



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. 3 September/November 2018



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Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

Welcome

Dear colleagues and friends of the DCZ,

This edition of our Newsletter brings to you more information about DCZ activities in the past three months, a collection of agricultural news and the important announcement of the upcoming Sino-German Agricultural Week.

It certainly has been a busy and interesting autumn for us with visits from Germany to China for meetings in the sector of seeds, a seminar on veterinary medicine in Wuhan and the study visit of a Chinese delegation to Germany and the Netherlands in the field of “sustainable livestock development”. Besides these, DCZ experts also participated in conferences and events organized by other partners, organisations and institutes, summaries of which are included in the Recent DCZ Activities section as well.

Among the assortment of news provided here the Five-Year Plan on Rural Vitalization released by the State Council and the Technical Guideline for Agricultural Green Development (2018 - 2030) issued by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs certainly deserve high attention.

Besides these and among others, the Africa Swine Fever still requires vigilance and the issue is still covered by several media which are partly summarized and reflected in this Newsletter.

An important date is coming up for us! That is why the first section of this Newsletter is dedicated to a “Save the date!”. In cooperation with our partners in the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (FECC) and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) the DCZ will hold its annual Agricultural Week. This year, the focus is on the two topics “Digitalization in agriculture” and “Environmentally friendly Sustainable Livestock Development”. The events will take place from 26 - 28 November in CAAS and the Landmark Hotel.

For more details you are cordially invited to read on.

With our best regards

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

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Coming Soon – Save the date!

Sino-German Agricultural Week, Beijing 26-28 November

In the context of the bilateral cooperation between the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) the 4th Sino-German Agricultural Week will be held during the last week of November 2018. The week is jointly organized by the Sino-German Agricultural Centre (DCZ), the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (FECC) of MARA and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).

About 150 representatives from politics, science and agri-business of both countries are expected to participate. For three days leading scientists, politicians and entrepreneurs from both countries will share scientific findings, practical experiences and opinions on the latest developments in the respective fields. The event will include key note lectures, panel discussions, visits of related CAAS institutes and laboratories as well as networking events.

The Agricultural Week in Beijing consists of three main events:

- Forum on Digitalization in Agriculture (26 November at CAAS)
- Forum on Environmentally-friendly Sustainable Livestock Development (27 November at the Landmark Hotel), and
- The 4th Sino-German Agricultural Dialogues and Exchange on 28 November at the Landmark Hotel

Also part of the Agricultural Week with separate agendas are the

- “Official Opening Ceremony, Phase 2 DCALDP from 2018 to 2021” in Huanghai Demonstration Park (24 November), organized by the Sino-German Crop Production and Agrotechnology Demonstration Park (DCALDP) in Huanghai and
- “Sino-German Cattle Symposium” organized by the Sino-German Cooperation Project on Animal Breeding and Husbandry in Harbin (30 November – 1 December).

The mission of the events is to promote the development of green agriculture in the two countries via policy, scientific and agri-business dialogues and by mutually sharing best experiences.

A detailed program will be available soon, for more information and registration please contact: info-dcz@iagleipzig.de

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Photo: DCZ

Recent DCZ Activities

Meeting with BMEL Parliamentary State Secretary Hans-Joachim Fuchtel

On 3 September, on occasion of the China visit of BMEL Parliamentary State Secretary Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, the DCZ team attended a meeting with the State Secretary and his delegation. Dr. Ritter introduced recent and planned activities of the DCZ. PSt Fuchtel informed about the German pavilion, the “German Garden”, and related activities for the Horticulture Expo 2019 which will open on 29 April 2019 in Yanqing district, Beijing.

Visit of delegation of Federal Plant Variety Office and German Plant Breeders’ Association, 6-8 September 2018

In order to enhance the dialogue on seeds, the President of the Bundessortenamt (Federal Plant Variety Office) Udo von Kroeher accompanied by Dr. Stefan Haffke, and Dieter Rücker of the German Plant Breeders’ Association paid a visit to China and held fruitful meetings with the Chinese National Seed Association, the Office of Plant Variety Protection under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) as well as with the Chinese National Seeds Trade Association. The meetings established a basis for further joint activities in the coming year and a



*Visit at the China National Seed Association
Photo: National Seed Association*

strengthened cooperation and exchange on this topic.

Sino-German Seminar on Veterinary Medicine, Wuhan, 16 September 2018

Four delegates of the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL), led by Norbert Möller, Deputy Head of the Department Veterinary Drugs, attended the Sino-German Seminar on Veterinary Medicine in Wuhan.

Chen Guanghua, Deputy Director-General of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Gao Guang, Deputy Director-General of the China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control, Li Hongtao, Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (FECC), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Norbert Möller addressed the approx. 100 participants in their opening speeches. The seminar focussed on issues of antimicrobial resistance, quality assurance of antimicrobial active substances, antibiotics reduction in animal husbandry, etc.

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Photos: Xie Dongsheng, FECC



The Seminar was held in the context of the “7th China Congress of Veterinary Medicine, 15-16 September” which hosted a total of 6000 participants in various activities and events.

For a summary of the Congress, see: <http://www.cvda.org.cn/a/zixunban/xingyedongtai/2018/0915/21281.html>
(in Chinese)

Harbin International Conference on Sustainable Development of Rice Industry in Heilongjiang, 10-11 October 2018



Zhengda Rice Field Park, Beilin District, Suihua City, Heilongjiang - Photo: Eva Sternfeld, DCZ

On invitation of the Division of Foreign Economic Cooperation of the Heilongjiang Agricultural Commission Liu Yonggong, DCZ advisor for Agro-Business, and Eva Sternfeld,

DCZ advisor for Science and Technology, participated in the International Conference on Sustainable Development of the Rice Industry.

The conference was held in the context of the 1st International Rice Festival. Liu Yonggong and Eva Sternfeld introduced the DCZ and gave presentations on “Improving competitive power of rice industry in Heilongjiang province” and “Perspectives for marketing of organic rice in Germany”. On 11 October Eva Sternfeld participated in an excursion to the Zhengda Rice Field Park in a large rice producing region in Beilin district, Suihua city. The Zhengda Rice Field Park, which in summer also functions as a recreation facility, demonstrates how in sustainable rice plantation ducks can be used as biological weed and pest control. In October the ducks were out of service already, but the visitors could observe the busy harvesting activities. Red banners everywhere are reminding farmers that it is strictly forbidden to burn straw, the ban was obviously observed and maize straw collected at designated collection points. The excursion concluded in the afternoon with a visit to Zhengda’s and COFCO’s rice processing facilities in Suihua City.

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The 3rd Sino-German Seminar on Best Practice in Manure Management, Tianjin, 11-12 October 2018

As part of the “German-Chinese Cooperation Project on Animal Breeding and Husbandry in China”, the 3rd Sino-German Seminar on Best Practice in Manure Management was held in Tianjin from 11 to 12 October 2018. The seminar was co-organized and co-financed by the Sino-German Agricultural Centre (DCZ). All together about 100 participants representing MARA, Chinese and German universities, research institutions, animal husbandry enterprises and agricultural machinery companies, attended the two-day seminar. Prof. Liu Yonggong, Advisor of Business Cooperation and Dr. Deng Zhixin, Advisor of Agriculture, both DCZ, participated in the event.

Major thematic topics presented in the seminar included manure management equipment and technologies, manure collection and drying procedures on dairy and swine farms, utilization of treated animal manure by use of land machines in crops field and the German and Chinese policy and regulatory framework and technical standards for manure management. Seven German and Chinese experts and technicians from land machine manufacturing companies presented relevant technical concepts, technologies, equipment and successful cases in management of manure. German

companies, Fliegl, Horsch, FUN's from Austria, etc., demonstrated their manure treatment equipment and manure spreading machines and equipment during the half-day on-farm demonstration in Tianjin Shenchi Animal Husbandry Co., LTD.

In addition, a panel discussion was held as a platform for an interactive dialogue between German and Chinese experts and enterprises. The major discussion topics focused on the research, development (R&D) and on-farm adoption of feasible treatment, transportation and field spread of manure, animal farm environment monitoring and integrated livestock – crop farming design. Participants also discussed how to further strengthen the partnership between Chinese and German government agencies, academic institutions and enterprises.

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Photo: Eva Sternfeld, DCZ

14th International Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development in China (ICARDC XIV), 21-22 October

DCZ science advisor Dr. Eva Sternfeld participated in the 14th conference of ICARDC which was hosted by Ningxia University in Yinchuan, Ningxia autonomous Hui province. ICARDC is an informal academic network of meanwhile about 400 scholars, NGO practitioners and policy makers which was set up in 1989 to discuss issues related to agriculture and rural development. Papers presented and discussed in the 14 conferences resulted in a number of books and journals. This year's conference in Yinchuan was attended by about 30 scholars. They discussed in 3 panels issues related to "Urbanization and Rural-Urban Integration", "Rethinking Property Rights of Land, Housing and Natural Resources" and "Rural Economy and Politics". On the second day of the meeting Ningxia University organized an excursion to Minning town, a resettlement project for people from poverty and ecologically endangered regions in Southern Ningxia. The construction of this model town had been supported by Ningxia's partner province Fujian. ICARDC participants had the opportunity to visit the modern greenhouse facilities of Minning (all heated by solar energy).

To read more about ICARDC check their website: www.icardc.org

2nd World Conference on Farm Animal Welfare, 24-25 October

DCZ science advisor Dr. Eva Sternfeld attended the 2nd World Conference on Farm Animal Welfare which was held on 24-25 October. About 500 international and Chinese participants attended the conference hosted by FAO and the China Association for Promotion of International Agricultural Cooperation. The Conference was organized by the International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW) - an organization founded in 2013 and attached to CAPIAC. In China ICCAW is working with nearly one thousand companies and 170 experts in the field of animal husbandry and veterinary sciences in an effort to improve farm animal welfare.

In their opening speeches officials of MARA, such as Ma Youxiang, chief director of Animal husbandry department, and Jia Fazhong, director of MARA's Agricultural Products Quality and Safety Center, outlined the present challenges for China's animal husbandry and livestock production. Ma mentioned the difficulties in the livestock sector, such as the spreading ASF crisis and impacts of the trade war due to high dependence on imported feedstuff. In terms of farm animal welfare, the MARA officials mentioned that the ministry is drafting animal welfare standards for animal products and for poultry products. Their presentations were followed by Paul Littlefair, representing the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), a British NGO that for more than 13 years has been in constant dialogue with Chinese governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote the subject of animal welfare in the agriculture sector. Littlefair presented the Beijing Consensus on Farm Animal Welfare, a ten-point declaration that later was signed by representatives of the hosting and co-hosting organizations.

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In her speech Gudrun Gallhoff, Minister for Health and Food Safety of the European Union to China, shared experiences of animal welfare implementation in the EU. Other talks included the presentation by Professor Chen Yaosheng, Chief Scientist of the National Swine Industry Technology System Association, who spoke about “Application of Artificial Intelligence in Welfare-friendly Farming. Chen’s institute is conducting experiments with face and voice recognition of pigs which allows targeted treatment of individual pigs.

Study visit of a Chinese delegation to Germany and the Netherlands, 5-12 November 2018

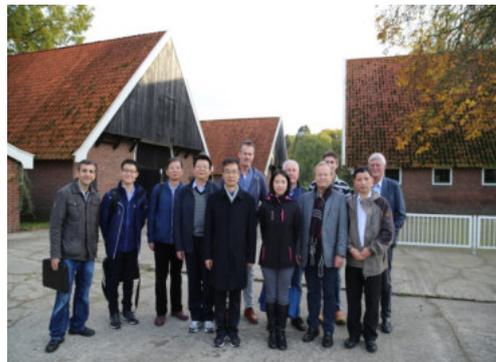
In the context of the DCZ’s Agricultural Policy Dialogue component six delegates from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center and the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences paid a study visit to Germany and the Netherlands from 5 to 12 November. The study visit was dedicated to this year’s APD main topic “Environmentally-friendly Sustainable Livestock Development”.

Preparation had started early with a workshop on this topic on 3 August in Beijing conducted by the short-term expert, Prof. Thomas Blaha (see DCZ Newsletter no. 2).

On basis of the workshop as well as the feedback and results of the exchange, Professor Blaha arranged the visits in Germany and the

Netherlands which provided a good selection of political agencies, relevant organizations, farms and research institutions.

A summary of the visit and recommendations will be part of presentations at the DCZ Agricultural Week on 28 November. More details of the visit will also be included in our next edition of the Newsletter.



Photos: Xie Dongsheng, FECC

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State Secretary Fuchtel visits Site of Beijing Horticulture Expo.- Photos: horti-expo 2019

DCZ in the Media

Hightech auf dem Land. An article by DCZ advisor for agricultural policy Dr. Tanja Jaksch in Asia Bridge 9/2018, p. 26-27 introduces DCZ and opportunities for cooperation in the field of agriculture and food.

<http://www.asia-bridge.de/>(in German)

DCZ visit to China National Seed Association

The website of the China National Seed Association reports about the visit of a delegation from the Federal Plant Variety Office, the German Plant Breeders' Association and DCZ. More: <http://www.seedchina.com.cn/news/des?id=4eb37a22-9425-4bf9-a6f4-d46906251277&CategoryId=83c7e5cc-09aa-41e5-8951-4509a5d13d06>

Good to Know

Beijing visit by BMEL Parliamentary State Secretary

On the morning of 3 September, BMEL Parliamentary State Secretary Hans-Joachim Fuchtel and his delegation met with Zhou Jianping, executive deputy director of the Beijing International Horticulture Exhibition Co-

ordination Bureau (BIHECB), and Wang Chuncheng, deputy director of BIHECB, to discuss the plans for the German Exhibition Zone and Pavilion. Following the meeting deputy director Wang Chuncheng accompanied Fuchtel and his delegation to visit the Expo Park under construction and the plot for the German Garden in the Park. The International Horticulture Expo 2019 will open on 29 April 2019.

More: http://www.horti-expo2019.org/2018-09/05/content_62122803.htm

More on the Chinese Ministry's website (in Chinese): www.moa.gov.cn/xw/zwdt/201809/t20180904_6156792.htm



On the morning of 4 September, Fuchtel and his delegation met with MARA vice minister Qu Dongyu. Photo: MARA

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New organizational structure of the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

German Minister of Food and Agriculture Julia Klöckner reorganized the ministry, now labelled as “Ministry of Life with digital concept”. Digitalization consequently plays a more prominent role in the new structure of the ministry which shall give modernization impulses for German rural and agricultural policies. Two new units have been established, one for digitalization of rural areas and one for application of digital solutions in agriculture. In addition, each department will have an officer in charge of digitalization.

More (in German):

https://www.bmel.de/DE/Ministerium/_Texte/Neustrukturierung-09-18.html;jsessionid=B313BA96ABE35B0FA5897E2028A86F40.1_cid296

State Council released five-year plan on rural vitalization

End of September 2018 the State Council released a five-year plan on rural vitalization. The document outlines the key tasks for 2018-2022.

The document is twice as long as the document No.1 and the plan is much broader than modernization and transformation of agriculture. It covers topics such as strengthening rural industry and businesses including tourism, improving and rehabilitating the ecological environment in the countryside. It goes far beyond the objective to reverse the rural – urban migration trend and revitalize empty

villages. It aims at squaring the circle by at once promoting intensification and industrialization of agriculture and protecting tradition-

al rural culture and beautification of villages. About 1000 model villages for vitalization of the country side shall be supported. The plan also calls for improving the competitiveness of China’s agricultural products. By 2020 about 300 specialised agricultural export regions shall be set up to export famous brands made in China. The plan also encourages Chinese companies to invest in agriculture businesses abroad and the promotion of R&D in modern agro-technology. “Red lines” for the protection of permanent farmland (103 million ha) by 2020 are set.

From earlier plans it takes up the division of the country into seven major farming regions and calls for zones where animal husbandry is banned. It calls for more efficient use of cropland for “stabilizing rice and wheat production.

More: http://english.gov.cn/policies/latest_releases/2018/09/26/content_281476319507892.htm

Full text in Chinese: http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2018-09/26/content_5325534.htm

MARA issued a Technical Guideline for Agricultural Green Development (2018 - 2030)

The guidelines stipulate the development of high quality and efficient green and organic fertilizers, new measures for soil rehabilitation, low risk pesticides, green and efficient animal feed, low risk veterinary drugs, energy efficient and intelligent machinery, and promotion of digitalization of the agriculture production chain. Green technology shall help to improve the fertility of soils, promote rainfed and water saving irrigation, biocontrol of pests and rehabilitation of rural ecology and reduction of pollution, especially pollution caused by heavy metals. Among others targets are set for a reduction of discharged liquid manure by 30 to 40 percent, cultivation at the upper reaches of rivers by 20 percent, energy saving by introducing energy efficient greenhouses by 30 percent.

Full text (in Chinese): <http://huanbao.bjx.com.cn/news/20180711/911928.shtml>

MARA issued an “Outline for a National Survey on Sources of Agricultural Pollution” (MARA document No. 14-2018)

MARA will commission a national agricultural pollution survey based on statistical data for the year 2017. The survey will focus on emissions from crop production, animal husbandry, aquaculture, plastic cover, crop residues and agricultural vehicles and machinery. Until end of June 2018 the evaluation method was tested in selected pilot counties and cities in Hebei, Liaoning, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Guangdong and Xinjiang. The national survey shall be completed by end of 2018. For crop production 300,000 representative lots of land will be evaluated concerning fertilizers, pesticides, cultivation, irrigation, etc. Countrywide 64,000 livestock farms and in 100 counties the general conditions and waste water treat-

ment facilities of aquaculture will be probed. In 260 counties the use of plastic film and its recycling will be investigated, whereas in 120 counties the treatment of crop residues is subject of the investigation.

Full text in Chinese: http://www.moa.gov.cn/gk/ghjh_1/201805/t20180525_6143164.htm

Increasing demand for imported milk in China.

10 years after the melamine tainted milk scandal China's thirst for imported milk and milk products such as yoghurt is still on the rise. However, as Stefanie Schmitt from GTAI reports, last year Germany was overtaken by New Zealand as the leading milk exporting country to China. More (in German): https://www.gtai.de/GTAI/Navigation/DE/Trade/Maerkte/suche,t=chinas-nachfrage-nach-importierter-milch-waechst-weiter,did=1972970.html?channel=alert_channel_gtai_1

China's agricultural and food imports increased except imports from the US

This analysis by Dim Sums Blogspot looks at the impacts of US-China trade war on the agricultural and food sector. In the first 8 months of 2018 China's total imports in the agricultural and food sector have grown by 16.5 percent compared to 2017. However, imports from US have fallen by 1.9 percent in the same period.

<http://dimsums.blogspot.com>

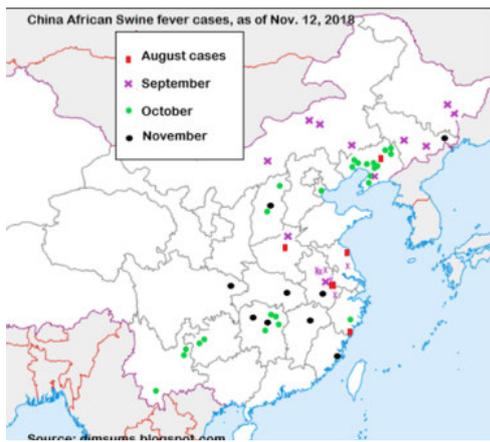
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Low protein feed standards for swine and poultry feed approved

End of October the China Feed Industry Association approved new standards for swine and poultry feed. The new standards reduce the limit for protein contents and are basically targeting protein intensive feed, such as soybean meal. It is expected that this will help to reduce China's demand for imported soybean. The China Feed Industry Association claims by introducing the new standards the amount of protein needed to produce one kg of pork can be reduced by 13 percent, thus extrapolated may result in a drop by 14 million tons in demand for soybeans. Also, the standards so far are only a recommendation by the semi-governmental association and are not legally binding. It is expected they may be adopted to reduce reliance on imported soybeans. Dim Sums, 28 Oct., China Daily, 30 Oct., 2018

African Swine Fever update

Top Chinese animal feed maker linked to latest African Swine Fever outbreak



Source: dimsums.blogspot.com

Mid October China accounted for about 30 outbreaks nationwide. While in some areas, where the first outbreaks had been reported in August, MARA lifted the quarantines and transportation ban, new cases have been re-

ported from elsewhere in the country. A recent case involved a large pig farm in Jinzhou affiliated to the animal feed producer Dabeinong. MARA reported that after 221 pigs had died from the disease, all 19,938 pigs of the farm have been culled. This was so far the largest farm affected by the ASF outbreak. SCMP 16.10.18

By end of October first outbreaks have been reported also in China's southern Yunnan province. These outbreaks are especially worrying, because Yunnan is not only bordering Sichuan province, one of the major Chinese pig producing regions, but also shares borders with China's South-Asian neighbours Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Meanwhile MARA has identified various reasons for the fast spread of African Swine Fever in China. The prevailing cause seems to be the still common feeding of kitchen waste, especially in smaller backyard farms. According to a ministry statement more than 60 percent of the outbreaks has been related to feeding of kitchen waste and most of the outbreaks are reported from peri-urban pig farms. According to experts so far no evidence has been found in China for transmission of the disease by wild boars.

Source: PigProgress 24 Oct., 26 Oct.

Meanwhile neighbouring Asian countries started to impose preventive measures: The Philippines imposed an import ban for domestic and wild pigs and their products from ASF infected countries including China.

An article by Stefanie Schmitt looks at the possible implications for Sino-German trade of pork meat: <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/2018/078-Deutschland-China-Regierungskonsultationen.html>

<http://www.gtai.de/GTAI/Navigation/DE/Trade/Maerkte/suche,t=chinas-schweinefleischproduzenten-unter->

<http://www.gtai.de/GTAI/Navigation/DE/Trade/Maerkte/suche,t=chinas-schweinefleischproduzenten-unter-druck,did=1972230.html>

Food safety logo replaced with digital code

As of 1 October, China is replacing the “QS” food safety logo, that was introduced more than 10 years ago by digital SC (Shengchan) code which shall improve traceability of products.

More: <http://dimsums.blogspot.com>

Is electro-culture the new agricultural revolution?

For more than three decades the Chinese Academy Agricultural of Sciences (CAAS) and other research institutes have conducted the world’s largest experiment in different climate and geographic zones to answer the question whether electricity can promote plant growth. The results are remarkable: According to CAAS vegetable output could be increased by 20 to 30 percent, while pesticide use decreased by 70 to 100 percent and fertilizer consumption was reduced by more than 20 percent.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/2164365/electric-plantspowering-chinas-new-agricultural-revolution>

Publications

African Swine Fever threatens People’s Republic of China. A rapid risk assessment of ASF introduction. FAO March 2018

Although this FAO report has been published prior to the first ASF outbreak in China it is a rich source of relevant background information to better understand the complexity and dimension of the present ASF crisis. The report details on China’s surveillance and animal disease control infrastructure including the China Animal Disease Control Center (CADC) in Beijing, the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) in Qingdao and MARA’s Veterinary Bureau. Maps illustrate the regional concentration of swine production and the distribution of national surveillance and disease stations. China accounts for half of the world’s pork production, about 80 percent is produced by backyard farms (with up to 49 pigs) and smaller specialized farms (50 – 1000 pigs). It further elaborates on the wild boar population as risk factor. Wild boars do exist throughout China except some very dry and high-altitude regions and obviously populations had been on the rise in recent years, increasing the potential risk for spread of ASF. In addition, the report looks at other possible pathways for transmission of ASF such as transport of contaminated food or illegal transportation of infected animals.

Download the report at:

<http://www.fao.org/3/i8805en/I8805EN.pdf>

Food safety in China – Selected articles

In our last issue we already introduced the special issue on food safety in China of the *Journal of Resources and Ecology*, January 2018, vol. 9. In this issue we have a closer look at three articles.

They can be downloaded at:

http://www.jorae.cn/EN/volumn/volumn_1174.shtml

From Soil Pollution to “Cadmium Rice” to Public Health Impacts: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Influencing Factors and Possible Responses. Jennifer Holdaway, Wang Wuyi. *Journal of Resources and Ecology* 2018, Vol 9. (1), 1-12

This study discusses the causes and severity of contamination of rice with cadmium. So called “cadmium rice” has drawn wide attention after a 2013 survey of the Guangzhou Municipal Food and drug administration found that 44 percent of rice samples (8 of 18) in markets and restaurants had excessive cadmium level. A National Soil Survey published in 2014 found about 16 percent of soil samples with excessive level of heavy metals. This study argues that there are several factors influencing the cadmium pollution of rice, which include natural “background level” of heavy metal in soils, soil pollution through mining, fertilizer, waste incineration, sewage sludge, organic content of soil (which can absorb heavy metals). Agricultural practices and crop varieties are influencing factors as well. For example, the dominating high yield indica-japonica has a disposition to absorb cadmium. In addition, dietary habits have an impact. It shows that especially people in rural areas in southern China, where more rice is eaten than in northern China, as well as people who are living in the vicinity of mines and industrial areas are facing health risks. The study argues that an interdisciplinary ap-

proach is required to better understand the complex influencing factors of “cadmium rice” and design effective responsive policies.

Big Data Resource Planning for Food Safety: A Preliminary Exploration of the “Environment, Food and Health” Information Chain. Xiao Gexin, Yang Bing and Li Wei, *Journal of Resources and Ecology* 2018, Vol 9. (1), 22-27

This paper reflects the multiple challenges of creating an integrated database to improve information and governance related to food safety issues. Fig. 2, p. 24 provides a good overview of the many governmental institutions and trans-departmental data resources along the ‘environment, food and health chain’. The breaking of trans-departmental barriers in information flows is therefore crucial for a functioning use of big data in the context of food safety. There are also data constraints within the departments, data are fragmented and incomplete and of poor quality. In the field of medical records for example, the authors complain that “the lack of unified data standards, codes and formats for collecting and storing data means that we have no single, comprehensive source of information about food related diseases” (p. 25). The paper therefore suggests to establish unified data standards and advocates cross-sector collaboration for a big data sharing platform as well as increased training of data analysts with interdisciplinary expertise.

Zero Growth of Chemical Fertilizer and Pesticide Use: China's Objectives, Progress and Challenges. Jin Shuqin, Zhou Fang
Journal of Resources and Ecology 2018, Vol 9. (1), 50-58

In 2015, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture developed and decided two actions to achieve Zero Growth of Chemical Fertilizer and Pesticide Use by 2020. This article analyses how successful the implementation of this ambitious goal so far has been. In recent years China has managed to ensure stable high yields in agriculture. According to the ministry more than 40 percent of the yield increases can be attributed to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The use intensity (average 357 kg per ha for fertilizers and 8 kg for pesticides) by far exceeds the levels which according to international standards are recognized as sustainable. The overuse of agrochemical and unscientific application causes serious side effects for environment and human health. The action plans are designed to improve the efficiency of application of agrochemicals and replace them by organic fertilizers and bio-control of pests. The article presents the national policy background and the targets of detailed local implementation plans enacted by provinces such as Shandong, Liaoning, Zhejiang and Sichuan. The targets of Sichuan's action plan even outstrip the national targets: Sichuan aims to reduce the pesticide use by 1 percent and promotes heavily the biological pest control by natural predators. In recent years in this province more than 5,000 "green prevention technicians" and 250,000 farmers have been trained in biological pest control.

Useful Links and Social Media

One Planet Network – Sustainable Food Systems Programme

One Planet Network is an UN sponsored worldwide platform of initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns including the 10-Year Sustainable Food Systems Programme. For more information and to subscribe to their newsletter please click:

www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sustainable-food-system

Dim Sums - Rural China's Economy and Policy

Since 2008 this blog is documenting trends in Chinese agriculture and food sector. About 50 articles per year offer English language summaries of Chinese media reports on relevant issues and analysis. An archive with keywords makes it easy to find articles on specific topics and issues. For example, in September and October 2018 these articles have been added to Dim Sums' feed:

- Crushers Confident, Nervous About tight supply
- Brazil overtakes U.S. as top AG Import Supplier to China
- African Swine Fever case list
- Villas Disguised as Greenhouses Skirt China Land Zoning Rules
- China sells GMO's overseas to open home market
- China Hog Farm Closures in Pockets of Resistance
- Can China kick its Soybean Meal Habit?
- China Ag Imports Up ... except for U.S products

More on: www.Dimsums.blogspot.com

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Calendar - Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event	Contact
December 2018			
7-9	Xiamen	International Organic Food Exhibition	For more information http://www.ofcc.org.cn/index.php?optionid=673&auto_id=1401 (in Chinese)
April 2019			
29 -	Beijing, Yanqing District	Opening International Horticulture Expo Beijing (until October)	http://www.horti-expo2019.org/
May 2019			
14-16	Shanghai	SIAL Asia's largest Food Innovation Exhibition	http://www.sialchina.com/
September 2019			
3	Hong Kong	12th International FRUTIC Symposium 2019: Innovations in Pre- and Postharvest Supply Chain of Fresh Produce	https://frutic.atb-potsdam.de
October 2019			
14-18	Hanoi, Vietnam	2019 International Conference on Chinese Food Culture – Cross-Cultural Interaction and Chinese Foodways in Southeast Asia. Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Stories	http://foodconference2019.fcdc.org.tw/enaspx/default.aspx

Sino-German Agricultural and Food Update

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

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