

China, Germany collaborates to promote Smart Agriculture

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China hopes to work with Germany on smart agriculture, breeding research, and food loss avoidance as part of a broader effort to bolster global food security, Chinese vice-minister of agriculture, Ma Youxiang, said.

According to China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, "Policy dialogues, business talks, and technology sharing" will be increased in these areas between the two countries as "all-around strategic partners" so that new technologies and better grain varieties can be applied in both nations, the minister mentioned this at a forum on Sino-German cooperation on food security.

The forum was part of the 8th Sino-German Agricultural Week held in Beijing.

The six-day event, which has been shifted online amid a recent uptick of COVID-19 cases in the Chinese capital, features a range of keynote speeches and panel discussions by some of the most famed agrarians.

It was organized by the Sino-German Agricultural Center, which was established in Beijing by agricultural authorities in both countries in 2015.

Ma said that the two countries need to consider each other's most pressing needs as they plan for cooperation in the next five years and beyond, such as China's rural vitalization strategy, as well as how to reduce climate change's impact on farming.

He hoped that both sides will take the event as an opportunity to work with each other to address the global challenges hand in hand.

China has made a series of efforts to promote food security worldwide, such as proposing the Global Development Initiative last year, which highlighted the importance of food security, and offered food assistance to countries in dire need.

The country has also worked closely with international agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme, and held a number of international events to that end, including the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste (2021), International Forum on Black Soil Conservation and Utilization (2021) and the International Conference on Salt-Affected Soils (2022).

Ma also signaled that China wants to make the trade of farm produce more liberal and convenient, and expand trade in agricultural services.

Data provided by the ministry showed that the trade of agricultural products between the two countries reached \$4.1 billion last year, more than seven times the 2000 level.

The first nine months this year have already seen \$3.07 billion worth of farm produce change hands between Germany and China, a year-on-year increase of 1.5 per cent, a telltale sign of the vigor and resilience of the bilateral trade.