

### Contents

<b>Policies.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Government Work Report: Poverty alleviation, agricultural production and rural income ..	1
China to draft food security plan amid global coronavirus epidemic .....	1
China unveils guideline on advancing western development in new era .....	1
Govt urged to add green initiative to economic stimulus .....	2
Central government allocates 2.5 bln yuan for rural water ecology .....	2
China urges food companies to boost supplies on fears of further COVID-19 disruption....	2
China pledges financial support for pork production .....	2
Listing of animals to help stop illegal sales of wildlife .....	3
Top legislature to inspect enforcement of wildlife protection law .....	3
Wuhan bans eating wild animals .....	3
China launches crackdown on food, medicine, environment crimes.....	4
China updates guiding catalog for agricultural law enforcement .....	4
<b>Science, Technology and Environment.....</b>	<b>4</b>
China to further empower rural development with digital technologies .....	4
China to promote poverty alleviation with digital platforms .....	4
Beidou navigation system used in majority of countries and regions .....	5
New database on China's biodiversity released .....	5
China to allocate \$57 billion to environment protection .....	5
China launches planning for soil environment protection for next five years.....	5
China to extend pollution clampdown, but warns coronavirus makes targets tougher .....	6
Suzhou introduces tool to assess rural modernization .....	6
China smog rises in April for first time this year.....	6
Trashy straw turns wagyu fodder in northeast China .....	7
<b>Trade and Business .....</b>	<b>7</b>
China's pork imports in April jump 170% to record high.....	7
China meat imports rise 82% in first four months .....	7
China's pork prices continue to dip.....	7
China's New Hope sees hog output recover in 2021, prices to fall.....	7
ASF still driving China's surging pork imports .....	8
China halts beef imports from four Australian firms as COVID-19 spat sours trade.....	8
China's Yunnan to build processing parks for agricultural products .....	8
China's breadbasket province expands planting area.....	9

## Policies

### **Government Work Report: Poverty alleviation, agricultural production and rural income**

[CGTN, 22-05-2020] The 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, opened its third session Friday 22 May in Beijing. Premier Li Keqiang delivered a government work report on behalf of the State Council, set out the actions of poverty alleviation, agricultural production and rural come in 2020.

Win the fight against poverty

- Channel greater energy into eliminating poverty in all remaining poor counties and villages
- Continue to promote both poverty alleviation and rural revitalization

Work to bolster agricultural production

- Keep total crop acreage and grain output stable
- Penalize the acquisition of farmland for other purposes in violation of laws and regulations
- Increase the area of high-standard cropland by 5.33 million hectares

Create more channels for rural residents to find employment and increase their incomes

- Support modern agricultural facilities, safe drinking water projects, and the improvement of living environments

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to draft food security plan amid global coronavirus epidemic**

[Reuters, 22-05-2020] China will draft and carry out in 2020 a response plan for ensuring food security amid the global coronavirus pandemic, the country's state planner said on 22 May.

Beijing will also draw up a new national medium-to-long-term plan in the new year to secure food supplies, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said in an annual report to parliament.

The move came as the pandemic has roiled agriculture supply chains worldwide, and threatened to trigger a potential food crisis.

Chinese authorities have urged state and private firms to boost inventories of major agriculture products like soybeans and corn to prepare for any further disruptions from the outbreak.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China unveils guideline on advancing western development in new era**

[Xinhua, 18-05-2020] China issued a guideline on advancing the development of western regions in new era to promote coordinated regional development on 17 May.

Achieving western development in new era is of great practical and profound historical significance to completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and embarking on a journey to fully build a modern socialist China, according to the document issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

By 2020, the western regions as whole will see its ecological, business, opening-up and innovation environment to be substantially improved.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Govt urged to add green initiative to economic stimulus**

[China daily, 29-05-2020] A deputy to the 13th National People's Congress and senior environmental expert has called on the government to incorporate a green initiative into the overall economic stimulus package as the country endeavors to revive the economy battered by COVID-19.

Such an initiative can facilitate a win-win result for economic revival and long-term, high-quality green development, said Wang Yi, a member of the NPC Standing Committee and the NPC Committee of Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation.

He said the efforts of the Chinese government to revive its economy happen as the world is confronted with escalating non-traditional security-related challenges, such as climate change, and increasingly enhanced awareness among people to ramp up efforts to cope with them.

He said China has been in a period with a much more solid foundation to make an economic stimulus plan green compared with the time when it made efforts to cope with the 2008 global financial crisis.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Central government allocates 2.5 bln yuan for rural water ecology**

[Xinhua, 05-05-2020] The central government has allocated 2.5 billion yuan (about 354 million U.S. dollars) to 55 pilot counties to fight rural water pollution.

The Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Finance have announced the first batch of 55 pilot counties for water system connectivity and comprehensive improvement of rural water systems.

The 55 pilot counties will carry out projects to improve rural water conditions from 2020 to 2021 with support from the central government.

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### **China urges food companies to boost supplies on fears of further COVID-19 disruption**

[Reuters, 17-05-2020] China has asked trading firms and food processors to boost inventories of grains and oilseeds as a possible second wave of coronavirus cases and worsening infection rates elsewhere raise concerns about global supply lines.

Both state-run and private grain traders as well as food producers were urged to procure higher volumes of soybeans, soy oil and corn during calls with China's Ministry of Commerce in recent days, three trade sources told Reuters.

"There is a possibility of a breakdown in supply pipelines due to the coronavirus infections. For example, a port of origin or destination might shut down," said a senior trader at one of China's leading food processors, which was on a call last week with authorities to discuss purchases.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China pledges financial support for pork production**

[Xinhua, 20-05-2020] Chinese authorities stressed the implementation of various financial policies to fast-track hog production recovery and ensure sufficient market supply.

The country has witnessed a positive trend in hog production, while the task of stabilizing production and supply remains arduous, according to video conference jointly held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission.

Local governments are urged to make full use of supportive fiscal and financial measures to basically restore the hog production capacity to normal levels by the end of 2020.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Listing of animals to help stop illegal sales of wildlife**

[China daily, 30-05-2020] A list specifying 33 kinds of domestic livestock and poultry was released on Friday as a measure to facilitate enforcement of the ban on the illegal trade and consumption of wildlife.

The National Catalogue of Livestock and Poultry Genetic Resources, released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, consists of 17 types of animals traditionally raised in China, including pigs, cows, goats, chickens and ducks, and 16 kinds of special animals such as deer, turkeys and ostriches.

Making such a list is meant to carry out a decision by the top legislature adopted in February amid the COVID-19 outbreak to ban the illegal trade and consumption of wild animals for public health and safety, the ministry said in a statement.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Top legislature to inspect enforcement of wildlife protection law**

[Xinhua, 30-05-2020] China's top legislature will send four teams of lawmakers to inspect the enforcement of the wildlife protection law in eight provincial-level regions across the country.

The inspection should focus on aspects including the implementation of eliminating the bad habits of eating wild animals, the practice of banning and cracking down on wildlife trade, the management of non-edible use of wildlife, protection of wildlife habitats and the improvement in legal awareness among the public.

In addition to sending inspection teams, the NPC Standing Committee will also entrust standing committees of the remaining provincial-level people's congresses to inspect the enforcement of the law within their jurisdictions

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### **Wuhan bans eating wild animals**

[GT, 20-05-2020] Wuhan bans eating and hunting wild animals as well as illegal wildlife trade, according to a new regulation released on the official website of Wuhan government on 20 May.

The regulation stipulated that wild animals and their products that are banned from consumption include all terrestrial wildlife - wildlife animals that are on the national and Hubei provincial preservation lists, as well as animals that naturally grow and reproduce in the wild environment and artificially bred and propagated wild animals.

The regulation includes precious aquatic wild animals under national key protection and endangered aquatic wild animals. It also includes other wild animals that are prohibited from consumption by laws and regulations.

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## **China launches crackdown on food, medicine, environment crimes**

[Xinhua, 12-05-2020] China's Ministry of Public Security has launched a campaign to crack down on crimes related to people's livelihoods, including those on food, medicine, environment and wildlife, according to the ministry.

The ministry called on public security organs across the country to focus on busting dens, arresting gangs and destroying criminal networks, and closely integrate their efforts with the ongoing national campaign against organized and gang-related crimes.

Criminals that disregard the health and lives of the people should be severely punished to resolutely safeguard the people's interests and social stability, it said.

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## **China updates guiding catalog for agricultural law enforcement**

[China Daily, 29-05-2020] The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has updated a guiding catalog, outlining requirements and specifying functions in agricultural law enforcement.

The 2020 Guiding Catalog for Integrated Administrative Law Enforcement Items in Agriculture aims to resolve issues concerning administrative penalty and arbitrariness at the source and focus on administrative enforcement that is closely related to market entities and people in the agricultural sector, the ministry said.

The guiding catalog sorts out 251 items of penalty and arbitrariness set by laws and administrative regulations in agriculture, as well as warnings and fines set by departmental rules.

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## **Science, Technology and Environment**

### **China to further empower rural development with digital technologies**

[Xinhua, 09-05-2020] Chinese authorities released a guideline to promote digital technologies in rural areas as part of their efforts to advance agricultural and rural modernization.

The guideline, jointly issued by four government departments including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, detailed measures to support the use of information technology in epidemic control, as well as economic and social development in rural areas.

The guideline encouraged the use of technologies like big data, artificial intelligence, remote intelligent agricultural machinery and online services in areas such as spring farming, and vocational training and recruitment of migrant workers.

It also highlighted the construction of "new infrastructure" in rural areas, including expanding the coverage of the broadband and 4G network, improving internet access for schools, upgrading power grids and promoting smart water conservancy projects.

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### **China to promote poverty alleviation with digital platforms**

[Xinhua, 31-05-2020] China has launched a special poverty relief initiative to be executed through digital platforms.

From late May to the end of September, the operation jointly initiated by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MHRSS) and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development aims to provide job opportunities to poor migrant workers and 52 poverty-stricken counties with the support of digital platforms.

Local human resource and poverty alleviation departments will coordinate with companies to offer jobs including express and take-out delivery, warehouse management and vehicle repair, the MHRSS said.

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### **Beidou navigation system used in majority of countries and regions**

[China daily, 21-05-2020] China's Beidou Navigation Satellite System has been used in more than half the world's countries and regions, according to the system's chief designer.

Beidou is the country's largest satellite-navigation system and one of the four global networks, along with the United States' GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.

Beidou is widely used in many public services in China and globally, including transportation, agriculture and disaster relief. It is also playing a helpful role in the ongoing fight against the coronavirus outbreak, the scientist said.

Beidou began providing positioning, navigation, timing and messaging services to civilian users in China and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region in December 2012. At the end of 2018, it started to provide global services.

Click [here](#) for details

### **New database on China's biodiversity released**

[Xinhua, 25-05-2020] China has released a database of its national annual species checklist to facilitate biodiversity research and conservation, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The database, known as the Catalogue of Life China 2020 Annual Checklist, was jointly compiled by researchers from the Institute of Zoology, the Institute of Botany, the Institute of Microbiology under the CAS as well as other institutions.

The checklist includes more than 120,000 species, including 54,359 animal species, 37,793 plant species and 12,506 fungi species. The checklist can be downloaded through the website <http://www.sp2000.org.cn/>, which also provides data sharing services and allows users to match the checklist with global directories.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to allocate \$57 billion to environment protection**

[Reuters, 22-05-2020] China's finance ministry will allocate a total of 407.3 billion yuan (\$57.22 billion) to ecology and environment protection in 2020, up from 390.6 billion yuan last year, according to a statement on 22 May.

From this total, 25 billion yuan will be allocated to air pollution prevention and control, 31.7 billion yuan to water and 4 billion yuan to soil protection.

China will also promote the official launch of the national green development fund, and step up efforts to establish trans-regional compensation mechanisms for ecological conservation in the Yangtze and Yellow river basins, the ministry said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China launches planning for soil environment protection for next five years**

[Xinhua, 25-05-2020] The environment watchdog has launched planning for soil environment protection for the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).

Scientific planning should be made to further protect soil and groundwater, as well as the agricultural and rural ecological environment for the next five years, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) said.

The MEE stressed the planning should be based on the achievements and challenges of the soil environment protection in the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), in a bid to help complete the phased objectives of the battle against pollution.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to extend pollution clampdown, but warns coronavirus makes targets tougher**

[Reuters, 22-05-2020] China said on 22 May it will continue to strengthen anti-pollution controls and meet its environmental targets for 2020, but warned that the coronavirus pandemic would weigh on energy intensity goals.

“By maintaining the same direction and intensity of effort, we will address problem at the source, (and) bring about sustained improvement in the environment,” the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said in a statement.

Earlier this month, China’s environment ministry had said the improvement in air quality in the first quarter of this year was “incomparable” as restrictions imposed to contained the coronavirus outbreak meant the closure of industrial plants and reduced travel.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Suzhou introduces tool to assess rural modernization**

[China daily, 29-05-2020] Suzhou, Jiangsu province introduced a scientific evaluation system - the first of its kind in China - on the modernization of agriculture and rural areas at a news conference in Beijing on Thursday.

The system involves four categories and three indexes to evaluate a region's status. The indexes are based on the standards of developed countries and advanced cities in China. It will be used on a trial basis with adjustments until 2022.

On the basis of the assessment, the level of a region's agricultural and rural modernization can be better understood.

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### **China smog rises in April for first time this year**

[Reuters, 18-05-2020] Chinese air pollution rose in April for the first time since December, official data showed, with analysts attributing the rebound to the resumption of economic activity following the coronavirus outbreak.

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) said concentrations of hazardous airborne particles known as PM2.5 rose 3.1% in April to an average of 33 micrograms per cubic metre in 337 cities across the country, the first year-on-year increase since December when PM2.5 rose by 10%.

Concentrations of ground-level ozone, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide also rose over the month, the official data showed.

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## **Trashy straw turns wagyu fodder in northeast China**

[Xinhua, 06-05-2020] Straw, a former agricultural waste and big source of air pollution via open-air incineration in northeast China, has turned into a saleable export to Japan as a favorite feed for wagyu, a sought-after Japanese beef.

Rice straw can be sold at 200 yuan (about 28 U.S. dollars) per tonne to the processing plant, which means a hectare of land can yield an income of over 1,000 yuan from straw.

As a largely agricultural country, China produces around 900 million tonnes of crop straws every year, according to statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

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## **Trade and Business**

### **China's pork imports in April jump 170% to record high**

[Reuters, 25-05-2020] China imported 1.35 million tonnes of pork in the first four months of this year, surging 170.4% from the same period a year ago, after a plunge in domestic production kept prices much higher than other markets.

The deadly African swine fever disease has reduced China's pig herd by at least 40%, slashing pork output and sending prices of the country's favorite meat to record highs.

China has been buying from overseas markets, including the United States, where pork prices are among the cheapest in the world, and initially fell as infections with COVID-19 began spreading in the country, hitting demand.

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### **China meat imports rise 82% in first four months**

[Reuters, 07-05-2020] China's meat imports in the first four months of 2020 rose 82% year-on-year to 3.03 million tonnes, according to the General Administration of Customs, as it sought proteins including pork, with a fatal disease decimating its pig herd.

April meat imports were 862,000 tonnes, according to data released by customs on 7 May.

Customs did not break the data down into pork, beef and poultry imports.

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### **China's pork prices continue to dip**

[Xinhua, 27-05-2020] Pork prices in China continued to decline last week as supply exceeded demand, official data showed.

From May 18 to 22, the average pork price index in 16 provincial-level regions tracked by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs came in at 36.04 yuan (about 5 U.S. dollars) per kg, down 0.8 percent week on week.

The price retreat came as the government has been taking multi-pronged measures to boost supply, including releasing frozen pork reserves and expanding imports.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China's New Hope sees hog output recover in 2021, prices to fall**

[Reuters, 18-05-2020] New Hope Group, one of China's biggest pig breeders, expects the country's hog output to recover from last year's disease epidemic by 2021, while prices will start to fall after a rush of new entrants into pig farming, chairman Liu Yonghao said.

Liu said prices for pork will remain relatively high this year, but could fall below production costs in the coming years as new players, including real estate and internet companies, turn to farming.

Retail prices for pork touched nearly 60 yuan in early November 2019 and again in February when slaughterhouses closed during the peak of China's COVID-19 epidemic.

But live hog prices have dropped 30% in the last three months. Last week, they dipped below 30 yuan per kg for the first time since October, as pigs that had been raised to heavier weights than normal when processors were shut during February and March went to slaughter.

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### **ASF still driving China's surging pork imports**

[NHF, 13-05-2020] While COVID-19 currently dominates all news headlines, including those regarding meat production and supplies, African swine fever is still having an enormous impact on global pork trade.

The pace of China's recovery in pork production is difficult to predict, but the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences recently projected that production will continue to decline in 2020, dropping 8% year-over-year to about 39 million metric tons. Pork production is expected to begin rising in 2021, but it will be at least 2022 before output returns to the pre-ASF level seen in the first half of 2018. USDA has issued an even less rosy forecast, estimating that 2020 Chinese pork production will drop 20% (to 34 million mt) this year, which means a drop of 37% compared to 2018, when production reached 54 million mt.

While pork production edges slowly toward recovery, China's demand for imported meat continues to soar.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China halts beef imports from four Australian firms as COVID-19 spat sours trade**

[Reuters, 12-05-2020] China has suspended beef imports from four of Australia's largest meat processors, as the trade of several key agricultural commodities suffers in the wake of souring ties stemming from a dispute over the COVID-19 pandemic.

The suspension comes after Australia last month called for an independent inquiry into the origins of the novel coronavirus and just days after China proposed introducing an 80% tariff on Australian barley shipments.

“Some politicians in Australia say too much, they need to stop this rhetoric with China, especially criticism and speculation regarding the origin of the COVID 19 virus,” said Sam McNiven, founder at Australian beef producer Providore Global exporting to China via a vertically integrated farm-to-table business model.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China's Yunnan to build processing parks for agricultural products**

[Xinhua, 12-05-2020] Southwest China's Yunnan Province plans to pool in 10 billion yuan (1.4 billion U.S. dollars) to build processing parks for local agricultural products.

The province will focus on eight key industries, including tea, flowers, Chinese medicinal herbs and coffee, according to a government work report.

Yunnan will build 10 processing parks, with each at least two square km in planned area. The authorities will make efforts to ensure that each park will have an annual output value of more than 2 billion yuan.

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### **China's breadbasket province expands planting area**

[Xinhua, 28-05-2020] China's agriculturally rich province of Heilongjiang has increased its crop planting area, which will lead to higher rice and corn outputs than last year, according to the provincial department of agriculture and rural affairs.

The department said the province has completed planting crops in an area of 14.37 million hectares, which is 33,333 hectares more than last year.

The northeastern province produced 75 billion kg of grain last year, which is one-ninth of China's total output.

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