

China Agri-food News Digest

March 2013 (Total No 3)

Contents

.....	1
Policies.....	2
China extends more loans to support agriculture.....	2
China to elevate food, drug agency to general administration.....	2
Rural reform helps China ensure grain security	3
China fosters a new kind of professional farmer	3
Premier Li vows to solve environment, food problems "with iron fist"	4
Chinese youths brought into anti-waste campaign	4
China gets stronger food, drug regulator	4
Baby formula scare highlights supervision loopholes	5
Premier underlines developing modern agriculture	5
Science, Technology and Environment	6
China-EU seminar on antimicrobial resistance opens in Beijing	6
Taiwan's mainland agricultural parks investment reaches milestone	7
The State Council releases the program on the prevention and control of groundwater pollution of the North China Plain.....	7
China's nearshore seawater quality degrading	8
Urbanization to lift machinery sector, executives predict	8
Chinese scientists unlock key genetic code of wheat	8
Illegal Zhejiang pork already in food chain	9
1/5 of shallow groundwater in N China Plains drinkable	9
International Relations	9
Australia, China launch new partnership in food security	9
BRICS African agriculture investments in small projects paying off	10
China, UN boost ties on animal disease control	10
Blow to China as inflation forces Golden Wonder to bring noodle production from Guangzhou to Leeds	11
Chinese wines get stamp of approval from Queen's wine merchants	11
New Green Revolution to end hunger	11
China may need record corn imports to bridge shortage, Yigu says	12

Policies

China extends more loans to support agriculture

BEIJING, March 4 (Xinhua) -- China's central bank said that it granted more loans in 2012 to financial institutions in rural areas in order to support agriculture.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said in a statement on its website that the total amount of loans extended to those institutions reached 209 billion yuan (33.27 billion U.S. dollars) last year, up 22.37 percent from the previous year.

The central bank said a policy that provides more financial support for agriculture contributed to the country's ninth consecutive annual grain output increase in 2012.

China's grain output rose 3.2 percent from a year earlier to 589.57 million tonnes in 2012, marking the ninth consecutive year of growth, official data showed.

The PBOC started to provide loans to rural credit cooperatives as early as 1999 to allow them to provide more agriculture-related loans and improve financial services in rural areas.

Click [here](#) for more details

China to elevate food, drug agency to general administration

BEIJING, March 10 (Xinhua) -- China plans to elevate the status of the existing State Food and Drug Administration to a general administration in order to strengthen regulation and boost people's confidence in the country's food and drug products, a top official said.

Overlapping of supervision from different departments and some supervision "blind spots" are weak links of the current food safety supervision system, according to a report delivered by State Councilor Ma Kai to the parliament's annual session.

The proposed ministry-level General Administration of Food and Drug will replace a large group of overlapping regulators with an entity similar to the Food and Drug Administration of the United States.

It will combine the functions of the existing State Council's Food Safety Office, the State Food and Drug Administration as well as the food supervision duties from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC), Ma said.

The general administration will be responsible for supervising food and drug safety in the process of production, circulation and consumption, Ma said in the report on the State Council institutional reform and transformation of government functions.

China's current food safety system involves at least five departments, including health, agriculture, quality supervision, industry and commerce administration, and food and drug supervision. Insufficient communication and coordination among those agencies often resulted in low work efficiency and supervision loopholes.

A string of food safety scandals, particularly the one in 2008 when the melamine-tainted baby formula caused the deaths of at least six infants and sickened 300,000 others, have crippled customer confidence.

Click [here](#) for more details

Rural reform helps China ensure grain security

BEIJING, March 10 (Xinhua) -- Despite annual increases in agricultural output over the past nine years, national lawmakers and political advisors still call for more measures to boost agricultural production and ensuring the country's grain security.

Affected by the shrinking amount of agricultural land area, weather-related disasters and a decrease in the rural labor force, the possibility of grain output reduction is rising, said Shang Jinsuo, a deputy to the 12th National People's Congress (NPC), the national legislature.

China's grain output rose 3.2 percent year on year to a hit a record-high 590 million tonnes in 2012, marking the ninth consecutive year of growth.

However, official customs figures show that the country's grain imports also hit a record high of 72.3 million tonnes last year, which is evidence of a strained balance between domestic grain supply and demand.

The country's grain self-sufficiency rate fell to 97.7 percent last year from 99.2 percent in 2011, although the rate remains well above the basic self-sufficiency line of 95 percent, according to experts.

"It is a rare achievement to have had good harvests for the past nine straight years, but we should be more aware of the potential crisis behind it," said Qin Boyong, a CPPCC National Committee member.

Qin pointed out problems such as the lack of large-scale grain production in rural areas and inadequate investment in agricultural infrastructure facilities.

Chinese farmers "own" farmland through collectives, often a village committee, which distributes land-use rights to farmers through long-term deals under a household contract responsibility system introduced in the late 1970s.

Due to rapid industrialization and urbanization, the country's agricultural and rural development have entered "a new stage" and various challenges have emerged, including higher production costs, rising demand for farm produce and the influx of the rural labor force into cities.

China's first policy document for 2013, dubbed the No. 1 central policy, stated that the government will create policies to speed up rural land transfers and offer more subsidies for family farms and farming cooperatives in an effort to develop large-scale farming.

Click [here](#) for more details

China fosters a new kind of professional farmer

BEIJING, March 10 (Xinhua) - China is going to great lengths to foster a "new type" of professional farmer to inhabit the empty farmhouses across its vast rural areas and entice more migrant workers to return home to till fields and feed the world's largest population.

If it succeeds, China will solve a major problem that cropped up after its urbanization process resulted in a population split 50:50 between rural and urban areas. Decades ago, nine in 10 people lived in rural areas, where their lives were not as good as that of their urban peers.

As large numbers of farmers, especially young farmers, have flocked to cities and towns, they've left the countryside largely inhabited by the elderly, women and children.

This mass exodus from the countryside has left China asking, "Who will till the farmlands and feed 1.3 billion Chinese people?"

This question, as well as a host of possible solutions, has been talked about at length during the ongoing first annual session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC), the country's legislature.

Click [here](#) for more details

Premier Li vows to solve environment, food problems "with iron fist"

BEIJING, March 17 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has vowed to tackle with mounting problems of environment pollution and food safety with "greater resolution and actions."

"We are going to upgrade China's economic development model, which means the people should be able to enjoy clean air, safe drinking water and food," Li told a press conference on Sunday shortly after the conclusion of this year's parliamentary session.

Li said the government should solve the problems "without mercy and with iron fist".

He also promised the government will deal with environment and food safety issues in more public and transparent ways.

The government will further create new thoughts on development and push forward the scientific development for the goal, said 57-year-old Li as he met the press for the first time as China's premier.

Li was endorsed as the Chinese premier Friday at the first session of the 12th National People's Congress, the country's top legislature.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese youths brought into anti-waste campaign

BEIJING, March 21 (Xinhua) -- The Ministry of Education has called on every school and kindergarten to draft detailed measures for preventing food waste and promoting the spirit of frugality among students.

According to a circular released Thursday, primary and middle schools across the country should arrange special personnel to supervise students' dining habits, as well as incorporate students' frugality performances into the evaluation of their all-around qualities and the student award system.

The work evaluation and income levels of schoolmasters and teachers should also be partly based on the results of each school's frugality campaign.

The circular advised a series of frugality-themed activities such as promoting awareness and methods on conserving water and food, social research on food consumption and the use of water and paper.

Click [here](#) for details

China gets stronger food, drug regulator

BEIJING, March 22 [Xinhua] The China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA) started operation on Friday, marking a more powerful watchdog to address the country's accumulating food safety concerns.

The CFDA, headed by Zhang Yong, director of the food safety commission under the State Council, China's Cabinet, integrated the monitoring functions of other government organs and became a ministerial-level agency to improve food and drug safety.

The move came out of the country's renewed efforts to reduce bureaucracy and improve efficiency via a cabinet restructuring approved by the top legislature in China's just-concluded parliamentary session.

Chinese consumers have encountered a series of food safety scandals in recent years, including recycled cooking oil, tainted liquor, substandard yoghurt and harmful milk powder.

Prior to the restructuring, the previous State Food and Drug Administration was in charge of food safety in the catering industry, whereas the responsibilities of food safety supervision in the manufacturing process and market were assumed by the country's consumer quality watchdog and the industry and commerce administration, respectively.

The new regulator, however, will be responsible for supervising the full process of food's production, circulation and consumption.

Click [here](#) for details

Baby formula scare highlights supervision loopholes

SHANGHAI, 30 March 2013 [China Daily]- The latest baby formula scare in China highlights the loopholes in the country's food safety supervision system while dealing another blow to consumers' confidence in the country's dairy products.

Baby formula products with Hero Nutrdefense labels have been taken off store shelves in many cities, including Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu, and have been removed from major online shopping sites over the past two days, after a media report exposed safety problems with the brand.

The Shanghai food safety office has launched an investigation into the Shanghai branch of the Xile Li'er Import and Export Co., located in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, an authorized dealer of major Swiss baby formula maker Hero Group.

Xile Li'er is suspected of smuggling baby formula powder made only for the European market by Hero Group and repackaging it as Nutrdefense baby formula, for which the company had a legal import certificate, according to the administrative committee of the Suzhou Industrial Park.

Meanwhile, of the 17 batches of baby formula products with the Nutrdefense label that have been tested by food safety authorities, at least seven have failed to meet protein standards, it said.

State-run China Central Television (CCTV) on Thursday reported that the Suzhou company allegedly mixed expired milk powder into Nutrdefense products, changed production and expiration dates and repackaged them.

An effective supervision system is badly needed after the country's food safety agencies are revamped, said Li Shuguang, a professor in the public health institute of Fudan University. "Otherwise, China's food industry has no future."

The latest scare also touched a nerve among consumers at a time when Chinese parents are showing clear preferences for foreign brands and demonstrating little confidence in local brands in the wake of a milk powder scare in 2008.

Click [here](#) for details

Premier underlines developing modern agriculture

BEIJING, 31 March 2013[China Daily] - Premier Li Keqiang has stressed the importance of developing modern agriculture and scale farming in his recent research tour to the Yangtze River Delta region.

While visiting a family farm in Changshu, east China's Jiangsu province, Li was pleased to see local farmers have seen a boost in grain output and income as they merged their fragmented land through transfers to develop scale farming, which allowed the use of advanced technologies.

"To develop modern agriculture through the forms of joint partnership, family farms and farmer cooperatives is the big direction for China," Li said.

Li's remarks came amid China's growing efforts to speed up the transfer of rural land to improve efficiency and promote large-scale commercial farming.

Most rural land is owned collectively by a village, and farmers get contractual rights over some plots.

The central government said in its "No.1 document" for 2013, which has always focused on rural issues, it would guide the orderly transfers of contractual rights of rural lands, and encourage land contracts to flow to large-scale landholders, family farms or farmer' cooperatives to develop scale management.

The large-scale farming will improve land and labor efficiency and provide a firm support to the country's new type of urbanization, Li said, adding farmers' interests should be protected in the process.

Click [here](#) for details

Science, Technology and Environment

China-EU seminar on antimicrobial resistance opens in Beijing

March 8, 2013[MOA]. Under the joint sponsorship of Veterinary Bureau of MOA and Delegation of the EU to China, the China-EU Seminar on Antimicrobial Resistance in the Veterinary and Food Sector opened in Beijing on March 7, 2013.

It is said that veterinary drug is a double-edged sword that can prevent and control animal diseases, improve production performance and increase business efficiency, but may also pose threats to human health in case of inappropriate use. Antimicrobial safety affects the development of veterinary drug industry and animal husbandry sector, and directly links to animal-origin food safety and public health security. With the rapid growth of world livestock industry and the acceleration of globalization process, antimicrobial resistance has become an increasing concern for public health security in recent years. Therefore, a number of international organizations like WHO, OIE and FAO have paid great attention to this issue, and veterinary authorities of all countries have recognized animal drug safety, animal product safety and public health security as the common mission and challenge facing the whole world.

China is a big country in terms of animal husbandry scale and human population, resulting in an enormous consumption of animal products, and extreme complication in antimicrobial use regulation and management. With continuous efforts of veterinary authorities at all levels in implementing supervision programs on zoonotic bacterial resistance, China has made remarkable progresses in promoting animal husbandry development, safeguarding animal-origin food safety and protecting people's physical health. On the other hand, the EU has achieved advanced expertise and experience in antimicrobial use and regulation. Given such a background, the Seminar was held in order to provide a platform for institutions and professionals engaged in veterinary antimicrobial research, supervision and risk assessment, and to enhance mutual understanding, communication and cooperation between China and

the EU. In this regard, the Seminar explored a new field of practical veterinary cooperation, in addition to the on-going joint endeavor of the two sides in preventing and controlling major animal epidemics, and managing veterinary lab operation.

Click [here](#) for more details

Taiwan's mainland agricultural parks investment reaches milestone

BEIJING, March 11 (Xinhua) -- Taiwan's investment in agricultural experiment zones and agricultural business parks in the Chinese mainland has reached six billion U.S. dollars, a Chinese official said Monday.

There are more than 5,000 Taiwan agricultural enterprises running businesses in these parks and zones, said Bi Meijia, chief economist and spokesman for the Agriculture Ministry.

Taiwan's agricultural investment in the mainland is expanding to the vast central and western regions from the coast, said Bi at a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the 12th National People's Congress.

The areas in which Taiwan is investing is also expanding from fruits and vegetables to cotton, cows, sheep and the processing industry, he added.

The potential for cross-Strait agricultural cooperation is huge as the mainland has lower labor costs while Taiwan has advantages in technology and capital.

Click [here](#) for full details

The State Council releases the program on the prevention and control of groundwater pollution of the North China Plain

2013-03-11. In order to strengthen the prevention and control of groundwater pollution of the North China Plain, the State Council approved the Program on the Prevention and Control of Groundwater Pollution of the North China Plain (hereinafter referred as the Program) jointly developed by MEP, Ministry of Land and Resources, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

Based on the principle of “prevention first and co-control, classified prevention and control in different regions and focusing on priorities, and enhancing the monitoring in a step-by-step approach”, the Program requires to primarily establish the groundwater quality and pollution source monitoring network, have a clear picture in terms of groundwater pollution status, and enhance the prevention and control of groundwater pollution of key pollution sources and key regions of the North China Plain by 2015. It is expected that by 2020, groundwater quality and pollution sources in the North China Plain will be monitored in an all-round way, demonstration on the groundwater pollution restoration will be conducted in a scientific way, the capacity in supervision and management of groundwater environment will be improved and groundwater pollution risks will be under effective prevention and control.

The Program plays the role of guiding the prevention and control of groundwater pollution of the North China Plain. It is of great importance for ensuring sustainable use of groundwater resources and facilitating sustainable economic and social development of the region, which will set an example for the whole country in prevention and control of groundwater pollution.

Click [here](#) for details

China's nearshore seawater quality degrading

BEIJING, March 20 (Xinhua) -- China's nearshore seawater pollution is still severe and its seawater quality degraded in 2012, according to data revealed on Wednesday by the country's State Oceanic Administration (SOA).

Last year saw around 68,000 square km of nearshore waters graded as the worst level of seawater quality, which is only suitable for sea ports and oceanic development. This was 24,000 square km more than 2011, the SOA said.

It added that a total of 170,000 square km of nearshore waters have not reached the first grade of seawater quality, which is suitable for marine fishery and marine natural reserves.

According to the administration, in 2012, about 19,000 square km of neashore waters were affected by eutrophication, a process in which water bodies receive excess nutrients that stimulate the excessive growth of plants such as algae and nuisance weeds.

Click [here](#) for details

Urbanization to lift machinery sector, executives predict

2013-03-19 (China Daily). China's rapid urbanization will bring more opportunities for the development of the agricultural machinery industry, according to the chairman of the nation's leading tractor maker.

Zhao Yanshui, chairman of YTO Group Corp, said that demand for new types of tractors will surge along with the process of urbanization.

Zhao said that he was impressed while visiting a showcase of urbanization where 10 villages were merged into one big residential community in Xinzheng, Henan province.

YTO is researching more types of multifunctional vehicles to meet the needs of urbanization. For instance, it has developed a type of sprinkler that could run on narrow and uneven roads in suburban areas, Zhao said.

YTO is developing tractors that women and elderly farmers may find easier to operate, given the fact that many young men are migrant workers and their wives and elderly parents are left to tend the farmland, Zhao said.

Click [here](#) for details.

Chinese scientists unlock key genetic code of wheat

BEIJING, March 25 (Xinhua) -- Scientists from China and the United States have mapped a key genetic code for bread wheat, a discovery that will help improve the crop's productivity and ability to withstand extreme conditions.

The sequencing and drafting of the A genome, one of the three basic genomes of wheat, was published on the website of the journal Nature on Monday. Researchers present the generation, assembly and analysis of a whole-genome shotgun draft sequence of the genome of wheat T. urartu, the donor of the A genome.

The identification of around 38,000 wheat genes is expected to help provide a valuable resource for accelerating deeper genomic breeding studies and offer a new foundation for the study of wheat evolution, domestication and genetic improvement.

The research, launched by a team from the Institute of Genetics and Development Biology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was conducted by Shenzhen-based BGI, a leading genomics organization, and the University of California, Davis.

Click [here](#) for more details

Illegal Zhejiang pork already in food chain

Mar 26, 2013 [South China Morning Post]. Just when the scandal surrounding the dumping of dead pigs into a primary drinking water source seemed to be drawing to a close, state-run television station has revealed that illegally processed pigs have been making their way to dining tables for years.

Illegal dealers in Zhejiang's Jiaxing city had purchased dead pigs from breeders and resold them to markets for years, Chinese Central Television's News Investigation programme reported on Saturday.

Breeders are required by law to send dead animals that have died of disease or from natural causes to undergo "non-hazardous treatment", and they are prohibited from selling them to butchers.

Pan Huimin, Jiaxing resident who remains under custody for suspicion of dealing in dead pigs, told CCTV that there was "100 per cent" correlation between his arrest and the dead pigs dumping incident. Local farmers dumped dead pigs in rivers "because nobody buys [them] anymore," Pan said.

Click [here](#) for details

1/5 of shallow groundwater in N China Plains drinkable

2013-03-27 [CRI] A survey conducted by the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences shows that 44.13 percent of shallow groundwater in the North China Plains is polluted and only 22.2 percent can be drunk directly, Xinhua reports.

The five-year survey collected 7451 samples from the 310,000 square kilometer of plains and tested 63 chemical indexes. The results were assessed and approved by experts.

Fluoride, iodide and total dissolved solids mainly contribute to the poor quality of the groundwater.

The survey results show 22.2 percent of the shallow groundwater can be drunk directly, 21.25 percent needs treatment and 56.55 percent can be used only after additional special treatment.

The condition of deep groundwater is better where 87.14 percent has not been polluted, said the survey.

Of the deep groundwater, 26.45 percent can be drunk directly, 23.13 percent needs treatment and 50.42 percent can be used after additional special treatment.

Click [here](#) for details

International Relations

Australia, China launch new partnership in food security

Sydney, March 6 (Xinhua) -- Prime Minister Julia Gillard lauded China as Australia's key partner in the fight for global food security at the launch of a new integrated research center here on Wednesday.

At the launch of the new Centre for Carbon, Water and Food, the prime minister was joined by Chinese Ambassador to Australia Chen Yuming in a tour of the facility and witnessed the signing of two MOUs with Chinese partners.

"China is Australia's most valuable destination for Agricultural products and two way trade is growing," Gillard said.

The prime minister hailed the milestone in Australian and Chinese collaboration with the signing of agreements between the University of Sydney and China's Academy of Agriculture Science and Nanjing Agricultural University.

The first memorandum of understanding between the University of Sydney and the Chinese Academy of Agriculture Science will see a Sino-Australia Joint Laboratory for Sustainable Agro-Ecosystems established and housed at the center with a mirror facility in Beijing.

The second memorandum of understanding between the University of Sydney and Nanjing Agricultural University will see a Sino- Australian Laboratory for Food Security established and housed at the center with a mirror facility in Nanjing.

Click [here](#) for details

BRICS African agriculture investments in small projects paying off

12 March 2013 [Modern Ghana] The African agriculture sector is showing signs of improvements attributed to BRICS investment flows in smaller agricultural projects, reversing the trend triggered by the global food crisis in 2008.

The investments have resulted in significant rise in employment for communities living near farmlands, improvement in productivity, as well as improvement in sales to the local and export markets.

BRICS investment has led to the creation of over thousands of employment opportunities in many African countries such as Mozambique, South Africa, Ethiopia, among others.

"There are many farms or lands that have been taken over by investors and being put into productive use and in these cases they are smaller farms ranging from 3,000 hectares, 4,000 hectares or 5,000 hectares-seem large but not like the 10,000 hectares in the general scheme of things", said Carin Smaller, an Advisor on Agriculture and Investment to the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

Click [here](#) for more details

China, UN boost ties on animal disease control

March 12, 2013 [China Daily]. China and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations have stepped up their cooperation in animal disease control and detection, the FAO representative to China told China Daily in an exclusive interview.

Percy Misika said that after more than 30 years of cooperating with the FAO, China is now more capable of detecting animal influenza early and can contribute more to anti-animal influenza efforts both in the region and around the world.

FAO in early March designated the Animal Influenza Laboratory of the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute the first reference center for animal influenza in China.

The FAO officially recognized the laboratory because of the lab's contribution to the implementation of FAO's program priorities.

If the center identifies a new epidemic in China, it can alert other countries more efficiently before a mass outbreak occurs, and that can avoid huge property losses and save more livestock and even human lives, Misika said.

Click [here](#) for more details

Blow to China as inflation forces Golden Wonder to bring noodle production from Guangzhou to Leeds

- Yorkshire-based firm Symington's will make instant noodles in Leeds
- Food manufacturer says it will be just as cheap to make them in Britain
- Wages rising in China and sterling value dropping means 're-shoring' to UK

[13 March 2013, Daily Mail] A British food producer is moving its production of instant noodles from China to Britain after discovering it can make them just as cheaply at home.

Symington's, which makes Golden Wonder's dehydrated The Nation's Noodles, Normous Noodles, Naked Noodles, and Mug Shots, is cancelling its contracts with factories in Guangzhou, on the banks of the Pearl River, and Hangzhou, and preparing to manufacture them in Britain.

The Leeds-based firm says rising wages in China, plus the increasing cost and inconvenience of shipping the noodles back here, are behind its decision to move noodle production to the UK after seven years.

Click [here](#) for further details

Chinese wines get stamp of approval from Queen's wine merchants

22 March 2013 [Guardian]. The Queen's vintner has become the first major UK retailer to give the Chinese wines a permanent place on its shelves.

Berry Brothers & Rudd, which has a shop and cellars near St James's Palace, will begin selling four Chinese wines this month and for the first time Chinese vintages will be showcased at one of the retailer's exclusive tastings, at which masters of wine and senior wine writers gather to sample new arrivals.

The four wines are produced by the leading producer Chateau Changyu, and includes a cabernet sauvignon, merlot blend (which has been aged in imported French oak barrels) and three more unusual ice wines – made from frozen grapes, which give the wines a fresh and pure flavour, and an intense sweetness. The producer – the Changyu Wine Group – is the oldest and biggest in the country and makes the wine in central western China on the edge of the Gobi desert.

Now the eighth-largest producer of wine in the world and predicted to be the sixth largest by 2016, Chinese consumers already drink more than 1.6bn bottles of wine annually, and this is forecast to grow by a further 1bn by 2015. The Chinese have also acquired a taste for fine wine and are now the second-biggest buyers of top claret by volume behind Germany.

Click [here](#) for more details

New Green Revolution to end hunger

By Bill Gates (China Daily, 2013-03-27) At our foundation, we put the smallholder farmer at the center of our work, we believe by listening to their needs and understanding the crops they want to grow, the food they want to eat, we will make the right investments and find the best innovations to help drive a new Green Revolution in Africa.

China is one of our key partners, with rich experience and deep expertise in agriculture, which can help accelerate progress in poor countries. China is also a world leader in rice breeding.

We are thrilled to be partnering with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to develop a series of new rice varieties, Green Super Rice. The new rice varieties will mean farmers have to use less inputs - so they don't need to rely as much on fertilizer and water. Green Super Rice has been introduced to some African and Asian countries for early trials. In

some pilot countries, it has helped smallholder farmers increase production by 20 percent. The next step is to share China's promising results with other poor countries, and help farming families increase productivity in an affordable and sustainable way.

Beyond agricultural innovation, China has rich experience and significant potential in bio-gas, vaccine R&D and manufacture, and medicine research, which are critical for helping the poorest in Africa to alleviate poverty and live productive lives. We are pleased to cooperate with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology to co-invest in these innovative programs for the poorest in Africa and around the world.

Click [here](#) for full article

China may need record corn imports to bridge shortage, Yigu says

[Mar 27, 2013, Bloomberg] China, the second-biggest corn user, may increase imports to a record in the marketing year starting Sept. 1 as wet weather in its northeast region cut grain quality, according to advisory service Yigu Information Consulting Ltd. Heavy snow this winter increased moisture content and reduced density, making the grain more susceptible to mold and less suitable for feeding animals, said analyst Zhang Qi. A national shortage of good-quality grain may boost local prices and purchases of U.S. corn to more than 7 million metric tons, near the most allowed under government quotas, he said.

Click [here](#) for more details

For more information about UK China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN), please visit: <http://www.sainonline.org/English.html>

If you have any further enquiries, please contact Yuelai Lu at: y.lu@uea.ac.uk