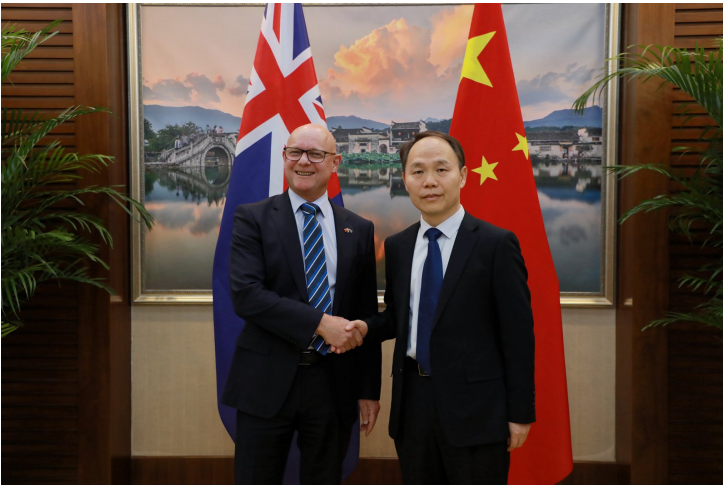


New Zealand and China exchanged views on advancing agricultural cooperation and trade potential

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China's Vice Minister Zhang Zhili met with Ray Smith, Director-General of the Ministry of Primary Industries of New Zealand, in Beijing on March 25. They exchanged views on advancing agricultural cooperation between China and New Zealand.

Vice Minister Zhang highlighted agriculture as a pivotal sector within China-New Zealand bilateral relations. In recent years, the two countries have enjoyed increasingly robust agricultural cooperation, benefiting from improved cooperation mechanisms, significant trade potential, and deepened exchanges in agricultural science and technology.

Minister expressed China's stand to work with New Zealand to leverage China-New Zealand Joint Committee on Agriculture and its specialized dialogues on dairy and fisheries, strengthen policy communication and information exchanges across agricultural sub-sectors, to elevate economic and trade cooperation and achieve more tangible outcomes.

Director-General Smith commended the pivotal role played by the China-New Zealand Joint Committee on Agriculture and agreed with Vice Minister Zhang. He conveyed New Zealand's commitment to further strengthening communication and deepening cooperation in areas of mutual interest, to advance bilateral agricultural cooperation.

In addition, the two sides discussed key agricultural policies, live animal exports, preparations for the upcoming 8th meeting of the China-New Zealand Joint Committee on Agriculture, and potential areas for future cooperation, among others.