

"A Copenhagen Deal Without Agriculture Is No Global Deal"

- News Digest -

Week ending 15 May 2009

Nigeria: Tackling climate change with clean energy

Vanguard, 12 May 2009

Lagos: In recent times, the airwaves have been awash with talks of climate change, especially in relation to global warming with its dire consequences. According to scientists, global warming is the biggest environmental threat facing the planet today and urgent action is needed to address it...

Project to provide tools for carbon trading launched, communities to gain

Africa Science News Agency, 12 May 2009

A USD5.5m project aimed at developing tools that would help boost carbon trading in Africa has been launched. The project, targeted to benefit grassroot communities, is a partnership bringing together the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Agro forestry Centre (ICRAF) and a range of other partners actively involved in assisting local communities execute projects aimed at reducing green house gas emissions...

Scientists help farmers fight climate change

Daily Nation, 12 May 2009

Nairobi: Researchers have begun working with farmers and pastoralists in different parts of Kenya to reduce the impact of climate change. This follows a warning by scientists that climate change was likely to increase the frequency and intensity of drought and famine...

Africa needs a paradigm shift on energy

Africa Science News Agency, 12 May 2009

Nairobi: The global financial crisis, climate change and high cost of energy require developing countries to embrace a paradigm shift in resources management in order to survive in the volatile world. Although the effects of the global economic crisis are more pronounced in developed countries where it originated from, Africa has started feeling the pinch...

More investment in production won't cure African food crisis

Inter Press Service, 12 May 2009

Paris: The food crisis in African states will not be solved by investment to spur agricultural production because the problem is not food output but poverty that is making food unaffordable for urban Africans. This is the argument of Gilles Saint-Martin, the head of international relations for the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development, known by its French acronym CIRAD...

'Climate change affecting devt'

New Vision, 13 May 2009

Kampala: The environment state minister has warned that climate change is affecting development. "During the dry season, a meningitis outbreak hits northern and north-eastern Uganda," Jessica Eriyo said. She noted that malaria and water-borne diseases were thriving because of the changing climate resulting from environmental destruction...

The countdown to Copenhagen: climate change, agriculture and global food security

ReliefWeb, 13 May 2009

Speech by Mariann Fischer Boel, Member of the European Commission - responsible for Agriculture and Rural development: "The countdown to Copenhagen: climate change, agriculture and global food security" at a seminar organised by the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council...

China's exit may leave India isolated on climate

The Economic Times, 13 May 2009

New Delhi: The first signs of a break up in the G77 plus China grouping in the climate negotiations emerged at the Obama sponsored 20-country Major Economies Forum in Washington with South Korea breaking away from the developing and poor country bloc. The meeting called by the US to find a breakthrough in the climate talks saw the first palpable evidence that one of the most influential blocks with a de-facto veto at the negotiations, could crack before or during the Copenhagen round in December 2009...

Improve coordination, funding for disaster risk reduction, governments urged

Irin, 13 May 2009

Nairobi: Better coordination between countries and aid agencies is necessary to improve preparedness and response to local and trans-boundary disasters, delegates at the second Africa meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), held in Nairobi, said...

Climate change now biggest health threat - report

Reuters AlertNet, 14 May 2009

London: Climate change is the biggest global threat to human health this century and will have devastating consequences, from spreading malaria and dengue to food shortages and increased deaths from heatwaves, researchers warn...

With world at tipping point, inaction risks slipping into degradation, despair - UN SG to CSD-17

ReliefWeb, 14 May 2009

New York: I am pleased to join the Chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development in welcoming you to the United Nations for the high-level segment of the Commission's seventeenth session. Many say our world is at a tipping point. If we do not act together, if we do not act responsibly, if we do not act now, we risk slipping into a cycle of poverty, degradation and despair...

Climate change and Nigeria's forests

The Guardian, 14 May 2009

Lagos: Let me start by setting the scene. 2009 is a crossroads, this year we, as a global community, must decide how we respond to the largest threat currently facing our, and our children's livelihoods. At the end of this year world leaders, including Nigeria, will meet to discuss how the world will tackle this challenge: will the world look at the financial events unfolding, the complexity of the issue, the challenge of financing, and say it's too hard to act and act quickly...

Namibia: February recorded bumper rainfall

New Era, 14 May 2009

Windhoek: The month of February experienced not only the heaviest rainfall but also the highest number of rainy days in the northern and central parts of Namibia. Some areas exceeded their record highest February total rainfall, according to the Meteorological Service Division...

Droves of farmers adopt conservation agriculture

New Era, 14 May 2009

Windhoek: About 1 500 farmers from Silumbi village in the Caprivi Region have adopted conservation agriculture (CA) methods in their farming practice. CA is a minimum tillage system designed for low and erratic rainfall areas. It has the multiple benefits of increased soil fertility, increased yields and requires less forest clearing which is good for wildlife conservation...

Highly destructive climate impacts loom for a small number of cities and countries

New York Times, 14 May 2009

New York: Fiercer storm surges brought on by climate change will claim the most land in Latin America, uproot the most people in the Middle East and wreak the greatest economic destruction in East Asia, new research finds...

World Bank support for India's climate change stance

LiveMint.com, 15 May 2009

New Delhi: For the first time, a multilateral agency has endorsed India's stance on climate change: that it cannot undertake deep emission cuts without sacrificing poverty alleviation plans and development needs. The World Bank's six-sector study, titled Low Carbon Growth in India, to be officially released in two-three months, can offer valuable support as the Indian government prepares for negotiations over the post-2012 global climate policy regime...

The impact of groundwater in Africa

American Chronicle, 15 May 2009

Nairobi: Groundwater, the water that flows through soil and rock beneath our feet, is the primary source of water supply to half a billion people in Africa and over 80% of Uganda's population...

Turning agriculture into a business

Reuters AlertNet, 15 May 2009

Copenhagen: A plan by the Africa Commission to side-step African governments and target the private sector to invigorate the continent's business and agricultural capacity, thereby stimulating job creation, was launched in the Danish capital, Copenhagen, on 6 May...

Urgent agricultural reform vital to avert looming African food crisis – UN report

UN News Centre, 15 May 2009

New York: With Africa's population set to rise by an additional one billion people over the next four decades, the continent risks being plunged into a deepening food crisis without urgent changes to the management of its natural resources, warned a new United Nations report...

Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

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