

### Contents

<b>Policies.....</b>	<b>1</b>
China to boost recycling of agriculture waste.....	1
China pushes fertilizer-replacement program .....	1
Ministry of Agriculture pushes for drug inspection in livestock industry .....	1
China to promote rural industry integration with policy finance.....	2
China to encourage private capital in agriculture development.....	2
Water law approved with 'chief' system .....	2
4 years after 'empty plate' campaign, food waste still a challenge for China .....	2
China, UN agency seek cooperation on agriculture.....	3
<b>Science, Technology and Environment.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Experts emphasize scientific, technological innovations in agriculture .....	3
Digital network to boost grain security.....	3
China builds world's first offshore fish farm.....	4
China unrolls nationwide soil pollution survey .....	4
Straw recycling expo aims to cut rural air pollution.....	4
China to vaccinate poultry against H7N9 bird flu next month .....	5
China takes major step forward to improve pig welfare.....	5
Chinese scientists want to grow potatoes on the moon next year.....	5
China drone king turns to farming .....	6
<b>Trade and Business .....</b>	<b>6</b>
China approves two new GMO crop varieties for import.....	6
Chinese pork consumption drops, an unexpected change in food habits .....	6
100 European geographical indications set to be protected in China .....	6
US, EU urge China to limit food import control .....	7
China-Britain trade, financial cooperation to endure despite Brexit .....	7
China greenlights imports of U.S. beef.....	8
BRICS agriculture ministers highlight cooperation, food security.....	8
ChemChina completes acquisition of Syngenta .....	8
Dow launches new GMO corn after landing China import approval .....	9
Adama says Chinese regulator approves merger with Sanonda .....	9
Entrepreneurship to push China-Europe cooperation to new high .....	9
Chinese investor to set up fertilizer firm in Zimbabwe .....	10

## Policies

### **China to boost recycling of agriculture waste**

[Gov.cn, 12-06-2017] The State Council has set goals to establish a recycling system for poultry and livestock husbandry waste with scientific regulations and clear responsibility by 2020, to prevent further pollution in agricultural production and support sustainable agricultural development.

By 2020, 75 percent of livestock and poultry waste will be processed nationwide. Over 95 percent of small to medium-scale breeding farms will be equipped with waste treatment facilities, and all large-scale farms will be equipped with such facilities by 2019.

To achieve the target, related departments should strictly carry out the implementation of an environment appraisal system for livestock and poultry breeding, and specify appraisal items and requirements.

In addition, supervision on husbandry-generated pollution should be further strengthened through a unified management platform that can share information among authorities at all levels.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China pushes fertilizer-replacement program**

[Xinhua, 14-06-2017] China's Ministry of Agriculture Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June launched a program to replace chemical fertilizers with organic alternatives in 100 counties and districts.

The central government will earmark a fund to support the fertilizer-replacement plan which targets tea, vegetables, and fruit, said Yu Xinrong, vice minister of agriculture.

The ministry will provide subsidies for farmers who use organic fertilizers and encourage social capital to participate in the program, he said at an implementation meeting held in the central China province of Hubei.

According to a Chinese plan, key growing areas for fruit, vegetables, and tea should cut chemical fertilizer use by at least 20 percent by 2020.

Currently, less than 50 percent of China's 3 billion tonnes of livestock excrement each year undergoes proper treatment.

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### **Ministry of Agriculture pushes for drug inspection in livestock industry**

[China Daily, 23-06-2017] Irregularities in the use of antibiotics in poultry and livestock industries in China will be strictly inspected by 2020 to reduce drug resistance, according to a national plan released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Friday 23 June.

Agricultural authorities will push for reductions in the use of antibiotics for poultry and livestock. Antibiotics for both human and animal use and those that easily cause cross-drug resistance will be gradually banned in China, according to the plan.

Authorities will also take measures to research, develop and promote more than 100 kinds of new drugs for animal use that are safe, highly effective and leave little residue, and more than 100 kinds of high risk drugs for animal use will be banned, the plan said.

By 2020, more than 97 percent of poultry, livestock and aquatic products in domestic markets will be expected to pass tests for antibiotics residue, the plan said.

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## **China to promote rural industry integration with policy finance**

[Xinhua, 03-06-2017] China will leverage policy finance tools to help promote integration of agriculture, industry, service and other sectors in rural areas.

The Agricultural Development Bank of China (ADBC), the country's only policy bank that mainly serves agriculture, will work with the Ministry of Agriculture to help expand the agricultural industrial chain and boost the sector's competitiveness and farmers' income, according to a statement released by the two parties.

Efforts will be made to support development of standardized raw material bases, agricultural technology innovation, produce processing and logistics network, according to the statement.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China to encourage private capital in agriculture development**

[Xinhua, 06-06-2017] China's Ministry of Finance on Tuesday 6 June released a guideline on public-private partnerships (PPP) in agriculture to diversify funding for the industry.

Private capital will be asked to participate in areas including green agriculture, high-standard farmland development, modern industrial parks and logistics and trading platforms for farm produce, according to the guideline.

PPPs are collaborative projects between governments and private companies that are mainly funded and operated by the latter.

China has explored funding infrastructure and public works through the PPP model since 2013 as concerns grow over local government debt.

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## **Water law approved with 'chief' system**

[China daily, 28-06-2017] An amendment to China's Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law - including a "river chief" system - was approved at the closing ceremony of the bimonthly session of the top legislative body. It will take effect on Jan 1.

As enacted, the law includes provisions for a river chief system, a new mechanism under which leading officials assume major responsibility for addressing water pollution. It is expected to cover the provincial, city, county and township levels.

While no punishments are listed in the amended law for failures, officials' annual job performance assessments and promotions will be tied to the way they discharge their duties, Tong said.

The amended law also strengthens controls on sewage and garbage treatment in rural regions. Central and local government are expected to build more facilities to process waste, and standards designed to protect water were introduced to govern the use of fertilizers.

Click [here](#) for details

## **4 years after 'empty plate' campaign, food waste still a challenge for China**

[People's Daily, 05-06-2017] In early 2013, a nationwide campaign to eliminate food waste swept across China. The movement, called "empty plate," quickly began to change the way people thought about leftovers in a nation where ordering more than you can eat is considered a status symbol.

Observers have acknowledged a growing appreciation and reverence for food in the past few years, thanks to the campaign. However, many think the campaign has lost steam in the four years since its launch, and that food waste is still a rampant issue in China.

The current amount of garbage coming from urban kitchens is a clear sign that food waste is staging an unwelcome comeback. According to a Tianjin waste management company, kitchen garbage dropped significantly in the first year of the campaign. Afterward, however, the trend gradually reverted.

The annual waste of grain in China is estimated to be around 18 million tons, enough to feed up to 50 million people for one year.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China, UN agency seek cooperation on agriculture**

[Xinhua, 01-06-2017] China's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) representative office in China have released a planning framework for agriculture cooperation in the 2016-2020 period.

The framework outlines four major fields for cooperation: jointly pushing sustainable agricultural development, reducing rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as improving public hygiene and supporting China in regional and international agriculture cooperation.

After years of bumper harvests, China no longer struggles with food shortages, but structural problems remain: agricultural products are oversupplied and some are still heavily imported, while homegrown produce struggles to compete with foreign rivals.

To address the issue, Chinese policymakers have pledged to focus more on supply-side structural reform in the sector in 2017, including efforts to accelerate agricultural modernization and enhance the competitiveness of farm produce.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Science, Technology and Environment**

### **Experts emphasize scientific, technological innovations in agriculture**

[Xinhua, 27-06-2017] Chinese scientists have underlined the role of scientific and technological innovations in the development of agriculture.

China will provide more quality and green agricultural products through technological advances, Han Jun, director of the central agricultural work leading team office, said at a forum held by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

He cited a project launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the CAS that was designed to tackle medium- and low-yield farmland and saline-alkali lands along the coast of the Bohai Sea.

Zhao Qiguo, with the CAS, underscored the role functional agriculture can play in providing healthy food. Functional agriculture, in his opinion, refers to the practice of raising the content of functional substances such as selenium and zinc in agricultural products.

According to Fang Jingyun, academician with the CAS, grass-based livestock husbandry is an important way to produce green livestock food.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Digital network to boost grain security**

[China daily, 07-06-2017] China plans to digitize the management of its grain industry by 2020 to enhance food security, as grain transportation between provinces and the amount of imported grain have been high in recent years, State authorities said.

One national management platform and 20 provincial ones will be established by the end of next year, and the whole country will be covered by a digital network by 2020, Zhang Wufeng, head of the State Administration of Grain, said on Tuesday 6 June.

A foundation has already been laid for the national digital network. In Anhui province, for example, one provincial-level and 16 prefecture-level platforms have been established, and 100 "smart" grain depots have been connected online, he said.

He asked that more digital and information technology be used to monitor the operation of grain depots, and keep watch on safety and market management so that the warning system can be improved and hazards can be responded to more efficiently.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China builds world's first offshore fish farm**

[People's daily, 04-06-2017] China has finished building the world's first deep-sea fish farm off the coast of Qingdao City, east China's Shandong Province, incorporating the most advanced and sustainable technology in fish breeding. The mega-structure will soon be delivered to Norway as the Scandinavian country braves new waters in offshore fish farming.

"Ocean Farm 1" goes beyond the narrow definition of a farm, offering a fully-automated platform for marine projects and preparing the ground for testing the biological and technological dimensions of open ocean aquaculture. It is "a full-scale pilot facility for testing, learning, research and development.

Built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group, a subsidiary of the China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation, SalMar had provided an initial layout with their preferences, and the Chinese company conducted engineering design and construction.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China unrolls nationwide soil pollution survey**

[Xinhua, 21-06-2017] China is to assess all soil pollution nationwide, a senior official said Wednesday 21 June.

The survey will identify soil pollution in agricultural land and the effect on farm produce by the end of 2018, Qiu Qiwen, an official at the Ministry of Environmental Protection, said at a press conference.

Qiu said the survey by the ministry and four other agencies, will locate hotspots for pollutants and evaluate risks by 2020.

The move comes as China addresses pollution to ensure food security as climate change and pollutants depleted arable land and reduced the capacity to produce food.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Straw recycling expo aims to cut rural air pollution**

[China daily, 06-06-2017] East China's Anhui Province held its first straw recycling expo Monday, 6 June with the aim of boosting the industry to help reduce air pollution caused by straw burning in rural areas.

The two-day expo was held in Hefei, the provincial capital. It covered a total floor space of 23,000 square meters, with more than 200 companies displaying new technology and products ranging from floor tiles, vegetable and egg trays to biofuel.

Anhui Shenlong is a renewable resources company that manufactures trays, tableware and flowerpots made from recycled straw.

Chinese farmers traditionally burn straw after the harvest and plough the ashes into the ground, as they believe this fertilizes farmland. However, the smoke causes air pollution.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to vaccinate poultry against H7N9 bird flu next month**

[Reuters, 16-06-2017] China has decided to vaccinate poultry from next month against the H7N9 bird flu virus, after it claimed hundreds of lives last winter and caused major damage to the industry.

The vaccination program will kick off in Guangdong and Guangxi in southern China in early July, said a notice from the agriculture ministry posted on the official WeChat account of the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association this week.

It targets all species including broiler chickens, ducks, geese and egg-laying hens.

Farms in other provinces will be allowed to opt for vaccination if approved by local veterinary authorities, it added, and emergency vaccination may be used to tackle outbreaks.

China is the world's third-largest producer of broiler chickens and the second-biggest consumer of poultry.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China takes major step forward to improve pig welfare**

[Pigsite, 06-06-2017] Da Bei Nong, one of China's leading agricultural producers, signed a statement of intent with World Animal Protection and the International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW) to start improving the lives of pigs across all of its production sites.

The signing ceremony took place between Zhao Zhonghua, Country Director of World Animal Protection China, Song Weiping, vice president of Da Bei Nong, and Xi Chunling, founder and executive president of ICCAW.

This major move involves a trial group housing for sows and reduction of stocking density for growing pigs. As per the agreement, all animals will be provided with more effective and enriched housing systems and more comfortable flooring.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese scientists want to grow potatoes on the moon next year**

[shanghaiist, 14-06-2017] China has grand ambitions of someday putting a human on the moon, but first they are starting a bit smaller with the potato.

Potatoes will be on board the Chang'e-4 when it leaves Earth's atmosphere for the moon next year, *Xinhua* reports. The spuds will be sealed inside a "mini ecosystem" alongside some brave silkworm larvae.

The goal of this experiment is to see whether the potatoes and silkworms will be able survive on the surface of the moon, providing some critical information if humanity ever does decide to establish a lunar colony. Of course, Matt Damon has already proven that an astronaut can manage to survive on spuds alone.

Click [here](#) for details



## **China drone king turns to farming**

[DailyMail, 25-06-2017] China drone-maker DJI is betting on flying machines that shoot pesticide instead of photos to fend off growing competition in the global remote-controlled aircraft market.

The world leader in the civilian drones sector is switching its focus from leisure photography to more professional uses for its unmanned aerial vehicles, and it sees agriculture as the future for the burgeoning industry.

Propelled by rotors, the tiny crop dusting aircraft can carry a liquid payload of 15 kilogrammes (33 pounds) to spray fields.

Piloted from a distance, one drone can cover the same surface as around 30 people and it does the job more efficiently, said Jiang Sanchun, manager of a small company that operates pesticide drones for farmers in northern China.

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## **Trade and Business**

### **China approves two new GMO crop varieties for import**

[Reuters, 14-06-2017] China approved two new varieties of genetically modified (GMO) crops for import from June 12.

The new GMO varieties are Dow AgroSciences' Enlist corn and Monsanto's Vistive Gold soybean, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

China does not permit the planting of genetically modified food crops but does allow GMO imports, such as soybeans, for use in its animal feed industry.

But getting a new GMO crop variety approved for import by China takes around six years, compared with under three in other major markets, forcing leading agrichemical players to restrict sales during China's review process.

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### **Chinese pork consumption drops, an unexpected change in food habits**

[StarTribune, 20-06-2017] China's frozen dumpling makers are finding there's a quick route to winning new sales - increase the vegetable content, and cut down on the meat.

This departure from traditional pork-rich dumplings is a hit with busy, young urbanites, trying to reduce the fat in diets often heavy on fast food.

For pig farmers in China and abroad, it is a difficult trend to stomach. The producers and other market experts had expected the growth to continue until at least 2026.

But pork demand has hit a ceiling, well ahead of most official forecasts. Last year they hit three-year lows of 40.85 million tonnes from 42.49 million tonnes in 2014, and Euromonitor predicts they will also fall slightly in 2017.

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### **100 European geographical indications set to be protected in China**

[SATPRNWS, 03-06-2017] The EU and China agreed on 3 June to formally publish a list of two hundred European and Chinese geographical indications -100 from each side- that will be considered for protection through a bilateral agreement to be concluded in 2017.

This publication opens the process for protecting the listed products against imitations and usurpations and is expected to result in reciprocal trade benefits and increased consumers' awareness and demand for high-quality products on both sides.

The publication of these lists is part of the standard procedure and opens a period for interested parties to present their comments.

The Chinese market for agri-food products is one of the world's largest, and is getting larger every year, fuelled by a growing middle class population that has a taste for European food and drink products, often as a result of their international travels. The country also has a rich tradition of geographical indications of its own, many of which are still largely unknown to European consumers but which should now become more widely available thanks to the agreement.

Click [here](#) for the list of 100 European geographical indications; click [here](#) for the list of 100 Chinese geographical indications

Click [here](#) for more details

### **US, EU urge China to limit food import control**

[AP, 22-07-2017] Food exporters including the United States and European Union are stepping up pressure on China to scale back plans for intensive inspections of imports that they say would hamper access to its fast-growing market.

The group, which also includes Japan and Australia, sent a joint letter to Chinese regulators asking them to suspend a proposed requirement, due to take effect Oct. 1, for each food shipment to have an inspection certificate from a foreign government. They say that would disrupt trade and ask Beijing to follow global practice by applying the requirement only to higher-risk foods.

The dispute, about which governments have said little in public, adds to complaints Beijing is reducing market access for goods ranging from medical technology to farm-related biotech in violation of its free-trade commitments.

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### **China-Britain trade, financial cooperation to endure despite Brexit**

[Xinhua, 16-06-2017] Britain's decision to leave the European Union (EU) will not be a handicap to collaboration between Britain and China in financial services and trade, according to James Sassoon, chairman of the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC).

"Bilateral trade, (Britain's) exports to China and the Chinese investment in the UK have grown very strongly and I think that is the trend that will continue," Sassoon told Xinhua recently in an exclusive interview.

China-Britain trade in goods stood at 74.34 billion U.S. dollars in 2016, according to statistics from the official website of the Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office of the Chinese Embassy in the United Kingdom.

Britain had a surplus with China on trade in services, outweighed by a deficit on trade in goods. China, the seventh-largest export market for Britain, contributed 3.6 percent of Britain's exports and 7 percent of all of Britain's imports.

Click [here](#) for details



## **China greenlights imports of U.S. beef**

[Xinhua, 21-06-2017] China began importing U.S. beef in fulfilling its pledge on the U.S.-China 100-day action plan to boost bilateral economic ties.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, announced on its website that eligible U.S. beef has been allowed to enter China since June 20. It is the first such move since 2003.

The Chinese authority published relevant quality and quarantine details. The age of the beef cattle should be younger than 30 months. Beef importers should be registered at the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China.

Cattle must be traceable to their birth farm. Beef destined for China must be sourced from cattle that were born, raised and slaughtered in the United States, or cattle that were imported from Canada and Mexico before being slaughtered in the United States.

Offspring of cattle with or suspected with mad cow disease is banned. Other details include veterinary drug regulation as well as packaging and shipment standards.

Click [here](#) for details

During a meeting at the Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida in April, leaders of the two nations agreed to establish a comprehensive economic dialogue and initiate a 100-day plan to boost bilateral economic cooperation.

As the results of the action plan, China will allow imports of U.S. beef and the United States will import poultry from China. Most of the agreements are expected to be implemented by July 16.

## **BRICS agriculture ministers highlight cooperation, food security**

[Xinhua, 17-06-2017] Agriculture ministers from BRICS countries underlined cooperation and the importance of food security at a meeting that ended here on Saturday, 17 June.

"Social, economic and environmental support is needed to ensure sustainable development of food security," said a joint declaration signed by the ministers during the three-day meeting.

The ministers agreed to promote multilateral coordination and guard against protectionism, according to the declaration, a blueprint for future cooperation.

They endorsed new work to solve the problem of climate change.

BRICS is committed to technological innovation on food security, green agriculture and environmental improvement, according to the declaration.

To foster new growth momentum on agriculture, new technology will be shared and fresh cooperation modes explored, the ministers agreed.

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## **ChemChina completes acquisition of Syngenta**

[ECNS, 09-06-2017] Chinese state-owned chemical giant ChemChina announced Thursday 8 April it has completed a deal to acquire Swiss agribusiness giant Syngenta.

ChemChina has purchased 94.7 percent of Syngenta's shares so far and will push forward the delisting of Syngenta from both Switzerland and the United States, the Beijing-based company told the press on Thursday.

Following the acquisition, ChemChina will respect Syngenta's corporate culture, maintain continuity of corporate management and allow the management team of Syngenta to play its role to realize a smooth transition and orderly integration.

In the future, ChemChina will implement a strategy to make Syngenta go public again with a view to realize long-term development and create greater value, the company said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Dow launches new GMO corn after landing China import approval**

[Reuters, 14-06-2017] Dow Chemical Co secured import approval from China for its next-generation Enlist corn variety and announced it would be commercially available in the United States and Canada next year, but the company was still awaiting approval of Enlist soybeans from the world's top soy importer.

China approved two new varieties of genetically modified (GMO) crops for import from June 12, including Dow's Enlist corn, engineered to combat weeds resistant to the widely used herbicide glyphosate, which is the main ingredient in Monsanto's popular Roundup herbicide.

China, the top export market for U.S. agricultural products, had pledged in May to speed up a review of biotech products as part of a trade deal with the United States, expediting eight products that have been pending for more than four years.

Along with Enlist corn, Monsanto's Vistive Gold soybeans were also approved for import, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Adama says Chinese regulator approves merger with Sanonda**

[Reuters, 04-06-2017] Israel's Adama Agricultural Solutions said on Sunday 4 June that a panel of the China Securities Regulatory Commission has approved its merger with Chinese agrochemical producer Sanonda, paving the way for the deal's completion.

China National Chemical Corp (ChemChina) controls Adama, the world's biggest producer of generic crop protection products, and is in the process of combining it with Sanonda, which is also a subsidiary of ChemChina.

Following the approval from the Chinese regulator, Adama said it expected the merger to be completed in the coming weeks.

"Adama's combination with Sanonda is expected to create, in one coordinated move, the only integrated global-China crop protection company, with combined 2016 sales of \$3.35 billion," it said.

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### **Entrepreneurship to push China-Europe cooperation to new high**

[Xinhua, 15-06-2017] Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming expressed the belief on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June that China-Europe and China-UK business ties can be pushed to a new high as the two sides keep up the spirit of entrepreneurship, tap into market vitality and deepen communication and cooperation.

Speaking at the Eighth Sino-European Entrepreneurs Summit held in London on June 13-15, the ambassador said there is confidence in China-Europe and China-UK business cooperation whatever the change would be in Britain's relationship with the European Union (EU).

Liu said China-UK cooperation will always be an important part of China's cooperation with Europe. While the British people voted to leave the European Union, they did not vote to leave Europe.

"Despite the uncertainties ahead in the Brexit negotiations, China-UK business cooperation remains firmly grounded and enjoys a strong momentum," he said.

"Britain is a key partner in the building of the Belt and Road. British experience in financial and legal services, project management and risk control will have much to offer in such partnership," Liu said.

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### **Chinese investor to set up fertilizer firm in Zimbabwe**

[Bulawayo, 12-06-2017] A Chinese investment company is set to establish a fertilizer processing plant in the country within the next two months following agreements signed between Zimbabwe and China-Zhejiang Province in March this year.

The investment project is a culmination of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed at the Zimbabwe - China Zhejiang Province Symposium in March, which has seen a number of Chinese investors exploring investment opportunities in the country.

One such project will be undertaken by the China Industrial International Group Zimbabwe, which has targeted a fertiliser processing plant with the capacity to produce a combined output of 300 000 tonnes of Compound D and uranium fertilisers.

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