

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



**FANRPAN**  
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network



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

Alert: COP15 - 14 December 2009

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

Surprisingly few articles and analysis have followed Agriculture and Rural Development Day - perhaps they are still in the media pipeline? But this alert brings you the speech by US Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack; a video of the closing remarks by FANRPAN CEO, Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda and we point to Shaughn McArthur's blog on agricultural issues. Selected press articles flesh out some other perspectives from around the globe.

- [Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda: video](#)
- [Dr Shaughn McArthur: Daily Snapshots](#)

### Vilsack highlights role of agriculture in climate change

*US Department of Agriculture*

Copenhagen: Secretary Tom Vilsack spoke at "Agriculture and Rural Development Day," a day-long event at the University of Copenhagen with more than 300 policy makers, negotiators, rural development practitioners, producers, civil society and leaders from the agricultural and climate change scientific community...

### **African farmers can mitigate climate change effects**

*New Vision*

Kampala: In November, I was nominated by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and invited by the African Development Bank to present a paper, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Water Week in Johannesburg, South Africa. This continental meeting was convened by Africa Ministers Conference on Water and the government of South Africa in partnership with various United Nations Agencies...

### **Canadian farmers suggest local food initiatives as way to fight climate change**

*The Canadian Press*

Toronto: As agricultural experts met in Copenhagen at the weekend to gingerly build consensus on agriculture's role in climate change, some farmers in Canada offered another solution to farming's cost on the environment change the way farming is practised. "We clearly need to reverse directions," said Darrin Qualman, the director of research for the National Farmers Union, which is based in Saskatoon...

### **Rod Keenan: Seeing forest for the trees on climate change**

*Sydney Morning Herald*

Sydney: Using forests to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere was a big part of the international climate negotiations during and after Kyoto. Forests remain high on the agenda in Copenhagen. As a result of the efforts of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations (including PNG, Costa Rica and Brazil), the inclusion of reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) in tropical forests is now the focus of most attention...

### **Australia: Farmers push for better land management**

*Sydney Morning Herald*

Sydney: Farmers are backing Australia's push to use better agricultural land management as a way to reduce carbon emissions. A government climate change negotiator has reportedly told a Copenhagen briefing that Australia would be able to commit to 25 per cent greenhouse gas cuts by 2020 - if land use rule changes driven by Australia and other developed countries are accepted as part of a new global climate deal...

### **Small farmers can cool the world**

*Inter Press Service*

Copenhagen: Industrial agriculture may emit nearly half of climate-heating greenhouse gases, but that reality has gone unrecognised by negotiators at the climate treaty talks here, say farmers with La Via Campesina, an international movement of hundreds of millions of small-scale peasant farmers...

### **Indian farmers adapt to shifting weather patterns**

*Reuters*

Gorakhpur: As global leaders and top scientists in Copenhagen debate how to deal with climate change, farmers in flood-prone areas of northern India are taking it into their own hands to adapt to shifts in the weather. For decades, people of Uttar Pradesh, whose population is more than half that of the United States, have been witnessing erratic weather, including increasingly intense rainfall over short periods of time...

### **Asia: Efficiency in irrigation projects**

*Press Information Bureau*

Following is the text of speech made by the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee during the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference and 60th International Executive Council on the topic "Improvement in efficiency of irrigation projects"...

### **Agriculture, land use emissions should be included in Copenhagen agreement: IFAD official**

*Xinhua*

Copenhagen: Ways to deal with carbon emissions from agriculture and land use should be included in the agreement expected to be reached at the end of the UN Climate Change Conference, an agriculture expert said Friday. It is easy to ignore carbon emissions from agriculture and land use because it is considered difficult to measure and monitor them, Rodney Cooke of the International Fund for Agricultural Development told Xinhua in an interview...

### **Agriculture must be part of a deal in Copenhagen says Diouf**

*The Africa Report*

Ahead of an Agricultural and Rural Development Day taking place in Copenhagen on 12 December, Dr Jacques Diouf, director-general of the FAO, spoke to The Africa Report about what Copenhagen must deliver for African agriculture. The Africa Report: On 8 December the FAO announced that Finland would be the first country to contribute...

### **GM crops, industrialisation, key to African adaptation to climate change - Collier**

*Reuters AlertNet*

Copenhagen: (AlertNet) - Europe "shot itself in the foot" by rejecting genetically modified crops, but by following suit Africa has "shot itself in the heart," Paul Collier, an Africa specialist at Oxford University, said on Friday. Maize, the staple crop of southern Africa, will become difficult or impossible to grow there as droughts and other extreme weather associated with climate change take hold, Collier said in Copenhagen at the start of "Development and Climate Days", a four-day programme on development and adaptation issues related to climate change...

## **China vows to change development pattern**

*Xinhua*

Beijing: The Chinese government pledged Monday to push forward the transformation of its economic development pattern next year while maintaining stable and comparatively fast economic growth. Participants at the three-day annual Central Economic Work Conference agreed that the global financial crisis highlighted the urgency to transform China's economic development pattern...

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This service was made possible through financial support provided by the Government of Norway and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). FANRPAN is mandated by COMESA to implement the Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative for Policy Dialogues (ACCID).

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