

**INSTITUTE OF WORLD
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS**

MEDIA DIGEST

15.01 – 21.01.2024



THREE MAIN TOPICS

- **Scientists Found a Hormone that Can Speed up Plant Growth by 30%**
- **Russian Scientists Launched a “Virtual Farm” with a Real Harvest**
- **Kazakhstan Lifts Ban on Russian Livestock Imports**



EDUCATION

EDUCATION / 16.01.2024

Timiryazev Academy and VNITIP Join Forces in Training Poultry Specialists

RGAU-MSHA named after K.A. Timiryazeva and the federal scientific center “VNITIP” are creating the basic department “Modern technologies in poultry farming”. The opening of the department implies various areas of joint activities. Among them are career guidance work among applicants, targeted training of poultry specialists, and attraction of modern engineering personnel to the poultry industry. Special attention will be paid to the training of working specialists at the Federal Scientific Center “VNITIP”. [VNITIP](#)



EDUCATION / 17.01.2024

USAU Will Train Specialists in Agritourism

The first intake for the new specialty will take place as part of the admissions campaign for the 2024/25 academic year. During their studies, students will study project management, personnel management, legal regulation in tourism, technology and organization of excursion services, tourism local history, marketing, economics, entrepreneurship, city branding and much more. [Ministry of Agriculture of Russia](#)

EDUCATION / 18.01.2024

New Educational Programs Opened at Belgorod State Agrarian University

In 2024, Belgorod State Agrarian University announces admission to the 1st year of new educational programs in the field of agriculture: “Use of unmanned aircraft in agriculture”, “Intelligent machines and equipment in the agro-industrial complex”, “Breeding and seed production” and “Organic agriculture”. Specialists from these training programs are in great demand in large agro-industrial holdings. [BSAU](#)

 SCIENCE



SCIENCE / 15.01.2024

Groundwater Depletion Sharply Reduces Grain and Bean Yields

American and British agronomists have found that the yield of cereals and legumes decreases disproportionately when the groundwater level drops to a certain point, which must be taken into account when actively using this source of moisture to irrigate fields in arid regions of the Earth. This was reported by the press service of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL). [TASS](#)

SCIENCE / 15.01.2024

Pastures Absorb Greenhouse Gases and Mitigate Climate Change

Plants in pastures absorb greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and also help store carbon in the soil and mitigate climate change. This is stated in a study by the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IG RAS), a member of the "Rhythm of Carbon" consortium, which is available to TASS. The research was carried out during the work on the creation of the Russian climate monitoring system. [TASS](#)



SCIENCE / 16.01.2024

Scientists Found a Hormone that Can Speed up Plant Growth by 30%

A plant hormone that can speed up plant growth by 30% has been discovered by scientists at the Singapore Center for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELS), reported online platform AgroPages . Scientists say they have discovered one of nature's most powerful tools to combat today's agricultural challenges: naturally occurring agrochemicals that can enhance the synergy between crops and microbes and increase crop yields .

[IA Krasnaya Vesna](#)



SCIENCE / 18.01.2024

Russian Scientists Accelerated the Reproduction of Arctic Raspberry

Specialists from the Timiryazev Agricultural Academy (RGAU-MSHA) have developed a modern method of propagating arctic raspberry that is very useful for human immunity, has soothing and antipyretic properties. As reported by the press service of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, the microclonal propagation method increases productivity by 10 times or more compared to traditional methods of propagation by seeds.

[TASS](#)

SCIENCE / 19.01.2024

Russian Scientists Look for a Way to Create “Artificial Black Soil”

“Artificial black soil” will help restore agricultural land in the Russian Federation; now scientists are exploring the possibilities and ways of creating such a substance, Mikhail Charny, a leading expert of the FoodNet NTI working group, told RIA Novosti. According to him, a negative consequence of intensive farming is the deterioration of the agrophysical condition of agricultural lands. For example, many soils in Siberia are no longer suitable for exploitation; he sees similar prospects both for the Volga region and for the black earth zone of central Russia, and also mentions the northwestern part and the Far East. [RIA News](#)

INNOVATION / 16.01.2024

Chinese Researchers Will Grow Potatoes in Space

Xisen Corporation researchers began growing and studying seed potatoes that spent 180 days in orbit aboard China's Shenzhou 16 manned spacecraft. The key task is to develop new potato varieties with improved characteristics after germination and transplantation of “space” seeds. [Agronomics](#)

INNOVATION / 19.01.2024

Nikon Elaborated an AI Camera to Predict Labor in Cows

The well-known manufacturer of photographic equipment Nikon has applied its developments in the field of digital images and artificial intelligence for agriculture. According to Kyodo news agency News, a company has developed a system that can alert farmers when cows are about to give birth. The technology will reduce the need to check pregnant cows during the mass calving period and will increase the efficiency of farmers. [Emeat.ru](#)



INNOVATION / 16.01.2024

Siberian Federal University Students Constructed Drone Models

Students of the Siberian Federal University developed six models of unmanned aerial vehicles for various purposes and presented them as part of the “I’m in Business” youth entrepreneurship development program. The project was presented at a competition in Moscow and received high expert evaluation. Participants of SKB “UAV” received financial support within the framework of the state national project “My Business” and from private investors. [Siberian Federal University](#)

INNOVATION / 19.01.2024

Russian Scientists Launched a “Virtual Farm” with a Real Harvest

The technological modular complex allows for year-round cultivation of berries, vegetables and fruits. The creation of an artificial microclimate allows crops to be grown year-round, without requiring human intervention. The development was created at Lobachevsky University and will allow the creation of remotely controlled soilless complexes in which vegetables, fruits and berries will be grown. The pilot launch of the project is planned for the second quarter of 2024. [Sfera.fm](#)





WORLD MARKET

WORLD MARKET / 16.01.2024

Cocoa Bean Prices Continue to Rise

Prices for cocoa beans on world exchanges set a new record on January 16, continuing last year's growth against the backdrop of an expected supply shortage, which will be observed for the third season in a row. On the Intercontinental Exchange in London on January 16, March cocoa bean futures LCCc 1 rose by 2.3% to 3,571 pounds sterling (4,671.43 dollars) per tonne, and the New York contract Ccc 1 rose in price by 1.5%, up to 4,388 dollars per tonne. [Nasdaq](#)



WORLD MARKET / 16.01.2024

Kazakhstan Lifts Ban on Russian Livestock Imports

From January 16, the Veterinary Control and Supervision Committee of Kazakhstan lifted the previously introduced restrictions on the import of livestock and livestock products from 26 regions of Russia. Previously introduced restrictions were associated with the detection of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, bird flu, nodular dermatitis, sheep and goat pox in the regions of Russia. In addition, the transit of cattle, live sheep and goats from some regions of Russia through the territory of Kazakhstan is permitted. [Eldala.kz](#)



WORLD MARKET / 17.01.2024

India Refocuses Tea Exports

In January-October 2023, India exported 182.69 thousand tonnes of tea, which is 1.65% less than the same period in 2022, the Tea Council of India reported. Due to payment problems, shipments to Iran, which previously accounted for 20% of India's total tea exports, have now virtually stopped, according to industry sources. In such a situation, India is making efforts to enter new markets. Thus, the UAE has already become the second largest importer of Indian tea after the CIS countries. [The Economic Times](#)

WORLD MARKET / 17.01.2024

Cambodia to Temporarily Suspend Imports of Meat and Offal

The Cambodian government has announced that it will ban the import of meat and offal from March 12 to September 12 this year. The implementation of this measure is intended to protect local production against the backdrop of falling prices and tightening price competition with imported products. The ban will not apply to the import of raw materials for the production of export goods. [Asian Agribiz](#)



ANALYTICS

ANALYTICS / 15.01.2024

AgRural Lowered Forecast for Gross Soybean Harvest in Brazil

Consulting agency AgRural has reduced its estimate of soybean production in Brazil in the 2023/24 season to 150.1 million tonnes. In December, the forecast was at 159.1 million tonnes. According to agency analysts, the adjustment is due to unfavorable weather conditions during the harvesting campaign: in Mato Grosso and a number of other Brazilian states, high air temperatures and unstable precipitation led to the loss of part of the harvest.

[Nasdaq](#)



ANALYTICS / 15.01.2024

Indonesia Records 7-fold Increase in Rice Imports

Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics released data showing that the island nation's total rice imports in 2023 amounted to 3.06 million tonnes, 7.1 times higher than in 2022 and a multi-year procurement record. At the same time, the cost of supplies in the segment reached a 5-year high. The largest imported category in the segment is semi-polished or fully milled rice (HS 10063099), which accounted for 88.2% of purchases, the leading supplier is Thailand 45.12%. [Investor ID](#)

ANALYTICS / 16.01.2024

China Reached a Record Volume of Pork in 2023

In 2023, China produced 57.94 million tonnes of pork, which is a record figure, according to data published by the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China. Compared to 2022, the volume increased by 4.6%. In the fourth quarter of 2023, Chinese producers increased pig slaughter to reduce losses amid growing herds and outbreaks of African swine fever. As a result, in October-December, pork production increased by 7% compared to the same period in 2022. [Nasdaq](#)

ANALYTICS / 17.01.2024

US Milk Powder Exports Forecast to Grow in 2024

Production of skimmed milk powder (SMP) in the United States in 2024 will increase by 11% and amount to 1.3 million tonnes, the country's Ministry of Agriculture predicts. Exports of SOM will increase by 3%, to 838 thousand tonnes, compared with a slight decrease in 2023. In particular, the department expects the restoration of supplies to the markets of East and Southeast Asia. The gap between US and EU prices has narrowed to parity over the past year and is projected to reverse in favor of US exports in 2024. [The Dairy Site](#)

