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Policies

China earmarks nearly 5 bln yuan for agricultural investments

[Xinhua, 08-06-2015] China has earmarked a large fund to invest in agricultural industrialization projects this year, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) announced on 8th June.

The central government plans to provide 4.93 billion yuan (805.98 million U.S. dollars) to finance a total of 4,238 agricultural projects, including 1,445 planting bases, 1,369 breeding bases and 914 product processing items, the MOF said in a statement posted on its official website.

Leading agricultural enterprises, superior or distinctive agricultural products involving livestock breeding, grain and oil as well as vegetables were listed as priorities for gaining access to the support, said the statement.

The MOF said the central fund will spur further investments of 2.58 billion yuan from local governments and 10.39 billion yuan from self-raised funds and bank loans.

China is beefing up investments to secure economic growth amid slowdown. At least 12 documents supporting growth were released by the State Council in May, ranging from manufacturing upgrades to asset securitization.

Data from the General Administration of Customs showed China's exports declined 2.8 percent year on year to 1.17 trillion yuan in May, while total foreign trade slipped 9.7 percent from a year earlier to 1.97 trillion yuan, marking continued pressure on the economy.

Click [here](#) for details

Growing grain stockpiles spur gov't to plan more storage facilities

[Caixin, 18-06-2015] The central government has announced a plan to build granaries with the capacity of 50 million tons this year as China continues adding to its world-beating stockpile of grain.

The move will help address a shortage of facilities related to domestically grown grain, the plan published on June 15 said. Some of the granaries are to be built in the northeastern provinces of Heilongjiang and Jilin.

The announcement said private companies were encouraged to help build the facilities, but there were no details on how that would happen. Having private firms involved in construction signaled the government wanted to reform the grain sector.

The government has invested a huge amount of money to build grain facilities since the 1990s. It built 300 granaries in the 1990s and more than 1,100 national reserve facilities at the beginning of the century. Granaries with total capacity of 34.8 million tons were erected from 2009 to 2014.

However, these facilities still fall short of meeting storage demand as a government concerned about food security buys grain from domestic farmers to encourage production and protect their incomes. The country has reported grain production increased in 11 straight years.

From fall 2014 to this spring, the authorities have bought 83.2 million tons of corn from domestic farmers to put into national granaries, official data show, an increase of nearly 14 million tons from the same period a year ago. Figures for the purchases of other grains are not known.

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China supports entrepreneurship in rural regions

[Xinhua, 10-06-2015] China will support migrant workers, college graduates and army veterans who wish to return to their rural hometowns to start new businesses, part of a national campaign to boost entrepreneurship and employment.

The government will simplify business registration procedures for them, give tax breaks, cut administration fees, and subsidize business loans, according to a statement released after an executive meeting of the State Council, China's cabinet.

Meanwhile, the government will also trial collective bonds by small companies to try to alleviate credit difficulties that such companies often face.

The government will also encourage e-commerce in rural areas and offer equal access to public services such as social insurance, housing, education and health care for people seeking new careers or business development in rural regions.

The cabinet meeting also looked at on cross-border e-commerce, planning to simplify customs procedure and encourage companies to expand overseas.

Private capital, foreign and domestic banks, as well as Internet companies will be allowed to set up "consumption finance" firms, which can extend small loans to consumers.

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China to reclaim 670,000 hectares of land for forest, grass

[Xinhua Finance, 05-06-2015] China aims to reclaim 10 million mu (almost 670, 000 square kilometers) of farmland and return it to forest and grass in 2015, according to the country's top economic planning body.

The target was unveiled by the National Development and Reform Commission, ministries of finance, agriculture, land and resources, and the State Forestry Administration. In 18 provincial regions, 94 percent of reclaimed farmland will be turned into forest and six percent into grassland to protect the ecosystem, according to the statement. The target is double the previous year's 5 million mu.

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China introduces series of logging bans

[Caixin, 10-06-2015] China is rolling out a series of bans aimed at protecting more of its forests, a forestry official says.

Zhang Jianlong, deputy director of the State Forestry Administration, said a logging ban has already been put in place in some key areas, especially in the country's three northeastern provinces, on trial basis this year.

The prohibition will be extended to all state-owned forests next year, and logging on privately owned land will be stopped by the end of 2017. The bans will cut timber output by 50 million cubic meters per year – the equivalent of 30 percent of logs.

To offset the shortfall in timber production – and perhaps even increase it – the forestry administration will plant 14.7 million hectare of trees over the next few years, mostly in the south. It hopes that this planting yields 95 million cubic meters of timber per year within the next five to eight years.

The country will also continue to rely on imports, Zhang said. By 2020, imports will account for more than 40 percent of China's timber consumption.

China is the world's biggest importer of timber imports and is second in consumption, using about 500 million cubic meters a year. Its timber imports jumped from 4 million cubic meters per year before 1998 to the current level of 20 million cubic meters.

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China promises better environmental protection

[Xinhua, 09-06-2015] The Chinese government will take "more forceful" measures in the next five years to protect the environment and promote green development, Environment Minister Chen Jining said on Tuesday, 9th June.

"The Chinese environment is reaching or has reached its limit due to years of sprawling development at the price of environment," Chen said at a meeting on environment and development in the 13th five-year plan period (2016-2020).

Environmental quality has become a bottleneck of progress toward a comprehensively well-off society by 2020, he said.

He characterized overall Chinese environment as "poor", with high pollutant emissions, serious ecological damage and high risks, which are all very far from public expectations.

But the minister said opportunities will overwhelm challenges in the next five years as China deepens the innovation-driven development.

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14 cities to draw red line to stop urban sprawl

[China Daily, 05-06-2015] Fourteen cities will draw the line on urban development this year to control sprawling expansion, Southern Metropolis Daily reported, citing an official from the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR).

The MLR worked with the Ministry of Housing and Rural-Urban Development in July 2014 to launch the program in order to decide the boundaries for urban development. The 14 cities included in the project are Beijing, Shenyang, Shanghai, Nanjing, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Xiamen, Zhengzhou, Wuhan, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Xi'an and Guiyang.

China plans to finalize the boundaries to prevent urban sprawl for more than 600 cities. The project may take at least two to three years due to some difficulties.

The boundary refers to the demarcated development space appropriate to the terrain, natural ecosystems, environmental carrying capacity, and prime farmland in an area.

The country's urbanization is currently widespread and disorderly, featuring the building of large squares or new city zones.

China will place emphasis on the effective use of land resources and rational urban development in the future amid efforts to stop the blind expansion of cities.

In the past, Beijing has announced to control urban expansion. Experts believe urban sprawl can cause many problems, including excessive population density and strained supplies of energy and other resources.

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Cabinet stresses "Internet Plus" strategy

[Xinhua, 24-06-2015] China will put more momentum behind its "Internet Plus" drive, which aims to integrate the Internet and industry while encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, the cabinet vowed.

The campaign is very important in creating a new engine for economic growth, said a statement released after an executive meeting of the State Council.

An Internet Plus guideline was approved at the meeting. It maps development targets and supportive measures for sectors which the government hopes can establish new industrial modes, including agriculture, energy, finance, public services, logistics, e-commerce, traffic, biology and artificial intelligence.

Unreasonable regulations and policies which hinder Internet Plus will be cleared and market accesses will be lowered for integrated products and services, according to the guideline.

China will launch hardware projects to support Internet Plus, build more next-generation infrastructure, develop more core chips and high-end servers, and better apply cloud computing and big data, it said.

Based on Internet Plus, open and shared platforms will be built to improve public services and share public data, it added.

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Science, Technology and Environment

China's big biotech bet starting to pay off

[Reuters, 09-06-2015] Years of pouring money into its laboratories, wooing scientists home from overseas and urging researchers to publish and patent is starting to give China a competitive edge in biotechnology, a strategic field it sees as ripe for "indigenous innovation."

The vast resources China can throw at research and development - overall funding more than quadrupled to \$191 billion in 2005-13 and the Thousand Talents Programme has repatriated scientists - allow China to jump quickly on promising new technologies, often first developed elsewhere.

These efforts were illustrated vividly in April - not without controversy - when scientists at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou published results of a ground-breaking experiment to alter the DNA of human embryos using new CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology.

Data compiled by Thomson Innovation, a Thomson Reuters unit, shows China is a growing force in gene editing, with a burgeoning patent portfolio.

More than 50 Chinese institutions are patenting in the field, led by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, universities, the Anhui Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Beijing Jifulin Biotech. Nearly a fifth of the 518 families of gene editing patents analysed since 2004 were associated with Chinese entities.

A team from Northwest A&F University and the National Beef Cattle Improvement Centre reported last month that they had developed genetically modified cows rich in the beneficial Omega-3 fatty acids more usually found in fish.

"The Chinese could, over time, play a very significant role in this game as they have a very entrepreneurial attitude - much more so than in parts of Europe," said Rodger Novak, CEO of CRISPR Therapeutics, a private Swiss-American biotech business.

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GMO corn could see industrialized planting in 3 to 5 years

[China Daily, 26-06-2015] Backers of GMO corn are pushing for security certification from Chinese government authorities. If approved, GMO corn could be industrially planted in as little as three years, according to the financial and business website caijing.com.cn.

Wang Guoying, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said it will be at least three to five years before the industrial planting of GMO corn is realized.

In order to gain approval from the Agriculture Ministry, GMO corn producers must satisfy strict procedures, which include research, experimentation, disclosure of environmental effects, pilot trials and a security certificate application, according to Wang.

China ranks second in terms of global corn consumption. In addition to maintaining at least 500 million mu (about 82 million acres) of farmland for corn, China also imports three to five million additional tons of corn to subsidize domestic demand.

GMO corn is viewed by some as less controversial than other products, as it largely serves as fodder and industrial material rather than human food.

It is critical that corn resist insect attacks, which cost China over 30 million tons of corn per year. In 2012, insects hit almost 50 million mu of farmland in northeast China, causing 2 billion yuan (about \$322 million) in economic damage.

China's Agriculture Ministry is pushing for the industrialization of GMO corn by running major research projects to improve insect resistance. Four companies are involved in the project.

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Environmental footprint of China's food security policies

[China Daily, 04-06-2015] Policies for food security in China have called for basic self-sufficiency in grains and absolute security in staple grains such as wheat and rice. These policies have had, and will continue to have, significant implications on the environment, mostly in terms of land and water, both within China and also on the countries from which such products are sourced. These are United States, Brazil, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Argentina.

To respond to its internal growing food needs, China has become the largest trader of agricultural products globally, with imports totaling \$1.9 billion in 2013.

In China, agriculture has also had many environmental and health impacts. The excessive use of chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides has made it a major contributor to soil and water pollution, especially due to leaching of nitrogen and phosphate.

China's livestock, primarily pigs and cattle, but also poultry, similarly represent serious sources of pollution.

Since places with the highest agricultural pollution are also those with the highest domestic and industrial pollution the contamination is compounded.

Food and environmental securities are key priority issues for China. However, they need to be viewed within a framework that simultaneously considers agricultural policies, management practices and environmental protection measures for land and water.

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China strives for bumper harvest amid El Nino concerns

[Xinhua, 11-06-2015] As farmers in north China harvest their wheat, and rain has battered south China, the distinct weather fronts have taken as a harbinger of El Nino.

The wheat harvest is almost finished in the major producing provinces of Henan and Anhui, and is in full swing in Shandong and Hebei.

Wheat output is projected to be high this year in Henan, the country's top producer of the grain, thanks to timely rainfall.

However, autumn harvest yields may not fare so well due to the uncertain weather conditions brought about by El Nino, an unusual warming of the sea's surface in the Pacific Ocean. The weather pattern can cause uncertainties the agricultural sector could do without.

El Nino will continue to strengthen this summer and will last until the autumn, according to China's National Climate Center earlier this month.

It is at a medium strength currently and is likely to reach a strong magnitude, said the center, which forecast more-than-usual rainfall in the country's southern and eastern areas in the summer months, while the northern region will likely face droughts in summer and autumn.

The Ministry of Agriculture warned that adverse weather could cause crop damage to rice in south China and grains in the north.

To guard against possible damage, the ministry urged agricultural authorities to maintain vigilance and to disseminate effective disaster relief and scientific guidance to farmers.

With the possibility of extreme weather, preventive and relief measures should be prepared, and infrastructure improved to guarantee grain output, according to experts.

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China earmarks 500 mln yuan for black earth protection

[Xinhua, 24-06-2015] China will spend 500 million yuan (80 million U.S. dollars) on black earth protection in northeastern provinces.

The funds will support pilot projects in 17 major grain-producing counties, said Zeng Yande, head of crop production management at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Each county has been given 30 million yuan to protect and improve the quality of farmland, Zeng said.

By 2020, the pilot counties should increase the thickness of black earth topsoil by more than 10 cm, improve their land capacity and increase organic matter content of the soil, he said.

The black earth region of northeast China is one of the world's three largest fertile areas and produces about a quarter of China's grain.

Protection of black earth is vital to food security and sustainable use of farmland and agricultural resources. Excessive reclamation over the years has significantly reduced the fertility of the black earth belt and brought other problems such as salinization, acidification and pollution.

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2015 International Conference on Food Safety kicked off in Beijing

[China Economic Net, 15-06-2015] The 2015 International Conference on Food Safety kicked off in Beijing on Monday, 15th June. This was the largest international conference of

the highest standard ever hosted by CFDA for the field of food safety supervision since its foundation in 2013.

With the booming of Chinese economy and the deepening of globalization of the food industry, China is becoming the world's largest producer and the largest consumer of food, playing an increasingly important role in the field of global food safety.

With "Food Safety, International Governance" as the theme, this conference was convened with distinguished guests from four major food-safety-related international organizations and regulatory authorities of more than 20 countries and regions, officials from Chinese government and its food-safety-related ministries, and representatives from academic institutions and the food industry around the world, who shared their views about the international governance framework, legal systems, risks, and standards of food safety, and quality control and safety of dairy products.

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Nestlé conducts first large scale study on young children's diets in China

[Nestlé, 15-05-2016] A lack of variety in their diet is creating nutritional imbalances in a large number of young children in urban China, a Nestlé-sponsored study suggests.

The study evaluated the diets of more than 1,400 infants and toddlers from eight cities to learn more about their food consumption patterns and sources of nutrition. It was the first large scale study of its kind in China.

It found Chinese toddlers were not eating enough citrus fruits and dark green vegetables. Main sources of calories in their diet were limited to five foods – milk, rice, noodles, pork and eggs.

This lack of variety implies Chinese toddlers are not eating a balanced diet. They are consuming too much of some nutrients, such as vitamin A and sodium, and too little of others, such as vitamin B6, folic acid, iron and selenium.

The study suggests fortifying foods consumed by Chinese toddlers, such as milk, could help ensure they receive the micronutrients currently lacking in their diet.

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Trade and Business

British PM hails 'golden year' in UK-China relations

[China Daily, 10-06-2015] British Prime Minister David Cameron on Tuesday 9th June hailed a "golden" period in the UK-China ties during a meeting with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at Downing Street.

In their meeting, Cameron said this year marked a "golden year" in the UK-China relations, and the British side was looking forward to welcoming Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Britain in October.

He noted that the British government departments have already started their preparations for the visit and hoped to work closely with the Chinese side to demonstrate the achievements and bright future of UK-China cooperation.

Britain is committed to developing relations with China and is willing to become its most open partner, he said.

Britain stands ready to advance bilateral trade, encourage two-way investment by enterprises in both countries, and welcome more Chinese investment in British high speed railway, civilian nuclear energy, aviation, telecommunications and other sectors, the prime minister added.

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China inaugurates new consulate general in Britain's Belfast

[Xinhua, 09-06-2015] Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on 9th June inaugurated China's latest consulate general here in Belfast, capital of Britain's Northern Ireland region.

It became China's third consulate general in Britain, following those in Manchester and Edinburgh.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Wang said the creation of the new consulate general in Belfast was a manifestation of the ever closer China-Britain relations and would add more color to the bilateral ties in 2015.

By setting up this new consulate general, Wang said, China intended to send a clear signal that the Chinese side was committed to developing long-term, stable, friendly and cooperative relations with the region.

He added that China was willing to work with Northern Ireland to strength agricultural cooperation, import more farm produce from Northern Ireland, boost two-way investment, and expand collaboration in innovation, environmental protection, electronics and communications.

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Pilot scheme to streamline visa process for Chinese visitors

[GOV.UK, 19-06-2015] The UK and Belgian governments announced a new pilot scheme to further streamline visa application processes for Chinese visitors to the UK, Belgium and the wider Schengen area.

Under the new UK-Belgian Visitor Service, Chinese customers will be able to submit visa applications for both countries during a single visit to a UK visa application centre (VAC).

The new scheme means visitors from China will be able to obtain a visa for both the UK and the Schengen area – of which the UK is not a part – without having to visit two different application centres.

Chinese visa applicants using the UK online system can already have their details uploaded automatically to the Schengen form to save time. Now this new initiative will allow customers to apply and pay for UK and Belgian visa applications online – using just one set of supporting documents – then book a single UK visa appointment to complete the process.

The new process will be introduced as a pilot scheme at the UK's Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai visa application centres and will be available from 1 July.

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Chinese dairy firm wins Monde Selection gold prize for second year

[Xinhua, 02-06-2015] China's dairy firm Modern Farming won the gold prize for a second consecutive year at the 54th edition of Monde Selection held in Portugal's capital Lisbon on Monday, 1 June.

Modern Farming's win demonstrated that its milk products have met the highest international food standards and obtained an internationally recognized quality passport, said Monde Selection Chairman Patrick de Halleux at the awarding ceremony.

The jury members have spoken highly of the milk produced by Modern Farming as it contains no additives and retains freshness, he said.

Modern Farming President and Board Chairwoman Gao Lina said her company's sales surged 159 percent last year as domestic demand for high-quality milk kept rising.

Currently the company is working hard to meet the growing demand and has no plans to export, she added.

The Brussels-based Monde Selection, founded in 1961, tests and evaluates consumer products from around the world. Around 3,000 products from 76 countries were presented for the race this year.

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Organic food spreads its roots in growing Chinese market

[China daily, 05-06-2015] A craze for organic food is taking China by storm as the country's middle-class gains stronger purchasing power and awareness of healthy living and dietary concerns increase.

Urbanites, including white-collar workers and young moms, are seeking alternative ways to buy safe and healthy products, partly spurred by waves of food safety scandals.

According to statistics, China has 731 certificated domestic organic food companies with an annual output of 13.48 billion. An industry report says that organic food sector is expected to grow to 1 to 1.5 percent in China from 2014 to 2018.

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Canada to feed Chinese appetite for sea cucumbers

[China Daily, 26-06-2015] Chinese want them - and can't get enough. Canadians have got plenty - and don't want them.

The situation with sea cucumbers, long considered a delicacy in China, is adding up to a true win-win opportunity.

Sea cucumbers, valued for their traditional Chinese medicinal properties, are widely farmed in China's coastal areas to satisfy the great market demand, and a cluster of 500 gram upscale dried Chinese sea cucumbers can sell for up to 10,000 yuan (\$1,612).

Now wild Canadian sea cucumbers, captured in the North Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Nova Scotia province, are also finding their way onto Chinese food tables, as most Canadian people don't consider the creature edible.

The wild variety of sea cucumber is usually larger and rounder than a Chinese farmed creature. Canadian sea cucumbers have greater nutritional and therapeutic value as compared to the ones farmed in China, because they are richer in nutrients, including holothurin compounds, minerals and protein, and are free of contaminants because they grow slowly in deep, cold waters.

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COFCO gears up to face global challenge

[Chia Daily, 11-06-2015] China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corp, the country's largest food trader, is to enhance its information collection, logistics, food-processing and infrastructure development abilities to better compete with established rivals in the global market.

Ning Gaoning, chairman of COFCO, said China's food security needs an integrated and comprehensive approach that includes international mergers, acquisitions, cooperation, facility development and education.

COFCO has more than 10,000 employees from more than 70 nations and regions working in various overseas markets, mainly in Asia, Latin America and Europe. It plans to further improve its capability in maritime transportation and food processing, as well as the entire supply chain services in seed, pesticide and fertilizer businesses over the next five years.

In addition to tackling environmental issues, China also has to feed a growing and increasingly wealthy population who demand better and more nutritious food.

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China's cross-border e-commerce to rise ten-fold in 5 years

[IBTimes, 12-06-2015] Growing wealth, changing tastes and a relaxation of customs rules could bring a massive boom in China's cross-border e-commerce in the coming years, a new study says. The report, by China's biggest e-commerce company Alibaba, and consultancy Accenture, predicted that the nation's annual e-commerce imports and exports would increase more than ten-fold in the next five years, to reach \$245 billion by 2020.

Such deals are becoming increasingly common, in a country where consumer tastes are growing more diverse -- and where concerns about the safety of domestically produced food have made imported products ever-more popular.

New Chinese government policies may also make such imports easier: the government has recently promised to streamline bureaucracy affecting cross-border e-commerce, it pledged to optimize customs clearance, cut tariffs and taxes, and make international e-payments easier.

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China ready to trim stockpiles of cotton

[China Daily, 12-06-2015] China said on 11th June it will start selling its massive cotton stockpiles this year, in a move likely to depress demand as the country's mills hold off buying in anticipation of sales of discounted fiber.

Market rumours have swirled for weeks that China was preparing to release some of its holdings, which have swelled to around 10 million tons - more than 40 percent of world stocks.

China, the world's top consumer of the fiber, would issue detailed sale plans in the next 10 days, Yin Jian, an official at the National Development and Reform Commission, told an industry conference.

Yin said that it would take several years for the market to digest China's State-held cotton reserves. While the nation is under pressure to release stocks to recover part of its stockpiling costs, big discounts could risk pushing down market prices, and lead to increased costs for the government under its subsidy scheme to farmers.

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Alibaba to share trove of consumer data

[Times, 24-06-2015] Alibaba said that it would take a big step into the data analytics business, using the information gathered from its 350 million active buyers in China to help world brands to understand better the tastes and habits of the country's burgeoning middle class.

Daniel Zhang, the Chinese ecommerce company's newly appointed chief executive, told an audience of consumer brand professionals in Washington that Alibaba could do a lot more to help them to access the Chinese consumer, rather than just provide them with access to an online trading platform.

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IFC partners with New Hope Liuhe

[China Daily, 25-06-2015] International Finance Corp, a member of the World Bank Group, is providing a long-term financing package of \$60 million to support the expansion plan of the Singapore subsidiary of leading Chinese agribusiness company New Hope Liuhe Co.

Officials said the deal will boost the company's investment in agriculture and food businesses across 10 countries in South and Southeast Asia, and create hundreds of new jobs in some of the region's most needy markets.

The focus of the spending will be on bringing high-quality equipment, produce and animal protein to Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

Last year, IFC invested \$4 billion in the global agribusiness supply chain to help boost production, increase liquidity, improve logistics and distribution, and expand access to credit, particularly for small-scale farmers.

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China is immensely important partner in Africa's development

[Xinhua, 13-06-2015] China has acted as an immensely important partner in Africa's development all the time, Mark Suzman, president of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview.

Suzman regarded China as a "good example for Africa" in terms of managing many challenges, such as health and agriculture.

In his view, China's agricultural success was built on small holder farming. "Unarguably it is the world's best model of a productivity revolution driven by small holder farmers. That's exactly the kind of thing that we with partners working for a green revolution in Africa are trying to model here, to see how they use technology to improve yields of rice, how they use training and extension services by small holder farmers to create access to market."

Suzman said he noticed that China has done a lot of work over the years, creating agricultural demonstration centers to show and help African countries do better. He said the foundation was looking forward to cooperating with China in this regard.

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China signs \$50 million South-South Cooperation agreement with FAO

[FAO, 07-06-2015] China and FAO signed on 7th June a 50-million-US-dollar agreement to support developing countries in building sustainable food systems and inclusive agricultural

value chains, recognizing the growing importance of collaboration between Southern countries in the fight against extreme hunger and poverty.

China's new contribution to the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Trust Fund will support the exchange of Chinese agricultural experts with countries in the global South, particularly in low-income food-deficit areas of Central Asia, the Pacific Islands, Africa and Latin America, over a period of five years.

"China has made strides in decreasing hunger and has used its own experience to support other countries in doing the same," FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva said during a signing ceremony on the sidelines of the FAO's 39th Conference between June 6 and 13.

"It has become clear that while we have the power to end hunger in our lifetime, we will only succeed if we work together - Southern countries empowering one another by exchanging knowledge and tools is a key part of this," he added.

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