saIn UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network

Information Sheet 信息通报 No 15

China's Agricultural Production and Trade in 2018

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January 2019

This issue of SAIN Information Sheet gives a snapshot of China's agricultural production and trade in 2018.

In 2018, China started full implementation of the Rural Vitalization Strategy, which aims to promote integrated urban-rural development, and speed up the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

As part of the Strategy, China continued supply-side reform in agriculture in 2018 with focus on adjusting the crop planting structure, optimizing the distribution of production zones, and strengthening production capacity by improving land quality, promoting green production technologies, fostering new type of agricultural business entities and training new generation of professional farmers.

What Did China Grow in 2018

In 2018, China's grain crop sown area was 117.04 Mha，952 thousand ha less than in 2017 (adjusted with national census data, see annex 1), declined 0.8%. China continued reducing cereals sown area and encouraging pules planting. As the result, cereals sown area declined to 99.69 Mha, 1.08 Mha less than in 2017. Meanwhile, the sown area for pulses increased by 1.2% from 2017, reached 10.17 M ha.

Table 1. Crop grown area in 2018

Crops	Sown area in 2018 (M ha)	Comparing 2017 (%)
Total sown area	117.04	0.8 ↓
Cereals	99.69	1.1 ↓
In which: Maize	42.13	0.6 ↓
Rice	30.19	1.8 ↓
Wheat	24.27	1.0 ↓
Pulses	10.17	1.2 ↑
Root and Tuber	7.18	0.1 ↑

Production of this report was supported by Defra (SAIN), STFC-Newton Fund (AgriTech in China Network+), and BBSRC/NERC-Newton Fund (N-Circle Virtual Joint Centre). The data come from various statistical documents of Ministry of Agriculture and National Bureau of Statistics.

How Much Did China Produce in 2018

The total grain output in 2018 was 657.89 million ton, 0.6% decrease than the year before. The cereals output in 2018 was 610.19 million ton, 0.8% decrease compared with 2017. There was a minor decrease in meat output, by 0.3% compared with 2017, in which pork output decreased by 0.9%, while beef, lamb and poultry output increased by 1.5%, 0.8% and 0.6% respectively.

Table 2. China Agricultural production in 2018

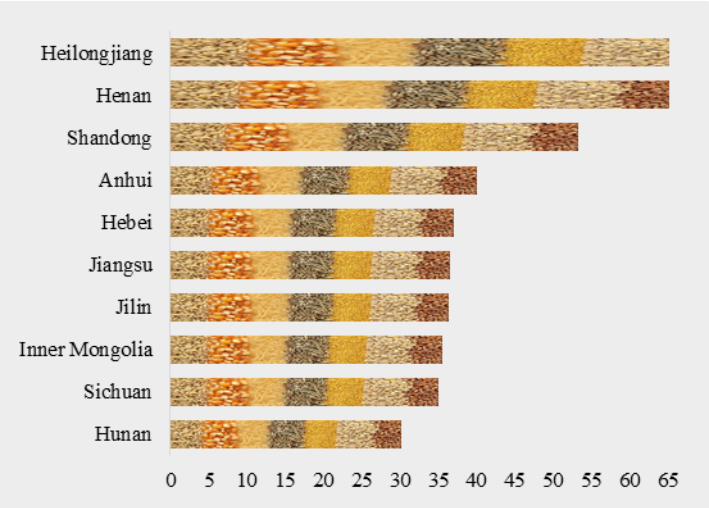
	Output in 2018 (M ton)	Comparing 2017 (%)
Grain	657.89	0.6 ↓
Cereals	610.19	0.8 ↓
In which: Maize	257.33	0.7 ↓
Rice	212.13	0.3 ↓
Wheat	131.43	2.2 ↓
Pulses	19.14	3.9 ↑
Root and Tuber	28.56	2.1 ↑
Cotton	6.09	7.8 ↑
Meat	85.17	0.3 ↓
In which: Pork	54.04	0.9 ↓
Beef	6.44	1.5 ↑
Lamb	4.75	0.8 ↑
Poultry	19.94	0.6 ↑

Where Did China Produce Grain in 2018

In 2018, China's top ten grain production provinces were Heilongjiang, Henan, Shandong, Anhui, Hebei, Jiangsu, Jilin, Inner Monggolia, Sichuan and Hunan. These ten provinces produced 67% of the nation's total grain. The top three grain production provinces, Heilongjiang, Henan and Shandong accounted for 11.4%, 10.1% and 8.1% of the nation's total grain output respectively.

Comparing with 2017, China's top ten grain production provinces remain the same.

Fig 1. Top ten provinces of grain output in 2018 (M ton)



How Much Did China Trade Agricultural Products in Jan –Nov 2018

In the period of January to November 2018, the total value of China's agricultural product trade was 198.23 billion USD, an increase of 9.0% compared with the same period in the previous year. Export was 72.07 billion USD, a 6.5% increase, and import was 126.16 billion USD, a 10.5 % increase. The trade deficient in the first 11 month was 54.09 billion USD,

increased by 16.5% compared with 2017. China became a net agricultural product import country since 2004.

There was a 18.1% decrease in cereal imports, due to decreased imports of wheat, rice, barley and sorghum, although maize import increased by 30.9%. Soy import in 2018 totalled 82.3 million ton in the first 11 month, 4.3% lesser than in 2017. The value of livestock products import increased by 12.8%, reached over 26 billion USD in the first 11 month. There was a minor decrease in pork and significant decrease in pig offal import, by 0.7% and 23% respectively, but a strong increase in beef, lamb and milk powder import, by 50.7%, 31.6%, and 8.8% respectively comparing with 2017. There was a strong increase in import (by 31.9%) and moderate increase in export (by 6.8%) of aquatic products in the first 11 month of 2018.

Table 3. Import and export of agricultural products in Jan –Nov 2018

	Import	Comparing with 2017 (%)	Export	Comparing with 2017 (%)
Cereals (M ton)	19.40	18.1 ↓	2.22	49.6 ↑
Wheat	2.86	32.1 ↓	0.25	7.5 ↑
Maize	3.11	30.9 ↑	0.01	86.9 ↓
Rice	2.8	22.1 ↓	1.81	60.7 ↑
Barley	6.67	19.4 ↓	0.88	5.4 ↑
Sorghum	3.65	25.6 ↓	0.04	19.3 ↑
Cotton (M ton)	1.40	12 ↑		
Sugar (M ton)	2.63	22.1 ↑		
Edible oil seed (M ton)	88.22	4.1 ↓	1.06	10.3 ↑
Soy	82.31	4.3 ↓		
Rapeseed	4.36	1.3 ↓		
Edible oil (M ton)	7.19	7.8 ↑	0.27	54.3 ↑
Palm oil	4.74	5.1 ↑		
Rapeseed oil	1.16	66 ↑		
Vegetables (Bln USD)	0.73	51.7 ↑	13.82	1.1 ↓
Fruits (Bln USD)	7.73	35.9 ↑	6.38	3.8 ↑
Livestock (Bln USD)	26.22	12.8 ↑	6.23	9.3 ↑
Pork (M ton)	1.10	0.7 ↓		
Pig offal (M ton)	0.90	23.0 ↓		
Beef (M ton)	0.94	50.7 ↑		
Lamb (M ton)	0.29	31.6 ↑		
Milk Powder (M ton)	1.06	8.8 ↑		
Aquatic products (Bln USD)	13.63	31.9 ↑	20.25	6.8 ↑

Annex 1

Grain sown area and grain output 2007-2017 (revised based on the data of the third national agricultural census)

Year	Grain sown area (Mha）	Grain output(M ton)
2007	106.0	504.2
2008	107.5	534.4
2009	110.3	539.4
2010	111.7	559.1
2011	113.0	588.5
2012	114.4	612.3
2013	115.9	630.5
2014	117.5	639.7
2015	119.0	660.6
2016	119.2	660.5
2017	118.0	661.6

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