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## Policies

### **CPC's proposals for 14th Five-Year Plan released**

[CGTN, 03-11-2020] The full text of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee's proposals for mapping out the blueprint for China's development in the next 15 years was made public on 3 November.

The document, the Party leadership's proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035, was adopted at the fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, which closed on October 29.

The released document is composed of 15 parts, which can be divided into three broad sections.

The first section is a summary that mainly elaborates on upcoming goals and the decisive achievements made in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. The second section outlines key tasks for social and economic development during its 14th FYP period. The third section calls for strengthening Party leadership and improving the formulation and implementation mechanism for the plan.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to prioritize agricultural, rural development**

[Xinhua, 03-11-2020] China will prioritize the development of agriculture and rural areas, and fully advance rural vitalization, according to the full text of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee's development proposals made public on 3 November.

China will improve the quality, efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture. The country will adhere to the strictest farmland protection system, enhance the construction of agricultural water conservancy facilities, strengthen the support of science and technology and equipment for agriculture, and build smart agriculture.

The country will carry out rural development initiatives. China will put rural construction in an important position in socialist modernization, strengthen the comprehensive service capability of county seats, and build villages and towns into regional centers that serve farmers.

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### **China steps up efforts to protect farmland**

[China daily, 23-11-2020] Multiple measures have been taken to stop illegal use of farmland, a Ministry of Natural Resources official told a news conference.

Together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the ministry released two notices in July. One prohibited the illegal use of farmland for real estate projects and the other sought to ensure reasonable land use for housing construction in rural areas.

Since the release of the two notices, several regions have raised public awareness about the legal use of farmland through short television programs or online films in local dialects.

Inspections and law enforcement have also been strengthened in recent months, with satellite remote sensing being introduced.

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## **China to stabilize grain production**

[GOV.CN, 17-11-2020] Efforts should be made to avoid using farmland for purposes other than growing grain and pursue stable food production, according to a circular issued by the General Office of the State Council on Nov 17.

Safeguarding national food security should be the first priority in work related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers, the circular said.

As China's cultivated lands are small in size, the circular stressed using those limited resources in a science-based and reasonable manner, by allocating them first for growing crops to ensure food security and an effective supply of important agricultural products.

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## **China to promote innovative development of foreign trade**

[GOV.CN, 09-11-2020] As foreign trade is an important part of China's open economy and a driving power for national economic development, the State Council issued a circular on Nov 9 to promote its innovative development.

According to the circular, innovative development of foreign trade should be achieved complying with supply-side structural reform, and more efforts in technological, systematic and model innovation.

To achieve the goal, a "dual circulation" development pattern should be followed, in which the domestic economic cycle plays a leading role while the international economic cycle remains its extension and supplement, to optimize layouts for international and domestic markets, business entities, commodity structure and modes of trade. Meanwhile, the construction of foreign trade transformation and upgrade bases, trade promotion platforms and international marketing systems also will be boosted, cultivating new advantages in international cooperation and competition under new trends.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China drafts new guidelines to rein in internet platforms**

[Caixin, 11-11-2020] China's market regulators issued draft rules aiming to prevent monopolistic practices in internet platforms' economic activities.

The proposed regulations, part of a series of measures the State Administration of Market Regulation plans to unveil to regulate online economic development, followed a meeting of the market regulator, internet regulator and the State Taxation Administration.

China is making major revisions to its antitrust law for the first time in more than 11 years to give it more teeth while reining in the dominance of the country's internet Goliaths. A draft revision of China's Anti-Monopoly Law expands on criteria used to judge a company's control of a market and mentions internet companies for the first time.

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## **China to see bumper harvest for 2020**

[Xinhua, 12-11-2020] China will see a bumper harvest this year, with grain production expected to hit an all-time high, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Han Changfu said on Wednesday 11 November.

Han made the remarks at the China Development Forum 2020, attributing the rich harvest to the country's consistency in prioritizing food security and enhancing farmland protections, agriculture technology and policy support.

China will consolidate its achievements in poverty alleviation and continuously advance rural vitalization in an all-round way in the coming five years, said Han.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Yangtze River Economic Belt to power China's high-quality development**

[CGTN, 14-11-2020] With the unveiling of a blueprint for China's development in the next 15 years, different regions are gearing up for their new roles in the country's new journey toward modernization.

Provinces and municipalities along the Yangtze River – China's longest river – have been given important roles to foster an innovation-driven, green development mode for the world's second-largest economy.

The blueprint – the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee's proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 – called for efforts to promote the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the integration of the Yangtze River Delta and create innovation platforms and new growth poles in the regions.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Science, Technology and Environment**

### **Nation now leader in agricultural patent applications**

[China daily, 21-11-2020] Chinese institutes and enterprises applied for more than 612,000 patents related to agriculture between 2015 and 2019, the most in the world, and the number of patent applications kept increasing by nearly 7.6 percent on average annually over the five years, said the report, released by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Researchers analyzed agricultural patent competitiveness among 22 major countries advanced in agriculture by looking at factors such as the number of patent applicants, authorized patents and patent applications overseas.

They found that the number of agricultural patent applications by China accounted for 62 percent of the total for all 22 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada.

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### **Chinese scientists use gene-editing technology to promote agriculture**

[Xinhua, 20-11-2020] China has released the country's 10 most significant advances in agricultural science and technology. Notably, five of them are associated with gene-editing technology.

In addition, Chinese researchers unveiled the architecture of the African swine fever virus and implications for viral assembly, laying a foundation for the development of an African swine fever vaccine.

A research team estimated spatial patterns of nitrogen discharge into water bodies across China from 1955 to 2014 and quantified a nitrogen boundary for the country to effectively manage local water quality.

Other selected advances include studies in the virulence of soil-borne fungal pathogens, genome sequencing of large-scale ruminant and high-level resistance genes of an important antibiotic Tigecycline.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Third-generation hybrid rice achieves high yield in Hunan**

[Xinhua, 02-11-2020] The third-generation hybrid rice achieved a yield of 911.7 kilograms per mu (0.07 hectares) in a recent experiment in Central China's Hunan province.

Plus an early-season rice yield of 619.06 kg, the same plot in Qingzhu village, Hengnan county, has produced a yield of 1,530.76 kg per mu in a year. The output is equivalent to 22.96 metric tons per hectare.

Last year, the same late-season hybrid rice variety, "Sanyou No 1", made a single-cropping yield of 1,046.3 kg per mu on the same plot.

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### **Shanghai's first unmanned farm**

[CGTN, 27-11-2020] Shanghai planned to create 13 high-quality urban agriculture development pilot zones during the country's 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), and the first is the recently launched "digital unmanned farm" in Waigang Town, Jiading District.

Up to now, the entire process of unmanned operation of 200 Mu (33 acres) of rice fields has been initially realized, such as rice transplanter, self-propelled sprayer and harvester, etc., and coordinated operations among different operating machines,

At present, China has carried out a large number of pilot applications on unmanned farms in provinces like Fujian, Jiangsu, Shandong, and other places.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China develops electric-hub driverless tractor**

[China daily, 26-11-2020] An agricultural machinery innovation center in China has developed a prototype of an electric-hub driverless tractor.

Compared with the average turning radius of 5 meters in diesel-fueled 100-horsepower tractors, the "ET1004-W" tractor set a record of 3.5 meters, the shortest turning radius by a 100-horsepower tractor in China.

Powered by 5G cellular technology, the agricultural tractor with self-driving mode can also be remotely controlled to carry out multiple intelligent functions.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Sediment-catching dams boost agriculture in Shaanxi**

[China daily, 26-11-2020] The construction of a sediment storage dam along the Yellow River, has greatly helped mitigate soil erosion and protected water resources on the Loess Plateau in Shaanxi province, a senior official with the Shaanxi Water Resources Department said.

As of the end of last year, Shaanxi had improved the erosion situation of 55,000 square kilometers of the Loess Plateau, built 34, 000 silt storage dams and prevented the loss of 5 billion metric tons of sediment.

The construction of the sediment storage dam has prevented soil loss and protected water resources in the Yellow River Basin, resulting in increased grain production.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Farmers reap fortune from smart farming on barren land**

[Xinhua, 09-11-2020] In the heart of the Loess Plateau in northwest China's Gansu Province, more than 200 greenhouses of various sizes dot the barren land covered with sand and gravel.

Cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, leafy greens and flowers grow inside the greenhouses in rows. The greenhouses are part of a sprawling hydroponic farming base in Gansu's Lanzhou New Area, a national-level development zone in Lanzhou, the provincial capital.

To make the most of these advantages, the base has deployed a number of innovative technologies and facilities, including cultivation without soil, automated temperature and humidity control, and integrated water and fertilization control.

The greenhouses are also eco-friendly as they use substrates recycled from rotten leaves, straw and coconut fiber for soilless cultivation.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China promotes sustainable, ecological marine farming with technology**

[Xinhua, 28-11-2020] The construction and operation of marine ranches, which enable farming to be transferred to the deep sea so that the offshore environment can improve, is changing the production mode of China's fishing industry.

Besides aiding a healthy marine ecosystem, marine farming plays a pivotal role in the regulation and restoration of water quality and sediment.

Since the mid-20th century, the marine ecosystems in most coastal areas of Shandong have suffered disruptions due to overfishing and the deterioration of coastal environments, posing threats to fish resources.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Jilin launches mass training course for technicians, farmers**

[China daily, 24-11-2020] Northeast China's Jilin province recently launched its 2020-2021 agricultural science and technology training program -- which will run from this November until April next year -- with the goal of training one million agriculture technicians and farmers.

The training will focus on the overall deployment and the requirements for the green development of agriculture, the development and implementation of agricultural modernization and the rural revitalization strategy.

In terms of farmers, the province will focus on strengthening the training of leaders of new agricultural management entities.

In addition to technical training, the sessions will also cover a wide variety of topics, include operations and management, marketing, brand creation, rural e-commerce, quality and safety.

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### **Agriculture demonstration zone advances SCO cooperation**

[Xinhua, 12-11-2020] Yangling, an agricultural hi-tech industrial demonstration zone in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, has become a new platform for cooperation in agricultural technology and talent among the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Covering an area of about 135 square km, Yangling is located about 80 km to the west of Shaanxi's capital, Xi'an, where the ancient Silk Road started. The zone has witnessed deepening agricultural cooperation under the SCO framework over recent years.

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## **Rural planners revitalize fate of villages in east China**

[Xinhua, 04-11-2020] Boonies, destitution and idyllic beauty... Shushan Village in east China's Jiangsu Province used to remind people of virtually everything except for fashion.

However, with the help of a team of designers, the remote mountain hideaway has emerged as a tourist magnet boasting two coffee shops, 13 homestays and even a five-star international hotel chain.

More and more designers from cities have been flocking into Chinese villages since the country adopted the rural revitalization strategy.

In 2018, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development published a document encouraging designers in the fields of architecture, landscape and art to support rural development.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Trade and Business**

### **RCEP free trade deal signed among 15 participating countries**

[Xinhua, 15-11-2020] The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement was signed among its 15 participating countries Sunday, launching the world's biggest free trade bloc.

Participating countries include the 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

The RCEP agreement will accelerate the building of the ASEAN economic community and thereby allow ASEAN to become dynamic and strong partners in promoting cooperation for shared prosperity.

The 15 participating countries of the RCEP account for around 30 percent of the global population, global gross domestic product and global trade.

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### **Best of UK food and drink showcased at CIIE**

[China.org, 08-11-2020] The UK officially opened its food, drink, and innovation-themed pavilion at the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai on Nov. 6.

Taking place at the National Exhibition and Convention Center from Nov. 5 to 10, the CIIE features more than 2,000 exhibitors from around the world.

The UK pavilion is modeled after the iconic Crystal Palace in London, home of the Great Exhibition of 1851, which showcased innovation and technology from the Industrial Revolution.

Themed "Food is GREAT," the UK pavilion covers an area of 300 square meters, with a delegation of more than 120 UK companies.

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### **UK celebrates success at third China International Import Expo**

[Gov.UK, 09-11-2020] The third China International Import Expo saw the UK secure more than £430 million of commercial deals across a range of sectors.

The deals include:

- Collaboration between Lakeland Dairies and Namchow Food Group (Shanghai) Co. Ltd on bringing high quality dairy products from Northern Ireland to China

- A partnership between Savills and Greenland Group Xi'an Fenghe Real Estate Co. Ltd on the Silk Road International Center Project luxury commercial and office complex
- A partnership between Millennium Group and Suning International · Sup's bringing a range of British food and drinks brands to the Chinese market

In addition to the commercial deals that will have immediate benefits for the UK economy, CIIE saw thousands of new business connections between UK and Chinese companies.

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### **CIIE to be held on same dates in 2021**

[China daily, 24-11-2020] The 2021 China International Import Expo, the fourth annual edition will be held in Shanghai from Nov 5 to 10 next year, and hundreds of companies have already signed up.

The expo will continue to feature six exhibitions: food and agricultural products, automobiles, general equipment, consumer goods, medical devices and healthcare products, and services.

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### **Ensuring food security via win-win trade**

[China Daily, 16-11-2020] COFCO Group, China's largest foodstuff producer and grain trader by sales revenue, signed purchase deals worth over \$10 billion with global partners during the third China International Import Expo held in Shanghai earlier this month.

The deals will allow COFCO to import farm produce such as grain, sugar, wine and edible oil.

As it has been meeting surging domestic demand for various foodstuffs, the centrally administered State-owned enterprise has seen the value of its purchases surge by 20 percent on a yearly basis from the last CIIE.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China international agricultural trade fair opens in Chongqing**

[CGTN, 28-11-2020] The 18th China International Agricultural Trade Fair opened on Friday in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, with more than 12,000 enterprises bringing along over 80,000 products.

The four-day event will promote agricultural product brands and focus on poverty alleviation by promoting sales of farm produce from impoverished regions.

The fair also offers other activities, including a forum on sustainable development of specific industries in regions that have shaken off poverty, as well as a digital countryside development forum.

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### **China inspects, quarantines imported seafood to ensure food safety**

[Xinhua, 02-11-2020] China said its customs imposes inspections and quarantines on imported seafood in accordance with the law, and permits clearance after establishing that goods conform with relevant standards to ensure food safety for Chinese consumers.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson made the remarks at a daily press briefing in response to media query about lobsters imported from Australia are facing customs clearance delays at Chinese ports.

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## **Beijing market stops frozen food sale**

[Shanghai Daily, 27-11-2020] China's biggest wholesale food market has suspended the sale and storage of frozen meat and seafood as the government ramps up inspections of cold-chain goods after several new cases of coronavirus infections.

The Xinfadi market in Beijing, which was at the center of an outbreak of COVID-19 cases in June, has disposed of products and disinfected over a hundred cold storage units and shut down their power, the market said.

Although Beijing has had no recent locally transmitted infections involving the market or cold-chain food products, the move follows reports of COVID-19 cases related to imported frozen products in multiple Chinese provinces and cities in recent months.

The measures will not affect Xinfadi's fresh pork trade, and market authorities will also conduct daily checks for the virus at warehouses and cold-storage facilities for fruits and vegetables.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China requires disinfection of imported cold chain food**

[GT, 09-11-2020] China is now requiring imported cold chain food to be thoroughly disinfected before going to market, after live coronavirus was detected on the outer packaging of imported cold chain food in three cities in two days, leading to growing public concerns.

Imported cold chain food will be thoroughly disinfected to achieve closed-loop control and traceability for the whole process, in order to minimize the risk of bringing in COVID-19 through imported cold-chain food, China's State Council announced on Monday.

Related products that are also required to be fully sterilized include the loading and transporting carriers, and the inner and outer packaging of the cold chain food.

The sterilization and regulation of cold chain food will involve multiple departments, including customs, transportation, health and sanitation, market supervision, local governments and relevant companies.

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## **China to remain pork importer for 4-5 years**

[Reuters, 19-11-2020] The world's top pork consumer China is likely to remain an importer of the meat for up to five years as new outbreaks of African swine fever delays attempts to restore pig production, head of Europe's biggest pork producer said.

An epidemic of the incurable African swine fever swept through China's hog herd in 2018, causing production to plunge and reduced the breeding stock by an estimated 60% by late last year.

Danish Crown, which produces around 18 million pigs each year, has over the past year shipped a record 30% of its total production to China, benefiting from high prices in the country.

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## **Barley trade routes redrawn as China tariff hits Australian farmers**

[Reuters, 17-11-2020] Australia typically accounts for up to 40% of the world's malting barley trade, used in beer production, and 20% of feed barley. Well over half its total exports, around 6 million tonnes in a good year, go to China, the world's biggest beer maker.

This will now either be stored, sold domestically or sent to alternate markets, such as top buyer Saudi Arabia, if new deals can be negotiated.

China, meanwhile, is seeking alternate supplies, benefiting grain farmers as far away as France, Ukraine, Argentina and Canada.

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### **Boost for Kenya–China trade as Chinese firms pitch in Nairobi**

[Star.co.ke, 27-11-2020] The Kenya–China trade and investment opportunities are set for a spike with the pitching of business by Chinese companies in Nairobi.

At least 93 Chinese companies, 50 from industrial rich and China's economic hub of Shandong Province are showcasing at the ' Kenya International Industrial Expo 2020 and Shandong Export Commodities Exhibition' taking place at the Sarit Expo Centre.

The expo, 26-28 Nov, has linked Chinese companies to their Kenyan counterparts, with major deals expected to be sealed.

Potential partnership are in general machinery which include agricultural, construction, food-processing, packaging and textile machinery.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Northwest China's first flower auction trading center opens**

[China daily, 23-11-2020] Kunming International Flower Auction and Trading Center opened in Lanzhou New Area in Gansu province. The first flower auction and trading center in Northwest China recorded trading volume for more than 11,000 branches on the day of auction of flowers.

The center is a flower trading and service platform built by Lanzhou New District Modern Agricultural Investment Co Ltd and Kunming International Flower auction Trading Center Co Ltd.

The center, with a total construction area of 18,432 square meters, has six trading bells and 128 trading seats, and it can undertake 2.5 million branches of flower trading every day.

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