

**INSTITUTE OF WORLD
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS**

MEDIA DIGEST

07.08 – 13.08.2023



THREE MAIN TOPICS

- **MIPT Elaborated an App that Will Determine Product Freshness**
- **Namibia Seeks to Expand into China's Meat Market**
- **Bloomberg: India's Rice Export Ban Sparks Concern That Sugar May Be Next**



EDUCATION

EDUCATION / 10.08.2023

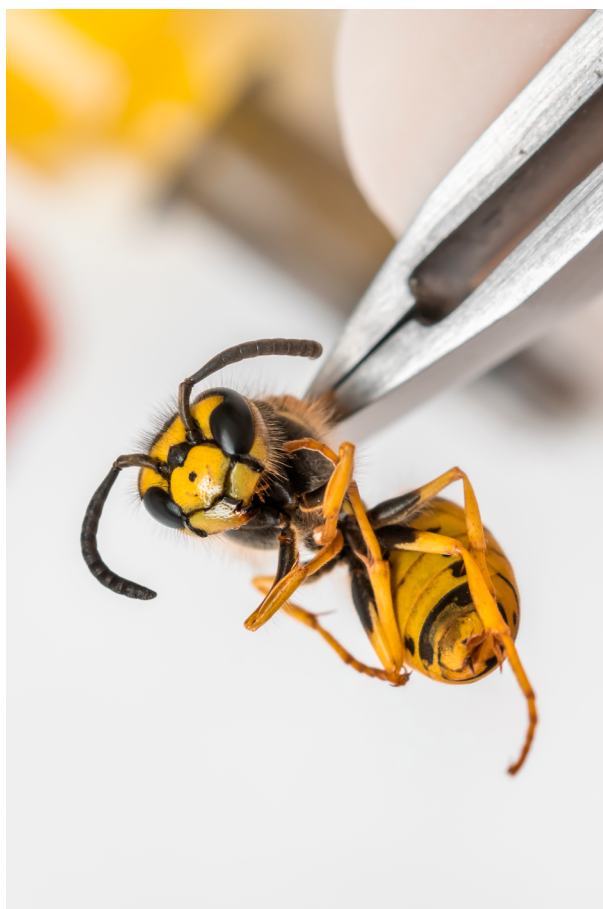
USAU Will Teach Digital Technologies Applied in Education

Ural State Agrarian University (USAU) launches a new advanced training program "Digital Interactive Tools and Services in Education". The program is designed for 24 academic hours in a full-time format using distance learning technologies and is designed to improve professional competencies related to information and communication technologies that are necessary for teaching staff in their professional activities. [GlavPahar](#)

EDUCATION / 11.08.2023

Universities of India and Poland Signed a Cooperation Agreement

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University and Warsaw University, Poland, will collaborate in education and research fields. For this, an agreement has been signed between the two universities. These universities will promote joint research, internship and training programs for biotechnology application in the field of precision agriculture, academic exchange of students and researchers. [The Tribune](#)



EDUCATION / 14.08.2023

SSAU Scientists Will Launch a Center for Artificial Insemination of Bees

Young researchers from Stavropol State Agrarian University (SSAU) started their work by launching the first specialized laboratory for artificial insemination of queen bees and breeding work in the South of Russia. The center will be aimed at maintaining the genetic base of bees and improving their hereditary qualities, which affect the output of marketable bee products. The breeding project became one of the winners of the competitive selection in 2023. [SSAU](#)



SCIENCE

SCIENCE / 09.08.2023

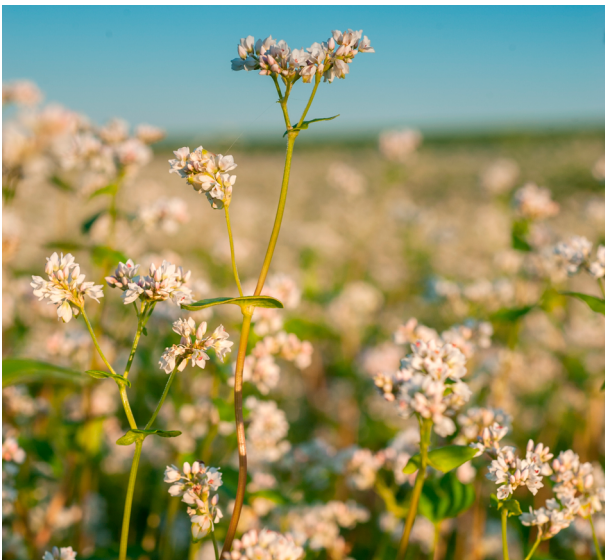
Scientists Challenge Traditional View of Soil and Its Biodiversity

Researchers from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, the University of Zurich and the agricultural research station Agroscope have reassessed existing data on soil organisms. Survey results indicate that two-thirds of the total diversity of biological species live in the soil. This is more than double the previous estimates of species richness, according to which it was believed that only 25% of them live in the soil. [GlavAgronom](#)

SCIENCE / 11.08.2023

Geneticists Developed Several Varieties of Self-Pollinating Hypoallergenic Buckwheat

Geneticists from Japan, China and the UK have uncovered the chromosome structure of cultivated buckwheat and its wild relative *Fagopyrum homotropicum*, allowing scientists to develop a self-pollinating variety of the plant. This was reported by the press service of Kyoto University. The article was published in the journal *Nature Plants*. The researchers hope that the varieties will make buckwheat cheaper and more accessible to the general population. [TASS](#)



SCIENCE / 14.08.2023

Understanding Watermelon Genetics Could Lead to Development of More Resilient, Delicious Varieties

Scientists at the Boyce Thompson Institute have constructed a comprehensive "super-pangenome" for watermelon and its wild relatives, uncovering beneficial genes lost during domestication that could improve disease resistance and fruit quality of this vital fruit crop. "The super-pangenome provides a valuable genetic toolkit for breeders and researchers to improve cultivated watermelon," said a researcher. "By understanding the genetic makeup and evolutionary patterns of watermelons, we can develop varieties with enhanced yield, increased disease resistance, and improved adaptability".

[AZO Life Sciences](#)



SCIENCE / 14.08.2023

Maize Root Chemicals Can Increase Wheat Yields by 4%

Maize roots secrete certain chemicals that affect the quality of soil. In some fields, this effect increases yields of wheat planted subsequent to maize in the same soil by more than 4%. This was proven by researchers from the University of Bern. While the findings from several field experiments show that these effects are highly variable, in the long term they may yet help to make the cultivation of grains more sustainable, without the need for additional fertilizers or pesticides.

[AZO Life Sciences](#)

 INNOVATION

INNOVATION / 08.08.2023

MIPT Elaborated an App that Will Determine Product Freshness

MIPT scientists have developed a mobile application for determining product freshness. It is based on analyzing Wi-Fi signal strength passed through fruits and vegetables. The method will allow users to check the quality of these products without violating its integrity. Experts are creating a similar solution for stationary devices. They are offered to be installed in the grocery departments of supermarkets. Industry experts noted that there is no full-fledged mobile software for checking product freshness on the market. [MIPT](#)



INNOVATION / 11.08.2023

Researchers to Investigate Using AI to Detect Disease in Cows Earlier

Researchers have received funding to investigate whether artificial intelligence could be used to detect disease in dairy cows earlier. The University of Bristol project is one of 14 projects to receive a share of 9 million pounds (11.4 dollars) funding from Defra as part of a major initiative to combat endemic livestock disease. Researchers plan to use AI in order to monitor social interactions of cattle which could indicate developing mastitis or lameness — two of the most significant diseases affecting the UK dairy industry. Diseases in dairy cows compromise health and welfare, and lead to financial losses for the farmer and the industry. [FarmingUK](#)

INNOVATION / 11.08.2023

India Launches the First Agricultural Data Exchange Platform in the Country

Telangana Minister for IT and Industry KT Rama Rao on Friday launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF). "Both ADeX and ADMF provide the right platform to ensure fair and efficient usage of agricultural data by the industry and startups and provide a big boost to the data economy specifically in the argi sector. These initiatives help Telangana lead the country from the front in using innovation and technology to drive food systems transformation and improve the livelihoods of farmers," the minister said.

[The Economic Times](#)





WORLD MARKET

WORLD MARKET / 07.08.2023

Heat, Humidity Kill Hundreds of US Cattle

Hundreds of cattle died in Iowa from extreme heat and humidity in late July, the state and livestock producers said, as the world recorded its hottest month ever. The deaths show the toll of severe weather on farm animals and food production. The losses further trim the U.S. cattle herd, which is already the smallest in decades after drought drove ranchers to slaughter more cows due to a lack of pasture to feed them. While not massive in number, producers said the recent deaths were unusual. Cattle also died from heat in Kansas and Nebraska, state officials said. [Reuters](#)



WORLD MARKET / 07.08.2023

Pakistan, China to Set up Joint Lab for Crop Pest Management

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (IPPCAAS) signed a Lol in Beijing for establishing the Pakistan-China joint laboratory for crop pest management. The two sides will kick start the operation of the joint laboratory and carry out tests, demonstrations, and joint research on integrated disease control technologies for crop pests and diseases of common concern, as well as technical personnel training and personnel exchange and training, according to IPPCAAS. [Daily Times](#)

WORLD MARKET / 07.08.2023

Two Port Granaries Exploded in Turkey

The incident occurred in the Turkish commercial port of Derince, a hundred kilometers from the country's capital. Two of the Turkish Grain Council's forty grain silos exploded as cargo was transferred to the ship. Kocaeli Governor Seddar Yavuz told Reuters the blast occurred near Turkish Grain Board (TMO) silos and that initial evaluations show that it occurred due to wheat dust compression during the transfer of wheat from a ship to the silo. [World Grain](#)

WORLD MARKET / 08.08.2023

Namibia Seeks to Expand into China's Meat Market

Nambian livestock producers seek to benefit from increased revenue and market access as the government nears a groundbreaking meat export agreement with China. According to the Namibian minister of agriculture, water and land reform, Calle Schlettwein, the government is currently in the final stages of negotiations to secure the deal. He added that the deal is focused on sheep and goat meat products which is expected to open up a new avenue for economic growth in the country. [Food Business Africa](#)





ANALYTICS

ANALYTICS / 07.08.2023

AgRural Boosts Forecast for Brazil's Bumper 2023 Corn Crop

Agribusiness consultancy AgRural has further increased its estimate for Brazil's corn output in 2023 after positive yields were reported as farmers harvest their bumper second crop. AgRural said in a statement it now forecasts the South American country's total corn production this year to reach 135.4 million tonnes, up from its July estimate of 132.3 million tonnes. By Aug. 3, AgRural added, farmers in the country had harvested 64% of the area planted for their second corn crop in the center-south region. Work in the fields still lags the previous season, the consultancy said, when at the same time 80% of Brazilian corn fields had been reaped. [Nasdaq](#)

ANALYTICS / 07.08.2023

Bloomberg: India's Rice Export Ban Sparks Concern That Sugar May Be Next

After India banned some rice exports to control domestic prices, traders are worried another food staple could be vulnerable: sugar. Sugar cane fields in the main producing regions of Maharashtra and Karnataka didn't get adequate rain in June, leading to crop stress, according to Aditya Jhunjhunwala, president of the Indian Sugar Mills Association. The group expects sugar output to drop 3.4% from a year ago to 31.7 million tonnes in 2023/24. The market is worried El Niño will bring hotter and drier conditions to South and Southeast Asia, hurting production. Thailand may also see a decline in output. [Bloomberg](#)



ANALYTICS / 07.08.2023

A Sharp Decline in Fertilizer Production Is Recorded in Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan, the production of mineral or chemical fertilizers has dropped significantly. Thus, the output of nitrogen fertilizers in January-June amounted to 192.6 thousand tonnes in 2023, which is 10.4% less than in the same period last year. The production of phosphate fertilizers reached only 7.6 thousand tonnes, which is 14.1 times less than in January-June 2022, Turan Press news agency reported. At the same time, mineral and chemical fertilizers exports boosted by 2.5 times, reaching 264.4 thousand tonnes in January-May. [GlavAgronom](#)



ANALYTICS / 13.08.2023

China's Soybean Imports up 15% in January-July

China imported 62.3 million tonnes of soybeans in the first seven months of this year, up 15% from a year earlier, customs data showed. In July alone, the country's soybean imports reached 9.73 million tonnes, down from 10.27 million tonnes in June but more than the 7.88 million tonnes imported in the same month last year, according to data from the General Administration of Customs. The country, as the world's largest soybean importer, imported a total of 91.08 million tonnes of soybeans last year. Imported soybeans are usually crushed into meal for animal feed in China. [ChinaDaily](#)