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## Policies

### **China to promote new types of agribusiness**

[Xinhua, 17-11-2016] Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang said the government will increase policy support for new forms of agribusiness to bolster rural economy.

"Large-scale agricultural operations in new forms will lead agricultural modernization," Wang said when addressing a meeting held on Wednesday and Thursday in Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province.

The meeting discusses cultivating new types of agribusiness and increasing the scale of agricultural operations.

Wang called for promoting the development of family farms, large and specialized agricultural operations, farming cooperatives and other emerging forms of agribusiness.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China's land restoration drive marks government thinking turnaround, analysts say**

[Caixin, 23-11-2016] China's move to let 1 million acres of farmland lie fallow or put it under crop rotation is a sign that the country's pressing food-safety and environmental woes have become a higher priority on Beijing's agenda.

The country's unrestrained economic expansion of more than 30 years has been accompanied by a marked rise in pollution, desertification, water shortages and other environmental disasters that are posing serious threats to the food chain.

The central government said in June that it will hand out nearly 1.5 billion yuan (\$218 million) in subsidies to farmers in a drive to restore the health of 6.16 million mu (1.01 million acres) of farmland on a trial basis, according to a joint announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture and other departments.

Analysts said that the pilot program reflected a change in thinking of the Chinese government, which has long been concerned with maintaining high crop yields to ensure grain self-sufficiency and the ability to feed 1.4 billion people.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China's labor costs to rise nearly 9% in 2016, think tank says**

[Caixin, 18-11-2016] Labor costs in China are expected to rise by nearly 9% this year, a research report showed, in a development expected to pressure authorities to reduce corporate social insurance contributions and ease other burdens on companies to help them ride out the growth slowdown.

Increasing labor and land costs in China have been forcing foreign investors to move their manufacturing out of the country to cheaper locations in Southeast Asia, while putting the squeeze on local companies already struggling with weakening expansion.

Employers across the country are facing an 8.68% increase to 88,532 yuan (\$12,890) in hiring expenses, including salary and benefits, per employee this year, the Pudong Innovation Research Institute, a government think tank in Shanghai, predicted in a report released on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China moves to protect endangered livestock, poultry species**

[Xinhua, 12-11-2016] China has unveiled a plan to protect the country's livestock and poultry genetic resources from now to 2020.

At present, 18 percent of all the country's local poultry and livestock species are endangered or on the verge of extinction, the Ministry of Agriculture said in the latest plan.

By 2020, China aims to provide effective protection to more than 95 percent of species under national-level protection and more than 80 percent of species under provincial-level protection, the plan said.

China has discovered 545 local livestock and poultry species by far, representing about a sixth of the world's total. The genetic resources carry strategic importance for its ecological and agricultural safety. However, many local species lack sufficient protection due to outdated infrastructure, flawed monitoring and early warning, as well as the lack of professional management institutions and personnel.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China seeks to soothe concerns over illegal GM crops**

[Reuters, 11-11-2016] China's tough supervision of unapproved genetically modified (GM) crops will allow for commercialization of such foods in the future, said an agriculture ministry official, defending a recent crackdown on illegally grown GM corn.

China has spent billions on research of biotech crops, but it has not yet approved the planting of any GM varieties of staple food crops amid deep-seated consumer opposition.

It plans to introduce GM corn and soybeans within the next five years, however, a step that would lead to a huge increase in global production of genetically modified crops.

Some farmers have recently been found growing GM corn illegally, triggering a strong response from the government to shore up already low consumer trust in its ability to handle food safety issues.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Liaoning officials called on carpet over proliferation of GM crops**

[Caixin, 11-11-2016] China's Ministry of Agriculture said it summoned to the capital top agricultural officials from four regions, including Liaoning province, to discuss their failure to curb the illegal cultivation of genetically modified (GM) crops.

The session followed a report by Greenpeace China in January that said GM corn was widely grown and distributed in Liaoning, a major grain supplier for China, Agriculture Ministry official Zhang Xianfa told Caixin on Thursday, 11 November.

A Greenpeace China survey of five rural counties in Liaoning late last year found 93% of corn produced in the region was genetically modified, the international advocacy group said in January.

Commercial cultivation of GM crops other than cotton and papaya is not allowed under Chinese law, according to Li Yifang, head of the food and agriculture campaign for Greenpeace. However, the level of contamination from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the production, supply and distribution is high in the country, he added.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China calls for expedited fulfillment of climate commitments**

[Xinhua, 16-11-2016] China on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November called for faster fulfillment of commitments already made for climate actions before 2020, urging developed countries to revisit and increase their emission cut ambitions.

"All parties should speed up the delivery of their pre-2020 commitments in order to build mutual trust as the basis for the post-2020 implementation of the Agreement and enhanced actions," Xie Zhenhua, China's special representative on climate change affairs, told a United Nations conference, referring to the historic Paris Agreement.

"The developed countries must revisit and increase their emission reduction ambitions under the Convention or in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol," the envoy said.

Xie expressed the hope that the Facilitative Dialogue on the pre-2020 actions can achieve substantive outcomes which will provide pragmatic and effective solutions to the pre-2020 enhanced actions on emission reduction, adaptation, finance, and technology.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Science, Technology and Environment**

### **Agri-tech in China – opportunity for UK businesses**

[Innovate UK, 18-11-2016] Around 55 representatives from British companies, universities and government spent a week in China to discuss collaboration in agri-tech innovation.

In Xi'an, they attended the UK China Innovation Policy Roundtable for agri-tech hosted by the [Ministry of Science and Technologies China Rural Technology Development Centre](#) (CRTDC).

After an opening address from Michelle McIlveen, the Northern Ireland Minister for Agriculture, the presentations from UK delegation showed that UK is the place to carry out cutting edge applied research.

The event culminated in the signing of an MoU between Innovate UK and CRTDC in which both parties agreed to explore mutual collaboration covering the following areas:

- big data in agriculture
- precision agriculture
- intelligent agricultural equipment
- prevention and control of crop and animal diseases
- agricultural biotechnology to explore improvements in crop health and protection
- nutrition and health developing high quality nutritious foods which meet the needs of future consumers

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### **Agri-tech fair focuses on practical uses, internet integration**

[China Daily, 10-11-2016] Oversize pumpkins grown in space, solar-powered pest control vehicles and distance pest situation forecast systems... These are some of the most eye-catching exhibits at the 23rd China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair running on Nov 5-9.

Organizers said that this year's event highlights high-tech applications, e-commerce experience and agricultural brands' image. They also said the displayed projects are highly practical and can be easily industrialized.

There are 266 international booths for overseas exhibitors, an increase of 73 percent year-on-year, which come from about 40 countries and regions.

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### **Hybrid rice sets new world record in production**

[China daily, 19-11-2016] Yuan Longping, renowned Chinese developer of hybrid rice, has set a new world record.

A hybrid rice project headed by Yuan has achieved an annual yield of 1,537.78 kilograms of rice per mu (about 0.07 hectares) of farmland, authorities announced Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November in Xingning City in south China's Guangdong Province.

The amount of the double-cropping rice is equal to that produced over three seasons in the past, marking a big breakthrough, said Luo Xiwen, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

"This is the fifth generation of hybrid rice technology," Yuan told Xinhua. "The quality of the rice is as good as Japan's renowned Koshihikari rice."

The project was launched in 2015.

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### **Increasing China's food supply – with drones**

[The Diplomat, 11-11-2016] Although drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) achieved prominence owing to their recreational and military uses, they hold other value. In particular, drones could help increase the food supply, a critical need as the world's population is estimated to reach 9.9 billion by the year 2050.

In Shenzhen at the China Commercial UAV Summit, agriculturalists, and UAV manufacturers discussed issues facing the industry in China today. Regarding the use of UAVs for agricultural purposes, Liu Libo from Shenzhen Drone Development Company said, "Although there have been advancements, we still see a gap between what is actually being used and the potential."

UAVs use sensors and advanced cameras to generate precise, real-time data and images of plant growth, soil conditions, land temperatures, water levels, and crop threats. As UAV payload capacities increase, applying pesticides and fertilizer is becoming feasible.

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### **Drone certification? New trend in China**

[CRI, 20-11-2016] Drone is increasingly a popular item here in China and with it, more and more people are considering becoming certified.

Becoming a certified drone pilot is not easy. In some cases it can cost a maximum of 27,000 yuan (about 3,920 USD) and requires two demanding tests involving knowledge of mathematics, physics and geography.

By the end of June, 5,000 people in China held a drone certificate show statistics from Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and more than 100 companies in China were qualified to offer training.

EWATT Technology, China's first company to provide drone training, said they now offer training to people who want to become pilots and pilots-in-command, with the latter being able to deal with emergencies.

Many in China are attracted to certification and allured by jobs in agriculture and forestry, marketing and photography within the fast-growing drone industry.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese "new farmers" eye green agriculture**

[Xinhua, 08-11-2016] Feng Xiaoyan views herself as a "new farmer" despite being 53 years old. Feng has a contract to plant organic potatoes in 20,000 mu (1,333 hectares) of sandy land in her hometown in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, and established her own brand "Sister Potato" in 2009.

To cater to different demands from various consumers, Feng chose different potato breeds. "Potatoes are different. Some are good for chips while others are good for mash," she said.

Feng said the high quality of the potatoes is the major reason for her success. From the very beginning, she brought in the best potato varieties in the world and employed potato experts from home and abroad to ensure the use of the most sophisticated planting techniques.

A Ministry of Agriculture report shows that China has roughly 2 million new farmers who run farm product businesses on popular online platforms such as Taobao, Weibo and Wechat.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Provincial government sets the stage for nationwide ecological civilization**

[China daily, 25-11-2016] The central government earmarked Fujian province as the country's first ecological civilization pilot zone in August, assigning the provincial government 26 key tasks and 38 reforms to realize the goal.

It is a key move in the nationwide environmental protection work and reforms for the province's ecological improvement, local officials and scholars said.

Fujian is expected to produce transplantable experience and become a model of environmental protection that can be shared nationwide.

The water quality of Fujian's 12 main rivers is much higher than that of most other provinces, as is the air quality in its nine major cities.

Fujian's energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of its GDP is 25 percent, lower than the national average, and the emissions of the four main airborne pollutants are half that of the national average.

Click [here](#) for details

### **85 artificially-bred rare fish freed into Yangtze**

[GT, 18-11-2016] Eighty-five artificially-bred Chinese sturgeon, a critically endangered species, were released into the Yangtze River.

The release was carried out at the mouth of the river in Shanghai. The freed sturgeons were all 1.6 meters long. Workers also freed nearly 60,000 other fish at the same time, including protected Chinese suckers.

The Chinese sturgeon has existed for more than 140 million years. The fish has top national protection, as economic development, pollution and illegal fishing have driven it to the verge of extinction.

The Chinese sturgeon nature reserve at the mouth of the Yangtze was established in 2002.

Click [here](#) for details

## **EU to set up research and innovation center in Beijing**

[Gov.cn, 19-11-2016] The European Commission will invest 3 million euros (\$3.18 million) to set up a research and innovation center in China as part of its efforts to deepen EU-China scientific and technological cooperation.

The European Research and Innovation Center of Excellence is the first EC-funded center in China that focuses on research and development. It will be headquartered in Beijing, and have networks in other cities on the mainland.

Its services will range from organizing events to increasing exchanges between Chinese and European researchers, to producing reports about the situation in China on scientific and technological innovation.

It will also help private companies from European Union countries do research and seek development in China and find Chinese partners.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Trade and Business**

### **China to deepen cooperation, partnership with Britain**

[Xinhua, 10-11-2016] China is willing to deepen cooperation with the new British government and continue to enhance partnership, said Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Ma made the remarks when co-chairing the eighth China-Britain Economic and Financial Dialogue with British Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond.

Sixty-three outcomes were reached after the two sides held fruitful discussions on the macroeconomy and relevant policies, trade investment and market access, financial service and market, as well as infrastructure and industrial strategies.

The Chinese vice premier pointed out that the China-Britain Economic and Financial Dialogue, a high-level mechanism to implement the two sides' economic and financial cooperation, has become irreplaceable in deepening strategic communication, promoting comprehensive cooperation and enhancing bilateral and multilateral coordination.

Hammond said the two sides work closely together under the G20 framework, and respond effectively to various risks and challenges.

In recent years, the bilateral trade has maintained steady growth, and Britain has attracted more Chinese investment than other European countries, a fact that has demonstrated the vitality of bilateral cooperation, he said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China, UK see enhanced cooperation in trading**

[China Daily, 12-11-2016] Chinese and British leaders affirmed on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November that they want to use the momentum of a new "golden era" in their relations to further cooperate in a range of economic and trade fields.

As the most senior Chinese delegation to visit this year met top British officials for the eighth China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue, areas of cooperation under discussion included trade, investment, market access, financial services, macroeconomic policy and infrastructure. A total of 63 agreements were reached, including moving the feasibility study on London-Shanghai Stock Connect to the next stage.

Hammond confirmed the UK will invest up to \$50 million in the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to support infrastructure projects in developing countries. The commitment makes the UK the second contributor to the AIIB after China, and builds on the UK's early decision to join the AIIB.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China trade 'more important than ever to the UK'**

[BBC, 11-11-2016] Chancellor Philip Hammond has described the UK's relationship with China as "more important than ever", as he hosted the country's vice-premier for trade talks in London.

He promised a "golden era" of relations, with the announcement of several deals.

Vice-Premier Ma Kai added that he wanted to see the UK and EU reach a "win-win" deal over Brexit.

Formal talks on the UK's departure from the EU are due to start next year.

As the meeting took place in London's Lancaster House, it was announced that the Chinese contractor CITIC Construction would invest £200m in the first phase of the £1.7bn London Royal Albert Docks project, headed by the Chinese developer ABP.

And the UK will in turn invest up to £40m in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank based in Beijing, for a fund to help developing countries to prepare infrastructure programmes.

Click [here](#) for details

### **UK companies confident in post-Brexit trade with China**

[CBBC, 11-2016] The China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) has conducted this survey with responses from 266 companies within our network on the effect leaving the EU will have on UK-China business opportunities and on the need for a free-trade agreement (FTA) with China.

The main findings show that, current sentiment towards the opportunities for UK-China cooperation is overwhelmingly positive but does show a range of access issues and impediments. There is a clear message from respondents that an efficiently negotiated FTA is important to making the most of the opportunities between our two countries.

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### **China's Silk Road should consider Britain as its ultimate destination**

[SCMP, 01-11-2016] Britain has every opportunity to be at the European end of China's new Silk Road even though the United Kingdom has elected to leave the European Union, the so-called Brexit.

The bottom line is that Britain will remain open-for-business with China while the EU may, without British input, become less outward-looking.

In the first instance, and although it will not be straightforward, Britain and the EU will ultimately agree the terms of a post-Brexit trade deal. It is in the interests of both sides to reach a deal for economic, geopolitical and even military reasons.

At the moment, while Britain remains a full and participating member of the European Union, its influence is still felt around the negotiating table.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Welsh Hills Bakery eyes launch of free-from brand Lovemore in China**

[Just-Food, 15-11-2016] UK-based business Welsh Hills Bakery is in talks to launch its free-from brand Lovemore in China next year.

Welsh Hills Bakery said it expected to start exports to China in the second quarter of 2017. The company said it was confident of listings with a hypermarket operator in the central Chinese city of Wuhan and was also targeting its Lovemore brand at "major cities" on China's eastern coast, although it is still in talks with retailers over potential listings.

The Lovemore brand is already available in the US, a number of European markets, the Middle East and Australia. Beyond China, the company is eyeing other new markets next year. Welsh Hills Bakery said it was "approached by major companies in Japan and South America" at SIAL about the Lovemore brand and discussions have started about potential deals.

Over 20% of Welsh Hill Bakery's sales are generated from export sales.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Britain's largest ever "tourism" army heads to Shanghai**

[Xinhua, 19-11-2016] Britain's largest ever tourism trade mission to China was preparing to leave for Shanghai Saturday.

More than 80 travel trade delegates from Britain, including officials from tourism bodies, hotels, retailers and tour operators, will showcase Britain as a destination to Chinese buyers at a VisitBritain "Destination Britain China" three day event, being held in Shanghai starting on Nov. 21.

More than 7,000 business appointments will take place during the three-day trade fair, giving more than 100 buyers from 15 cities across China the chance to see the latest tourism products and services from across Britain, with more than half of the delegates attending for the first time.

Britain's most romantic marriage spot, Scotland's Gretna Green, will be represented with

Destination Britain China has been running since 2009 and is an important event in VisitBritain's travel industry calendar, said a spokeswoman for the organisation.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China, New Zealand agree on mutual recognition of organic food certification**

[Xinhua, 14-11-2016] China and New Zealand inked an agreement on Monday to mutually recognize organic food with official certification labels to facilitate organic food development and trade.

China's Certification and Accreditation Administration and New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries agreed to mutually recognize each other's certifications for organic food imports.

This is the first mutual recognition agreement for organic food certification China has signed with a foreign country.

China mainly exports coffee, frozen vegetables, and pet food to New Zealand and imports dairy products, meat and fruit from the country. Under the agreement, all organic food should be marked with Chinese certification labels and codes.

Official data showed that China sold organic food worth 60 billion yuan (8.78 billion U.S. dollars) last year. China is the fourth largest destination for New Zealand's organic food exports.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese investors show growing interest in Australian agriculture**

[People's Daily, 07-11-2016] Chinese ownership of Australian farming land has climbed above three million hectares as an increasing number of Chinese investors show their interest in Australian agriculture.

A flurry of significant land sales in recent months, mostly in Western Australia (WA), has driven the amount of Australian agricultural land owned by Chinese investors to more than three million hectares, more than double the 1.46 million hectares reported by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in June.

Two of the largest properties, the 705,000-hectare Wollogorang and Wentworth station on the border of Queensland and the Northern Territory (NT) and the 639,500-hectare Balfour Downs and Wandanya station in WA, both owned by Chinese, almost accounting for the whole 1.46 million hectares reported by the register.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Premier Li calls for enhancing agricultural cooperation between China, CEE countries**

[China Daily, 05-11-2015] Premier Li Keqiang on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November called for enhancing agricultural cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries to bring new vigor to global trade and investments in the area.

In a congratulatory letter sent to the Meeting of China-CEEC Ministers of Agriculture, the premier said China is willing to share its experience with CEE nations for better cooperation.

China and CEE countries have achieved successful results in technological exchanges, industrial cooperation and the production and trade of farm produce, Li said.

In the letter, Li hailed the importance of agriculture in the country's development, highlighting the role of government in rural reforms, structural adjustment and rural infrastructure to spur growth in agriculture.

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