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Policies

China announces guidelines to promote integrated urban-rural development

[Xinhua, 06-05-2019] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council, or China's Cabinet, on 6 May announced guidelines on the promotion of integrated urban-rural development.

China has made great headway in advancing urbanization and balancing development between rural and urban areas since the 18th National Congress of the CPC. However, barriers hindering integrated urban-rural development still exist.

The guidelines are aimed at eradicating such barriers to promote rural revitalization and speeding up the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

Click [here](#) for details

China plans to boost rural development via digital technologies

[GOV.CN, 17-05-2019] China plans to promote the applications of digital technologies in rural areas to boost local development.

As a step towards rural modernization and transformation, digital rural development plays a crucial role in rural revitalization and building a digital China, according to the guideline jointly issued by the general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

The country has vowed to achieve initial development of building digital villages by 2020, with 4G internet accessible to more than 98 percent of the administrative villages and the digital economy growing rapidly in rural regions, the guideline said.

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China unveils plan to strengthen food safety

[Xinhua, 20-05-2019] China has unveiled a guideline to enhance the country's food safety with a phased plan to build a modern governance mechanism in the field.

More than 97 percent of the country's major produce should pass quality and food safety test by 2020, while over 98 percent of food should pass spot checks, according to the guideline released by central authorities.

By 2035, China should have a world-leading set of food safety standards, marked drop in illegal practices driven by profit-seeking, and globally advanced risk control capabilities.

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China's food security can be ensured

[Xinhua, 13-05-2019] China can achieve the bottom line requirement of "basic self-sufficiency of cereal grains and absolute food security," said a senior agricultural expert.

Food supply can ensure the construction of a moderately prosperous society in all aspects by 2020 and the basic realization of socialist modernization by 2035 in China, said Mei Xurong, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

According to the "China Agricultural Sector Development Report 2019", the agriculture-food system contributes to about 23.3 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and 36.07 percent of employment in China.

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Ecological civilization: Live green, live better

[China Daily, 05-05-2019] "Live Green, Live Better," became the overarching theme of Beijing's Horticultural Exhibition.

Ecological civilization is China's massive policy-driven shift toward green energy. The founding document for this policy, Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Accelerating the Construction of Ecological Civilization (Ecological Civilization), was adopted April 25, 2015.

Under the new policy of Ecological Civilization, the trajectory of growth will shift away from polluting industries with a new framework of growth based on renewable and efficient energy systems, water recycling conservation systems, and smart urban planning.

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Bio energy should be central to Chinese development

[China daily, 10-05-2019] A national forum on technology innovation and communication for biological natural gas was held May 9-10 in Shijiazhuang, Hebei province.

The forum was held to promote the development of biological natural gas in China.

By the end of 2018, China's capacity for biomass power generation reached 17.81 million kilowatts, and the production capacity for biological natural gas stood at about 57.6 million cubic meters.

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China's population to peak in 2023, five years earlier than official estimates

[SCMP, 02-05-2019] China's population will peak in 2023, five years earlier than official forecasts, according to a new report.

China abandoned the one-child policy in 2015 to allow couples to have two children. But the birth rate last year fell to its lowest since 1961, indicating that most, if not all, of those parents who wished to have a second child already had done so, the study found.

The report said a major driver in the falling birth rate was the decline in the number of women of child-bearing age, with the population of those women – aged between 15 and 49 – expected to decrease by 56 million between 2018 and 2033.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

UK keen to partner with China on green development

[Xinhua, 05-05-2019] Britain's participation in the International Horticultural Exhibition in Beijing will help strengthen Britain-China partnership on green development and contribute more to achieving a greener future in the world, said a senior British official.

Antonia Romeo, Permanent Secretary of Britain's Department for International Trade, told Xinhua in an interview that Britain has been "enthusiastic" in its contributions to the expo.

"This (the expo) will be a huge thing across the world and the UK wants to play its full-part in that and we want to work with China, and collaborate with China, and with all countries in the world on these really important issues facing us," she said.

With the theme of "Live Green, Live Better," the expo at the foot of the Great Wall in the Chinese capital's Yanqing District opened to the public last week and will last until Oct. 7.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese researchers make headway in developing African swine fever vaccine

[Xinhua, 24-05-2019] Chinese researchers have made notable progress in developing a vaccine against African swine fever, a highly contagious viral disease that infects only pigs.

The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) set up an African swine fever research team soon after the outbreak of the epidemic, with a focus on vaccine development, according to a document released Friday at a CAAS news briefing.

Researchers have isolated the country's first African swine fever virus and created two vaccine strain candidates that have been proved to have good biological safety and immune protection during laboratory studies.

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China strengthens measures to defend biodiversity

[China Daily, 24-05-2019] China will strengthen surveys, observations and assessments related to biodiversity to identify prominent conservation problems and ensure national ecological security, the country's top environmental official said.

Li Ganjie, minister of ecology and environment, said that biodiversity is the basis of human survival and development. China is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world, but also one of the countries most threatened by biodiversity deterioration

According to Li, China will continue to integrate biodiversity conservation into policies, regulations and development plans in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water conservancy, infrastructure construction and finance. It will make sure the policies are implemented.

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Gene editing reassuring for safety of crops

[China Daily, 10-05-2019] Agricultural scientists in China have called for a regulatory shift to classify crops and plants developed through gene editing technology as traditionally bred varieties.

The current regulatory framework subjects gene-edited agricultural products to a high level of scrutiny, they said. The shift would streamline the examination and evaluation process, thus stimulating scientific research while accelerating commercial cultivation of gene-edited plants.

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Chinese experience inspires world's greening efforts

[Xinhua, 19-05-2019] As one of the first countries to sign the Paris Agreement on climate change, China has pledged to halt the rise in carbon dioxide emissions by around 2030.

Between 2013 and 2018, the country completed afforestation of 40 million hectares.

China has also established a protection scheme by assigning each waterway a specific "river or lake chief," amid efforts to treat water pollution.

The ongoing Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition offers a glimpse into China's commitments to green development.

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China starts first round of intensified anti-pollution checks

[Reuters, 15-05-2019] China's environment ministry has deployed nearly 1,000 inspectors to 25 cities and provinces across the country for its first round of "intensified anti-pollution inspections".

The checks will focus on 26 environmental aspects, including potable water protection, solid waste imports, urban sewage renovation and water pollution improvement alongside Yangtze River regions.

A total of 981 inspectors were sent to key anti-pollution regions such as Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, Shanxi-Shaanxi-Henan (known as Fenwei plain) and Yangtze River Delta regions, according to a statement published on the website of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE).

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Beijing sees improved air, water quality

[China Daily, 09-05-2019] The annual environmental bulletin, unveiled on 9 May, showed increasing improvement in air and water quality in the capital last year.

The number of days with heavy air pollution last year was only 15, nine less than the previous year, according to the bulletin released Thursday by the Beijing Ecology and Environment Bureau.

In addition, the quality of surface water in rivers and lakes has been improving, with longer sections seeing better quality, according to monitoring data. The quality of drinking water sources has reached the national standard as well.

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China's water quality improvements 'imbalanced' in first quarter

[Reuters, 5月18日] Pollution increased in some of China's major lakes, rivers and reservoirs in the first quarter even though the country's overall water quality improved, the official Xinhua news agency said on Saturday, citing the environment ministry.

Improvements were "imbalanced" and some regions fared far worse than others, it said, with cities in the provinces of Shanxi, Liaoning and Hubei singled out for failing to control pollution discharges.

China measures water quality according to six grades, with the highest three grades suitable for human consumption and the lowest "below grade V" level considered "without function" and unfit even for agricultural and industrial use.

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China's coastal sea level rises faster than world average

[Xinhua, 10-05-2019] China recorded a 3.3-mm average annual increase of coastal sea level between 1980 and 2018, a speed faster than the global average, official data showed.

Monitoring and analytical results showed that China's sea levels in coastal regions were on an overall upward trend with fluctuation in the period, said a bulletin by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It also said 36 red tides were monitored in China's waters last year, affecting a total area of 1,406 square km.

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Int'l project aims to reduce use of harmful pesticides in China

[Xinhua, 07-05-2019] An international team of experts is helping China reduce its reliance on harmful pesticides to fight crop pests and diseases including yellow rust fungal disease of wheat and locusts, the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) said on Tuesday.

CABI, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Britain, is working with researchers from institutes in countries such as China and Britain to push forward the project.

The team sought to develop a model to predict wheat rust spread and severity and map it thematically, a locust development model as well as locust maps, and a biopesticide efficiency model alongside a way of determining the effects of using chemical or biopesticides on non-target insects using the vertical looking radar.

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Fall Armyworm damaging Chinese crops

[World Grain, 10-05-2019] A plant-eating pest has spread across China's southern border and is expected to spread across all of the country's grain-producing area in the coming months, according to a recent report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Fall Armyworm, which can travel up to 100 kilometers per night, currently impacts about 8,500 hectares of grain production in Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Guizhou, Hunan and Hainan provinces, the USDA said.

"Officially, Chinese authorities have employed an emergency action plan to monitor and respond to the pest," the USDA said. "The Fall Armyworm has no natural predators in China and its presence may result in lower production and crop quality of corn, rice, wheat, sorghum, sugarcane, cotton, soybeans and peanuts, among other cash crops."

Click [here](#) for details

China to step up efforts to control crop-eating pests

[Xinhua, 21-05-2019] The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on 21 May urged local authorities to step up efforts to prevent and control the crop-eating pest, fall armyworm.

Fall armyworm was first detected in China in January 2019 and has spread across China's southern and southwestern areas, affecting 92,267 hectares of farmland in 14 provincial-level regions including Yunnan, Guangxi, Guizhou and Henan.

The pest has wreaked havoc in many countries, leading to a 20-30 percent reduction in corn and sugarcane output in parts of Africa and Asia. Some areas even saw complete crop failures.

Click [here](#) for details

China launches campaign to train scientifically-literate farmers

[China Daily, 30-05-2019] China on 30 May announced a three-year campaign to improve the science literacy of its rural population.

The campaign was launched by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in Beijing.

In three years, the country will train 4 million scientifically-literate farmers, who understand science, master modern agricultural technology and have certain business management capability.

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Zhejiang eyes harmless treatment of rural waste by 2020

[China Daily, 29-05-2019] East China's Zhejiang province aims to realize the harmless treatment of all domestic waste in rural areas by 2020, local authorities said.

The provincial environment and agriculture department said Zhejiang would further reduce rural pollution and planned to set up 1,500 domestic sewage treatment facilities with a daily treatment capacity of 30 tonnes in rural areas this year.

To achieve the goal, Zhejiang has encouraged garbage sorting, recycling, and harmless domestic waste treatment across rural areas. Meanwhile, garbage and sewage disposal facilities have been increased, while regulations on the operation and maintenance of facilities are expected to roll out.

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Trade and Business

China allocates funds to improve supply chain of agricultural products

[Xinhua, 18-05-2019] China will step up fiscal support to improve the supply chain of agricultural products in a bid to boost sales and increase farmers' income, according to an official announcement.

The central government will allocate a two-year fund of 200 million yuan (about 30 million U.S. dollars) to each provincial-level region that gets their respective plan approved, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said in an online statement.

Support should be given to building farm produce processing facilities and developing cold chain logistics, the statement said.

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Online sales of China's agricultural products rise rapidly in 2018

[Xinhua, 08-05-2019] Online retail sales of agricultural products grew by 33.8 percent to reach 230.5 billion yuan (34.06 billion U.S. dollars) in 2018, said an official report issued on 8 May on digital trends that are sweeping rural China.

The report by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said the digital economy accounted for 7.3 percent of China's agricultural output in 2018, an increase of 0.8 percentage point over the previous year.

Tang Ke, who heads the ministry's market and economic information department, said smart farming has taken shape and information technologies have been widely applied in agricultural production. Big data, in particular, is increasingly used to guide decision making, farm management and marketing of agricultural products.

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Chinese consumption of healthier snack foods helping expand walnut production

[China daily, 10-05-2019] Quality-conscious Chinese consumers are pursuing healthier snack foods, like nuts, industry experts said. The experts predict the market will see a golden growth period with expanding scale and higher prices.

China is the second-largest nut producer worldwide, accounting for 10 percent of the world's total production. It's the largest producer of walnuts, one of four major types of nuts along with almonds, hazelnuts and cashews. China's walnut output makes up about half of the global total, according to Chinese Academy of Forestry.

This year, the United States, China, Germany, Russia and Turkey are predicted to become the top five markets for nuts. By 2023, nut sales are expected to reach \$5.35 billion in China, up 13.8 percent from expected tallies in 2019, according to market research provider Euromonitor International.

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Chinese online consumption of domestic brand products quickens in 2018

[Xinhua, 10-05-2019] Chinese consumers are spending more on domestic brands online as Chinese companies keep improving the design and quality of their products, a report showed.

The increase of total online orders of Chinese products was 8 percent higher than that of foreign brand products in 2018, according to a report released by a think tank with the China Economic Information Service based on data from e-commerce platform JD.com.

The growth of the total sum of orders of Chinese products was 14 percent faster than that of products made by foreign firms last year.

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China's pork consumption falls as African swine fever spreads

[Reuters, 17-05-2019] A decline in Chinese pork consumption is keeping a lid on prices, an executive at China's top pig producer Wens Foodstuff Group said, even as pork output slumps in the country, the world's biggest producer of the meat.

The fall in consumption comes as an epidemic of African swine fever has ravaged China's pig herd, the world's largest, curbing demand for the country's favourite meat.

African swine fever kills almost all pigs infected but does not harm people. However, news of the disease was having "a psychological effect", leading consumers to reduce pork consumption over the short-term.

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Domestic infant formula makes gains in China

[China Daily, 10-05-2019] Led by Junlebao Dairy, products see growing market share as consumer confidence rises

To improve the quality of its milk sourcing, Junlebao has developed a high-standard cow breeding system, which consists of raising the animals in comfortable barns, feeding them with high-quality fodder and using high-tech machines to milk them.

Dairy producers like Junlebao are encouraged by the government to establish their own breeding farms and develop an entire chain to increase the proportion of self-supplied milk while better controlling product quality.

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China expects its 2019/20 soybean output to hit highest in 14 years

[Reuters, 10-05-2019] China expects its soybean output to hit the highest level in 14 years in 2019/20, boosted by a plan to revitalize the nation's production of the oilseed.

The country will churn out 17.27 million tonnes of soybeans in the 2019/20 crop year, up 7.9% from the year before, its agriculture ministry said.

That would be the most since 2004/05, when China produced 17.4 million tonnes of the commodity, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture records. That was the only previous time its output has risen above 17 million tonnes.

China, which uses soybeans to make feed for its vast livestock herds, has been pushing to reduce its dependence on oilseed imports from the United States amid mounting trade tensions between the two.

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China's vegetable, fruit prices to fall on increasing supplies

[Xinhua, 30-05-2019] Prices of vegetables and fruits are expected to drop with increasing supplies in the market, after a recent hike, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

MOC data showed average wholesale prices of vegetables and fruits in April in 36 Chinese cities jumped 15.6 percent and 12.5 percent from the same period last year, respectively.

Prices of vegetables last week, thanks to increasing supplies, dropped 6.9 percent from early May.

MOC data also showed average wholesale prices of pork rose 18.7 percent year on year in April. Affected by African swine fever, the stocks of hogs in China fell sharply, pushing up pork prices, a spokesperson with the MOC said.

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Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

African swine fever case confirmed in Hong Kong's slaughterhouse

[Xinhua, 11-05-2019] An African swine fever (ASF) case was confirmed at a slaughterhouse in China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and about 6,000 pigs would be culled, a health official of the SAR government said late Friday, 10 June.

Sophia Chan, secretary for food and health of the HKSAR government, said it was confirmed Friday afternoon that ASF virus was found in a pig in the Sheung Shui slaughterhouse in the New Territories.

Chan said, in order to minimize the risk of ASF virus spreading from the slaughterhouse, all pigs in Sheung Shui slaughterhouse would be culled so that thorough cleansing and disinfection could be conducted.

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China's swine fever problem is a national crisis, agriculture group says

[SCMP, 1605-2019] African swine fever, the contagious disease ravaging China's pig herds, represents a national crisis requiring more government funding to quell, the head of an agriculture group said.

The full extent of the damage to the country's US\$128 billion pork industry is still being fathomed, and any estimate of the economic impact from the virus on the swine industry will be "stunning", Li Xirong, director of the China Animal Agriculture Association, told more than 400 people involved in the sector at a meeting in the eastern city of Wuhan on 16 May.

The combined sixth Global Pig Forum and 16th China Swine Industry Development Conference is one of the biggest industry gatherings since the disease was first reported in the world's largest hog-producing nation in August.

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Swine fever reshaping pig farming

[China daily, 28-05-2019] China's pig farming industry is undergoing a second crisis in a decade, this time caused by African swine fever. The potential pork shortage is changing the layout of China's pig industry and dining tables all over the world.

"China is the largest producer and consumer of pork in the world. In 2019, ASF will result in a reduction in pig stocks of 20 percent, or 130 million pigs. This will have significant impact on the global meat and animal feed market," said the latest issue of Food Outlook released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on May 9.

Food accounts for nearly one-third of China's consumer price index. Every three out of 100 yuan (\$14.5) in consumption goes into pork.

Nearly half of Chinese pig farms are small and medium-sized enterprises, which are vulnerable to ASF and food safety emergencies.

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African swine fever outbreaks in May 2019

Date	Location	Details
10 May	Sheung Shui, Hong Kong	Click here for details
18 May	Wudang district, Guiyang City, Guizhou Province	Click here for details
20 May	Ruoergai (Zoigê) County, Sichuan Province	Click here for details
21 May	Huinong District, Shizuishan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous	Click here for details
25 May	Yanshan County, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
27 May	Bobai County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous	Click here for details
29 May	Menghai County, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
31 May	Duyun City (illegally transported into the city), Guizhou province	Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in May 2019

Date	Location	Details
4 May	Shizhu County, Chongqing City	Click here for details
17 May	Lichuan City, Hubei Province	Click here for details
22 May	Midong District, Wulumiqi City, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous	Click here for details
24 May	Danzhou City, Wanning City, Chengmai County, Baoting County, Lingshui County, Xiuying District of Haikou City, Hainan Province	Click here for details
24 May	Greater Khingan Mountains, Inner Mongolia	Click here for details
28 May	Bayi District of Linzhi City, Gongbudajiang County, Bomi County, Tibet Autonomous	Click here for details

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