

**SINO-GERMAN AGRICULTURAL  
CENTER NEWSLETTER**

中德农业中心新闻摘要

December 2017 (Issue No 9)

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### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

#### **Chinese scientists complete genome sequencing for coconut**

[China Daily, 02.11.2017] -- On November 2, 2017, scientists from the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences announced that they had accomplished sequencing the genome of the coconut. At the same time, the research article was published in Giga Science journal. The achievement lays solid foundations for further research of functional genes of the coconut and Palmae family.

[Full article](#)

#### **Technology realizes agricultural sustainable development in NE China**

[China Daily, 06.11.2017] -- In the past dozens of years, the amount of productive land in the black soil region in NE China has decreased and its quality has been lowered because of the predatory farming. Therefore, straw-overlying (mulching) technology is adopted by local people in order to regain the fertile black topsoil and maximize the natural cycle between straw and soil in farmlands. As a result, topsoil deterioration in NE China has been reduced.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

#### **China releases first land cover atlas**

[China Daily, 15.11.2017] -- According to the institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China has published its land cover atlas for the first time on November 15, 2017. The atlas provides a comprehensive look at land-surface conditions across China, and records its land cover changes.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

#### **From lab to farmland, technology revolutionizes agriculture in China**

[China Daily, 30.11.2017] -- At present, more and more technologies are used to revolutionize traditional agriculture. For example, Zhang Pan and three students from Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University jointly developed the protected cultivation technology. Through this technology, the natural environment of plants, such as temperature, humidity and light intensity, can be monitored by a control terminal.

[Full article](#)

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### **Four Chinese sites selected as global agricultural heritages**

[CSNC, 26.11.2017] -- On November 24, 2017, a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was convened by the FAO in Rome. During the meeting, the Zhagana Farming, Forestry and Animal Husbandry Compound System in Gansu Province and the Huzhou Mulberry Dyke Fishpond System in Zhejiang Province were formally designated as GIAHS sites. At the same time, the four rice terrace areas in south and east China and the Xiajin Ancient Mulberry Wood in Shandong Province were approved in principle.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

### **New pepper species discovered in S China**

[China Daily, 22.12.2017] -- In accordance with the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, scientists discovered a new pepper species in South China's Hainan Province. *Piper jianfenglingense*, the new species, is found in evergreen broad leaf forests at elevations between 500 and 800 meters at the Jianfengling National Nature Reserve in the province's Ledong Li autonomous county.

[Full article](#)

### **Scientists close in on origin of SARS**

[China Daily, 07.12.2017] – Some Chinese scientists think that the origin of the deadly SARS virus may have found by them in a remote cave in Yunnan Province, where they identified a single population of horseshoe bats that harbor virus strains with all the genetic building blocks. According to research published in PLoS Pathogens on November 30, 2017, the strain could easily have arisen from such bats.

[Full article](#)

[Link to original article](#)

### **Sinochem launches intelligent farming platform**

[Xinhua, 03.12.2017] – In east China's Anhui Province, an intelligent farming platform has been established by the Sinochem Group. As the major producer of chemicals and fertilizer, the company hopes it will help make farming work easier. The platform is an online-offline combination, which can provide a wide range of services ranging from seed selection to soil detection and machinery training.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

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### **Chinese foresters win UN award**

[Xinhua, 06.12.2017] – On December 5, 2017, forest rangers in northern China's Saihanba Forest Farm received the UN Champions of the Earth Award for their outstanding contribution to restoration of degraded landscapes. The forest in Saihanba is an important ecological shield for Beijing and Tianjin. It purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and delivers half a million tons of oxygen every year.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

### **Cropping System Conversion led to Organic Carbon Change in China's Mollisols Regions**

[Nature Scientific Reports, 22.12.2017] -- Driven by diet, globalization and technology development, land use changes have greatly influenced agricultural production and environment in the mollisols region of China. Through a ten-year research in Northeast China, scientists discovered that the decline rate of soil organic carbon (SOC) in recent ten years has decreased considerably compared to previous decades. The paper is jointly written by Yuxi Tong, Weifeng Zhang, Fusuo Zhang, et al., from the China Agricultural University (CAU) and the Heilongjiang Academy of Agriculture Sciences.

[Full article](#)

### **Earliest hydraulic enterprise in China, 5,100 years ago**

[PNAS, 26.12.2017] – Originating from the Yangtze Delta, Liangzhu culture is considered as a peak of early cultural and social development predating the historically recorded Chinese dynasties. According to archaeological surveys and excavations, the extent and structure of dams, levees, ditches and other landscape-transforming features in Liangzhu covered an area of about 300 ha. The paper is jointly written by Bin Liu, Ningyuan Wang, Minghui Chen etc., from different Chinese and British research institutions.

[Full article](#)

### **Lack in talented people and AI policies**

[SCMP, 13.12.2017] – China plans to become a global powerhouse in artificial intelligence (AI) by 2030, however, the world's most populous country faces a severe talent shortage in this field. So far, China has been importing most of its AI talent from overseas, according to LinkedIn's AI Talent report. The AI talent shortage is supposed to be one of the most significant issues at the annual closed-door Central Economic Work Conference.

[Full article](#)

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### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

#### **Making good on environmental pledge**

[China Daily, 03.11.2017] -- Seven years ago, Tori Widdowson moved to Houwu, a village in the eastern province of Zhejiang, because she was lured by the good environment. However, a growing number of visitors in recent years resulted in higher levels of garbage. In order to solve this problem, Widdowson, nominated as the village's "civil river chief", is now working with local officials and making her contribution to improve the local environment.

[Full article](#)

#### **Focus on ecological reform is welcome**

[China Daily, 10.11.2017] -- After the 19th National Congress of the CPC, a rigorous approach to environmental protection was enshrined in the Party Constitution. It demonstrated that many efforts would be made by the Chinese government to speed up reform of the system for developing an ecological civilization and build a beautiful China.

[Full article](#)

#### **Draft law gives gov't, polluters responsibilities on soil pollution control**

[Xinhua, 22.12.2017] -- The draft law on prevention and control of soil pollution, which increases the responsibilities of government and polluters in controlling and correcting pollution, was submitted to the top legislature for its first reading in June. Chinese lawmakers began the second reading of it on Dec. 22, 2017. The draft made it clear that it was the local government's responsibility to conduct pollution risk evaluation and rehabilitation of land, if the land use right had been retrieved and the former owner was responsible for its pollution.

[Full article](#)

#### **China must make polluters pay for waste treatment: legislator**

[Reuters, 02.11.2017] -- Zhang Dejiang, chairman of the National People's Congress, stressed that there were many weak links in the management of hazardous waste in China and it needed to be improved urgently. As far as he was concerned, the Chinese government needed to improve law enforcement and make polluters to treat billions of tonnes of rural, industrial and household waste.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

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## Green Growth

[China Daily, 17.11.2017] -- At the recent 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, President Xi Jinping highlighted that both ecological and economic development were of great significance because ecological development would help economic development in the long run. It demonstrates that a clean environment is the path forward toward an upgraded industrial structure. Therefore, many efforts were made by the Chinese government to realize green growth.

[Full article](#)

## China expands water conservation through tax reform

[China Daily, 01.12.2017] -- Water conservation is important in China because its per capita water resources are only 28 percent of the global average. In order to conserve more water resource, Beijing, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia and other six provincial regions started to use a new water resource tax on December 1, 2017 following trials in north China's Hebei Province. The tax is levied on the use of surface and ground water, with higher rates on enterprises that consume a lot of water.

[Full article](#)

## China strives to enhance environmental protection: vice premier

[Xinhua, 11.12.2017] -- On December 11, 2017, Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli attended the annual general meeting of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) in Beijing. He highlighted that the Chinese government attached great importance to the construction of ecological civilization and it would promote green development and strive to solve outstanding environmental problems and strengthen protection of the eco-system

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

## China to expand pilot reform in ecological damage compensation

[Xinhua, 17.12.2017] -- The general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council issued a document on December 17, 2017. According to the document, China will expand a pilot reform to nationwide starting in 2018, obliging polluters to repair the environment or pay a compensation. In order to protect and improve the ecosystem in China, the government aims to establish an efficient comprehensive damage compensation system by 2020.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

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### **ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

#### **China earmarks 7.5 billion dollars for environment protection**

[Xinhua, 24.11.2017] – According to You Yanxin, an official with the planning and finance department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, China has set aside 49.7 billion yuan (about 7.5 billion U.S. dollars) for supporting environmental protection this year. So far, 39 billion yuan has been handed out for air, water and soil pollution control.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

#### **President hails eco-friendly policies of bamboo group**

[China Daily, 10.11.2017] -- The International Bamboo and Rattan Organization(INBAR) which includes 43 state members is the first intergovernmental organization established in China. In the past 20 years, it played a positive role in accelerating the development of global bamboo and rattan resources. In the future, the Chinese government will cooperate with INBAR in order to promote ecological restoration and the green economy.

[Full article](#)

#### **Australia-China biofuel project set to boost renewable energy sector**

[China Daily, 21.11.2017] -- Partners from the Australian and Chinese public and private sectors jointly support a renewable energy project which promises “groundbreaking” technology to produce ethanol biofuel by using non-food waste plant matter left over from crops and forestry. The project includes a pilot facility in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales state to make bioethanol from the agricultural waste.

[Full article](#)

#### **China's war on pollution roils world's top pig farming sector**

[Reuters, 05.11.2017] -- The Chinese government implemented tough new pollution standards which would ban livestock production near water sources or heavily populated areas. At the same time, farms in other regions must meet higher standards for treating manure. In order to comply with the new standards, the pace of government inspections and shutdowns has increased. Some analysts think that the environmental inspections will have a significant long-term impact on meat supplies and prices.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)



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### **China to improve water conservation**

[Xinhua, 04.11.2017] -- On November 3, 2017, a teleconference on water conservancy infrastructure was held in Beijing. Premier Li Keqiang wrote a message to the meeting, in which he stressed that China should do more to improve water conservancy. He also highlighted that water conservancy infrastructure is key to supply-side structural reform in agriculture and the good of farmers and China must optimize the water conservancy network and step up disaster prevention and mitigation, despite the progress of the past five years.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

### **Foreign companies keen on China's clean energy drive**

[China Daily, 25.12.2017] -- Since a huge renewable energy market is created by China's push to clean up the environment, many automakers are vying for a larger share of the world's fastest-growing new energy vehicle market. Ford, for example, recently announced a joint venture with Anhui Zotye Automobile to produce and sell electric cars in China, with plans to launch 15 models by 2025. In fact, not only automakers but also companies from chemical producers to natural gas providers are thrilled by the push for long-term, sustainable growth.

[Full article](#)

### **Beijing air pollution notably reduced in winter**

[Xinhua, 02.12.2017] -- In an environment forum which was held in Huizhou, Guangdong Province, Minister of Environmental Protection Li Ganjie told attendees that levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Beijing dropped about 27 percent year-on-year in the March-November 2017 period. It demonstrated that the city is likely to meet its smog control target of the year. In order to fight air pollution, the government has taken a series of measures such as closing factories, limiting cars, replacing coal with clean energy and so on.

[Full article](#)

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### **AGRI-BUSINESS AND TRADE**

#### **COFCO International sells Nidera's seed business to Syngenta**

[China Daily, 07.11.2017] -- On November 6, 2017, COFCO International, the overseas investment and management platform of COFCO Corp, agreed to sell its seed business of grain trader Nidera BV to agribusiness giant Syngenta AG. The move is an important step that will help COFCO International to enter into new strategy goal. In the future, COFCO International will focus on its core businesses involving cereals, edible oils and sugars.

[Full article](#)

#### **Syngenta to step up agricultural sector investment**

[China Daily, 15.11.2017] -- As the largest European producer of seeds and crop protection products, Syngenta decides to deploy more resources and collaboration in China's agricultural sector in order to diversify its product portfolio and offer customized solutions over the next five years. In accordance with the company's chief executive officer, it will push forward the development of agricultural technologies.

[Full article](#)

#### **COFCO focuses on core business, furthers mixed-ownership**

[China Daily, 21.11.2017] -- As China's biggest food supplier by volume, COFCO Corporation decides to expand the proportion of State-owned capital involved in agriculture, grain and oil businesses. In 2020, the figure will increase to 80%. According to the company's vice-president, the market shares of some core businesses such as grain, oil, sugar and cotton are expected to account for more than 15%, respectively.

[Full article](#)

#### **Agricultural alliances need innovation to boost global trade ties**

[China Daily, 24.11.2017] -- A forum, as part of the 2017 International Industrial Capacity Cooperation Forum and the ninth China Overseas Investment Fair, was held in Beijing on November 22, 2017. It focused on economic and trade cooperation among countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative. During the forum, an official said that China should develop more innovative approaches to agricultural cooperation to boost collaboration on international capacity with Russia.

[Full article](#)

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### **China pig herd shrinks further in October: agriculture ministry**

[Reuters, 15.11.2017] -- Since the Chinese government implemented new environmental regulations, many efforts have been made by local governments to enforce the new tough standards by December 2017, and hundreds of thousands of mainly smaller pig farms have closed in recent months. Under those standards, livestock production is banned near water sources or major population areas. At the same time, farms in other areas must meet high standards on treatment of animal waste.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

### **China's pig farmers go north, upending world's top meat, grain market**

[Reuters, 22.11.2017] -- Many large pig farming companies have announced or confirmed their plan to build up vast, modern hog farms in the northeast of China in coming years. In accordance with an analyst, almost 20% of China's hog will be transferred to new territory. In the next few years, the output increase in northeastern provinces will speed up the modernization of China's hog farming sector.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

### **China's demand for imported pork to rise as Beijing closes small domestic producers**

[SCMP, 26.11.2017] -- In 2016, Beijing began issuing decrees to selected cities and provinces to shut pig farms and slaughterhouses that did not meet environmental standards. Therefore, as the largest pork producer in the world, WH Group from Zhengzhou, Henan Province projects that Chinese demand for imported pork from the US and Europe will increase because of its national push to modernise the agricultural industry.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

### **China to buy another 12 mln t of US soybeans in 2017/18 in \$5 bln deals**

[Reuters, 09.11.2017] -- China is the world's top soybean buyer, and the United States is its second supplier. Recently, two letters of intent with Chinese importers have been signed by the United States soybean industry. The letters covered a \$5 billion purchase of an additional 12 million tonnes of soybeans in the 2017/18 marketing year. The agreements come as U.S. farmers seek to export more beans after growing a record crop.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

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### **COFCO sees China's soybean imports hitting 100 mln t in 17/18**

[Reuters, 15.11.2017] -- On November 15, 2017, a senior executive at COFCO Corp. forecast that China will import 100 million tonnes of soybeans in 2017/18. The figure is above official U.S. and Chinese estimates for intake by the world's top importer of the oil seed. A deputy general manager of the oil seeds processing division for COFCO expected soybeans demand in 2018 in China to remain at a "high rate of growth".

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

### **China Focus: E-commerce help bridge rural-urban gap**

[Xinhua, 11.12.2017] -- As the Chinese government implemented a rural village vitalization strategy in order to speed up the modernization of rural areas, E-commerce has allowed poor farmers to quickly achieve a more prosperous life. Taobao, the major e-commerce platform of Alibaba, is a leading enterprise in the rapidly growing sector. At the same time, the boom in e-commerce in rural areas has encouraged many young people working in cities to return to their hometowns and open start-ups.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

### **IBM & Walmart Launching Blockchain Food Safety Alliance in China with JD.com**

[Forbes, 14.12.2017] – Recently, IBM, Walmart and Fortune 500's JD.com, together with Tsinghua University National Engineering Laboratory for E-Commerce Technologies have announced a Blockchain Food Safety Alliance collaboration. The main purpose of the collaboration is applying Blockchain technology for food traceability to support offline and online consumers. At the same time, it is expected to improve food tracking and safety in China.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

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### **AGRICULTURAL POLICIES**

#### **Reform of Minimum Grain Purchase Prices: Policy Options**

[China Daily, 08.11.2017] -- According to some experts, it is high time that the Chinese government should conduct reform of the minimum grain purchase. They suggest that efforts should be made to promote policy reform of minimum grain purchase prices by means of purchasing grain at minimum purchase prices in order to prevent grain prices from further dropping and separating pricing from subsidies. Future pricing will be only one price for rice instead of different prices set for different rice varieties.

[Full article](#)

#### **Integrating Industrial Chain and Promoting the Competitiveness of China's Agriculture**

[China Daily, 16.11.2017] -- The integration of industrial chain plays an important role in the supply-side structural reform of agriculture. At present, China's agricultural industrial chain is experiencing a period of rapid development. Therefore, a research team calls for seizing the current opportunity of the demand-side consumption structure upgrading and the acceleration of supply-side reform to accelerate the integration of industrial chain in China.

[Full article](#)

#### **Foreign delegates attend China Food Security and Food Safety Strategy Summit**

[China Daily, 30.11.2017] -- Li Wei, President of Development Research Center of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (DRC), met with foreign delegates to the 2017 China Food Security and Food Safety Strategy Summit on Nov. 19, 2017.

[Full article](#)

#### **Additional Information by DCZ:**

DCZ took part during the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the "5th China Food Security and Food Safety Strategy Summit - Further Propelling Structural Reform of Agricultural Supply-Side" on Nov. 19, 2017. Mr. Conrad von Hoyos, German Managing Director of DCZ participated in the Dialogue on "Integrating Small-scale Production into Modern Agricultural Path to Ensure Food Security and Food Safety".

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### **Political advisors offer suggestions to China's grain pricing reform**

[Xinhua, 16.11.2017] -- On November 16 2017, Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, hosted a bi-weekly consultation session in Beijing. During the session, China's political advisors discussed ways to reform the country's grain pricing system. They suggested that measures should be taken to improve ways to subsidize the grain growers in order to prevent a drop in their income.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 59, November 2017)

### **China to expand rural land ownership reform**

[China Daily, 01.12.2017] -- On December 1, 2017, a meeting was held in Tianchang, a major grain-producing region in Central China's Anhui province. At the meeting, Vice Agricultural Minister Ye Zhenqin said that a total of 300 counties would be covered in the pilot program of the rural land ownership reform, up from current 129. The reform was initiated in 2014 to grant farmers more rights to benefit from collective land in villages.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

### **China uses less pesticide: official**

[China Daily, 05.12.2017] -- Since the Chinese government started a campaign to ensure zero growth in pesticide use by 2020, China's pesticide use has dropped in the past three years. Zeng Yande, head of the crop production department of the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the ministry tightened market access and punished unlicensed companies. Besides the drop in pesticide use, China has also raised the efficiency of pesticide use and stepped up the use of biological pesticides.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

### **China's grain output climbs in 2017**

[China Daily, 08.12.2017] -- In accordance with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), China's grain output saw a mild increase in 2017, compared with last year. One statistician from the bureau said that it was the second highest output in history. Grain planting area shrank by 815,000 hectares, while the per unit yield was up by 54 kilograms per hectare, or 1 percent year on year. At the same time, many areas reduced corn planting in favor of soy and used some grain for feedstuff because of an oversupply of corn and rising demand for soy and other grain varieties.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

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### **China reduces corn planting area amid excessive stock**

[China Daily, 18.12.2017] -- In accordance with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the Chinese government plans to reduce corn planting area by 1.33 million hectares in 2017 because of excessive corn stock. The reductions mainly concentrate in areas with low and unsteady output, including the country's arid Northwest and desertified regions in the Southwest. While reducing corn output, China has been actively increasing the supply of crops that are in short supply, such as soybeans and potatoes.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

### **World Bank approves \$150m loan for China's farm produce distribution system**

[China Daily, 18.12.2017] -- According to a statement from the World Bank, although China's produce market experienced a rapid development, farm produce logistics remains a bottleneck to in the distribution system which hinders producers' potential for more efficient production and higher incomes. Therefore, the bank has approved a \$150-million loan to the southeastern Chinese province of Jiangxi to improve its farm produce distribution system. It will benefit over 200,000 farmers through more efficient farm-to-market supply chains.

[Full article](#)

### **Quarter of Chinese villages have e-commerce distribution sites**

[Xinhua, 14.12.2017] -- According to data of the third national agricultural census in China, nearly a quarter of Chinese villages had e-commerce distribution sites by the end of 2016. China's agriculture census has been conducted every ten years since 1996 to collect information on rural production, infrastructure, public services and living conditions. The third census involved 5 million census takers, more than 200 million rural households and over 3 million businesses and market entities.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

### **Premier Li: Agricultural survey results should be effectively utilized**

[english.gov.cn, 17.12.2017] -- On December 13, 2017, Prime Minister Li Keqiang chaired the State Council executive meeting where the results of the third national agricultural survey were reported, and highlighted that all departments should fully utilize the results. As far as Premier Li was concerned, the data should be a reference when all departments concerned made decisions. The third national agricultural survey is an all-round reflection of China's rural infrastructure, comprehensive production capacity and social affairs in rural areas.

[Full article](#)

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### **Premier Li urges new-type agricultural businesses to rely more on market**

[english.gov.cn, 20.12.2017] -- The State Council executive meeting, which clarified some next-step measures to grow new-type agricultural businesses, was held on December 13, 2017. At the meeting, Premier Li Keqiang said that the development of new-type agricultural businesses should rely more on reform and the market rather than government support such as demonstration bases.

[Full article](#)

### **Revitalizing countryside to be focus of key meeting**

[China Daily, 26.12.2017] – According to the Shanghai Securities Journal, the agenda of revitalizing the countryside is expected to be announced by the Chinese government in a key conference on rural work. In the just-concluded Central Economic Work Conference, implementing the strategy of revitalizing the countryside has been listed as one of the eight major tasks for the next year. Meanwhile, the supply-side reform will also be a focus of rural work next year.

[Full article](#)

### **Giving agriculture a 'green' light is priority**

[China Daily, 28.12.2017] -- According to experts, the strategy to vitalize the countryside in China, put forward by the top leadership in October, is expected to be high on the agenda of the Central Rural Work Conference. This annual gathering, which sets the tone for the next year's agricultural and rural development, usually is held before year's end. The experts think that it is very important to use environmentally friendly methods to realize the goal.

[Full article](#)

### **China adopts revision to Law on Farmers' Specialized Cooperatives**

[english.court.gov.cn, 27.12.2017] -- On December 27, 2017, China's top legislature adopted a revision to the Law on Farmers' Specialized Cooperatives, which granted China's farmers' specialized cooperatives equal legal status with other market entities, as well as rights to invest in enterprises. The revision was adopted at the six-day bi-monthly session of the National People's Congress' (NPC) standing committee, which opened on December 22.

[Full article](#)



# SINO-GERMAN AGRICULTURAL CENTER NEWSLETTER

中德农业中心新闻摘要

December 2017 (Issue No 9)



## Ensure China's Food Security with Higher Standards

[China Daily, 29.12.2017] -- In the past five years, major progress in ensuring food security was made by the Chinese government. In order to meet domestic demand on practical utilization of food, the government implemented the new national food security strategy, focusing on both production and supervision of food. Consequently, agricultural product safety and food quality in China have been enhanced, and urban and rural residents have become more satisfied with food safety.

[Full article](#)

## Rural vitalization strategy, timeline unveiled

[China Daily, 30.12.2017] -- The annual Central Rural Work Conference was held from December 28 to 29, 2017 in Beijing. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, attended and addressed the two-day conference. In the meeting, the timetable for realizing a key strategy to vitalize China's vast countryside was unveiled. Decisive progress will be achieved as of 2035, when modernization of agriculture and rural areas fundamentally become reality.

[Full article](#)

## Census shows China moving towards scale farming

[Xinhua, 15.12.2017] -- Many efforts have been made by the Chinese government to develop scale farming. According to results of the country's third national agricultural survey, China had 3.98 million households engaged in scale farming by the end of 2016. At the same time, the results also demonstrated the weak links in China's rural development, including a low level of agricultural industrialization and a big urban-rural gap.

[Full article](#) (From China Agri-food News Digest No 60, December 2017)

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### NEWS FROM DCZ AND PARTNERS

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](http://www.dcz-china.org)

### Third DCZ Open Day held in Beijing

[China Daily, 30.11.2017] -- Within the framework of the 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> German-Chinese Agricultural Week, the Third DCZ Open Day was held on November 29, 2017 in Beijing. The annual DCZ Open Day serves as a forum to give numerous Sino-German initiatives a platform to present their work through short presentations, a poster session and stands. The forum was a meeting place, where contacts could be made with multiple stakeholders of the Sino-German agricultural sector from all arenas, including projects, science and business.

[Full article](#)

[Farmer's Daily](#) (*in Chinese*)

### Workshop on Food and Nutrition – Strategies and Research

The Sino-German Workshop on “Food and Nutrition – Strategies and Research” was held in Beijing from Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2017, as a major event during the “3<sup>rd</sup> Sino-German Agricultural Week” (Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 2017). It was the second major activity of the DCZ under the broad topic of food and nutrition. Altogether 110 persons attended the 1 ½ day workshop.

[Link to news item on DCZ website](#)

Links to articles about the workshop Chinese news media (*in Chinese*):

[Lifetimes](#)

[China Food Safety Daily](#)

[Farmer's Daily](#)

[China Food Daily](#)

[China Rural Science & Technology](#)

[China Economic Network](#)

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## Announcements of upcoming events

### BVL International Training for Safer Food 2018

For the first time the BVL – German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety offers an advanced training course with the topic „Food Safety and Risk Management”. The event will be taking place in Berlin, Germany from July 9-11, 2018, immediately after the BfR Summer Academy 2018 (see below). The event is free of charge, only costs for accommodation and food will arise.

[Flyer](#) [For up to date information](#)

For further questions, please consult ITS-Food: [its-food@bvl.bund.de](mailto:its-food@bvl.bund.de)

### BfR-Summer Academy on Risk Assessment and Risk Communication

In 2018 the BfR – German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> International Summer Academy on risk assessment and risk communication in the area of food safety. This will take the form of training courses, which will take place from 25<sup>th</sup> June until 06<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in Berlin. The courses will be conducted by highly qualified and experienced BfR scientists as well as external experts with profound and long-standing experience in risk assessment of chemical or microbial risks.

[Flyer](#) [Applications at](#)

For questions regarding the application procedure: [summeracademy@bfr.bund.de](mailto:summeracademy@bfr.bund.de)

### Imprint:

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