From a Triangle of Meat
To a World of Less Heat
—— Ongoing actions in China

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Brighter Green

- Non-profit action tank that works to transform public policy and dialogue on the environment, animals, and sustainability, both globally and locally
- **Food policy & equity program:** policy papers, videos on climate change, and globalization of industrial animal agriculture
The Triangle: Evolution and Future

- U.S., China and Brazil
- Dynamics and drivers
- Opportunities for change

Having thrived in industrialized regions since the conclusion of World War II, the modern livestock industry, especially intensive animal farming (also known as “factory farming”), is posing considerable challenges for climate change, environmental and public health, farmers’ livelihoods, and animal welfare. This attention, however, is not yet sufficient to the scale of the problem. This discussion paper examines the “triangle of industrial animal agriculture” that connects the world’s biggest players in the meat and feed industries: the United States, China, and Brazil. It then analyzes the dynamics shaping this “meat triangle,” compares the forces driving livestock and feed crop intensification in the three countries, and provides recommendations for greater sustainability, with a focus on “delegitimization.”

Given the realities of finite natural resources and the necessity of ensuring environmental resilience, it is clear that conventional, capital- and resource-intensive industrialization will not lead to the sustainable development of agriculture. Despite this, different drivers in the three nations have pushed, and are still pushing, for intensive development of animal agriculture and consequent large-scale production of feed crops along the trajectory seen in the industrialized world, with inadequate precautions and regulations.
The Triangle of Meat and Feed

China

Beef
Poultry
Soybeans
(Land & Water)

Brazil

Pork
Poultry
Soybeans
Corn

U.S.

Factory farming
Vertical integration
Fast food culture

Loss of ecosystems
Environmental pollution
Greenhouse gas emissions
Public health crises
Threatened livelihoods
Violence to animals

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Feeding the Animals

Soybean

Million metric tons

Brazil China U.S. E.U.

Production Non-Feed Feed

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The Triangle: Delegitimization

Per capita consumption (kg/year)

*Food, livestock production, energy, climate change, and health* (McMichael et al., 2007)

**SACN Iron and Health** (UK Department of Health, 2010)
What’s For Dinner?

☐ Being the first
☐ Chinese crew
☐ Document and inspire
WFD? China Screening Tour

Beijing
WFD? China Screening Tour

Shanghai
WFD? China Screening Tour
WFD? China Screening Tour
WFD? China Screening Tour
WFD? Screening Kit

What's for Dinner?

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他说肉类特别是红肉的碳排放指数非常高，而蔬菜谷类较低。一般饮食的温室气体排放量几乎是素食者的两倍。“这不是说所有人都必须不吃肉，只是说我们需要开始素食的方向转变。”

【巴黎第六天】青年人为环保的努力让我们看到希望
【何以为食全球纪行】愤怒的小鸟和特拉维夫猫

很多贫穷的美国人就是在图片中的那个triple burden/或obesity + micronutrients deficiency
Policy Adjustments

- January 2014, State Council*: per capita meat consumption should be 29 kilograms per year (nearly 50% lower than the current level)

*Outline of the Program for Food and Nutrition Development in China (2014-2020)
Policy Adjustments

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![Graph showing per capita consumption of meat over years for U.S., China, and Brazil with China's goal for 2020 indicated]

* Outline of the Program for Food and Nutrition Development in China (2014-2020)
Policy Adjustments

- June 2015, INDC: limit large-scale agricultural industrialization and chemical use, promote low-carbon food service
Policy Adjustments

- October 2015, suggestions for the 13th 5-Year Plan:
  - Agriculture should be high-yield, safe, resource-efficient, and environmentally friendly
  - Act against over-consumption
Policy Recommendations

- Re-direct incentives (tax, subsidies, etc.): feed to food, fossil to fertility
- Communication and education: over-consumption
- Multiple benefits, global coordination
Additional Resources

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