

### Contents

<b>Policies .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Partnership with private companies fuels growth .....	2
Mainland China tends commercial growth on its farmlands .....	2
Food security and food safety summit wraps up in Beijing.....	2
Sustainably improving the support capacity of food security and food safety .....	3
Grain import binge puts China on pace to beat year-old record .....	4
China mulls allowing foreign research on GMOs .....	4
China bans cities from encroaching on nearby farmland.....	4
China has 245 mln migrant population .....	5
Four regions to scrap urban-rural 'hukou' distinction.....	5
Chinese premier urges 'new growth engines' amid slowing economy.....	6
Central finance earmarks 2bln for grassland protection .....	6
Gov't gives academics failing grade for fraud in research funding .....	6
<b>Science, Technology and Environment.....</b>	<b>7</b>
China's new barley breed sets yield record .....	7
Researchers identify genes for bitterness in cucumbers .....	7
Food security has come at ecological cost: official .....	8
China pledges to protect lakes before pollution.....	8
Scientists issue warning over development of coastal wetlands.....	9
More than 40 percent of China's arable land degraded: Xinhua.....	9
Illegal wildlife trading rampant on Web.....	10
ADB offers China 300 mln USD loan for rural wastewater treatment.....	10
China wastes half as much grain as it imports .....	10
Connecting remote rural area with mobile Internet .....	11
CAAS, Rothamsted Research held workshop for joint research potentials.....	11
<b>Trade and Business .....</b>	<b>12</b>
Chinese companies make strides in the UK.....	12
Chinese students to be recruited to boost business links between China, Britain .....	12
Ireland eyes access to China's beef market in 2015 .....	13
China-Ireland Dairy Science and Technology Centre is established.....	13
US packaging company opens plant in China .....	13
Wal-Mart to focus on food safety as China sales slow .....	14
Chinese, US dairies will build Kansas milk plant.....	14
In wake of China rejections, GMO seed makers limit U.S. launches.....	14
New Zealand to help Chinese food giant in safety .....	15
Xi urges China-New Zealand cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry.....	15
Chinese dairy giant opens first major overseas factory in New Zealand.....	15
Australia, China agree landmark free trade deal.....	16
ADM opens first phase of integrated food-ingredient plant in China .....	16

## Policies

### **Partnership with private companies fuels growth**

[China Daily, 27-11-2014] China's top economic planner singled out on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November seven areas for public-private partnerships to fuel the country's economic growth.

The seven areas are: a national communications network for oil and gas, health and elderly care services, grain storage and water resources, transportation, clean energy, environmental protection and supportive infrastructure for oil, gas and other mineral resources.

China's economic growth slowed to 7.3 percent in the third quarter, raising concerns that expansion could fall in coming months to below 7 percent — a rate not seen since the global financial crisis.

The public-private partnership model is where a service or venture is funded and operated through a partnership between government and the private sector.

Wang Wei, director general of the NDRC's Department of Social Development, said, "We are expecting to see more public-private partnership contracts signed in China soon that deal with longterm upkeep, like in developed markets".

Click [here](#) for details

### **Mainland China tends commercial growth on its farmlands**

[SCMP, 21-11-2014] Commercial involvement in farming on the mainland is being encouraged in an effort to modernise methods and ensure food security, but some executives have expressed reservations about the move.

Large-scale poultry and livestock raising, seed development and the construction of high-end farming facilities are among the areas the government is “guiding” commercial companies to invest in, the State Council says.

Meanwhile farmers will be allowed to transfer and mortgage their land-use rights, or turn the rights into shares in large-scale farming operations, according to a document released by the government on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> November.

China's rapid urbanisation meant it now required larger farming operations and more advanced technology, Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu said.

“It's necessary for industrial and commercial companies to engage in farming for a modern agriculture, since rural China lacks money, talent and good management,” Xinhua quoted Han as saying.

But some executives have reservations.

It would be dangerous for commercial businesses to become directly involved in planting crops or raising animals, Wang Hang, vice president of the mainland's leading agricultural company New Hope Group, said.

It would be better for companies to enter the processing and service sectors of the industry, he said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Food security and food safety summit wraps up in Beijing**

[DRC, 20-11-2014] When China's Food Security and Food Safety Strategy Summit for 2014 finished, in Beijing, on Nov 18, the participants had confronted some important global issues

in workshops and roundtables on food strategies, trade, agricultural technology innovation, sustainable agriculture and agricultural policy reforms.

The summit, with theme of “Sustainably Improving the Support Capacity of Food Security and Food Safety with Reform and Innovation”, attracted more than 200 representatives of domestic and international government departments, think tanks, and enterprises.

Li Wei, minister of the Development Research Center of the State Council, addressed the opening ceremony by pointing out that agriculture is the foundation of a country and ranks at the top in national governance and that, although human activities have moved far beyond basic agriculture and demand many things that are far apart from food, the fact that food is irreplaceable doesn't change, so agriculture's position won't change.

Li said that food, energy, and financial security are three major economic security issues, so a food security strategy is an important part of national security strategies, and since China is on the path to become a high-income country, it is critical to develop new national food security concepts and an efficient, open, sustainable food security system.

In dealing with the challenge of food security, the basic way is to modernise China's agriculture through reforms and innovation, he said.

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### **Sustainably improving the support capacity of food security and food safety with reform and innovation**

[Chia Daily, 18-11-2014] In his key note speech at China's Food Security and Food Safety Strategy Summit 2014, held in Beijing in early November, Li Wei, Director of Development Research Center of the State Council, proposed six ways to tackle the food security and food safety challenges.

First, through innovative agricultural production and management as well as different varieties of management. China's household farms are too small, something that has to be dealt with because of the rise in production costs and food security control at the source. One way is to expanding agricultural management for better labor productivity, controlling costs, standardizing production and reducing food risks.

Second, through scientific and technological progress and its use in food security. In the past few years, China has increased the application of agriculture science and technology, contributing to a growth of as much as 55 percent, with main crop cultivation and harvesting becoming 59-percent more mechanized and fine breed rate above 96 percent.

Third, through ag-ecological and environmental protection methods and improved food production sustainable development. The Chinese government has had a goal of ecological progress and a solemn commitment to future generations.

Fourth, through better production and supervision Mechanism. The country needs better food safety supervision to deal with the problem of unclear areas of responsibility, supervises local governments to shoulder their responsibilities, improves supervision at the grassroots level, and cracks down on food safety crimes.

Fifth, through the innovative use of domestic and foreign markets and resources to open greater food security channels.

Sixth, through changing food consumption pattern and developing food consumption structure that suits China's resources and culture.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Grain import binge puts China on pace to beat year-old record**

[Caixin, 11-11-2014] Lower prices abroad have spurred grain imports over the first 10 months of the year, an analyst says, putting China on pace to beat last year's record for shipments from abroad.

Chinese companies imported around 72.5 million tons of grain from January to October, data from the General Administration of Customs show. The increase mainly involves sorghum, barley and soybeans, which are all important to food processors.

China could set a record for grain imports this year. It imported 74.4 million tons of soybeans, rice, wheat and corn last year, customs data showed.

Lower prices abroad were prompting companies to make the purchases, said Ma Wenfeng, an analyst at Beijing Orient Agribusiness Consultant Ltd. Grain prices overseas have fallen by about 30 percent since 2012, Ma said.

The government sets minimum prices for grain and has a storage system that helps keep prices stable, so when prices abroad fall, companies prefer the cheaper imports. The government's approach is intended to help farmers and secure the country's food supply, but critics say it results in surpluses.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China mulls allowing foreign research on GMOs**

[ECNS, 15-11-2014] China is considering removing a ban on foreign investment into GMO research in the country.

On November 4, the National Development and Reform Commission updated a draft catalogue of industries for foreign investment, which will lift a ban on GMO research funded by foreign companies, while developing and growing crops remains off-limits.

The draft is seeking consultation until December 3.

Although China has been devoting resources to the research and development of GMOs, public debate on the safety of the type of crops has become increasingly intense in the last few years. Many people choose to shun GM food, and have become very concerned over news about mislabeling or GMOs leaking out onto the market.

China banned the research and development of GM crops by foreign companies more than a decade ago. In recent years, high level officials and the Ministry of Agriculture have been educating the public about the safety of such crops, and stressing the importance of technology in increasing grain yields.

Lifting the ban on foreign investment into GMO research is a step to the further opening up of China's agriculture industry, and will greatly boost GMO innovation, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Yu Xinrong said.

Foreign companies are hailing the change.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China bans cities from encroaching on nearby farmland**

[Xinhua, 03-11-2014] China will designate prime arable land near cities, believed to be prone to expropriation, as "permanent basic farmland" to safeguard food security, authorities announced on Monday.

The Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) said jointly in a notice that prime farmland in the outskirts of cities and towns and that near traffic

routes should be categorized as "permanent basic farmland" that can be only used for cultivation.

A total of 14 major Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, will first implement the policy, and the rest are asked to implement it by the end of 2016.

"Much of the high-quality arable land around large and medium-sized cities has not yet been designated as permanent basic farmland. It is a pressing problem that the expansion of cities is encroaching on prime farmland," said the notice.

"During rapid urbanization, high-yield farmland has been gradually 'eaten' by steel and cement," said MLR minister Jiang Daming, adding that the consequences could be grievous.

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### **China has 245 mln migrant population**

[Xinhua, 18-11-2014] China's migrant population reached 245 million by the end of 2013, composing more than one sixth of the nation's total population, a government report said Tuesday.

The trend of people moving into big cities has not changed and the average age of the migrant population is rising, according to the report released by the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

By the end of 2012, the migrant population, referring to those who have left their birthplaces to live and work elsewhere, amounted to 236 million. Many of the group are former farmers who go to cities to open small businesses or provide cheap labor in the hope of higher pay and a better life.

Over 62 percent of the migrant couples' children aging between six and fifteen have moved along with their parents, the report said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Four regions to scrap urban-rural 'hukou' distinction**

[China Daily, 21-11-2014] In a long-awaited reform, four Chinese provincial regions have removed the rural/urban distinction in the household registration system, or "hukou", making things fairer for residents, chinanews.com reported.

The four regions are Henan, Heilongjiang and Hebei provinces and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, said the report.

The regions stipulated there will be no more rural hukou and urban hukou, with both rural and urban dwellers registered as "residents".

They are the first provinces to put into action a State Council document on reform of China's household registration system, which was released on July 30, urging officials to scrap the urban-rural distinction.

Set up in 1958 in order to control mass urbanization, China's *hukou* system effectively divided the population in two - urban households and rural households.

Under the system, rural citizens have limited access to social welfare in cities and are restricted from receiving public services such as education, medical care, housing and employment, regardless of how long they may have lived or worked in the city.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Chinese premier urges 'new growth engines' amid slowing economy**

[Reuters, 21-22-2014] Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has called for "new growth engines" to counter slowing growth in the world's second largest economy, Xinhua reported.

The comments came as China unexpectedly cut interest rates for the first time in more than two years to help support its economy, heading for its slowest expansion in 24 years.

With factory growth stalling and a decelerating property market hurting demand for steel, cement and several other products, Beijing is under pressure to drive new areas of growth.

China should help people to set up their own businesses and speed up the development of new business models, Li said.

He encouraged Chinese manufacturers to expand overseas, establish strong, world-renowned brands, and launch more innovative "Created-in-China" products and services, the news agency said.

Clean energy and modern farming are among the areas being targeted for expansion in the zone.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Central finance earmarks 2bln for grassland protection**

[China daily, 11-11-2014] China's central government has allocated 2 billion yuan (\$327 million) to encourage the protection of grassland ecology, changing livestock and husbandry development, and increasing farmer incomes, the Finance Ministry reports, noting that they will work with the Agriculture Ministry in evaluating the implementation of grassland protection through subsidies and rewards, based on central government methods. The focus will be on system building, work and achievements, with better incentives and restraint mechanisms, and ensuring that policies are followed.

China has earmarked special funds for this in eight pastoral areas and has worked with the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps since 2011. Herdsmen will receive subsidies for limiting grazing, balancing foraging and improved animal development, planting crops, and changing means of production.

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## **Gov't gives academics failing grade for fraud in research funding**

[Caixin, 14-11-2014] A number of corruption scandals have tainted the reputation of the country's academics and raised concerns over worsening ethics in Chinese academia, prompting the government to overhaul its funding arrangements for research grants.

A major change was made to two major national research programs on October 20, when the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finance issued a statement saying the current funding arrangement for the National Basic Research Program and the National High Technology Research and Development Program will be scrapped. Instead, all the funding plans for major state-backed research programs will be integrated into a new platform.

The statement came not long after the science ministry released reports on investigations into fraud cases involving seven professors at five universities.

Click [here](#) for details

## Science, Technology and Environment

### China's new barley breed sets yield record

[Xinhua, 28-11-2014] Chinese agricultural scientists have developed a new highland breed of barley which yielded 5,265 kilograms a hectare, setting a new domestic output record.

The hybrid breed, "Kunlun 14", produced the record harvest during a trial planting in the Tibetan-inhabited Haiyan County of northwest China's Qinghai Province, the provincial academy of agriculture and forestry told Xinhua.

The crop beat the former record holder "Chaiqing 1" with an 11.89 percent larger yield. As it will be soon introduced to more barley farmers, the achievement is expected to increase agricultural production on the Qinghai-Tibet plateau, where barely is a staple food, according to the academy.

Kunlun 14 is produced by crossbreeding different varieties of barley. It exhibits a stronger resistance to cold and drought and more nutrients such as lysine, an essential amino acid that assists gastric function.

Highland barley grows 1,000 meters above sea level on the Qinghai-Tibet plateau. In China, people living in Tibet, Qinghai and Gansu rely heavily on the grain. In Tibet alone, more than 70 percent of farmland grows barley.

Click [here](#) for details

### Researchers identify genes for bitterness in cucumbers

[Xinhua, 28-11-2014] An international team led by Chinese researchers said Thursday they have identified the genes responsible for the intense bitter taste of some cucumbers, a plague to lovers of this vegetable.

The research, published in the U.S. journal Science, revealed how cucumbers, believed native to India, were domesticated from their wild ancestors that have extremely bitter fruits to make them more edible.

"Wild cucumbers have been used as a purgative in India and because their fruits are as bitter as wormwood they are not sold on the market," Huang Sanwen of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, who led the study, told Xinhua.

Today's domestic cucumbers are delicious, stress conditions such as a lack of water or temperatures too cold or too hot, however, are still able to cause them to bear bitter tasting fruits, Huang said.

In the new study, Huang and colleagues performed genomic and biochemical analyses on 115 diverse cucumber lines to unravel the biosynthetic pathway involved in domesticating cucumbers to the non-bitter fruits people eat today.

They were able to identify nine genes involved in making cucurbitacins, which confer a bitter taste in cucumbers, and showed that the trait can be traced to another two genes that switch on these nine genes to produce the compounds.

In short, bitterness is controlled by two "master switch" genes, "Bl" which confers bitterness in leaves and "Bt", which leads to bitter fruit, Huang said.

The study also found that a mutation in the Bt gene is able to keep domestic cucumbers from becoming bitter even when exposed to stress conditions such as cold temperatures.

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## **Food security has come at ecological cost: official**

[People's Daily, 08-11-2014] Despite concerns over China's ability to feed its 1.3 billion people, the production of many agricultural goods has exceeded the domestic demand, but the accomplishment has come at a hefty cost to the ecology, an official from a government think tank admitted on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> November.

According to information released at the 2014 China's Food Security & Food Safety Strategy Summit, China's food production nearly doubled, an increase of 98 percent, from 1978 to 2013. Production of oil rose six times, fruit 37 times, and aquatic products more than 12 times.

"A lot of our commodities, including agricultural and food products, have exceeded their demands ... However we must realize that China's agriculture has critical problems in many aspects. Currently China's food production capability was obtained, for a substantial part, by sacrificing the environment," said Li Wei, director of the Development Research Center of the State Council.

"China's utilization of fertilizers and pesticides has greatly exceeded the global average and is far beyond what's reasonable," he added.

Excessive extraction of underground water, desertification and inappropriate exploitation of wetland have all contributed to ecological deterioration, Li added.

He suggested that China should import more food to reduce the pressure on the environment.

Li's opinion was echoed by Huang Jikun, director of the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"Some African countries have huge potential in agriculture ... If China could help these countries develop, it will indirectly secure China's food security problem," Huang said.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China pledges to protect lakes before pollution**

[Xinhua, 18-11-2014] China has published an action plan to protect the country's lakes from pollution.

The plan, jointly released by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance, vowed to avoid the previous "treatment after pollution" approach.

The protection will be carried out in five major areas where lake water quality is relatively sound including northeast China, east China, the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the Inner Mongolia-Xinjiang regions.

Lakes which are major drinking water sources or those having important ecological functions will also be a priority in the protection.

A report released by the Ministry of Environmental Protection earlier this year revealed 17 out of China's 31 major freshwater lakes are suffering from pollution at "slight" or "moderate" levels. Pollution in the Dianchi Lake in southwest China's Yunnan Province was rated as "severe."

Experts blamed some local governments and enterprises with reckless pursuit of quick money by developing projects with high resource consumption and serious pollution.

In addition to streamlined management, curbed pollution and water preservation, experts have called for comprehensive protection of water as well as forests and farming lands.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Scientists issue warning over development of coastal wetlands**

[Caixin, 25-11-2014] Scientists from China, the United States, Netherlands and New Zealand have written an article in the latest issue of the magazine Science that says building of seawalls to protect land used for development will have environmental repercussions.

The November article is headlined "[Rethinking China's new great wall](#)" and says the building of seawalls covers 60 per cent of the Chinese mainland's coastline of 18,000 kilometers.

The scientists' paper warned that this "caused a dramatic decline in internationally shared biodiversity and associated ecosystem services and will threaten regional ecological security and sustainable development."

Since 2000, the country has reclaimed 40,000 hectares of coastal wetland each year for industrial parks, ports and other projects, up from 24,000 hectares a year from 1950 to 2000.

Citing government land reclamation plans, the scientists said the figure is expected to rise to 60,000 hectares per year from this year until 2020.

This building has caused the country problems such as water pollution, environmental degradation and the coastal region's vulnerability to climate change.

The scientists attributed the expansion of seawalls to an obsession with GDP growth, lack of laws and their enforcement, and conflicts of interest between the central and regional governments.

Click [here](#) for details Click [here](#) to read the original paper

### **More than 40 percent of China's arable land degraded: Xinhua**

[Reuters, 04-11-2014] More than 40 percent of China's arable land is suffering from degradation, official news agency Xinhua said, reducing its capacity to produce food for the world's biggest population.

The rich black soil in northern Heilongjiang province, which forms part of China's bread basket, is thinning, while farmland in China's south is suffering from acidification, the report said.

Degraded land typically includes soil suffering from reduced fertility, erosion, changes in acidity and the effects of climate change as well as damage from pollutants.

Beijing is growing increasingly concerned about its food supply after years of rapid industrialization resulted in widespread pollution of waterways and farmland.

The country, which must feed nearly 1.4 billion people, has already outlined plans to tackle soil pollution, said to affect around 3.3 million hectares of land.

But as rising incomes place growing pressure on its domestic resources to produce more, high quality food, it is also planning to tackle degraded soil, the report said.

The agriculture ministry wants to create 53 million hectares of connected farmland by 2020 that would allow it to withstand drought and floods better, said Xinhua. Larger farms are more suited to irrigation and other modern farming practices.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Illegal wildlife trading rampant on Web**

[China Daily, 27-11-2014] China has become the largest market for illegal wildlife trading with a huge number of related animal products being sold online, according to a new report by a major animal welfare group.

At least 18,590 animal products were for sale online in the country at the beginning of 2014, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) reported on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Of the 21 online marketplaces monitored in China, wildlife products valued at \$2.7 million were available for sale from March 10 to April 18.

The products mainly involved elephant and rhinoceros ivory, turtles, tortoises and exotic birds, the nonprofit group said. The ivory trade dominated all the sales in the country, with nearly 79 percent of them made up of ivory products.

In China, the number of illegal wildlife products sold online increased from 544 items in 2008 to 2,061 this year, but that did not mean the situation is worsening because the investigations this year were broader in scope and more comprehensive, IFAW China program officer Wang Juan said.

"Most websites monitored in 2008 have seen a significant decrease in trade, but we also see a new trend in China for wildlife trading using online forums and social media platforms," Wang said.

The report listed popular online forum Baidu Tieba, mobile text and voice messaging service WeChat, and instant messaging platform QQ as the main channels for the illegal wildlife trade. These pose challenges for law enforcement authorities and regulators.

In October, nine well-known Internet companies, including Alibaba, Tencent and Sina, vowed to exclude advertisements or activities involving the illegal wildlife trade and its related products on their platforms.

Click [here](#) for detail

## **ADB offers China 300 mln USD loan for rural wastewater treatment**

[Xinhua, 20-11-2014] The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a facility agreement with China's wastewater treatment industry leader Sound Global Ltd. worth 300 million U.S. dollars to improve rural wastewater management in China.

The loans will be used for innovative technologies to help treat 240,000 tonnes of wastewater per day in 100 Chinese townships by 2017, according to the agreement signed Thursday.

An ADB survey shows that the enormous volume of wastewater generated by China's rural areas poses a major environmental threat to rivers, lakes and underground aquifers.

Outside of major Chinese cities, wastewater treatment facilities and sewage pipelines are scarce, with less than 20 percent of wastewater generated by rural areas getting properly treated, said the ADB.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China wastes half as much grain as it imports**

[Bloomberg, 14-11-2014] China has imported almost as much grain in the first 10 months of this year as it did for all of 2013, according to new government data, putting the world's most populous country on track for record-setting grain imports in 2014.

From January to October, China imported 72.5 million tons of grain, including soybeans, barley, and sorghum. Shipments of U.S. corn, on the other hand, fell dramatically over the last year as China enforced a tougher ban on genetically modified objects.

Yet China each year wastes roughly half the volume of grain it imports. Last month the country's State Administration of Grain released data showing that about 35 million metric tons of grain is discarded each year because of faulty storage, transportation, and processing systems. Chen Yuzhong, an official at the administration, told *China Daily*, "The losses can feed 200 million people for a year, which is shameful."

China has a much less developed system for transporting food safely. Only about a quarter of meat is refrigerated while transported.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Connecting remote rural area with mobile Internet**

[Xinhua, 25-11-2014] Using smartphones for the first time in their lives, villagers in a remote mountainous region in southwest China are now connected to the world thanks to mobile Internet.

Farmers in Tongguan in Liping County, Guizhou Province, even held festivities, including the singing of traditional songs and lively firecracker displays, to celebrate the landmark launch of fast wireless Internet service over the weekend.

China Mobile, the country's largest telecom operator, erected a 4G base station in the area to make Wi-Fi available to the local villagers.

There are around 3 million Dong and its people are mainly concentrated in Liping. Its "Gang Song", a kind of folk choral music with a history spanning 2,500 years, has been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

"With Internet service, the 'Grand Song' could get better exposure and more people around the globe could get a glimpse into the Dong culture," said Chen Yuanyuan, program director of Tencent Public Welfare Foundation.

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### **CAAS, Rothamsted Research held workshop for joint research potentials**

[MOA, 21-11-2014] The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and the Rothamsted Research of UK co-organized a Workshop for Joint Research Potentials in Beijing on Nov. 13-14, 2014.

Mr. Li Jiayang, MOA Vice Minister and CAAS President noted that the workshop provided both sides a platform and an opportunity to enhance communication and seek solutions to the emerging problems for sustainable agricultural development.

The workshop is a major preparatory activity for the establishment of a joint research center, and its outcomes will contribute to the implementation plan and program for the center, elevating the bilateral cooperation between academic institutes and universities on sustainable agricultural development to a new height.

Professor Achim Dobermann, Director of the Rothamsted Research responded that the Rothamsted Research has maintained a good partnership with CAAS since long time ago. Both sides highly value the S&T exchange and cooperation in soil, crop cultivation and breeding, and there are great potentials for intensifying cooperation.

The workshop culminated in 13 cooperation project proposals covering four areas including crop efficiency, soil management, integrated pest management and new models of agricultural innovation policy.

Click [here](#) for details

## Trade and Business

### **Chinese companies make strides in the UK**

[ECNS, 01-11-2014] Chinese companies are making great progress expanding into the UK despite obvious challenges, says Zhou Xiaoming, minister counselor with the economic and commercial office at the Chinese embassy in London.

These challenges relate to both Chinese companies' need to operate in a new environment against fierce competition from local and other international companies, and regulatory challenges such as the difficulty of obtaining visas for Chinese employees.

"There is already a lot of fast growing Chinese companies in the UK, but more potential exist," says Zhou, who assumed his current office in December 2009 and has witnessed the tremendous growth of Chinese companies in the UK for the past five years.

When investing in the UK, getting used to the local legal and business environment is important, and one challenge Chinese companies often voice is obtaining the right visa for their workers, Zhou says.

Zhou says he has helped Chinese companies to voice the visa challenge concerns with the British government already, although actual changes to policy are difficult to result.

Chinese investment in the UK grew significantly over the past few years in financial services, telecommunications and brands, Zhou says.

Zhou points out that many Chinese manufacturing and brands companies are now expanding through acquisitions rather than organic growth.

"Chinese investors can inject capital into the British companies they buy, helping them to further develop their technology and brands, but also help them to access the Chinese market or enlarge their scale of production through China's manufacturing capacity. It's a win-win cooperation," Zhou says.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese students to be recruited to boost business links between China, Britain**

[Xinhua, 25-11-2014] Chinese students studying in Britain are to be recruited by a government agency to help British companies break into Chinese markets.

Exports agency UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) on Tuesday launched an ambitious Great Ambassadors China scheme under which Chinese-speaking students will liaise with companies in Britain, helping them understand the Chinese language, culture and how business operates in China.

UKTI selected China as its target market because of the 70,000 Chinese students currently studying in Britain who make up the largest demographic of overseas students. Additionally, the growing Chinese market is also expected to become the biggest among all other emerging markets for trade and investments.

The University of Sheffield in northern England has been chosen as the host institution for the pilot project. If successful, the scheme may be rolled out to other universities wishing to take part as well as expand to other international student groups such as India or Malaysia.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Ireland eyes access to China's beef market in 2015**

[Reuters, 03-11-2014] China will start inspections of meat export facilities in Ireland in December, an Irish government official said, paving the way for Dublin to be the first European country to gain coveted access to China's fast-growing beef market.

Demand for red meat in China, the world's second-largest economy, has risen strongly in recent years due to rising incomes and a richer diet.

But even as its beef imports have surged to record levels, only seven countries - Australia, Uruguay, New Zealand, Canada, Argentina, Brazil and Costa Rica - have access to the Chinese market.

Irish Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney said the agreement by China to send a formal inspection team early next month could pave the way for Irish beef to enter China by 2015.

China has banned beef imports from European countries following an outbreak of deadly mad cow disease in the late 1980s. The U.S. and Britain and amongst countries seeking approval to re-enter the Chinese beef market.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China-Ireland Dairy Science and Technology Centre is established**

[Business&Leadership, 03-11-2014] University College Dublin, Irish company Keenan and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences have joined forces to form the China-Ireland Dairy Science and Technology Centre.

The centre's goal is to improve feeding efficiency, animal health and reduced environmental impact of dairy farming.

China currently produces 38 billion litres of milk per annum and aims to increase production to 60 billion litres by 2020. Ireland is also expanding its dairy sector, with the quotas being removed in 2015.

The new centre will play an important role delivering and extending technology and know-how to farms in China that will improve their efficiency and profitability.

Click [here](#) for details

### **US packaging company opens plant in China**

[China Daily, 04-11-2014] A US-based liquid packaging company celebrated the opening of a new factory in China to support its growing customer base in Asian markets.

Liqui-Box, with headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, opened the new facility in Taizhou on Oct 31, where it had been ramping up production of goods but was not fully operational, the company said.

Liqui-Box manufactures packaging for delivery of liquid and semi-liquid products, such as dairy, beverage and food markets. The new 120,000-square-foot plant in Taizhou will initially serve customers in those markets, the company said.

The company is expanding into China as demand for food and beverage goods increases in China and elsewhere in Asia with a growing middle class.

The company also makes bag-in-box packaging for food and liquid items like fountain-beverage syrup, milkshake mix, coffee drinks and concentrates and sauces. For example, fountain-soda syrups are packaged in Liqui-Box bags, which are later used by fast food restaurants at their chain locations.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Wal-Mart to focus on food safety as China sales slow**

[SCMP, 10-11-2014] Wal-Mart Stores is focusing on food safety as the world's largest retailer aims to boost profitability of its more than 400 stores in China, said Wal-Mart Asia chief executive Scott Price.

Food safety is a highly emotive issue on the mainland where there have been numerous scandals from photos of food oil being scooped from drains to tales of fake eggs and melamine-tainted milk powder.

Wal-Mart came under fire in Chinese media earlier in the year after a supplier's donkey meat product was found to contain fox meat. In 2011, Chinese authorities accused Wal-Mart of selling expired duck meat, and it was forced to shut down stores in Chongqing after they were accused of labelling non-organic pork as organic and selling it at a higher price.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese, US dairies will build Kansas milk plant**

[China Daily, 14-11-2014] China's second-largest dairy producer and the Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) cooperative will build a plant in Kansas to produce powdered milk for the world's most populous country.

DFA will invest \$70 million and Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Co Ltd will put up \$30 million for the plant, which will produce 80,000 metric tons of milk powder yearly, according to an agreement announced on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

China's appetite for foreign milk powder is spurred by distrust in local products after a 2008 milk-powder scandal killed at least six infants and sickened 300,000 children.

Milk consumption in China is increasing as living standards rise. Last year, infant-formula sales in China reached 60 billion yuan (\$9.79 billion) and sales are set to rise to 100 billion yuan by 2018. China's imports of milk powder, including infant formula, accounted for 38 percent of the global market in 2013, according to HSBC.

The announcement of the Kansas plant came as Australian mining magnate Gina Rinehart, the country's richest woman, announced plans to partner with a Chinese company in a A\$500 million (\$435 million) venture to export infant milk powder from Queensland to China.

Click [here](#) for details

### **In wake of China rejections, GMO seed makers limit U.S. launches**

[Reuters, 25-11-2014] China's barriers to imports of some U.S. genetically modified crops are disrupting seed companies' plans for new product launches and keeping at least one variety out of the U.S. market altogether.

Two of the world's biggest seed makers, Syngenta AG and Dow AgroSciences, are responding with tightly controlled U.S. launches of new GMO seeds, telling farmers where they can plant new corn and soybean varieties and how can the use them. Bayer CropScience told Reuters it has decided to keep a new soybean variety on hold until it receives Chinese import approval.

Beijing is taking longer than in the past to approve new GMO crops, and Chinese ports in November 2013 began rejecting U.S. imports saying they were tainted with a GMO Syngenta corn variety, called Agrisure Viptera, approved in the United States, but not in China.

China is a key market for the \$12 billion U.S. agricultural seeds business and for global grain traders and accounted for nearly 60 percent of U.S. soybean exports and 12 percent of corn exports two years ago. Nearly 90 percent of corn in the United States is genetically engineered, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as farmers embrace technology that helps kill weeds and fight pests.

Click [here](#) for details

### **New Zealand to help Chinese food giant in safety**

[Xinhua, 10-11-2014] China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO), the country's largest agricultural and food products supplier, has signed an agreement with a New Zealand government-owned food safety firm and a multinational business consultancy to improve China's food safety and quality.

COFCO signed the agreement with food safety service firm AsureQuality and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) on the sidelines of the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) leaders meeting in Beijing, said a statement from PwC's New Zealand office on Monday.

Drawing on leading New Zealand and international food and agricultural models, AsureQuality and PwC would support COFCO in embedding best practice in food safety and quality across the food and agriculture industries.

PwC Global Agribusiness Leader Craig Armitage said globalization, regulatory change, resource scarcity and food fraud were some of the issues appearing in China and elsewhere.

"Suppliers are facing downward cost pressures and thus risks throughout the supply chain are increased," Armitage said in the statement.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Xi urges China-New Zealand cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry**

[Xinhua, 21-11-2014] Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping said in Auckland on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November that China and New Zealand have huge potential in cooperation in the two countries' agriculture and animal husbandry.

Xi and New Zealand Prime Minister John Key attended an agricultural technology exhibition of New Zealand, a sideline event of Xi's state visit to the island country.

The Chinese president said agriculture and animal husbandry is an important part of bilateral cooperation.

Chinese enterprises' investment in New Zealand's agriculture and animal husbandry is conducive to local employment and economic growth, and agricultural products can also be sold to Chinese consumers, he said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Chinese dairy giant opens first major overseas factory in New Zealand**

[Xinhua, 25-11-2014] Chinese dairy giant Yili's first major plant abroad was officially opened in New Zealand's South Island on Tuesday with the announcement that it will almost triple its investment in the factory by 2019.

The factory in Glenavy, South Canterbury built at a cost of 236 million NZ dollars (185.14 million U.S. dollars) was built by Oceania Dairy Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group.

Yili also confirmed it planned to invest another 400 million NZ dollars (313.79 million U.S. dollars) in the factory, which is already producing infant formula, over the next five years.

More than 70 jobs had been created within stage one of the new plant, which was completed in September, and it was processing 220 million liters of milk from 48 local farms in its first season, Yili Group executive president Zhang Jianqiu said in a statement.

Development of the plant to include a whole milk powder dryer, an infant formula canning line, and facilities to manufacture UHT (ultra-high temperature) milk products and lactoferrin over the next five years would add another 150 staff.

"We expect to be handling more than 630 million liters of milk from local farm suppliers by the end of the expansion project in 2019, generating export revenues in excess of 700 million NZ dollars (549.23 million U.S. dollars)," Oceania Dairy chief executive Aidan Johnstone said in the statement.

Click [here](#) for details

### **Australia, China agree landmark free trade deal**

[Reuters, 17-11-2014] - China and Australia on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November signed a declaration of intent on a landmark free trade deal more than a decade in the making, opening up markets worth billions to Australia and loosening restrictions on Chinese investment.

The deal will open up Chinese markets to Australian farm exporters and the services sector while easing curbs on Chinese investment in resource-rich Australia.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Chinese President Xi Jinping, together with a retinue of government ministers, signed the memorandum of understanding during a ceremony in parliament in Canberra.

Australia is attempting to transition from a reliance on exports of minerals such as coal and iron ore to expanding its food and agricultural exports to a growing Asian middle class, moving from a "mining boom" to a "dining boom".

Click [here](#) for details

### **ADM opens first phase of integrated food-ingredient plant in China**

[ADM, 12-11-2014] Archer Daniels Midland Company officially opened the sweetener-manufacturing portion of its integrated food manufacturing complex with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the port of Tianjin in North China, on the Yellow Sea.

When complete next year, the complex—ADM's first wholly owned food-ingredient production facility in China—will also have the ability to produce soluble fiber, which is used to add dietary fiber to a wide range of food and beverage products.

ADM began operations in China in 1995.

Click [here](#) for details

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