

Thematic Discussion II :

Moderator:

Liu Xin China Global Television Network (CGTN)

Speech Guests:

Liu Jianjun Deputy Secretary of the CPC Municipal Committee and Mayor of Weifang City, Shandong Province, China

Jim Sutter Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC)

Chen Gang Assistant General Manager of COFCO

Laudemir Andre Muller Agribusiness Manager, Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil)

Wang Jianhong Director & Vice President of Guangdong Evergreen Conglomerate Co, Ltd.

【Brief Introduction】

Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties, as one of the sub-forums of the 8th Hongqiao International Economic Forum, was held in C1, 4.2 Hall, National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) on the afternoon of November 5, 2025. This conference is jointly hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce, and includes guest speeches and two thematic discussion sessions.

As international agricultural trade is facing multiple uncertainties arising from drastic external changes, including intensifying geopolitical conflicts, rising unilateralism and protectionism, frequent extreme weather events, and fluctuations in industrial and supply chains. It is imperative to enhance resilience and achieve high-quality development through international cooperation. The parallel session aims to bring together guests from governments, businesses, and academia worldwide to discuss strategies for addressing external uncertainties and jointly promote the high-quality development of international agricultural trade, thereby contributing to global food security and high-quality economic growth.



[Opening Remarks]

At the opening remarks, Zhang Zhili, member of the CPC Leading Group and vice minister of MARA and Wang Zhiheng, vice chairman of the Board of Directors, Executive Director and president of Agricultural Bank of China were invited. The guests exchanged views on the significance of high-quality development of agricultural international trade under an uncertain external environment, the challenges it faces, China's response measures and initiatives, as well as financial support paths. At present, the century-old transformation is accelerating. Under the external environment changes such as the sluggish global economic recovery and the intensification of geopolitical conflicts, agricultural international trade is facing challenges such as protectionism disrupting the order, geopolitical conflicts hindering smooth operations, extreme weather hitting the foundation, and market speculation affecting expectations. China has maintained global food security and trade stability through measures such as enhancing agricultural production capacity, expanding market opening, granting zero-tariff treatment to some countries, signing free trade agreements with many countries, optimizing trade regulation, fulfilling international responsibilities, and participating in global food and agriculture governance. It also put forward initiatives such as strengthening policy coordination to safeguard the multilateral trading system, promoting innovation-driven development to foster new growth drivers, enhancing division of labor and cooperation to improve system resilience, and strengthening information sharing to guide expectations. Meanwhile, financial institutions have been facilitating agricultural international trade by increasing credit support for agriculture, supporting the "going global" of agriculture, and improving the cross-border financial product service system. It is also suggested that policy coordination be deepened, services be optimized and upgraded to cultivate an ecosystem, and technological innovation be strengthened to create a new engine.



Zhang Zhili, Member of the CPC Leading Group and Vice Minister of MARA, attended the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" and delivered a speech



Wang Zhiheng, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Executive Director and President of Agricultural Bank of China Limited, attended the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" and delivered a speech

【Thematic Discussion I】

The first thematic discussion session invited Zhang Hecheng, member of the 14th CPPCC National Committee and president of the Rural Revitalization Academy, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Hanne-Berit Brekken, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Norway, Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive and Chief Economist of European Policy Centre (EPC), Victor Zhikai Gao, vice president of Center for China and Globalization (CCG), and Michael Hart, president of American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China). The guests discussed the greatest uncertainties in the external environment of agricultural international trade, the response measures of various countries and regions, trade fairness and cooperation, etc. From different perspectives, important uncertainties such as unilateralism, protectionism, geopolitical changes, extreme weather, and policy uncertainties in some countries are intertwined and superimposed, exerting a greater marginal effect and a longer duration on agricultural trade. Some countries, based on their own population, climate and resource characteristics, attach great importance to the opening up of international trade. Through constructive cooperation with China in market access and trade of seafood, they ensure the export of seafood and emphasize the importance of international cooperation. European guests discussed policy adjustments and reforms under the goals of ensuring food security, responding to geopolitical competition, and achieving sustainable development in the context of the common agricultural policy. Multilateralism and cooperation between China and Europe are crucial for addressing trade challenges. They suggested promoting the reform of the World Trade Organization and establishing a green trade mechanism. Meanwhile, the guests exchanged views on trade between China and the United States as well as between China and Europe, discussing the significance of free trade, the need to avoid trade wars, and the reduction of political influence on trade. China's agricultural product trade offers unprecedented potential and opportunities to the world and makes significant contributions to domestic economic and social development. In the face of the impact of imports on domestic production, it is necessary to respond to external uncertainties with the certainty of its own development and promote high-level opening up.



Zhang Hecheng, Member of the 14th CPPCC National Committee; President of the Rural Revitalization Academy, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), attended the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" and participated in the discussion



Hanne-Berit Brekken, State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Norway, attended the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" and participated in the discussion



Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive and Chief Economist, European Policy Centre (EPC), attended the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" and participated in the discussion



Victor Zhikai Gao, Vice President, Center for China and Globalization (CCG), attended the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" and participated in the discussion



Michael Hart, President, American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China), attended the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" and participated in the discussion

[Thematic Discussion II]

The second thematic discussion session invited Liu Jianjun, deputy secretary of the CPC Municipal Committee and mayor of Weifang City, Shandong Province, China, Jim Sutter, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), Chen Gang, assistant general manager of COFCO, Laudemir Andre Muller, agribusiness manager of Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil) and Wang Jianhong, director & vice president of Guangdong Evergreen Conglomerate Co, Ltd.. The guests discussed innovative response measures for promoting high-quality development of agricultural trade and the practices of various regions and enterprises. At the local level, by fostering new quality agricultural productivity, relying on the leading role of major enterprises, focusing on areas such as food security and rural industries, paying attention to product quality and safety, achieving QR code traceability for some agricultural products, strengthening international cooperation, holding forums and exhibitions, expanding emerging markets, and promoting the development of international agricultural trade. At the industry association level, the importance of collaboration, long-term relationships, transparency and mutual trust is emphasized. It is suggested to avoid weaponizing agricultural trade and maintain stable trade relations by developing diversified markets and strengthening communication with the industry and the government. At the enterprise level, agricultural trading companies are committed to building a full-chain global ecological cooperation system centered on digital technology. They collaborate with other enterprises to establish blockchain companies, promote the application of electronic bills of lading and digital payment technologies, and at the same time adhere to the concepts of co-construction, sharing, and open cooperation, cooperating with relevant entities around the world. Make efforts in aspects such as hardware facility construction, community ecosystem building, and sustainable development. Some countries have accelerated sustainable food production, utilized technologies adapted to their own climatic conditions, and relied on the three pillars of their own science and technology, technical support, and financing to promote agricultural development and achieve the transformation from agricultural product importers to exporters. Aquatic product enterprises integrate domestic and international markets and resources, develop diversified export markets, intensify the exploration of domestic online channels, research and develop products suitable for different application scenarios, enhance their advantages in product design, food safety and other aspects, in order to cope with the fluctuations of international trade. At the same time, they actively participate in international projects, export technology and experience, and contribute to the development of the global aquatic product industry. We should respond to external uncertainties with the certainty of our own development, and promote high-quality development of agricultural international trade through innovation, cooperation and enhancing our own strength.



Liu Jianjun, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Municipal Committee and Mayor of Weifang City, Shandong Province, China, attended the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" and participated in the discussion



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Liu Xin, China Global Television Network (CGTN), hosted the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties" discussion



Wei Zhenglin, Acting Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA), hosted the parallel session on "Resilience and Innovation: High-Quality International Agricultural Trade amid External Uncertainties"