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Special Focus: Advancing China–Africa Agricultural Science and Technology Cooperation: Innovation and Pathways

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Letter

Cover Story Food insecurity across Africa remains acute even as the continent produces most of its own food, with yield gaps, resurgent pests and diseases, and a shifting climate continuing to erode productivity gains. China's strengths in agricultural technology and extension complement Africa's genetic diversity and field evidence, and integrating both through institutional South–South cooperation holds great potential to accelerate Africa's agricultural transformation, reduce poverty, and strengthen climate resilience. Themed "Advancing China–Africa Agricultural Science and Technology Cooperation: Innovation and Pathways," this Special Focus is the first concentrated presentation of the China–Africa Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation Alliance's (CAASTIA) academic achievements. The cover brings together major African crops (rice, cassava, and tea), livestock farming, and laboratory imagery depicting eco-friendly crop protection, disease control, agrometeorological monitoring, and agricultural extension. The juxtaposition of traditional crops and modern facilities conveys that China–Africa cooperation draws on both sides' resource endowments and scientific innovation to connect production, research, and industry, advancing food security, green development, and agricultural modernization, and reflecting a shared vision of sustainable development. Image designed and produced by Dr. Liu Xiyan, Agricultural Information Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, with AI assistance. For more details, please see pages 3925–4001.