

Regional News Roundup

AFRICA

Trees vital for food security

Countries tackling food insecurity and climate change adaptation can greatly benefit from agroforestry – integrating fleshy plants and trees into their farming systems, environmental specialists said at the second World Congress on Agroforestry in Nairobi. Sub-Saharan Africa has a history of food insecurity brought on by meager rains, land degradation, declining soil fertility and bad management of resources, among other factors. Agroforestry offers the potential for maximizing sustainable food production and the opportunity for alternative livelihoods like timber production, the executive director of UNEP said.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85898>

ETHIOPIA

Thousands affected by acute watery diarrhea

Thousands of people in Ethiopia have been infected and 34 killed by an outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Ethiopia and there are fears that the situation could escalate, according to the Health Ministry. In the capital Addis Ababa health authorities have dedicated three hospitals to patients suffering from AWD. So far 5,700 cases have been reported across the country, including 4,200 in the capital over the past two weeks. The outbreak is blamed on poor sanitation and hygiene, as well as contaminated water.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85955>

KENYA

Farmers need help

Following below average harvests in 2007 and 2008, Kenya's grain farmers need seed and fertilizer support to enable them to make use of El Nino rains, expected between October and December 2009, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Most of the farmers have lost most of what they invested in the short rains of 2008 and long rains of 2009. Support is urgently needed to enhance their household food security and contribute towards bridging of the deficit in the national grain and other food budget. Kenya's Meteorological Department said the country would likely experience near-normal to above-normal rainfall between October and December.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85886>

SOMALIA

IDPs in Jowhar run out of food

Two months after food deliveries to Somalia's south-central town of Jowhar were halted, several thousand internally displaced persons (IDPs) are facing a food crisis, sources said. About 49,000 people who live mostly in seven camps in the town, 90 km north of Mogadishu, are affected. Most of the IDPs have been in the camps since 2007 but there was a new influx earlier this year. Food distributions were stopped in Jowhar after June due to insecurity, according to the UN World Food Programme (WFP).

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85883>

SUDAN

Gunmen kill 38 in escalating violence

Tribesmen shot dead 38 people in an inter-tribal attack in Jonglei state where violence is escalating from seasonal cattle-raiding into revenge killings. The dead included women, children and soldiers. While cattle raiding is an annual dry season occurrence, the number of killings this year and the targeting of women and children mark a significant escalation since the 2005 peace agreement. Southern officials have blamed at least some of the fighting on agitators from Khartoum's ruling party who they say are arming civilians in the south to cause unrest ahead of the 2011 southern referendum on independence.

Read more: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LT433351.htm>

Tribal violence likely to mar 2010 elections

Tribal violence in Southern Sudan has killed at least 1,200 people this year and could mar the country's first multi-party elections in two decades if it is not stopped, said the UNMIS peacekeeping coordinator, David Gressly. Tribal clashes in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Lakes have also displaced 250,000 people since January. Annual death tolls from such incidents in recent years have been about 20 people. The vote set for April 2010 is crucial to the success of the 2005 peace agreement and to the chances of Africa's largest country achieving long-term stability.

Read more: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2419312.htm>