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## Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

### 中德农业与食品通讯

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# Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

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## Welcome to DCZ Phase 2

### Dear Colleagues, Friends, Readers,

Phase 2 of the Sino-German Agricultural Centre (DCZ) commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2018 and the new international team would like to introduce themselves in this first edition of this re-styled DCZ Newsletter.

We are thrilled to continue work on this important platform for German-Chinese cooperation on agriculture which has been established in the year 2015. In this second phase the implementing partners are IAK Agrar Consulting and the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) on German side. As before, the DCZ is implemented together with two Chinese partners: The Foreign Economic Cooperation Center and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).

The DCZ Phase 2 will encompass four components

1. Agricultural Policy Dialogue with following topics
  - ◇ Environmentally-friendly sustainable livestock development
  - ◇ Cooperation in the seeds sector
  - ◇ Policy instruments for sustainable agricultural development
2. Agri-Food-Business Dialogue
3. Science Dialogue; S&T platform
4. Public Relations and Networking is an additional element imbedded in the components mentioned above.

In our future editions of the newsletter we intend not only to briefly and regularly report on our DCZ activities, but also provide some additional and hopefully interesting reading on trends and important issues in agriculture in China and Germany. Shortly, we also will have a public account on WeChat and we are working on a re-structured DCZ website with additional information and files for download.

Combining these different tools of information distribution, we will give a public and visible face to the DCZ and hope that we meet your interests.

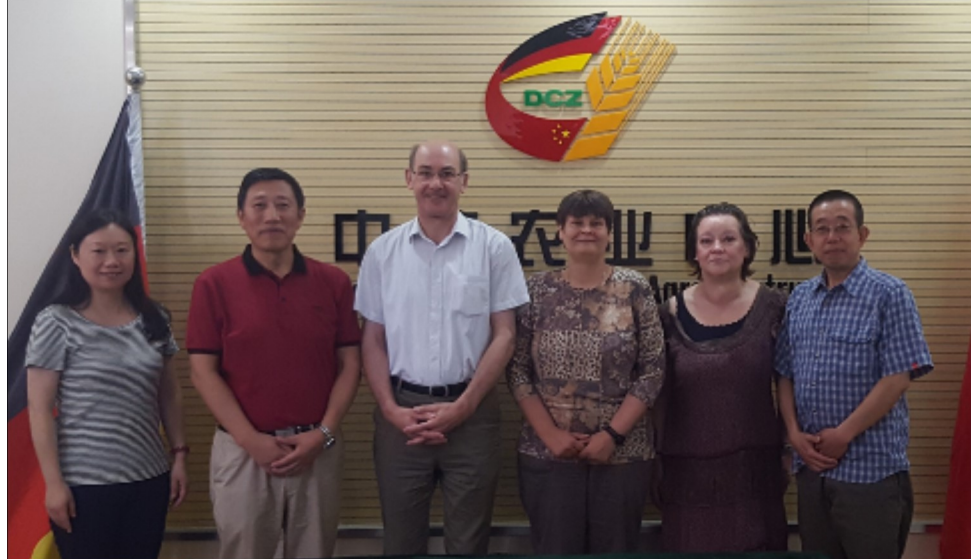
Dr. Jürgen Ritter

Managing Director

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### Introducing the DCZ Phase 2 team



#### **Dr. Jürgen Ritter**

German Managing Director (DCZ)

has been in China since 2001 and was involved in the implementation of several cooperation projects between the European Union and China, mainly in the fields of Village Governance and EU-China Policy Dialogues.

Previously Jürgen Ritter worked as lecturer at the Institute of Chinese Studies at University of Tübingen in Germany, spent several years in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and after 17 years in Beijing regards this as his second home.

#### **Dr. sc.agr. Tanja Jaksch**

Advisor Political Dialogue (APD)

brings in her long experience as researcher and director of international projects in the agricultural sector (including Academy of Agricultural

Sciences Berlin and later Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung Institute (ZALF) Muencheberg, Head of the Office of the Marketing Association of German Agricultural Economics (CMA) in Warsaw and Head of the Agricultural Policy Dialogue in Kazakhstan, representative of Messe Berlin for Kazakhstan and Hong Kong Messe).

#### **Dr. Eva Sternfeld**

Advisor Science Dialogue and S&T Platform

is specialized in issues related to China's environmental policies and resource economy.

Prior to working with DCZ, Eva Sternfeld was a visiting professor at the Institute for East Asian Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and head of the Center for Cultural Studies on Science and Technology in China of the Berlin Institute of Technology

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(TU Berlin). Between 2000 and 2008 she has been working as a foreign advisor for the Center of Environmental Education and Communication of the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection in Beijing. She has widely published on issues related to urban/rural development and water management in China.

### **Prof. Liu Yonggong**

Local Agri-business Expert

Is a Professor at the Faculty of Development Studies, College of Humanities and Development (COHD), China Agricultural University (CAU) in Beijing. From 1986 to 1988 and 1990 to 1991 as young visiting scholar he went twice to Hohenheim University for carrying out joint research programs in animal science and rural development studies. Since 1991, besides academic activities at the university, he also served as senior consultant for about 70 agricultural and rural development projects financed by Chinese government and international development agencies, such as World Bank, ADB, UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNESCO, GEF, IFAD as well as by bilateral agencies like GIZ, EU, DFID, AusAID.

### **Dr. sc.agr. Deng Zhixin**

Local Agricultural Expert

has 26 years of professional experience in China, Germany and Africa, 7 years of which in international projects in production management, research and consulting in the fields of sustainable development of agriculture and forestry.

He is familiar with Chinese agriculture and forestry and has extensively worked in following fields: land use and development, sustainable management of natural resources (timber, palm oil, coffee, tea, mango, bamboo), agribusiness value chain integration and certification, farming system adaptation on climate change.

### **Ms. Tang Bing**

Project Assistant

has long-term experience with Sino-German cooperation projects before joining DCZ. She assists the project team, especially the team leader in their activities and is responsible for office management and financial matters.

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### Top DCZ events

#### May 31, 2018 DCZ Phase 2 , Launch Event held at German Em- bassy

Around 90 participants joined us for the Launch Event of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the DCZ. The partners and experts from various agencies, research institutes and companies were addressed by Mr. Friedrich Wacker, Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation & Global Food Policy in the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), and Mr. Tang Shengyao, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Interna-



Friedrich Wacker



Tang Shengyao

tional Cooperation in the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). Both acknowledged the achievements made in phase 1 and expressed their expectations and

wishes for an even more vibrant and successful phase 2 of this unique co-operation platform that has been established by the two ministries in 2015.

Mr. Yang Yi of the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (affiliated to MARA) and political director of the DCZ on Chinese side further elaborated on the previous cooperation before the two DCZ Managing Directors, Mr. Tang Zhishao of FECC and Dr. Juergen Ritter, introduced the DCZ and the planned activities.

One more highlight of the event was the signing of an Implementation Agreement on the Science & Technology Dialogue within the DCZ between the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences and IAK Agrar Consulting, the implementing partner on German side. Professor Gong Xifeng and Ms. Marie Künstling did the honors and signed the agreement for both sides.



*Ms. Marie Künstling of IAK Agrar Consulting and Prof. Gong Xifeng signing the MoU on the S&T platform*



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**June 2-3, 2018 Sino-German Agribusiness Conference 2018 & 8th Chengdu Organic Agriculture Forum held in Pujiang County, Chengdu, Sichuan Province**



The Sino-German Agribusiness Conference 2018 & 8<sup>th</sup> Chengdu Organic Agriculture Forum which was held in Pujiang County, Chengdu, Sichuan Province from 2 to 3 June 2018 and was the first major project activity in this phase of DCZ. The event was jointly organized by DCZ, FECC, Sichuan Provincial Agriculture Department, Chengdu Municipal Government and Pujiang County Government. All together about 400 participants, representing governmental officials, organic agriculture researchers, university professors, agricultural enterprises and cooperatives from China and Germany, attended the two-day event.



Dr. Friedrich Guth



Dr. Jürgen Ritter

The opening session was chaired by Mr. Tang Zhishao, Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (FECC) and Chinese Managing Director of DCZ.

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Madame Yan Jing, Deputy Secretary General of Chengdu Municipal Government, Mrs. Ingrid Delfs, Administrative Consular of German General Consulate in Chengdu, Mr. Li Hongtao, Deputy Director General of FECC, Dr. Dietrich Guth, former Director General of International Cooperation Department, German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and Mr. Xiao Xiaoyu, Chief Economist of Sichuan Agriculture Department, delivered their welcome speeches.

The Keynote Speech Session on Green and Sustainable Agriculture was chaired by Dr. Jürgen Ritter, the German Managing Director of DCZ.

Dr. Ye Xingqing, Director General of Rural Economic Department of Development Research Center (DRC) of China's State Council, highlighted the importance of green development in Chinese rural revitalization and put forward policy recommendations for achieving green agricultural development in China. Prof. Dr. Harald von Witzke, President of Humboldt Forum for Food and Agriculture, reviewed the evolution of German agriculture in economic development and highlighted how the governmental policies and technical innovations impacted agricultural development. Other presentations by Prof. Deng Liangji, Sichuan Agricultural University and Dr. Lena Kuhn (IAMO) focused on the tasks for science to promote sustainable agriculture. Dr. Zhang Jibing, Deputy Director of the Organic Food Development Center

(OFDC) presented an impressive approach for digitalization of the organic food certification process.

The six presentations of the afternoon session focused on R&D and Innovation for Green and Sustainable Agriculture.

The Panel Discussion on Organic, Green and Sustainable Agriculture was chaired by Prof. Liu Yonggong of China Agricultural University and DCZ Advisor for the Agribusiness Dialogue. The panelists included Mr. Zhao Wubin, Deputy Governor of Pujiang County, Prof. Harald von Witzke, Mr. Reiner Carstens, Prof. Qi Yanbin from Sichuan Agricultural University, Prof. Yuan Donglai, Chief Scientist of Hezhong Holding and Mr. Yang Zhaoxin, Chairman of Sichuan Provincial Certification Association.



Another meeting was held in the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> of June which served the purpose of strengthening the cooperation between enterprises and cooperatives.

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On 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, the Pujiang County Government invited the conference participants to visit The Center for Arable Land Conservation and Soil Management, Bosch and KUKA Manufacturing Companies located in Pujiang Sino-German Small and Medium Enterprise Cooperation Park, Pujiang New Industrial Park Planning Center, Joyvio Kiwi Plantation and Blueberry Production Base.



TianAn's CEO Madame Liu Yanfei accompanied us to visit the processing workshop and introduced the chain of vegetable production and marketing. TianAn has introduced a QR code-based traceability system programmed by SAP and an APP for smart phones to provide extension service to each of the 700 farmers under contract of the company.



### More DCZ activities

#### **May 14 – 17, 2018 Visiting program for Institute for Agricultural Production and Resource Economics, TU Munich**

Between May 14 to 17 DCZ organized a visiting program for Professor Dr. Johannes Sauer and his assistant Stefan Wimmer from the Institute for Agricultural Production and Resource Economics, Technical University of Munich. Sauer and Wimmer were in Beijing to evaluate possible research cooperation in the field of agri-economics.

DCZ organized farm visits (Xiaotangshan Vegetable Production Demonstration Park, TianAn Agriculture Co. and an organic farm of Dong Brothers Group, South-West of Beijing).

*J.Sauer, S.Wimmer, Liu Yanfei, Liu Yonggong, E. Sternfeld at TianAn company*





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On May 17, Prof. Sauer, Stefan Wimmer (TUM) and Eva Sternfeld visited the Division of Agricultural Resources Utilization at the Institute of Agriculture Resources and Regional Planning (IARRP) of CAAS.



### May 22, 2018 China Top Wine Beijing

Germany's most renowned wineries were represented at this year's *Top Wine China Fair* in the International Convention Centre on the Olympic grounds in northern Beijing.

The head of the exhibition stand of the German Wine Institute Manuela Liebchen reported of a booming market since 2017. Germany was able to increase its wine exports to China by 36% from 2016/2017 to about 22 million USD. China is a market with a future and high potential. However,

80% of Chinese wine drinkers prefer red wine!

Further information on the event and the Chinese wine market can be obtained from Dr. T. Jaksch, DCZ, APD.

### May 24-25, 2018 International Symposium on Soil and Sustainable Development

Tanja Jaksch und Eva Sternfeld (DCZ) participated in the International Symposium, an event held in Beijing jointly organized by FAO, Global Soil Partnership, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Agriculture and the Beijing Soil Fertilizer Extension Service Station. Several presentations by Chinese participants focused on issues related to black soil. Soil degradation and decreasing fertility of black soil in North Eastern China has in recent years become one of the major concerns. Prof. Ren Tucheng (China Agricultural University) showed impressive experiments to improve organic content of the soils by no till farming systems and crop rotation. Soil pollution was another issue that was widely discussed. According to Natalia Rodriguez Eugenio (soil Expert Consultant for FAO) in China, every year an estimated 12 million tons of grain are not suitable for consumption because of soil pollution.

For more information about the conferences please see the [FAO website](#).

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### **May 29-30, 2018 4<sup>th</sup> Field Day in the German-Chinese Arable and Agricultural Technology Demonstration Park Huanghai**

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May, the 4<sup>th</sup> Field Day of the German-Chinese Arable and Agricultural Engineering Demonstration Park (DCALDP) was held with participation of representatives from BMEL, MARA and GFA. For DCZ Tanja Jaksch participated in the event.

The DCALDP covers an area of 166 ha, which have been provided by the Chinese project partner Jiangsu Provincial Agricultural Reclamation and Development Corporation (SKIAD). 12 European partners are participating in this project. The 4<sup>th</sup> Field Day marked the last major activity of the first phase of the project for demonstration of modern sustainable farming techniques, modern agricultural machinery and adapted cultivation methods. It provided an opportunity to present the knowledge and experience gained over the three years, showcasing the cultivation and growth of crops and the practical use of state-of-the-art agricultural technology from Germany. SKIAD and the GFA as well as nine business partner companies signed the agreement to continue the project for another 12 months in a festive ceremony. The main objective is the exchange and development of a cooperation platform for crop production, agricultural technology and agricultural training with a view to the sustainable and green development of Chinese agriculture.

### **June 5, 2018 Lecture and presentation at China Food Business event in Shanghai**

12 representatives of German export companies and 40 representatives of Chinese importers took part in the event sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and hosted by the German Export Service GmbH and the GIC Greater China - Shanghai. In a workshop, information was provided on new customs and import regulations, primarily on the problems of certification of organic products and approval procedures, as well as on logistics procedures (DHL). At invitation of the organizers, Dr. Jaksch informed about the tasks and goals of the DCZ project. Later during an onsite inspection at Shanghai METRO and Citymarket stores, Dr. Jaksch explained how synergy effects can be used to improve product placement of products of German origin.

### **Good to know**

#### **China's total arable land falls for fourth year in 2017**

According to a report of the Ministry of Natural Resources China's total arable land fell to 134.86 million ha in 2017, a decline by 60,900 ha compared to the previous year. Thus, narrowing the gap to the 120 million ha of arable land that according to the national policy are defined as red line for ensuring food security. [More](#)

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### **Organic Farming: New EU rules adopted**

On May 22, new EU rules on organic farming and labelling of organic products have been adopted. The new rules are designed to cope with fast growing global organic food market. Production rules are simplified and harmonized. The control system will be strengthened along the entire supply chain. Producers from third countries will have to comply with the same rules as producers from EU countries.

[More](#)

[Download the document](#)

### **China launches “emergency” campaign to boost soy output**

Amidst the trade conflict with the US, China is undertaking efforts to increase domestic soybean production. According to Reuters a recent document by the provincial government of Heilongjiang, one of China’s major grain producing regions, calls for an extra 5 million Mu (333,333 ha) to be planted with soybeans in 2018. [More](#)

### **China’s soybean imports drop below 7 million tons in April**

Corresponding to the efforts mentioned above to increase domestic soybean production in April a sharp drop by almost 14 percent in soybean imports due to VAT changes have been reported. [More](#)

### **US-China Sorghum Fight Puts Dumping in the spotlight**

The recent trade conflict between China and US, and China’s (later re-

voked) announcement to impose tariffs up to 178% on sorghum imports caused turmoil on the global grain markets. According to the US Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy the announcement of such high tariffs did not come out of the blue but is based on an ongoing Chinese investigation into U.S. dumping of sorghum, that China in recent years has been importing as animal feed.

[More](#)

### **Publications and useful links**

**China’s Foreign Agriculture Investment** by Elizabeth Gooch and Fred Gale, USDA Economic Information Bulletin, Number 192, April 2018

Chinese companies are increasing their investments in foreign agricultural ventures. According to the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture in 2016 over 1,300 Chinese companies had overseas investment of 26 billion US\$ in the field of agriculture, food processing, fisheries, seed and related fields. In this study Gooch and Gale show that Chinese investors so far tended to enter less-developed countries where there is potential for raising productivity by introducing Chinese technology. Only recently Chinese investors also shifted their interest to Europe and North America. In the headlines were ChemChina’s acquisition of Syngenta, a Swiss farm chemical and seed company and COFCO’s purchase of two major agricultural trading companies – Nobel Agri and Nidera. The study can be [downloaded here](#).

**Pursuing sustainable productivity with millions of smallholder farmers.** By Zhenling Cui, Zhang Fusuo et al. Nature, March 2018. Vol. 555, 363-366.

This report presents the results of 10 years long-term investigation of 1152 researchers and 20.9 million farmers of 452 counties involved. It shows that over the years farmers, who participated in the experiment have been able to increase yields on average by more than 10 percent and at the same time lowered use of nitrogen fertilizers by 15-18 percent. Researchers conducted more than 13,000 field trials testing the soil-crop system management program (ISSM), a model that helps to determine which crop variety, planting date density, fertilizer use and other strategies will work best. Tests were done with maize, rice and wheat. In later stage farmers of 452 counties were in involved. The impressive result showed, that there is room for massive improvement in sustainable and efficient farming.

**Future looks bright for better pig welfare in China.**

This report by Irene Camerlink, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria provides insights into recent efforts to improve farm animal welfare in China. In November 2017 the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) has signed the first set of standards called 'China Animal Welfare Assessment General principles' for the principles and requirements of animal welfare evaluation. This year a first proposal for farm animal legislation at law level has been

submitted to the National People's Congress. [More](#)

**Urban Farming Incubator Manual. Guide to Urban Farming in Shanghai & Berlin** by CITYMAKERS Urban Farming Incubator.

How do you start your own edible urban gardening space in a big city like Shanghai or Berlin? An interdisciplinary team of urban gardening enthusiasts from cities within the CITYMAKERS China-Germany Program, sponsored by Robert Bosch Stiftung has compiled a hand-on manual with tips and experiences to help you to build up new community urban farming spaces or get connected with existing ones. Over 30 case studies in Germany and China give you an overview over different growing systems such as rooftop, raised beds, aquaponic and hydroponic systems. The manual can be [downloaded here](#).

### Upcoming events

**10-12 September, 2018, Harbin  
Global Symposium on Black Soils  
(ISBS 18)**

The Symposium aims to promote the sustainable use and management of black soils and identify relevant research gaps within countries with black soils. For more information and registration please refer to or contact [Yuxin.tong@fao.org](mailto:Yuxin.tong@fao.org)

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**19-21 October 2018, 7<sup>th</sup> Leman China Swine Conference & 2018 World Swine Industry Expo**, Zhengzhou International Convention and Exhibition Centre

As the world's largest and most influential swine industry event, the Allen D. Leman Swine Conference was founded in 1985 and has 33 years' history. The conference was introduced into China in 2012. Now, with 4518 participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> conference, Leman China was considered one of the most valuable meetings in the swine industry. More at <http://en.lemanchina.com>

**November 2018, Sino-German Agricultural week.** More details soon.

### Imprint

This issue was compiled by the international DCZ team. For enquiries and subscription please send an email to [info-dcz@iagleipzig.de](mailto:info-dcz@iagleipzig.de)

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