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China and Morocco to boost bilateral agricultural cooperation

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China and Morocco have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance bilateral agricultural cooperation.

The MoU was signed by Tang Renjian, China's minister of agriculture and rural affairs, with Mohamed Sadiki, the Moroccan minister of agriculture, maritime fisheries, rural development, water and forests.

Under the MoU, the two countries agree to enhance cooperation in the fields of distant-water fishing, aquatic products processing technology, organic agriculture, agricultural digitalization, irrigation techniques, and water management.

Agriculture plays an important role in Morocco's national economy as it accounts for more than 15 percent of Morocco's total economic output and the agricultural sector employs about 40 percent of the country's labor force. China is the largest supplier of green tea for Morocco, which has become China's second-largest tea export destination.

Tang lauded the fruitful cooperation between China and Morocco in the fields of vegetable variety cultivation, cultivation technology, veterinary drug and vaccine research and development, as the two countries enjoy strong similarities and complementarities in agriculture.

Minister Tang said that China is willing to work with Morocco to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation on animal disease prevention and control, dry land water-saving agriculture, conservation of marine fishery resources, and protection and utilization of agricultural heritage.

Briefing Morocco's agricultural situation and development strategy minister Mohamed Sadiki welcomed the signing of the MoU as an opportunity to boost agricultural cooperation between China and Morocco. He also congratulated Chinaâ??s Qu

Dongyu, the re-elected director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.