

**INSTITUTE OF WORLD
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS**

MEDIA DIGEST

11.03 – 17.03.2024



THREE MAIN TOPICS

- **A Center for Accelerated Propagation of Agricultural Crops Will Appear near Novosibirsk**
- **Russia Strengthens its Position as the Sixth Largest Wine Producer in Europe**
- **IGC Publishes First Forecasts for Global Grain Balance in 2024/25**



EDUCATION

EDUCATION / 12.03.2024

Registration Is Open for the Webinar “Transforming Fish Processing: the Path to Efficiency through Analytics”

On March 22 at 11:00 Moscow time, a free exclusive webinar “Transforming fish processing: the path to efficiency through analytics” will take place. The speaker will be leading analyst in the food market Yulia Kalmykova from Fishretail. The webinar is an opportunity to learn all about the latest trends, challenges and prospects for fish processing, which will allow you not only to optimize current processes, but also to make the most effective strategic decisions for your business. sfera.fm



EDUCATION / 12.03.2024

A Center for the Study of Financial Technologies Was Opened at Ulyanovsk State Agrarian University

Ulyanovsk State Agrarian University named after P.A. Stolypin, as part of the university development program and its digital transformation, is actively introducing new digital integrated learning models together with partners. In February and O. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Ulyanovsk Region Alexey Leushkin, rector of Ulyanovsk State Agrarian University Vitaly Isaychev and director of the Ulyanovsk branch of the Russian Agricultural Bank Mikhail Abramov opened a Center for the Study of Financial Technologies at the university. Rosselkhozbank fully financed the project. [Russian Ministry of Agriculture](#)

EDUCATION / 12.03.2024

OSAU Discussed Attracting Applicants from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

On March 12, the rector of the Orenburg State Agrarian University (OSAU), Alexey Gennadievich Goncharov, welcomed the leaders of national and cultural organizations of the region within the walls of the university. During the meeting, agreements were reached on joint activities within the framework of the upcoming admissions campaign to attract applicants from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to study at the university. Today, two hundred students from Kazakhstan are studying at OSAU, while there are 14 students from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. [Russian Ministry of Agriculture](#)

 SCIENCE

SCIENCE / 12.03.2024

Global Banana Supplies Are under Threat due to Natural Disasters

The world's supply of bananas may be threatened by climate change. Pascal Liu, an expert at the World Banana Forum of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, warned that unless there is a significant increase in supply, consumers will face an increase in prices for this tropical fruit. Experts believe that not only banana producers may face similar risks — climate change is not having the best effect on most agricultural crops. Liu cites weather conditions as the main reason for the rise in banana prices — floods and strong winds, which cause the spread of diseases and can lead to crop loss. [Russian newspaper](#)



SCIENCE / 14.03.2024

Russia Created a Flax Oilseed Production Technology

Scientists from Mordovian State University (MSU) named after. N.P. Ogareva developed a technology for the production of flax oilseeds, the processed products of which are used in the manufacture of gluten-free products, the university press service told TASS. “The new development will help create a whole line of import-substituting products and satisfy the needs of people with celiac disease (gluten intolerance — TASS note),” the statement says.

[TASS](#)

SCIENCE / 15.03.2024

Norway Compiled a Ranking of the Causes of Salmon Mortality

Infectious diseases became the most common cause of salmon mortality in aquaculture farms in 2023. The Norwegian Veterinary Institute reported this in its annual report. Infectious diseases accounted for 38% of all reported fish deaths. In second place in the number of fish deaths are injuries — about 33%. Another 20% of the salmon died for unknown reasons. Among infectious diseases, the leading causes of fish death are winter ulcers, cardiomyopathy syndrome, diseases of the gills, inflammation of the heart and skeletal muscles, and pasteurellosis. The study involved 355 localities, which provided scientists with data on fish mortality in aquafarms. [Your own farming](#)

SCIENCE / 16.03.2024

In Italy, Local Varieties of Rice Were Developed for Sake

In Italy, two new varieties of rice for sake production have been developed, adapted to the local climate. This was announced by one of the developers — Yanmar, a Japanese manufacturer of agricultural equipment. To carry out the breeding project, Yanmar teamed up with the Italian Rice Experiment Station (IRES). Growing rice for sake and producing the drink in Europe will help solve two important problems: increased logistics costs and greenhouse gas emissions. As Yanmar points out, over the past five years, the cost of shipping a 720 ml bottle of sake from Japan to Europe has increased 1.5 times, from \$5.2 to \$8.21. [shoppers](#)





INNOVATION

INNOVATION / 12.03.2024

Innovative Food Production from Vegetables And Herbs Will Appear in Klin

By the summer of 2025, the Russian brand 5Dinners plans to complete the construction of a high-tech enterprise for processing and blast freezing of vegetables and herbs in the city district of Klin. The company plans to use only agricultural products from local producers in production. As the company reported to the editors of sfera.fm, the retail operator Open Retail allocated over 500 million rubles for the construction of an advanced enterprise for the production of high-quality healthy food products. The company will supply products from local farmers. sfera.fm



INNOVATION / 14.03.2024

Russian Scientists Elaborated an Agricultural System that Increases Crop Yields

Scientists from the St. Petersburg State Electrotechnical University "LETI" have created a fully automated city farm based on digital solutions that will help increase the yield and quality of grown greens. The technology has already been tested on basil: the yield has doubled, and the content of useful substances has tripled, said Maria Degtereva, a specialist from the department of photonics at the university. The operation of the farming unit does not require human intervention: watering, lighting the plants and other parameters are controlled by an automated module. The farm's systems are powered by both standard electricity sources and solar power. DairyNews.today

INNOVATION / 14.03.2024

A Center for Accelerated Propagation of Agricultural Crops Will Appear near Novosibirsk

The construction of a center for microcloning (accelerated propagation in laboratory conditions) of agricultural crops is planned to begin in 2026 on the basis of the unfinished building of the Institute of Cytology and Genetics (ICIG) SB RAS near Novosibirsk under the program of unfinished construction facilities. The center will become a link between research and industrial production of planting material, Director of the Federal Research Center Institute of Cytology and Genetics SB RAS, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexey Kochetov, told TASS. The technology of microclonal propagation of plants will make it possible to quickly obtain several genetically and morphologically identical plants from one planting material. TASS

INNOVATION / 17.03.2024

Food Holding SOYUZSNAB Introduces an AI Assistant

SOYUZSNAB Group of Companies is developing an AI assistant for food industry technologists using its own knowledge base. The neuroassistant will analyze the entire experience of the company's employees and instantly find answers to any profile request. The release is scheduled for the 3rd quarter of 2024. Now the first stage of a new project to create a smart assistant is nearing completion. As a result, company employees will be able to upload the client's request into the neural network and receive the most effective solution based on all the knowledge, developments and described problems. Agronovosti.ru





WORLD MARKET



WORLD MARKET / 11.03.2024

Australian Farmers Cut Vineyards due to Oversupply of Wine

Millions of grape vines have been destroyed in Australia and tens of millions more are planned to be destroyed due to overproduction, which has brought down prices for grapes and wine products. The fall in wine consumption around the world has hit Australia particularly hard, with demand for cheaper wines, Australia's main export, falling fastest. In addition, demand has fallen in China, a market Australia has relied on over the past few years. As a result, the fifth largest wine exporting country had more than 2 billion liters of product in stock by mid-2023, according to the latest data, representing two years' worth of production. [Reuters](#)

WORLD MARKET / 11.03.2024

China's Foreign Trade Grew by 8.7% in January-February

In the first 2 months of 2024, China's exports and imports grew 8.7% year on year to RMB 6.61 trillion (about US\$931 billion). According to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China, in particular, exports grew by 10.3%, to 3.75 trillion yuan, and imports by 6.7%, to 2.86 trillion yuan. Published statistics indicate an increase in the volume of China's foreign trade with ASEAN countries (+8.1%) and the USA (+3.7%). At the same time, trade with the EU decreased by 1.3% year on year. [Xinhua](#)

WORLD MARKET / 11.03.2024

China Canceled the Supply of more than 500 Thousand Tonnes of Wheat from the USA

China has canceled contracts for the supply of another 264 thousand tonnes of soft wheat, the US Department of Agriculture announced on March 11. As a result, the total volume of canceled deliveries reached a record value of 504 thousand tonnes. "The cancellation data demonstrates that China is able to buy wheat cheaper from other (suppliers)," explains the analytical company AgResource.

After the announcement of the cancellation of transactions, wheat futures on the Chicago Stock Exchange fell by 2.7% to \$5.24 per bushel.

[Bloomberg](#)



WORLD MARKET / 12.03.2024

India's Wheat Stocks at 7-Year Low

The volume of wheat in Indian government storage facilities by the beginning of this month amounted to 9.7 million tonnes, which is the lowest level since 2017. The decrease in stocks was caused by two years of low harvests, which forced the country's authorities to sell record volumes of wheat from storage in order to stabilize the domestic market. Despite this situation, the Government of India has so far rejected proposals to reduce import duties, currently at 40%, or to directly purchase from key exporting countries such as Russia. [Reuters](#)



ANALYTICS

ANALYTICS / 11.03.2024

Russia Strengthens its Position as the Sixth Largest Wine Producer in Europe

According to the OIV, European wine production fell by about 7% in 2023, to a 6-year low of 15.7 billion liters, with France producing red wines in the region for the first time since 2014. 4.6 billion liters overtook Italy (decrease by 12%, to 4.4 billion liters) and became the largest producer of this product in the region. Spain took third place, reducing production by 14% to 3.1 billion liters. Russia has become one of the few countries to increase self-sufficiency in wine, with production rising to its highest level since 2016, reaching 490 million liters, equivalent to the sixth largest producer in Europe. [Food Partner Network](#)



ANALYTICS / 12.03.2024

FAO Expects Global Wheat Production to Rise by 1%

Global wheat production in 2024 is expected to increase by 1% relative to 2023, but will be below the record level set in 2022. As FAO predicts, the total cereal harvest this year will be 797 million tonnes. In particular, the organization expects an increase in production in Russia due to favorable weather conditions. High domestic demand and an increase in minimum purchase prices will also contribute to the expansion of sown areas and an increase in wheat yield in China. In the USA and Canada, on the contrary, wheat sowing will be reduced, but yields will increase due to improved climatic conditions.

[World Grain](#)



ANALYTICS / 14.03.2024

Russia Is the Largest Supplier of Live Crabs to China in 2023

In 2023, imports of live crabs to China increased by 26% compared to 2022 and amounted to \$1.63 billion. Russia remains the largest supplier of the crustacean, which last year accounted for 60% of all Chinese imports in this category. In 2023 alone, shipments of live crabs from Russia to China increased by 138%, to \$978 million. Canada ranks second among suppliers, Myanmar ranks third, and the United States ranks fourth. Hotel restaurants, seafood catering establishments, and Cantonese restaurants are the main buyers of imported live seafood. [USDA](#)

ANALYTICS / 14.03.2024

IGC Publishes First Forecasts for Global Grain Balance in 2024/25

The International Grains Council (IGC) in its March review adjusted estimates of global cereal production and exports in the 2023/24 marketing year, and also gave the first forecasts for 2024/25. Thus, analysts expect an increase in the world wheat harvest next season to 799 million tonnes against 789 million tonnes in 2023/24, while exports will decrease to 196 million tonnes (-5 million tonnes). World corn production will increase to 1,233 million tonnes (+6 million tonnes), and exports will decrease to 179 million tonnes (-2 million tonnes). In Russia in 2024/25, grain production is projected at 132.8 million tonnes, and exports at 58.7 million tonnes. [I.G.C.](#)