

Contents

Policies	2
China moves to accelerate modernization of agriculture.....	2
China needs stronger agricultural production: minister.....	2
Chinese vice premier wants better dairy industry.....	3
China moves to back small rural businesses.....	3
China to quicken steps of prevention, control of water pollution.....	3
China to resume levying VAT on fertiliser.....	4
China puts spotlight on spuds.....	4
All certified GM foods on market 'are safe'.....	4
Official statistics key to China's fur farming industry.....	5
Science, Technology and Environment.....	6
Heat-resistant gene could help crops cope with global warming, scientists say.....	6
When the Internet meets agriculture.....	6
Online financial services benefit farmers in NW China.....	7
China launches Yaogan-27 remote sensing satellite.....	7
China air pollution kills 4,000 people a day: researchers.....	7
New estimates show China's carbon emissions were less than previously thought.....	8
China invests heavily in afforestation.....	8
Young Chinese pursue healthier food.....	8
Beijing to promote processed vegetables.....	9
Trade and Business.....	9
Stronger China-UK economic ties over past decade.....	9
China produces less early rice in 2015.....	10
Brazilian beef gets back into China's market.....	10
Aus beef goes online to China.....	10
Namibian beef to enter Chinese market.....	11
American farmers have to stop juicing their pigs to meet China's food safety standards...	11
Chile tries to interest China in more cherries, less copper.....	12
Chinese investors to help develop Angola's agriculture sector.....	12
Rwanda hails China's role in promoting agriculture sector.....	12
China-sponsored projects help boost Botswana's agriculture sector.....	13

Policies

China moves to accelerate modernization of agriculture

[07-08-2015] The Chinese central government released a guideline to make agriculture more intensive and environmentally friendly on Friday, 7th August, as they seek to ensure adequate and safe food supply.

The guideline, issued by the State Council, seeks to transform the production model by weaning dependency on resources and mass labor and improving the use of advanced technology and skills of farmers.

Farming in China has been booming for more than three decades, with a constant rise in output. The nation prides itself on feeding more than a fifth of the world's population on only 10 percent of arable land worldwide.

However, over-exploitation and primitive farming techniques have burdened farmland.

The guideline vowed to find new, creative approaches to industrial chains, subsidize modern farms, make loans obtainable to agricultural businesses and teach farmers to take advantage of technology.

To make the sector sustainable, the country will stop increasing fertilizer and pesticide use by 2020 to curb soil pollution and promote organic food, and pilot cyclic utilization of agricultural waste.

The government expects the measures will upgrade the agriculture, turning it into a sustainable sector and keeping its high yield at the same time to satisfy rising food demand from an enormous population.

Click [here](#) for details

China needs stronger agricultural production: minister

[Xinhua, 11-08-2015] China will increase agricultural production to ensure an adequate and secure food supply.

The goal was unveiled in guidelines to accelerate the transition to modern agriculture, issued on 7th August by the State Council.

"Better production should be the primary objective for the development of modern agriculture," Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu said.

Production capacity should always be of prime importance, Han said, adding that modern agriculture was more efficient and environmentally friendly through the use of technology and better trained farmers.

The government is trying to build a more sustainable agricultural sector, keeping high yields while reducing the use of fertilizer and pesticides to control soil and water pollution.

New, creative approaches to industrial chains are needed, as are farm subsidies, loans and training for farmers.

China's summer grain output reached a record high of 141 million tonnes in 2015 after 11 consecutive years of growth. Chinese people will consume 50 billion kg more food in 2020 than in 2010.

Given the growing appetite, food safety will continue to be prioritized by policymakers, the Ministry of Agriculture said.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese vice premier wants better dairy industry

[Xinhua, 18-08-2015] Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang said Tuesday more should be done to improve the dairy sector.

The sustainable and healthy growth of the dairy sector is important for health, agricultural restructuring and higher incomes for farmers, Wang said at a summit which attracted 20 key dairy producers.

The dairy firms should improve quality and rebuild consumer confidence in domestic dairy products, he said.

Chinese consumers have turned to overseas milk products since melamine was found in baby formula produced by China's Sanlu Group in 2008.

Click [here](#) for details

China moves to back small rural businesses

[FT, 06-08-2015] China has moved to shore up financing guarantees for small businesses and the rural sector in an acknowledgment of their importance to the economy.

Over the past decades China has seen a population shift from the countryside to the cities where wages are higher, leading to a decline in the contribution of agriculture to gross domestic product. Yet the rural economy still accounts for a disproportionate number of workers. Add in small businesses, which also tend to be labour-intensive, and these areas do the heavy lifting on employment.

Enter the State Council, which has moved to set up provincial level re-guarantee companies to shore up financing for the credit guarantee firms that are supposed to help small business access capital in the absence of significant collateral. Solving the difficulties of small enterprises and rural firms is an “important measure towards improving targeted macroeconomic policy, promoting business and innovation among people, supporting rural groups as cells within the real economy and achieving a solid basis for the economy,” the State Council said.

Small and micro enterprises and rural companies are starved of credit in China, partly due to the small scale at which they borrow and partly due to their lack of collateral. Many are forced to guarantee each other, creating local rings of mutually guaranteed firms that can cause financial instability if one fails.

The guarantee companies that sprang up to help them access loans are themselves poorly capitalised and often ill-equipped to survive defaults. Banks that enjoy greater capital strength still view loans to state-owned groups as less risky.

Click [here](#) for details

China to quicken steps of prevention, control of water pollution

[China Daily, 31-08-2015] A new report has been put under review by Chinese lawmakers connected to water pollution.

The report, the Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law, has been reviewed by the National People's Congress.

Vice-Premier Wang Yang is among those who have gone over the potential amendments to the legislation.

He says protecting China's water is going to be part of the forthcoming 5-year plan, and will be part of new industrial, investment, financial and tax policies.

Wang Yang also says the State Council also plans to add amendments to the legislation to ensure officials are held accountable.

The new amendments to the legislation are also expected to cover sewage issues, particularly in rural areas.

Click [here](#) for details

China to resume levying VAT on fertiliser

[Xinhua, 11-08-2015] China will resume levying value-added tax on fertilizer sales and imports to meet new market conditions, according to a joint ministry statement on Tuesday.

The VAT taxation rate stands at 13 percent and the new rule will take place starting from September 1, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Finance, Central Administration of Customs and State Administration of Taxation.

China has exempted fertilizer sales and imports from VAT or pay back VAT after taxation since 1994 to keep fertilizer supply and price stable.

However, now the fertilizer market is burdened with overcapacity, with farmers and companies facing increasing problems due to the outdated policy, according to the statement.

Agricultural production and farmers' income will not be affected by the policy change as China has set up a real-time agricultural supply subsidy to keep related prices stable, the statement said.

Click [here](#) for details

China puts spotlight on spuds

[WSJ, 17-08-2015] The government announced that it wants to turn the New World spud into a key part of the diet for the country's 1.3 billion population.

The push is in part environmental: The country's land is badly parched, and crops like rice and wheat are far more water-intensive than the low-maintenance potato. Food security is also a consideration, with corn, wheat and rice imports having soared in recent years.

Potatoes are commonly used in Chinese cuisine, just not as a staple. In the northeast, the "earth's three delicacies," a deep-fried medley of potato, eggplant and green pepper, is a popular dish. The potato—thought to have made its debut in China 400 years ago in the Ming dynasty and whose name in Chinese translates to "earth bean"—is also often julienned, stir-fried and served slightly al dente.

The government has promoted potato recipes in state media. It has emphasized the potato's health benefits, casting it as a more nutritious alternative to rice or wheat, one containing high vitamin C and potassium levels.

State broadcaster CCTV recently ran a three-part series titled "A Bite of Potato," highlighting the potato's ability to be shaped into everything from pancakes to steamed gnocchi-style dumplings. The government's food scientists also just launched what they describe as the nation's "first-generation potato buns," now stocked in the capital's supermarkets. Other potato-based products, including potato noodles, are also being developed.

Click [here](#) for details

All certified GM foods on market 'are safe'

[China Daily, 29-08-2015] All certified genetically modified foods that are sold on the Chinese market are safe, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

China has established a safety supervision system that covers the complete chain of GM products, including research, production and trading, the ministry said.

The ministry will cooperate with other departments to improve legislation concerning GM products and their testing technologies to ensure the safety of GM products, the ministry said in a reply to a March proposal by 10 members of China's top political advisory body on improved safety management of GM foods.

A major research program organized by the European Union, in which more than 500 independent bodies participated over 25 years, concluded that GM technology is no more dangerous than traditional seed nurturing technologies, the ministry said.

GM food has occasionally been involved in controversy in China in recent years, and most of the dispute was centered on its safety.

Producers for the Chinese market are obliged to label any product that contains elements of GM soybeans, rapeseed, corn, cotton or tomato - five major types of GM products in China, according to a regulation issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2002.

"The Chinese food and drug authorities will improve supervision of labeling of GM foods, and those GM food producers who fail to label their products will be punished," the ministry said.

Click [here](#) for details

Official statistics key to China's fur farming industry

[China Daily, 20-08-2015] The official statistics on fur production released in 2014 by the China Leather Industry Association is expected to facilitate the development of the country's fur farming industry.

The latest report released by China Leather Industry Association shows that the production of mink, fox and raccoon pelts soared in 2014, with 60 million mink pelts, 13 million fox pelts and 14 million raccoon pelts produced, up 50 percent, 30 percent and 16.7 percent year-on-year respectively.

The China Leather Industry Association, authorized by the State Forestry Administration, started to collect data on the fur production of mink, fox and raccoon pelts in 2011, in an effort to help the practitioners make production plans and boost the scientific and sustainable development of the industry.

The annual official statistical report is of great significance as it provides guidance for China's fur farming industry, which is closely connected to the core issues of the country's rural reform, according to the China Leather Industry Association.

The thriving industry, which involves some five million laborers, helps people achieve prosperity and maintain social stability by creating jobs for the surplus labor force in rural areas.

The association urges farmers to pay close attention to fluctuations in the market, strengthen ties with downstream industries and consult the association's annual report before making production plans.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

Heat-resistant gene could help crops cope with global warming, scientists say

[China daily, 21-08-2015] Shanghai scientists have found a gene that provides crops with a higher resistance to heat, offering a potential boon to farmers coping with reduced yields in the face of global warming.

The discovery, made after 10 years of study by the Institute of Plant Physiology and Ecology, a branch of the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was published on the website of Nature Biotechnology.

Agricultural experts said the discovery was a breakthrough toward increasing the yield of agricultural crops as Earth warms.

Researchers first made experiments on arabidopsis, a small flowering plant related to cabbage and mustard. The plant usually dries out and dies in 48 hours at 40 C. However, it became more heat-resistant when the activity of the gene was increased, and its yield increased by 30 percent to 45 percent.

Scientists later found that the gene treatment also worked for rice and tomatoes, which are likewise vulnerable to heat. It's universally believed that rice yields decline by 10 percent for each increase in temperature of 1 degree C.

Usually rice dries out and dies when the ambient temperature reaches 42 C, but rice treated in the experiment had a survival rate of 70 percent.

Click [here](#) for details

When the Internet meets agriculture

[Xinhua, 02-08-2015] Being a farmer in China no longer means eking out a living in a backward industry. Farmers nationwide are adopting new business practices made possible by the Internet, boosting their earnings and modernizing the sector.

China's cabinet unveiled an "Internet Plus" action plan at the beginning of July targeted at integration of the Internet with traditional sectors to make them smarter and more efficient. Along with manufacturing, agriculture was on the top of the list.

Farming in China has been booming for over three decades. Though harvests were good, inefficient sales channels, a shrinking labor population and lack of access to loans have been squeezing farmers' earnings and dragging down the rural economy.

In 2014, the per capita disposable income of rural residents rose 9.2 percent year on year to 10,489 yuan (1,720 U.S. dollars), less than half of that of urbanites, and 70.17 million rural Chinese earned an annual sum less than 2,300 yuan, the official poverty line.

However, the Internet, especially mobile networks, have provided agriculture with a new vision. By the end of 2014, nearly 30 percent of China's rural population were online.

E-commerce enables farmers to sell goods quickly, conveniently shop around for materials and obtain small loans more easily. The Internet has made intensive mechanized production achievable, boosted yields with fewer laborers and made agriculture greener and food safer.

Given the bright outlook, Internet companies and e-commerce giants are thronging to take a bigger share of the agricultural pie.

Click [here](#) for details

Online financial services benefit farmers in NW China

[China daily, 07-08-2015] Gansu province has announced the start of a site that uses the Internet to provide convenient financial and marketing services for farmers.

The online service can deal with more than 20 types of business, including deposits and withdrawals, sales and purchases of agricultural products and agricultural technology and can function as an online bank, e-commerce site, rural finance tutor and loan source for farmers.

And farmers can gain access to the site with a mobile phone app, a service terminal, or an online website.

It makes general use of Internet technology and follows China's new "Internet Plus" plan that the president spoke of earlier this year, whose purpose is to connect the Internet to traditional sectors such as agriculture, finance, manufacturing and logistics.

Click [here](#) for details

China launches Yaogan-27 remote sensing satellite

[Xinhua, 27-08-2015] China's Yaogan-27 remote sensing satellite was sent into space on Thursday, 27th August from Taiyuan launch site in Shanxi Province, north China.

The satellite will mainly be used for experiments, land surveys, crop yield estimates and disaster prevention.

Yaogan-27 was carried by a Long March-4C rocket, the 207th mission for the Long March rocket family.

China launched the first "Yaogan" series satellite, Yaogan-1, in 2006.

Click [here](#) for details

China air pollution kills 4,000 people a day: researchers

[Bloomberg, 13-08-2015] Air pollution is killing an average of 4,000 people a day in China, according to researchers who cited coal-burning as the likely principal cause.

Deaths related to the main pollutant, tiny particles known as PM2.5s that can trigger heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer and asthma, total 1.6 million a year, or 17 percent of China's mortality level, according to the study by Berkeley Earth, an independent research group funded largely by educational grants. It was published Thursday, 13th August in the online peer-reviewed journal PLOS One from the Public Library of Science.

Chinese authorities have acknowledged the air pollution situation after heavy smog enveloped swathes of the nation including Beijing and Shanghai in recent years. They've adopted air quality standards, introduced monitoring stations and cleaner standards for transportation fuel while shutting coal plants and moving factories out of cities.

Muller and co-author Robert Rohde analyzed four months of hourly data for some 1,500 ground stations in China. They then employed a model used by the World Health Organization to calculate the disease burden.

They found that 92 percent of China's population experienced at least 120 hours of unhealthy air during the April 5, 2014, to Aug. 5, 2015 study period. For 38 percent of the population, the average pollution level across the entire four-month period was deemed unhealthy.

Click [here](#) for details

New estimates show China's carbon emissions were less than previously thought

[UEA, 19-08-2015] China's carbon emissions have been substantially overestimated by international agencies for more than 10 years, according to research co-led by the University of East Anglia.

From 2000-2013 China produced 2.9 gigatonnes less carbon than previous estimates of its cumulative emissions. The findings suggest that overestimates of China's emissions during this period may be larger than China's estimated total forest sink - a natural carbon store - in 1990-2007 (2.66 gigatonnes of carbon) or China's land carbon sink in 2000-2009 (2.6 gigatonnes of carbon).

Published in the journal Nature, the revised estimates of China's carbon emissions were produced by an international team of researchers, led by Harvard University, UEA, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Tsinghua University, in collaboration with 15 other international research institutions.

The team re-evaluated emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and cement production from 1950-2013. They used independently assessed activity data on the amounts of fuels burned and new measurements of emissions factors - the amount of carbon oxidised per unit of fuel consumed - for Chinese coal.

Nearly three-quarters of the growth in global carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and cement production between 2010-2012 occurred in China. Yet estimates of Chinese emissions remain subject to large uncertainty due to conflicting assessments of energy consumption and emission factors. Indeed, using different official sources of activity data and emissions factors can result in estimates that vary by up to 40 per cent in a given year.

Click [here](#) for details

China invests heavily in afforestation

[Xinhua, 07-08-2015] The government has allocated more than 400 billion yuan (around 65 billion U.S. dollars) to projects returning farmland to forest since 1999.

Around 139 million mu (9.3 million hectares) of farmland has been converted to forest since the government launched a national campaign in 1999. Around 309 million mu of hillside was closed to facilitate afforestation during the period, according to an announcement by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) at a meeting in Guiyang City.

Some 124 million farmers across 25 provinces and cities received subsidies after they agreed to have their farmland turned into forest, according to the NDRC.

A survey by the State Forestry Administration last year revealed that China had 208 million hectares of forest, covering 21.6 percent of the country, up 1.3 percentage points from five years before.

Click [here](#) for details

Young Chinese pursue healthier food

[CCTV, 05-08-2015] Facing a history of widespread food scandals in China, consumers with higher disposable incomes are looking for safer and healthier green foods. Experts say the trend is now spreading to smaller cities.

China's appetite for organic products is growing stronger. Official data show China now has more than 2 million hectares of certified organic acreage, three times the land area of Shanghai.

The domestic market for organic vegetables has been booming since 2010, especially in big cities. According to latest report, China's organic food market was worth 2.7 billion US dollars in 2013, making it the third biggest organic market in the world. The Ministry of Agriculture's Green Food Development Center says demand has been growing at 30 percent a year over recent years.

Gift box sales at organic farms are very popular in Shanghai. Other sales channels include supermarkets, specialized retailers and online shops.

Another trend in the growing domestic market, which is the expansion of Internet distribution. For now, consumers mainly buy their groceries from traditional channels, such as super- and hyper- markets. About 20 percent, however, are already buying organic food from specialized online shops.

Click [here](#) for details

Beijing to promote processed vegetables

[China Daily, 04-08-2015] Beijing is planning a minimally processed vegetables industry to reduce waste, the capital's agricultural bureau said.

Beijing is supplied 7.7 million tons of vegetables per year, but 2.3 million tons end up in the garbage due to lack of cleaning or simple processing before they are transported to Beijing.

In China, 25-30 percent of vegetables are wasted, compared to under 5 percent in developed countries.

The large amount of vegetables also use a lot of packing materials. The Beijing Xinfadi Fruit Wholesale Market alone creates 33 tons of garbage per day and consumes 22,500 plastic bags and 10,000 cloth bags.

Therefore, Beijing officials propose a minimally processed vegetable base near the capital and promoting more processed vegetables in communities to reduce waste.

However, there is no unified national standard for the business, and even in Beijing, few companies have the capacity to process and sell the vegetables.

Other barriers also prevent such vegetables from reaching the tables of ordinary people, such as safety monitoring, the recycling of roots, peels, seeds, and wash water, on-site garbage disposal, and lack of refrigerated facilities.

Click [here](#) for details

Trade and Business

Stronger China-UK economic ties over past decade

[CCTV, 14-08-2014] China-UK economic ties are getting much stronger.

Bilateral goods trade went up to US\$ 80.9 billion in 2014--compared to US\$ 19.7 billion in 2004.

They are also cooperating on investments. Direct investment from China amounted to US\$ 40 billion by 2014. That makes Britain China's largest investment destination in Europe.

Analysts say favourable policies and sophisticated financial services are attracting Chinese companies to the UK.

Businesses are doing well in various sectors including retail, real estate, and food. Nuclear, airport and water utilities are experiencing rapid expansion. Chinese companies have also set up a research center in the UK.

Analysts say as China is trying to upgrade its economic structure, many cooperation opportunities could be found in manufacturing, and internet related innovations. More importantly they say, tighter trade ties would boost political trust.

Click [here](#) for details

China produces less early rice in 2015

[Xinhua, 21-08-2015] China produced slightly less rice in the first harvest period of the year compared to 2014 due to a shrinking planting area, but the yield per hectare increased, official data showed.

The country produced 33.69 million tonnes of "early rice," that planted in spring and harvested in early summer. This was a decrease of 320,000 tonnes, or 0.9 percent from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.

China's early rice planting area for this year stood at 5.72 million hectares, 1.4 percent less than last year, with yield per hectare rising 0.4 percent to 5.89 tonnes.

Early rice is mainly planted in eight central and southern provincial regions: Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong and Guangxi.

Rice is a staple food in China, and its total grain output consists of three parts -- early rice, summer grain and autumn production. Autumn grain crops, which include corn and middle- and late-season rice, account for the bulk of the grain production.

Click [here](#) for details

Brazilian beef gets back into China's market

[China daily, 03-08-2015] Brazilian Agriculture Minister Katia Abreu said that Brazilian beef will have a large potential market in China following the lifting of an embargo.

Beef exports to China are expected to increase to at least \$700 million in 2015 from \$37 million in 2012, according to the Brazilian Agriculture Ministry,

China suspended Brazilian beef imports in December 2012 after a cow tested positive for mad-cow disease. Premier Li Keqiang announced in May that China will resume beef imports from Brazil.

In June, a Brazilian trade mission, including representatives from Brazil's main meat producing organizations and the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex-Brazil), visited Shanghai and Beijing to promote beef exports to China.

Hormones and chemicals are not used for livestock used for Brazilian meat. This allows the meat to have specific characteristics and to be known as "green cattle". With a few rare exceptions, the animals are not kept in confinement, which causes stress and leads to a loss in meat quality.

Click [here](#) for details

Aus beef goes online to China

[Farmonline, 28-08-2015] A ground breaking new deal will see Chinese consumers able to buy Australian chilled beef direct online for the first time.

Premium meat exporter Bindaree Beef Group and its meat sales and marketing business, Sanger Australia, have partnered with JD.com, the largest online direct sales company in China, to launch packed-in-Australia chilled retail-ready beef into the Chinese market.

Chinese online shoppers will begin to see First Cut Pure Australian Beef chilled cuts of steak, beef fingers and strips sold through JD.com from late September.

China's online grocery shopping continues to grow. Figures show 40 per cent of Chinese consumers buy food online, compared to 10pc in the US, according to a report by McKinsey & Company.

Online grocery sales in China are estimated to be around US\$41 billion in 2015, and forecast to increase to \$178 billion by 2020, according to IGD Retail Analysis.

JD.com has 96.6 million active customers, and fulfilled 689 million orders in 2014.

It operates 166 warehouses and a total of 4142 delivery stations, with 84,322 employees across China.

Click [here](#) for more details

Namibian beef to enter Chinese market

[Xinhua, 13-08-2015] Namibian beef will soon enter the Chinese market as the two countries have signed an agreement early this month on the operational details for the trade, an official has said.

It makes Namibia the first African country to export bone-in beef to China.

The Southern African nation has been negotiating with China since 2011 over the beef exports.

The Chinese market, as opposed to the European Union markets, allows the import of beef on the bone.

Namibia currently exports 17,000 metric tonnes of meat products to South Africa every year, 10,000 metric tonnes to the European Union.

Click [here](#) for details

American farmers have to stop juicing their pigs to meet China's food safety standards

[Quartz, 11-08-2015] For years, the US pork industry has stood by the safety and efficacy of a controversial growth drug banned in nearly 200 countries. But now, thanks to Chinese regulations, the National Pork Board is quietly encouraging American pork producers to stop using it.

Ractopamine is a beta-agonist, a drug that changes animals' metabolism so that they develop more muscle instead of fat. The result is a meat that is both leaner and, because muscle is heavier than fat, heavier. That translates into benefits for consumers looking to cut the fat in their diets, as well as producers, because hogs can get heavier on less food.

The drug, approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in 1999, is banned in many countries, including the EU, Russia, and China, the number one pork-consuming country in the world.

In addition to its massive demand, China is an excellent trading partner for American pork producers because Chinese consumers like the byproducts Americans don't want, such as feet, neckbones, ears, and stomachs. In 2014, the US exported \$775 million of pork to Hong Kong/China, according to National Pork Producers Council.

Click [here](#) for details

Chile tries to interest China in more cherries, less copper

[Caixin, 27-08-2015] While global commodity prices continue falling, Chile, the South American country China depends on for mine exporters, is eyeing new business opportunities on the dining tables of the world's most populous country.

From August 21 to 28, a group of 150 Chilean business representatives led by vice minister for trade Andres Rebolledo held a series of activities in Beijing and Shanghai to promote trade between the two countries.

Where previous trade fairs mainly focused on copper, iron ore and other mining products, these promotions involved more agricultural products, from fruit and vegetables to salmon and pork, mainly through e-commerce platforms.

Chile's agricultural exporters started forming partnerships with Chinese e-commerce firms late last year, when the country's embassy in Beijing, the Chilean Export Promotion Bureau and the Association of Exporters of Fruits of Chile reached an agreement with JD.com Inc. to sell cherries and blueberries to China's online shoppers.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese investors to help develop Angola's agriculture sector

[Xinhua, 31-07-2015] A provincial official of Angola said that the country expects more Chinese investment to boost agricultural sector as it can hardly produce sufficient food for its local population.

Felicino Mulova, who is the secretary general of the Huambo provincial government, formerly a major transport and agricultural hub in central Angola, made the remarks while meeting with a delegation of Chinese entrepreneurs operating in Angola.

Official statistics show that Angola's population of 23 million needs 4 million tons of grains annually, but only 1.5 million tons is produced across the country.

"We hope Chinese entrepreneurs will introduce quality seeds as well as modern farming and management skills in the province," the official said, adding that "Huambo would offer the best possible incentives to foreign investments in terms of land lease, taxation and preferential policies."

Mulova acknowledged the shortage of skilled manpower in the agricultural sector, just like in other economic sectors in Angola, and appealed to Chinese entrepreneurs to set up an agricultural training center in Huambo.

He said the provincial government would set aside 50 hectares of land for the establishment of the agricultural training center.

Click [here](#) for details

Rwanda hails China's role in promoting agriculture sector

[Xinhua, 03-08-2015] China has for years played an important role in promoting agriculture sector in Rwanda, ranging from farmer training, crop growing, water and soil conservation, a senior agricultural official said.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Minister of State in charge of Agriculture Tony Nsanganira said recent years have seen strengthening cooperation between Rwanda and China in agriculture in terms of increasing productivity and quick technology transfer to Rwandan farmers.

The minister revealed up to now over 100 Rwandese professionals have accepted training in China on technology based agriculture, especially on rice and mushroom growing.

The support has culminated in the Rwanda Agriculture Technology Demonstration Center (RATDC), which is a Chinese supported institution based in Huye district in the Southern province, said Nsanganira.

The center has been training Rwandan farmers in mushroom and rice production, soil conservation and sericulture.

Chinese construction firm, China Geo-Engineering Corporation (CGC) was in 2011 contracted by Rwandan government to construct the first ever sprinkler irrigation system and livestock watering system of the country in the Eastern province, an area prone to droughts.

Click [here](#) for details

China-sponsored projects help boost Botswana's agriculture sector

[AllAfrica, 06-08-2015] An agriculture project sponsored by China-Africa People-to-People Friendship Action broke ground in southern Botswana's Kangwe village.

Under the action, Chinese Enterprises Association in Botswana will help Kangwe village leveling soil by employing specialized company and local villagers. The village will thereafter be able to grow crops on the land.

The Chinese side will support Kangwe Village for its efforts to empower its people through agriculture. The Chinese government and China-Africa People-to-People Friendship Action will continue to support the local NGOs and their efforts for the social development of Botswana.

China-Africa People-to-People Friendship Action was officially launched by the Chinese government in 2013. The action aims at encouraging and supporting non-governmental and civil organizations from China and Africa to further develop people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

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