

The 15th Session of the Korea-China Agricultural Cooperation Committee

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The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) announced that the 15th Session of the Conference of the Korea-China Agricultural Cooperation Committee was held by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture in Lianyungang City, China, on June 12.

The committee aims to promote cooperation and exchange between the Korean and Chinese agricultural authorities. Since the signing of an MOU for agricultural cooperation in 1996, the two countries have alternately hosted the conference every year.

For this conference, Korea formed a delegation led by MAFRA's International Cooperation Bureau Manager (Kim Deok-ho), and China formed a delegation led by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture's International Cooperation Manager (Qu Sixi). The main agenda of this session was the exchange of opinions on agricultural policies and food security policies, agricultural product safety control, and cooperation for prevention of malicious animal diseases and exchange of animal drugs. Based on this agenda, government officials from the two nations discussed mainly the following issues: (1) Korean and Chinese policies on agriculture, rural affairs and food security, (2) plans for cooperation for animal disease prevention, (3) exchange and cooperation for agricultural product safety control, (4) plans for exchange and cooperation for animal drugs.

In particular, the discussion centered on other plans for cooperation to prevent the spread of avian influenza (AI) caused by migratory birds including sharing of information on the outbreak of AI, joint research on habitats of migratory birds, and investigation of the status of migratory birds movement by attaching positioning devices to birds. This is expected to contribute to establishing a joint response system for animal diseases through the quick sharing of status on AI outbreaks and conducting joint research on habitats for migratory birds.

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