



Yuan Longping, "Father of Hybrid Rice", Dies at 91



禾下乘凉梦，一稻一人生。
国士无双，袁老千古。

Author/ Xie Duanyi



Yuan Longping, widely known as "the Father of Hybrid Rice," died of illness in Changsha at 1:07 pm on May 22, at the age of 91, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

Yuan, the pioneer of the research and development of hybrid rice in China, was the first scientist in the world to successfully utilize the heterosis (杂种优势) of rice and was awarded the "Medal of the Republic". The award speech stated that he had devoted his life to the research, application and promotion of hybrid rice technology, created a super hybrid rice technology system, and made outstanding contributions to China's food security, agricultural scientific development and world food supply.

Yuan, born in September 1930, had helped China work a great wonder, feeding nearly one-fifth of the world's population with less than 9 percent of the world's total land. Getting enough to eat, however, used to be a serious problem in China. "I saw heartbreaking scenes of people starving to death on the road before 1949," Yuan once recalled.

It was in that year that Yuan applied for Southwest Agricultural College and began his special connection with rice, a staple food for many Chinese people — that would become the focus of his lifelong research career.

A discovery of a peculiar wild rice species by Yuan in the southern island of Hainan in 1970 became the prelude of China's decades-long efforts of hybrid rice research. Three years later, he cultivated the world's first high-yielding hybrid rice strain with three lines, namely, the male sterile, maintainer and restorer. (雄性不育系、雄性不育保持系和雄性不育恢复系)

Hybrid rice has since been grown across the country and farmers have reaped incredible output after switching to Yuan's hybrid varieties. Hybrid rice recorded an annual

yield about 20 percent higher than that of conventional rice strains — which meant it could feed an extra 70 million people a year. Now its accumulated planting area in China has exceeded 16 million hectares, with the total grain output reaching 658 billion kilograms in 2018, a nearly fivefold increase from that of 1949.

Yuan's team has continued to make breakthroughs. The team was invited to make a trial plantation of the saline-alkaline tolerant rice (耐盐碱水稻) in experimental fields in Dubai in January 2018, and it was another success story for the team. China's export of saline-alkaline tolerant rice and the technique has been eyed as a way to combat the world's food insecurity.

In 1996, the Ministry of Agriculture formally established a super rice breeding program. Four years later, the first phase of the 10.5 tons per hectare target was achieved. And now the focus of Yuan's hybrid rice project has changed from increasing output to green and sustainable development. In September 2017, a strain of low-cadmium indica rice (低镉籼稻) developed by Yuan's team and the Hunan provincial academy of agricultural sciences was able to reduce the average amount of cadmium in rice by more than 90 percent in areas affected by heavy metal pollution.

From the Mekong River in Vietnam, Sumatra Island in Indonesia, Indus Plains in Pakistan, to the hilly valleys in Nigeria, hybrid rice has been promoted and introduced to dozens of countries and regions. It now has an overseas planting area of 7 million hectares.

Yuan was also awarded with many international awards, such as Gold Medal Award for the Outstanding Inventor of the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization, Science Prize of United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization, Rank Prize for Agronomy and Nutrition of the United Kingdom, Medal of Honor for Food Security and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

"I have always had two dreams: The first dream is to pursue higher yield of rice; the second dream is having hybrid rice planted throughout the globe. I have always worked hard to make my dream come true, and I hope to encourage you to realize these two dreams together with me," Yuan said.



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In me the tiger, sniffs the rose.

China-Russia

Author/ Wang Junyu

Nuclear Energy Cooperation Project

◇ 5月19日，习近平总书记和俄罗斯总统普京视频连线见证双边核能合作项目——田湾核电站和徐大堡核电站开工仪式◇

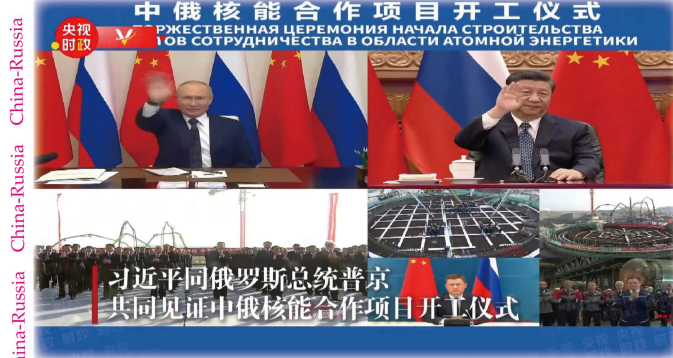


China-Russia China-Russia China-Russia
and Russia, has developed rapidly in recent years and attracted high attention from the heads of state of the two countries. In June 2018, witnessed by President Xi Jinping and President Putin, the two sides signed a package agreement on cooperation in the nuclear field, and agreed to cooperate in the construction of units 7 and 8 of the Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant and units 3 and 4 of the Xudapu Nuclear Power Plant. This is the largest nuclear energy

This not only demonstrates China's firm determination to reach a carbon peak and achieve carbon neutrality, but also demonstrates China's strong responsibility as a responsible major country. The commencement of the nuclear power project is of great significance for improving local energy structure, optimizing energy distribution, ensuring the safety of power grid and energy supply, and promoting high-quality local development. At the same

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President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on May 19 witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony of a bilateral nuclear energy cooperation project, Tianwan nuclear power plant and Xudapu nuclear power plant, via video link. Noting that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation, Xi said that he and President Putin have agreed to advance the development of bilateral relations to higher and deeper levels and expand the ties to broader fields.



China-Russia China-Russia China-Russia China-Russia China-Russia

Nuclear energy cooperation, a traditional priority area of cooperation between China

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cooperation project between China and Russia so far and represents a high level of practical cooperation between the two countries. The successful construction of the four units not only showcases the major achievements of China-Russia cooperation in high-end equipment manufacturing and scientific and technological innovation, but will also boost the quality and upgrading of practical cooperation between the two sides in various fields.

Nuclear energy is clean and efficient, and the completion of the four reactors will effectively reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

time, it will make important contributions to China's goal of reaching a carbon peak and being carbon neutral, and provide strong impetus to further deepen the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era.

Self-sufficiency? Or Food Imports?

Author/ Xie Duanyi

如今许多人认为国家应该为所有人生产粮食，并尽可能少地进口，然而这样真的百利而无一害吗？

In the modern society, there are some people who argue that countries should produce large quantities of food which could satisfy all population's needs and import food as little as possible. Personally, I disagree with the opinion of the topic as imported food is still indispensable for most of countries worldwide.

The first reason why importing is crucial lies in the fact that the imported agricultural products substantially enrich the diet of local citizens and improve the nutrition structure. A convincing example is that people in Frigid Zone would by no means have access to tropical food without the export of farm produce. Because of the existence of express transport such as air freight, those people are in a position to acquire a more abundant supply of food and vegetable.



Moreover, this irrational strategy will also seriously undermine the trade balance of import and export, or even adversely affect the relations between countries. This is also because the produces supply relationship of every country in the world is a circulation. Although such move may eliminate the fear of local residents, this will create panic in many countries which rely on exports as the main source of their economy. Worse still, there is a great possibility that these major agricultural countries will retaliate by refusing to import any goods from those nations that have the policy of isolation. Therefore, this proposal is not only irrational, but also irresponsible.

Admittedly, it is undeniable that there are certain risks in imported food, especially during the global spread of coronavirus in recent two years. At present, the re-outbreak of the epidemic in many places in China is due to the fact that the patients eat imported food, especially frozen food, which unfortunately contained the bacteria, and even in the last two months, coronavirus was detected in imported fruits, causing great panic among the masses. However, as long as the customs strengthen the monitoring and control, these risks can be greatly reduced, and due to this the governments have restricted categories of importing and issued relevant policies and new importing standards.

In conclusion, the opinion of the topic is not feasible and the self-sufficiency within a country cannot be achieved mainly because of the limitation of geographical conditions as well as the damage of trade balance.

The Peaceful Liberation of Tibet

Author/ WangJunyu

China's State Council Information Office on May 21 issued a white paper on the peaceful liberation of Tibet and its development over the past seven decades. The white paper, titled "Tibet Since 1951: Liberation, Development and Prosperity", reviewed Tibet's history and achievements and presented a true and panoramic picture of the new socialist Tibet.

On May 23, 1951, the signing of the Agreement between the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet (referred to as the 17-Article Agreement) proclaimed the peaceful liberation of Tibet. Since then, the Tibetan people have been free from

imperialist aggression and fetters forever, and have joined the people of all ethnic groups in China on the bright road of unity, progress and development in the big family of the motherland.

Starting from the peaceful liberation, the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet have worked together under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China to implement the 17-Article Agreement, effectively safeguarding national sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity. Democratic reform was carried out, and the feudal serfdom under theocracy was completely abolished. Millions of serfs were freed and became masters of the country, and the fundamental interests of the people of all ethnic groups were protected. With the establishment of the socialist system and the implementation of regional ethnic autonomy,

Tibet's social system has made a historic leap forward. Solid progress has been made in reform, opening up and modernization, which has greatly liberated and developed the productive forces and greatly improved the working and living conditions of the people of all ethnic groups in Tibet. After Entering the new era, the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with President xi for the core, under the support of the national people's, Tibetan anti-poverty crucial victory, comprehensive social overall situation is more stable, economic and cultural prosperity, better ecological environment, and people's life more happiness, and a new socialist new Tibet appear in front of the world.

Four Short Messages

Author/ Zhu Hongyi



1

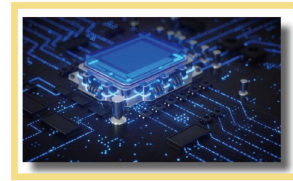
肯德基今夏换新装

Kentucky Fried Chicken is rolling out (正式推出) new packaging (包装) this summer, joining other major fast food companies that are giving themselves a makeover (翻新). The chicken chain said the new look is a "more modern take (版本)" on the KFC's signature (标志性的) red and white colors. Colonel Sanders' head will still adorn (装扮) the buckets (桶), sandwich wrappers (包装) and cups, but the refreshed designs will more closely imitate (模仿) its original signature bucket.

3

新突破! 全球首颗 2 纳米芯片来了!

IBM says it has made a significant breakthrough (取得重大突破) in computer processors by creating a 2nm (纳米) chip (芯片) in its test lab. The process used to make computer chips is measured in nanometres (nm) - with a lower number usually signifying (意味着) a leap forward (取得飞跃). IBM claims its test chip can improve performance (性能) by 45% over (超过) current 7nm commercially available (市售) products.



4

"宠物盲盒"引众怒!

A craze (热潮) in which pets are sold in mystery parcels (包裹) has caused outrage (愤怒) in China after a number of animals were found dead inside a courier (快递) company's truck in Chengdu. It has prompted (引起) calls for action on the phenomenon (现象) as well as on the purchase (购买) of animals online in general.

State media Xinhua described pet "blind boxes" as a "desecration (亵渎) of life" and said courier companies and e-commerce platforms must "strengthen self-examination and self-correction (自查自纠)".



2

热播 19 年的脱口秀, 为何要停播?

Ellen DeGeneres has told viewers she is ending her long-running (持续时间长的) TV show because "I truly have felt like next season was the right time" to bring it to a close (结束某事).

"The truth is, I always trust my instincts (直觉). My instinct told me it's time," she said on her new episode (剧集).

She didn't directly mention accusations (谴责) of a toxic work environment that put the talk show under a cloud (蒙上了阴影) last year.



Live well, love lots, and laugh often.