



# MARKET EXPRESS

*Asia-Pacific Region*

**2022.5**



# CHINA TO PROMOTE COLD-CHAIN LOGISTICS DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

China will prioritize the development of cold-chain logistics for agricultural products amid efforts to better secure market supply.

The country aims to improve the cold-chain infrastructure for agricultural products and boost the capability and efficiency of their cross-regional cold-chain circulation over the next two years, according to a circular jointly released by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce on May 27.

The ministries will support the upgrade of cold-chain infrastructure in distribution centers and sales areas and the establishment of public cold storage and central kitchens, per the circular.

The circular also noted support for related enterprises in sales areas to expand their cold-chain collection and distribution centers and low-temperature delivery centers.

Provincial-level governments are encouraged to utilize their subsidies from the central government to shore up market supply. The circular also advised local governments to buttress pandemic-hit cold-chain companies that have contributed to securing supply in accordance with local situations.

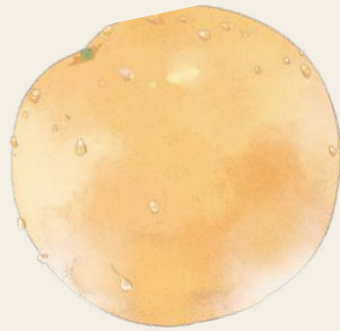


## FAO LAUNCHED "ONE COUNTRY ONE PRODUCE" INITIATIVE IN AISA-PACIFIC REGION

China's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Li Jinxiang delivered a keynote speech at the Global Action on Green Development of Special Agricultural Products: One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) in Asia and the Pacific on May 10, 2022. He shared China's experience and practices in the implementation of FAO's OCOP initiative.

China's CVO Li Jinxiang noted that China highly appreciates FAO launching the Global Action on OCOP. China's experience shows that developing industries with distinctive features is a good sustainable development practice, a long-term strategy for eradicating poverty, an effective way to increase farmers' income, and a strong support for improving living standards of urban and rural residents. Therefore, developing such industries is of great significance to agricultural and rural development.

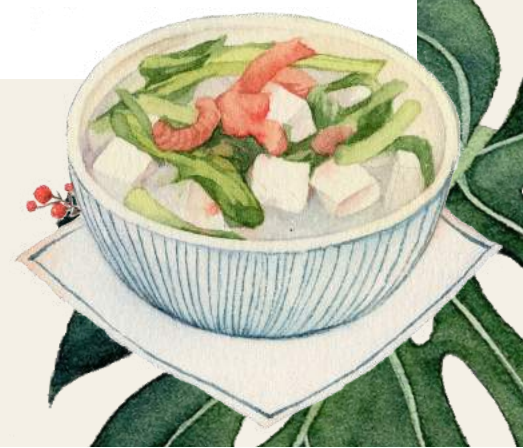
Li suggested that while implementing the Global Action on OCOP, FAO should: 1) assist participating countries in formulating implementation plans, highlighting differences among countries by introducing tailor-made national policies, and drive large-scale industrial development through small-scale projects; 2) advocate new agro-business, stick to green agricultural



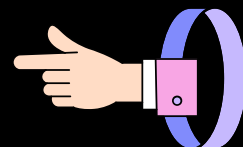
development, facilitate innovative application of digital technology, and promote integrated development of primary, secondary and tertiary industries; and 3) encourage mutual learning and exchanges among participating countries, summarize experience and practices, and organize exchange events on a regular basis.

The Global Action on Green Development of Special Agro-Products, themed as OCOP was launched by the FAO Director-General in Sep. 2021. This initiative aims to support Members in the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems by boosting green development of respective special agro-products.

Beth Bechdol, FAO Deputy Director-General, Jong-Jin Kim, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and Agriculture Ministers and high-level officials from Indonesia, Samoa, Thailand, Laos, Bhutan and other countries attended the event. (Source: MARA)



# Notification



# from CAWA

To whom it may concern,

According to the latest COVID-19 pandemic control policy in Xi'an City and in order to keep all delegates safe, we hereby confirm to postpone the “**2022 International Conference of Agricultural Produce Distribution Industry & the 7th China Agricultural Products Supply Chain Conference**” to September 16th, 2022.

Sorry for the inconvenience it may cause to you, and we will definitely host a wonderful conference in the autumn.

Thanks for your support and attention.

**China Agricultural Wholesale Markets Association (CAWA)**

# Will Read Your Advertisement

## WHO?

- Wholesale market, retail market and industry experts in China;
- Import and export enterprises of fruits, vegetables, meat and aquatic products all over the world;
- Agricultural related government agencies, embassies and business associations worldwide.

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*ALMI*

NATURE PROVIDES THE  
INGREDIENTS, WE  
PROVIDE THE  
INSPIRATION



APPETIZERS OF  
GREEK  
NATURE SINCE  
1996

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In ALMI, people honor the “culinary history” of our country and try to develop it, producing and sharing with the world, products that respect their high-quality ingredients and highlight them in a unique way, through innovative recipes. With the largest production unit in the Balkans which is privately owned premises occupying 10000m<sup>2</sup> in a total area of 60 acres, ALMI has 7 production lines with 230000 products packaged and 10 tons of frozen products per day and the products are Greek farms traceability.

With the great retail chains, these products are sold in 24 more countries beyond the Greek borders. There are now 500 available product codes and they welcome partnership suggestions for new flavor combinations.





## FRUITS

In April, the average wholesale price of six fruits monitored by China's Ministry of agriculture and rural areas was 7.15 yuan per kilogram, up 5.1 % MoM and 7.5% YoY. During the month, seasonal fresh fruits such as mangoes, pineapples, melons, mulberries, strawberries, and cherries were launched, and the overall supply increased. However, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and rising freight costs, the average wholesale price of fruits rose MoM. However, the average wholesale price of fruit rose MoM.

According to customs statistics, in March, the fruit import volume of China was 740,000 tons, up 24.9% MoM and 16.8% YoY; the import value was 1.2 billion US dollars, a MoM decrease of 11.8% and a YoY increase of 31.2%.

## Market Forecast

As the weather gets warmer, watermelon, pineapple, melon, mulberry, strawberry, cherry and other seasonal fresh fruits in Southern cities such as Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan, as well as mulberries, strawberries, cherries etc. from North and Central China production areas have entered the harvest season gradually. The fruit market supply and varieties have increased.

After May, the market is dominated by seasonal fruit consumption. Mango, pineapple, melon, mulberries, strawberries, cherries are on the market with a large variety. It is expected that the price of fruits will decline slightly in the later period.



## AQUATIC PRODUCTS

At present, most aquaculture aquatic products in China are in the seeding stage, and the amount of aquatic production has decreased compared with the earlier stage. The outbreak Covid-19 pandemic in Shanghai and Jilin province has also brought a negative impact on consumption of aquatic products, but during the May Day holiday, demand and prices of aquatic products rose slightly. According to China Agricultural Information Network monitoring, in April, the weighted average wholesale price of aquatic products was 24.68 yuan per kilogram, up 4.0% MoM, down 7.7% YoY.

According to customs statistics, China imported 517,400 tons of aquatic products in March, increasing by 47.0% MoM and 4.7% YoY; Imports amounted to us \$1.625 billion, up 21.2% MoM and 20.6% YoY. In March, China's aquatic product export was 275,100 tons, up 55.1% MoM and down 1.8% YoY. Exports amounted to us \$1.761 billion, up 70.3% MoM and 13.9% YoY. From January to March, the import of aquatic products reached 1.3038 million tons, up 19.9% YoY, and the import value reached \$4.788 billion, up 38.8% YoY. The export of aquatic products in this period reached 836,400 tons, up 0.7% YoY, and the export value reached \$5.217 billion, up 15.8% YoY.

### Market Forecast

Chinese aquaculture is at the end of seedling inoculation and the market quantity is gradually decreasing. From May 1st, most of China's sea areas will enter to fishing moratorium, and the supply of seawater fishing products will decrease. The price of aquatic products is expected to rise slightly in the short term.



## BEEF AND MUTTON

Affected by rising temperatures and sluggish consumption, China's beef and mutton prices fell slightly this month. From the weekly price point of view, in the first to third weeks of April, except for the decline in the first week, the weekly price of beef in the second to third weeks was flat MoM, while the weekly price of mutton continued to decline MoM, with the cumulative decline of the weekly price of beef and mutton being 1.8% and 3.0% respectively. In April, the average price of beef market was 86.59 yuan per kilogram, down 0.8% MoM, and 0.3% YoY; The average price of mutton market is 82.65 yuan per kilogram, down 1.3% MoM and 3.3% YoY.

In March, the import of beef and mutton increased, and the cumulative import decreased. In this period, the import volume of beef was 202,500 tons, up 30.4% MoM, down 7.4% YoY. The import value was \$1.3 billion, up 29.8% MoM, and 26.4% YoY. From January to March, the total beef import volume was 510,000 tons, down 17.3% YoY. The import value was 3.2 billion US dollars, up 12.8% YoY. The main import sources were Brazil (accounting for 24.6% of the total import), Uruguay (20.9%), Argentina (20.7%), New Zealand (10.4%), Australia (6.6%). The export volume is 5.48 tons, and the export value is \$106,500, mainly sold to Hong Kong.

In March, the import volume of mutton was 36,000 tons, up 33.2% MoM, down 51.5% YoY. The import value was \$230 million, up 30.5% MoM, down 41.4% YoY. The cumulative amount of mutton imports from January to March was 101,000



## BEEF AND MUTTON

tons, down 17.9% YoY. The import value was \$640 million, up 0.6% YoY. The main import sources were New Zealand (accounting for 57.1% of the total import) and Australia (38.6%); the export volume was 259 tons, and the export value was \$3.16 million, mainly sold to Hong Kong and Macau.

### Market Forecast

The beef and mutton production of China has improved steadily, but the beef and mutton consumption market has weakened after the May Day holiday. In general, the overall supply of Beef and mutton market in China is sufficient, and the demand is seasonally shrinking. It is expected that the price of beef and mutton will drop slightly in the near future.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China



# WORLD

## **Thailand's mangosteen production will increase by 38% to 380,000 tons this year**

It is the season for the production and listing of critical economic fruits in Thailand now, such as durian, mangosteen, and rambutan.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the total output of mangosteen in Thailand will reach 378,378 tons in 2022, increasing 38% year on year. The reason is that bad weather and quality problems caused damage to production last year.

However, mangosteen trees were not affected by external factors this year, and the yield is higher. Judging from the production situation of mangosteen in the southern region, it will be difficult to reach the expected output this year. due to the impact of bad weather.

The current fruit-producing provinces of Eastern Thailand, Chanthaburi, Rayong, and Trat have been gradually exporting since April 2022. Still, the quantity is not yet large, and 50% of the output will be exported in May.

Recently, the number of mangosteens exported by farmers has increased. Under China's zero Covid policy, a large number of export products are stranded at border checkpoints. At the same time, Thailand's long-term exporters and sorting and packaging plants have also temporarily stopped purchasing. They spent 1-2 days on regional cleaning and physical condition testing of workers, resulting in a decline in the price of mangosteen in Thailand.

In terms of exports, a number of exporters, sorting and packaging plants have started normal procurement plans at present, and the average export price of mangosteen has risen from 50-55 baht/kg last week (May 2-8, 2022) to 60-70 baht/kg.

## **Taiwan registers new pineapple variety with Japan's fruit authorities**

The Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) said this week it had registered a new pineapple variety that it developed in 2019 with Japan's agricultural ministry.





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The new cultivar, named Tainung No. 23, was developed by TARI's Chiayi Agricultural Experiment Station, which is known to have introduced 18 different pineapple varieties in Taiwan, including the original Tainung No. 1 in 1934.

TARI said it had sent a request to Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) on Oct. 18, 2021, to have its new pineapple variety registered for intellectual property protection in the Japanese market reports focustaiwan.tw

On May 6 this year, MAFF released the results of its review on Tainung No. 23, meaning there will be temporary protection for this new pineapple variety.

However, further examination will need to be carried out by the Japanese authorities before the fruit is given full legal protection. TARI said the Tainung No. 23 has a mango fragrance, delicate taste, and no apparent fibers.

This variety has a long shelf life, making it suitable for export, the institute said.

Of the 28,664 metric tons of pineapple exported by Taiwan in 2021, 17,850 metric tons, 62.3 percent of the total, were exported to Japan, COA statistics show.

Much of the rest of the total went to Hong Kong and China.

China imported 50,168 metric tons of fruit from Taiwan in 2019 and 41,661 metric tons in 2020.

## **Fruit Daifuku becomes an increasingly popular food in Japan**

Daifuku is a traditional Japanese confectionery which has existed since the 18th century. The traditional Daifuku is made of bean paste from red beans wrapped in mochi. In the 2020s, Fruit Daifukus came out in the market and have grown more popular ever since.

As the name implies, fruit Daifuku are different types of fruits, such as mandarin, apple, kiwi, pineapple, mango, wrapped in



the bean paste.

Fresh fruits are pricey in Japan, especially during summer when seasonal fruits are available. Locals enjoy eating seasonal fruits in a novel way, or buy them as gifts for others. In some traditional Daifuku stores, often people are lining up buying them. Locals like to take pictures of this sweet dessert and share them on social media.

### **Weather-related damage affects California blueberry crop**

The California blueberry harvest is in full swing. Alas, some growers are picking a smaller crop this year, as they lost fruit to spring frost and hail. The California Blueberry Commission estimates farms will produce 55 million pounds of the fresh berries this year, down from its original projection of 65 million pounds.

The current estimate represents a 15% drop from the 2021 crop, which produced 65 million pounds. The U.S. Department of

Agriculture reported the 2021 crop at 74.5 million pounds compared to 79.3 million pounds in 2020.

Commission Executive Director Todd Sanders called the weather-related damage as 'sporadic'. It hit some farms in some locations particularly hard, with others escaping with relatively minor losses.

Blueberries remain a relatively new crop for California, which did not have much commercial production until about two decades ago with plantings of heat-tolerant southern highbush varieties. State acreage climbed from about 200 in the late 1990s to about 2,000 by 2005, according to USDA. Total state acreage today stands closer to 10,000.

### **The Spanish stone fruit campaign's production volume will be the lowest in the last decade**

According to the Agricultural and Food Cooperatives' first estimates of the Spanish





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stone fruit campaign, Spain will produce 1,099,284 tons of stone fruits this year, the lowest volume in the last decade and 29.43% lower than the 1,557,094 tons achieved in 2021.

Of the total volume, 323,039 tons correspond to nectarine (-27.84% compared to 2021); 207,288 tons to peach (-25.96%); 184,610 tons to donut peaches (-18.57%); 181,904 tons to pavia (-46.78%); 143,652 tons to plum (-14.30%) and 58,791 tons to apricot (-37.36%).

This sharp decline is due to the negative effects of frost, rain, and hail in many production areas this spring, especially during the month of April, when the trees were already in bloom or with incipient fruits. According to the forecast, Aragon is the producing region that will have the biggest decrease in production (-62.85%) in 2022, as it will only produce 161,756 tons.

It is followed by Catalonia, with a 51.53% decrease (170,770 tons); Valencia (-31.46%, 18,520 tons); Castile-La Mancha (-20.92%,

31,220 tons) and Extremadura (-0.72%, 225,900 tons).

## **France: Strawberry growers leave fruit to rot as high temperatures complicate harvests**

As unusually high temperatures mean everything is ripening at once, French strawberry growers are leaving large quantities of fruit to rot in the fields. They simply do not have the capacity to harvest it all.

Even in late April, growers witnessed how high temperatures in southeastern and southwestern France accelerated strawberry production. Since then, southwestern France has seen 40 days straight of above-average daily temperatures – more than 10 to 15 degrees hotter than usual – which means strawberries are ripening twice as fast as usual.

As a result, ripe fruit, which can get damaged in transport, are left to rot in the fields.



## About Us

Asia-Pacific Regional Wholesale Markets Working Group (APRG) is one of the regional section of World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM), which was established in 2008, chaired by WUWM Board member Mr. Zengjun Ma, Chairman of the China Agricultural Wholesale Markets Association (CAWA), with the aim to intensify regional collaboration and provide focus and support to the specific interest areas of members in Asia-Pacific area, whose concrete activities are undertaken by CAWA.

APRG is open to all wholesale and retail markets and /or their national and regional associations.

Web: <http://e.wuwm-aprg.org/>