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## Policies

### **China unveils detailed scheme to deepen rural reform**

[Xinhua, 02-11-2015] China unveiled a rural reform plan on Monday, 2 November underscoring the importance of developing modern agriculture and raising farmers' income.

The outline, released by the State Council, China's cabinet, said that by 2020 the agricultural management and rural collective property rights systems will both be improved, and reforms to the rural land system will be rolled out as pilot programs.

The rural financial system will also be reviewed and improved, with policies that benefit farmers and strengthen rule of law, said the document.

Under the economic "new normal", agricultural modernization is essential to stabilizing economic growth, adjusting structure and improving people's livelihood.

Click [here](#) for details

### **13th five-year plan focuses on economic development quality**

[Xinhua, 02-11-2015] 2015 is the final year of the 12th five-year plan, setting the goal for the 13th five-year plan.

On Oct. 26-29, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China was held, to plan the 13th five-year project for national economic and social development.

The ten objectives for the 13th five-year plan includes "maintaining economic growth, transforming patterns of economic development, optimizing the industrial structure, promoting innovation-driven development, accelerating agricultural modernization, reforming institutional mechanisms, promoting coordinated development, strengthening ecological construction, safeguarding and improving people's livelihoods and promoting pro-poor development."

It's time to change the concept of development for China to be more prosperous, democratic, civilized and harmonious, to make the Chinese dream a reality for its people.

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### **China's Vice-Premier elaborates highlights of the 13th Five-Year Plan**

[China daily, 09-11-2015] Development during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) should uphold the five principles of innovation, coordination, green development, opening-up and sharing, according to Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli.

The proposal sets a target of "maintaining medium-high level growth," highlighting the ideas of innovation, coordination, green development, opening-up and sharing to fulfill its goals. New technology, industries and business models will prosper through innovation and stimulation of entrepreneurship, according to the proposal.

In his article, Zhang said that green technology, biotechnology, information technology, smart manufacturing, high-end equipment and new energy will be supported.

The government will support research in fundamental sciences, which could lead to breakthroughs in sectors such as information technology and aerospace science, Zhang said.

The government will also pay attention to environment protection to pursue sustainable development, especially at a time when the country's natural resources are limited, pollution remains serious, and the ecological system is deteriorating.

The government will continue to boost opening-up and participate more in global governance and trade. Coastal areas should be encouraged to engage in more global trade, and more high-tech manufacturing bases and cross-border economic cooperation zones should be established, Zhang said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China's 13th five-year plan offers opportunities to world**

[Xinhua, 03-11-2015] China's 13th five-year plan for national economic and social development will offer opportunities for the whole world, said President Xi Jinping.

While meeting with participants in the second Understanding China Conference in Beijing, Xi said China will continue reform and opening-up, and share opportunities with other countries.

Some 200 former political leaders, intellectuals and entrepreneurs from different countries attended the conference. The international community is interested in China's proposals, and hopes for a better understanding of China's views on major global issues. Foreign participants said China has become important to the future of the world.

The "Belt and Road" initiative aims to revive ancient trade routes that span Asia, Africa and Europe. Concerning the Belt and Road, Xi said it is an open and inclusive proposal to drive domestic demand and employment in countries along the route, and promote world economic recovery.

China will host the 2016 G20 summit with three goals in mind - a consensus on addressing the problems of the world economy; beefing up the role of the G20 as the main platform for global economic cooperation; and sending the world a positive message of solidarity and coordination, Xi said.

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### **Major farm reform on near horizon**

[China daily, 05-11-2015] China is about to enter its second major period of agricultural reform since the 1980s, with the goal of shifting to large farms and "professionalized" farmers who are more productive than those working on a small scale, a high-level central government official said on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

In 30 years, about 85 percent of China's supply of farm products will be provided by 7 percent of its labor force, said Zou Lixing, a research official with China Development Bank.

To facilitate the change, the coming Five-Year Plan calls for land management rights to be registered and duly protected by law - apart from land ownership rights - so that land can be used more efficiently.

The coming reform will encourage farmers to contract out their land to more productive farm managers in various ways, either individually or in groups.

It will encourage farmers to use their plots to set up joint-stock companies.

Han Jun, deputy director of the office of the Central Rural Work Leading Group, said the policies and incentives promoting large-scale agribusinesses will help attract more highly skilled people to become China's future farm managers.

One of China's challenges now is the aging of its current generation of farmers and the lack of workers to take over their jobs, Han said.

Click [here](#) for details

## **Provincial governors tasked to ensure food security**

[Xinhua, 12-11-2015] Provincial governors are to be given key roles in ensuring food security and will not get away with poor work, the State Council said.

Placing the provincial governors at the forefront for the food security system is "inevitable" as food security affects stability and development while "China is expected to see a tight balance of food demand and supply for a long period of time," according to a statement published on the website of the State Council.

The governors must make sure the amount and quality of farmland remains stable, improve pollution control to ensure grain quality, ensure the authenticity of grain reserve data and protect farmers, the statement said.

A team comprised of government agencies including the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Administration of Grain will assess the performance of the provincial governors. Those governors will be held accountable if they "fail to perform their duties and make major errors with serious effects," according to the statement.

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## **State Council issues plan for cultivating rural e-business**

[gov.cn, 09-11-2015] On Nov 9, the State Council General Office issued a guideline to promote the development of e-business in rural areas.

The guideline made clear the development goal: By 2020, an open, orderly, reliable and environment-friendly rural e-business market system should be established; e-business will be integrated with primary, secondary and tertiary industries, and it will be utilized to promote the entrepreneurship and employment of rural residents, expand the consumption market and help poverty alleviation in rural areas.

According to the guideline, e-business should be applied to wider fields in rural areas such as agricultural production, process and circulation. Internet technology should be widely used and big data should be introduced to gradually change the agriculture industry.

Policies and measures focused on talent cultivation, transport system, infrastructure construction and financial support will be introduced by the government.

Click [here](#) for details

## **China adopts revised Seed Law to spur innovation**

[Xinhua, 04-11-2015] China's top legislature on Wednesday adopted revisions to the Seed Law, the first change to the legislation since it was enacted in 2000.

The revised law leaves the major-crop seed approval system unchanged, but has cut the types of seed that require regulatory approval before hitting the market from 28 to five -- rice, corn, wheat, soybean and cotton. The reduction is meant to stimulate innovation in seed research while guaranteeing China's food security.

Producers for other seeds will only need to register their products with regulators, according to the new law. The revised law has also cut red tape for seed production, merging current production and trading licenses into one.

The draft law adopts a prudent attitude toward GM seeds, saying that breeding, testing and promotion of GM seeds must be assessed and controlled.

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## **China to develop animal welfare standards**

[Pigsite, 18-11-2015] Chinese veterinarians have started drafting the country's first welfare standard for the farming and slaughter of livestock and poultry, according to the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA).

The standards will not be compulsory, but it will be the first industry welfare standard for livestock in China and will cover pigs, chicken, sheep and cattle.

The CVMA will partner with about 30 leading businesses in farming, slaughtering, food processing and food services to develop the standards.

Living conditions, disease control and procedures before slaughtering will all be considered in the new standards, to be published by the association in June 2016.

The standard will list specifics for farm conditions, including livestock density, temperature, humidity and food and water hygiene to improve their health, Mr Sun said.

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## **Science, Technology and Environment**

### **China seeks better governance with big data**

[Xinhua, 28-11-2015] "Big Data" is big news. It helps sellers find buyers and tells drivers where to go and how to get there. It is even revamping China's justice system.

In Guangdong Province there is something happening that shows how big data can help governments across the country.

In May 2014 Nanhai District established a data coordination bureau.

Last year, the bureau successfully helped the local procuratorate cut the number of departments from 16 to 10 in a process quite different from traditional, empirical decision-making.

They churned all the data generated by the procuratorate through various mathematical models and analyzed the business process diagrams of the original 16 departments. If two departments used or created similar data, and connected with similar people and institutions, they were integrated as one. The entire streamlining process was based on the data coordination bureau's suggestions.

In early 2014, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) signed a cooperation agreement with Chinese Internet search engine giant Baidu.com to conduct research on influenza, a Chinese version of the now defunct Google Flu program. China CDC provides details of each influenza case reported along with data from influenza surveillance outposts around the country. Taking advantage of data on weather, demographics, migration and other factors, Baidu.com predicts trends in influenza.

The 13th five-year plan (2016-2020) will include a national big data strategy and advance the opening and sharing of data resources.

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### **New gene that makes common bacteria resistant to last-line antibiotic found**

[MedExpress, 19-11-2015] A new gene (mcr-1) that enables bacteria to be highly resistant to polymyxins, the last line of antibiotic defence we have left, is widespread in Enterobacteriaceae taken from pigs and patients in south China, including strains with epidemic potential, according to new research published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

The *mcr-1* gene was found on plasmids, mobile DNA that can be easily copied and transferred between different bacteria, suggesting an alarming potential to spread and diversify between different bacterial populations.

"These are extremely worrying results. The polymyxins (colistin and polymyxin B) were the last class of antibiotics in which resistance was incapable of spreading from cell to cell. Until now, colistin resistance resulted from chromosomal mutations, making the resistance mechanism unstable and incapable of spreading to other bacteria," explains author Professor Jian-Hua Liu from South China Agricultural University in Guangzhou, China.

"Because of the relatively low proportion of positive samples taken from humans compared with animals, it is likely that *mcr-1* mediated colistin resistance originated in animals and subsequently spread to humans," says co-author Professor Jianzhong Shen from China Agricultural University in Beijing, China. "The selective pressure imposed by increasingly heavy use of colistin in agriculture in China could have led to the acquisition of *mcr-1* by *E. coli*."

China is one of the world's largest users and producers of colistin for agriculture and veterinary use. Worldwide, the demand for colistin in agriculture is expected to reach almost 12000 tonnes per year by the end of 2015, rising to 16500 tonnes by 2021.

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### **Fujian agriculture university makes breakthrough in pineapple genome**

[China daily, 04-11-2015] Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU) has made a breakthrough in research on the pineapple genome, according to a press conference at FAFU in Fujian province on Nov 3.

The research has decoded pineapple genomes, which will help improve pineapple varieties and increase output.

The research was led by FAFU and jointly conducted by 17 universities and institutions, including the National Taiwan University, Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Pineapple is a tropical fruit planted in 85 countries with annual output value of \$8.6 billion. Restricted by its genes, pineapple varieties are difficult to improve.

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### **China launches national e-commerce platform to support agriculture sector**

[Xinhua, 05-11-2015] China launched a national e-commerce platform on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November to serve rural areas through supply and sales of agricultural products.

Set up by All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives, [www.gxyj.com](http://www.gxyj.com), aims to match supply and demand of daily consumer products, agricultural production materials and produce via online to offline cooperation.

Users can trade online and use services ranging from online payment to logistics and quality certification, according to Wang Zhengwei, chairman of China Co-op E-commerce Ltd.

The e-commerce platform also sets up specific zones for specialty produce and direct-sale products to offer convenient, safe and quality online shopping services to rural and urban users.

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## **First ASC certified farm marks China's breakthrough in sustainable aquaculture**

[China daily, 03-11-2015] Two tilapia farms located in Hainan province received certificates from Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) at the end of October.

ASC is as an independent, not-for-profit organization co-founded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) in 2010 to manage the certification of responsible aquaculture worldwide. The on-pack ASC logo guarantees to consumers that their fish has been farmed with minimal impacts on the environment and on society.

Qionghai Zhongpingzi Grobest Tilapia Farm, owned by Hainan Sky-blue Group Company, has 133 hectare of farming area, is capable of producing 3,000 tons of tilapia every year. Chengmai Xingyuan Development Co., Ltd has 15 ponds, with total 100 hectare water surface, and is capable of producing 2,800 tons of tilapia annually.

Aquaculture is considered widely as an effective way to meet the growing global demand for seafood protein while global population continues to grow and capture of wild fisheries resources reached its ceiling. In 2014, China provided the world with 6.45 million ton of seafood; 4.76 million come from aquaculture, which is close to half of the global aquaculture production.

Tilapia aquaculture is a primary business of aquaculture enterprises in southern China. China is also the world's biggest tilapia exporter, and accounts for around 50 percent of the global market. The EU is currently the third-largest importer of Chinese tilapia, with a share of around 10 percent. As an increasing number of European consumers are accepting tilapia as a qualified substitute to over-fished wild-caught whitefish, the EU is expected to be a growing market for Chinese tilapia. However, there are two major challenges facing tilapia aquaculture in China: Lack of transparency and the existence of unsustainable practices.

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## **Crop-dusting drones may be next cash cow for China's DJI**

[SCMP, 27-11-2015] Chinese drone maker DJI has launched its first drone designed for agricultural use as the company steps beyond the consumer market for unmanned aerial vehicles, which has received a huge boost recently as photography hobbyists have cottoned on what drones can offer.

The DJI Agras MG-1 has eight rotors and can carry more than 10 kilograms of liquid for crop spraying, with the ability to spray up to four hectares an hour. It also folds to make it convenient and portable.

Shenzhen-based DJI in southern China is the world's leader in the civilian drone market boasting 70 per cent market share for consumer and commercial drones.

The Agras drone is able to fly at up to eight meters per second and can maintain a steady spraying intensity from its four nozzles while in flight, the company said.

Drones are expected to have two uses for agriculture. The new DJI drone falls under the "precision application" category as it allows farmers to spray fields selectively.

The second expected use relies on using drones mounted with sensors to assess plant health and hydration.

Hong Kong-based robotics and software company Insight Robotics is also working on drone technology for use in farming. Its software stitches together images of plantations captured by drones to identify areas of disease or insect invasion. The technology, which relies on a

camera that can analyse photosynthesis activity in the plant, reduces the time needed to check the health of a plantation from months to hours.

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### **China opens drone schools as demand for pilots soars**

[Yahoo, 05-11-2015] New aviation schools are opening across China to meet a growing demand for commercial pilots to fly small, remote-controlled aircraft, or drones.

It is estimated the country's maintenance, mapping, filming and agricultural industries will need more than 10,000 drone pilots this year.

There are currently less than 1,000 people licensed to fly drones and new schools, like that just opened in Beijing, are hoping to give students the skills they need to get work as professional remote-control pilots.

In China, anyone flying an aircraft heavier than seven kilograms, or at a height of more than 120 metres, must be licensed.

While piloting jobs are coming from the film, photography and logistics industries, an increasing amount of work is in agriculture.

With the cost of labour increasing, many farmers see drones as a way of reducing costs.

Chinese companies are the world's leading makers and exporters of drones, with one company, DJI, selling 70 percent of commercial drones in 2014.

New models are increasingly fitted with GPS and tracking technology that is likely to further disrupt the way companies conduct their business.

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### **China to pilot agricultural restoration programs**

[Xinhua, 02-10-2015] China will pilot programs to restore farm land through crop rotation, President Xi Jinping said.

He revealed the programs in a document written specially for the Communist Party of China Central Committee's "Proposal on Formulating the 13th Five-year Plan (2016-2020) on National Economic and Social Development," which was adopted at the Fifth Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee that ended Oct. 29.

Farm land has been over-exploited, resulting in issues such as water loss and soil erosion. As consecutive bumper grain harvests have caused storage pressure, China should take the opportunity to pilot agricultural restoration programs, Xi said.

The programs will be tested in places suffering from water loss and soil erosion, heavy metal contamination and other environmental issues.

The government will provide subsidies to farmers involved in the programs, Xi said.

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### **Community-supported agriculture would help China reduce agricultural pollution**

[China daily, 20-11-2015] More community-supported agricultural farms will help China reduce agricultural pollution and protect the rural environment, the leader of a small global farm coalition has said.



Andrea Calori, President of Urgenci, a global coalition of community-based agriculture networks, said more CSA farms in China will help reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, which account for the majority of agricultural pollution in China.

Community-supported agriculture, or CSA, refers to a particular network or association of individuals who have pledged to support one or more local farms, with growers and consumers sharing the risks and benefits of food production.

In April, China's agricultural authority launched a five-year action plan to curb pollution in rural areas, setting a target of a zero increase in the use of fertilizers and pesticides by 2020.

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### **China pledges to achieve cuts to greenhouse gases**

[China Daily, 20-11-2015] China will ensure the fulfillment of its pledges for cutting greenhouse gas emissions that it submitted to the United Nations, regardless of the outcome of the Paris climate summit, China's climate officials said.

Xie Zhenhua, China's special representative on climate change issues, said China hoped that the Paris conference could be a "landmark" one and that delegates from more than 190 countries would reach an "ambitious, strong and legally binding" agreement, Xie said at a news conference on Thursday.

In late June, China officially submitted to the UN its intentions to achieve peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and lower carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 60 to 65 percent by 2030 from 2005 levels.

The targets were set on the basis of a two-year scientific verification and China will ensure the fulfillment of these targets no matter how difficult it will be, said Xie.

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## **Trade and Business**

### **China to improve agricultural businesses**

[CCTV, 10-11-2015] Chinese agriculture agencies and securities regulators are working together to improve agricultural development and farmers' incomes. Officials promised new policy directives to lift growth and reduce risks.

Chinese officials are focusing on risk management and new development in the country's agriculture sector, which often depends on the weather for a good harvest.

They hope to find new measures to improve farmers' incomes and produce via financing tools. And some businesses are already receiving assistance from capital markets to raise funds.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also calling for a deeper and wider range of cooperation between farming and financing to upgrade the country's traditional agriculture sector.

The authorities promised to conduct pilot programs of the agricultural futures market in China, with expanding practices of the futures plus insurance operation model, fresh services to minimize production risks, and develop food banks.

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### **COFCO's grain footprint grows**

[TheLand, 05-11-2015] GIANT Chinese state-owned trader COFCO is firming up its foothold in the Australian grain market, taking control of Toowoomba-based farm commodity trader PentAG Nidera, now to be known as Nidera Australia.

COFCO is majority owner of the Netherlands-based agribusiness Nidera, which bought 51 per cent of PentAG Nidera five years ago and this week purchased the remaining 49pc of the company.

The business, currently Australia's biggest exporter to the fast growing Chinese sorghum market, was founded by a syndicate of grain grower and trader shareholders in 2005 including several with previous strong ties to Central Queensland co-operative Capgrains in Rockhampton.

Nidera, which has trading bases in 20 countries, became 51pc owned by COFCO (the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation) last year just as the Chinese commodities dragon also took a leading stake in the Noble Agri trading and processing consortium.

Click [here](#) for details

### **ChemChina is in talks to acquire Syngenta**

[Bloomberg, 12-11-2015] Two and a half months after fending off a \$46 billion bid from Monsanto Co., Switzerland's Syngenta AG is back in play -- this time from China.

China National Chemical Corp. is in talks to buy the pesticide maker in what would be the largest acquisition ever by a Chinese company, people with knowledge of the matter said. Syngenta shares gained the most in six months.

ChemChina, as the state-owned company is known, offered about 449 francs a share in cash, which values Syngenta at 41.7 billion francs (\$42 billion), said one of the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private. Syngenta said the figure was too low, citing the regulatory risks to a deal, but it served as a basis for discussions, the person said. The Basel-based company spurned a cash-and-stock offer at the same price this year from Monsanto, as well as a subsequent 470-franc-a-share bid from the U.S. suitor.

While a deal isn't imminent, the two sides are still talking and an agreement could be reached in the next few weeks, said the people. Syngenta is also talking to other potential suitors as it explores options, the people said. Talks may fall apart and Syngenta may decide to stay independent or seek acquisitions of its own, the people said.

The prospect of talks between ChemChina and Syngenta "will add to expectations that consolidation in the crop chemical sector is close at hand," according to Liberum, which has a "buy" rating on Syngenta's shares.

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### **British Menu Week kicked off in Beijing**

[China daily, 04-11-2015] Fish and chips have been under the spotlight since President Xi Jinping's visit to the Chequers pub in Oxfordshire on October 22, invited by British Prime Minister David Cameron. But the UK wants people in China to know that there's much more on the British menu.

The British Embassy in Beijing kicked off a week-long promotion event called Food is GREAT, to showcase the wide array of cuisine the British Isles have to offer.

Over 200 food and drink luminaries were treated to a tasting tour of cheese, liquor, salmon and ice cream at the Opposite House in Sanlitun Village on Monday night, 2 November.

The British Embassy's Charge d'affaires, Martyn Roper, awarded celebrity chef Steven Liu as the image ambassador of Food is GREAT in China.

Karen Morgan, who took up her post as the Agriculture, Food and Drink Counsellor in the British Embassy this April, addressed the opening ceremony.

"China is at the moment the most important country for UK's exports of food and drinks," she said.

In the current stage, China is UK's sixth largest importer of food and beverages. The UK exports around £ 495 million (\$763.5 million) worth of food and drink to China, with salmon, whiskey and pork topping the list. Morgan said she hopes the number will double this year.

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### **United Biscuits opens Alibaba online store in China**

[JustFood, 09-11-2015] United Biscuits has opened its flagship e-commerce store in China on Alibaba Group's Tmall Global platform.

Announcing the launch, the UK group said China is a "strategic market" because it is the fourth-largest biscuit market in the world, although biscuit consumption per capita stands at half the world average.

The company said the launch was timed to coincide with Alibaba's 11.11 Global Shopping Festival, a Chinese annual shopping event on 11 November.

United Biscuits first rolled out its McVitie's Digestives in China in 2012 via traditional retailers. The company said it is now putting increasing emphasis on e-commerce channels in China to augment its traditional retail business.

United Biscuits said the group's e-commerce models in core markets - The so-called McVitie's Sweet Shop in the UK and the Delacre Mailbox in northern Europe – could form a template for future developments of its online capabilities in China. Both sites offer personalisation of products at point of sale.

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### **UK barley deal worth £100 million to boost Chinese beer industry**

[Gov.UK, 11-11-2015] British barley is booming in China as growing demand for beers and ales leads to a trade deal worth up to £100 million for UK farmers, Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss announced on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Barley producers will reap the benefits of this new landmark trade deal which could lead to around 750,000 tonnes of top quality British grain being exported to Chinese breweries over the next five years.

Not only are the Chinese using British barley to produce beer, they also have a growing thirst for the UK-produced beverage, including Fullers and Meantime, with £15 million worth of British beer exported to the country last year — a 186% increase since 2013. Up-and-coming microbreweries, like St Peter's Brewery in Suffolk and Ilkley Brewery in Yorkshire, have also recently stated exporting there.

As well as premium brands such as Tsingtao, Yanjing, Harbin and Laoshan, demand for craft ales and beers has rocketed. In Shanghai alone, the number of microbreweries has doubled between 2010 and 2012.

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### **UK eyes online to boost exports of F&B**

[Shanghai Daily, 12-11-2015] THE UK government is tapping online market to boost food and beverage exports to China to take advantage of the fast growing appetite for imported food, a senior British government official said in Shanghai on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

“We see online marketplace as very important in terms of export opportunities because many UK companies interested in exporting to China are small companies,” Elizabeth Truss, the secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs, said at the Food and Hotel China (FHC) exhibition in Shanghai.

Truss said her government is discussing with a number of key Chinese online platforms including Alibaba, JD.com and Yihaodian to help UK companies go online.

Sainsbury, the UK’s third-largest supermarket chain, has already launched on Tmall, Alibaba’s business-to-consumer online market, to offer its private label products.

During President Xi Jinping’s state visit to UK last month, the British government signed a memorandum of understanding with JD.com for further cooperation.

China is the UK’s second-largest market for food and beverage exports outside the European Union.

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### **Truss targets beef and lamb trade deal after China mission**

[FG Insight, 18-11-2-15] The UK is making ‘good progress’ towards opening up new beef and lamb export deals with China, after recent successes with pork and barley, according to Defra Secretary Liz Truss who has just returned from a trade mission to China where she led a delegation of 80 UK food companies.

She said trip highlighted the growing demand for British food and drink brands in the world’s most populous country.

Mrs Truss is now targeting red meat exports, a goal the industry, led by AHDB, has been pursuing for a number of years.

“We had a very positive discussion with the (Chinese) Agriculture Minister on the potential for opening up the beef and lamb market. There is huge potential there,” Mrs Truss told Farmers Guardian.

Despite a slowing of the rate of economic growth in China, Mrs Truss insisted it remained on course to become the world’s biggest food importer by 2018, partly on the back of Government recognition of the need to secure imports deals to guarantee its food security.

She said the prospects for UK food exporters had never been better.

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### **China's aquaculture, fishery value continues to grow**

[Fishsite, 04-11-2015] In 2014, the gross output value of China's fishing industry amounted to RMB2.0859 trillion, and the added value was up to RMB971.8 billion.

The national output of aquatic products totaled 64.615 million tons, a rise of 4.7 per cent from a year earlier, of which the output of aquaculture reported 47.484 million tons, up 4.6 per cent year on year.

Freshwater culture is the main part of aquaculture in China, with its output holding more than 60 per cent. In 2014, the freshwater cultured output reached 29,357.6 kt, accounting for 61.8 per cent and mariculture's output hit 18,126.5 kt, occupying 38.2 per cent.

In freshwater aquaculture, fish are the primary species, making up about 88 per cent of the total output of freshwater culture. Whilst in mariculture, shellfish are the highest output, with an above-70 per cent share of total output.

The regions of Guangdong, Shandong, Fujian, Jiangsu and Hubei are the key aquaculture provinces in China, with their total output sweeping over 50 per cent of national output.

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### **Top 10 biggest exporters of food to China**

[China daily, 03-10-2015] Appetite for imported food has been growing fast in the country as the increasingly wealthy population seeks more exotic eating, latest data showed.

China's food imports saw an annualized growth of 17.4 percent through the 2010-2014 period, Xinhua reported, citing data from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

The imports came from 213 countries and regions, with the top 10 exporters accounting for 84.3 percent of the total trade.

Among all, ASEAN ranks as the number one source of food imports, followed by European Union, the US, New Zealand, Brazil, Canada, Russia, Australia, Argentina, Republic of Korea.

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### **China-CEEC agricultural cooperation highly promising**

[Xinhua, 21-11-2015] Agricultural cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC) is highly promising, and team play is the key to success, an official told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Vasil Gelev, Executive Director of the Association for the Promotion of Agricultural Cooperation between China and the Central and Eastern European Countries (APACCCEEC) said that there is a demand in China for agricultural products from CEEC, and CEEC have the opportunity to provide Chinese consumers with the necessary quantity of products with the required quality.

At the same time, CEEC are hungry for Chinese investment in agriculture, Gelev said on the eve of the fourth leaders' meeting of China and the 16 CEEC held in China's Suzhou city from Nov. 24 to 25.

Strengthening contacts and coordination between the parties involved, with the team play as a key element, is the right way to success, Gelev said.

Click [here](#) for details

### **China-Europe cargo train sees rapid trade growth**

[Xinhua, 07-11-2015] Regular cargo train services from Wuhan in central China to Europe have boosted trade in the first three quarters, said the operator.

More than 10,000 containers worth 500 million U.S. dollars were carried by train from Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province to countries like Russia, Poland and Germany, said Wu Guangming, general manager of Wuhan Asia-Europe Logistics Co., Ltd., operator of the railway route. The cargo volume in the first half of this year exceeded last year's total.

The cargo train will soon be even busier as approval to import cars, grain, meat and fruit is thought to be imminent, said Wu.

Another boost will come from container trains between Wuhan and other cities like Chengdu, Xi'an and Shanghai, he added.

Several Chinese cities, including Chengdu, Changsha, Hefei, Yiwu, Suzhou and Harbin, have similar freight train services to Europe.

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### **Food exports to China replace commodities**

[China Daily, 23-11-2015] The landscape of Latin American exports to China has been predictable for a number of years. Iron ore from Brazil, oil from Venezuela, copper from Chile and Peru, soybeans from Argentina and far more on top of that.

A perfect storm in 2015 showed how costly this lack of diversification could be. The commodities super-cycle came to a juddering halt in 2014. Oil prices fell from \$105 a barrel to under \$50. Copper steadily slid to reach a six-year low in November 2015. Iron ore prices have collapsed from \$187.18 a ton in February 2011 to just \$52.74 in October 2015.

Faced with dropping incomes, Latin American countries have turned to another source of exports: agriculture.

In February, Brazil acted to shore up agricultural exports. Brazilian Agriculture Minister Katia Abreu launched a campaign for China to buy more coffee and meat. The latter has been growing rapidly in recent years, with China set to buy \$700 million of beef, pork and chicken from Brazil in 2015 as opposed to just \$37 million in 2012.

Argentina is now looking to open up opportunities in China for its dairy, wine, meat and fruit produce.

Then Chile got in the act. Chinese supermarkets laid out special stalls showcasing Chilean products, ranging from grapes and wine to fish and olive oil.

With the end of the commodities super cycle, it is encouraging to see that the Latin American economies have not chosen to wait for prices to pick up but have been proactive in finding alternatives.

Click [here](#) for details

### **ADM expands food, feed ingredient production in China**

[World-Grain, 13-11-2015] Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) announced on Nov. 13 the opening of two plants in China that has increased its capacity to serve growing regional demand for value-added food-ingredients and animal-nutrition products.

Juan Luciano, ADM's chief executive officer, joined government officials for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the northeastern coastal city of Tianjin, marking the opening of a plant to produce Fibersol soluble dietary fiber. And on Nov. 12, Luciano stood alongside officials from the eastern city of Nanjing to mark the opening of a feed-premix plant — ADM's third in the country.

Fibersol enables food and beverage manufacturers to increase the fiber content of their products without impacting flavor, color or viscosity.

Meanwhile, the Nanjing facility will manufacture nutritional premixes that can be added to animal rations to promote good health and optimal growth. Such premixes typically contain various vitamins and minerals, amino acids such as lysine and threonine, and other ingredients.

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### **Mongolian imports to quench forage thirst**

[China daily, 12-11-2015] China will import more than 400,000 metric tons of forage from Mongolia next year to cope with the growing demand for dairy and other high-protein products, officials said.

Shipments have already started with eight trucks carrying 200 tons of forage reaching the Zuunkhadavchi Land Port of Xilin Gol League in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November. This is also the first time that China is importing forage from Mongolia.

China will import 100,000 tons of forage from Mongolia by the end of this year and the annual import volume of forage is expected to exceed 400,000 tons in 2016.

Limited by its poor forage crop production, China used to import forage from the United States and Australia to support its stockbreeding industry. Rising prices of imported forage, alfalfa and corn silage have affected the nation's raw milk output in the past two years. Most of the Chinese dairy farms lack access to quality feed for their cattle and cows.

Due to the limited grazing lands and breeding cycle, China's sheep breeding sector has also lagged behind consumer demand, resulting in higher lamb prices over the past five years, according to a report released by Beijing-based Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in June.

Click [here](#) for details

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