Food Security: A National Priority—China’s Policies and Practices

Gong Xifeng
26th April, 2022
CONTENTS

1. Challenges to China's Food Security
3. Prospects and Perspectives
Lester R. Brown: *Who Will Feed China?*

Food security is central to the role of China's agriculture. Nearly 500 million rural population still rely on agriculture to ensure their livelihood security and food security. This determines that China's agriculture can not be a commercial one, but to ensure domestic food security.
Limited Resources
0.08 ha/person in 2018, which accounts for 45% of the world average.

The size of farmland per household is only 0.66 hectares, which is 1/3, 1/40 and 1/400 of that of JPN, EU and the US.

Inelastic Demand for Food
The food consumption is more than 2 million tons/day.

Calculated based on the international food security line of 400 kg per capita, the daily consumption of China is equal to Singapore's annual level.

Quality & Diversity for Food
As people's income increases, the demand for high-value-added and high-quality food continues to grow.

Net Food Importer
China's food security based on domestic production is not only imperative for itself, but also conducive to global food security, especially for developing countries.
Inelastic demand of More than 1.4 billion people’s daily consumption of food.
UNBALANCED TRADE RULES

While China’s agricultural market has significantly opened up, China has limited policy space for support and protection within current WTO framework represented by asymmetric AOA.

At the same time, there has been little progress in multilateral trade negotiations for more than 20 years.

The global agricultural trade rules are still unfair and unbalanced. It has brought a huge impact on the agricultural production of importing members including China.
National Food Security Strategy

A national strategy on food security featuring self-sufficiency based on domestic production, guaranteed production capacity, moderate imports, and technological support.

Fundamental principle of ensuring basic self-sufficiency of grain and absolute security of staple food.

To Ensure Food Security through Farmland Protection and Stewardship, and Technological Advances.

Synergy between International and Domestic Markets and Resources

While ensuring basic self-sufficiency of grain, importing moderately for diversified consumption, and for conservation of cultivated land and water resources.

Green Development and High-quality Development

Establishment of agricultural belts for national food security while maintaining guaranteed farmland area.

Improvement of the Pricing mechanisms for food products.

Improvement of the staple food stockholding mechanisms which has always been playing an important role in stabilizing market, defeating hunger and supporting agriculture, especially in disadvantaged areas.

International Cooperation and Trade

Respect for the rules of the WTO and commitments of China’s accession to the WTO.

Sharing with the world of experiences and resources in respect of food security, of the development dividends by keeping China’s market and trade open.
Proactively Share China’s Food Security Resources and Experiences

- 20+ South-South Cooperation Projects of FAO
- 30+ Countries assisted
- 1100+ person-times of food and agricultural technical experts and technicians
- 60%+ of the total number of people sent to the South-South cooperation projects of FAO
Actively Open up Market

Abolishment of import license, quantitative restriction and other non-tariff measures

Tariff quota system for grain, cotton, sugar etc. with in-quota tariff rate 1%-15%

Reduction of agri. tariff from 54% to 15.2% during accession process

19 FTAs have been signed, 10 FTAs are under way.

Amendment of domestic laws and regulations in line with WTO rules

Adoption of science-based TBT/SPS standards

The agricultural simple average rate of MFN applied tax is 13.8%, lower than bound level.
CHINA IS ONE OF THE MOST OPEN AGRICULTURE MARKETS

Average import tariff of agriculture 15.2%, only ¼ of world average.
National Food Security
China’s agri-trade accounts for less than 1/3 of the world, which means that China cannot rely on trade to realize its own food security.
China has the capability and confidence to rely largely on its own to guarantee food security.
· 20th April, 2022  · China Agricultural Outlook Conference

Realizing Unimpeded Trade
Continue to actively participate in agriculture negotiation to move towards more equitable, balanced and development-friendly multilateral agricultural trade rules.
working together with other countries around the world in respect of stable agriculture development, enhancement of resilience of agriculture supply chain, ensuring food security which will be conducive to maintaining world peace, promoting global economic development and social stability, and promoting sustainable human development.
· 21st April, 2022  · IOWA, US-China High Level Agricultural Dialogue

Promoting the Global Food Security
Continue to provide assistance to other developing countries under the framework of South-South cooperation, and help them to realize SDG2030.
THANKS