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## Policies

### **China Keywords: Rural vitalization**

[Xinhua, 05-02-2018] As usual, China's "No. 1 central document" this year is devoted to agriculture, farmers and rural areas. The new document charts a roadmap for rural vitalization, a key part of the country's efforts to build a modernized economy.

By vitalizing its vast rural regions, China expects to see a strong agricultural sector, a beautiful countryside and well-off farmers, said the "No. 1 central document" released on Sunday, 4 February.

The strategy of rural vitalization was proposed as one of the keys to developing a modernized economy at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China last year. The country still faces urban-rural development gap due mostly to a lack of quality and efficiency in agriculture.

The package of policies includes higher-quality agricultural development, protection of natural and cultural resources, and ensuring the quality of poverty-reduction.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to release national rural vitalization strategic program**

[Xinhua, 05-02-2018] China will release a national rural vitalization strategic program (2018-2022) to implement policies under the "No. 1 central document" this year.

"The first draft of the program has been completed and submitted for approval," Wu Hongyao, deputy director of the Office of the Central Rural Work Leading Group, told a press briefing on Monday.

The program is dedicated to guiding local governments and related departments to promote rural vitalization in a practical and orderly manner, said Wu.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Innovation the key to China's development**

[Xinhua, 27-02-2018] The Chinese people were inspired by the famous calling: "Science and technology are primary productive forces" three decades ago, and have now promoted innovation to achieve continuous development.

Unsatisfied with being the world's factory, China's leaders on various occasions have called on the country to transform from a "Made in China" to a "Created in China" model, with

China has set the aim of becoming an "innovation nation" by 2020, an international leader in innovation by 2030, and a world powerhouse in scientific and technological innovation by 2050.

The Global Innovation Index has shown that China rose three places to 22nd on the list of the world's most innovative nations in 2017, the only middle-income country to join the top 25 innovative economies.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to impose annual fishing ban in Yellow River**

[Xinhua, 18-02-2018] China will ban fishing in the Yellow River, the second longest river in the country, between April 1 and June 30 each year starting from 2018, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The fishing ban aims to protect aquatic organism resources and biodiversity as excessive fishing threatens fishery resources.

Provinces and autonomous regions can extend the fishing ban according to local needs, according to the ministry.

China has already imposed a fishing ban along the Yangtze River, the longest river in the country. A similar fishing ban has also applied to the Huaihe River, which runs almost parallel between the Yangtze River and the Yellow River.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to expand production, consumption of bioethanol fuel**

[Xinhua, 17-02-2018] China will expand production and consumption of bioethanol fuel this year as the country seeks more channels to use corn and grain stockpiles, the State Administration of Grain (SAG) said.

Bioethanol is a form of renewable energy that can be produced from crops such as corn and potatoes.

Years of support for corn farmers have left China with a substantial stockpile. To help make use of the excess stock, China last year announced a plan for nationwide use of bioethanol gasoline by 2020.

Outlining the work priorities for 2018, the SAG said it will accelerate the use of grain stockpiles and reform grain storage mechanisms to make them more market-oriented.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China to expand trials of crop rotation, fallow systems**

[Xinhua, 23-02-2018] China will expand trials of crop rotation and fallow systems to aid the green and sustainable development of agriculture, an agriculture official said.

The crop rotation and fallow systems will cover more than 50 million mu (around 8 million hectares) by 2020, said Zeng Yande, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture, at a press conference on Friday, 23 Feb.

For 2018, the crop rotation and fallow systems will cover 24 million mu, expanding from 12 million mu in 2017 and 6.16 million mu in 2016, Zeng said.

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## **Science, Technology and Environment**

### **British Prime Minister Theresa May visit CAAS National Agricultural Science and Technology Demonstration Park**

[CAAS, 01-02-2018] On the morning of February 1, British Prime Minister Theresa May visited National Agricultural Science and Technology Demonstration Park, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). Mr. Han Changfu, Minister of Agriculture (MOA), Mr. Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of China to the United Kingdom, Mr. Tang Huajun, President of CAAS, accompanied her visit tour at CAAS.

May expressed her appreciation for the achievements made by Chinese scientists in the field of high-tech agriculture. She said, both Britain and China are committed to improve crop yields and sustainable agricultural development, and are striving to reduce the impact on the environment in the process of agricultural production.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Internet breaks new ground for rural development**

[Xinhua, 5-02-2018] China's "No. 1 central document" for this year, published Sunday 4 February, focuses on agriculture, farmers and rural areas. It sets specific tasks for the country's rural vitalization strategy, including higher-quality agricultural development and ensuring the quality of poverty-reduction.

According to Alibaba, there are 2,118 Taobao villages, referring to villages where over 10 percent of households are involved in online selling, with total annual transactions of more than 10 million yuan.

It is expected that the number of Taobao village will be over 5,500 in 2020, bringing more than 3 million jobs to the countryside.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Fresh food e-commerce booms in China**

[Xinhua, 05-02-2018] Lobsters from Boston, cherries from Chile and organic tomatoes. With a simple click on a mobile phone, fresh food from around the world can be delivered to your doorstep within a couple of hours.

Thanks to the booming development of e-commerce in China, more and more people are turning to fresh food apps for their daily shopping.

Data from consulting firm iResearch shows China's fresh food e-commerce industry grew by 59.7 percent in 2017 to 139.1 billion yuan (22.1 billion U.S. dollars), the People's Daily reported.

Click [here](#) for details

## **AI sector sees big investment, financing in 2017**

[Xinhua, 24-02-2018] China's artificial intelligence (AI) industry received about 180 billion yuan (28 billion U.S. dollars) of investment and financing last year, according to a recent report.

Intelligent driving, big data and data service were among the main areas of investment, according to a report released by China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.

China's AI enterprises were mainly in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong last year. Beijing had the biggest number, with more than 260 AI enterprises.

The report predicted that China's AI industry would continue to grow in 2018 with breakthroughs to be made in areas such as computer vision and voice technologies.

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## **Artificial intelligence is being used to raise better pigs in China**

[Quartz, 15-02-2018] Alibaba is best known as China's largest e-commerce company. The company's latest AI foray is taking place among pigs.

Alibaba's Cloud Unit signed an agreement with the Tequ Group, a Chinese food-and-agriculture conglomerate that raises about 10 million pigs each year, to deploy facial and voice recognition on Tequ's pig farms.

According to an Alibaba representative, the company will offer software to Tequ that it will deploy on its farms with its own hardware. Using image recognition, the software will identify each pig based on a mark placed on its body. This corresponds with a file for each

pig kept in a database, which records and tracks characteristics such as the pig's breed type, age, and weight.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China's ecommerce giant JD.com to take on Amazon in Europe**

[FT, 04-02-2018] China's ecommerce giant JD.com plans to challenge Amazon in Europe as early as 2019, aiming to be ubiquitous across the continent within "a few years", says the company's chief.

Richard Liu, the group's founder and chief executive, said JD planned to launch its first European research centre in Cambridge in the UK in the first half of 2019. The centre will be its second outside of China, and will focus on artificial intelligence and big data.

After meeting UK prime minister Theresa May during her visit to Beijing, Mr Liu signed a memorandum of understanding with the government to sell £2bn of British goods — mostly food and beverages — to customers in China over the next two to three years, through direct procurement and third-party sales.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese farmers fight against global "citrus killer"**

[Xinhua, 06-02-2018] Blood orange growers in the southern Chinese city of Lianjiang have long ditched chemical fertilizers. Though ditching chemicals caters to the growing appetite for organic foods, it was not the farmers' original intention.

They did so to help their groves survive "the yellow dragon," a deadly disease threatening citrus groves in Asia, Africa and America. In China, the disease, also known as Huanglongbing, wreaks havoc in more than 10 citrus-growing regions.

Concerted efforts of the local government, farmers and horticulture technicians have contributed to an initial victory of Lianjiang's battle against the pandemic.

Click [here](#) for details

### **HK on flu alert after first H7N4 human infection in mainland**

[China daily, 15-0-2018] Hong Kong's Centre for Health Protection (CHP) reminded the public to maintain strict personal, food and environmental hygiene both locally and during travel after it received notification from the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) that a human case of avian influenza A (H7N4) was confirmed between February 10 and 14.

According to the NHFPC, this is the first case of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N4) strain in the world, the CHP announced in a press release. As per NHFPC notification, a 68-year-old female patient living in Liyang in Changzhou of Jiangsu province developed symptoms on Dec 25, 2017, was admitted to hospital on Jan 1 and eventually discharged on Jan 22. According to the CHP press release, the woman had contact with live poultry before the onset of symptoms but her close contacts did not show any symptoms.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese are giving up on meat and turning vegetarian**

[News 18, 26-02-2018] China - the world's largest market for beef, pork and poultry — is steadily growing wary of meat as health-conscious Chinese are taking to a vegetarian diet that has sparked mushrooming of vegan restaurants in the world's most populous country.

China's restaurant industry over the past few years is reporting growing number of entrepreneurs looking to capitalise on the popularity of healthy eating, which usually means a meatless, organic and environmentally-friendly diet.

The niche market of vegetarian and vegan eateries has never been more competitive, a recent report from various cities compiled by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **How China plans to feed 1.4 billion growing appetites**

[Magzine, 25-02-2018] As more Chinese crave Western-style diets, the booming nation rushes to industrialize an agricultural economy long built around small farms.

China is grappling with a daunting conundrum: how to feed nearly one-fifth of the world's population with less than one-tenth of its farmland, while adapting to changing tastes. Thirty years ago about a quarter of the country's people lived in cities, but by 2016, 57 percent of the population was urban, living in a China that is wealthier and more technologically advanced, with a diet that increasingly resembles that of the West. The Chinese eat nearly three times as much meat as in 1990. Consumption of milk and dairy quadrupled from 1995 to 2010 among urban residents and nearly sextupled among rural ones. And China now buys far more processed foods, increasing about two-thirds from 2008 to 2016.

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## **Trade and Business**

### **British food exports to China increase by 28%**

[CEN, 14-02-2018] China became the eighth-largest importer of food and drink from the United Kingdom in 2017, according to new data that shows a growing Chinese appetite for British milk powder, salmon, whisky, and beer.

UK food and drink exports to China grew by 28 percent last year, to reach 564.4 million pounds (\$783.6 million) in value, according to trade figures released by the UK's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which is also called Defra.

The UK Food and Drink Federation, which is also known as the FDF, said there is growing Chinese interest in the UK's "afternoon tea" products, which includes jams, scones, tea, and cakes. The UK sold 2 million pounds of tea to China last year.

Click [here](#) for details

### **British beef back on menu after China lifts BSE ban**

[FT, 31-01-2018] British beef will return to Chinese dining tables for the first time in more than two decades, Theresa May has announced.

Speaking in Beijing on the first day of her three-day trade mission to China, the prime minister revealed that British beef would be exported to the country for the first time since the BSE crisis in 1996.

Speaking at a joint press conference in the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square, with Li Keqiang, the Chinese prime minister, Mrs May said: "We have agreed new measures to improve market access in China and remove barriers to trade.

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## **Financial cooperation highlighted in Theresa May's China visit**

[Xinhua, 02-02-2018] The two countries have agreed on moves to open up the Chinese market to some of Britain's world class financial services providers, May said in a speech delivered to the China-UK Business Forum held in Shanghai.

She believed that cooperation between the two countries in financial and professional services will go from strength to strength.

Liam Fox, British Secretary of State for International Trade, also said at the forum that many British financial institutions are supportive of any agreement between the two countries, which would help bolster investment and lead to trade opportunities.

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## **Scotch whisky trademark renewed in China**

[New Food, 05-02-2018] Scotch whisky will continue to enjoy legal protection from locally produced copies in China after the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) renewed its collective trademark on the valuable spirit.

This was one of many announcements to come out of Prime Minister Theresa May's three-day trade visit to China last week. It will see Scotch whisky, translated as 苏格兰威士忌, trademarked until 2028.

China represents a valuable market to the industry which earns the UK £127 every second in exports, totalling £4bn annually. Twenty five bottles of Scotch whisky are exported to China every minute.

Click [here](#) for details

## **JD.com commits to selling £2 billion of UK products to Chinese consumers**

[JD, 01-02-2018] From luxury British couture and tea, to chocolate, beauty products, home appliances and other items, UK products have gained popularity in China in recent years. To meet this growing demand, JD.com, China's largest retailer, has announced plans to sell £2 billion of UK goods to Chinese consumers in the next two-to-three years.

The agreement signed on 1 February between JD.com and the British Government's Department of International Trade (DIT) focused on making it easier for British companies to access the China market via JD.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Chinese agricultural firm Farmmi rings Nasdaq opening bell to celebrate its IPO**

[Xinhua, 26-02-2018] Chinese agricultural products supplier Farmmi, Inc. on Monday rang the Nasdaq Stock Market opening bell in celebration of its Initial Public Offerings (IPO).

Shares of Farmmi began trading on the Nasdaq on February 16, 2018, under the ticker symbol "FAMI."

Farmmi priced its IPO of 1,680,000 ordinary shares at 4.00 U.S. dollars per share for a total of 6,720,000 dollars in gross proceeds. In addition, the company has granted the underwriters a 45-day option to purchase up to an additional 252,000 ordinary shares at the public offering price, less underwriting discounts and commissions.

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## **China supersizes pig farms to cut costs in world's top pork market**

[Reuters, 07-02-2018] Modernizing China's pig farms is a massive undertaking. More than half the country's almost 700 million pigs are produced on family farms, which slaughter fewer than 500 a year. Though many have switched from feeding kitchen scraps to protein-rich soymeal, productivity still lags Western farms.

Recent policy has driven many small farms out however, exacerbating an earlier market rout. A nationwide crackdown on farm pollution intensified during 2017, forcing hundreds of thousands of pig farms to shut. Many were smaller farms without the funds or land to build waste treatment facilities.

Imported genetics are boosting productivity. Breeding pigs supplied by U.K.-based Genus and others from Canada, France and the United States produce a higher number of piglets per litter, more lean meat and grow faster than China's once-common native breeds.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China pig prices plunge even as nation gears up to feast on favourite meat**

[Channel News Asia, 07-02-2018] Pig prices in China are falling ahead of the Chinese New Year holiday that is the nation's peak pork eating period, underlining concerns about plentiful supplies in the world's top producer.

The average price paid by large slaughterhouses for pigs has dropped by about 10 per cent in the last month to 13.67 yuan (\$2.18) per kg, according to industry website Soozhu.com. That is down from 17.26 yuan per kg a year ago.

The price drop bucks the seasonal trend of prices rising ahead of the Chinese New Year holiday, when hundreds of millions of Chinese gather with family for meals that include pork dishes. The week-long holiday will begin on Feb 15.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China drops U.S. broiler chicken import duties amid growing trade tensions**

[27-02-2018] China's Commerce Ministry said it has removed anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on U.S. white-feathered broiler chickens, ending a years-long dispute between the world's largest economies amid growing tensions over agricultural trade.

The move comes after a World Trade Organization ruling in January that obliged Beijing to lower the tariffs unless it appealed within 20 days.

The tariffs were first imposed in 2010 and were extended for a further five years in 2016.

The removal of penalties comes against a backdrop of an escalating trade spat between the two countries, after Washington slapped duties on washing machines and solar panels, triggering a probe by Beijing into U.S. sorghum that was widely seen as retaliation.

The dispute has fueled concerns that soybeans might also be caught up in the trade actions.

Click [here](#) for details

## **USDA issues soy planting, export tips as China trade tensions mount**

[Reuters, 27-08-2018] The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued grower and grain exporter guidelines to reduce weed seeds in U.S. soybean shipments, after top importer China tightened import specifications on the most valuable U.S. agricultural export.

The move is intended to soothe rising tension over agricultural trade between the world's top two economies after a recent series of trade spats.

Trade tensions between Beijing and Washington have been simmering for months, even as the agrarian sector struggles with record supplies of grains, low commodity prices and slumping U.S. farm incomes.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China's food giant emerges as leading exporter of Brazil soy**

[Bloomberg, 02-02-2018] Cofco International Ltd. has already overtaken some of the world's oldest agricultural traders to become one of the biggest shippers of soybeans in Brazil, the top exporter. Now, the Chinese food giant is considering acquisitions that would extend its position even further.

The company is looking into buying warehouses and other facilities related to logistics deep in Brazil's agricultural heartland, according to Valmor Schaffer, Cofco's head for South America.

Cofco's soybean demand exceeds 20 million tons annually and that will likely top 30 million in the coming years.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Billionaire Hu Keqin has bold plan to conquer China with baguettes**

[SCMP, 25-02-2018] Over the past four years Hu Keqin has quietly snapped up 3,000 hectares of wheat fields in the central Indre and Allier regions, including next door to Bernardet.

His purchases are part of a Chinese buying-spree in recent years stretching from the US to Australia. And in France, struggling farmers fear a landgrab.

"It's a piece of French heritage that is being taken, but that's globalisation and that's the trend at the moment," Bernardet said.

"If it wasn't the Chinese, it would be someone else."

The fields may be bare for winter, but Hu has big dreams: eventually they'll provide some of the flour for 1,500 French bakeries in China, catering to a burgeoning middle class.

Click [here](#) for details

### **More Chinese agriculture firms to venture into ASEAN**

[Freshplaza, 26-02-2018]The increasingly close cooperation between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will see more Chinese agricultural enterprises make their foray into the region moving forward, said Tan Yew Sing, President of the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce. He expects "China's excellent agricultural technology to take root and bear fruit on ASEAN soil."

According to The Malay Mail Online, he called on the government and the business community to tap into the current China-Malaysia bilateral trade relations to enhance the various traditional industries, the goal being technological innovation.

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