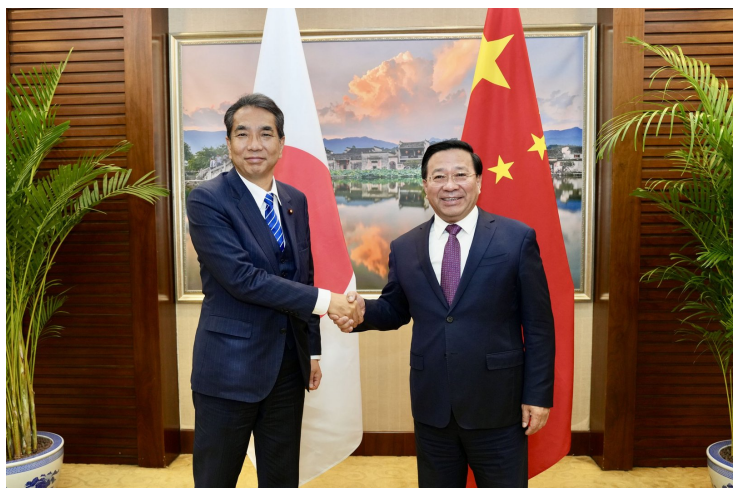


China-Japan to deepen agricultural cooperation

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Signs a cooperation agreement on protecting new plant varieties



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China's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Han Jun, met with ETO Taku, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, in Beijing. They exchanged views on promoting China-Japan agricultural cooperation.

Minister Han said that China-Japan relations are at a crucial stage of improvement and development. The two sides should earnestly implement the significant consensus reached by both countries and join hands in deepening China-Japan agricultural cooperation.

Under bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, China is eager to resume agricultural exchanges at all levels with Japan; hold the 10th Meeting of the China-Japan Vice Ministerial-Level Dialogue on Agriculture this year; and strengthen pragmatic cooperation in areas such as animal health, fisheries resource conservation, smart agriculture, rural revitalization, and agro-trade.

The two sides reached consensus on signing a cooperation agreement on protecting new plant varieties as soon as possible, and on maintaining close communication at the working level, among other things.

Minister ETO Taku expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for attaching great importance to the Japanese delegation's visit. Minister Han's views and suggestions for advancing Japan-China agricultural cooperation were fully endorsed, and he expressed Japan's desire to work with China to promote the healthy development of Japan-China agricultural relations.