

**INSTITUTE OF WORLD  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS**

# **MEDIA DIGEST**

**24.07 – 30.07.2023**



## THREE MAIN TOPICS

- **PhosAgro Will Train African Farmers**
- **India Became the World's Second Largest Exporter of Agrochemicals, Overtaking the United States**
- **Rabobank: Pork Trade Expected to Slow in Second Half of 2023**



### EDUCATION

EDUCATION / 24.07.2023

#### **USDA Invests 33 Million Dollars in Research, Extension and Education**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an investment of more than 33 million dollars to support capacity-building efforts at 1890 Land-grant Universities. This investment, administered through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will support 82 research, Extension, and education projects across the nation's 19 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Research investments will strengthen the quality and diversity of the nation's higher-education workforce, bolster research and knowledge delivery systems, and equip 1890 Land-grant Universities with resources needed to better address emerging challenges and create new opportunities. [USDA](#)

EDUCATION / 25.07.2023

#### **Saudi Arabia Launched an Agricultural Hackathon**

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture has launched an Agriculture Hackathon to inspire and support innovation in the sector. The event aims to generate digital solutions, platforms and applications to foster a sustainable agricultural ecosystem in alignment with the objectives of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, according to the Ministry. The competition is expected to strengthen food and water security, enhance productivity and quality, optimize supply chain processes, harness modern technologies, and promote awareness and education. [Arab News](#)

EDUCATION / 28.07.2023

#### **PhosAgro Will Train African Farmers**

PhosAgro has launched a digital educational platform for African farmers. Program participants will be able to get acquainted with lectures on sustainable agriculture, fertilizer selection, crop quality improvement and other areas. The Pro Agro Lectorium educational platform was presented as part of the second summit, the Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum. [Sfera.fm](#)



 SCIENCE



SCIENCE / 26.07.2023

**Scientists Develop New Tool to Predict Invasive Plant Species**

Plant species become exotic when humans unintentionally or intentionally transport them to new regions outside their native range. To address this, scientists from Spanish and Australian institutions have introduced a novel framework to identify predictors of invasiveness. Their study focuses on species that have either succeeded or failed to establish themselves in foreign regions despite following similar historical introduction routes. By using this framework, prediction models and management practices can be improved to mitigate the detrimental impacts of invasive species on local ecosystems. [AZO Life Sciences](#)

SCIENCE / 27.07.2023

**Rice Genes to Prevent its Selection**

Plant scientists in China have identified genes that played a huge role in preventing two distant relatives in the rice family from interbreeding. The discovery laid the foundation for next-generation high-yielding rice crops and "benefited China's efforts to curb its reliance on food imports," experts said. It also marks a breakthrough in long struggle to overcome reproductive isolation, an evolutionary phenomenon that has hindered efforts to bring together well-functioning genes through hybridization. [CGTN](#)

SCIENCE / 27.07.2023

**Scientists Consider Camellia Promising for Creating Biopesticides**

Chinese scientists have studied plants that may be promising for the production of biopesticides. Camellia oleifera tops the list. Cake from camellia seeds contains a large amount of tea polyphenols and saponins, which exhibit high antibacterial and insecticidal activity. The impact of camellia cake products on fungi and insects turned out to be toxic, but did not completely destroy them.

[GlavAgronom](#)

SCIENCE / 28.07.2023

**Costa Rica Has the Second-Largest Collection of Squash Family Seeds in the World**

Some 6,200 samples from 125 species of squash, chilli, tomato and other edible plants are held at the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) near the town of Turrialba. It holds seeds from 57 countries, but about 90% are from the Central American region, collected from markets and farms or growing wild. The CATIE stockpile, stacked on shelves in hundreds of small, silver envelopes, includes the second-largest collection of squash family seeds in the world. [France24](#)





## INNOVATION

INNOVATION / 26.07.2023

**Siberian Federal University Proposed to Use Special Plants for Growing Vegetables in the Arctic**

Scientists from Siberian Federal University (SFU) in Krasnoyarsk have proposed using special multi-level installations with artificial light to grow vegetables, in particular tomatoes, for the Arctic zone of Russia. To date, the SibFU laboratory has already successfully grown a crop of cherry tomatoes in similar greenhouses. [TASS](#)

INNOVATION / 27.07.2023

**Scientists Will Create PCR Testing for Plants**

Scientists from Stavropol State Agrarian University (SSAU) together with colleagues from the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences will be developing the domestic technology for PCR testing. The research project will be implemented as part of a large-scale program of scientific and technological cooperation. With the help of PCR diagnostics, agronomists will be able to identify up to 19 infectious diseases, including several forms of cancer. [Russian Ministry of Agriculture](#)

INNOVATION / 29.07.2023

**Robots for Artificial Pollination of Plants**

Polybee and Arugga have developed tomato pollination robots and continue to work on adapting technologies to other plant species. Both companies are now experimenting with strawberries and blueberries. The role of bees at Polybee is performed by mini-drones with artificial intelligence, equipped with sensors with color cameras. When the optimum moment for pollination arrives, the drones shake the pollen from the flower and start the pollination process. [Agronomika](#)



## WORLD MARKET

WORLD MARKET / 24.07.2023

**Iran and Malaysia Forge New Path in Agricultural Cooperation**

In a significant move to foster bilateral cooperation, Iran and Malaysia have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the agricultural sector. The MoU, which was signed by Iran's Deputy Agriculture Minister Mohammad Khayam-Nikouie and Malaysian Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Mohamad Sabu, targets increased collaboration in the fields of research and education. It details several key areas of cooperation between the two nations, marking a new era of partnership in the agricultural sector. [BNN Breaking](#)



WORLD MARKET / 25.07.2023

**India Became the World's Second Largest Exporter of Agrochemicals, Overtaking the United States**

India became the world's second largest exporter of agrochemicals in 2022 with 5.5 billion dollars' worth of exports, surpassing the US, according to the latest data released by the WTO. China leads in the export of agrochemicals. Industry experts say that Indian exports taking the lead is a result of Indian industry's technical ability to quickly introduce post-patent products at competitive prices in both domestic and global markets. [The Times of India](#)

**WORLD MARKET / 28.07.2023****Mozambique Bans Fishing Activities Amid Fungal Disease Outbreak**

After the discovery of an outbreak of a suspected fungal disease affecting fish Mozambique has issued a ban on fishing activities at three lakes in the country's northern region. The ban has been introduced at the lakes Chiuta, Chirua and Amaramba which are known to straddle the border with Malawi. According to authorities, the fish retrieved from these lakes were found to have red spots on their bodies which were identified as an indication of an outbreak of epizootic ulcerative syndrome, also known as red-spotted disease. [Food Business Africa](#)

**WORLD MARKET / 31.07.2023****The UAE Banned Rice Export**

The UAE Ministry of Economy announced on Friday a temporary suspension of rice exports and re-exports to foreign markets for four months. The ban covers various types of rice and their products that do not originate from India, the ministry said in a statement. The restrictions came into effect a week after India announced a ban on the export of non-Basmati rice. This decision by the Indian Government has greatly affected the local markets of the UAE, which imports 90% of its food. [AL-MONITOR](#)

**ANALYTICS****ANALYTICS / 24.07.2023****Bloomberg: Orange Juice Hits a Record**

Orange juice futures reached a record high on rising concerns of citrus greening disease limiting future output in Florida, the top producing US state, and hurting the citrus crop in top exporter Brazil as worldwide supplies dwindle. The most-active futures rose by the exchange limit of 10 cents early in New York trading before trimming some gains. The market expects a low harvest and is preparing for a possible shortage. Amid high prices, US orange juice consumption fell to a five-year low, with retail prices peaking at nearly 9 dollars a gallon in July. [Bloomberg](#)

**ANALYTICS / 27.07.2023****USDA: Global Beef Production to Boost in 2023**

Global beef production for 2023 is forecast to reach 59.6 million tonnes (+0.4% vs 2022), up 1% from April's forecast, according to the USDA's latest outlook. The key players have shifted slightly, as production is expected to grow in Argentina, USA and New Zealand. Drought in Argentina has reduced available forage, forcing further liquidation in the herd, as the production forecast has risen by 6% since the previous USDA forecast. [AHDB](#)

**ANALYTICS / 28.07.2023****Rabobank: Pork Trade Expected to Slow in Second Half of 2023**

Going strong the first half of the year, global pork trade is expected to slow in the second half with a sluggish economy, weak consumption and animal disease outbreaks affecting the market, according to Rabobank's third quarter pork report for 2023. The economy remains tight as North America and Europe are experiencing a rise in wages, shortage of labor and high inflation. Meanwhile China, some of Southeast Asia and South America have been seeing an increase in unemployment, slower exports and waning investor confidence [Meat+Poultry](#)

**ANALYTICS / 28.07.2023****ABPA: Brazil's Poultry Exports Grow by 8.5%**

According to the Brazilian Association of Animal Proteins (ABPA), Brazilian chicken meat exports totalled 2.629 million tonnes in the first half of 2023, an 8.5% increase compared to 2.423 million tonnes in the same period last year. This growth happened under the threat of avian flu, which was first identified in Brazil in May and has since advanced to 63 confirmed outbreaks. Of the 63 confirmed cases, 62 have occurred in wild birds and only 1 in subsistence animals (backyard). [Poultry World](#)