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Policies

China's pledge to cut CO2 emissions boosts global confidence in tackling climate change

[Xinhua, 25-09-2020] Chinese President Xi Jinping has announced an ambitious climate target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, which is expected to accelerate the world's transition to green and low-carbon development.

China aims to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, Xi said at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly via video.

Experts worldwide have hailed the Chinese move as realistic and important, saying China's pledge will lead collective actions on global warming and encourage the rest of the world to progress on climate action.

Jeffrey Sachs, an economics professor at Columbia University and a senior UN advisor, said he expects China will achieve the goal even ahead of the date, "as China is in the process of establishing world-class technologies" in green energy and high-tech industries.

According to Climate Action Tracker (CAT), if China's goal is achieved, it will lower global warming projections by around 0.2 to 0.3 degrees Celsius alone, the biggest single reduction ever estimated by CAT.

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Britain welcomes China's emissions pledge, says environment secretary

[Xinhua, 26-09-2020] Britain welcomes China's recent announcement of becoming carbon neutral before 2060, British Environment Secretary George Eustice said on Thursday 24 Sept.

"The UK welcomes China's announcement this week on achieving carbon neutrality before 2060 and enhancing its own NDC (nationally determined contribution) -- so we look forward to hearing more and to working together," Eustice said.

Eustice agreed that Britain and China should work together as incoming presidents for "ambitious, integrated outcomes" at the United Nations (UN) Biodiversity Conference COP15 to be held in the city of Kunming in southwestern China and the UN climate conference COP26 in city of Glasgow, Scotland next year, according to the statement released by the British Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

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China to promote high-quality development of animal husbandry industry

[Xinhua, 27-09-2020] the General Office of the State Council has issued a guideline on promoting the high-quality development of the animal husbandry industry, outlining priorities to boost the sector's efficiency and competitiveness.

Efforts will be made to form a new high-quality development pattern in the sector that will see greater efficiency, safer products, efficient resource use, environmentally friendly production and effective regulation.

The guideline calls for efforts to facilitate the development of a modern farming system and strengthen the cultivation and promotion of exceptional breeds. To this end, subsidies will be provided to aid breeding programs in pastoral areas.

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China to adhere to green development, advance ecological civilization

[Xinhua, 21-09-2020] China will continue to adhere to green development and advance ecological civilization, reads a document jointly issued by the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

China's position paper for the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity expounded China's experience, achievements and positions on biodiversity conservation from the aspects of ecological civilization philosophy, domestic policy measures, promoting sustainable development, encouraging engagement of the whole society, promoting global biodiversity governance, and strengthening international exchanges and cooperation.

The paper, titled Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth: China in Action, noted that China will continue to adhere to green development, advance ecological civilization, uphold multilateralism and the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, actively participate in global biodiversity governance, and contribute Chinese wisdom to achieving global ecological civilization and building a community for all life on earth.

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China to prohibit non-agricultural use of arable land

[Xinhua, 18-09-2020] China will take normalized and strict long-term measures to prohibit non-agricultural activities on arable land, said a senior official of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on Friday.

Strict prohibitions on the illegal occupation of cultivated land for afforestation, landscaping, and non-agricultural construction, have been listed as the responsibility targets of all provincial governments, said Wang Guanghua, MNR vice minister, at a press conference.

Governments at all levels should implement the strictest arable land protection policies and clamp down on activities that encroach on arable land, said the latest circular issued by the General Office of the State Council.

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China to establish agricultural reinsurance firm

[Xinhua, 01-09-2020] China implemented the supportive policy in 2011, providing subsidies for herdsmen who stop using deteriorated grasslands.

The country has invested 45.5 billion yuan (about 6.64 billion U.S. dollars) of subsidies in the region, benefiting more than 4.9 million farmers and herdsmen every year.

A total of 28 million hectares of desertified and degraded grasslands in the region are being restored since the policy was implemented, according to the region's agriculture and animal husbandry department. The monitoring data showed that the region's average coverage of grassland vegetation reached 44 percent in 2019, an increase of 7 percentage points over 2010.

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Step up battle against air pollution

[China daily, 03-09-2020] China is ready to enhance science-based prevention and control of air pollution with a view to promoting green development, the State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang decided on 2 August. The meeting's participants heard a report on progress in scientific research on the causes of heavy air pollution and proposed solutions.

The meeting urged continued efforts to prevent and control air pollution, especially by effectively tackling industrial pollution, promoting clean substitutes for small-scale burning

of coal and strengthening the regulation of diesel exhaust emissions and **ammonia emissions in agriculture and animal husbandry**.

International cooperation will be bolstered and new drivers of growth cultivated. These measures are aimed to achieve win-win outcomes in environmental protection and economic growth.

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Expert urges making ecosystem product tradable

[China daily, 18-09-2020] A leading environmental expert has called Chinese government to establish a system to make ecosystem product tradable to further promote green development in the country.

Wang Jinnan, a member with the Chinese Academy of Engineering, made the comment in a policy paper released by the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, a high-level international advisory body.

His research team suggested that the Chinese government should price ecosystem products and promote the trade of them during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), he said while delivering a speech as the head of the team that studied Ecological Compensation and Green Development Institutional Reform in the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

Click [here](#) for details

China food security concerns prompt rethink of soybean expansion

[SCMP, 16-09-2020] China should halt the expansion of soybean farms to leave space for strategic crops including rice, wheat and corn to ensure adequate domestic food supply in light of rising tensions with the United States, industry leaders have said.

The comments at this year's China Soybean Industry International Summit Forum marked a turn away from Beijing's previous push to boost domestic production and cut reliance on US soybean imports amid the trade war.

China launched a soybean revitalisation plan in March 2019, encouraging farmers to replace crops such as corn with soybeans through state subsidies.

But it did little to change China's reliance on imported soybeans. The shift to soybean farming has also reduced corn supply, a key grain for animal feed, and pushed prices for the cereal grain to a five-year high. Corn price inflation is now spreading to wheat as animal feed producers use it as a cheaper alternative.

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High-yield soybean breeding to ramp up

[China daily, 22-09-2020] Authorities will ramp up support for the breeding of high-yield soybeans that can be raised with mass mechanized operations, said the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, as China moves to bolster the self-sufficiency of a grain whose supply has long relied on imports.

The nation will continue to conduct seed research to boost the quality and global competitiveness of the grain between 2021 and 2025, known as the 14th Five-Year Plan period, the ministry added.

The ministry said it will work with the Ministry of Finance to forge ahead in the construction of breeding bases, as part of a broader effort to ramp up investment in soybean seed

production, as policymakers have been calling for revitalizing the nation's non-genetically modified soybean industry.

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Hebei regulation cracks down on food waste

[China daily, 25-09-2020] Hebei province rolled out a new regulation on Thursday promoting thrift and encouraging people to reduce food waste.

It is the nation's first local regulation on frugality since President Xi Jinping reiterated last month the need for greater awareness of the risks posed to the country's food security. He called for resolute efforts to promote thrift and combat waste.

The regulation was approved by the Standing Committee of the Hebei People's Congress, the province's top legislative body. It will take effect on Nov 1.

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Science, Technology and Environment

Space program breeds top forage grasses for livestock

[China daily, 03-09-2020] China's spacecraft are best known for such things as deploying astronauts, studying Earth and transmitting signals, but some also carry out missions neither well-known nor usually attributed to space exploration. One such mission is helping to improve the quality of dairy products.

At least five types of forage grasses have been created through space-based breeding programs to develop beneficial mutations. The results of the programs, created by Chinese researchers, have been approved by the government for use in nationwide or provincial-level planting, according to an academic workshop on space breeding for forage grass that was held in Lanzhou, Gansu province.

Compared with natural or conventionally bred types of forage grasses, these space-developed versions feature higher protein content, greater annual yields, shorter growth periods and better resistance against diseases and insect pests, allowing cattle farmers to feed their cows with better fodder.

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Chinese researchers develop testing strip for major plant disease

[Xinhua, 03-09-2020] Chinese researchers have developed a testing strip for the rapid detection of tobacco bacterial wilt, a major plant disease, according to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).

The traditional detection method of the plant disease requires a series of steps such as DNA extraction, which usually takes at least five to six hours. Researchers from the Tobacco Research Institute under the CAAS developed a testing strip that can produce results in five minutes, greatly shortening the test period. Its technical indexes such as sensitivity and accuracy also meet national standards.

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Chinese researchers develop restoration tech for degraded grassland

[Xinhua, 31-08-2020] Chinese researchers have developed a technology system for restoration of degraded grassland in north China, according to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).

Based on their new theories on meadow grassland degradation and systematic restoration, researchers have developed a technological system concerning grassland restoration, vegetation rejuvenation, targeted soil restoration and regional eco-industry.

To verify and demonstrate the theories and the technological system, researchers have applied them in various degraded grassland environments across northern China, according to the CAAS.

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Over 80 pct Chinese do not waste food: survey

[Xinhua, 01-09-2020] About 82.2 percent of Chinese do not waste food in daily life, the China Youth Daily reported citing a recent survey.

The survey polled 2,004 people born between the 1960s and 2000s from both urban and rural areas.

About 84.1 percent of respondents born in the 2000s said they are used to saving food, more than those born in the 1990s (82 percent) and those born in the 1980s (81.5 percent), the survey showed.

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At the root of seed enterprises' China sojourn

[China daily, 23-09-2020] A recent Outlook Weekly report says that in recent years, more than 70 international seed companies, including the top 10, have entered China's seed market with large quantities of seeds, raising concerns whether they will now control Chinese people's "rice bowl" the way foreign chipmakers are controlling the Chinese chip market.

In fact, the technological gap in the seed industry's development in China is not insurmountable. The key to reducing dependence on foreign seeds lies in deepening reform of its agricultural science and technological system.

Investigations show that among the main crops in China, the localization rate of rice and wheat is relatively high, but corn, potato and other vegetable supplies depend partly on imports.

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China's corn output to fall after typhoons flatten crops, damage quality

[Reuters, 16-09-200] China's corn crop is expected to fall by up to 10 million tonnes, or nearly 4%, from the latest government estimates after heavy wind and rains toppled crops in major production areas in the northeastern cornbelt, analysts said.

Expected production losses have pushed Chinese corn futures to a record high and stoked worries over supply shortages in the world's second-largest consumer of the grain after it ran down once-mammoth state stockpiles and boosted imports.

Three typhoons buffeted China's main corn belt of the provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning and the Inner Mongolia region in late August and early September, flattening plants and flooding fields just as the corn crop reached maturity.

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Fruits help to preserve local ecology, bring revenue to farmers

[China daily, 25-09-2020] Late September is harvest season for sea buckthorn fruit in Fangshan county in the west of Shanxi.

With rich content of various vitamins and amino acids, sea buckthorn is a favorite ingredient for producers. Herbal tea made from the leaves help with digestion, lowering blood fat and blood pressure.

However, in the eyes of local officials, the sea buckthorn goes beyond healthy food. It's also used for the protection of the environment.

The county began to plant sea buckthorn at the beginning of this century, and more than 13,000 hectares of the wild herb has been added to the mountains and hills in Fangshan.

The ecological environment has steadily improved during the past two decades, evidenced by growing vegetation coverage, clearer water and the increase of wild animals.

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Cost of flood repairs to water conservancy projects put at 84b yuan

[China daily, 24-29-2020] Repairing damage to water conservancy projects in China following the country's worst floods in more than two decades will cost about 84 billion yuan (\$12.32 billion), a senior water resources official said.

The damage has been spread over 28 provincial-level regions, but almost 80 percent occurred in 10 regions, Ye Jianchun, vice-minister of water resources, told a news conference.

Seven of the 10 regions, including Hubei and Jiangxi provinces, are located in the Yangtze River Basin, he said.

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Big Data Contributes to Food Safety Supervision in Guiyang, China

[Pnewswire, 28-09-2020] In the current digital era, China has become a key player in modernized food safety approaches. Among the relevant modern technological advances, the big data analytics can be a case in point which provides effective solutions to food safety supervision.

Located in Southwest China, Guiyang has pushed back the frontiers of big data in recent years.

In order to avoid food safety hazards, there is a clear need to optimize the supply chain and remove contaminated food materials from the supply. Thus, Guiyang launched Agricultural Products Safety Traceability System, a data-driven platform to ensure safe food materials.

This big data system can record the relevant information of the agricultural products including place of origin, transportation and maintenance conditions. A QR code, which contains the mentioned information, will be accordingly stuck on the food materials.

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China donates global land cover data to UN

[Xinhua, 17-09-2020] China's Ministry of Natural Resources has donated its updated 30-meter resolution global land cover data to the United Nations (UN), China Science Daily reported Thursday.

The 2020 data was launched on Tuesday 15 Sept. Collected in 966 datasets, the data illustrates 10 types of land cover including arable land, forest, grassland, shrubland, wetland, water, tundra, artificial land surface, bare land, glacier and firm.

The complete 30-meter resolution land cover of the Antarctic was generated for the first time, helping the 2020 data achieve full coverage of the 149 million square km of global land surface.

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Trade and Business

China to establish agricultural reinsurance firm

[Gov.CN, 31-08-2020] China's top banking and insurance regulator has approved the establishment of a new agricultural reinsurance company to enhance financial service in the agricultural sector.

The new reinsurance company, with registration capital worth 16.1 billion yuan (about \$2.34 billion), will be co-sponsored by nine institutions including the Ministry of Finance, China Reinsurance (Group) Corporation, and Agricultural Development Bank of China, according to the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission.

The move is part of government efforts to boost financial services in order to support rural vitalization, which involves measures to improve the agricultural reinsurance system.

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China's Sichuan to bolster hog industry

[Xinhua, 20-09-2020] Southwest China's Sichuan Province has announced a plan to bolster its hog industry, aiming to increase the output value of the entire industrial chain to more than 390 billion yuan (around 57.7 billion U.S. dollars) in 2022, local authorities said.

According to the plan, the number of hogs for slaughter in the province is expected to reach 60 million in 2020, while the figure will increase to 65 million next year.

Measures will be taken in major aspects such as developing standardized pig breeding, supporting small and medium-sized farmers, cultivating brands, and enhancing disease prevention and control capabilities.

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China's aggressive agricultural imports expected to boost US exports

[China daily, 08-09-2020] As America's new crop year of soybeans and corn begins to be harvested, experts are optimistic that China will step up its purchases of the two grains and other agricultural products, which will benefit US farmers.

China has been ramping up its corn and soybean purchases from the US in recent weeks for delivery in the new marketing year, which began Sept 1.

For the 2021 fiscal year that begins on Oct 1, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates agricultural exports at \$140.5 billion, an increase of \$5.5 billion over the previous fiscal year. Of that increase, \$4.5 billion is projected to come from exports to China due to expected higher soybean and corn exports.

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China bans German pork imports after African swine fever case

[Reuters, 12-09-2020] China announced on Saturday 12 Sept a ban on the import of pork and pig products from Germany after it confirmed its first case of African swine fever in a wild boar.

The move to block imports from China's third largest supplier of pork comes even as the Asian nation battles an unprecedented shortage of the meat after its own epidemic of the deadly hog disease.

The ban, announced by China's customs agency and its agriculture ministry, had been widely anticipated given Beijing's history of moving quickly to implement bans in such cases.

Germany exported some 158,000 tonnes of pork worth 424 million euros (\$501.6 million) to China between January and April 2020, double the tonnage in the same period in 2019, Germany's national statistics office said.

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China became Germany's biggest export country for pork before ASF hit

[Xinhua, 17-09-2020] Before the African swine fever (ASF) was detected in Germany, China had become the country's "most important trading partner" for pork exports in the first half (H1) of the year, the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) announced.

Between January and June, 233,300 tons of pork were exported to China, accounting for 26.8 percent of Germany's total pork exports, more than doubled compared with the same period of last year, Destatis noted.

Italy, which used to be the biggest export market for German pork, now ranked second behind China with a share of 15.2 percent this year.

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China will suspend imports from companies if frozen foods test positive for coronavirus

[Reuters, 11-09-2020] China customs said on 11 Sept that it will suspend imports from companies for a week if frozen food products test positive for coronavirus for the first or second time.

If the frozen products test positive for coronavirus for a third time or more, imports from the producer will be suspended for four weeks, China's General Administration of Customs said in a statement on its website.

Beijing has already tightened checks on imported frozen food cargoes and banned imports from some foreign meat processing plants, as the coronavirus pandemic hit the global food sector.

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EU and China sign landmark agreement protecting European Geographical Indications

[EU, 14-09-2020] 14 September, the EU and China signed a bilateral agreement to protect 100 European Geographical Indications (GIs) in China and 100 Chinese GIs in the European Union against usurpation and imitation. This agreement, first concluded in November 2019, should bring reciprocal trade benefits as well as introducing consumers to guaranteed, quality products on both sides.

The Chinese market has high-growth potential for European food and drinks. In 2019, China was the third destination for EU agri-food products, reaching €14.5 billion.

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UK red meat exporters consider China "a hugely important market"

[Xinhua, 16-09-2020] British red meat exporters are bullish on the Chinese market, which they described as "hugely important" and are seeking closer trade cooperation in the future.

Last year, China and Britain finalized details of a trade agreement, opening access for the British beef industry to the Chinese market. "We'll finalize our beef paperwork and begin to start shipping shortly," Hadley said.

In order to promote British red meat to the Chinese market, the AHDB and British exports have a stand at two major exhibitions in China - the 18th China International Meat Industry Exhibition 2020 (CIMIE 2020) and SIAL China 2020 to be held in Shanghai from 28 Sept to 30 Sept.

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Beijing asks frozen food importers to shun countries with severe coronavirus

[Reuters, 28-09-2020] China's capital called on importers to shun frozen food from countries suffering from severe novel coronavirus outbreaks after several cases of imported seafood products testing positive for the virus.

"Customs and local governments have repeatedly detected the coronavirus in imported cold chain food, proving it risks contamination," the Beijing Municipal Commerce Bureau said in a statement issued to import companies.

China this month suspended imports from seafood producers in Brazil, Indonesia and Russia for a week or more.

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China a battleground for plant-based meat makers

[Shanghai Daily, 17-09-2020] China has become a battleground for plant-based meat companies looking to tap into the world's largest market for meat-consumption.

American plant-based meat company Impossible Foods Inc said last week it is awaiting regulatory approval to enter the Chinese mainland market, while rivals such as Beyond Meat have pushed forward with plans to set up production in China. Those are just two of the companies with sights set on the 1.4 billion Chinese consumers they hope may join their Western counterparts in seeking alternatives to meat beyond traditional mock meat offerings that already span the spectrum from faux crab to duck breast and steak.

Impossible Foods needs extra regulatory approvals because its plant-based meat products include genetically modified substances including heme, a molecule that imparts a meaty flavor, as well as soy protein.

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Beijing offers coupons to spur consumption of food delivery services

[Xinhua, 19-09-2020] Beijing started to offer the first batch of 3 million coupons on Saturday to boost the city's consumption of food delivery services, according to the municipal commerce bureau.

Jointly funded by the municipal government and two major food delivery platforms Ele.me and Meituan, with price cuts of catering businesses, all coupons worth 300 million yuan (about 44.3 million U.S. dollars) in total will be issued until mid-December.

More than 70,000 restaurants have so far participated in the distribution of the first batch of coupons, the bureau said. Customers can redeem the coupons within seven days after receiving them.

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This issue is compiled by SAIN Secretariat (UK). If you have any further enquiries, please contact Yuelai Lu at: y.lu@uea.ac.uk; for more information about SAIN, please visit: www.sainonline.org/English.html

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