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## Policies

### **China releases five-year plan on rural vitalization strategy**

[Xinhua, 26-09-2018] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council has released a five-year plan on its rural vitalization strategy, the first of its kind, mapping out a number of major projects, programs and actions.

The document outlines key tasks for the 2018-2022 period toward the strategy's overall goal of building rural areas with thriving businesses, pleasant living environments, social etiquette and civility, effective governance, and prosperity.

Focusing on the factors of humans, land and funds, the plan makes arrangements on speeding up the work to grant permanent urban residency to rural people moving to cities, strengthening talent support for rural vitalization, guaranteeing land supply for the strategy's implementation, diversifying sources of investment, improving financial support and other tasks.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China adopts new law on soil pollution prevention**

[Xinhua, 31-08-2018] China's top legislature on 31 August passed a law on soil pollution prevention and control, as the country has escalated its fight against pollution.

The new law filled the legal void on soil protection and will go into effect on January 1, 2019.

National standards for soil pollution risk control will be set by the environmental authority of the State Council based on soil contamination status, public health risks and ecological risks, among others, according to the law.

The law also states that a nationwide soil condition census should be conducted at least once every 10 years.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China marks first harvest festival for farmers**

[Xinhua, 23-09-2018] The festival was created in June to honor the nation's farmers. It falls on the Autumn Equinox each year during the country's most important harvest season.

This year's event is special because 2018 is the start of the government's new rural vitalization strategy.

The strategy was put forward at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) last year to resolve issues concerning agriculture, the countryside and farmers, and the festival is a good way to promote it.

The CPC has worked to ensure that agriculture is an absolute priority, as it is an essential foundation for ruling the country, and for the people's security.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Farmers' harvest festival highlights agricultural tradition, boosts rural economy**

[PRNewswire, 20-09-2018] Many countries have interesting festivals related to agriculture.

This year, China established a similar festival -- the Chinese Farmers' Harvest Festival. This is the first of its kind in the country, and will be celebrated annually on the autumn equinox as calculated under the Chinese lunar calendar, usually around Sept. 23.

During the festival, various activities will be held across the country, such as allowing tourists to help gather in the crops, agricultural product exhibitions and farming skill competitions. Some regions will host special folk cultural events like a "fishing festival," "new rice festival" and "pomegranate festival."

Click [here](#) for details

### **Vice premier calls for raising food safety standards**

[Xinhua, 08-09-2018] Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng stressed the focus on solving problems in the country's food safety work while presiding over the first plenary session of the food safety commission of the State Council.

More targeted, effective and practical measures must be taken to address issues that worry the people the most, such as pesticide residues on fruits, vegetables, and crops, adulterated food, and sanitary conditions of kitchens.

He highlighted standards in the food industry as the fundamental framework for food safety, and asked for the establishment and improvement of a standard system, in order to bring China's standards in line with the international standards as soon as possible.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China calls for food safety checks at schools**

[Xinhua, 08-09-2018] China's Ministry of Education (MOE) on 7 September released a circular calling for better food safety work for the country's nutritional improvement plan for students.

The circular was based on recent food poisoning incidents in several regions that involved a large number of students.

Launched in November 2011 for elementary and middle school students in China's rural areas, the nutritional improvement plan offered schools subsidies to build canteens or outsource breakfast and lunch from catering companies, as well as free nutritional packages for infants and information on healthy nutrition for their caregivers.

Click [here](#) for details

### **UN official commends Chinese university for role in South-South Cooperation**

[Xinhua, 14-09-2018] Director of UN Office for South-South Cooperation Jorge Chediek commended the leadership of China Agriculture University in launching two major platforms for exchanges in agriculture and rural development.

At Global Thinkers Dialogue: China's South-South Cooperation in Agriculture, Chediek said the establishment of China Belt and Road Institute for Agricultural Cooperation and China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture will contribute to agricultural and rural development research and knowledge sharing as well as promote agriculture cooperation and innovations worldwide.

He praised China as the leading agricultural producer among the developing countries, saying it has made great strides in decreasing hunger and has used its own experience to support other countries in doing the same.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Bill Gates urges Africa to learn from China in People's Daily op-ed**

Microsoft founder-turned-philanthropist Bill Gates wrote an article published in Chinese on Monday 3 September, hailing China as a model of success for African nations.

The piece comes just before the start of the triennial China-Africa summit in Beijing, with Gates highlighting two areas where he thinks African countries could learn from China.

“The first is how to eradicate the diseases and poverty that still exist in many regions in Africa. The second is how to unleash African countries’ potential in agriculture,” he explained.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Science, Technology and Environment**

### **China building its largest marine fisheries research vessels**

[China Daily, 13-09-2018] Researchers from Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences are building the country's two largest marine fisheries research vessels.

The main bodies of the two vessels, namely Lanhai (Blue Ocean) 101 and Lanhai 201, were completed Wednesday 12 September in Shanghai. They have been put into the water and supporting equipment will be installed in the future, according to the academy.

Weighing 3,000 tonnes and measuring 84.5 meters in length and 15 meters in width, each vessel has a cruising power of 10,000 nautical miles and will integrate advanced technologies.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to invest multi-billion dollars to develop digital economy**

[Xinhua, 19-09-2018] China will invest 100 billion yuan (about 14.6 billion U.S. dollars) for developing the digital economy in the next five years.

The investments will go to projects on big data, internet of things (IoT), cloud computing, smart cities and the digital Silk Road, according to an agreement signed by China Development Bank and the National Development and Reform Commission.

Development of digital economy is listed as an important task for building modern economic setup in China and achieve high-quality development.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to boost \$3.8 trillion digital economy, Xi calls for self-reliance**

[Reuters, 26-09-2018] China on Wednesday 26 September pledged to expand its \$3.8 trillion digital economy and create jobs in new sectors such as big data and artificial intelligence (AI) as the world's second-biggest economy looks to shift away from a reliance on polluting heavy industries.

In recent months, Chinese government departments and agencies such as the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) have been affirming their commitment to long-term restructuring, which Beijing sees as a means to rely less on trade and other external growth drivers.

Click [here](#) for details

### **AI and related technologies could create around 90 million more jobs in China**

[PWC, 18-09-2018] AI and related technologies, such as robots, drones and autonomous vehicles, could provide a net boost to employment in China of around 12% over the next two

decades, equating to around 90 million additional jobs and more than offsetting displacement of existing jobs.

However, China's agricultural sector is projected to see more job displacement (27%) and less job creation (16%), which leads to a reduction of employment in the sector by 10%.

### **Estimated job displacement and job creation from AI and related technologies in China (2017-37)**

	<b>Job displacement</b>		<b>Job creation</b>		<b>Net effect</b>	
	(%)	(million)	(%)	(million)	(%)	(million)
Services	-21%	-72	50%	169	29%	97
Construction	-25%	-15	48%	29	23%	14
Industry	-36%	-59	39%	63	3%	4
Agriculture	-27%	-57	16%	35	-10%	-22
<b>Total</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>-204</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>93</b>

Click [here](#) for details

### **3 reasons why China is the global drones leader**

[WEF, 13-09-2018] Forecasts indicate clearly that China is set to become a leading force and disrupt the world of aviation.

#### **1. The Chinese are innovating faster**

The drone industry is characterized and driven by one company: Da-Jiang Innovations (DJI). No Western-based company is able to compete with the complete supply chain integration, manufacturing pipeline, innovative pace and logistics support that defines the Shenzhen-based company.

#### **2. China needs a next-generation logistics network**

Through tremendous investment in China, mobility-focused technology companies are looking to redefine how dense population centers, and dispersed rural communities, move people, goods, and services.

#### **3. The Chinese government is backing the Fourth Industrial Revolution**

China's unique economic and political environment is driving the adoption of drones, personal aerial mobility and the digital infrastructure layers that make it all run.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese GM soybeans in Argentina expected to fill import gap**

[GT, 09-09-2018] Planting soybean in foreign countries could provide a hand-up for China in the face of the ongoing trade war with the US, said an expert, as a China-developed genetically modified (GM) soybean may soon receive approval for commercial cultivation in Argentina this year.

China does not allow GM soybean to be planted in China but developing GM seeds and importing certain types of GM crops are not prohibited.

The GM soybean, developed by Da Bei Nong Group, a Beijing-based high-tech agriculture company, has been engineered to tolerate a pesticide and an herbicide.

Click [here](#) for details

### **The electric plants powering China's new agricultural revolution**

[SCMP, 16-09-2018] Can electricity boost plant growth? To find out, China has been conducting the world's largest experiment and the results are transforming agricultural production in the world's most populous nation with a jolt.

Last month the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and other government research institutes released the findings of nearly three decades of study in areas with different climate, soil conditions and plantation habits. They are hailing the results as a breakthrough.

The technique has boosted vegetable output by 20 to 30 per cent. Pesticide use has decreased 70 to 100 per cent. And fertiliser consumption has dropped more than 20 per cent.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to grant \$88 mln each to cities to tackle water pollution**

[Reuters, 21-09-2018] China will provide a few cities with an additional funding of 600 million yuan (\$87.73 million) each until 2020 to help them tackle chronic “black and stinking” pollution in rivers, the finance ministry said on Friday.

China uses the phrase “black and stinking” to describe water rendered unusable as a result of heavy pollution.

The country is in the middle of an expensive campaign to clean up its heavily polluted lakes and rivers as it tries not only to tackle a major health threat, but also make its scarce water supplies available for agriculture and manufacturing purposes.

Click [here](#) for details

### **When academic knowledge meets farmers, crop yields increase**

[China Daily, 11-09-2018] An agricultural university in China has worked out a way to increase farmers' crop yields by residing scientific teams in villages to provide research and advice.

Beijing-based China Agricultural University set up an experimental facility called the Science and Technology Backyard in 2009 in Baizhai, Quzhou county, Hebei province, about 400 kilometers southwest of Beijing.

At the place, professors and graduate students of the university live, conduct scientific research and provide face-to-face professional guidance for local farmers.

Based on the research, specific guidance was given to farmers, including how to efficiently use water and nitrogen fertilizer, how to choose suitable seeds, when it is best to sow and harvest and how to determine the proper seeding rate and plowing depth.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Trade and Business**

### **China Premier Li says to reduce import-export costs, red tape**

[Reuters, 23-09-2018] China will cut import and export costs for foreign firms, Premier Li Keqiang said in comments posted by the central government on 23 September, as the world's second largest economy looks to promote an image of being open for business.

The move comes as China is embroiled in a trade standoff with the United States, its largest trading partner. Beijing has made various pledges to open up sectors from autos to finance to more overseas investment.

China will this year look to cut the amount of documentation needed for imports and exports by a third, lower customs fees and reduce the time needed to get customs clearance, the government said in the statement.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China's food security ensured, new import sources set to offset trade concerns**

[GT, 28-09-2018] China can produce enough grain on its own to feed its people, but while maintaining food supply security, it will also expand agricultural cooperation with overseas countries, especially countries and regions along the route of the Belt and Road initiative (BRI), an agricultural official has said.

Experts noted that China can rely entirely on self-production for main crops, but that for certain farming products, it would be good to have more sources of imports in case there are any significant changes in trade status.

Han Changfu, China's agriculture minister, was quoted by a Xinhua report as saying that he's "sure" China will have a good grain harvest this year.

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## **China's CPI up 2.3 pct in August**

[Xinhua, 10-09-2018] China's consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, rose 2.3 percent year on year in August, compared with 2.1 percent for July, official data showed Monday, 10 September

The pickup was driven by a fast increase in non-food prices, which rose 2.5 percent year on year, the National Bureau of Statistics said on its website.

Food prices rose 1.7 percent year on year, contributing to a 0.33-percentage-point increase in the overall CPI increase.

On a month-on-month basis, the CPI increased 0.7 percent from July, as food prices rose 2.4 percent from July.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Beijing holds VegFest as veganism gains popularity in China**

[Xinhua, 22-09-2018] A pursuit for more healthy, eco-friendly and trendy lifestyles has prompted many people in China, especially the younger generation, to go vegan.

Over the weekend, around 10,000 people are expected to take part in a "Plant-Based Festival" in Beijing.

Featuring a plant-based food fair, outdoor fitness activities and live music, the event aims to reflect the growing popularity of veganism in China, and to offer an alternative way to celebrate the holidays in a healthy way, according to the organizers.

Click [here](#) for details

## **AHDB hosts visit to explore Chinese import market**

[PigWorld, 20-09-2018] The UK's new Chief Veterinary Officer, Christine Middlemiss, who joined Defra in December last year, will be attending the 16th annual China International Meat Industry Exhibition (CIMIE), alongside the AHDB export team.

Through the CIMIE platform, meat professionals worldwide meet to discuss a range of issues including meat products, machinery and equipment, scientific and technological achievements and the latest meat processing technology.

AHDB will be at the three-day event in Beijing, hosting a number of approved pork exporters from the UK and facilitating meetings with key stakeholders in the supply chain.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Agri-food exporters may benefit as China lines up big tariff cut**

[Independent, 24-09-2018] Irish agriculture could be in line for a major boost as China cuts tariffs for the majority of its trading partners.

The world's second largest economy - is now Ireland's third largest market for agri-food exports.

The value of exports in the sector has seen a five-fold increase in value terms since 2010.

Beijing is planning to cut the average tariff rates on imports from the majority of its trading partners as soon as next month, two people familiar with the matter have said.

That will lower costs for consumers as China's trade war with the US deepens.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Brazil exports 80 percent of soy to China in January-August**

[Reuters, 14-09-2018] Brazil exported 50.9 million tonnes of soybeans to China from January to August, or 78.8 percent of its total exports of the oilseed, as a trade war with the U.S. drives up the Asian nation's demand for soy from alternative sources.

That compares with 44.1 million tonnes of soybeans that Brazil exported to China in the same period last year, accounting for 77.5 percent of the country's total exports of the commodity.

But Brazil's higher than usual soybean exports are driving down stocks, indicating the country likely will not have much more to offer China until it begins harvesting its next crop in January.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Morocco, China firms join hands to develop fertilizers**

[CEN, 25-09-2018] Morocco's state-owned phosphate group OCP and China's fertilizer additives supplier Hubei Forbon agreed to develop a new generation of eco-friendly fertilizers, OCP announced.

Under the partnership, the two companies will work together to develop a new generation of high added-value fertilizers such as biostimulants, sulfur fertilizers, fertilizers with micronutrients and water-soluble fertilizers, the OCP said in a statement.

They will also work to promote smart farming, thus ensuring optimal fertilizers management, the statement added.

The two sides are also discussing the creation of a Joint Research and Development Center in China, the statement said.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China**

### **China removes restrictions where first African swine fever outbreak found**

[Reuters, 29-09-2018] China has removed restrictions on an area in Shenyang, Liaoning province, where the nation's first African swine fever outbreak was found last month, the agriculture ministry said on Saturday, 29 September.

The infected area had been sealed off for six weeks after the highly contagious disease was reported there, the statement said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Swine fever efforts are ramped up**

[China Daily, 25-09-2018] A senior agricultural official said local authorities must respond swiftly and effectively when an outbreak of African swine fever occurs to stop the disease from spreading.

Yu Kangzhen, vice-minister of agriculture and rural affairs, made the remark during a four-day inspection he led to sites crucial for control and prevention of the disease in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces and the Inner Mongolia autonomous region between Sept 18 and 21.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China bans live hog transport from 10 new regions to stem swine fever spread**

[Reuters, 12-09-2018] China has banned the transport of live hogs and pig products from 10 regions bordering the six provinces that have reported African swine fever outbreaks in recent weeks, a move set to further tighten supplies and roil prices in the world's top pork consumer.

Live markets will also be shut in the regions, according to a notice by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs dated Sept. 11 and sent to animal disease control centers in the areas.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China bans feeding of food waste to hogs in provinces with African swine fever**

[Reuters, 13-09-2018] China has banned the use of food waste as pig feed in provinces that have reported African swine fever outbreaks as well as neighbouring regions, the agriculture ministry said on Thursday, 13 September, the latest measure to halt the spread of the disease.

The use of pig blood as a raw material in producing feed for pigs has also been banned, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said in a statement online.

The ministry will also take samples from pig feed to check for the virus and feed testing positive would be destroyed.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China says situation of African swine fever outbreaks under control**

[Xinhua, 02-09-2018] China has reported African swine fever outbreaks in five provinces, but the situation is generally under control in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said Sunday.

As of Saturday, more than 38,000 pigs had been culled nationwide since the first outbreak was discovered in Liaoning Province last month, ministry spokesperson Guang Defu said.

Culling and disinfection treatments have been completed in Liaoning, Henan, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang provinces, where a total of 37,271 pigs were culled, while another 1,264 pigs had been culled in Anhui Province as of Saturday, Guang said.

Click [here](#) for details

## Asian countries warned that deadly African Swine Fever is ‘here to stay’

[FAO, 07-09-2018] The outbreak of African Swine Fever in China, first detected last month by authorities there, is accelerating and will almost certainly emerge in other countries in Asia, a regional emergency meeting convened by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) heard today.

African Swine Fever (ASF) was first detected in Asia last year, in an area of Siberia in the Russian Federation. But its arrival in China is a major threat to the swine industry and to the livelihoods of small scale farmers and others along the value chain.

China and FAO have been working together, over a period of several years, in anticipation that ASF would one day arrive in the country and have developed protocols and detection plans.

Click [here](#) for details

## African swine fever outbreaks in September

Date	Location	Details
2 Sept	Xuancheng city, Anhui province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
3 Sept	Xuancheng City, Anhui Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
3 Sept	Yixing, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
5 Sept	Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
6 Sept	Chuzhou City, Anhui Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
6 Sept	Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
6 Sept	Wuhu City, Anhui Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
6 Sept	Xuancheng City, Anhui Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
10 Sept	Tongling City, Anhui Province.	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
14 Sept	Xilingol League, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
14 Sept	Xinxiang City, Henan Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
17 Sept	Xilingol League, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
21 Sept	Gongzhuling City, Jilin Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
21 Sept	Hinggan League, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
24 Sept	Hohhot City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
28 Sept	Changling County, Songyuan City, Jilin Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
30 Sept	Yingkou City, Liaoning Province	Click <a href="#">here</a> for details

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