional economic development, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania are yet to resolve key issues surrounding the management of Lake Victoria. Water excavation, overfishing and the Migingo question continue to pose a challenge even as the region celebrates 10 years of co-operation...

[IFAD chief says climate change threat is very real](#)

The Hindu, 1 December 2009

New Delhi: "The threat of climate change and its impact on agriculture is real. We have evidence that by 2025 in some parts of the world including India, parts of Asia and parts of Africa, crop yields will drop from anything between 20 and 40 per cent from rise in temperatures. Large parts of land will become so bad that it would no longer be good for agriculture and new diseases and pests would come up..."

[Rich world should pay Africa to preserve forests](#)

Reuters, 1 December 2009

Yaounde: The developed world should pay African countries to preserve their vast forests to help the fight against climate change, some of the continent's governments will argue at next month's summit in Copenhagen...

[Livestock farmers on climate change front line](#)

Farmers Guardian, 1 December 2009

London: The English Beef and Lamb Executive (Eblex) has launched an ambitious climate change strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the livestock sector. Eblex presented its document, 'Change in the Air: The English Beef and Sheep Production Roadmap', to industry leaders and Government representatives in Westminster...

[Climate change, food security represent a dual challenge: FAO](#)

Xinhua, 2 December 2009

Rome: Tackling climate change and ensuring food security represent a dual challenge and thus require a unique solution, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) urged in a policy brief issued on Tuesday...

[Even island states can make plans to improve food security](#)

Inter Press Service, 2 December 2009

Port Louis: Eric Mangar deplors the fact that Mauritius, despite being a net food importer, has failed to learn its lessons from the food crisis. The island state is pursuing “business as usual” without taking steps to improve food production on the local front. Mangar is the manager of the Movement for Food Self-Sufficiency, which was set up as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for agricultural development in 1981...

[Climate change fuels rural out-migration, rising farm debt](#)

Inter Press Service, 2 December 2009

Bhubaneswar: Under a shed made of bamboo and corrugated sheet metal, Purusottam Sur feeds his two bullocks and a cow with a bundle each of dry paddy plant. A fifth of his five-acre paddy harvest will be used only as cattle feed; the rice seeds just did not develop because of untimely rains this monsoon...

[Climate agreement must support shift toward sustainable agriculture](#)

Common Dreams, 3 December 2009

Minneapolis: To effectively address global climate change, policy solutions must support a transition toward more sustainable agriculture systems that recognize the critical role agriculture plays in the world, concludes a series of issue briefs released today by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)...

[Ten reasons for farmers to support action against global warming](#)

Centre for American Progress, 3 December 2009

This week, the US House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research is conducting welcome hearings on the potential economic impacts of climate change on the farm sector. Farmers already know firsthand the threat posed by extreme weather to rural livelihoods and the nation's food and energy supplies...

[Gabon eyes forest deal to boost state coffers](#)

Reuters, 3 December 2009

Libreville: Gabon is aiming for an annual revenue boost of hundreds of millions of dollars a year by using its forests to reap carbon credits, a top official said, but any windfall will depend on this month's Copenhagen climate talks. Three quarters covered by rainforests and part of the lush Congo Basin region, the central African nation has long exported oil but its reserves are dwindling and newly-elected President Ali Ben Bongo is under pressure to seek new sources of revenue...

Brazil wants limits on use of tropical trees for carbon credits

Bloomberg, 3 December 2009

Berlin/Rio de Janeiro: Brazil, whose Amazonia rainforest is the biggest in the world, wants a new climate agreement to limit the use of forests to slow global warming, putting a crimp on investors hoping to create carbon credits from trees. South America's largest economy will make the forestry proposal at next week's climate summit in Copenhagen, where about 190 countries are trying to establish new reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions, Environment Minister Carlos Minc said...

Maasai: "We are a harbinger of what is to come"

Inter Press Service, 4 December 2009

Copenhagen: A small group of indigenous people have travelled here to the historic Copenhagen climate talks to show negotiators dramatic documentary videos they made about the immediate impacts of climate change on their homelands and way of life. "We want to show policymakers what the three-year long drought in my country is doing to our communities," said Stanley Selian Konini, a Maasai from Oltepesi in Kajiado district, Kenya...

Risk insurance and climate change

Inter Press Service, 4 December 2009

Montevideo: The catastrophic risk insurance shared by the countries of the Caribbean could serve as a model for collective strategies for dealing with natural disasters resulting from climate change, John Nash, the World Bank's lead economist for Latin America and the Caribbean, told *Tierramérica*...

Africa to use climate change for sustainable development

Xinhua, 4 December 2009

Lagos: Climate change risks need to be integrated into national development projects and strategies Nigeria's National Environmental Standards and Regulatory Enforcement Agency (NESREA) said on Thursday. "With coherent and proper coordination, Africa can steer the engine of economic growth and development toward a carbon-neutral path for sustainable development," NESREA said in a statement...


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