

Contents

Policies	2
China's No.1 Central Document focuses on agriculture for 13th consecutive year	2
China puts priority on agricultural modernization	2
China eyes supply-side reform to boost agriculture	2
Accelerate agricultural supply-side reform.....	3
Reforms key for attaining China's economic goals.....	3
State Council urges integration of industries in rural areas	4
China calls for new approach to agricultural modernization	4
Bumper crops fill reserves	5
China to remain global economy driver.....	5
China to drop domestic grain price support	5
China adds G20-sized economy every year	6
Science, Technology and Environment	6
Chinese scientists proposed regulatory framework for genome-edited crops	6
Chinese researchers find flavonoids in cotton petals to treat Alzheimer's.....	7
Agricultural researchers eyeing global outreach.....	7
China to improve water conservation in 2016-2020.....	7
China works for more efficient water use in agriculture	8
Leisure agriculture booms in SW China province	9
E-commerce boosts agricultural sales in North China.....	9
Digital China and its implications for Europe	9
Pesticide residue major source of China's food contamination	10
Poppy seasoning scandals expose malpractice in food industry.....	10
Trade and Business	11
Imported foods in China: where are the labels?.....	11
Chinese visitors to Britain soars by 28% in first half of 2015	11
China, Britain vow AIIB cooperation, visa facilitation	12
Vice Minister Qu Dongyu holds briefing on G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting.....	12
China pigs addicted to foreign feed as crop imports surge	12
China opens rice market to the US	13
China may resume U.S. beef imports in 2016, ending 12-year ban	13
CK Life Sciences set to buy Australia's grain producer	14
Chinese agricultural technology helps improve Tanzanian farmers' lives.....	14
Namibia, China discuss beef exports	15

Policies

China's No.1 Central Document focuses on agriculture for 13th consecutive year

[MOA, 28-01-2016] Agriculture, rural community and farmer related issues are once again the topic of China's "No. 1 Central Document" this year, the first policy document jointly released by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on January 27, 2016.

China will apply its new concept of development to agricultural modernization to make the process more efficient, inclusive and environment-friendly.

The document vowed "marked progress" in agriculture by 2020 to ensure society becomes moderately prosperous.

Upholding an innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development concept, the authorities called for faster transformation of agricultural models.

The importance of innovation was also underscored and supply-side structural reform in the agriculture sector was emphasized.

After years of good harvests, China has grown out of a food shortage period, but structural problems remain unsolved: some produce is over-supplied and some in short supply.

Total grain output increased 2.4 percent year on year to 621 million tonnes in 2015, the 12th straight year of growth.

The document said grain output should be increased, and food security through the supply of major farm produce guaranteed.

Click [here](#) for details

China puts priority on agricultural modernization

[Xinhua, 28-02-2016] The State Council Information Office briefed the media on China's first policy document of 2016, released on Wednesday, 27th. It underscores the importance of rural reform and developing modern agriculture. This is the 13th year in a row that the number one central document focuses on agriculture. Chen Xiwen, Deputy Director of the Central Rural Work Leading Group spoke of the importance of faster transformation of agricultural models.

"The most important is to follow through on the guidelines of the 5th Plenum of the 18th Communist Party of China Central Committee. That is, the opinions in the 13th Five-Year Plan for economic and social development, the most important of which is to advance innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development in the rural sector." Chen said.

The key policy document from the CPC Central Committee and the State Council says that China will apply new development concepts to achieve moderate prosperity in rural areas. The document also calls for improving output capacity to ensure grain security and supply, and at the same time work on narrowing the urban-rural income gap.

Click [here](#) for details

China eyes supply-side reform to boost agriculture

[Xinhua, 28-01-2016] For thirteen years in a row, China's "Number One Central Document" has focused on agriculture and rural issues. This year it identified supply-side reform as a way to boost agricultural modernization.

The document is the first major policy document released every year. Agriculture is a significant issue in the world's most populous nation, featuring problems including low farmer income, pollution and ineffective supply of farm produce.

Supply-side structural reform in agriculture was thus emphasized and the importance of innovation was also underscored in the document, which was published on 27th January. The measures aim to better provide for high-quality goods and services as well as to address problems such as overcapacity.

Production structure must meet diverse consumption demands with enterprises encouraged to "go overseas" to balance exports and imports, according to the document.

Supply-side structural reform aims to not only improve productivity but also to realize people-first development. In this sense, the government vowed to help rural workers find employment and increase their incomes.

According to the document, at least 53 million hectares of high-quality farmland will be created by 2020, which will be highly productive to ensure stable yields and able to withstand floods and droughts.

Training for farmers, increased investment in technology, modernization of the seed sector and diverse business entities and models will increase the pace of change.

Click [here](#) for details

Accelerate agricultural supply-side reform

[China Daily, 29-01-2016] Supply-side reform is the main theme of the No. 1 Central Document on agriculture this year.

Agricultural supply-side structural reform aims to comprehensively increase the supply of major agricultural products, focusing on the quality and the effectiveness of their supply rather than solely seeking production increases.

From now on the major agricultural policies will focus on destocking, reducing costs and making up for deficiencies.

Several things need to be considered when promoting agricultural supply-side reform.

First, the government should play a better role in the process. The government should guide local sectors to make regional and differential policy according to their comparative advantages.

Second, the market should play the decisive role in the distribution of resources. The authorities should improve the market system to stimulate the market's vitality and increase the efficiency of resource distribution.

Third, agricultural supply-side reform is a process that cannot be accomplished at one stroke, and good preparation is needed for it to succeed.

Click [here](#) for details

Reforms key for attaining China's economic goals

[Xinhua, 05-01-2016] With a strong resolve to deepen reforms and a clear grasp of its priorities, the Chinese government is on the right path toward countering downward pressure for growth and realizing major economic goals for the next five years.

The country's economy has been mired in a protracted slowdown in the past few years, mainly due to faltering global recovery and weak domestic demand, with GDP growth for the third quarter of 2015 falling to a six-year low of 6.9 percent.

Realizing the fact that China's economy has entered a "new normal" state featuring slower growth, the government has intensified reforms to raise growth quality and efficiency and pursue more balanced and sustainable growth.

China rolled out the "one couple, two children" policy two months after announcing the decision to end the one-child policy. All couples are allowed to have two children beginning in 2016.

For the next five years, China will target medium-high growth to make sure that it can double both its 2010 GDP and the per capita income of rural and urban residents by 2020, which requires an average annual growth of more than 6.5 percent.

The country will also promote greater sophistication in the industrial sector, raise consumption's contribution to growth and the urbanization ratio, as well as bring all rural people out of the poverty by 2020.

Click [here](#) for details

State Council urges integration of industries in rural areas

[Gov.cn, 04-01-2016] China plans to integrate various industries in rural areas to a high level by 2020 to improve agricultural competitiveness and farmers' income, according to a State Council document released on Jan 4.

The integration will be achieved through multiple approaches such as promoting new urbanization, restructuring agriculture, extending industrial chains and developing new business types of modern agriculture, said the State Council document.

The State Council has encouraged rural cooperatives and family farms to innovate new ways of operation such as rural tourism. The governments will support the development of leading agricultural and forestry enterprises in key areas such as e-commerce and product processing.

A surge of social capital is expected to flow in agricultural projects such as building high-standard farms and improving rural services. The State Council has also urged building public service platforms, improving rural financial services and improve rural infrastructure to help achieve the target.

Additionally, the central government will beef up fiscal support on the integration, which will be put into tests at appropriate time.

Click [here](#) for details

China calls for new approach to agricultural modernization

[Xinhua, 27-01-2016] China will apply new development concepts in its efforts to make agricultural modernization more efficient, inclusive and environment-friendly, according to a policy document released Wednesday.

The document, publicized by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council, vowed "marked progress" in agricultural modernization by 2020 to ensure the building of a moderately prosperous society.

Output capacity should be improved to ensure grain security and supply, while the urban-rural income gap must be narrowed, according to the document.

The importance of blue sky thinking was also underscored and supply-side structural reform in the agriculture sector was identified as an area that would be given attention.

Click [here](#) for details

Bumper crops fill reserves

[China daily, 09-01-2016] China's combined grain reserve stands at a historic high, and the country will further increase its storage capacity this year to absorb the mounting stockpile, a senior government official said on Friday, 8th January.

Ren Zhengxiao, head of the State Administration of Grain, told an annual grain circulation work conference in Beijing that the authority will take steps this year to increase the country's grain storage capacity, by encouraging more private warehouses to participate.

The storage expansion is aimed at protecting farmers' interests amid a saturated domestic grain market, he said. The national grain reserve is at its highest point in the country's history, and China's grain production has increased annually for 12 consecutive years.

China Business News reported that the combined grain reserve stands at 230 million metric tons, the largest such reserve in the world.

Ren said that about 42 percent is corn, and in major corn production areas such as Heilongjiang province, it is as high as 50 percent. The corn stockpile is expected to reach 200 million metric tons by April, the amount the nation consumes in a year, Reuters reported.

Xu Shaoshi, head of the National Development and Reform Commission, said at the work conference that China's grain prices face increasing downward pressure and there is less and less room for the national grain purchase and storage policies to stabilize the grain market and protect farmers' interests.

"We need to stick to the market-oriented path, to ensure that the market has the decisive say on agricultural product prices and on the government protecting farmers' interests," he said.

Click [here](#) for details

China to remain global economy driver

[Xinhua, 13-01-2016] China will continue to be a driver of global economy as it has sufficient investment opportunities and internal resources, a leading Chinese economist said Tuesday, 12th January.

"China will continue to grow economically and continue to be the main driver of global economic growth," Justin Yifu Lin, founding director of the China Center for Economic Research and honorary professor of Peking University, told a press conference in Moscow.

Lin downplayed speculations about negative prospects of the Chinese economy, which showed slower growth rate in 2015 than in previous years.

"Some people predict the coming collapse of the Chinese economy. I think they do not understand the essence of the Chinese economy," he said. "In spite of concerns about the Chinese economy, the targets, as you can see, have been achieved."

The Chinese economy is expected to grow 7 percent in 2015, in line with the anticipated growth target, according to official estimates.

Click [here](#) for details

China to drop domestic grain price support

[FT, 26-01-2016] China's policymakers have confirmed that the government will let domestic grain prices be decided by the market, with the state's price support no longer playing a role.

The Chinese government's support of agricultural crops, especially corn, has led to large build-up of inventories and the decision by Beijing to abandon the policy has been widely expected, although the timing of the actual implementation is still unclear.

Chen Xiwen, deputy director of the Communist party's Central Rural Work Leading Group, is involved in setting China's rural and agricultural policies and said that "the market should decide on the price".

Beijing's purchasing price, which is higher than the market price, has encouraged domestic production and at the same time spurred a sharp increase in imports as food and feed producers turned to cheaper overseas alternatives.

According to forecasts from the US Department of Agriculture, corn stocks in China at the end of the 2015/16 crop year are expected to be 113m tonnes, more than half of global inventories.

China's government support policy and depressed international corn prices due to abundant supplies around the world have meant that Chinese corn prices are more than double those of Chicago.

Click [here](#) for details

China adds G20-sized economy every year

[FT, 19-01-2016] China's economy grew 6.9 per cent last year, according to official figures released on Tuesday, 19th January, the slowest pace since 1990.

Growth in the Asian powerhouse has fallen markedly in recent years, with real gross domestic product expanding at less than half the pace of 2007.

But while the global investment community tends to focus on the headline growth number, it is easy to forget that because China's economy is so much bigger after its tremendous growth spurt, in terms of absolute growth it is still contributing more to the global economy than it did a decade ago.

On the eve of the global financial crisis in 2007, the annual increase in China's nominal GDP was \$793.3bn. In 2014 it was even bigger, at \$864.2bn, despite the marked deceleration in economic growth.

Another way to appreciate the sheer size of the Chinese economy — and just how much bigger it continues to get every year — is to compare the annual nominal increase with the sizes of other national economies.

Despite the marked slowdown — as the leadership team headed by President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang embraced a "new normal" of slower, more sustainable and more environmentally friendly growth — China continues to contribute the equivalent of a large developing country to the global economy each year.

When China's output grew "only" at 7.3 per cent in 2014, its slowest rate of growth in almost a quarter century, the absolute increase in nominal output was again bigger than Turkey's entire economy.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

Chinese scientists proposed regulatory framework for genome-edited crops

[Nature, 27-01-2016] Chinese scientists Sanwen Huang and Jiayang Li from Chinese academy of Agricultural Sciences, together with colleagues from Germany and USA proposed a regulatory framework for genome-edited crops, the paper was published at [Nature – Genetics](#). Crop breeding is being revolutionized by rapid progress in DNA sequencing and targeted alteration of DNA sequences by genome editing. The authors proposed a regulatory

framework for precision breeding with 'genome-edited crops' (GECs) so that society can fully benefit from the latest advances in plant genetics and genomics.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese researchers find flavonoids in cotton petals to treat Alzheimer's

[Xinhua, 03-01-2016] A new drug to treat Alzheimer's disease that uses flavonoids found and extracted by Chinese researchers from cotton petals has entered clinical trial.

Researchers at Xinjiang Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry under the Chinese Academy of Sciences said this week that they had discovered flavonoids capable of improving animals' learning ability in a study that began in 2003.

These flavonoids were found to improve the memory of mice with dementia and that of naturally aged mice.

Researchers then identified the 20 flavonoid compounds in the petals and made tablets that can produce a similar effect at small dosages.

The research institute signed a deal with a pharmaceutical maker to apply the research finding.

The white and pink cotton-petal blossom bloom before the cotton bolls. Xinjiang is a major cotton production base in China. Previously these petals were discarded but after their medicinal property were uncovered, they now sell for around 15 yuan per kilogram in the market.

Click [here](#) for details

Agricultural researchers eyeing global outreach

[China Daily, 15-01-2015] The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences will establish an overseas agriculture research center to facilitate the export of more agricultural technologies and to encourage more international cooperation, the academy's president said on Thursday, 14th January.

Li Jiayang, vice-minister of agriculture and president of the academy, said at a work conference in Beijing that the academy will seek to establish more multinational joint agricultural labs and agricultural technology exhibition centers during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20).

The move is part of an effort to push forward a more global agricultural technology development strategy and to serve the national Belt and Road Initiative, he said.

The academy will first prioritize the establishment of multinational labs in areas including biotechnology, animal husbandry, veterinary medicine and agricultural resources and environment.

Zhang Taolin, vice-minister of agriculture, said at the conference that the academy should seek breakthroughs in key research areas, such as the development of new crop varieties, livestock breeds, smart agricultural machineries and agricultural biotechnology.

The control and prevention of agricultural pollution will be another major challenge to conquer in the next five-years, as the country is faced with mounting agricultural pollution.

Click [here](#) for details

China to improve water conservation in 2016-2020

[China daily, 14-01-2016] welcome private investment and water must be made more affordable to farmers.

Some 238 billion yuan (36 billion U.S. dollars) was spent on water conservancy projects in poor areas from 2011 to 2015, data from the ministry showed

From 2011 to 2015, safe drinking water was provided to 247 million rural residents and 34.37 million students and teachers in the countryside.

China is plagued by uneven distribution of water resources, floods and droughts, and lags behind the global average for water resources per capita. welcome private investment and water must be made more affordable to farmers.

Some 238 billion yuan (36 billion U.S. dollars) was spent on water conservancy projects in poor areas from 2011 to 2015, data from the ministry showed

From 2011 to 2015, safe drinking water was provided to 247 million rural residents and 34.37 million students and teachers in the countryside.

China is plagued by uneven distribution of water resources, floods and droughts, and lags behind the global average for water resources per capita.

Click [here](#) for details

China works for more efficient water use in agriculture

[Xinhua, 30-01-2016] China plans to make the water use in agriculture more efficient with measures such as tiered pricing, wider use of drought-tolerant crops and rewards for water conservation.

"Agriculture, which consumes vast amounts of water, is where the potential of water conservation lies. However, the price for water used in agriculture is been relatively low, which is not conducive to saving water," according to a government guideline published by the State Council.

To ensure the sustainable development of agriculture, within the decade China will establish a pricing mechanism that appropriately reflects the cost of water and encourages water saving, according to the guideline, which added that regions better equipped with irrigation and water conservation facilities should achieve the goal within three to five years.

Agriculture is a significant issue for the world's most populous nation.

Upholding an innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development concept, the authorities called for faster transformation of agricultural models.

Policies and support will protect resources and raise efficiency, preventing resources from over-exploitation, according to the document. It added that China will improve water resource management and groundwater will be closely watched.

China will explore tiered prices for different water use, according to the guideline. Water prices will be higher for cash crops that yield high added value and for livestock breeding. In regions where groundwater has been overexploited, the price of groundwater will be higher than that of surface water.

Tiered pricing will increase the price when water use passes a certain level. In regions where water use varies in different seasons, water prices will reflect this.

The State Council advised local governments to reduce the areas of crops with high water consumption and promote the planting of drought-tolerant crops if the underground and surface water in the region has been overexploited. It also highlighted the use of pipe irrigation and drip irrigation to conserve water.

The government will reward entities that save water and adjust the crops they choose to plant, according to the guideline.

The government will also encourage private investment to contribute to the building and maintenance of irrigation and water conservation facilities through business models such as public-private-partnerships, the guideline said.

Click [here](#) for details

Leisure agriculture booms in SW China province

[Xinhua, 19-01-2016] Leisure agriculture and rural tourism in southwest China's Sichuan Province generated 100.8 billion yuan (15.3 billion U.S. dollars) in 2015, ranking first in the industry across the nation, the provincial agriculture department announced.

Leisure agriculture, which combines tourism and recreation, is booming in the province, where the industry is believed have originated. It is becoming increasingly popular as urbanites want to get back to nature and farmers benefit from providing affordable accommodation and catering.

In 2015, there were 31,000 leisure agriculture and rural tourism businesses in Sichuan, providing services for 320 million tourists, according to the department.

The province's income from the industry in 2015 posted an increase of 34 percent from the previous year, it said.

By the end of 2015, Sichuan had built nearly 2,000 leisure farms and established more than 2,000 agricultural tourism areas such as theme parks and gardens.

Sichuan also rolled out the country's first provincial-level regulation on agriculture theme parks in October 2015.

Click [here](#) for details

E-commerce boosts agricultural sales in North China

[China Daily, 19-01-2016] The rapid growth of e-commerce in recent years has brought good news to rural people in the city of Baotou, Inner Mongolia, by helping create new jobs and boost income for them.

This past December, Baotou opened Inner Mongolia's first online shopping service center for the Suning Co, a commercial goods giant, in its Shiguai district, and it also set up numerous stations for e-commerce across the city.

The Internet has given rural people much easier access to industrial products, while serving as a sales channel for farm produce.

And, today more farmers are getting Internet access and starting their business with online shops, selling their own special goods, souvenirs and products across China. Customer feedback also makes farmers know more about market's needs and adjust their selling strategy.

Click [here](#) for details

Digital China and its implications for Europe

[China Daily, 09-01-2016] Chinese policymakers have not only integrated the various dimensions of geopolitics, but also rightly paid great attention to the rapidly evolving domain of cyber-politics. And by almost exclusively focusing on what it perceives as the limitations and imperfections of the Internet in China, the West has not yet fully realized the significance

of the Chinese digital transformation. At the intersection of China's global projection and of its quest for innovation, digital China is one of the most significant stories of our time.

China is currently in a quest for relevance, from biotech to the Internet, and from nanotech to aeronautics and space exploration. More generally, the ambition not to be a passive spectator in the West-led globalization but to stand as a source of modernity is one of the defining elements of the Chinese "renaissance". China may have missed the Industrial Revolution, but it is a co-architect of the Information Age.

Cyberspace, like the post-World War II system of international relations, is bipolar, not structured around Washington and Moscow, but articulated around the United States and China. The current digital bipolarity is reflected in the competition between Internet companies: Google, Twitter, YouTube, Amazon, eBay, Uber, Expedia and Apple Pay are the icons of digital US while Baidu, Tencent's WeChat, Youku, JD.com, Alibaba, DidiKuaidi, Ctrip and Alipay symbolize China's cyberspace. In a sense, global cyberspace is a tale of two Internets.

Click [here](#) for details

Pesticide residue major source of China's food contamination

[Xinhua, 27-02-2016] Pesticide and chemical residue is the major sources of food contamination in China, the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) has found.

Pesticide residue was detected in 146 kinds of fruit and vegetable in the past three years, with detection rates ranging from 54 percent to 96.9 percent, said the CAE in its report on food safety in China, which was released Wednesday, 27th January.

Research also revealed antibiotic misuse in animal and marine farming, and that contaminants, including heavy metals and mycotoxins, have hampered the safety of grains in China.

The heavy metal contamination in grains was severe in some regions, with over 20 percent of grains exceeding safety standards.

Around 6.2 percent of the annual grain yield is contaminated by mycotoxins during production, storage and transportation every year, the report said.

Click [here](#) for details

Poppy seasoning scandals expose malpractice in food industry

[Xinhua, 29-01-2016] A string of restaurants discovered using poppy capsules for seasoning have exposed a shocking practice in China's food industry.

On Wednesday, 27th January authorities busted a noodle restaurant for adding the potentially-addictive poppy capsule into mutton noodles in Yulin City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, according to the local Huashang Newspaper.

The latest case comes just one week after 35 restaurants and snack bars nationwide were investigated for adding poppy capsules or other illegal ingredients to food. Two of the bars investigated reportedly belonged to Zhouheiya, one of the country's most popular duck-neck snack brands, though Zhouheiya clarified that the two bars were copycats.

The poppy capsule, dried pericarp from the ripe fruit of an opium poppy plant, contains more than 20 types of alkaloids, including those found in morphine and cocaine. With pain-easing and cough-relieving effects, it is used in the medical industry in China.

According to the Guangzhou Daily, most of the restaurants found using poppy serve heavily-flavored Chinese food like hotpot, grilled fish and fried chicken.

It has been an "open secret" in the Chinese food industry that poppy-derived powder is used as a "secret ingredient" at some small restaurants in dishes or hotpots to improve the taste and lure customers to come back for more.

Click [here](#) for details

Trade and Business

Imported foods in China: where are the labels?

[Beijing Today, 24-01-2016] Imported food are easily found in many Beijing supermarkets and online shops, but many are missing Chinese labeling information.

In a bizarre twist, many shoppers have come to believe the products without Chinese labels are the only genuine imports. This is in spite of orders from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine which require all imported foods to be sold with standardized Chinese labeling.

Zhu Danpeng, a researcher at the Chinese Institute of Food Business, said there are three kinds of "imported" foods on the Chinese market.

"The first are those that are produced and packed abroad. The second type are those whose ingredients were imported by a Chinese company and packed locally. The third are products of an unclear or apparently foreign origin. Only the first type can actually be called 'imported.'" Zhu said.

Zhu said the reason that many imported foods lack Chinese labels is because of how they enter the country.

Many foods are not imported legally. Some are brought back by travelers, or by agents who misreport the amount of food they are bringing in so as to avoid inspection.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese visitors to Britain soars by 28% in first half of 2015

[China Daily, 12-01-2016] A recent VisitBritain report shows a record number of visitors from China coming to Britain, with 90,000 recorded in the first six months of this year, an increase of 28% compared to the same period in 2014.

China has become one of the UK's fastest-growing tourism markets with international visits to Britain from China more than doubling over the last five years from 89,000 in 2009 to 185,000 in 2014, VisitBritain says.

VisitBritain believes the campaign building on VisitBritain's Great China Naming campaign earlier this year, where Chinese people were invited to suggest new names for British landmarks, has inspired more Chinese visitors to come to Britain.

Chinese are revealed as some of Britain's highest spending visitors, with an average of 2,688 pounds expenditure each, four times more than the average, according to VisitBritain. The total expenditure of Chinese visitors to Britain in 2014 reached nearly 500 million pounds.

Over the last five years the Chinese spend in the UK has increased by 326%, from 117 million pounds in 2009 to 497.47 million pounds in 2014. In addition, they tend to stay longer with an average holiday length of 10 nights compared to six nights for all visitors on average.

Click [here](#) for details

China, Britain vow AIIB cooperation, visa facilitation

[Xinhua, 05-01-2016] Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his British counterpart Philip Hammond met in Beijing Tuesday, 5th January vowing more cooperation between their countries in industry, finance and culture.

They also said they will work together on visa facilitation, according to a press release issued after the meeting.

It said China is looking forward to British Prime Minister David Cameron attending the G20 summit in China's Hangzhou this autumn, and will welcome him to visit China at a mutually convenient time to hold the bilateral annual prime ministerial meeting.

The two countries should make full use of high-level dialogue to map out partnerships in culture, finance and security, the release said.

Wang and Hammond agreed they should integrate their development strategies, notably China's Belt and Road Initiative and Britain's plan to upgrade its infrastructure, as well as their plans to revitalize manufacturing.

Wang said China was ready to cooperate more in nuclear power, high-speed rail, as well as under the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which will start operating in mid-January.

The two countries will reciprocally issue multiple-entry visas for up to two years to each other's citizens and China hopes that Britain will increase the validity of visas to 10 years to Chinese citizens "at a proper time."

Click [here](#) for details

Vice Minister Qu Dongyu holds briefing on G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting

[MOA, 19-01-2016] Vice Minister Qu Dongyu attended and addressed a briefing on the upcoming 2016 G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting in Beijing on Jan. 18, 2016.

Vice Minister Qu stressed that food security and agricultural development are among the top priorities of G20. Taking over the G20 presidency in 2016, China will step up efforts in coordination with G20 members to build consensus and act together to promote agricultural innovation and global governance of food and agriculture to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Vice Minister Qu briefed the media and participants to the event on the G20 agriculture-related activities, and China's proposals regarding the theme, topics and agenda for G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting in 2016. He expressed his hope that relevant parties would actively support and take part in the related activities, making concerted efforts to ensure the success of the Agriculture Ministers Meeting.

Participants to the briefing included also diplomats from G20 members, guest countries and international organizations.

Click [here](#) for details

China pigs addicted to foreign feed as crop imports surge

[Bloomberg, 06-01-2016] China, the world's largest pork-consuming country, has largely abandoned a goal of self-sufficiency when it comes to feeding the pigs, cattle and poultry needed to satisfy growing domestic demand for meat.

Last year, China's negative trade balance in feed-related commodities for livestock rose to a record 88.4 million metric tons, according to United Nations data. Imports and exports were mostly balanced until a decade ago, when economic growth and demand for protein surged. China alone will account for 64 percent of the world's soybean imports in the year that began in September, U.S. Department of Agriculture data show.

"China can do anything it sets its mind to, but it can't do everything," said Gary Blumenthal, chief executive officer of World Perspectives Inc., a global agriculture consultant in Washington. "It doesn't have the arable land to produce everything it needs, so feed is an area where they've accepted dependence on imports."

Click [here](#) for details

China opens rice market to the US

[Agri-Pulse, 22-01-2016] China, the world's largest rice producer and importer, has agreed to open its market to U.S. exporters after years of negotiations between the two governments, the USA Rice Federation announced Friday.

"The challenge now is to move from agreement to shipments," USA Rice CEO Betsy Ward said in a statement on the group's website.

USDA officials informed the rice industry that China had finally signed off on a phytosanitary protocol that will pave the way for trade to begin, but USA Rice officials had already been preparing for what was widely considered an imminent start to trade.

A preliminary protocol was reached by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its Chinese counterpart, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, several months ago but the deal was delayed after China's Agriculture minister held off on signing it immediately, according to U.S. government and industry officials.

Click [here](#) for details

China may resume U.S. beef imports in 2016, ending 12-year ban

[Bloomberg, 29-01-2016] China halted imports of U.S. beef in 2003 after a case of mad cow disease was found in Washington State. Ten months later, a U.S. trade official said resumption of beef trade with China "may be imminent." In 2006, the ban was lifted on some boneless beef products.

Now, an industry group is predicting that China, the world's biggest importer of U.S. agricultural goods, will open its market fully by the middle of this year.

The last issue to resolve is the procedure to track U.S. cattle, and Chinese representatives must audit the system.

China's beef imports from 2010 to mid-2015 increased more than 10-fold as consumption climbed, USDA data show. Countries such as Australia are boosting export sales.

China's beef consumption will continue to expand in the coming decade, and an additional 2.2 million tons will be needed by 2025, Rabobank International says. Domestic production probably will meet 80 percent of the demand, and 20 percent will be met by imports, the bank said.

In 2015, China, the biggest pork importer, consumed about 8 million tons of beef a year, according to Rabobank.

U.S. cattle inventories have started to rebound after a prolonged drought in Texas cut the herd to the smallest in six decades. Beef production will rise 3.8 percent in 2016, the first gain since 2010, the USDA said Jan. 12.

Click [here](#) for details

CK Life Sciences set to buy Australia's grain producer

[China daily, 22-01-2016] CK Life Sciences International (Holdings) Inc, a Hong Kong-based biotechnology company, is close to completing the acquisition of one of Western Australia's largest grain producers, continuing its expansion in the overseas agri-food industry.

A subsidiary of conglomerate Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd, the Chinese firm has offered \$24 million for Nicoletti Group, an exporter of wheat and barley, according to Xinhua News Agency.

The agreement between the two was reportedly finalized on Thursday, pending approval from Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board.

The deal includes Nicoletti's five farms of approximately 68,000 hectares and a 15,000-ton grain storage facility in the wheatbelt north of Perth in Western Australia. The properties are in close proximity to a number of grain handling facilities and export terminals.

CK Life Sciences, which has strong links to the family of Hong Kong business mogul Li Ka-shing, has been rapidly increasing investments in the Australian farming and agriculture industry.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese agricultural technology helps improve Tanzanian farmers' lives

[AllAfrica, 22-01-2016] Tanzanian farmer Zulfikar Mituro now can "comfortably support his family, and managed a somewhat luxury life" thanks to the rice farming technology he gained from a China-aided center.

"Before getting Chinese technology and training support, I used to get between 15 and 20 bags of rice per hectare, but now I can get up 44 bags using hybrid Chinese rice variety," he said, adding that his life has improved for the better as the production has increased both in quality and quantity.

Mituro is just one of thousands farmers in the east Africa nation who have benefited from the Demonstration Center of China Agriculture Technology, located at Dakawa in Morogoro region.

Prof. Chen Hualin, the center's director, said his center has trained over 2,000 farmers mainly from Coast and Morogoro regions since its creation in 2012.

He said the center has 11 Chinese experts who work closely with their local peers in assisting farmers to follow best crop husbandry practices.

"We train them in groups, provide them with hybrids seeds and also conduct follow-up inspections using our extension officers at their farms," Chen said.

Unlike the local variety, which takes over three months to mature and yields 3.4 tonnes per hectare, the hybrid Chinese rice matures in less than three months, and yields up to 4.4 tonnes per hectare.

Click [here](#) for details

Namibia, China discuss beef exports

[StarAfrica, 23-01-2016] A Chinese delegation arrived in Namibia on Friday 22nd January to finalise an agreement for the export of Namibian beef to China, an official in the agriculture ministry has confirmed. Tina Shilongo, deputy chief veterinary officer in Namibia's Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, said the delegation was expected to visit meat producers and livestock farmers in the southern African country.

Namibia and China signed a protocol on veterinary health conditions and quarantine in August last year. Under the agreement, Namibian meat producers can export frozen deboned and bone-in meat to the Asian country.

This will make Namibia the first country to sell beef to China.

Namibia exports about 17,000 tonnes of beef to its southern neighbour South Africa per year and another 10,000 tonnes to the European Union, including 1,850 tonnes to Norway.

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