

China's Agricultural Production and Trade in 2016

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This issue of SAIN Information Sheet gives a snapshot of China's agricultural production and trade in 2016.

2016 was a special year for China's agricultural development. It was the first year of the 13th Five-Year-Plan period (2016-2020). The government released a number of policy documents which will guide China's agricultural transition and will have long-term impact on China's agricultural sector. The overall goal of the transition is to make China's agriculture sector more resource efficient, economically competitive and environmentally friendly (see SAIN Information Sheet No 6 for more details).

2016 was also the first year that China started to readjust the crop planting structure, as part of the supply side reform of the agriculture sector. One of the key actions is to reduce maize stockpile and planting area which will be replaced by planting more tubers and coarse grains.

What Did China Grow in 2016

There was a slight decrease in crop sown area in 2016 – a 0.3% decline compared with 2015. This was mainly due to decreases in cereal crops sown area, particularly maize. However, sown areas for pulses and root and tuber crops all increased.

Table 1. Crop grown area in 2016

Crops	Sown area in 2016 (M ha)	Comparing with 2015
Total sown area	113.03	0.3 ↓
Cereals	94.37	1.3 ↓
In which: Maize	36.76	3.6 ↓
Rice	30.16	0.2 ↓
Wheat	24.19	0.2 ↑
Pulses	9.71	9.7 ↑
Root and Tuber	8.95	1.2 ↑

How Much Did China Produce in 2016

The total grain output in 2016 was 616.24 million ton, 0.8% less than the year before. This is the first decline in grain output after 12 consecutive years of growth. There was a 1.1% decline in meat output compared with 2015. This was mainly due to a decline in pork output, while beef, lamb and poultry all increased by 2.4, 4.2 and 3.4% respectively.

Table 2. China Agricultural production in 2016

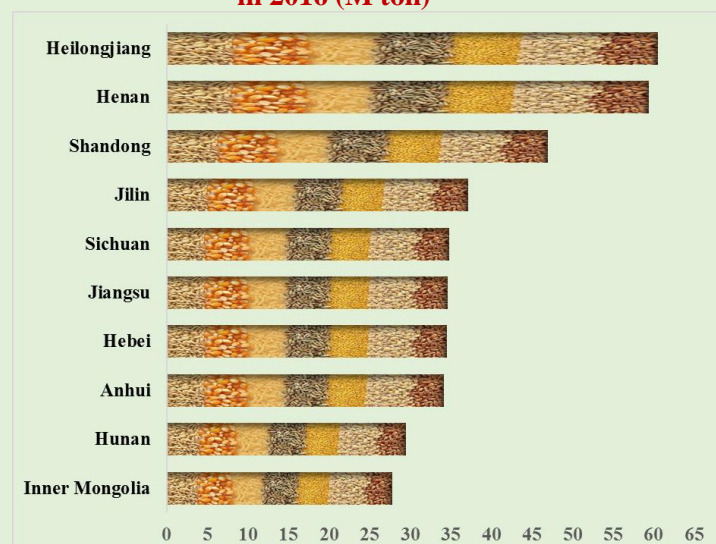
	Output in 2016 (M ton)	Comparing 2015 (%)
Grain	616.2	0.8 ↓
In which: Maize	219.6	2.2 ↓
Rice	206.9	0.6 ↓
Wheat	128.9	1.0 ↓
Pulses	17.3	8.9 ↑
Root and Tuber	33.8	1.4 ↑
Cotton	5.3	4.6 ↓
Oil seeds	36.1	2.2 ↑
Vegetables	800.1	1.9 ↑
Fruits	283.2	3.4 ↑
Meat	83.6	1.1 ↓
In which: Pork	53.0	3.4 ↓
Beef	7.2	2.4 ↑
Lamb	4.6	4.2 ↑
Poultry	18.9	3.4 ↑
Eggs	31	3.2 ↑
Milk	36	4.1 ↓

Where Did China Produce Grain in 2016

In 2016, China's top ten grain production provinces were Heilongjiang, Henan, Shandong, Jilin, Sichuan, Jiangsu, Hebei, Anhui, Hunan and Inner Mongolia. These ten provinces produced 65% of the nation's total grain. The top three grain production provinces, Heilongjiang, Henan and Shandong accounted for 9.8, 9.6 and 7.6% of the nation's total grain output respectively

Comparing with 2015, China's top ten grain production provinces remain the same.

Fig 1. Top ten provinces of grain output in 2016 (M ton)



How Much Did China Trade Agricultural Products in 2016

In 2016, the total value of China's agricultural product trade was 184.56 billion USD, a decrease of 1.6% compared with the previous year. Exports were 72.99 billion USD, a 3.3% decline by compared with last year. Imports were 111.57 billion USD, a 4.5 % decrease by compared with 2015.

There was a 33% decrease in cereal imports, mostly due to decreased imports of the feed grains, maize, barley and sorghum, as partly a result of supply side reform in which destocking maize is a key component. There was a continued increase in soy imports in 2016, which totalled 89.5 million ton, 2.2% greater than in 2015. Soy remains the major portion, 94%, of edible oil seed import. The value of livestock products import increased by 14.5%, and reached 23.4 billion USD. There was a significant increase in the import of pork, pig offal, beef and milk powder, by 110%, 82.5%, 22.4% and 15.2% respectively. There was a moderate increase in both import and export of aquatic products, by 4.4% and 2.0% respectively.

Table 3. Import and export of agricultural products, 2016

	Import	Comparing with 2015 (%)		Export	Comparing with 2015 (%)	
Cereals (M ton)	21.99	32.8	↓	0.64	19.5	↑
Wheat	3.41	13.5	↑	0.11	7.4	↓
Maize	3.17	33.0	↓	0.004	63.4	↓
Rice	3.56	5.5	↑			
Barley	5.01	53.4	↓			
Sorghum	6.65	37.9	↓			
Cotton (M ton)	1.24	29.5	↓			
Sugar (M ton)	3.06	26.8	↓			
Edible oil seed (M ton)	89.53	2.2	↑	0.874	3.8	↑
Soy	83.91	2.7	↑			
Rapeseed	3.57	20.2	↓			
Edible oil (M ton)	6.88	18.0	↓	0.115	16.0	↑
Palm oil	4.48	24.2	↓			
Vegetables (Bln USD)	0.53	2	↑	14.7	11	↑
Fruits (Bln USD)	5.81	1	↓	7.14	3.6	↑
Livestock (Bln USD)	23.4	14.5	↑	5.64	4.2	↓
Pork (M ton)	1.62	110	↑			
Pig offal (M ton)	1.49	82.5	↑			
Beef (M ton)	0.58	22.4	↑			
Lamb (M ton)	0.22	1.3	↓			
Milk Powder (M ton)	0.85	15.2	↑			
Aquatic products (Bln USD)	9.37	4.4	↑	20.74	2.0	↑

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