



UK-China
Sustainable Agriculture
Innovation Network

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Policies

State Council urges high-standard farmland development

[GOV.CN, 21-11-2019] The General Office of the State Council issued a circular on Nov 21, specifying requirements for developing high-standard farmland in China.

High-standard farmland is essential for China to expand its grain output and strengthen its national food security, the circular said.

According to the document, the country aims to cultivate high-standard farmland covering up to 800 million mu (about 53 million hectares) by 2020, and increase the area to 1 billion mu — a level sufficient to ensure production capacity exceeding 1 trillion jin (500 billion kilograms), by 2022.

Realizing the goal requires an integrated system to guide planning and layout, development, and management of such farmland, it said.

Click [here](#) for details

China issues guideline to keep land contracting practices 'unchanged'

[CGTN, 26-11-2016] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council on Tuesday issued a guideline for keeping rural land contracting practices across the country "stable and unchanged on a long-term basis."

It is China's latest move to improve its rural land system and protect farmers' rights and interests

Keeping the practices "unchanged on a long-term basis" will be conducive to consolidating and improving the basic rural operation system, modernizing agriculture, advancing implementation of the rural vitalization strategy and maintaining harmony and stability in rural areas, according to the guideline.

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China imposes tougher punishments for food safety violators

[Xinhua, 29-11-2019] China's revised regulation on the implementation of the Food Safety Law is scheduled to take effect on Dec. 1.

The regulation underscored tougher punishments for food safety violators, adding a system to hold legal representatives and persons responsible to account, imposing fines of up to 10 times their annual income.

Random inspections from higher departments and other supervisory means were also required by the regulation. In addition, for those food items not covered by current food safety standards, supplementary items and examination methods will be drawn up by the food-safety-related department of the State Council.

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China issues guideline on setting limits in territorial spatial planning

[GOV.CN, 02-11-2019] China has unveiled a guideline on Nov 1 to promote the coordination and implementation of setting limits in its territorial spatial planning.

The document, jointly issued by the General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council, stressed the importance of ecological protection, farmland protection and economical use of land.

The limits, as red lines for the adjustment of economic structure, planning of industrial development and advancement of urbanization, will consolidate the foundation for the sustainable development of the Chinese people, the guideline said.

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China to further strengthen plant diversity conservation

[GOV.CN, 18-11-2019] China has issued a new plan for plant conservation from 2021 to 2030 to push for plant diversity protection, restoration and sustainable utilization, according to the China Wild Plant Conservation Association (CWPCA).

The Strategy for Plant Conservation (2021-2030), sets 18 goals, including on-site conservation of at least 85 percent of endangered plant species.

According to the new plan, at least 80 percent of "rare and endangered plants" will be protected off-site, and 20 percent of "rare and endangered plants" will be available for ecological restoration.

A national plant information system covering all known species will be established, it said.

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China revises preliminary calculation of 2018 GDP

[Xinhua, 22-11-2019] China's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018 was revised to 91.93 trillion yuan (13.08 trillion U.S. dollars), up about 1.9 trillion yuan, or 2.1 percent, over the preliminary calculation, official data showed on Friday.

China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) made the revision based on the country's GDP accounting system and the results of the fourth national economic census.

After the revision, the output of the primary industry was 6.47 trillion yuan, accounting for 7 percent of GDP. The output of the secondary industry was 36.48 trillion yuan, accounting for 39.7 percent of the total. The output of the tertiary industry was 48.97 trillion yuan, accounting for 53.3 percent of the total.

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China's growth forecast at 6.1% for 2020

[GOV.CN, 30-11-2019] The annual growth rate of China's economy is projected at 6.1 percent, according to a report by the Bank of China (BOC).

China is facing growing complexities with more risks and challenges from both home and abroad, said the report.

In the bigger picture, the report has forecast global economic growth to hit 2.6 percent for 2020, a new low in recent years, with an obvious downward trend.

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China calls for int'l cooperation to promote green agricultural development

[Xinhua, 13-11-2019] Chinese agricultural officials and scientists called for strengthening international cooperation to push forward green development in the agricultural industry and rural regions through the advancement of science and technology.

At the 6th Global Forum of Leaders for Agricultural Science and Technology (GLAST), held in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

A declaration passed by the participants of the forum notes that the international community of agricultural science and technology should further strengthen cooperation in innovation,

make full use of various cooperative research projects and platforms, and jointly promote green agricultural development driven by innovation in agricultural science and technology.

The declaration also emphasizes that the protection of the ecological environment and natural resources in agriculture and rural areas is the top priority for green agricultural development, while overcoming the constraints of the environment and natural resources is the primary prerequisite for agricultural modernization.

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Experts take aim at climate investment

[GOV.CN, 26-11-2019] Experts have called for tailored reform to address the low profitability of climate-friendly investment, following the country's recent initiation of a think tank to tap the potential of financial instruments in the sector.

Launched by five central government bodies, including the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the People's Bank of China, the Climate Investment and Finance Association vows to promote academic research on climate investment and build itself into "an authoritative, professional institution and high-end think tank with global influence".

While endorsing the importance of climate investment and finance, Chinese experts said the country still has to remove a series of hindering factors for promotion of the instrument.

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Science, Technology and Environment

China's agricultural science performance ranks second in world

[Xinhua, 20-11-2019] China's performance in agricultural research frontier, agricultural sci-tech papers and patents ranks second in the world, according to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).

A report released at the Forum 2019 on Science and Technology for Agricultural and Rural Development in China, which opened on 20 Nov in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, shows China follows only the United States in terms of contribution and influence in the frontiers of agricultural research.

Another report released at the forum shows China produced the most papers in the field of agriculture, but the quality of the papers needed to be improved.

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New national agricultural demonstration zone approved in Shanxi

[GOV.CN, 26-11-2019] The State Council approved upgrading the Shanxi Taigu agricultural high-tech industry demonstration zone into the Shanxi Jinzhong national agricultural high-tech industry demonstration zone, in a circular issued to the provincial government on Nov 26.

The demonstration zone covers an area of 106.49 square kilometres. It will carry out innovation-oriented development and rural revitalization strategies, and focus on the industry of agricultural and sideline products.

The zone will also be developed into a demonstration area for healthy food, functional agriculture, incubating sci-tech industries and local agricultural products, and a processing and logistic hub for agricultural products, according to the circular.

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New national agricultural demonstration zone approved in Jiangsu

[GOV.CN, 26-11-2019] The State Council approved upgrading the Nanjing Baima national agricultural technology park into the Jiangsu Nanjing National agricultural high-tech industry demonstration zone, in a circular issued to the provincial government on Nov 26.

The demonstration zone covers an area of 145.86 square kilometres.

Led by the biological agriculture industry, the zone will grow into an area for demonstrating international cooperation in agricultural technologies, and pioneering agricultural technology innovations in the Yangtze River Delta, according to the circular.

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Seawater rice test yield holds promise for harsh lands

[China Daily, 19-11-2019] The seawater rice, developed by agricultural scientist Yuan Longping and his team, achieved a theoretical yield of 546.74 kilograms per mu (0.07 hectares) in a paddy in Yopurga county, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

The figure was announced after a strict and public evaluation last month by a production testing expert group, which consisted of four renowned rice experts.

Yuan Longping's research team, which started planting rice in the saline-alkali field in 2018, expanded their experimental rice field to more than 20 hectares this year in the county, located near China's largest desert, the Taklimakan.

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China-made detecting aircraft for remote sensing delivered

[China Daily, 27-11-2019] China's aircraft maker Xi'an Aircraft Industry Co. (XAC) has delivered two high-performance Xinzhou-60 aircraft for remote sensing to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) for aerial observation missions.

The aircraft maker started to develop the aircraft in 2014.

The refitted Xinzhou-60 airplanes have wide applications in emergency support, disaster relief, agriculture and water conservancy, said Wu adding that researchers from around the world can make use of the science data collected by the aircraft.

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First drone cargo delivery of an Airbus & XAG joint development in Guangzhou, China

[PRNewswire, 26-11-2019] The start of a limited delivery trial in Guangzhou, China, as part of the joint development of a drone cargo service, was announced 26 Nov at XAG headquarters.

This joint development agreement was originally signed July 2, 2019 at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Dalian (China) by Dirk Hoke, CEO of Airbus Defence and Space and Peng Bin, CEO and co-founder of XAG.

Formerly known as XAircraft, XAG is an agriculture technology company with pioneering expertise in precision agriculture and remote sensing drones, founded in 2007 and headquartered in Guangzhou, China.

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Asia's farms embrace tech revolution as workers become scarce

[NIKKEI, 27-11-2019] Agricultural and fishing industries in Asia are being transformed by technology as the cheap and abundant labor that they long relied on erodes due to demographic pressures.

Rising wages across other industries have created a labor shortage in the traditional staples of economies, especially in Southeast Asia. To make up for a shrinking population of farmers, companies are adopting artificial intelligence and drones to help grow food more cheaply and efficiently.

As Asian economies develop, more people are entering the manufacturing and service industries instead of agriculture. China's farming population shrank by 80 million people between 2000 and 2010, and Southeast Asia is following a similar path.

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Chinese drone maker DJI launches new agricultural drone

[Xinhua, 06-11-2019] Chinese drone maker DJI unveiled a new drone for agriculture in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen.

The T20 agricultural drone is equipped with an omnidirectional obstacle-avoidance radar, which enables it to identify obstacles in farmland areas and be operated at a fixed flight altitude.

It can also overcome obstacles posed by ambient light and dust with a real-time image-monitoring system and a night searchlight.

The drone can cover an area of 180 mu (12 hectares) per hour, up 20 percent compared to the former generation, said Chen Tao, DJI agriculture sales director.

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Agricultural drones used in rural China to replenish farm labor

[CGTN, 02-11-2019] Drones have been widely used across the globe in the fields of military, security surveillance, and agriculture. Chief among them, agricultural drones are winning more credit in recent years, especially in China after 2017.

China's use of drones continues to expand across its vast agricultural fields. As part of the nation's efforts to boost smart farming, drones are coming to be more involved in the sector. Moreover, an intense competition in the agricultural drone market is making the drone prices plummet.

The number of agricultural drones in China stands at nearly 50,000, and more companies are signing on to make China's agriculture more intelligent.

Two big drone making companies in China, including DJI and XAG, take up some 80 percent of the Chinese market shares. Further, both companies have extensive networks abroad, with DJI focused on making camera drones and XAG on agricultural drones.

Click [here](#) for details

China launches wildlife rescue center to better protect tigers, leopards

[GOV.CN, 26-11-2019] China on Nov 29 launched a wildlife rescue center in the northeastern city of Changchun to better protect Siberian tigers, Amur leopards and other wild animals.

The center was jointly established by the management bureau of Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park and Jilin provincial wildlife rescue and breeding center. It will focus on rescuing and treating wild animals in the pilot area of the national park.

Currently, there are 355 species of terrestrial wild vertebrates living in the national park, including 10 under national first-class protection.

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China shuts 1,300 metal firms since 2016 in soil clean-up

[Reuters, 29-11-2019] China has shut more than 1,300 heavy metal enterprises since 2016 as part of a long-term plan to curb widespread chronic soil pollution, an environment ministry official said on 29 November.

Su Kejing, director in charge of soil pollution at the environment ministry, told a briefing he was confident China could meet a target to make around 90% of contaminated farmland safe for agriculture by the end of next year.

As well as shutting 1,300 firms involved in producing and processing heavy metal, China has also “rectified” nearly 700 enterprises working with cadmium, a major source of pollution in rice, Su said. He also said that converting arable land to less pollution-sensitive crops would also help mitigate risks.

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Trade and Business

China to further improve business environment by addressing market concerns

[GOV.CN, 27-11-2019] With the introduction of the regulation on bettering the business environment, China will take further steps to foster a world-class, market-oriented business environment governed by a sound legal framework. Greater efforts will be made to tackle the difficulties that market players of all types face in their business operations, the State Council decided at the executive meeting on Nov 27 chaired by Premier Li Keqiang.

The regulation on bettering the business environment, which is scheduled to be implemented on Jan 1 next year, draws upon China’s successful practices and experience in recent years in transforming government functions and improving the business environment. The regulation includes the requirement for building a world-class, market-oriented business environment governed by a sound legal framework.

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China makes progress in reviving dairy industry

[Xinhua, 13-11-2019] China has been making steady progress in invigorating its dairy industry, which is expected to unleash more growth potential, an agricultural official said 13 Nov.

Fresh milk output rose 5.2 percent year on year during the January-September period as the country's dairy production restored growth, Wang Junxun, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, told a press conference.

Dairy production rose 8.8 percent over the same period, said Wang, citing data from the National Bureau of Statistics.

The sector reported faster transformation and upgrades, with the average output of dairy cows nationwide reaching 7.8 tonnes, an increase of 400 kilograms over the same period of last year.

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Chinese regulators go the whole hog to stem pork prices

[China Daily, 25-11-2019] Runaway pork prices in China receded last week, bringing much relief to consumers. Although it is still too early to claim that they will continue to fall and stabilize, it at least shows that the efforts by the regulatory authorities to stabilize pork prices have started to bear fruit.

And as the number of pigs is expected to rise next year, the current price spikes may only be cyclical.

The average wholesale price of pork dropped by 5.96 percent from a week earlier to 48.13 yuan (\$6.85) per kilogram on Nov 15, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The decline widened significantly, compared with a decrease of 2.33 percent week-on-week on Nov 8.

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China intl agricultural trade fair sees \$5b in transactions

[GOV.CN, 18-11-2019] The 17th China International Agricultural Trade Fair concluded Nov 18 in East China's Jiangxi province with a transaction volume of 38.1 billion yuan (\$5.43 billion).

Exhibitors from over 8,000 enterprises attended the four-day event, which attracted 23,000 buyers and 425,000 visits.

The fair, held in the city of Nanchang, featured 18 exhibition areas under themes including poverty alleviation and digital agriculture.

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China lifts restrictions on U.S. poultry imports

[Xinhua, 14-11-2019] China has lifted restrictions on the import of poultry products from the United States, according to a joint statement of the General Administration of Customs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

In a bid to ward off the flu epidemic and protect China's poultry production, China banned the import of poultry and related products from the United States after avian influenza outbreaks occurred in some parts of the United States in 2013 and 2014.

The United States actively took preventive and control measures afterward, and no new cases have been reported in the United States since March 2017. The United States submitted a report to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to close the event in August 2017.

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Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

China's hog prices soften as production rebounds

[Xinhua, 26-11-2019] Soaring hog prices in China are gradually softening as production is expected to bottom out and government policy moves to encourage breeding.

The national hog price came in at 33.6 yuan (about \$4.78) per kg on Nov. 20, down 8.25 percent from a week earlier, according to data from the National Development and Reform Commission.

The price retreat came as the country has rolled out multiple measures to stabilize hog production. On Nov 7, the State Council urged efforts in an executive meeting to guarantee the supply of swine feed in major hog producing provinces and regulate the market to curb price hikes of certain products.

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China plans more measures to help stabilize pork prices

[China daily, 15-11-2019] China is stepping up efforts to support pig farmers and consumers to boost the supply of live pigs and curb surging pork prices.

Premier Li Keqiang said the government will take key measures to stabilize agricultural production, drive the recovery in live pig supplies, cancel unreasonable regulations prohibiting and restricting the breeding of live pigs to ensure supplies and bring down soaring prices.

The government's strong measures came after pork prices spiraled in the last few months.

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Pig farmers keen on expanding stock as China drums up pork production

[Xinhua, 23-11-2019] The scale of raising pigs in China's rural areas is controlled as pigsties are not considered environmentally friendly.

However, as the price of pork, a staple meat in China, has been soaring in recent months, mainly affected by the epidemic of African swine fever and cyclical factors, the Chinese authorities have taken a string of policy and financial measures to encourage production and stabilize pork prices.

By the end of October, Shandong had 17.56 million pork pigs and 835,000 breeding sows in stock insured so that farmers would be worry-free and could further boost production.

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China's restaurants on survival mode as African swine fever fuels costs, dents business ahead of Lunar New Year

[SCMP, 25-11-2019] A doubling in pork prices since the outbreak of deadly African swine fever in August 2018 is pushing the domestic inflation rate in China to the highest in almost eight years. For some of the nation's small entrepreneurs, it's approaching a breaking point.

Pork accounts for up to 60 per cent of total meat consumption in China, and the outbreak of swine fever has caused a devastating impact at a time when the economy is growing at the slowest pace since at least 1992 amid a heightened trade war with the US.

Pork prices could remain elevated through the first half of next year, given the worsening contraction in hog and breeding sow stocks, Nomura said in a report published on November 20. Analysts at Rabobank have predicted China will import a record 4.6 million tonnes in 2020 to plug the supply crisis.

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African swine fever outbreaks in November 2019

Date	Location	Details
10 Nov	Dianjiang County, Chongqing City	Click here for details
13 Nov	Tengchong city, Yunnan Province	Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in November 2019

Date	Location	Details
8 Nov	Yongshan County, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
30 Nov	Min County, Dingxi City, Gansu Province	Click here for details

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