

Contents

Policies	2
China to allow two children for all couples	2
China prioritizes quality, efficient development in five-year plan	2
China targets state farms in agriculture modernization	2
Develop agriculture in light of industrial concepts	3
Premier urges more support for innovation, entrepreneurship	3
Political advisors discuss GM crops in China.....	4
China's beefed up food safety laws sets new regulatory system	4
Science, Technology and Environment	5
SW China province to invest heavily on migratory bird habitat protection	5
Chinese scientists unveil draft genome sequence of adzuki bean.....	5
Chinese farmers turn to e-commerce to rid poverty	5
E-commerce boosts cross-border trade between China, Russia	6
The biggest photovoltaic project in agriculture in Changxing.....	6
China reports less pollution from burning straw.....	6
China's villages are most promising places for ecological civilization construction.....	7
The Eden Project to create £100m environmental centre in China	7
Gates Foundation announces plans to establish Grand Challenges China Program.....	8
Trade and Business	8
China, Britain lift partnership to "global" level	8
UK-China Joint Statement on building a global comprehensive strategic partnership for the 21st Century	9
Alibaba, UKTI sign deal to help British firms operate sales to China	9
Chinese manufacturers go rural to market farming equipment	9
China's top farming produce sees export decline.....	10
Online markets key to China's rural growth	10
Baidu takes a bite of COFCO's online fresh food retailer Womai.....	11
Belt and Road Initiative sparks big surge in FDI.....	11
Farming machine makers find new fields for growth	12
LatAm countries have potential to be strategic partners for China in agrifood sector	12
Aquaculture deal aims to put fish on more plates.....	13
China firms to set up foot&mouth vaccine plant in Namibia	13
Chinese companies eye Australia's vast land sale	13
New Zealand's largest livestock processing co-op sells 50% to China.....	14
Aust'n dairy farmers urged for more milk to satisfy growing Asian demand.....	14

Policies

China to allow two children for all couples

[Xinhua, 30-10-2015] China announced the end of its one-child policy on Thursday, as part of the country's 13th five-year plan.

The one-child policy was originally adopted as a national policy in 1982, as a method to reduce the country's population.

In late 2013, the policy was relaxed, and couples in which one parent is an only child were allowed to have a second child.

However, the relaxed policy has not produced a baby boom.

Nationally, only 1.4 million couples applied for permission to have a second child during the past 20 months, well below government forecasts of 2 million.

Experts say having a second child is not an attractive option for urban couples since they have to consider their finances and age, as well as their housing and education options

Click [here](#) for details

China prioritizes quality, efficient development in five-year plan

[Xinhua, 29-10-2015] China will prioritize quality and efficient development in the next five years starting 2016, according to a communique released on Thursday, 29th October following a four-day key meeting of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

China will accelerate the formation of a development pattern that can lead the economy in the "new normal" period, the communique said.

One of the most rapidly-growing economies, China is developing into a new economic period that features slower but quality growth.

China should highlight innovation, coordinated and green development, opening up and inclusiveness to fulfill the economic goals in the next five year period.

China will significantly raise the contribution of consumption to economic growth from 2016 to 2020.

China will further promote foreign investment by adopting the "pre-establishment national treatment plus negative list" approach nationwide.

The country will ensure it builds a moderately prosperous society as scheduled, the CPC said. It is aiming to double its 2010 GDP and per capita income of residents both in cities and rural areas by 2020.

Click [here](#) for details

China targets state farms in agriculture modernization

[Xinhua, 13-10-2015] The government has singled out state-managed farms as in need of an overhaul as it bids to modernize the country's agriculture.

State farms will be transformed into modern companies through innovation and industrial upgrades, according to a statement released after a meeting of the Central Leading Group for Deepening Overall Reform, presided over by President Xi Jinping, on Tuesday, 13th October.

The meeting passed guidelines on reforming such farms, established during the 1950s as the government organized large-scale efforts to develop wasteland.

There are more than 1,700 state farms, accounting for about 5 percent of China's total arable land, and with state-owned assets worth over 750 billion yuan (118 billion U.S. dollars), according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

They have long been beset by lack of incentives, rigid management and heavy fiscal burdens as they are also responsible for local public services such as healthcare and education.

The reform will help the farms separate government and social functions from enterprise management and prevent losses of state-owned assets, the statement said.

Click [here](#) for details

Develop agriculture in light of industrial concepts

[Gov.cn, 04-10-2015] Large-scale operations of agriculture in various forms should be promoted while fully respecting farmers' wishes, Premier Li Keqiang said at a State Council executive meeting in July, when farmland protection and law-abiding land contracts were urged.

Exploring large-scale operations has always been one important direction for agricultural reform and modernization.

Some 10 years ago, during an inspection trip to Canada, Premier Li noticed that people there referred to agriculture as "agriculture industry", which perplexed him.

Later he understood the phrase because industrial methods were adopted to connect the different links in food production, from seed selection, cultivation and harvest to processing and marketing food, so that the products could be sold to all over the world.

In Premier Li's philosophy of agriculture development, the process of urbanization should parallel agricultural modernization in a bid to enrich the farmers. The vast number of rural migrant workers has always been a major concern for the Premier.

Premier Li urged cities to integrate rural migrant workers who live and work there as new citizens so that they can enjoy equal public services.

Click [here](#) for details

Premier urges more support for innovation, entrepreneurship

[Xinhua, 19-10-2015] Mass entrepreneurship and innovation are becoming a new growth engine, and the central government will continue to support such activities, Premier Li Keqiang said.

As China's economy enters the "new normal" trend, structural reform can inspire creativity, such as measures to support innovation and mass entrepreneurship, which will help steer the economy toward a more sustainable path, Li said at the opening ceremony of the first mass entrepreneurship and innovation week in its main venue, Zhongguancun, a major high-tech zone in Beijing.

Innovation and entrepreneurship could generate more jobs, inspire creativity, promote structural readjustment and facilitate a medium-to-high growth of the economy, Li said.

Mass entrepreneurship and innovation could provide fair opportunities for all, especially the young, to improve their lives and achieve better careers through their own efforts, Li said while visiting innovative products including China's first metal 3D printers made by college lecturers and students.

Data released Monday showed that in the January-September period, the high-tech sector reported 10.4 percent growth in value-added output, 4.2 percentage points higher than the figure for the whole industrial sector.

Click [here](#) for details

Political advisors discuss GM crops in China

[Xinhua, 08-10-2015] Senior political advisors discussed genetically modified (GM) crops at a bi-weekly consultation session on Thursday, 8th October.

Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), hosted and addressed the meeting.

According to a statement issued after the session, members of the CPPCC suggested that China research, promote and supervise GM crops from the perspective of overall national interest and long-term development.

They suggested that the government should emphasize basic research while encouraging enterprises to play a more active role in applied research.

The political advisors urged caution in promoting GM crops, especially GM staple foods, taking the current level of public knowledge and acceptance into consideration.

Also, tougher regulations, stricter law enforcement, bigger fund as well as third-party testing agencies are called for in an improved supervision system for GM crops that guarantees consumers' rights to information and choice.

Click [here](#) for details

China's beefed up food safety laws sets new regulatory system

[CCTV, 01-10-2015] China's food is known for its long and rich history, but also for its modern scandals. A new food safety law, dubbed by experts as the toughest yet, went into effect on 1 October to help assuage the concerns surrounding the country's food safety.

Most Chinese people are pessimistic about the safety of their food. A recent Pew report found that 71 percent of respondents considered the safety of their food a "very big problem" or a "moderately big problem."

"Safe food is a fundamental," Premier Li Keqiang said earlier this year while speaking to the country's State Council. "People want and need to know that every bite of food they take is safe to eat."

But can the new law restore confidence in China's food industry?

Key point of the new law:

- The new system now comprises just two regulatory bodies: the Ministry of Agriculture, for all agricultural products; and the China Food and Drug Administration, or CFDA.
- The State Council Food Safety Committee will coordinate and supervise the cross-department regulatory efforts, draft national food safety strategies and review the legal system to ensure it's up to date.
- The National Health and Family Planning Commission will meanwhile be in charge of setting national food safety standards and assessing risks.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

SW China province to invest heavily on migratory bird habitat protection

[Xinhua, 28-10-2015] Southwest China's Guizhou Province will spend 11 billion yuan (1.73 billion U.S. dollars) to protect and restore the largest wintering ground for migratory birds in southwest China, local authorities said Wednesday, 28th October.

Caohai Lake, located in the county seat of Weining, accommodates over 100,000 migratory birds every winter, including black-necked cranes. It is also a national nature reserve.

Caohai Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in Guizhou, provides about 1 billion cubic meters of water to the upper reaches of the Yangtze River.

Currently more than 8,000 tonnes of sewage are being drained into the lake every day and about 120 tonnes of household waste are dumped around the lake. The water area of the lake has shrunk from 200 square km in the middle of the last century to 25 square km now.

The protection will include 47 projects including sewage and garbage disposal, rural environment improvement and ecosystem restoration.

It is hoped to increase the water area to 33 square km by 2020 and to improve the water quality.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese scientists unveil draft genome sequence of adzuki bean

[Xinhua, 13-10-2015] Chinese researchers on Monday announced that they have completed sequencing the genome of adzuki bean, an important source of starch, digestible protein, mineral elements and vitamins for at least a billion people worldwide.

The draft genome sequence, published in the U.S. journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, was generated by a collaborated team from Beijing University of Agriculture, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing Genomics Institute.

A total of 34,183 protein-coding genes were predicted, and adzuki bean is more closely related to common bean than to soybean and other legumes.

More important, functional analysis revealed that significant differences in starch and fat content between adzuki bean and soybean were likely due to the so-called transcriptional level, rather than copy number variations, of the genes related to starch and oil synthesis.

Furthermore, re-sequencing of 49 accessions including 11 wild, 11 semi-wild, 17 landraces, and 10 improved varieties and population analyses revealed that semi-wild adzuki bean is the progenitor species of cultivated adzuki bean.

Adzuki bean, domesticated in China 12,000 years ago, is currently grown in more than 30 countries of the world, especially in East Asia.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese farmers turn to e-commerce to rid poverty

[China Daily, 15-10-2015] The State Council unveiled plans to upgrade internet infrastructure and the development of logistics industry in rural areas.

The government decided to allocate more central government funds to building Internet infrastructure and also advocated funding from local governments and social organizations. It plans to invest up to 140 billion yuan by 2020 to provide at least 50,000 villages with Internet access.

By then, about 98 percent of the nation's rural areas will be hooked up to the Internet.

It coincides with another of China's 2020 target to help about 70 million rural residents out of poverty.

The Internet, especially mobile networks, has provided agriculture with a new vision. E-commerce enables farmers to sell goods quickly, conveniently shop around for materials and obtain small loans more easily.

Click [here](#) for details

E-commerce boosts cross-border trade between China, Russia

[Xinhua, 15-10-2015] E-commerce has facilitated cross-border trade between China and Russia, bringing cheaper Russian goods, especially food, to Chinese doorsteps, quicker than ever before.

During the second China-Russia expo in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, organic Russian food such as flour, honey, beer, vegetable oil and fruit juice featured prominently.

Heilongjiang, which shares a 3,000-km border with the neighboring country, is an important gateway to Russia. Goods from Russia enjoy a "one-stop customs clearance" service in Heilongjiang's city Suifenhe, and can be in China within two hours.

China remained Russia's largest trade partner for the fifth year in 2014, while Russia is China's ninth-largest trade partner. Bilateral trade rose 6.8 percent from the previous year to a record high of 95.28 billion U.S. dollars in 2014. Twenty years ago, it was less than 7 billion dollars.

China's cross-border e-commerce has been developing rapidly, which will help create jobs, expand the market and inject new energy into the Chinese economy, according to a statement on the Chinese government's website earlier in March.

More than 80 percent of Chinese foreign-trade firms have an online-business arm.

According to China Internet Network Information Center, China had 649 million Internet users by the end of 2014, and some 557 million used cell phones to get online.

Click [here](#) for details

The biggest photovoltaic project in agriculture in Changxing

[Xinhua, 23-10-2015]The biggest photovoltaic project in agriculture in Changxing County, east China's Zhejiang Province, with an area of 1,460 mu (97 hectares), the 30 megawatts project ran its trial operation in late October. While the photovoltaic panels are used for generating electricity, the land beneath them are used for growing cash crops. It is estimated that some 10,000 tons of standard coal and 28,000 tons of carbon dioxide emission will be reduced in Changxing County every year.

Click [here](#) for details

China reports less pollution from burning straw

[China daily, 09-10-2015] China saw an "overall improvement" regarding air pollution from burning straw this summer, the Ministry of Environmental Protection reported Friday, 9th October.

Northern farmers traditionally burn straw after harvest and plough to bury the ashes in the ground, which they believe fertilizes farmland.

Citing satellite data, the ministry observed 1,158 burning sites between May 20 and July 31, a 45.35 percent decrease year on year.

Henan, Hebei and Shandong provinces are the three heaviest burning locations. Hebei, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia and Shanxi saw slight increases amid an overall decline.

"While straw burning was effectively kept in check this summer, problems persist," said Wang Dongqing, a senior ministry official.

He said slack government supervision efforts and the absence of burning control policies in some regions are the result of the problem.

Urging local governments to step up controls, Wang warned that straw burning in the autumn period, which normally lasts from late Sept to late Nov, usually results in more air pollution than that in summer.

The ministry vowed to name and shame provincial-level governments whose jurisdictions report more burning activities during autumn compared with last year.

Click [here](#) for details

China's villages are most promising places for ecological civilization construction

[Xinhua, 24-10-2015] China's villages are good places to start the ecological civilization construction, said U.S. ecological philosopher John Cobb, Jr. in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Cobb believed the industrial revolution only intensified the alienation of the urban population from nature and then eroded rural living altogether by industrializing agriculture and turning husbandry into manufacturing meat.

Click [here](#) for details

The Eden Project to create £100m environmental centre in China

[Independent, 29-09-2015] The Eden Project, which has brought millions of visitors to its biodomes, which replicate the world's different climates, in Cornwall, has agreed to create a £100m environmental centre in China.

The contract for the Cornwall-based charity to begin work on creating a new environmental and educational hub was signed in Beijing this week.

China Eden will be four times the size of the UK attraction, which has brought 16 million visitors to Cornwall since it opened in a former clay pit in 2001, generating £1.6bn for the local economy.

The temperature-controlled geodesic domes in Cornwall enclose much of the 2.2-hectare site and are home to a vast collection of rare and exotic plants, including the largest rainforest "in captivity".

China Eden will be based in Qingdao, midway between Beijing and Shanghai in the east of the country. It will sit on the convergence of two rivers near the city on a piece of reclaimed land previously left vacant after being ravaged by salt production and prawn farming. The project's design is unlikely to replicate the iconic bubble-shaped domes of Cornwall's ecological park.

Grimshaw Architects, which is behind the new design, said in a statement: "The deal's only just been signed – so design and scope are still being determined." The London-based firm will be collaborating with the Chinese developer Jinmao for China Eden.

Click [here](#) for details

Gates Foundation announces plans to establish Grand Challenges China Program

[Xinhua, 19-10-2015] The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) announced plans on Monday 19th October to establish the "Grand Challenges China Program" in the near future.

The program is considered a new partnership under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the two sides also on Monday in a bid to support, strengthen and develop science and technology research cooperation on global health and development.

According to the MOU and an implementation agreement, the Gates Foundation and NSFC will jointly select and fund research projects on major infectious diseases, reducing maternal and child mortality, translation, agriculture, food and nutrition, as well as other areas that will benefit people in need in China and beyond.

Research projects involving substantive collaboration between Chinese and international teams are encouraged to apply for grants of up to 1 million U.S. dollars (about 6.36 million yuan) with joint funding from the Gates Foundation and NSFC.

Click [here](#) for details

Trade and Business

China, Britain lift partnership to "global" level

[Xinhua, 22-10-2015] China and Britain agreed Wednesday 21st October to raise their ties to a "global comprehensive strategic partnership" in the 21st century.

The two countries will open up a golden era of enduring, inclusive and win-win relationship and jointly create a brighter future for bilateral relations, visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping told a joint press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron after their talks.

China and Britain are both major countries with significant influence, and now their partnership is standing at a new starting point, the president said, urging the two countries to seize opportunities to promote their ties.

The two leaders achieved important consensus on bilateral relations as well as international and regional hotspot issues, according to a statement issued after the Xi-Cameron talks at 10 Downing Street.

It is the right time for the two sides to deepen their bilateral relationship and mutually beneficial cooperation as their "comprehensive strategic partnership" is embracing the second decade, Xi said during the meeting.

Britain has pledged to be China's best friend in the West and the most open partner of the world's second largest economy. The resolve is proved on Wednesday when a Chinese company signed a landmark agreement to invest in the British Hinkley Point nuclear power project.

Click [here](#) for details

UK-China Joint Statement on building a global comprehensive strategic partnership for the 21st Century

[FCO, 22-10-2015] At the invitation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, His Excellency President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China undertook a State Visit to the UK from 19 to 23 October 2015.

The UK and China commit to building a global comprehensive strategic partnership for the 21st Century. This visit opens a golden era in UK-China relations featuring enduring, inclusive and win-win cooperation.

The UK and China both face the tasks of reform, growth and innovation and are uniquely matched to cooperate on economic development. They stand ready to learn from each other's successful experience and find new models of cooperation to support the growth of sustainable economies underpinned by world class science and innovation. The two sides agree to raise the level of cooperation in innovation and establish a UK-China Innovation Cooperation Partnership.

The two sides reaffirm their commitment to implementing the post-2015 development agenda and will continue to work together in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals including poverty reduction, and through a renewed UK-China Development Partnership.

Click [here](#) for details

Alibaba, UKTI sign deal to help British firms operate sales to China

[Xinhua, 23-10-2015] Leading Chinese online and mobile commerce company Alibaba said that it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) Friday, 23rd October on helping British businesses to operate sales on Alibaba's popular China B2B e-marketplace platform.

The Memorandum of Understanding will see Alibaba help British companies join the 1688.com trading platform -- a Chinese wholesale e-marketplace dedicated to helping Chinese retailers, wholesalers and distributors find overseas suppliers, including those from Britain.

Alibaba estimates that the website will help British companies reach more than 100 million Chinese businesses every day, which is nearly twice the British population.

UKTI is Britain's governmental department working with a number of global e-marketplaces to help British retailers and brands to sell through e-marketplaces and help them succeed in the global economy.

Alibaba's London office at the financial district Canary Wharf will expand to serve as its European hub, with other offices to be opened successively in Italy, France and Germany in months.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese manufacturers go rural to market farming equipment

[CCTV, 08-10-2015] The appeal of rural life had lost its luster as Beijing embarked on a huge urbanization drive. Numerous farmers had abandoned their fields in search of better jobs and opportunities in China's big cities. Zoomlion, one of the largest Chinese heavy industrial machinery manufacturers based in Changsha, Hunan province, stood at the forefront of the nationwide urbanization movement.

Zoomlion's strategy is not just to export its agriculture machinery, but to sell to Chinese farmers as well. The Changsha-based machinery manufacturer disclosed a 35 percent jump in

sales of its farming equipment with revenues surging to 2bn RMB for the first half of this year.

Zoomlion harbors ambitious goals as the company expects its sales of agriculture machinery to account for 30-40 percent of corporate revenues in the next five years.

Modernizing Chinese farms to meet or exceed Western standards has a long way to go. Many Chinese farmers rely on archaic tools to till small plots of land. To succeed in a new 'Golden Age, they must utilize the latest agronomy crop methods with access to the most-advanced mechanized farming equipment.

Zoomlion plans to introduce more new agriculture machinery to the global market, but they must test them beforehand.

Ghana appears to be a premier location to test new farming equipment, since Ghanaian farming methods are still primitive, but the region enjoys ideal climate conditions for raising crops.

Click [here](#) for details

China's top farming produce sees export decline

[Xinhua, 20-10-2015] East China's Shandong Province, the country's main agricultural region, saw an unusual decline in exports of farm produce in the first three quarters of 2015.

Exports were 4.3 percent lower than in the same period of 2014, falling to 11 billion U.S. dollars, revealed customs authorities in the Shandong port city of Qingdao on Tuesday.

The fall was attributed to weak demand in its traditional export markets of Japan, the Republic of Korea and Europe. However, exports to the United States, the ASEAN and Latin American countries grew.

The data picked up from the second quarter thanks to an increase in vegetable and peanut exports, said Hu Zhihua, an official dealing in import-export at Shandong's provincial department of agriculture.

Garlic accounted for 40 percent of the province's vegetable exports in terms of value in the first three quarters and was the main driver for vegetables exports rising 6.9 percent year on year in the same period, according to Hu.

He predicted the situation would improve in the last quarter of the year and that Shandong would maintain its position as the top exporter of farm produce.

It has been China's biggest exporter of agricultural produce for 16 consecutive years, typically accounting for a quarter of the country's total.

Click [here](#) for details

Online markets key to China's rural growth

[China daily, 17-10-2015] China will step up efforts to promote the online sales of agricultural products as part of its broad plan to leverage e-commerce to alleviate poverty in rural areas, senior officials said on Friday, 16th October.

Wang Bingnan, assistant minister of commerce, said at a news conference that the ministry will integrate resources from telecommunications, transportation and postal departments to help rural residents better sell farm produce online.

Wang said that enhancing rural regions' abilities to upgrade their infrastructure facilities and market access channels is on top of the ministry's agenda. The ministry will partner with the

State Post Bureau to encourage e-commerce companies and express delivery firms to expand into rural regions to directly link farmers with consumers, reducing the role of middlemen.

Currently, rural e-commerce is developing rapidly in China's eastern coastal regions, but less developed inland areas are still facing obstacles, including lack of access to the Internet and the shortage of skilled workers.

Data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology show that among the 50,000 villages that have no access to the Internet, 98 percent of the are located in China's middle and western provinces.

Click [here](#) for details

Baidu takes a bite of COFCO's online fresh food retailer Womai

[China Daily, 13-10-2015] Search engine major Baidu Inc is entering the e-commerce sector for fresh produce by investing \$20 million in a local online food retailer.

Baidu has joined the latest \$200 million funding round for Womai, a food website owned by China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corp, a leading supplier of agricultural products, which is better known as COFCO Corp, said a report on qq.com, a news portal run by Tencent Holdings Ltd.

The \$200 million funding round is expected to set a record in China's online food retailing sector, it said, adding Womai is also considering an initial public offering of its shares sometime in 2017, but did not offer any details.

Baidu confirmed its investment, but declined to offer more details, and said Womai will issue a press release next week. Life insurance giant Taikang Life Insurance Co Ltd is the other major investor in Womai.

Baidu's enthusiasm in the online fresh food sector comes as a growing number of Chinese consumers are turning to websites and mobile platforms for fruits, seafood and other fresh agricultural products.

The fresh funds will be used to bolster the cold-chain logistics infrastructure and for third-party delivery systems.

When contacted, Womai sources confirmed the news but did not disclose any details. "More details will be made public subsequently," the online food retailer said.

Baidu's rivals Tencent and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd are also steadily building their market presence through either cooperation or by launching their own fresh produce platforms.

Click [here](#) for details

Belt and Road Initiative sparks big surge in FDI

[China Daily, 09-10-2015] Foreign direct investment in China's agriculture and forestry sectors by investors from countries along the Belt and Road Initiative surged 2,171 percent and 1,137 percent year-on-year, respectively, in August, the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday, 8th October.

FDI from the nations and regions into China's animal husbandry and fishery industries also rose 127 percent and 103 percent, respectively, officials said, indicating China's huge demand for products such as grain, vegetables, high-protein food and aquatic products remains attractive to international investors.

The initiative, proposed by China in 2013, is a trade and infrastructure network that includes the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The planned network connects Asia, Europe and Africa and passes through more than 60 countries and regions.

Shen Danyang, the ministry's spokesman, said the Belt and Road Initiative will prove a flexible platform for both inbound investment by foreign firms and outbound investment by Chinese companies.

Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia were the top five investors into China among Belt and Road countries in August.

Official data show that FDI into China dropped 14 percent during the month from a year earlier, totaling \$7.2 billion, but Belt and Road countries set up 244 companies in China during August, a 54.4 percent rise on last year.

Click [here](#) for details

Farming machine makers find new fields for growth

[China Daily, 09-10-2015] The world's largest makers of tractors and combines are finding a rare opportunity for growth in China, with big farm machines in demand as the rural labor force shrinks and plot sizes grow.

Driving this binge on bigger, more powerful equipment to till larger farms is a combination of labor migration to the cities, land reforms and government subsidies that is spurring consolidation of the country's vast small landholdings.

The average farm in China was smaller than a football field in 2012, but still nearly 900,000 "family farms" had an average size of 13.3 hectares, according to data from the Ministry of Agriculture.

While these family plots were still less than a 10th of the average US farm, further expansions in sizes are expected as Beijing urges more efficient agriculture and takes steps toward reforming land rights.

Several thousand State and cooperative farms of about 3,500 hectares each also need bigger tractors and combines to cultivate and harvest their agribusiness-size plots.

Total sales of 100-129 horse-power tractors in China increased 38 percent in the first half of 2015 compared with the same period last year.

Click [here](#) for details

LatAm countries have potential to be strategic partners for China in agrifood sector

[Xinhua, 22-10-2015] Latin American and Caribbean countries have the potential to become strategic partners for China in the agrifood market, said The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in its latest report.

They have not only vast natural and water resources, but also international companies that are competitive in different segments of the agro-industrial chain, according to the report.

This places the region in good stead to become a major supplier of nutritious, safe and high-quality foods, and diversifies from reliance on exports of agricultural commodities, ECLAC said.

"Opportunities abound, not only to increase and diversify exports to China, but also for trans-Latin companies to invest there, tapping their food industry expertise to supply local markets and use China as an export platform for the rest of Asia," read the ECLAC report.

The report regarded agriculture and agro-industry as a promising sector, "as China needs to feed 22 percent of the world's population with only 7 percent of its farmland and 6 percent of its water resources."

Click [here](#) for details

Aquaculture deal aims to put fish on more plates

[China Daily, 02-10-2015] A partnership between Great Lakes University in western Kenya and the China Fisheries Academy in Henan province has set in motion a process that will greatly increase fish production in East Africa.

The \$19 million agreement promises to improve the region's food security by introducing hybrids that reproduce and mature in a short time. The project is expected to push up domestic supply of fish over the next couple of years and reduce production costs, one of the main obstacles to consumption.

Overfishing, declining investment in research and extension services, and introduction of new predator species such as Nile perch have contributed to the depletion of indigenous varieties such as tilapia, a rare delicacy in many Kenyan households. The government says stocks of wild fish fell from 200,150 metric tons in 1999 to 163,300 metric tons in 2013.

The technology behind the 20-year renewable partnership will introduce cage cultures and ponds. This means the fingerlings may either be hatched and matured in underwater cages in Lake Victoria or in farm ponds before being released into the wild.

Click [here](#) for details

China firms to set up foot&mouth vaccine plant in Namibia

[Xinhua, 21-10-2015] The government of Namibia is negotiating with two Chinese companies on establishing a plant to manufacture foot and mouth disease vaccine.

The two companies are Jinyu Group, which specializes in biopharmaceuticals manufacturing and is involved in research and production of veterinary vaccines, and AFECC, which is a multi-operational business engaged in international project contracting and mineral resources development, among others.

Namibia, which has about two million cattle, is prone to outbreaks of foot and mouth disease with the latest reported in May this year.

Although the outbreak was contained, it cost the country 157 million Namibian dollars (about 12 million U.S dollars) and a state of emergency to contain the outbreak.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese companies eye Australia's vast land sale

[FT, 07-10-2015] Chinese buyers are hatching bids for parcels of Australian land covering an area three-quarters the size of England complete with nearly 200,000 cattle, highlighting China's growing demand for meat to feed its rising middle classes.

China's increasingly carnivorous diet has seen companies fork out almost \$20bn on cross-border food deals in the past five years alone, according to Dealogic.

On the block is family-owned S Kidman & Co, which controls pastoral leases covering more than 100,000 sq km in the outback and owns almost 200,000 cattle. It is tipped to fetch A\$325m (US\$231m). Those believed to be in the running include Donlinks Grain and Oil Company, a Guangzhou-based vegetable oil producer; Shanghai Pengxin and a consortium led by Shanghai CRED. All are privately owned.

Chinese interest in Australian agriculture has gathered pace since 2012 when a consortium led by textile giant Shandong Ruyi bought Cubbie Station, a cotton farm, for \$232m.

Attracted by China's beef and dairy appetite, Australian billionaires have begun to acquire agricultural interests over the past year. Gina Rinehart, Australia richest person, mining magnate Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest and retailer Harvey Norman, headed by Gerry Harvey, have all bought cattle stations.

Foreign ownership in agriculture remains modest, accounting for 10 per cent of total agricultural land and 1 per cent of agricultural companies as of June 2013, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics — the most recent data available.

Nevertheless, in the past two years Chinese investment has begun flowing more freely into vineyards, seafood, cattle stations and the dairy industry. The state-owned Beijing Agricultural Investment Fund and Shenzhen-based Yuhu group last month set up an A\$3bn fund to invest in Australian agriculture.

Click [here](#) for details

New Zealand's largest livestock processing co-op sells 50% to China

[Co-Operative News, 08-10-2015] A multinational meat co-operative from New Zealand will sell off half of the business to a private company after trading in the market for 67 years. Set up in 1948, Silver Fern Farms Limited is the country's largest livestock processing and marketing enterprise. The co-op is owned by over 16,000 sheep, deer and cattle farmers.

On 15 September the board announced it would recommend unanimously to its members to form a partnership with China's largest meat processor, Shanghai Maling. Chair of Silver Fern Farms, Rob Hewett, said the 50/50 partnership with the Shanghai based company would help grow a long-term global business. The co-op has been affected by a collapse in the price of sheep meat prices.

The new company, which would be debt-free, would also pay 50% of net profit in dividends to its shareholders. The deal implies a share value of NZD \$2.84 compared to the current value of 35c.

The partnership between the two businesses follows a series of investments in agriculture by companies in China, which is the world's biggest meat consumer.

Silver Fern Farms said they expected the co-operative to triple its revenues compared to 2014 as a result of the deal.

Click [here](#) for details

Aust'n dairy farmers urged for more milk to satisfy growing Asian demand

[Xinhua, 28-10-2015] Australian dairy farmers have been urged to ramp up milk production as Asia's dairy demands continue to grow, or face the risk of China looking to Europe to satisfy its needs.

In combination with the recent approval of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA), an ANZ paper published on Wednesday, 28th Oct has said a lack of resources and understanding of the Asian dairy boom could leave Australia behind European producers when vying for Asian buyers.

The report also signals a potential 15 percent jump in annual Australian milk production if investment structures and growth incentives are put in place.

But to achieve successful expansion into Asian countries such as China, the ANZ's head of agribusiness, Mark Bennett, said Australia's 6,000 dairy farmers needed to obtain more cows and more farmland quickly.

Bennett said it was important that Australia takes any potential opportunities to expand into Asia, especially considering the free trade agreement with China was signed this year.

The ANZ report said ChAFTA would provide further incentives for farmers to expand operations, under the best scenario, herds could grow from 270 cows per farm up to 825 cows per farm by 2025.

Click [here](#) for details

**Compiled by Yuelai Lu, SAIN Secretariat (UK).
If you have any further enquiries, please contact Yuelai Lu at: y.lu@uea.ac.uk; for
more information about SAIN, please visit: www.sainonline.org/English.html**