

**INSTITUTE OF WORLD
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS**

MEDIA DIGEST

12.02 – 18.02.2024



THREE MAIN TOPICS

- **Russian Scientists Developed a New Variety of Wheat with Purple Grain**
- **China Signed FTAs with 29 Countries and Regions**
- **Rabobank: Global Pork Production Slows**



EDUCATION

EDUCATION / 15.02.2024

EDUCATION / 14.02.2024

Miratorg Invites Students to an Educational Programme

ABH Miratorg is launching a training project for managers of agronomic and engineering areas, AGRO-LEAD. Selected undergraduate and graduate students will undergo a specialized program to prepare them for independent work in the management of land resources, equipment and personnel. Upon completion of training, the employer promises young specialists guaranteed employment. The training intensive starts on February 19. The application can be submitted on the website. [RGAU-MSHA](#)



SSAU Students Will Practice in Belarus

Students of the Stavropol State Agrarian University will be able to undergo practical training on the basis of the Minsk Tractor Plant. The corresponding agreement was signed by the rector of SSAU Vladimir Sitnikov and the general director of the machine-building enterprise Vitaly Vovk. As part of the agreement, students studying in areas related to the repair and operation of agricultural machinery will be able to learn from engineers, designers, mechanics and other specialists of the enterprise, as well as become familiar with the organization of the production cycle and take part in the production and maintenance of agricultural machinery. [SSAU](#)

EDUCATION / 15.02.2024

New Educational Programmes Were Opened at Voronezh State Agrarian University

Voronezh State Agrarian University received a license to carry out educational activities in 2 new programs of secondary vocational and higher education: "operation of unmanned aircraft systems" and "biotechnology". Recruitment of students for new educational programs will be carried out as part of the 2024 admissions campaign. [Russian Ministry of Agriculture](#)

 SCIENCE



SCIENCE / 15.02.2024

Japanese Scientists Bred a Pig Whose Organs Can Be Transplanted into Humans

In Japan, for the first time, a genetically modified pig has been successfully bred, whose organs can eventually be transplanted into humans without rejection. This was announced by PorMedTec , operating under the auspices of Meiji University. The technology was originally developed in the USA by a local biotechnology company. Japanese experts were able to successfully clone a piglet using cells imported from the United States. It is emphasized that this is the first time that a genetically modified pig was born in Japan, whose organs are planned to be transplanted into humans in the future. [TASS](#)

SCIENCE / 15.02.2024

Scientists Grew Beef from Rice

Korean researchers have managed to grow rice made partly from beef by incorporating meat cells into the structure of the grains. Yonsei University (South Korea) reports the development of a new variety . The university is developing new types of products in response to changes in the global food system. They will be needed if a food crisis occurs, for example due to a new pandemic, climate change or resource shortages.

[Nauka TV](#)

SCIENCE / 15.02.2024

Russian Scientists Developed a New Variety of Wheat with Purple Grain

Scientists at the Timiryazev Academy have developed a new variety of wheat — a distinctive feature of its grains is a purple hue, and the culture itself can be used in functional nutrition — that is, in food that improves the functioning of the human body, the press service of the academy told RIA Novosti. In the countries of Asia, Europe and North America, wheat with purple grain is actively used in the production of functional food products. Now this variety is also available in Russia.

[RIA News](#)

 INNOVATION

INNOVATION / 12.02.2024

Smart Drones for Soil Diagnostics Was Created in Novosibirsk

The government of the Novosibirsk region announced that the startup team “Dragonfly” has invented new suspended systems for drones and UAVs, equipped with precision farming systems and operated directly in the agro-industrial complex. Reportedly, the developers plan to massively implement such systems throughout the country, as well as in neighboring regions, specifically in the agricultural sector. According to the creators themselves, such drones and complexes “make it possible to measure moisture and changes in soil types, which, in turn, makes it possible to solve a number of environmental problems in the agricultural sector”. [GlavPahar](#)



INNOVATION / 12.02.2024

A System for Counting Hay Bales in Russia

The machine learning laboratory of the SUAI School of Engineering has developed a new drone for the agricultural industry, equipped with an automatic recognition system for rural objects. The development can recognize and count haystacks in a frame, as well as determine their total number, taking into account the processing of previous data. It is reported that the system will help farmers automate the process of monitoring and counting stacks, improve efficiency in the field and provide accurate harvest forecasts. The technology is also useful for determining the quality characteristics of hay — shape, color, as well as the boundaries of plowing areas.

[GlavPahar](#)



INNOVATION / 13.02.2024

Revolutionary Development For Growing Plants without Light

VerticalFarmDaily published information about the new startup program Square Roots , supported by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The developers plan to combine artificial photosynthesis technologies and their own experience in vertical farming to create an economical greenhouse where plants will grow in complete darkness, according to a report seen by sfera.fm. This technology is based on the development of Dr. Robert Jinkerson , a specialist in artificial photosynthesis from the University of California (UC) at Riverside, and Dr. Feng Jiao, a chemist from the University of Delaware. [Sfera.fm](#)

INNOVATION / 14.02.2024

Hatzenbichler Elaborated a System for Continuously Regulating the Pressure of the Tines on the Soil

Hatzenbichler engineers have developed a new system that allows the tine pressure on the ground to be continuously adjusted and controlled while maintaining the angle of attack. The tooth suspension is carried out using a pneumatic cylinder, which allows the tooth to be deflected by 45° with a stroke of only 30 mm. In this case, the pressing of the teeth is controlled by a pneumatic cylinder, the air supply to which is carried out from the pneumatic braking system of the tractor.

[GlavPahar](#)

WORLD MARKET

WORLD MARKET / 13.02.2024

China Signed FTAs with 29 Countries and Regions

As of the end of January this year, China has signed free trade agreements (FTAs) with 29 countries and regions around the world. Trade between China and these partners accounts for about a third of the country's total foreign trade, data from China's Ministry of Commerce showed. In 2023, China concluded FTAs with Ecuador, Nicaragua and Serbia, signed a protocol to further improve the China-Singapore FTA, and made significant progress in the early stages of negotiations for an FTA with Honduras. [Xinhua](#)



WORLD MARKET / 13.02.2024

Corn and Soybean Harvest Forecast Reduced in Brazil

Brazil's Conab cut its forecast for national corn and soybean production, citing the effects of the El Niño climate phenomenon. Brazil's 2023/24 soybean crop estimate has been cut to 149.4 million tonnes from the 155.2 million tonnes forecast in January. Corn is expected to be harvested at 113.7 million tonnes, down from the forecast of 117.6 million tonnes in January. Thus, if the forecast comes true, the gross soybean harvest in Brazil will be 3.4% lower than the 2022/23 season, and the second corn harvest will be 14% lower. [World Grain](#)

WORLD MARKET / 15.02.2024

Türkiye Abolishes Import Duty on Green Lentils

Turkey announced a temporary lifting of the previously 19.3% duty on the import of green lentils, as well as a ban on the export of this category of food. The decision will be valid until June 30, 2024. Over the 11 months of the 2023 calendar year, Turkey purchased 827.9 thousand tonnes of lentils abroad, mainly from Canada, Kazakhstan and Russia. This volume is 80% more than the same period of the previous year. However, Canadian market analysts do not expect that Turkey's removal of tariffs will lead to a significant increase in sales to this country: supplies of large green lentils from Canada are already at the limit, which led to a 55% increase in prices compared to last year on this date.

[The Western Producer](#)



WORLD MARKET / 15.02.2024

Nigeria Established Agency to Regulate Food Prices

Nigeria plans to establish a National Commodity Board to regulate prices of grains and other agricultural commodities. Vice President of the country Kashim Shettima said the new body will create strategic food reserves that will be used at the right time to reduce volatility and stabilize prices. Food inflation, which accounts for the bulk of Nigeria's inflation basket, rose to 33.93% in December from 32.84% a month earlier, with increases in the prices of bread, fish, meat, fruit and chicken eggs. [The Dairy Site](#)

ANALYTICS



ANALYTICS / 12.02.2024

Rabobank: Global Pork Production Slows

Rabobank's latest quarterly report "Global Pork" Quarterly Q1 2024" indicates a slowdown in global pork production as key regions face declines in sow numbers. It is expected that this trend will lead to zero growth or decline in production in China, the US and some European countries through 2024. In addition, problems in the industry may aggravate the epizootic situation. Due to high stocks in importing countries, global pork trade may also decline in the first half of 2024. "In pork exports, we are seeing a weak market, especially with the ongoing crisis in the Red Sea and Suez Canal complicating supplies from Europe to Asia," said a senior analyst at Rabobank Chenjun Pan.

[The Pig Site](#)



ANALYTICS / 15.02.2024

Rabobank Predicts Significant Rise in Almond Prices

Almond prices are expected to rise significantly over the next 12 to 18 months, despite global crop volumes returning to higher levels, a Rabobank report said. Production challenges in 2022 and 2023, coupled with increased global demand, will result in carryover inventories reaching their lowest level in 4 years. The forecasted decline in sales volumes in 2024 will cause prices to consolidate at higher values. However, over the next 5 years, world almond production will reach new records, and the same will happen with export supplies. [Rabobank](#)

ANALYTICS / 15.02.2024

IGC: Global Pea Consumption to Boost by 11% in 2023/24

In the current 2023/24 season, global pea consumption will reach 14.2 million tonnes, up 10.9% compared to the 2022/23 season, the International Grains Council (IGC) predicts. The organization's analysts indicate that, in particular, a significant increase in demand is expected in India. Between January and December 2024, global pea trade will be 6.1 million tonnes, the same as in 2023, with Canada's exports down 10% year on year due to high pea shipments from Russia. [I.G.C.](#)

ANALYTICS / 15.02.2024

IGC Raises Forecast for Global Grain Trade in 2023/24

The International Grains Council (IGC) in its February review raised its forecast for global grain trade in the 2023/24 marketing year from 415 to 419 million tonnes. Including the wheat trade forecast increased from 198 million tonnes to 200 million tonnes, corn – from 176 million tonnes to 177 million tonnes. At the same time, global grain exports will remain below the 2022/23 level of 428 million tonnes. The volume of carryover grain reserves will also decrease – it is currently projected at 589 million tonnes, which is 7 million tonnes less than last season. [I.G.C.](#)

