

Agricultural products from Latin America meet with success in China

Due to its enormous population, China has become one of the markets that many countries are interested in making access for their products, including Latin American countries, such as Mexico, who just exported bananas to China for the first time earlier this year, Peru, who visited China and Taiwan in order to find new markets for their Super Food products, and also Argentina and Colombia.

Argentina

Mr. Zou Xiaoli, Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of Argentina, reported that during the first six months of 2019, China has already imported agricultural products from Argentina a total of 1.5 billion US dollars. The number makes China the first agricultural export market of Argentina. The most imported products are soybeans (more than 85% of Argentina's total export volume), beef (around 50%) and seafood.

According to the Chinese ambassador to Argentina, during the first five months of this year, Argentina has exported soybeans, soybean oil, beef and seafood to China, including other products, such as, grapes, cherries, lamb meat and honey, and also pork that Argentina exported to China for the first time in August, a total value of more than 1.5 billion US dollars. Resulting in China being in the highest rank of countries that import agricultural products from Argentina.

In addition, China is also interested in investing in Argentina's agricultural sector. Currently, there are more than 12 agricultural companies from China investing in Argentina, valued at over 1 billion US dollars. There are also 3 Chinese fishing companies that have opened 5 processing plants in the country.

However, agricultural cooperation between the two countries is still limited to a few products. The ambassador expressed the intention to establish "China-Argentina Agricultural Development Community", including a cooperation that covers the whole agro-industrial chain with a focus on trade, investment and scientific research, to strengthen agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Colombia

A delegation from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China visited the Colombian Institute of Agriculture and Livestock (Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario - ICA), in order to express its interest in increasing banana imports from Colombia and inspect the exportation process. In 2017, Colombia exported bananas to China a total of 398 tons and increased to 1,600 tons in 2018.

Mr. Li Wei Feng, Director-General of the Department of Animal, Plant and Food Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China, said during the visit that Colombia is an economically growing country and has many well-known products such as coffee.

As for Colombia, Mrs. Deyanira Barreo Leon, ICA's general director, said that Colombia is very interested in promoting the banana export business to China. During the visit, both countries jointly reviewed the tax regulations and the export process in order to comply with the current Chinese regulations. She also expressed the confidence that Colombia will be able to export more bananas to China in the future.

Sources: <https://www.noticiasagropecuarias.com/2019/08/05/china-es-el-principal-comprador-de-productos-agropecuarios-argentinos/> and <https://www.agronegocios.co/agricultura/china-busca-aumentar-las-importaciones-de-banano-desde-colombia-2890905>

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