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Sino-German Agricultural Centre (DCZ) 中德农业中心



Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update 中德农业与食品通讯

No. 13 November 2020 – February 2021



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Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

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In this issue

Foreword

Cover Story

- Highlights of 2021 No.1 Document

Good to Know

- *Politics and Law*: Leadership change at MARA; and more...
- *Economics and Trade*: Anti-COVID measures on imported frozen food; and more...
- *Science*: Five Chinese agricultural universities among the top ten of world agricultural universities; and more...

DCZ Activities

- 6th Sino-German Agricultural Week held in Beijing
- Participation in Seminar on EU-China Agreement on Geographical Indications (GIs)
- Participation in Workshop “Chinese Investment in Europe”
- Participation in “Insights on Agriculture and Rural Affairs” Forum by CAAS
- DCZ S&T Platform participates in International Conference on Progress in Manure and Digestate

DCZ in the Media

- “Growth Center” – Article in China Daily introduces the DCZ

Bilateral Research Cooperation

Call for Papers

Useful Websites

Recommended Reading

Upcoming Events 2021

Imprint

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Foreword

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

We hope you had a smooth and healthy start in the Year 2021 and the Year of the Buffalo.

This edition of the DCZ newsletter covers a period of four months – and despite the holiday season they were quite eventful.

Already in December the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs announced the arrival of the new minister, Mr. Tang Renjian, who succeeds Mr. Han Changfu in this position. You will find a brief introduction of the new minister in this edition.

The Ministry's key areas and objectives for 2021 and the coming years are formulated in the new Central Document No. 1, published on 21 February, outlining the expected direction of development in the title "Comprehensively Promoting Rural Revitalization and Accelerating Agricultural and Rural Modernization". To ensure the achievements in the field of poverty alleviation continued support will be provided during a transition period. Rural revitalization, green development and food security are continued as general development goals while the emphasis on the seeds industry and research is a significant, new feature in this Document. The enhanced development of the seed sector, seeds as "microchips of agriculture", are identified as a key to addressing many agricultural issues. The DCZ expert Dr. Aihemaitijiang Rouzi presents and analyses the highlights of the Central Documents in the Cover Story.

Of course, this newsletter also fills you in on a selection of our own activities, in particular a review of the Sino-German Agricultural Week (30 November to 3 December 2020), which this time also included the Agribusiness Conference. The COVID-19 situation did not allow the physical participation of German representatives of the BMEL and other experts, but thanks to the available technology this hybrid event with online and on-site contributions by high-level decision-makers and excellent experts addressed meaningful issues in the fields of "Modern Farm Management", "Smart Agriculture" and "Security and Nutrition in a Changing World".

Furthermore, interesting news is compiled in the "Good to Know" section, and for the purpose of "self-promotion" I would like to draw your attention to an additional website established by the DCZ and dedicated to the topic "Smart Agriculture" at <https://smart-agriculture.org/>. You will find interviews with decision-makers, practitioners and experts which are the result of a "virtual study tour" with subtitles in German, English and Chinese.

We hope this edition of the DCZ newsletter can again provide you with some interesting and valuable information and wish you happy reading.

With best wishes



Dr. Jürgen Ritter
Managing Director
Sino-German Agricultural Centre (DCZ)

Cover Story

Highlights of 2021 No.1 Document

Dr. Aihemaitijiang Rouzi, DCZ, Beijing

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council jointly released the Document No. 1 on 21 February 2021. This year's Document No. 1 is in line with China's 14th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for 2021-2025 and economic goals set out to 2035. This document is entitled "Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Comprehensively Promoting Rural Revitalization and Accelerating Agricultural and Rural Modernization". The document includes five major sections and 26 paragraphs and clearly lists the targets and tasks concerning agriculture and rural areas for 2021, as well as a broader vision for the period up to 2025.

I Major highlights of 2021 Document No. 1

1. **Poverty eradication:** 2020 was the year that China eliminated extreme poverty, which is defined as earning less than \$620 a year, according to China's official poverty definition (BBC). On 25 February 2021, President Xi declared complete victory on "eradicating extreme poverty". "According to the current criteria, all 98.99 million poor rural population have been taken out of poverty, and 832 poverty-stricken counties as well as 128,000 villages have been removed from the poverty list," Xi said (BBC). That definition of the poverty line as less than 4,000 yuan (\$620) a year, or \$1.69 per day is less than the World Bank's threshold of \$1.90 a day and well below the \$5.50 per day that economists recommend for upper-middle-income countries (Washington Post). Hence, despite these achievements, China still has a long way to tackle relative poverty and structural inequalities in the years to come. Therefore,

2021's No. 1 Document put heavy emphasis on consolidating the achievements of poverty eradication.

The Document No. 1 proposes that after the completion of the poverty alleviation goals and tasks in 2020, a five-year transition period will be established for counties who have escaped poverty. The document also recommends establishing a monitoring system to prevent returning to poverty and an assistance mechanism. To keep the momentum, mass-scale employment, rural industrialization, infrastructure development and social management initiatives will be initiated and expanded. The document requires that during the transition period, overall stability of the current main assistance policies will be maintained in order to achieve the transition from poverty alleviation to comprehensive promotion of rural revitalization. During this period, social assistance to farmers will be continued. The document also instructed to establish low-income population monitoring system where targeted employment and social assistance programs can be initiated to help those who are concerned. Central and western regions of China will be in the main focus of these efforts. Farmers' income will be doubled from 2010 level. After the release of the document, on 25 February 2021, the National Rural Revitalization Bureau (国家乡村振兴局) has been established under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs to consolidate the achievements of poverty eradication and promote rural revitalization. This new Bureau replaces the former "State council office for poor region's economic development" (Sina). At vice-ministerial level the new bureau provides a powerful administration which will give a new momentum to China's rural revitalization efforts.

2. **Rural revitalization:** A modernized rural industrial production system shall be established in which village, township and counties will be integrated into broader agricultural value chains. It is aimed that by 2025, 500 modern agricultural demonstration zones will be established. The “Ten thousand enterprises in ten thousand villages” campaign should be initiated to further enhance the development of villages. Rural road construction, rural drinking water infrastructure, rural sanitation, clean toilet initiatives, rural digitalization, improvements in integrated function of the village will be realized. By 2025, running drinking water coverage in rural areas will be increased to 88%. Following the given plan, the modernization of agriculture and rural areas will reach significant progress by 2025 and the construction of rural infrastructure and modernization will be basically completed. The digital rural development will be intensified by further expansion of 5G, mobile and internet-based logistics.
 3. **Rural green development:** As in previous No. 1 documents, the 2021 document sets a focus on soil rehabilitation, especially of the degraded fertile black soil in China’s North-eastern grain belt. As in former documents, it stresses that reliance on mineral fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides shall be reduced and green agricultural development shall be promoted, Agri-chemical packages recycle campaign should be initiated. The document further proposes to establish a series of experimental counties for agricultural pollution control along the Yangtze and Yellow river economic belt. In addition, it is stressed to improve monitoring and certification of “green” agriculture products¹. The document further stresses the importance of “returning farmlands into forests”, the grassland restoration compensation policy and promotion of combatting desertification, soil pollution prevention and water protection measures.
 4. **Food security:** The document states that functional grain production zones and important agricultural zones should be constructed, and a national food security production belt should be established. The document emphasizes to keep the “red line” of 1.8 billion mu (120 million hectare) of arable land for food security and aims to sustain 100 million mu (6.6 million hectare) of high-quality farmland to ensure high yields and stable production through 2021. The use of farmland for “non- agricultural” purposes and conversion of croplands to production of nongrain crops should be curbed and strictly controlled. Overall food grain production will be kept above 650 million tons. A policy system in which provincial governors are responsible for food security and municipal mayors are responsible for the “vegetable basket” will be implemented and continued.
- The document stresses the importance of insuring “grain, cotton, oil, sugar and meat” supply security. The document also states that the policy to guarantee minimum prices for rice and wheat will be continued, corn and soybean will continue to be targeted by the existing subsidy policy. Experimental zones for testing cost and income insurances for rice, wheat and corn will be established and expanded. To optimize agricultural trade, agricultural import diversification will be implemented and companies’ entrance into the global agricultural supply chain will be supported.

¹ It should be noted that there are two official terms: “green” (lüse) is more general environmentally friendly production, but not necessarily fully avoiding the use of agrichemicals). Organic (youji) refers to certified organic products (without use of agrochemicals).

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

According to the document, reliable pork production will be sustained, the lamb and beef sector will be actively developed, and the milk sector will be revitalized. For the first time, the No.1 Document notes the prevention of food waste and proposes food waste prevention in production, transportation, storage and consumption.

5. **Seed and breeding:** The document states that the development and utilization of agricultural seed sources/germplasm should be strengthened, and a national germplasm bank should be established. The implementation of major scientific and technological projects in agricultural biological breeding shall gain momentum. It is stated that a plan for new series of genetically improved poultry and animal breeding and plant seeds should be realized and the application of biological breeding should also be promoted. Furthermore, protection mechanisms for intellectual properties of seed and breeding should be intensified. Leading enterprises in the seed industry shall be supported to establish and improve commercial breeding systems. The construction of the Nanfan Center for Seed and Animal Breeding, the so-called “Southern Silicon Valley” in Hainan province, aims to strengthen the construction of seed production bases and improved seed breeding systems, to study major varieties of research, development and post-promotion subsidy policies, and to promote the integrated development of breeding.

II Implications and potentials for Sino-German Cooperation in agriculture

The No.1 Document could provide multiple avenues to further Sino-German cooperation in the agriculture sector. Germany can share many lessons and experiences with China learnt from its rural revitalization initiatives; particularly, Germany’s green development and the EU “green new deal”

could provide valuable lessons for Chinese rural green development. German companies also could offer collaboration in seed and breeding sector with their Chinese counterparts. China can also share its advancements in digitalization of the agriculture and agri-food e-commerce technology. Although Sino-German agricultural trade was impacted by the outbreak of swine flu in Germany and COVID-19, trade opportunities for the two countries in the agri-food sector can be expected to expand in the future.

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Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update



Tang Renjian



Han Changfu

Good to Know

Politics and Law

Leadership change at Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Affairs

After being appointed as Party Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in November 2020, Mr. Tang Renjian also succeeded Mr. Han Changfu as new Minister in December 2020.

Before taking over his new positions in the MARA, Tang Renjian, 58 years old and a native of Chongqing, was governor of Gansu Province since 2017. He now replaces the 66-year-old Han Changfu who has served as Minister of Agriculture since 2009 and was head of the Central Rural Work Group for the last two years.

Tang has been involved in a number of rural policy and poverty alleviation working groups, including the drafting of the 2004 "Document No. 1" that launched China's first program of rural subsidies and cancellation of agricultural taxes. His works include "Respond to the Challenge of Entering WTO with the Strategy of Unbalanced Competition," "Developing 'Company Agriculture' and Agricultural Companies," "Nurturing Rural Informal Financial Organizations," and

"Establishing Agriculture's Tax-Free Era".

Source: dimsums.blogspot, 22 December 2020

NPC reviews draft law on food waste

On 22 December China's top legislature, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), reviewed the first draft of a proposed law on food waste. The law is seen as a crucial move to reduce food waste, which is estimated to amount to 35 million tons of grain annually and 12 percent of China's harvests along the production chain. A report based on a nationwide field survey states that pre consumptions losses due to outdated storage facilities, logistics and processing technologies are heavy. The survey also mentions that up to 18 million tons of food are wasted every year in the catering industry.

The 32-article draft law stipulates that the governments above county level should establish banks and encourage food producers to donate unsold edible food to people in need via social organisations and charities. Livestreaming and other programs about excessive eating will be banned. The draft also suggests restaurants should remind customers not to order too much.



“Clean plates look better”. Poster in a Beijing restaurant (photo: DCZ)

The Standing Committee of NPC also considers a legislation on food security that takes into account food waste.

Source: Global Times, 22 December 2020

Yangtze River fishing bans comes into effect

On 1 January 2021 a 10-year fishing ban along the Yangtze-river basin came into effect. According to MARA, more than 200,000 fishermen will be affected by the regulation and need to find new employments. It is hoped that the seriously degraded ecosystem of China's largest river will recover and fish population including endangered species will increase again. However, as some ecologists point out the fishing ban might not be enough to bring back some migratory fish such as the Chinese sturgeon and the Chinese paddle fish which experts believe to be already extinct. They point out that over-fishing was not the only reason for declining fish populations but also habitat fragmentation by the massive transformation of the river in the past decades. And beside the fish-

ing ban also ecological restoration is required. One reason for the serious decline of migratory fish is that their common routes are cut off by hydropower dams, which – as in the case of the Gezhouba dam – do not include fish ladders.

<https://www.thethirdpole.net/2020/11/24/ten-year-yangtze-fishing-ban-not-enough-to-save-migratory-species/>

Call for improving China's seed industry and domestic animal breeding

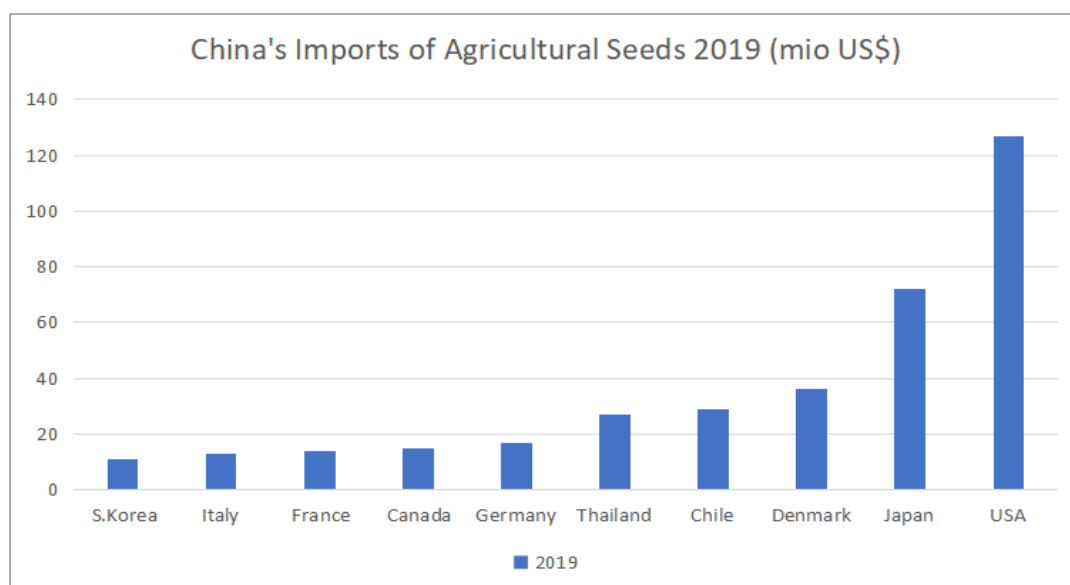
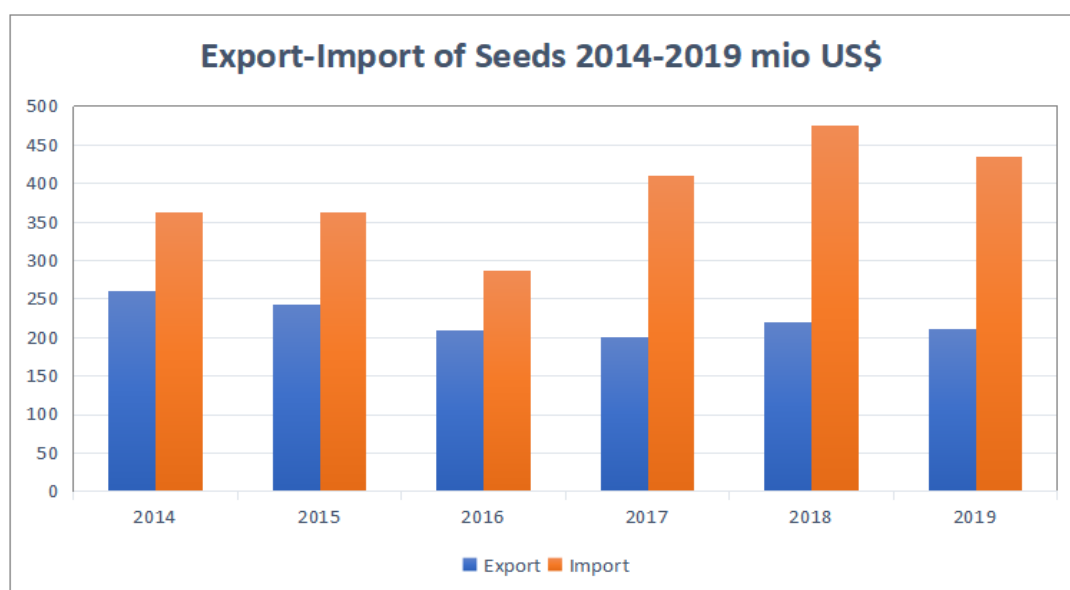
According to the Central Economic Work Conference that was held mid of December 2020, the improvement of China's domestic seed industry will be one of China's major strategies to ensure food security in the future. The call for development of a home-grown industry for “microchips for agriculture”, as the importance of seeds was labelled by some commentaries, comes in times of continuing trade frictions with the US, Australia and Canada. At present about 10 percent of seeds for corn and 13 percent for vegetables, notably broccoli, sugar beet and onions, are supplied by foreign companies. And according to official media, yield of soybeans and corn grown from Chinese seed supplies are lower than those of developed countries, and China cannot supply some seeds for vegetables grown in greenhouses. It is said the China's entire seed industry's investment in research & development is less than half of the German company Bayer. Consequently, China's seed strategy seeks to strengthen the development of seed banks and the collaboration between research institutes and seed companies. A center for seed related research, also labeled as the “Silicon Valley for Seed and Animal Breeding” is under development near Sanya in the southern island of Hainan. In Hainan's tropical climate, China also aims to develop advanced seed varieties for export to neighbouring South

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Asian countries.

While some Chinese experts stress the protection of “native” seeds that in recent years are increasingly eliminated in the course of modern hybrid varieties, the call for innovative seed technologies is also a call for further domestic opening up for genome editing and

genetically modified (GM) crops. Less than a month after the Central Economic Work Conference, the Chinese government approved genetically modified corn developed by Chinese companies. On 11 January 2021, MARA published a list of genetically modified crops for biosafety certificates. The list feature corn varieties developed by Beijing Dabeinong



Graphs: Import and export of seeds to and from China (2014-2019) Source: China National Seed Trade Association (CNSTA); Analysis of 2019 China seed import export trade statistics 2019 中国种子贸易协会：2019 年中国农作物种子进出口贸易数据分析。

(DBN), a company engaged in swine production and crop breeding. The approved variety DBN9936 is resistant against the corn borer and tolerant to herbicide glyphosate. Another approved variety has been DBN 9858 to prevent development of resistant pests. Both varieties are now approved for production in China's major corn producing areas.

For animal breeding the reliance on foreign breeds is even higher. About 80 percent of breeding Holstein Cattle is imported. China also imports 10,000 breeding pigs every year. But imports increased after the ASF crisis. 40 percent of breeding pigs are imported from Denmark, but China is also importing from other countries including France, Germany, US and UK.

To reduce reliance on foreign breed Hubei Province will become China's first high-end boar selection and breeding demonstration base, where cloning technologies will be applied to protect endangered local boar species. The base in Jingmen, run by the Hubei Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Hubei Jinbao boar genetic Technology Corp is intended to protect precious and endangered local boar species and break the foreign monopoly of some top breeds and make China's pork industry more independent.

Sources: Global Times 18 and 30 December 2020, Dim Sums 17 January 2021

For more information about China's seed sector, please also check DCZ's recent study "Seed Market in China" (2020) by Liu Yong-gong und Ba Feng. PDF available at <https://www.dcz-china.org/en/dcz-publications.html>

Economics and Trade

COVID 19 impacts - Anti-COVID measures on imported frozen food

Amidst an international debate about the origins of the COVID-19 virus Chinese authorities make efforts to prove that there is the possibility of virus transmission via imported frozen food. After single cases of infections of workers working in the cold chain industry have been reported, Chinese authorities have focused their epidemic prevention work on this sector of the food industry. Measures include testing and disinfection at customs, protection of workers throughout the shipment chains, regular testing and, since January, also inoculation of workers. Although the WHO and international public health experts say that the risk of becoming infected by touching food packaging is low, Chinese authorities want cold-chain products to be disinfected and imposed bans on firms whose products have tested positive. On 1 November 2020, Beijing Municipality launched a cold-chain tracing digital platform. As *China Dialogue* reports, all imported frozen food products, including beef, pork, poultry and fish have to be registered on the platform before they can enter the Beijing marketplace. Several other local governments including Wuxi in Jiangsu have introduced their own platforms. On 24 November, China's State Council ordered an "Imported food cold chain comprehensive disinfection work program" that requires frozen food to be held separately in ports, tested, and disinfected, before being released to the domestic market. Massive testing campaigns have found traces of the virus on a handful of boxes of imported frozen meat and seafood, none of the food inside the boxes tested positive. According to a spokesperson of the National Food Safety Risk Assessment Center, positive results were only found in 4.8 out 100,000 samples tested. Most positive tests of imported meat and seafood have been found in storage warehouses in ports such as Dalian, Tianjin and Yingkou. In Shanghai, the largest port for imported meat, in November about 130,000 samples of imported food were

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

taken, but none tested positive. However, there were single reports about Argentinian and Brazilian meat that were tested positive several months after the shipment reached the Shanghai port. It was also reported that imports of those companies, where food packages had tested positive, would be suspended. In early November Chinese media linked a package of German pork knuckles imported from Bremen via Tianjin to a smaller outbreak in a community in Tianjin's harbour district Binhai. Later, after the intervention of the German Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL), who according to Global Times stated "it was unlikely that the German pork knuckles had triggered the infections in China", the Tianjin Center for Disease Control and Prevention corrected their investigation results and now stated "that the recent infections were caused by pig heads from North America, which contaminated pork knuckles from Germany".

End of January the Beijing local government announced that it will further strengthen supervision of imported cold-chain food. The city ordered that from 12 February all imported foods stored at temperatures of 0 degrees and below must make their sources and

points of travel traceable. This includes frozen grain products (such as noodles), dairy products (such as ice cream), frozen vegetables, fruits and drinks. No company or individual should purchase, operate, use, transport or store any cold-chain foods that do not have traceable data, including certificates and inspection and quarantine. Data shall be uploaded on the platform "Beijing cold-chain".

Some analysts fear that the policies on handling imported frozen food have an impact on food supply and market prices. In fact, China imported a record of 7.4 million metric tons of meat in the first three quarters of 2020. An increase of 2.23 million tons of imported pork made up for the ASF related decline in Chinese pork production. The stricter screening at the customs and disinfection rules also have led to a congestion of harbours, because now it takes several days longer to unload shipments. According to a report by Bloomberg at the end of January, hundreds of containers were being held up in Dalian, one of China's major ports for seafood imports. Some supermarkets also report a sharp decline in demand for fish products, as consumers are reluctant to buy frozen food.

Sources: Dimsums blogspot 21 December 2020; SCMP 11 November 2020; Global Times 11, 15, 24, 25 November 2020; China Dialogue, Bloomberg 31 January 2021

German pork knuckles 'scapegoat' for N American pig heads in Tianjin infections

By GT staff reporters Source: Global Times Published: 2020/11/25 20:08:40



Screenshot Global times

EU regulation for organic food imports from China makes testing for pesticide residues mandatory

The "Guidelines on additional controls on products originating from China" (effective from 01/01/21 to 31/12/21) introduce stricter controls for pesticide residues in organic food and feed originating from China, specifically cereals, oil seed and oleaginous fruits,

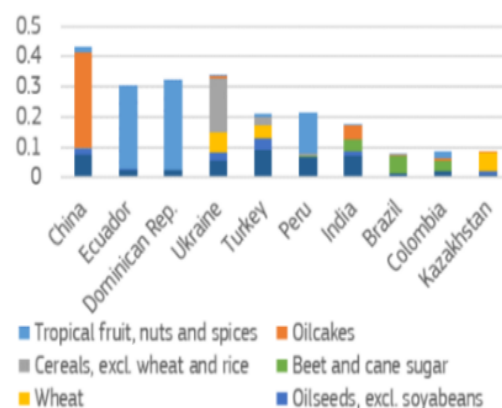
Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

seeds and fruit, industrial or medicinal plants, straw and fodder, residues and waste from food industries and Goji berries as well as products processed from them. All consignments of the mentioned products are required to come with complete documentation (certificate of inspection, customs declaration, transport documents and operators and product traceability from farmer to exporter and operators in between). At least one sample for pesticide testing shall be taken per consignment by using methods described by EU regulations conducted in accredited laboratories. If pesticides residues or other irregularities are detected, a notification to the EU Commissions Organic Farming Information System (OFIS) shall be made.

The guidelines further note that due to COVID-19 pandemic the implementation of some measures might be hampered in some member states, but as soon as related restrictions have been lifted the measures should be fully implemented.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/guidelines-addoffctrl-china_en.pdf

FIGURE 5 – Main product categories of organic agri-food imports by exporting country, 2019 (million t)



Source: Traces

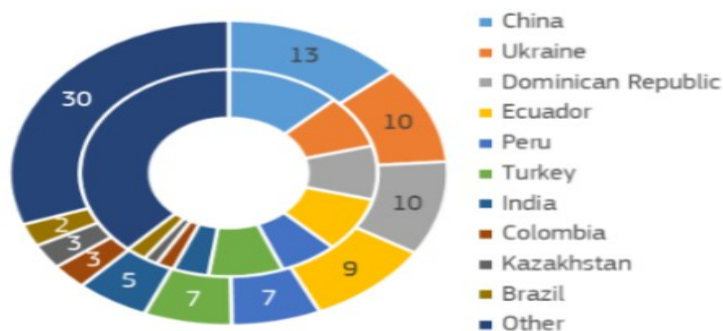
With a share of 12.7 percent (2019) China is the leading exporter of organic food and feed to the EU. In 2019 oil cakes (which are used as animal feed) made up two third of these exports.

Source: EU imports of organic agri-food products https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/farming/documents/market-brief-organic-imports-june2020_en.pdf

Main trade partners for organic imports include China, Ukraine, Dominican Republic and Ecuador

The ten largest export countries of organic products to the EU represent 70 % of imports in 2019.

FIGURE 4 – Share (%) of total organic agri-food import volumes by export country, 2018 (inner circle) and 2019 (outer circle)



Source: Traces

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

China's 2020 meat imports close to a record of 10 million tons

Even a slowdown of shippings by COVID-19 testing in the second half of the year did not have an impact on last year's massive increase of meat imports. In 2020 China imported a record of 9.91 million tons. However, this trend seems not to last. In 2020 China heavily invested in restocking the pig farms which had been affected by ASF. Rabobank therefore expects a pork production growth by 10% in 2021 and a decline in imports by 30 percent.

<https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/update-3-china-2020-meat-imports-close-to-10-mln-tonnes-up-60-on-year>

Burger King introduces plant-based WHOPPER in China

In late December 2020 Burger King launched a new plant-based Whopper in 325 outlets in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hangzhou. The new product can also be ordered from online platforms such as ELEME and Meituan.

<https://www.thepigsite.com/news/2021/01/burger-kings-plant-based-whopper-making-progress-step-by-step-in-china>

In a similar move, the 24-hour Cantonese chain Jin Ding Xuan (金鼎轩) announced in January that they will include plant-based meat from the US based producer Beyond Meat to the menu of all their 18 outlets in Beijing.

Science

Five Chinese agricultural universities among the top ten of world agricultural universities

According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Ranking), Chinese Universities are among the top agriculture universities of the world. In the 2020 Ranking in the category agricultural sciences five Chinese universities are among the ten top agricultural universities of the world (China Agricultural University rank 2, Nanjing Agricultural University rank 3, Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University rank 4, Huazhong Agricultural University rank 6 and Zhejiang University rank 9).



Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update



Home About Rankings Survey Universities GRUP Initiative Conference

Home>> Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2020>> Agricultural Sciences

ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2020 - Agricultural Sciences

2020

Field: Life Sciences		Subject: Agricultural Sciences		Methodology	
World Rank	Institution*	Country/Region	National/Regional Rank	Total Score	Score on Q1
1	Wageningen University & Research		1	303.0	100.0
2	China Agricultural University		1	279.4	93.4
3	Nanjing Agricultural University		2	277.1	93.6
4	Northwest A&F University		3	267.2	88.2
5	University of California, Davis		1	260.9	82.3
6	Huazhong Agricultural University		4	251.3	78.8
7	Cornell University		2	246.0	74.0
8	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences		1	244.9	74.4
9	Zhejiang University		5	240.8	72.4
10	University of Florida		3	238.5	76.0

Source: <http://www.shanghairanking.com/Shanghairanking-Subject-Rankings/agricultural-sciences.html>

New project launched to strengthen global agricultural drought monitoring

Chinese scientists and their foreign counterparts have launched a new project to foster cooperation in strengthening global agricultural drought monitoring, according to the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). The project has been jointly initiated by several organizations including the CAAS, National Satellite Meteorological Center, Beijing Normal University as well as research institutes from France, Spain, the United States and Israel.

China's meteorological satellite Fengyun-3D has global observation capability and good application prospects in global drought moni-

toring. Through cooperating with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and its members, the project will focus on establishing a global agricultural drought monitoring system with the Fengyun-3D, providing timely agricultural drought information services for worldwide users. The project will also help to innovate monitoring models and technical methods, and improve the international application of Fengyun-3D satellite data. It is expected to strengthen the cooperation and exchange between China and the member countries of the GEO.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/13/c_139741017.htm

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Unhealthy diets, lack of exercise: over half of Chinese adults overweight

More than half of the adults in China are overweight according to the 2020 Nutrition and Chronic Disease Status Report released by China's National Health Commission. The report which is based on data of nearly 600 million people the nationwide average weight of men is 69.6 kg and of women 59 kg and increased compared to a survey conducted in 2015. The survey showed that a lack of physical exercise as well as excessive consumption of meat and low consumption of fruit, soy and dairy products contributed to the overweight. About 10 percent of children under 6 years and up to 20 percent of children in the age between 6 and 17 years are obese. For this age group frequent consumption of sugary soft drinks is a prominent cause.

Source: Global Times, 21 December 2020

DCZ Activities

6th Sino-German Agricultural Week held in Beijing

The 6th Sino-German Agricultural Week (DCAW) was held from 30 November to 3 December 2020 at Yanqi Lake, Huairou, Beijing, as well as an online event. As an important bilateral exchange and dialogue platform in agriculture, the event was jointly sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and organized by the Sino-German Agricultural Centre (DCZ).

Due to its hybrid character as an online and on-site event, this year's conference could not only host many high-ranking speakers and stakeholders at the venue, but also received recorded video speeches and real-time online contributions from Germany and even California. With a daily attendance of over 10.000 hits, the viewers of the online live stream clearly outnumbered the approx. 140 participants on site. Several Chinese media reported about the event. Day 3 of the DCAW, the Open Day, was also on the news on CCTV-17, the "Agriculture Channel" of the Chinese Central TV Stations.

Instead of a separate event, the Agribusiness Conference was incorporated in this year's DCAW and, therefore, the DCZ compiled a



The DCZ Team
(Source: DCZ)

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

program of four full days with a tight schedule of comprehensive presentations and panel discussions:

- The Agribusiness Conference on “Modern Farm Management”
- The Sino-German Agricultural Policy Dialogue on “Smart Agriculture”
- The “Open Day” as main event
- The Science and Technology Platform’s “Forum on Security and Nutrition in a Changing World”

In parallel to these events the Bilateral Cooperation Project on Animal Breeding and Husbandry held two symposiums on pig and cattle breeding on 1 and 3 of December, respectively.

The Agribusiness Dialogue on 30 December was opened by speeches of Mr. Zhang Tianzuo, Director General of the Department of Cooperative Economy in MARA, and a recorded video message by Mr. Bruno Hoffstadt, Head of the Division of International Projects and Twinning in the BMEL. In presentations by academics, practitioners, and local authority representatives modern farm management by means of higher standardization, intensification of production and different operational structures (family farms, cooperatives) was outlined. Modern milk production in one of the 14 German experimental fields (DigiMilch) was presented by Dr. Isabella Lorenzini via Zoom. In a panel discussion the question of how modern farm management can contribute to the modernization of agriculture and rural revitalization was discussed.

On 1 December, the Sino-German Agricultural Policy Dialogue on Smart Agriculture was opened by a keynote speech by Mr. Wang Bin, Deputy Director General of the Department of Policy and Reform in MARA, and recorded opening remarks by the Deputy Director General of International Cooperation and World Food Affairs (BMEL), Ms. Cornelia



*Vice-Minister Zhang Taolin, ambassador Clemens von Goetze
(Source: DCZ)*

Berns (BMEL) who also is the Political Director of the DCZ. Many high-ranking speakers from research and business shared their perspectives on state-of-the-art technologies for digital agriculture. Dr. Jürgen Ritter presented the DCZ video output summarizing the virtual study tour on this topic to Germany and France and announced the launch of the DCZ website on Smart Agriculture (www.smart-agriculture.org). Prof. Wu Wenbin (CAAS) moderated the final panel discussion on mutual learning in smart agriculture with experts from China and Germany.

The main event of 6th DCAW, the “Open Day”, was held on 2 December under the heading “Sino-German Agricultural Cooperation in a Changing Environment” with contributions by high-level VIPs: while Mr. Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, Parliamentary State Secretary of BMEL delivered a pre-recorded speech, Mr. Zhang Taolin, Vice Minister of MARA, and Dr. Clemens von Goetze, Ambassador of Germany in China, attended the opening session in person and delivered welcome addresses.

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

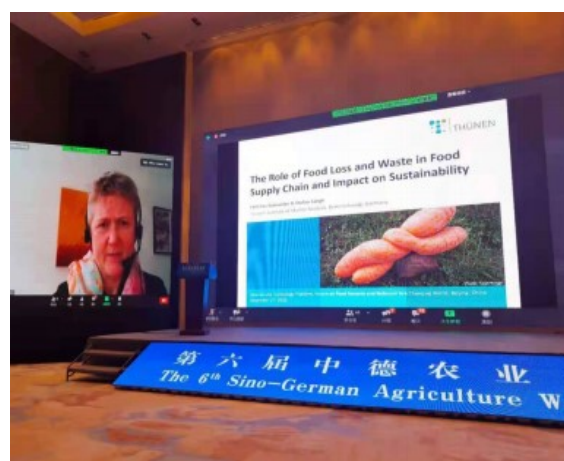
Cooperation between China and Germany was addressed from different perspectives: Mr. Axel Wildner (Agricultural Counsellor at the German Embassy) presented the current situation of Sino-German trade cooperation and Mr. Damien Plan (Agricultural Counsellor from the EU Delegation in China) introduced the “Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Geographical Indications for Agricultural Products between China and the EU” which only recently has been signed by both sides. Furthermore, achievements from other bilateral Sino-German cooperation projects in the field of agriculture were presented, while, finally, the panelists discussed future cooperation in changing environments.

The “Forum on Food Security and Nutrition in a Changing World” was organized by the DCZ Science and Technology Platform in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) on 3 December. This event also could welcome about 140 on-site visitors, including Chinese and international graduates and PhD students from different CAAS institutes and China Agricultural University (CAU) as well as 70 online participants.

Following the opening remarks by CAAS vice president Prof. Sun Tan and Ms. Maja Clausen (BMEL, Division Research and Innovation), excellent speakers shared their views. In their keynotes Prof. Li Xiande (CAAS

Institute for Agricultural Economics and Development) and Prof. Matin Qaim (University of Göttingen) discussed the impact of COVID-19 on global food security and trends and challenges for sustainable food systems. In the panel on global and domestic food security Prof. Si Wei from China Agriculture University elaborated on food security and soybean trade, Dr. Felicitas Schneider from Thünen-Institute for Market-analysis spoke about international initiatives for avoiding food loss and waste.

Prof. Wu Wenbin (CAAS) presented SAGI, an integrated digital crop monitoring system. In her presentation Prof. Sonoko Bellingrath-Kimura from the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) showed how with help of digital technologies ecosystem services and biodiversity protection can be improved. In the second panel on “Nutrition” Dr. Lena Kuhn (IAMO) elaborated on how international food trade impacts the dietary diversity, and Prof. Zhu Dazhou, Institute for Food and Nutrition Development of MARA, discussed nutritional quality analysis and assessment of food. The concluding discussion was opened by a keynote by Prof. Hans Herren (World Food Prize Winner 1995 and CEO of Millennium Institute) with a call for transformation of our food systems and action on preserving soil as the most crucial resource for food security.



Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Presentations of the 6th Sino-German Agricultural Week are available at the DCZ website: <https://www.dcz-china.org/en/6th-sino-german-agricultural-week-2020.html>

Participation in Seminar on EU-China Agreement on Geographical Indications (GIs)

On 17 November 2020, DCZ managing director Dr. Jürgen Ritter and DCZ science advisor Dr. Eva Sternfeld participated in a seminar of the EU-China Partnership Facility. The seminar was organized to inform about the EU-China Agreement on protecting Geographical Indications (GIs) which had been signed at the EU-China summit on 14 September 2020. The bilateral agreement protects 100 European GIs in China and 100 Chinese GIs in the European Union against usurpation and imitation. The agreement is expected to enter into force at the beginning of 2021.

Please find the list of all protected GIs:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/food_safety_and_quality/documents/china-100-named-products-eu-china-agreement_en.pdf

With more than 3,000 EU names registered as GI, EU quality policy aims at protecting the names of specific products to promote their unique characteristics linked to their geographical origin as well as traditional know-how. Around 1,250 non-EU GIs are protected within the EU, thanks to similar bilateral agreements such as the one with China. In value terms, the market for EU geographical indications is around 74.8 billion EURO, or 6.8% of EU food and drink, and exports of 16.9 billion EURO accounting for 15.4% of total EU food and drink export. EU-China cooperation on this matter started in 2006 and resulted in the protection of 10 GI names on both sides 2012. This agreement was the



groundwork for today's cooperation.

At the seminar, Mr. Zhang Zhicheng, Director General, Department of IP Protection, National Intellectual Property Administration, and Mr. Damien Plan, Agricultural Counsellor in the EU Delegation to China, explained the importance of the new agreement for strengthening bilateral trade and ensuring consumers of a guaranteed quality of products. According to a press release of the EU Commission, the Chinese market has a high-growth potential for European food and drinks. In 2019, imports of EU agri-food products reached 14.5 billion EURO. China was the second destination of EU exports of products protected as GIs, including wines, agri-food products and spirit drinks. In addition, European consumers will be able to discover genuine Chinese specialties.

The EU list of GIs to be protected in China includes iconic products such as Champagner, Feta, Irish Whiskey, Münchener Bier, Bayrisches Bier, Rheinhessen, Mosel and Franken wines, Ouzo, Polska Wodka, Prosciutto di Parma and Queso Manchego. The list of Chinese GIs includes Pu'er Cha (Puer Tea), Anxi

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Tieguanyin (Tea), Fuzhou Yasmine Tea, Turpan Raisin, Mount Emei Tea, Shaoxing Rice Wine, Jinhua Pork, Sichuan Paocai (Sichuan Style Pickles). The seminar was concluded by an exhibition of selected Chinese and European GI food and beverages.

Participation in Workshop “Chinese Investment in Europe”

On 14 December 2020, at the invitation of the China-Europe Research Network (CHERN), Dr. Eva Sternfeld participated in a Zoom workshop titled “Chinese investment in Europe: Entering an uncharted territory”, jointly organized by the Center for Economic and Regional Studies (CERS), Corvinus University, Hungary and the University College Cork, Ireland. The workshop focused on Chinese investments in the European agriculture and food sector and the health sector. In her presentation Eva Sternfeld introduced the activities of the DCZ in recent years. However, as she and also the presentation of Niall Duggan (University College Cork) showed, Chinese investment in the European agriculture and food sector so far have been concentrating on a few countries and items, and for the German agriculture and food sector so far no Chinese investments are reported.

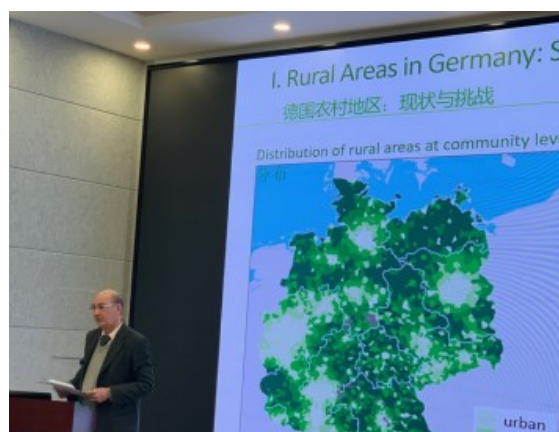
Source: DCZ



More: <https://china-in-europe.net/chinese-investment-in-europe-entering-an-uncharted-territory/>

Participation in “Insights on Agriculture and Rural Affairs” Forum by CAAS

On 15 January 2021, at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (CAAS), Dr. Jürgen Ritter, German Managing Director of the Sino-German Agricultural Centre, Dr. Eva Sternfeld and Dr. Aihemaitijiang Rouzi participated in the 17th “Insights on Agriculture and Rural Affairs” Forum. The regular academic forum where scientists, policy makers and private businesses share experiences and ideas on the “Three Rural Affairs” of China (Agriculture, Rural Development, Farmers) is jointly organized by the Center for Strategic Research and the Institute for Agriculture Economy and Development of CAAS. The focus of the 17th edition which was moderated by CAAS vice president Prof. Mei Xurong were trends in rural construction and infrastructure development. In this context Dr. Ritter was invited to give a presentation entitled “Experiences from German Rural Development” in which he introduced the status quo and challenges in rural development of Germany and funding and support opportunities available for various revitalization projects.



Other speakers included Prof. Zhu Qizhen, head of the Research Institute for Peasants' Issues of the China Agricultural University, who stressed in his presentation the importance of local farmers and limiting economic factors to be observed while undertaking rural infrastructure development. Researcher Li Guoxiang from the Rural Development Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences emphasized in his presentation that rural infrastructure will be a key component of the "14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for Economic and Social Development and future targets for 2035". Researcher Li Yurui from the Institute for Geography and Natural Resources of the Chinese Academy of Sciences outlined in his presentation the discrepancies between investment for rural and urban infrastructure, demographic and social challenges in rural areas and proposed an integrated development plan that could overcome these challenges. Researcher Wang Shaojun from the Institute for Agricultural Economics and Development of CAAS focused in her presentation on issues related to road construction in rural areas and how to address them in a holistic way. In an online presentation Mr. Ren Qiangjun, vice director of agricultural division of Anji county, Zhejiang Province, shared the success story of Anji county which has become a national model for successful establishment of rural cooperatives and development of rural tourism.

In the final session Prof. Mei Xurong invited the roundtable experts including several vice directors and party secretaries of several CAAS institutes and journalists from Farmers Daily to comment on the presentations and share their opinions and suggestions. The session ended with a comprehensive conclusion by Mr. Zhang Hecheng, Party Secretary of CAAS.

DCZ S&T Platform participates in the International Conference on Progress in Manure and Digestate (Jan. 25-27)

On 26 January the S&T platform in collaboration with the Department for International Cooperation and the Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture (IEDA) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) organized a panel on "Animal manure management practices in China and Germany" at the international online conference "Progress in Manure & Digestate. Science Meets Practice" by the IBBK-Biogas competence network. The participation in the conference also marked the kick-off for this year's virtual study tour on "Animal Manure Utilization" in Germany, which has been designed by DCZ in close cooperation with Prof. Walter Stinner from the German Biomass Research Center (DBFZ) and Prof. Dong Hongmin from IEDA. DCZ sponsored the conference participation fee for 15 participants from China, including researchers from IEDA, the Biomass Research Institute of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), the China Agricultural University, the Nanjing Institute of Agricultural Mechanization, the Jilin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Liaoning Institute of Energy Research as well as researchers from Chinese companies. Despite the time difference between Europe and Asia, which meant that most events of the conference were scheduled in late evening Beijing time, there was strong participation from China in the conference, showing the great interest in the topic of manure treatment and biogas. 61 participants attended the China/Germany panel. In her introduction DCZ Science Advisor Dr. Eva Sternfeld introduced the DCZ and the collaboration with CAAS and outlined the context of the panel within the framework of the upcoming virtual study tour on animal manure utilization with upcoming workshops in April and early summer.

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update



Dr. Sternfeld's introduction was followed by a presentation by Dr. Liu Yi from the Biomass Research Institute of MARA. In his presentation Dr. Liu Yi outlined the development of biogas in China. He showed that although the majority of biogas plants are small and medium sized facilities there is a trend in recent years towards large, centralized facilities. After a steep increase of small facilities in the first decade of this century, in the past years the number of smaller facilities has been decreasing while the share of energy produced by large facilities considerably increased. According to Dr. Liu, China's Biogas industry developed in three stages: the first stage, starting from 1970s, was focusing on small household digesters and intended to supply farmers in remote rural areas with energy for cooking, in the second phase biogas development has been promoted for environmental protection reasons, by feeding biogas plants with agricultural waste; in the third phase the mitigation of Greenhouse gases became an important driver for the development. As Dr. Liu noted, in China economic benefits have not been the driver for biogas development, but environmental and climate protection benefits. In the final part of this presentation Dr. Liu also elaborated on the Chinese regulations related to digestate and animal manure utilization including the *Guideline for Using*

Animal Waste on Agricultural Land by MARA and standards for irrigation water quality and for discharge of pollutants from livestock and animal breeding.



Source: DCZ

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update



In her presentation Prof. Dong Hongmin, deputy director of the CAAS Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and DCZ partner for facilitating the virtual study, provided an overview on the “Animal Utilization Practices in China”. Dong explained that at the present stage direct land application is the dominant practice for manure and slurry management from pig and dairy farms. About 10 percent of solid manure is further processed and applied as commercial organic fertilizer and only 6.5 percent of solid and 20 percent liquid parts is used for biogas production. As challenges for manure management Prof. Dong mentioned the contradiction between small-scale crop farmers (as the majority of Chinese farmers have only about or even less than one ha farmland) and the increasing number of large-scale livestock farms. Therefore, in China it is considered to involve third parties for organizing the transportation and supply of manure. But how to organize this system is still under discussion. Another challenge is how to ensure the safety and avoid potential pollution from heavy metal and antibiotics in animal manure.

The third Chinese speaker was Sun Hui from China Agricultural University who presented

the results of his PhD research on “Ensiling excessively wilted maize stover with biogas slurry”.

The last two speakers brought in the German perspective. In his presentation Walter Stinner, who is also DCZ’s lead expert for the design of the virtual study tour, elaborated on the “Emission Reduction in the Manure Chain” as digestate treatment and utilization is one of the most emission relevant part of the biogas technology. He discussed the German target for GHG emission reduction and the potential for emission reduction in the different stages of the process of manure and digestate treatment. The last speaker in this panel was Dr. Britt Schumacher, who is project manager for biogas technology at the DBFZ and project leader of the project “Energetic utilization of agricultural residues in China and Germany (ChinaRes)” (<https://www.dbfz.de/projektseiten/chinares/projekt>). She presented the results of a recent survey of German biogas plant operators. Results showed that since 2012 there is no significant increase in the German biogas sector and that new construction was limited to manure based small-scale plants. However, results of the survey also showed that construction costs (EURO/kW_{el}) tend to be

higher with a higher share of animal manure.

The participation in the IBBK conference marked the successful start of the virtual study tour, which will be continued in early April 2021 with a two-day seminar on “Environmental and administrative aspects of animal manure utilization”.

The presentations of Sun Hui, Walter Stinner and Britt Schumacher are available for download from our www.dcz-china.org. More about IBBK: ibbk-biogas.com. Also read IBBK’s report about all three days of the conference <https://ibbk-biogas.com/progress-manure-digestate-online-jan2021/>

DCZ in the Media

“Growth Center” – Article in China Daily introduces the DCZ

FECC director Dr. Zhang Lubiao and FECC/DCZ project manager Guo Xin have published an article titled “Growth Center” in China’s major English language newspaper to introduce the Sino-German Agricultural Centre and its achievements since its founding in 2015 as well as to give an outlook for the planned activities in the course of the upcoming 14th Five-Year-Plan. It was emphasised that as a platform for agricultural cooperation the centre sets a focus on bilateral exchange on technological innovation, control of plant and animal diseases, protection of rural environment, rural governance and training of agricultural personnel.

More information : <http://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202101/22/WS600a0b4fa31099a234353710.html>

Bilateral Research Cooperation

DFG and NSFC fund German-Chinese project on ecosystem services

The joint application from the Leibniz Center for Agriculture Landscape Research (ZALF) and the Institute of Geographic Sciences (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has been approved by the Mobility Programme of the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion (SGC). The programme is supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

The aim of the project is to develop a coordinated, efficient and sustainable management and financing mechanism for ecosystem services considering the contexts in Germany and China.

The ZALF working group of “Governance of Ecosystem Services” will coordinate the German side of the mobility program, while Leibniz University Hannover and Humboldt University of Berlin will make important contributions. The IGSNRR will coordinate the Chinese side, together with the Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning and South China Agricultural University. The project is financed for three years from 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2023.

For more information please contact the project coordinator Chen Cheng at ZALF (Cheng.chen@zalf.de) or follow the updates on their website: https://www.zalf.de/en/aktuelles/PagesPB2/DFG_NSFC.aspx

DITAC – Digital transformation of China's agriculture

The China Research Group of IAMO successfully applied for a research project “DITAC – Digital transformation of China's Agriculture. Process and impact on trade, sustainable and climate resilient production” funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). Collaboration partners in China are the DCZ, the Institute for Agricultural Economic Development (IAED) of CAAS, CGIAR and CAU.

Call for papers

IAMO Forum 2021 Agrifood Systems in the Bioeconomy

The topic of the 2021 IAMO Forum is “Agrifood Systems in Bioeconomy”. The conference is going to be held from 7 to 9 June depending on the Corona situation either in Halle/Saale Germany or online. IAMO's China Research Group, which also is a partner of DCZ, will organize a panel focusing on calls for papers related to the topic of the conference.

The transition to a bioeconomy is a potential game changer that may have a large impact on food and nutrition security, as well as on the ways in which agrifood systems are designed and operated. With breakthroughs in biotechnologies and a shift from fossil to renewable resources, the bioeconomy holds the potential to contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and the countryside. At the same time, such game changing technologies and trends raise questions about the creation and evaluation of new markets and value chains, direct and indirect ecological effects at different scales and the effects of social inclusions and exclusion. Given that the bioeconomy is a relatively new

field, there is significant demand for economic and interdisciplinary research to understand the potential of agricultural food systems in the transition to a bioeconomy.

The IAMO Forum 2021 will address the following topic areas:

- Land and labour market effects of bio-based products
- Land use effects of biomass production
- Trade-offs between sustainable development goals in the bioeconomy
- To own, to share or to cooperate? – social innovations in agrifood systems
- Governance instruments and institutions of the bioeconomy
- Bioclusters and regionalized value chains
- The role of innovation policy in regional economic development
- Economic effects of new bioeconomy crops
- The place of the agricultural sector in the circular bioeconomy
- No limits? – ethical and public debates around sustainability and new (bio) technologies

The conference language is English.

More <https://forum2021.iamo.de/about-the-conference/>

Contact to IAMO China Research group: Dr. Lena Kuhn (kuhn@iamo.de) and Jerry Sun (sun@iamo.de)

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Useful Websites

New Website on Smart Agriculture

DCZ has launched a new website: www.smart-agriculture.org.

The website is the outcome the 2020 'virtual study tour' on 'Smart Agriculture'. Over several months the DCZ team with support of experts from IAK Agrar Consulting conducted interviews with political decision-makers, enterprises and practitioners in Germany and France. The interviews and presentations are available on the website in German, English and Chinese and address a wide audience.

Global Food Loss and Waste Research Platform

The Global Food Loss and Waste (FLW) Research Platform is an online database launched by the Collaboration Initiative on Food Losses and Waste by the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS)-G20. On this online database experts can register in order to make their contact information and FLW project more visible on global level. Aim of the Platform is to offer easy access to focused information for policy decision makers, companies and researchers to facilitate network building, knowledge sharing and corresponding action.

Until 2020 133 researchers from 32 countries including Germany and China entered their contact data into the database and provided information on about 105 projects related to FLW. China so far is represented with one project on "Understanding the importance for smart packaging for an improved supply chain" by the China Agricultural University, whereas for Germany 20 projects by Thuenen Institute, Julius-Kuehn Institute, University Stuttgart and University Kassel are registered in the platform. For more information visit

the website of the platform <https://www.global-flw-research.org> or contact the coordinator Dr. Felicitas Schneider at Thuenen Institute felicitas.schneider@thuenen.de.

Recommended Reading

Invisible China: How the Urban-Rural Divide Threatens China's Rise by Scott Rozelle and Natalie Hell, University of Chicago Press, October 2020

Food systems impact on biodiversity loss. Three levers for food system transformation in support of nature. Research Paper

https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/2021-02-03-food-system-biodiversity-loss-benton-et-al_0.pdf

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Upcoming Events 2021

With ongoing Corona pandemic all dates of conferences and trade fairs tbc.

Date	Location	Event	Contact
May			
17-30	Kunming	UN Biodiversity Conference COP 15 of Convention on Biological Diversity (tbc)	
June			
7-9	Halle (Germany) or online (tbc)	IAMO Forum Agrifood Systems in the Bioeconomy (with China Panel)	https://forum2021.iamo.de/about-the-conference/
8-10	Gut Brockhof, Erwitte Lippstadt (Germany)	DLG-Feldtage Meet the Crop Professionals	www.dlg-feldtage.de
23-24	Hessian State farm Gladbacherhof, Aumenau, Vilmar	Öko-Feldtage (Organic Field Days)	https://oeko-feldtage.de/?lang=en

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Imprint

This issue was compiled by the international DCZ team. For enquiries and subscription please send an email to info-dcz@iakleipzig.de

Any news about upcoming events and conferences to share? Please send your information to e.sternfeld@iakleipzig.de

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