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Policies

Policy Outcomes of the 10th UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue

The UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chinese Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua concluded the 10th UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue on 17 June 2019, in London.

The two sides reached a series of new agreements on deepening economic and financial cooperation. Building on this, both sides committed to continue to strengthen the mechanism to support the further development of a "Golden Era" of UK-China relations.

The Policy Outcome 59 outlined the priority areas and mechanisms for agricultural cooperation:

Both sides are ready to further strengthen cooperation in rural development, agriculture green development, and farmers' cooperative organisations. Particularly promoting policy, technology, and personnel exchange in such areas as rural development planning, infrastructure development, agri-tourism and eco-friendly agriculture. Both sides are ready to further strengthen science and technology cooperation in agriculture, with the support of the **China-UK Sustainable Agricultural Innovation Network (SAIN)** and encourage more agricultural research and educational institutions to conduct collaborative research in advanced agricultural technologies, so as to deliver stronger science and technology support to agricultural development.

The other agriculture related outcomes include:

- both sides welcome the signing of the protocol for the export of UK beef to China, with a view to approving beef export to China by the end of 2019;
- China agrees to send experts to the UK to carry out technical exchanges on scrapie by autumn 2019, in order to study and formulate evaluation criteria for ban-lifting on UK lamb exports;
- both sides agree to continue to promote the lifting of the Avian Influenza ban on British poultry and poultry products;
- both sides welcomes the recent approval and registration of UK pork plants, and look forward to further approval of qualified UK pork plants by the end of the 2019, to enable exports based on market demand;
- the importance of supporting role that science and technology plays in socio-economic development, through the UK-China Joint Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation, launched in 2017 and are willing to further implement the Joint Strategy together, including the Agri-tech and Healthy Ageing Flagship Challenges;
- both sides are satisfied with the cooperation on the agriculture remote sensing projects, and agree to consider signing an MoU between the China National Space Administration and the Science and Technology Facilities Council on Cooperation in the Space Science Activities.

Click [here](#) for details

China issues guideline to boost rural industries

[Xinhua, 28-06-2019] China has issued a guideline to boost rural industries in a bid to vitalize the country's vast countryside.

Rural areas should seek integration of the development of agriculture, industry and the tertiary sector, whose added value should enjoy a significant rise in its share of township GDP within five to ten years, according to the guideline released by the State Council.

Efforts should be made to strengthen local industries such as produce processing and rural tourism, promote town-level industrial clusters, nurture more agricultural brands and improve policy support, according to the guideline.

Click [here](#) for details

Action plan to boost domestic formula sector

[China daily, 04-06-2019] Seven ministries including the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic regulator, jointly issued a notice of an action plan on 3 June to strengthen the domestic infant and toddler formula milk industry, with a goal to increase domestic supplies to more than 60 percent of the market.

The action plan is to further improve the quality, competence and reputation of the domestic infant and toddler formula milk and strengthen domestic dairy enterprises, and aims to steadily increase the production volume of domestic infant and toddler formula milk.

The notice said that domestic supply of infant and toddler formula milk is expected to increase to more than 60 percent of the industry in total.

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Action plan to take aim at methane emissions

[China Daily, 20-06-2019] China's top environmental watchdog has pledged to make a greater effort to control emissions of methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, by enhancing monitoring capability and drafting an action plan.

"To meet domestic and international needs for tackling climate change, the ministry will list methane as a key target in its work of controlling non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gases," Jiang Zhaoli, deputy head of the department of climate change at the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, said at a forum on 19th June recognizing National Low Carbon Day.

He said the energy sector contributes 44.8 percent of methane emissions, with agricultural production activities second at 40.2 percent.

Methane is over 20 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in warming the earth.

Click [here](#) for details

China steps up food safety with Internet technology

[Xinhua, 22-06-2019] China is aiming to improve food safety by applying an Internet Plus model and big data technology.

The proposal was raised during the China Food Safety Publicity Week, which is jointly initiated by 23 departments, including the food safety commission of the State Council and the National Health Commission.

China has been pushing hard to enhance food safety. A total of 25 enterprises were rewarded as national model units for their innovative moves in improving food safety, according to a meeting held amid China Food Safety Publicity Week.

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Urbanization rate to reach 70% by 2035

[China Daily, 24-06-2019] China's urbanization progress will continue, with the urbanization ratio reaching 70 percent by 2035, according to a report published by the National Academy of Economic Strategy under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

As the urbanization rate grows, the speed of urbanization will remain steady and then slowly decline.

Massive populations moving to cities will put pressure on employment, leading to risks at a later period of urbanization. The number of increasing laborers will reach 15 million in cities this year.

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China on right track to becoming greener

[China Daily, 17-06-2019] China may be the world's largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter, but it is also the world leader in energy production from renewable sources. It has also and has increased its budget for environmental protection to about 1.2 percent of its GDP—a figure in line with that of Western European countries.

China is on the right track to becoming "greener", but recent efforts need to be continued, and possibly further intensified. It has to continue investing in pollution control and environmental conservation.

China also has to improve environmental information, because solid data to understand the sources, impacts and costs of pollution and environmental degradation are precondition for making good decisions.

Click [here](#) for details

China, UN sign pact to boost global food security

[China daily, 21-06-2019] The National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration and the World Food Program signed a memorandum of understanding on South-South cooperation in Zhengzhou, capital of Central China's Henan province, on 20th June, marking a deepened collaboration between the UN and China to improve global food security through innovation and South-South cooperation.

As one of China's most important centers of agricultural production, Henan is a major grain producing province.

The cooperation will help to share China's experience and successes in overcoming food security challenges with other developing countries.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

5G-enabled farming robot launched in east China

[Xinhua, 18-06-2019] In a greenhouse, a white robot moves in between two rows of leafy greens while data about the plants are gathered and fed back to a control room.

The robot was put to use in east China's Fujian Province, and unlike many other agricultural robots, this one is 5G-enabled.

That means the real-time picture and video transmission has super low latency, which allows the data gathered from the robot's various sensors to be analyzed by AI more efficiently, according to its developer.

Since 2013, China has been the world's largest market for industrial robot applications.

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Traceability platform for agricultural products launched in east China

[Xinhua, 19-06-2019] East China's Jiangsu Province launched a traceability platform for agricultural products, according to the provincial department of agriculture and rural affairs.

Scanning QR codes on the products with their mobile phones, customers can find out information about the agricultural products, including the production process and the producers. More than 3,800 producers of agricultural products in the province have registered with the platform.

"The platform can not only help customers trace the products but press the producers for law-abiding production," said Zhu Xinhua, deputy head of the provincial department of agriculture and rural affairs.

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China finds armyworms in 18 provinces, recommends pesticides for emergency use

[Reuters, 05-06-2019] China has recommended the use of pesticides to fight against fall armyworms, as the destructive pest spreads across its vast farmlands, the agriculture ministry said on 5 June.

Fall armyworms have now spread to 18 of China's provinces, regions and municipalities since it was first detected in the southwestern province of Yunnan in early January, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural affairs said in a statement published on its website.

China has recommended 25 pesticides for emergency use against the armyworm, and has asked local authorities to guide farmers in the use of these products, including chlorfenapyr and acephate, the statement said.

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China makes big step to control fall armyworm crop pest

[GT, 19-06-2019] China's research team has made a breakthrough in dealing with the crop-destroying pest fall armyworm (FAW), which has seriously threatened the safety of China's agriculture and food production.

The team sequenced and assembled the pest's gene and put the assembled gene fragments to the pest's corresponding chromosomal locations, according to a document of the BGI group, a genome sequencing company in China, sent to the Global Times.

"The research of gene sequencing and assembly of the FAW is crucial to further studying the pest's pesticide resistance and long-term prevention and control," the document said.

The genomic data has been uploaded to the data platform of China's National Gene Bank and can be used by researchers all over the world.

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Chinese researchers discover gene helping rice reduce heavy metal pollution

[Xinhua, 26-06-2019] Chinese researchers have discovered a gene which plays an important role in cadmium accumulation in rice, providing a reference for the cultivation of low-cadmium rice varieties.

Cadmium, a kind of toxic heavy metal, can be easily absorbed and enriched in rice, and then enters the human body through the food chain, thus posing a serious threat to human health.

By using the genome-wide association study technology and gene annotation system, researchers from the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences and China Agricultural University successfully identified a rice grain cadmium accumulation related gene called OsCd1.

The research was published in the journal Nature Communications.

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China's agriculture model suitable for Africa

[China Daily, 01-06-2019] About 30 students from Africa will live in rural China this year to study agricultural technology and then return home to coach farmers in techniques for increasing their crop yields.

The resident adviser model - dubbed Science and Technology Backyard - was developed by China Agricultural University in Baizhai, Quzhou county, Hebei province, in 2009 and has proved successful.

Jiang Rongfeng, a professor at the university, said the exchange program helps develop models suitable for the sustainable development of African agriculture and is just one of several ways of supporting the continent. Others include establishing "backyards" with local enterprises and signing agreements with governments.

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China needs nearly \$440 billion to clean up rural environment

[Reuters, 22-06-2019] China will need to spend 3 trillion yuan (\$440 billion) over three years to improve village sanitation and clean up its heavily polluted rural environment, the official People's Daily reported on 22 June, citing government officials.

The funds would be required to meet state targets to build clean rural toilets, treat household waste, and construct village sewage treatment plants, said the Communist Party journal, citing An Xiaoning, an official with China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

The state has allocated 7 billion yuan to promote China's rural "toilet revolution" this year, and another 3 billion yuan to spend on improving the living environment of villagers in western and central China, An said.

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China puts historic villages under state protection

[Xinhua, 11-06-2019] China has put 6,819 villages under state-level protection, forming the world's largest heritage protection group of agricultural civilizations, according to sources with an on-going UNESCO conference held in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Officials of the Chinese Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development said at the UNESCO International Conference on the Future of Historic Villages and Towns said China

began to implement the traditional village protection project in 2012 to select the historical villages through five national surveys.

There are 533,000 administrative villages and 2.45 million natural villages in China, of which the listed traditional villages are the "pearls," inheriting the historical memory of the Chinese nation, the Chinese wisdom in production and life, culture and art, according to the ministry.

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Tree-planting programs defy deserts and drought

[China Daily, 20-06-2019] After decades of playing economic catch-up at the price of environmental degradation, China has learned to seek financial returns by restoring the land.

Now, some of the most rewarding examples of this policy shift can be found in the country's least-developed regions.

In Kashgar, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, government-led projects to slow desertification and reclaim the land are transforming an area that is home to 1.2 million rural poor, accounting for almost 40 percent of the region's total impoverished population.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese property developer commits to bird-friendly buildings

[Xinhua, 27-06-2019] Property developer SOHO China, together with environmental NGOs, launched a swift protection project Thursday in Beijing, which will make new buildings more bird-friendly by including nesting places in the design.

The Beijing Swift is an iconic bird synonymous with the capital city since ancient times. Scientists believed the bird's population is falling due to the loss of nest sites caused by the replacement of traditional style buildings with new buildings that lack the holes for them to breed.

At the launch, four Beijing high school students shared their observations and efforts they have made on bird protection. To provide homes for the swifts, some of them have initiated plans to make and erect swift nest boxes on their campus.

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Trade and Business

China eases foreign investment curbs amid cooling trade tensions

[Reuters, 30-06-2019] China's state planning agency on 30 June said it has cut the number of sectors subject to foreign investment restrictions, as Beijing moved to fulfill its promise to open major industries.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said it has eased foreign investment curbs on sectors including petroleum and gas exploration and widened access to agriculture, mining and manufacturing.

NDRC published on its website the new, shorter so-called negative list that sets out industries where foreign investment is limited or prohibited.

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£230M boost for British beef as China agrees market access

[Defra, 17-06-2019] British beef could be served on Chinese dinner plates by the end of the year, following an agreement reached today between China and the UK.

The move could be worth an estimated £230 million for British producers in the first five years alone, and comes more than 20 years after the Chinese government imposed a ban on UK imports of beef in 1996.

The UK-China Beef Protocol was signed today by Farming Minister Robert Goodwill and the Chinese Ambassador to the UK Liu Xiaoming as part of the tenth Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) between the UK and China, securing market access for UK beef exporters by the end of 2019.

Click [here](#) for details

Germany's Aldi enters tough China market

[FT, 07-06-2019] Aldi has become the latest overseas supermarket operator to open stores in China but the German company faces a battle to win over customers in a fragmented market in which foreign operators have traditionally struggled.

Hundreds of people lined in Shanghai on 7 June to enter one of the two Aldi outlets opening in the city. On sale were European wine and beer from the company's own brands plus more local offerings, such as chicken feet and salted duck eggs.

Foreign supermarkets have often struggled in China's fast-growing grocery sector. Britain's Tesco and Spain's Dia abandoned operations in the country and Germany's Metro is selling its China unit. Walmart and Carrefour have struggled to gain more than a single-digit market share.

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State Council targets rising food prices

[China daily, 11-06-2019] The State Council has moved to stabilize the price of agricultural products amid rising vegetable, fruit and pork prices, as experts call for the establishment of a long-term warning mechanism for price hikes.

An executive meeting of the cabinet adopted a string of measures to bolster market supply of meat, fruit and vegetables and stabilize consumer prices.

Ensuring adequate supply of agricultural products is an important foundation to secure commodity prices and market expectations and to safeguard public livelihood, a statement released after the meeting said.

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Ginseng industry booms in Jilin

[China daily, 21-06-2019] Jilin province, China's leading production region for ginseng – the internationally renowned herb believed to restore and enhance wellbeing -- is determined to carry out its brand strategy to further develop the ginseng industry.

In 2019, the province's Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs released its strategy, Opinions to Promote Ginseng Industry in a High-quality Way, according to which the output value of ginseng was expected to exceed 80 billion yuan (\$11.63 billion) by 2020 and reach to 120 billion yuan by 2025.

In the same year, it is expected that the planting area that meets designated standards will account for 80 percent of the total amount and the output value of "Changbai Mountain Ginseng" will reach to 60 billion yuan.

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Branding key to success of agricultural enterprises

[China daily, 11-06-2019] Establishing a recognizable brand name early on is important for companies hoping to succeed in the agriculture industry, said experts.

According to statistics from the Food and Beverage Innovation Forum 2019 held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, in late April, the value of the Chinese agricultural products market is now estimated at about 10 trillion yuan (\$1.5 trillion). Meanwhile, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed that the total retail value of grain, oil and food surged 10.2 percent year-on-year to top 1.4 trillion yuan in 2018.

But unfortunately, there are hardly any established agricultural product brands in China at present. Overseas highly celebrated agricultural product brands are tasting the sweetness of this lucrative market.

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Appetite grows for meal replacements in China

[China daily, 11-06-2019] As China's overweight population increases, meal replacement products are attracting much attention from food and beverage companies as well as investors.

The younger generation is increasingly turning to meal replacement products, either in the form of powder or liquid, for weight loss or to improve overall general health.

According to a recent report, the sales volume of meal replacement products surged by 50 percent year-on-year in 2018. About half of the consumers of such products came from first and second-tier cities.

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Soybean crop expected to continue production growth

[China daily, 27-06-2019] Soybean crops in China are expected to exceed 8.6 million hectares this year, which would mark the fourth year of consecutive growth, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on 26 June.

The ministry has carried out a plan to revive soybean production since the beginning of this year, aiming to increase domestic production to reduce the growing gap between supply and demand in recent years, he said.

With the implementation of the plan, it is expected soybean crops in China will increase to 9.3 million hectares by the end of next year, and the production of soybeans per hectare will also increase.

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Pork consumers paying more as swine fever stifles supply

[China daily, 27-06-2019] The price of pork in China is likely to continue rising this year due to a significant fall in the supply of pigs caused by African swine fever outbreaks, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on Wednesday 26 June.

The average wholesale price of pork in the country in May was 20.6 yuan (\$3) a kilogram, an increase of 1.6 percent over the previous month, and a year-on-year rise of 29.3 percent.

Prices of substitute meats such as beef, mutton and chicken have also kept increasing, but at a slower rate. It is very likely that pork prices will keep increasing, as time is needed for production to increase.

Pig stocks in China had been decreasing at an accelerated rate since August, when China reported its first outbreak of African swine fever, with the number of female pigs used for reproduction falling by 21 percent in March year-on-year, the ministry said earlier.

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China may allow more meat imports to fill gap left by pig fever

[Bloomberg, 10-06-2019] Beijing is preparing to allow more sources of imported meat in an effort to overcome potential pork shortages as African swine fever curbs domestic hog herds, according to the China Meat Association.

China may lift restrictions on buffalo meat imports from India as well as live cows and sheep from Mongolia and pork from Russia, Gao Guan, the vice president of the association, said in Beijing. China is also looking to expedite the resumption of U.K. beef imports to this year after agreeing to lift a ban in 2018, he said. Shipments had been expected to resume in 2020.

“Though China is boosting its own production, more countries will also be allowed to export to the country after the outbreak of African swine fever,” Gao said. “The expansion of meat imports will cover any potential animal protein shortages in the country.”

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China meat imports hit record as pork prices jump on swine fever

[Bloomberg, 24-06-2019] China, the world’s top pork consumer, imported a record volume of meat in May in a bid to mitigate the impact of African swine fever as domestic pork prices rebound.

China bought 556,276 tones of meat and offal in May, up about 45% from a year earlier, according to official customs data published on Sunday, 23 June. That brings total imports in the first five months to 2.2 million metric tons, a 23% increase from last year.

Pork imports surged the most among the meats, increasing 63% to 187,459 tons in May from a year earlier. Lamb shipments climbed 53% to 42,036 tons, while beef imports rose 41% to 123,720 tons. Frozen chicken purchases grew 26% to 63,430 tons, customs data showed.

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Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

China to offer financial support to sow farms to rebuild pig herd

[Reuters, 03-06-2019] China urged provincial authorities to offer financial support to sow farms and large-scale pig farms to help stabilise pork production after African swine fever caused a sharp decline in its hog herd.

Credit guarantee providers should actively provide credit guarantee services to breeding farms and large-scale farms that produce more than 5,000 hogs a year, said the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in a notice on its website.

It also called for guarantees on expiring loans to be extended for farmers and loan guarantees to be simplified and processing times to be shortened.

Click [here](#) for details

African swine fever under control in China

[Xinhua, 24-06-2019] China's African swine fever outbreaks have been effectively controlled, while the supply of alternatives such as poultry meat increased, the country's agricultural ministry said Monday, 24 June.

A total of 137 cases of African swine fever had been reported in China as of June 16. Of the cases, 38 occurred this year, with a significant drop on a monthly basis, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said.

At present, 26 provincial-level regions have lifted the blockade of the affected areas, and the transportation order of live pigs has been gradually restored.

Production of poultry and other pork substitutes accelerated, with chicken production rising 16.1 percent year-on-year in the first five months, the ministry said.

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African swine fever outbreaks in June 2019

Date	Location	Details
11 June	Duyun City, Guizhou province	Click here for details
20 June	Pingtang County, Guizhou Province	Click here for details
21 June	Shihuiyao County, Qinghai Province	Click here for details
21 June	Sandu County, Guizhou Province	Click here for details
28 June	Shapotou District, Zhongwei City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous	Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in June 2019

Date	Location	Details
1 June	Yecheng County and Shule County of Kashi City, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous	Click here for details
3 June	Shangri-La City of Diqing Prefecture, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
14 June	Wudang District, Guiyang City, Guizhou Province	Click here for details

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