

CHINA AGRI-SCIENCE NEWS DIGEST

中国农业科技新闻摘要
April 2017 (Issue No 5)

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Xiongan may emerge as nation's science city

[China Daily, 28.04.2017] -- On April 1, 2017, the plan was announced to create the Xiongan New Area, laying emphasis on relocating Beijing's "non-capital" functions to Xiongan, about 100 kilometers south of the capital city. Experts say the planned Xiongan New Area could borrow ideas from Tsukuba, the Japanese science city near Tokyo that was conceived in 1963 during the post-war reconstruction.

[Full article](#)

Bio journal retracts 107 Chinese research papers

[China Daily, 24.04.2017] -- Tumor Biology, an international medical journal published by Springer Nature, announced that it had retracted 107 research papers from China, after an investigation showed the peer review process had been compromised. This has reignited concerns over academic credibility in China. Peter Butler, editorial director for cell biology and biochemistry at Springer Nature, said "the articles were submitted with reviewer suggestions, which had real researcher names but fabricated email addresses".

[Full article](#)

China Overtakes U.S. as Top Government Funder of Ag Research

[www.agriculture.com, 08.03.2017] -- China leads the U.S. by a large margin in government funding of food and agriculture research and development. China began pouring money into agricultural R&D at the same time that U.S. funding from federal and state sources stagnated and, about a decade ago, began to decline. According to three USDA economists, China surpassed the U.S. in public funding in 2009 and had a 2-to-1 advantage in 2013.

[Full article](#) (From Newsletter German Agribusiness Alliance „Focus China and India“)

China's Cyber Security Law comes into force on June 1, 2017

[Germany Trade and Invest, 08.03.2017] -- Ab Mitte des Jahres gelten in der Volksrepublik neue Bestimmungen zu Cyber Security, die sich insbesondere an Netzbetreiber richten und damit auch in China tätige internationale Unternehmen (Multinational Corporation MNC/Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) betreffen. Ab Juni 2017 müssen Netzbetreiber in China erhobene Kundendaten sowie wichtige Geschäftsinformationen in China speichern. Diese Daten dürfen nur in besonderen Fällen außer Landes exportiert werden.

[Full article](#) (From Newsletter German Agribusiness Alliance „Focus China and India“)

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Proposal to help China reach green agriculture goal

[China Daily, 09.03.2017] -- Leaders from 300 agricultural companies gathered in Beijing on March 08, 2017, to sign a proposal, promising to optimize their production processes and work together to realize China's goal of green agriculture. The Soil and Fertilizer Alliance of China, affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), signed a memorandum of cooperation with Alltech, a biotechnology company based in the US during the meeting. The chairwoman of the Soil and Fertilizer Alliance of China, said China had overlooked soil security and composition for a long time.

[Full article](#)

What Minister of Science and Technology said at press conferences during two sessions

[China Daily, 15.03.2017] -- On scientific and technological innovation dividends, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) will let Chinese citizens enjoy bigger scientific and technological dividends in 2017 and rely on maker spaces and technological business incubators to widen the channels for technological startups. On artificial intelligence, the Ministry of Science and Technology is gathering experts in scientific, technical and business circles, and some innovative enterprises and entrepreneurs to formulate a guideline on promoting the innovative development of the country's artificial intelligence.

[Full article](#)

The rule should be waste not, want not

[China Daily, 21.04.2017; by Bjorn H. Andersen, Denmark] -- China's government aims to increase farmers' incomes, make sure there is enough food to feed the population and set up a system that makes efficient use of all resources. At the same time, it has to maintain the quality of the soil and assure safe food production. In the past 10 years, there has been an enormous move toward producing high-value products. Growth in meat and milk production has been truly impressive; however, this also creates some new challenges due to the large amount of animal waste generated.

[Full article](#)

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Ten CAAS scientists enter the list of Elsevier's 2016 Most Cited Chinese Researchers

[CAAS Newsroom] -- Based on information provided by the Department of International Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), 10 CAAS scientists were placed as the 2016 Most Cited Chinese Researchers by Elsevier's newly released list, in which totally 1776 Chinese researchers were recognized with global influence. CAAS tops the Chinese agricultural research institutions in terms of exposure in the list.

[Full article](#) From China Agri-food News Digest No 52 (April 2017)

Overseas R&D: Fast track for learning

[China Daily, 24.02.2017] -- As they expand overseas, globalization of research and development activities has become the key for the Chinese enterprises to enhance their capacity and competitiveness. Chinese enterprises are latecomers in establishing overseas research and development subsidiaries. International operations play dual role of supporting and teaching Chinese enterprises in global economy.

[Full article](#)

A new urease-inhibiting formulation decreases ammonia volatilization and improves maize nitrogen utilization in North China Plain

[Nature Scientific Reports, 08.03.2017] -- Overuse of urea, low nitrogen (N) utilization, and large N losses are common in maize production in North China Plain (NCP). To solve these problems, two field experiments at Shangzhuang and Quzhou in NCP were conducted to test the ability of a newly developed urease inhibitor product Limus® to decrease ammonia (NH₃) volatilization from urea applied to maize. Cumulative NH₃ loss in the two weeks following urea application without Limus ranged from 9–108 kg N ha⁻¹, while Limus addition significantly decreased NH₃ loss by a mean of 84%. The use of urea-N plus Limus would permit a reduction in N applications of 55–60% compared to farmers' practice and/or further 20% N saving compared with optimized urea-N rate (150 kg N ha⁻¹, based on N requirement by target yield of 7.5 t ha⁻¹), and would achieve the same maize yields but with significantly decreased NH₃ loss and increased N utilization.

[Full article](#)

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Updates regarding Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Soil Pollution

[From Newsletter compiled by the Office of National Soil Pollution Prevention and Control Ministerial Coordination Group, 1st issue.]

Key areas of work

- **MEP released *Technical Guidance on Promulgating Soil Pollution Prevention and Control Work Plans* on Oct. 12, 2016** that provides advice and guidelines to local governments on making local soil action plans. The technical guidance sets out general requirements, main steps, key processes & issues and the outline in the compilation of localized work plans. In particular, it gives detailed directions and instructions on analyzing regional soil problems, specifying tasks and measures, determining targets, indicators & focus areas, allocating targets & tasks, improving policies and measures and establishing coordination mechanisms. While provincial governments are responsible for promulgating provincial work plans, municipal and county governments shall follow up and lay out details for implementation within their jurisdictions.
- **MEP issued *Provisions on Soil Management of Contaminated Sites (Trial)* on Dec. 31, 2016:** I have shared a regulatory summary on it.
- **MEP, MoF, MLR, MoA and National Health and Family Planning Commission jointly released *Overall Plan of Detailed National Soil Pollution Survey* on Dec. 27, 2016**, which officially launched the national soil survey as stipulated in the soil action plan, aiming to identify and determine the area and distribution of contaminated arable lands and the impacts on the quality of agricultural products by the end of 2018 and the distribution of contaminated industrial sites and the environmental risks by the end of 2020. (Note: the full text of the plan is not publicly available).

Ministerial and local updates:

- **The Supreme People's Procuratorate issued *Implementation Plan on Prosecuting Authorities' Involvement in Special Supervision of Soil Pollution Prevention and Control* in October 2016** to implement the soil action and enhance Chinese prosecutors' supervision on environmental violations of soil pollution. The plan sets out regional piloting programs in which local prosecutors are required to solve prominent issues in the local areas and determine key areas of focus based on the detailed soil survey.
- **12 Ministries and Departments promulgated respective implementation plans on key working areas.** In order to quickly and effectively enforce and implement the soil action plan, MEP, NDRC, MoST, MIIT, MoF, MLR, MoHURD, State Administration of

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Work Safety, SFA, Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council respectively made implementation plans to specify tasks, requirements and deadlines for the work assigned to them by the national soil action plan. On Dec. 16 and 31, 2016, MEP respectively released *Implementation Plan on Carrying Out Key Working Areas of Soil Pollution and Prevention Action Plan* and *Plan on Internal Work Allocation of Key Working Areas of Soil Pollution and Prevention Action Plan*.

- **MoST, MLR, MEP, MoA and CAS jointly released *Work Plan on Technical Support for Soil Pollution Prevention and Control on Sep. 14, 2016*** with a focus on the role of science, technologies and innovations. The work plan identifies 6 key scientific research areas and tasks, including research on the causes and mechanisms of soil pollution, research on soil pollution monitoring and early warning technologies, research on technologies for soil pollution source control and treatment, systematic treatment technologies and piloting for contaminated soil, capacity building on technological innovations for pollution prevention and control, promotion of commercialization of soil pollution control technologies. It also requires 4 areas of policies and mechanisms to support and implement the plan, i.e. enhancing coordination and enforcement, increasing investments on science and technologies, promoting sharing of R&D and strengthening international technological cooperation.
- **Work progress in local areas:**
 - Promulgate work plans. So far, 23 provinces have released their provincial work plans and 8 provinces have plans under review.
 - Promote the application and piloting of soil pollution treatment and remediation technologies. While 14 pilot projects were initially launched in 2015, 142 pilot projects in 17 provinces are carried out in 17 provinces in 2017.
 - Carry out work in comprehensive soil pollution prevention and control pioneering zones. The work plans for the 6 pioneering zones have preliminarily completed and 3 of them have been submitted and reported to MEP.
 - Promote local legislation. Fujian Province and Hubei Province issued their local soil pollution control regulations in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Jilin, Hunan and Guangdong are now in the process of promulgating their local regulations.
 - Establish divisions especially for soil pollution prevention and control within environmental agencies. Up to date, environmental protection departments of 13 provinces have set up their soil division in charge of soil regulatory oversight.

[Link to original information on MEP website](#) (in Chinese)

Translation by Ms. Wang, Hua, Technical Advisor, GIZ Sino-German Environmental Partnership Project. Used by kind permission.

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Soil restoration projects proposed

[China Daily, 30.03.2017] -- The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China's leading scientific institute, said on March 29, 2017 that it will invest 20 million yuan (\$2.9 million) over the next 18 months in projects that tackle heavy metal pollution in soil, as part of efforts to safeguard food and water security. The soil restoration projects, to be led by the academy's Institute of Soil Science in Nanjing, will establish regional standards for cadmium, nickel, arsenic and other toxic heavy metals. Two pollution control demonstration zones - one focused on mercury and the other on cadmium - will be built in Guizhou Province, and in Hunan Province, respectively.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

China aims to better protect natural shoreline

[Xinhua, 31.03.2017] -- The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) has published China's first regulation on shorelines, requiring that, by 2020, no less than 35 percent of the country's total shoreline should be natural. The regulation on the protection and utilization of shorelines defines natural shorelines as those formed by land-ocean interactions, such as silt and bedrock shores. It imposes strict restrictions on the occupation of natural shoreline in construction projects, requiring strict evaluation and approval for projects that must occupy natural shoreline.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

Fish Farmer From 'Cancer Village' Seeks Landmark Ruling Over Dead Daughter

[Caixin, 18.04.2017] -- A Chinese court has accepted a case in which a fish farmer has taken on two polluting steel companies and the local environmental authorities who allegedly allowed them to operate. This has become a watershed moment in the country's environmental litigation. The case will determine whether citizens can sue a government environmental authority for negligence or dereliction of duty that dates back to 2003, when the country's Environmental Impact Assessment Law came into effect. Currently complainants are required to file administrative lawsuits within five years.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

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ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

China Focus: China makes headway against water pollution

[Xinhua, 21.03.2017] -- An official with the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) said ahead of World Water Day on March 22 that the proportion of monitored surface water reaching Grade III or above rose by 1.8 percentage points to 67.8 percent in 2016. Water quality in the Dianchi Lake in Yunnan Province was once deemed "inferior to Grade V," and "too polluted for any purpose". Last year was the first time the water in the 300-square km lake was clean enough to be used for agriculture since 1985.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

China introduces tough fishing ban along Yangtze River

[Xinhua, 02.03.2017] -- A permanent fishing ban in all 279 aquatic reserves along the Yangtze River has begun. A Ministry of Agriculture four-month fishing ban comes into force in several major rivers including the Yangtze on March 1. At a meeting in Wuhan on March 02, 2017, Yu Kangzhen, Vice Minister of Agriculture said the Yangtze River does not have sufficient conditions for fishery production anymore, and it is more important to emphasize its ecological functions and protect aquatic biodiversity.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

Project to aid ecology of wetland

[China Daily, 10.04.2017] -- According to local authorities, Baiyangdian, northern China's largest freshwater wetland, will see its ecological environment further improve as part of the "Xiongan New Area" in Hebei Province, which was announced April 01, 2017. The head of the Baiyangdian Wetland Nature Reserve said the water quality would get better and that the new area would certainly enhance the wetland's ecological conservation.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

New Economic Zone May Imperil Wetlands, Environmentalists Fear

[Caixin, 13.04.2017] -- Environmentalists have raised a red flag on plans to include most of Northern China's largest wetland into the country's newest economic zone, saying the fragile ecosystem could dry up if the project isn't handled carefully. Baiyangdian wetland in Hebei Province was once known as "the kidneys of Northern China," but its lakes have been seriously polluted. Inhabitants are now relying on ground water, and urban planners fear an influx of people that would deplete the water table and dry up the wetland.

[Full article](#)

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AGRI-BUSINESS AND TRADE

Farmers slash corn planting as China's stockpiles decay

[Bloomberg, 17.03.2017] -- A farmer in China's corn belt in NE Jilin Province Farmers earned about 300 yuan per mu (\$650 per hectare) from corn last year compared with a peak of about 1,000 yuan per mu in 2013. China's state-run stockpiles are overwhelming demand and prompting the government to reevaluate costly buying programs intended to bolster food security. With the end of a support-price system last year and a 20 percent slump in futures, the corn harvest probably will drop in 2017 for a second straight year.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

China tries to rely less on US soybeans

[Nikkei Asian Review, 30.03.2017] -- China is encouraging farmers to switch from corn to soybeans in an effort to reduce dependence on American soybeans. China relies on imports to satisfy 90% of its demand for soybeans. In February 2017 Beijing laid out plans for improving the supply-demand balance for agricultural products. One urgent issue is reducing the stockpiles of corn thought to have swelled to somewhere between 140 million tons and 250 million tons.

[Full article](#) (From Newsletter German Agribusiness Alliance „Focus China and India“)

Agricultural supply-side reform creates organic farming craze

[Xinhua, 01.03.2017] -- According to Yu Fuying from Fengcheng County's (Jiangxi Province) agriculture bureau more people are expected to join organic farming following agricultural supply-side reform. A farmer in Wannian County, Jiangxi Province started his organic farming dream last year by taking on the lease of 1,000 *mu* (66.7 hectares) of such land in the county expects to receive organic certification by the end of this year. By online marketing, he is able to sell his eco-rice at a price 10 times that of ordinary rice.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

Potatoes, China's food of the future

[China Daily, 10.03.2017] -- Confronting the world's largest population and requiring a huge range of imported foods, the Ministry of Agriculture has begun promoting the food of the future - the potato. In the future, potatoes will account for 30 percent of the nation's food, with large areas of wheat, rice and corn being turned over to cultivation of the new fourth staple, the ministry says.

[Full article](#)

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China gets green light for biggest-ever foreign acquisition

[CNN, 05.04.2017] -- On April 5, the European Commission approved the acquisition of Syngenta (SYT), a Swiss supplier of pesticides, by ChemChina, a state-owned chemical company, and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission approved it on April 4, 2017. Both regulators required tweaks to ensure the deal wouldn't reduce competition. The deal still needs approval from regulators in China, India and Mexico.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

Crushing blow to soy processors as Chinese grow wary on GMO

[Reuters, 28.04.2017] -- A Chinese consumer backlash against genetically modified (GMO) crops is beginning to dent demand for soy oil, the nation's main cooking oil, and could spell crisis for the multi-billion-dollar crushing industry, which depends on GMO soybeans from the United States and elsewhere. Soybean sales account for about 36 percent of cooking oils used in Chinese kitchens, more than three times the next highest, and most of it is made from imported soybeans, which are nearly all genetically modified.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

Russia inks long-term food supply deal with China

[TASS, 29.03.2017] -- The Export Food Trade company and the resident of Qinhuangdao Development Zone, a Chinese company Sino-Europe Agricultural Development, have signed a long-term contract for supplies of Russian agricultural produce to China, a TASS correspondent reported from the signing ceremony on Wednesday. The two companies sealed the food supply deal in presence of Russian Agriculture Minister Alexander Tkachev.

[Full article](#) (From Newsletter German Agribusiness Alliance „Focus China and India“)

Danish Crown targets China's choosy pork eaters with plant for premium cuts

[Reuters, 02.03.2017] -- Top European pork producer Danish Crown hopes to gain a bigger chunk of the Chinese market by building a new factory to provide fresh meat to discerning consumers in Shanghai. Plans for the DKK300 million (\$42.44 million) plant come as Hormel Foods of the U.S. prepares to open a new factory in nearby Zhejiang province in the third quarter, and after a year of record pork imports by the world's top consumer of the meat.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

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More Australian beef set to enter China

[China Daily, 14.04.2017] -- A new trade agreement was reached by China and Australia during Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's official visit to Australia in late March 2017. The deal allows Australia to be the first and only country to have complete market access to supply chilled or fresh meat to China, a nation where pork is the most consumed meat. The main change is Australian exporters can now send chilled meat to China, as opposed to before when it was only frozen meat.

[Full article](#)

Dairy imports will continue to rise

[China Daily, 21.04.2017] -- According to a report, China Agricultural Outlook (2017-26), which was released by the Ministry of Agriculture on April 20, 2017, imports of dairy products to China will continue to rise over the next 10 years, although at a slower pace. The report estimates that China will import 14.2 million metric tons of dairy products this year, an increase of 11 percent over last year

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

Step up surveillance to stop bird flu spread from China: UN

[Reuters, 17.03.2017] -- Countries trading in Chinese poultry should step up surveillance at farms, markets and border checkpoints to prevent the spread of H7N9 bird flu from China after a more severe strain of the virus was detected in chickens, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on March 17, 2017.

[Full article](#)

China calls on Brazil to take stricter safety measures on food shipments

[Reuters, 21.03.2017] -- China this week suspended imports of all Brazilian meat following a scandal in the South American country over the alleged bribery of health officials to allow the sale of tainted meat. On March 21, 2017, China called on Brazil to take stricter safety measures in its food shipments, as Brazilian officials scrambled to limit the fallout from a corruption scandal that led Beijing to suspend meat imports from its top supplier.

[Full article](#)

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Heading home

[China Daily, 21.04.2017] -- A growing number of young Chinese are leaving major metropolises to return to the smaller cities where they grew up. According to a series of annual reports on youth-employment stress by Xiong Hanzhong of Beijing Normal University, a growing number are returning to their hometowns rather than grappling with the stresses of urban life.

[Full article](#)

'Internet Plus' to fuel brand-building for Chinese agricultural products

[China Daily, 13.04.2017] -- Chinese farmers should view product promotion through the lens of "Internet Plus," said Song Chengmin, a macroeconomic management official with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) at a conference on agricultural branding in Linyi, Shandong Province. China is the world's largest consumer of meat and crops, with an annual consumption of 50 kilograms and 450 kilograms per capita respectively. It was time for China to promote its brand overseas, the official said.

[Full article](#)

Rural tourism sees robust growth in China

[Xinhuanet, 11.04.2017] -- Revenue from rural tourism surpassed 570 billion yuan (82.66 billion U.S. dollars) in 2016, up significantly from 440 billion yuan a year ago, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) said April 11, 2017 during a meeting. With some 2.1 billion trips made to the countryside last year, the rapidly growing sector created jobs for 6.72 million rural people, according to the MOA.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

Starbucks launches pure local brew

[China Daily, 06.04.2017] -- Starbucks Coffee Co, the global coffee chain, has introduced its first single-origin coffee from Southwest China's Yunnan province, in an effort to help local coffee growers boost their income. Launched in January 2017, the coffee was available for a limited time across all Starbucks retail locations in the Chinese mainland.

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AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

What Minister of Agriculture said at press conferences during two sessions

[China Daily, 15.03.2017] -- In 2016, China realized zero growth in the use of pesticide and about zero growth in use of fertilizers, according to the Minister of Agriculture, Han Changfu. In the next step, the government will launch five campaigns to further improve agricultural environment: All the excrement from large-scale farms will either go through special treatment or be reused as resources; the excessive use of fertilizers in the horticultural sector, especially fruit and vegetables, will also be targeted and use of organic fertilizers will be encouraged; the use of plastic mulches (mainly used as coverings for compost) is to be reduced and authorities will encourage farmers to use thicker mulch sheets to make them easier to be recycled through machinery; crop straw in the northeast region is to be better utilized and aquatic organisms especially those in the Yangtze River are to be protected.

Regarding grain output, last year, the output fell by 10.4 billion *jin* (5.2 billion kg) but it is still the second-highest grain output in history. And the reduction was mainly in corn, which was a result of proactive adjustment and within expectations.

[Full article](#)

GM food research to continue amid prudent approach, official says

[China Daily, 07.03.2017] -- Vice-Minister of Agriculture Zhang Taolin told a news conference that the country will continue to support GM food research by enabling the development of domestic technology and indigenous innovation. It will continue to follow the previously designed roadmap of GM technology development, which allows the commercial marketing of non-edible crop varieties first, before allowing the marketing of varieties that are indirectly edible. The marketing of directly edible varieties will come last, he said.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

Nurturing fair and efficient reform

[China Daily, 21.04.2017, by Huang Jikun] -- The strategy of not too big and not too small is the proper way forward for Chinese agriculture. Chinese land reform policy aims to achieve two goals simultaneously - equity and efficiency. Unlike radical land privatization, the core policy in China is to combine collective "ownership" of land, overseen by local village committees, with land use contracts held by individual households. Villagers can lease their lands to more efficient farms while still protecting their contract rights to the land.

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Cultivating prosperity

[China Daily, 28.04.2017, by David Blair] -- Enhancing the lure of the land creates new opportunities in agricultural areas and more efficient farms are taking root. China's farmlands and small towns are luring small businesses and professional farmers, after lagging behind urban areas during the decades of high-growth-rate industrialization. New legal structures, institutions and policies are designed to raise rural incomes and encourage returned city migrants to use their savings and talents to start businesses in their home areas.

[Full article](#)

Rural Policy Research Needs to Take a Problem-oriented Approach

[China Daily, 15.03.2017; by Ye Xingqing, DRC, 22.01.2017] -- General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at a meeting on philosophy and social science that theoretical innovation is based on the addressing of practical problems and problems mark the beginning of and provide an impetus to innovation. We should follow this principle, set the focus of our work on addressing problems, conduct policy research on agriculture, rural areas and farmers with targeted measures for more effective results, and strive to realize moderate prosperity in rural areas in step with other parts of China.

[Full article](#)

State Council to promote pilot program for land planning at provincial level

[English.gov.cn, 12.04.2017] -- The State Council approved an inter-department joint meeting system for land planning at the provincial level, as an effort to push forward pilot work in space planning in provinces. According to the document, the joint meeting should promote the pilot program in provinces and study major issues encountered in the process under the lead of the State Council.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

China plans planting areas to upgrade agricultural pattern

[China Daily, 12.04.2017] -- China is planning to define the country's agricultural production areas in two functions in three years, to assure the effective supply of agricultural products, Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu said on April 11, 2017.

[Full article](#)

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Quality of agricultural products to improve

[China Daily, 15.03.2017] -- The Ministry of Agriculture has published a five-year plan to improve the quality of agricultural products, including measures to ensure that products such as apples, tea and pork can be traced back to their producers. According to the ministry's plan, which was made public on March 13, 2017, more than 97 percent of major agricultural products involved in routine monitoring will pass quality tests in the next five years.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 51, March 2017)

China to toughen supervision over food safety

[Ecns.cn, 15.04.2017] – According to a statement released by the State Council on April 14, 2017, the Chinese government will take the strictest standards, toughest supervision, harshest punishment and the most serious accountability system to improve public food safety. China will improve the legal system regarding food safety issues and ensure individuals violating food safety laws are found and exposed publicly.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

China aims to improve logistics system to protect food safety

[Xinhuanet, 21.04.2017] -- According to an official document released on April 21, 2017, China will build a cold chain logistics system to improve food safety and boost consumer spending. The general office of the State Council, China's cabinet, published a guideline on the development of cold chain logistics framework, underscoring the importance on food safety and consumption upgrades.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

Agricultural bank lends more to farmers, rural businesses in Q1

[Xinhua, 25.04.2017] -- Agricultural Bank of China (ABC), one of the country's biggest lenders, said on April 24 that it has increased lending to farmers and rural businesses in support of agricultural supply-side structural reform in the first quarter. According to the bank, the ABC has enhanced lending support for large-scale and professional farming and other new types of agribusiness, as well as medium-sized and small rural households.

[Full article](#)

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Agriculture insurance for disasters to be promoted in 200 counties

[English.gov.cn, 27.04.2017] -- About 200 counties in China will launch a new type of agriculture insurance as an innovative program to compensate crop yield losses resulting from natural disasters, according to the State Council executive meeting on April 26. The counties will be chosen from China's 13 major grain production provinces including Hebei, Heilongjiang, Anhui and Henan. The insurance will be offered to family farms, large scale growers and farmers' cooperatives, covering the costs of agricultural materials, fertilizers, and land use fees for planting rice, wheat and corn.

[Full article](#)

Farmers' co-ops offer flexibility

[China Daily, 31.03.2017, by Sun Bingyao] -- Farmers' cooperatives have proved effective in poverty alleviation in China, becoming an important "internal power" that can mobilize local resources in a more flexible and sustainable way. In many regions, the organizations are superior to local collective economies. Small loans issued by the government can work better in helping families out of poverty if they cooperate with such groups.

[Full article](#)

EU and China launch young farmers exchange program

[www.neweurope.eu, 21.04.2017] -- The European Commission along with the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China deep up for global cooperation in agriculture. Brussels and Beijing agreed to allow young farmers to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and rural development by giving to Chinese and European professionals the opportunity to learn about new tools to tackle the challenges they face in their sector, together. This program allows visits by young farmers and industry professionals from both sides and participation in training courses, agricultural enterprises, innovative farms, government entities, research institutes, and cooperatives.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 52, April 2017)

Kick-off of Chinese Green Food Traceability Platform

[moa.gov.cn, 26.04.2017] -- A "Chinese Green Food Traceability Platform" was inaugurated in Beijing on April 25, 2017.

[Full article](#) (in Chinese)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



News about DCZ

For news on activities carried out and forthcoming events at the German-Chinese Agricultural Center (DCZ), please directly consult our website, which is updated frequently:

www.dcz-china.org

Two news items covering recent events:

[4th German-Sino Agribusiness Forum – 2017 workshop on “Rural Structural Change”](#)

[DCZ Seminar on Agricultural Subsidies in China](#)

DCZ co-organizer of Organic Farming Workshop

A Sino-German Workshop on “Organic Farming and Green Development”, co-organized by Thünen Institute (TI) for Ecological Agriculture, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and DCZ will be held in Trenthorst, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, on June 6-10, 2017.

Vacancies for internships at DCZ

- For Chinese native speakers, with very good knowledge of English. Tasks include working on documents, translations, as well as support in office management.
- Für internationale Studierende der Agrarwissenschaften, mit sehr guten Englischkenntnissen, und bevorzugt mit chinesischen Sprachkenntnissen. Die Aufgabenfelder orientieren sich an den Schwerpunktthemen des DCZ und werden von Fall zu Fall vereinbart.

Interested candidates please contact the DCZ under yingjuan.li@giz.de

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