

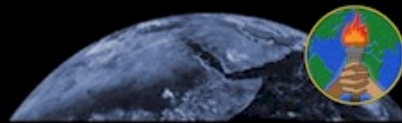
Consolidated weekly report

**POLICY: Agriculture**

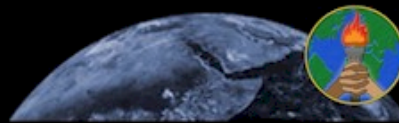
Focus article coming soon

Hazard Level	Change Codes
	↓ Deteriorated
	• Steady
	↑ Improved
	↗ Alert

week-ended	See daily <a href="#">list of news items</a>
2007 Jul 01	• Some fear <i>African</i> farmers are being tricked into growing <b>GM crops</b> --"GM technology forces Africa into <b>high-input, chemical-dependent</b> agriculture which impacts on <b>biodiversity</b> and creates <b>debt burdens</b> for small farmers."
2007 Jun 24	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jun 17	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jun 10	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jun 03	• <a href="#">New diet shrinks calories, carbon footprint</a> -- a trend certain to range from the useful to the puerile may influence what is popular based on "carbon footprint". [Unfortunately <b>water-greedy cotton</b> would be the first to go on a strict criterion.]
2007 May 27	• The once robust <b>Kenya maize</b> industry has become precarious due to <b>deregulation</b> and the intrusion of <b>GM seed</b> -- a case study relevant beyond Kenya; <a href="#">Growing maize is not what it used to be.</a>
2007 May 20	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 May 13	• The <b>melamine food contamination</b> scandal has now widened to aquaculture fish feed. [If caused by ' <b>terrorists</b> ', rather than big business greed and negligent officials, this would be a round-the-clock news story.]
2007 May 06	• A federal judge has declared a <b>GM</b> crop project illegal -- " <i>The USDA's role with respect to regulating transgenic crops should be that of <u>watch dog</u>, not <u>lap dog</u></i> " says an activist.
2007 Apr 29	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Apr 22	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Apr 15	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Apr 08	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Apr 01	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Mar 26	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Mar 19	↓ According to <b>Greenpeace</b> , a new study shows <b>GM corn</b> can harm human organs -- "rats fed with the genetically-altered corn <b>Monsanto</b> 863 YieldGard Rootworm displayed kidney and liver diseases."
2007 Mar 12	↓ Major US <b>rice</b> seed stocks have been contaminated with <b>genetically-modified</b> varieties -- " <i>the tremors going through the U.S. long-grain rice industry ... have revealed how vulnerable a \$1 billion agricultural sector can be ...</i> " US <b>embargoes</b> on trade with Iran has not prevented <b>Iran</b> receiving the benefits of US <b>tobacco</b> , exempt because it is an agricultural product -- " <i>from 2002 to 2005, tobacco made up nearly half of the value of all U.S. exports to Iran.</i> "



2007 Mar 05	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 26	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 19	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 12	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Feb 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genes from “seed libraries” may be able to be used in breeding a <i>salt-tolerant wheat</i> -- "our aim is to eventually produce <i>wheats</i> able, like <i>barley</i>, to grow in highly <i>saline soils</i>.”</li> <li>The US cut billions from farm subsidies hoping it would send “a strong signal to countries considering whether to resume the <i>Doha Round</i> of world trade talks.” The EU said rather promptly that the new US <i>Farm Bill</i> would not be enough to revive Doha.</li> </ul>
2007 Jan 29	↓ Australia, the European Union, Argentina and Brazil have joined Canada in the WTO complaint over US <i>corn [wheat] subsidies</i> .
2007 Jan 22	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 15	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 08	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2007 Jan 01	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2006 Dec 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal <i>farm subsidies</i> are again criticized as cynically misspent public money -- "The very policies touted by Congress as a way to save <i>small family farms</i> are instead helping to accelerate their demise ..." It's official: <i>Cannabis sativa (marijuana)</i> is the most valuable crop grown in the US -- the 10,000 tonne of marijuana worth \$35.8B grown each year (<u>with much higher street value</u>) dwarfs the \$23B of <i>corn</i>, \$17.6B of <i>soybeans</i>, and all without benefit of <i>farm subsidies</i>.</li> </ul>
2006 Dec 18	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2006 Dec 11	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
2006 Dec 04	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 27	↑ The big players are talking again -- if the EU reciprocates to the US-Japan promise of " <i>deeper reductions in trade-distorting farm support</i> ", the <i>Doha Round</i> may get another chance.
2006 Nov 20	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 13	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Nov 06	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 30	• [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lurking threat of <i>Asian soybean rust</i> now in 15 US states may reduce US <i>soybean</i> output. Some wasteful absurdities are revealed in US <i>crop insurance</i> and <i>subsidies</i>; "We would probably be better off just giving the farmers the money directly" says an economist.</li> <li><b>Thailand's</b> biggest <i>rice</i> exporters say the anti-GM position should be confirmed to keep Thailand as a favored supplier for <i>non-GM</i> rice world-wide.</li> </ul>
2006 Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>India, China</b> and other Asian nations have agreed to develop new <i>rice hybrids</i> but this does "not necessarily mean development of GM crops". The <i>green revolution</i> has run out of miracles and grain shortfalls are looming in <b>India</b> which is now reluctantly considering <i>GM</i> grains.</li> <li>A poor <i>wheat</i> [US: <i>corn</i>] harvest in <b>Australia</b> due to drought will “send jitters through the grains market”.</li> <li>It was revealed that in the US farmers often get paid twice by the government for the same disaster, once in subsidized <i>disaster insurance</i> and then again in <i>disaster assistance</i>.</li> </ul>
2006 Oct 09	↓ In the <i>e. coli</i> outbreak that claimed lives, the <b>FBI</b> is seeking criminal evidence against those who "may not have taken all necessary steps to ensure that their



	<p><i>spinach</i> was safe before they were placed into interstate commerce".          An issue of global importance, Australia's semi-government <i>wheat</i> exporter [the one disgraced in the Iraq oil-for-food scandal] reports shortfalls with Australia's grain harvest.          Farmers groups say <b>Monsanto</b> is "unpatriotic" in filing dozens of infringement lawsuits asserting <i>agricultural patents</i>.</p>
2006 Oct 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batches of <b>US rice</b> contaminated with "safe" yet non-approved <b>GM</b> rice has been refused entry to <b>Britain</b>.</li> </ul>
2006 Sep 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to report]</li> </ul>
2006 Sep 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to report]</li> </ul>
2006 Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to report]</li> </ul>
2006 Sep 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to report]</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following revelations that <i>genetically-modified rice</i> has (accidentally) entered the US rice supply, the <b>EU</b> has restricted imports.</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantities of <b>GM rice</b> invented by Bayer have inadvertently entered the <b>US</b> food supply - it is not approved for human consumption but is said to be "safe".</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to report]</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many informed parties said the failure of the <b>Doha Round</b> was largely due to the US commitment to its Farm policies — but the next meeting of the <b>Cairns Group</b> may be able to make progress on this.</li> </ul>
2006 Jul 31	
2006 Jul 24	
2006 Jul 17	[Category not active]
2006 Jul 10	
2006 Jul 03	
Commencement of Service	

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