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Policies

China releases white paper on food security

[Xinhua, 14-10-2019] China on Monday issued a white paper on food security, detailing the country's efforts in enhancing food security and expanding international cooperation in the area.

Despite a weak agricultural foundation and extreme poverty, the Communist Party of China has led an unremitting campaign of hard work over the past 70 years that has made China basically self-sufficient in food supply, said the white paper titled "Food Security in China," which was released by the State Council Information Office.

Abiding by the principle of basic food self-sufficiency based on domestic grain production, China implements the strictest farmland protection system and a strategy of sustainable farmland use and innovative application of agricultural technology to increase farmland productivity.

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China to improve agricultural insurance system

[Xinhua, 14-10-2019] China will improve its agricultural insurance system with expanded coverage and functions to allow it to better serve farmers, an official circular has said.

By 2022, the coverage of insurance on the planting of rice, wheat and corn should reach over 70 percent, according to the circular jointly issued by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission and the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

The proportion of agricultural insurance premiums to the value-added output of the agricultural sector should reach 1 percent by then, while every working person in the agricultural sector should on average contribute 500 yuan (about 70 U.S. dollars) in agricultural insurance premiums, according to the circular.

Click [here](#) for details

Revised implementing rules of China's food safety law to take effect

[Xinhua, 31-10-2019] Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has signed a decree to release the revised regulation on the implementation of the Food Safety Law, according to a statement of the State Council.

The regulation, to be effective on Dec. 1, underscored tougher supervision, requiring governments above county levels to establish a uniform and authoritative supervision mechanism to enhance regulatory capacity building.

The rules comprising 86 articles of 10 chapters also made supplementary regulations on random inspections and other supervisory means. In addition, they put in place a system to blacklist serious perpetrators and a joint punishment system for discredited enterprises.

Under the rules, legal persons, persons in charge, managers who are directly in charge and individuals who are directly responsible will be fined if the entity they worked for was found intentionally committing an illegal act.

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Focus on food quality set to drive growth

[China Daily, 24-10-2019] As many Chinese people move into urban areas and become middle-income earners, they not only have greater discretionary income but also an interest in upgrading their spending to premium products. Within the agri-food sector, continued urbanization of the population and the demand for "greener", more sustainable products as well as nutritive functional foods will drive growth. The consumer wants to receive the best value for money, which we see being defined as the best quality even if it costs a little more. This trend needs to be supported by continued building of trust and transparency, and the businesses that can succeed in that will be the most successful for the future.

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Transport infrastructure key for China's rural vitalization

[Xinhua, 27-10-2019] Strengthening the construction of rural transport infrastructure is the key to boost various rural industries, said experts at a forum on rural vitalization and transport industry Sunday.

The construction of rural transport infrastructure should be integrated with the development of various undertakings in the rural areas, said Li Chunsheng, vice chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, at the forum held by China Well-off Society Association.

The central government has issued an outline on transport construction, which clearly plans to form a rural transport infrastructure network and achieve poverty alleviation through transport facilitation.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

Chinese study unlocks clues to fight African swine fever

[Xinhua, 18-10-2019] Chinese scientists have unraveled the three-dimensional structure of the African swine fever virus, laying a solid foundation for developing effective and safe vaccines against the disease.

The research, jointly conducted by scientists at the Institute of Biophysics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), ShanghaiTech University and other institutes, was published in the latest issue of the academic journal Science.

Scientists successfully isolated the epidemic strain of the African swine fever virus, which is spreading in China. It took the research team four months to collect over 100 TB of high-quality data.

Click [here](#) for details

Study identifies disease-resistant gene in maize

[Xinhua, 08-10-2019] Banded leaf and sheath blight (BLSB) is a fungal disease leading to low yields in maize. Chinese researchers have identified a gene conferring resistance to BLSB in maize, providing insight into developing disease-resistant crop varieties.

BLSB in maize is caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* (*R. solani*), a plant pathogenic fungus with a wide host range. The soil-borne fungi can attack crops like rice and maize, making the plant rot and fall over.

Through a genome-wide association study, researchers from Shandong Agricultural University and Huazhong Agricultural University grew maize affected by R. solani and compared the lesion length after five days.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese agricultural scientists develop intelligent management system for orchards

[Xinhua, 20-10-2019] The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) has developed an intelligent management system for orchards, which can be used in the precise management of horticultural crops such as apples, oranges and pears.

This is the latest achievement of China's agricultural research in smart agriculture, and the CAAS has been systematically carrying out research on the core theories, technology, equipment and integrated systems of smart agriculture, said Tang Huajun, president of the CAAS.

The system for the intelligent management of orchard production uses the integration of space remote sensing, aerial remote sensing and ground Internet of Things to build an integrated system utilizing intelligent perception technology, said Wu Wenbin, chief scientist of the intelligent agricultural innovation team of the CAAS.

Click [here](#) for details

Unmanned rice harvesters utilized in Jilin

[China daily, 31-10-2019] Unmanned rice harvesters are now being utilized in rice fields in Da'an city in Northeast China's Jilin province for the fall harvest season, according to local reports.

Applying a Beidou satellite positioning system, the harvesters work in a spiral route, and can swerve, reverse and harvest automatically.

Manufactured by FJ Dynamics -- a company engaged in intelligent innovation in logistics, agriculture and industry -- these kinds of harvesters have come into use in their first year and have harvested 1,000 hectares of rice in Heilongjiang, Jiangsu and other places.

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Huge potential for internet in rural China

[China Daily, 24-10-2019] 2019 marks China's 25th year of getting access to the internet. With the development of the industry, more and more companies have begun to explore the market of countryside.

58.com started its business in rural areas since 2017. According to 58.com's survey, people in rural areas use their phone for over five hours per day on average. A total of 41.04 percent of them have their own houses and don't have any debt.

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Third-generation hybrid rice achieves high yields in China

[China daily, 23-10-2019] The third-generation hybrid rice developed by Yuan Longping, the "father of hybrid rice," and his team underwent its first public yield monitoring.

The final yield of the tested variety, G3-1S/P19, came to 1,046.3 kg per mu (about 667 square meters), based on two plots of land in Qingzhu Village under the city of Hengyang in central China's Hunan Province.

Unlike the previous two generations that required a large amount of water and fertilizers as well as demanding growing conditions and technological support, the third-generation hybrid rice is easier to be cultivated by ordinary farmers.

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Plant-based meat firms make hay as demand surges

[China daily, 08-10-2019] Plant-based meat manufacturers from China are looking to tap more mass market consumers as demand for such products continues to surge across the world.

Companies are not only developing novel products, such as popular Chinese snacks and traditional food for holidays, but are also teaming up with large scale chain supermarkets to promote the food products.

"In the next five years, our factory's output value of plant-based meat products will reach 500 million yuan (\$70 million)," said Zhou Qiyu, director of the product and branding department at Shenzhen-based Whole Perfect Food, one of the largest plant-based meat manufacturers in China.

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Climate change, 'faulty' farming hit beekeepers

[China daily, 28-10-2019] China is a major producer of honey, with more than 300,000 beekeepers handling more than 10 percent of the world's honeybees by the first half of this decade alone, according to the Apicultural Science Association of China. Honey consumption has also doubled in recent years, with per capita consumption hitting about 300 grams.

In many areas across China, the number of wild bees has been declining in recent years, largely due to habitat loss and environmental degradation amid increased human activity, said Hou Chunsheng, a researcher at the Institute of Apicultural Research, under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

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Ecological improvements pave way for growth

[China daily, 01-10-2019] Beijing is making headway in advancing environmental protection and creating an "ecological civilization" in a bid to seek high-quality growth, local officials said.

By improving laws and regulations, introducing standards and policies and promoting environmental protection education, as well as optimizing its industrial structure, Beijing's governance capacity over environmental protection has been enhanced, said Yu Jianhua, deputy head of the Beijing Ecological Environment Bureau.

To date, the city has introduced 70 local environmental standards and has implemented a series of local regulations over water and air pollution prevention and control.

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Nations link up on carbon challenge

[24-10-2019] European and Chinese scientists have joined forces to combat climate change in a new partnership that has committed an initial 2.1 million pounds (\$2.7 million) in research funding for low-emissions innovations.

The five-year collaboration will form a "research bridge" between labs in the United Kingdom, China, and Germany, developing new technologies in power storage, renewable energy, and biofuels.

Partners include the University of Birmingham in the UK, the Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute, or JITRI, in Nanjing, China, and the Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental Safety and Energy Technology, or the UMSICHT, in Germany.

Click [here](#) for details

China makes progress on water pollution treatment in Bohai Sea

[Xinhua, 29-10-2019] China has made progress in the comprehensive treatment of pollution in the Bohai Sea via strengthened supervision and steady reform, an official said.

By the end of September, the number of unqualified fifth-class water quality sites in the Bohai Sea coastal waters was down to two from 10 in June, Huo Chuanlin, an official of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, told a press conference.

Thirteen coastal cities and districts along the Bohai Sea have begun detecting and handling sources of pollution at each of the estuaries, in line with a work plan released by the ministry in February.

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Park brings clean water to nation's major rivers

[China daily, 19-10-2019] China's first national park pilot—the Three-River-Source National Park—has effectively curbed the degradation of its environment and protected its ecology, an official from local authority revealed recently.

The park in Qinghai province is home to the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers. The park's environment is crucial to water quality of most regions in China.

Covering more than 123,000 square kilometers, the park has faced environmental degradation due to climate change and human activities since the 1970s.

In 2016, the State Council approved a proposal to establish a pilot for the national park system, which is scheduled to be officially inaugurated in 2020.

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Going green with Chinese characteristics

[China daily, 12-10-2019] By changing its economic model, shifting its sources of fuel, developing new transportation systems, and embracing eco-friendly urbanization, China has set an example of global leadership in sustainability strategy that the rest of the world needs to consider very carefully.

In the past 12 years, China's economic structure has shifted dramatically from excessive reliance on smokestack manufacturing industries to low-carbon services. Back in 2006, the so-called secondary sector of GDP—largely manufacturing but also including construction and utility production—accounted for 48 percent of China's GDP, while the tertiary, or services, sector accounted for just 42 percent of GDP. By 2018, the shares had been reversed—41 percent of GDP for the secondary sector and 52 percent for services. For large economies, structural changes of this magnitude in such a short period are virtually unprecedented.

Click [here](#) for details

Nation aims to expand protected area management

[China Daily, 31-10-2019] China has established more than 11,800 protected areas covering 18 percent of its land area and 4.6 percent of its sea area, aiming to build the world's most expansive mechanism for the management of protected areas by 2025, authorities revealed.

Under the plan for the new mechanism, the country's protected areas are divided into three categories - national parks, nature parks and nature protected areas, according to Li Chunliang, deputy head of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

Ten pilot programs at national parks, representing China's most typical natural systems, will conclude by the end of 2020. The pilot parks include Giant Panda National Park, Three-River-Source National Park, and Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park.

The nature protected areas will be those regions that harbor endangered wildlife or have special significance to the protection of natural relics.

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China's countryside 'returning to poverty' as lack of reforms help fuel urban-rural divide

[SCMP, 26-10-2019] For most years since 2000, China's first and most important annual policy document has focused on improving the agriculture sector, an indication not just of its political significance, but its complexity and the pressing need for deeper reform.

The welfare of the agricultural economy has become ever more crucial as China's relatively untapped rural consumer market is now seen as a resource to help offset the slowest growth in more than 28 years, clouded by continuing trade tensions with the United States. Rural China, after all, accounts for more than 40 per cent of the country's total population.

But the government's good intentions could once again be thwarted by structural obstacles that stand in the way of needed economic reforms. With each year, the gap widens between China's rural villages and its cities.

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Trade and Business

China opens doors to British Beef

[Defra, 18-10-2019] The British beef industry is set to benefit from an estimated £230 million boost as the Chinese government, on 18 October, finalised details of a historic UK-China agreement.

For the first time in over 20 years, UK farmers and beef producers will have full access to the Chinese market, marking the end of a ban imposed by China following the BSE outbreak in 1996.

The announcement follows extensive inspections by the Chinese authorities – who have confirmed that British beef producers meet the necessary standards to export to their market – and marks the final step in securing access.

The Chinese authorities have cleared 4 beef sites for export in the first instance – with further sites under review – and the first exports are expected to be shipped in the next few months.

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China to further open up agricultural markets

[China daily, 22-10-2019] China will further open up its markets to overseas agricultural businesses by slashing trade barriers and promoting technological exchanges, an official said.

Xie Jianmin, a Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs official who oversees international cooperation, said China will continue to make trade easier with countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, offering shortcuts for the express import of fresh produce and hosting fairs and exhibitions.

He promised to roll out a consultation system to facilitate exchanges of farm technologies in key areas, and step up technological assistance for developing countries in order to bolster their production capacities.

The moves came as China looks overseas for quality farm produce to boost domestic supply, and for new technologies to modernize its agricultural sector that feeds nearly one-fifth of the world's population with only 10 percent of the global arable land.

Click [here](#) for details

China to further open seafood sector

[Xinhua, 30-10-2019] China will continue to open its fast-growing seafood sector to the world and support free trade in the industry, an official said Wednesday 30 October.

The country will continue to expand cooperation in fishery and seafood sectors with other countries, sharing its strength in technology, talents and capital, said Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Yu Kangzhen.

China has been increasing seafood imports as consumer demand grows. In 2018, the country imported about 5.2 million tonnes of seafood, rising nearly 7 percent year on year.

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China's farm produce trade deficit widens in first eight months

[Xinhua, 03-10-2019] China continued to see expansion of trade deficit in farm produce in the first eight months of 2019, official data showed.

Farm produce trade deficit increased 13 percent year on year to reach 48.42 billion U.S. dollars in the Jan.-Aug. period, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Imports came in at 98.15 billion dollars, up 4.5 percent year on year, while exports amounted to 49.73 billion dollars, down 2.7 percent.

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China to hold Belt and Road eco-agriculture and food safety forum in November

[CEN, 04-10-2019] The 12th Belt and Road Eco-Agriculture and Food Safety Forum will be held on Nov. 6 in Shanghai, authorities said.

The forum, co-sponsored by the State Administration for Market Regulation, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, is scheduled during the second China International Import Expo from Nov. 5 to 10.

Under the theme "Expand food import, enrich people's lives," the event aims at enhancing international cooperation in food and farm produce, facilitating the high-quality development of the industry, and providing development opportunities for people from home and abroad.

Click [here](#) for details

China's New Hope breaks into Southeast Asia pig farming amid disease woes

[Reuters, 29-10-2019] In a cluster of blue and white buildings nestled deep inside one of southern Vietnam's rubber plantations, China's New Hope Liuhe is busy stocking its first overseas pig farm with young sows.

New Hope's efforts in Vietnam illustrate a significant acceleration in its global expansion to increase its overseas revenue to 30% of its total in a few years, said Bai Xubo, securities representative with the company.

The new push includes expanding the company's core feed mill business internationally along with setting up overseas poultry farms, according to Bai.

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Nutrition company bets big on China venture

[China Daily, 29-10-2019] Royal DSM, the Dutch company in nutrition, health and sustainable living, is looking to secure high-quality and sustainable supply of vitamin E through its joint venture in China, said company officials.

Royal DSM and its Chinese partner Nenter & Co Inc have recently completed the creation of a 75:25 joint venture Yimante Health Ingredients (Jingzhou) Company Ltd. The JV acquired all Nenter's vitamin E production and related assets with an aim to offer locally produced high quality vitamin E for animal nutrition in China and Asia-Pacific while also strengthening DSM's global supply chain footprint.

The venture will upgrade and refurbish the facilities to secure high-quality and sustainable supply of vitamin E, which complies with DSM's safety, health and environmental standards.

Click [here](#) for details

Protein-rich oat milk as coffee mate

[China daily, 28-10-2019] Founded during the 1990s, Oatly aimed to make a protein drink for human beings without using dairy.

The protein drink was designed to be a substitute for cow milk and overcome the problem of lactose intolerance in China, a big market for coffee chains. It gave Oatly a chance to present itself as a producer of coffee mate products.

Since entering the Chinese market last year, one of Oatly's drinks, which was made for coffee shops as substitute for milk, has received positive feedback from consumers.

Despite a slow start, China has grown into one of the fastest-growing coffee markets in the world. According to the prospectus of Luckin Coffee, Chinese on average consumed 6.2 cups of coffee, forming a market of 56.9 billion yuan (\$7.98 billion). The number is expected to grow to 180.6 billion yuan by 2023.

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Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

China claims pig numbers will bottom out by end of the year

[Pig World, 17-10-2017] China believes it can defy the predictions of global analysts and halt the decline in its pig herd by the end of the year.

Pig numbers had started to grow in China's bigger pig units, fuelling optimism of a recovery to normal pig numbers in 2020, according to a leading Chinese official.

African swine fever has so far cut China's pig herd by more than 40%, pushing pig prices to record and prompting a surge in imports from all over the world.

Pig production has recovered rapidly at farms that slaughter more than 5,000 pigs a year, he said. Pig numbers among these farms reached 44.46 million animals in September, up 0.6% on a month earlier, while sow herds climbed 3.7% to 6.10 million head.

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China's pig herd to recover in 2020 after African swine fever devastation

[Reuters, 17-10-2019] China's hog production capacity should bottom out this year after outbreaks of African swine fever decimated the world's biggest pig herd, an official said on Thursday, forecasting a return to usual pig numbers in 2020.

Analysts, however, said the time frame appeared ambitious, with the disease still spreading in parts of the country and so much of the herd gone.

The year-long pig epidemic has slashed China's pig herd by more than 40%, and has pushed prices of the country's favorite meat to record levels.

At a briefing on Thursday, Yang Zhenhai, director of the Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau of China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, said inventories at large farms have started to rebound.

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African swine fever sparks global meat shortage fears

[FT, 31-10-2019] A dramatic decline in pork production due to African swine fever in China is contributing to a global shortfall in meat supplies that is expected to drive pork, chicken and beef prices higher into next year.

China's total swine herd has declined by 45 per cent since the virus was first detected last August. Though global beef and chicken production is forecast to rise marginally over the coming year, analysts say it will not make up for the fall in global pork production caused by swine fever, increasing prices around the world.

Click [here](#) for details

African swine fever outbreaks in October 2019

Date	Location	Details
13 Oct	Min County, Gansu province	Click here for details
15 Oct	Bobai County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous	Click here for details
25 Oct	Chuxiong City, Yunnan Province	Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in October 2019

Date	Location	Details
24 Oct	Xingqing District, Yinchuan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous	Click here for details

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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