

China's Agricultural Production and Trade in 2019

Yuelai Lu

(SAIN Secretariat, y.lu@uea.ac.uk)

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This issue of SAIN Information Sheet gives a snapshot of China's agricultural production and trade in 2019.

2019 was a critical year for China to achieve the targets set out in the 13th Five-Year Plan.

In 2019, China continued the implementation of Rural Vitalization Strategy, which aims to promote integrated urban-rural development, and speed up the modernization of agriculture and rural areas. The priority works in the year included supply-side reform with focus on adjusting the crop planting structure; strengthening production capacity by improving land quality; promoting green production technologies and strengthening the agricultural pollution control; prevention and control of African Swine Fever (ASF) and other animal epidemics; fostering new type of agricultural business entities and training new generation of professional farmers¹.

ASF, which was first detected in China in August 2018, has had serious impact on pig industry in China in 2019. Pork output and total meat output significantly decreased in 2019. Consequently, there was a significant increase in meat import in the year.

What Did China Grow in 2019

In 2019, China's grain crop sown area was 116.06 Mha, 975 thousand ha less than in 2018, declined 0.8%. China continued reducing cereals sown area and encouraging pulses planting. As the result, cereals sown area declined to 97.85 Mha, 1.82 Mha less than in 2018. Meanwhile, the sown area for pulses increased by 8.9% from 2018, reached 11.08 M ha.

Table 1. Crop grown area in 2019

Crops	Sown area in 2019 (M ha)	Comparing with 2018 (%)
Total sown area	116.06	0.8 ↓
Cereals	97.85	1.8 ↓
In which: Maize	41.28	2.0 ↓
Rice	29.69	1.6 ↓
Wheat	23.73	2.2 ↓
Pulses	11.08	8.9 ↑
Root and Tuber	7.14	0.5 ↓

How Much Did China Produce in 2019

The total grain output in 2019 was 663.84 million ton, 0.9% increase than the year before. The cereals output in 2019 was 613.68 million ton, 0.6% increase compared with 2018.

¹ For more details, see SAIN Information Sheet No 18: China's Agricultural Plans in 2019, <https://bit.ly/2ufZ1Vu>

There was a significant decrease in meat output, by 10.2% compared with 2018, in which pork output decreased by 21.3%, although beef, lamb and poultry output increased by 3.6%, 2.6% and 12.3% respectively.

Table 2. China Agricultural production in 2019

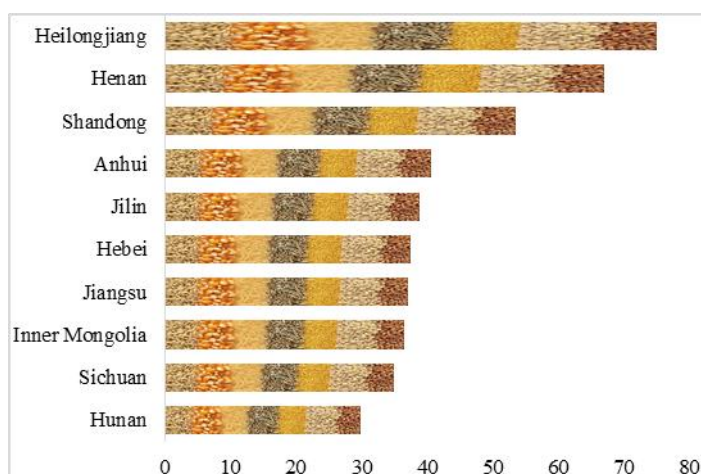
	Output in 2019 (M ton)	Comparing with 2018 (%)
Grain	663.84	0.9 ↑
Cereals	613.68	0.6 ↑
In which: Maize	260.77	1.4 ↑
Rice	209.61	1.2 ↓
Wheat	133.59	1.6 ↑
Pulses	21.32	11.4 ↑
Root and Tuber	28.83	0.9 ↑
Cotton	5.89	3.3 ↓
Meat	76.49	10.2 ↓
In which: Pork	42.55	21.3 ↓
Beef	6.67	3.6 ↑
Lamb	4.88	2.6 ↑
Poultry	22.39	12.3 ↑
Eggs	33.09	5.8 ↑
Milk	32.01	4.1 ↑

Where Did China Produce Grain in 2019

In 2019, China's top ten grain production provinces were Heilongjiang, Henan, Shandong, Anhui, Jilin, Hebei, Jiangsu, Inner Mongolia, Sichuan and Hunan. These ten provinces produced 68% of the nation's total grain. The top three grain production provinces, Heilongjiang, Henan and Shandong accounted for 11.3%, 10.1% and 8.1% of the nation's total grain output respectively.

Comparing with 2018, China's top ten grain production provinces remain the same.

Fig 1. Top ten provinces of grain output in 2019 (M ton)



How Much Did China Trade Agricultural Products in 2019

In 2019, the total value of China's agricultural product trade was 230.07 billion USD, an increase of 5.7% compared with the previous year. Export was 79.1 billion USD, a 1.7% decrease, and import was 150.97 billion USD, a 10% increase. The trade deficit in the year was 71.87 billion USD, increased by 26.5% compared with 2018. China became a net agricultural product import country since 2004.

There was a 12.6% decrease in cereal imports, due to decreased imports of rice, barley and sorghum, although maize and wheat import increased by 36.0% and 12.5% respectively. Soy import in 2019 totalled 88.51 million ton in the year, 0.6% more than in 2018. The value of livestock products import increased by 27%, reached over 36.22 billion USD. There was a

significant strong increase in pork import by 67.2%, and strong increase in pig offal import by 17.9%; there were also strong increases in beef, lamb and milk powder import, by 59.7%, 23.0%, and 21.0% respectively comparing with 2018. There was a strong increase in import (by 25.6%) and moderate decrease in export (by 8%) of aquatic products in 2019.

Table 3. Import and export of agricultural products in 2019

	Import	Comparing with 2018 (%)	Export	Comparing with 2018 (%)
Cereals (M ton)	17.9	12.6 ↓	3.24	26.8 ↑
Wheat	3.49	12.5 ↑	0.31	9.7 ↑
Maize	4.79	36.0 ↑	0.03	110 ↑
Rice	2.55	17.3 ↓	2.75	31.4 ↑
Barley	5.93	13.0 ↓	3.15	95.5 ↓
Sorghum	0.83	77.2 ↓	0.04	15.3 ↓
Cotton (M ton)	1.94	19.0 ↑		
Sugar (M ton)	3.39	21.3 ↑		
Edible oil seed (M ton)	93.31	1.3 ↓	1.16	3.0 ↓
Soy	88.51	0.6 ↑		
Rapeseed	2.74	42.5 ↓		
Edible oil (M ton)	11.53	42.5 ↑	0.27	9.6 ↓
Palm oil	7.55	41.8 ↑		
Rapeseed oil	1.62	24.6 ↑		
Vegetables (Bln USD)	0.96	15.9 ↑	15.5	1.7 ↑
Fruits (Bln USD)	10.36	23.2 ↑	7.45	4.1 ↑
Livestock (Bln USD)	36.22	27.0 ↑	6.5	5.2 ↓
Pork (M ton)	1.99	67.2 ↑		
Pig offal (M ton)	1.13	17.9 ↑		
Beef (M ton)	1.66	59.7 ↑		
Lamb (M ton)	0.39	23.0 ↑		
Milk Powder (M ton)	1.39	21.0 ↑		
Aquatic products (Bln USD)	18.7	25.6 ↑	20.66	8.0 ↓

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