

**INSTITUTE OF WORLD
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS**

MEDIA DIGEST

31.07 – 06.08.2023



THREE MAIN TOPICS

- **Russian Polar Explorers Grew Watermelons in Antarctica**
- **India Plans to Buy 9 Million Tonnes of Russian Wheat**
- **ICAC: Inflation and Weather Cloud Global Cotton Outlook**



EDUCATION

EDUCATION / 02.08.2023

Dean of SSAU Held a Meeting with the Vice-Rector of UNAM

The delegation of Stavropol Agrarian University (SSAU) held a meeting with the vice-rector for international relations of the largest university in Mexico and Latin America UNAM, at which they discussed issues of expanding scientific cooperation between universities. The parties agreed on mutual support for the mobility of students, teachers and young scientists of universities, and participation in online courses for university teachers. Particular attention is paid to the study of Spanish and Russian as foreign languages. [SSAU](#)

EDUCATION / 03.08.2023

Agrobiotechcomplex Was Launched at Tyumen State University

A modern agro-biotech complex has appeared at the X-BIO Institute of Tyumen State University. Before launching the complex, scientists led by project manager Alexei Prokhoshin have visited several similar centers in Russia – Timiryazev Agricultural Academy, the All-Russian Institute of Plant Protection, as well as abroad. "The project is built on the basis of modularity, where each self-sufficient element works in close conjunction with others," – the message says. [Interfax](#)

EDUCATION / 05.08.2023

Delegation of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Visited SPbSAU

St. Petersburg State Agrarian University (SPbSAU) was visited by a delegation from the West African state of Côte d'Ivoire, headed by the President of the Ivorian-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Doue Tai Henri. The African guests were shown the educational, scientific, methodological and practical base of the university, including training classes on agricultural machinery. In addition, parties discussed opportunities for cooperation and interaction in the scientific, educational and public spheres of activity. [GlavPahar](#)





SCIENCE

SCIENCE / 01.08.2023

Russian Polar Explorers Grew Watermelons in Antarctica

Russian polar explorers have grown watermelons (*Citrullus lanatus*) in the greenhouse at the Vostok Antarctic station. They used a thin layer of soil substitute, nutrient solutions and lighting, the spectrum of which was close to sunlight. Polar explorers planted seeds of two varieties of watermelons in April, pollinated the flowers by hand at the end of May, and already in July they collected eight ripe fruits with red and yellow flesh from six plants. They reach 13 centimeters in diameter and weigh up to a kilogram. As noted in a press release, these watermelons are not inferior to ordinary ones in taste. [N+1](#)

SCIENCE / 03.08.2023

New Way to Combat Plant Fungi without Chemicals

Researchers from China and the US have found that gray mold cells and other plant pathogens produce microscopic vesicles containing RNA molecules and proteins that help these pathogens suppress plant immunity. The discovery will allow scientists to create new fungicides that will suppress the reproduction of gray and white rot, without exerting a toxic effect on humans and animals. Details of the work were published in the journal Nature Communications. [TASS](#)



SCIENCE / 04.08.2023

Researcher Found that GMO Crops Are Grown Mainly in the Western Hemisphere

A scientist at the Weatherhead Center for International Relations at Harvard University analyzed GMO crops and concluded that 84% of all GMO crops are in just four countries in the Western Hemisphere: the United States, Brazil, Argentina and Canada. He also found that 97.2% of the total acreage is used for four crops: soybean, corn, cotton and canola. [GlavAgronom](#)

SCIENCE / 04.08.2023

British Researchers Found an Innovative Treatment that Suppresses E. coli

Researchers believe they have found an innovative treatment that will help reduce antimicrobial resistance in treating a deadly E. Coli infection in poultry. The study, led by the University of Surrey, looked at the effectiveness of a novel metal-derived complex in treating Avian Pathogenic Escherichia coli (APEC), which is becoming ever-more resistant to antibiotics. Dr John Betts, a Research Fellow at the University of Surrey School of Veterinary Medicine, added: "Discovering the effectiveness of manganese carbonyl in treating APEC is a monumental step forward in tackling antimicrobial resistance as it shows we don't necessarily need more antibiotics; we just need to think more innovatively in developing treatments". [Poultry World](#)



INNOVATION



INNOVATION / 02.08.2023

China Grows Vegetables Using Artificial Intelligence

Tomatoes, beets, lettuce and other vegetables are grown using artificial intelligence without soil at the Advanced Agro-Technology Center of Excellence in Yangling County, China. In addition to vegetables, other crops are grown there, such as grapes, cherries. Scientists also conduct research on varieties, optimal technologies for growing bio-fertilizers. All processes in greenhouses are monitored by cameras and sensors, the information is processed by the system. The work of automation is controlled by people. [Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#)

INNOVATION / 02.08.2023

Novosibirsk Intends to Launch Production of Cricket High-Protein Flour

The Novosibirsk company Entoprotein, a Skolkovo resident, is going to launch mass production of cricket high-protein flour and feed for deliveries in Russia and abroad in 2025. The volume of investments is estimated at 50 million rubles to expand experimental production. There is a demand for products both from Russian food companies and abroad. [TASS](#)

INNOVATION / 03.08.2023

The US Aviation Administration Approves the Largest UAV System for the Agro-Industrial Complex

US startup Pyka has received FAA approval to commercially operate its Pelican Spray, a zero-emission drone. The spray aircraft became the largest unmanned aerial system project in history to receive FAA clearance for commercial operation in the country. Pelican by Pyka has already been used in Costa Rica, Honduras and Brazil. The company is going to expand its presence on farms in the US. [GlavPahar](#)



WORLD MARKET



WORLD MARKET / 01.08.2023

ASF Vietnam: Approval of Commercial Use of 1st Vaccines

Vietnam has approved the domestic, commercial use of 2 home-grown vaccines against African Swine Fever, the government has announced. This makes the vaccines the first 2 commercial vaccines against the virus. Press agency Reuters reported about the Vietnamese government's approval in late July. More than 650,000 doses of the vaccines were recently tested on hog herds in 40 provinces in Vietnam, with an efficacy rate of 95%, according to the government. The vaccines are eligible for circulation and use nationwide, the ministry said in the statement.

[Pig Progress](#)

WORLD MARKET / 04.08.2023

China Lifts 80% Import Tariffs on Australian Barley

China has dropped its 80% tariffs on Australian barley, after a long-running and high-profile trade war between the two nations. The tariffs were introduced in May 2020 after Beijing accused Australia of selling the grain below the cost of production and subsidising farmers. Australia referred China to the World Trade Organization (WTO) over the tariffs in December 2020 but suspended the appeal earlier this year when Beijing agreed to review the tariffs. [ABC News](#)

WORLD MARKET / 04.08.2023

Kenya Set to Export Fish, Fish Products to EU Markets

The Kakamega fish processing factory is set to begin exporting fish and fish products to the European Union market following receiving a certificate for meeting the international standards of the bloc. According to Samuel Ondiek, the products include dried smoked, fresh, frozen, teaks and fish fillets, among others. The factory has the capacity to process and export 20 tonnes of fish per day with the annual demand for fish being projected to be 7,000 tonnes.

[Food Business Africa](#)



WORLD MARKET / 03.08.2023

India Plans to Buy 9 Million Tonnes of Russian Wheat

New Delhi is considering import of 9 million tonnes of wheat from Russia via a government-to-government deal to augment domestic stocks amid rising prices, said people aware of the matter. The jump in wheat prices is due to the Government's imposition this year, for the first time since 2008, of restrictions on the amount of wheat that producers and suppliers are allowed to keep in stock for wholesale and retail sales. According to the Indian Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the authorities of the Republic took such a step to ensure food security, stabilize prices, fight inflation and speculation. [The Economic Times](#)





ANALYTICS



ANALYTICS / 01.08.2023

**Russian Agricultural Bank:
Africa Is the Only Region to Attract
More Investment in Agrotech than
a Year Ago**

Analysts from the Center for the Development of Financial Technologies of the Russian Agricultural Bank analyzed the volume of global investment in the agricultural technology segment over the past 2022. The data showed that, against the backdrop of a widespread global investment slowdown and slowing economic growth, Africa was the only continent with positive dynamics in attracting funding for agricultural innovation. Growth was 22%, USD 640 million. [GlavPahar](#)

ANALYTICS / 03.08.2023

**ICAC: Inflation and Weather Cloud
Global Cotton Outlook**

Although world cotton production is forecast to be the highest in six years, there are "some concerning dark clouds on the horizon" as the 2023/24 season begins, said the International Cotton Advisory Committee. Inflation could discourage consumers from purchasing discretionary goods, and three of the world's largest growers, China, India, and the United States, may have smaller harvests than initially expected, said the association of members of cotton producing, consuming, and trading nations. [Successful Farming](#)

ANALYTICS / 04.08.2023

FAO Food Price Index Rebounds in July

Global food commodity prices rose in July, influenced by the termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and new trade restrictions on rice, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reported. The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of globally-traded food commodities, averaged 123.9 points in July, up 1.3 percent from the previous month while 11.8 percent below its July 2022 level. The recorded increase was driven by a sharp rise in the vegetable oil price index, which was partially offset by a drop in the sugar price index and a slight decrease in the price indices for cereals, dairy products and meat. [FAO](#)

ANALYTICS / 04.08.2023

**Indonesia Wheat Imports Decline
in 2022/23**

Indonesian wheat imports for marketing year 2022/23 are estimated to decrease 19.9% to 9 million tonnes from 11.23 tonnes in 2021/22, reflecting easing demand amid economic slowdowns in Indonesia's export destination countries, according to a Global Agricultural Information Network report from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the US Department of Agriculture. Total consumption of wheat in 2022/23 in the nation of 274 million people is estimated at 9.5 million tonnes of wheat equivalent, revised lower than the previous FAS estimate of 9.7 million tonnes. Australia was the largest wheat supplier to Indonesia, with 46.7% market share. [World Grain](#)

