

China gives long-awaited GM crop approvals amid US trade talks

REUTERS, Beijing

China approved five genetically modified (GM) crops for import on Tuesday, the first in about 18 months in a move that could boost its overseas grains purchases and ease pressure from the United States to open its markets to more farm goods.

The United States is the world's biggest producer of GM crops, while China is the top importer of GM soybeans and canola.

US farmers and global seed companies have long complained about Beijing's slow and unpredictable process for approving GM crops for import, stoking trade tensions between the world's two largest economies.

The approvals, announced on the agriculture ministry's website, were granted while a US trade delegation is meeting with its counterparts in the Chinese capital this week.

"It's a goodwill gesture towards the resolution of the trade issue," said a China representative of a US agricultural industry association.

"It's been in the system for a long time but they chose today to release this good news," he added, declining to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Two of the newly approved products - BASF's RFP3 canola and Bayer-owned Monsanto's glyphosate-tolerant MON 88302 canola - had been waiting six years for permission.

The other approved products were DowDuPont Inc's DP4114 corn and DAS-44406-6 soybean, as well as the SYHT0H2 soybean developed by Bayer CropScience and Syngenta but now held by BASF.

"We are happy to see the regulatory approval of our seed traits progressing in China," Corteva Agriscience, the agriculture unit of DowDuPont, said by email.

Five other products known to be seeking approvals were not given the green light, including two GM alfalfa products developed by Monsanto and two DowDuPont soybean traits.

Chinese officials met their US counterparts in Beijing on Monday for the first face-to-face talks since US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in December to a 90-day truce in a trade war that has roiled global markets.

China had not approved any GM crops for import since July 2017, when it cleared two products following high-level talks with Washington. It also approved two products in June 2017. China's scientific advisory board on GM crops met in June but did not give the go ahead for imports of any products.

"China's approval of the new GMO products is paving the way for China to import large volumes of US soybeans in the future. It is a positive signal," said Li Qiang, chief analyst with

Shanghai JC Intelligence Co Ltd.

The truce in the Sino-US trade war prompted a resumption of US soybean purchases. Buying had slumped after China imposed a 25 percent import duty on US shipments of oilseed on July 6 in response to US tariffs.

China does not allow the planting of genetically modified food crops, but imports of GM crops such as soybeans and corn for animal feed are fine.

The country, the world's biggest soybean consumer, has so far purchased only about 5 million tonnes of the 2018 US soy harvest, a fraction of its typical purchases.

The US has demanded that China change its GM crop import application process to make it more transparent, timely and based on scientific methods.

The latest approvals should not be taken as a sign that China is conceding to those demands, said a China-based industry source, who also asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

"It's another piece of evidence that China's approval process is not entirely scientific but political," said the source, who also believed the approvals were timed for the trade visit.

The ministry also announced on Tuesday the extension of import approvals for 26 other GM crops by a further three years.

German industrial production slides

AFP, Frankfurt

Industrial production in Germany fell in November, official data showed Tuesday, disappointing analysts' expectations and further shading a picture of slowing growth in late 2018.

Output fell 1.9 percent month-on-month, federal statistics authority Destatis said.

Analysts surveyed by data provider Factset had forecast 0.3 percent growth.

Among industrial firms, consumer goods companies saw the biggest fall in output at 4.1 percent, with capital goods makers down 1.8 percent and producer goods -- those used in the manufacturing process itself -- losing 1.0 percent.

Both energy generators and construction firms also reported lower production.

Tuesday's data follows a Monday release showing that German industrial orders -- watched by economists as an indicator of

future output -- also fell in November.

The decline "adds to the evidence that the eurozone's largest economy grew at a meagre pace" in the final three months of 2018, Capital Economics analyst Jack Allen commented.

Lower output of capital goods -- which includes cars -- "suggests that vehicle producers are still struggling after the introduction of new emissions tests" in September, he added.

But with a strong labour market still supporting consumption, growth data for the final quarter was unlikely to show a second contraction as was seen between July and September, Allen said.

"The last significant quarterly surge in industrial production dates back to the fourth quarter of 2017," noted ING Diba bank economist Carsten Brzeski, arguing that November's figures increase the chance late 2018 saw a "technical recession" or two successive quarters of negative growth.



Md Sirajul Haque, deputy managing director of Social Islami Bank Limited (SIBL), opens an agent banking outlet at Chandra Bazar of Chandpur's Faridganj upazila on Monday.

SIBL

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Bandarban
www.lged.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের পথতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No: 46.02.0300.000.07.001.18-15
Date: 07/01/2019

e-GP: Corrigendum Notice No. 13/2018-2019.(OSTEM)
Due to unavoidable circumstances the e-Tender notice invitation Memo No. 46.02.0300.000.07.001.18-1652 Date: 08/12/2018 will be changed as follows

Sl. No.	Package No.	Tender ID & Ref. No.	Description of works	Existing			Changed		
				Documents last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)	Documents last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
01	WD/RIDPC HT-2/BAN/NAIK/ UZR/W74	260517 APP ID: 142599	Rehabilitation of Road from Baishari Bazar GC-Edgar Bazar Road by 25mm dense carpeting from Ch. 0.0m-8200m. (Effective Length 8131m). ID No. 403732003. Package No. WD/RIDPCHT-2/BAN/NAIK/UZR/W74.	08-Jan-2019 17:00	09-Jan-2019 12:30	09-Jan-2019 12:30	13-Jan-2019 17:00	14-Jan-2019 12:30	14-Jan-2019 12:30
02	WD/RIDPC HT-2/BAN/LAMA/ VILL/W73	260515 APP ID: 142599	Improvement of Dulahazara-Sangu Rajapara Road. Ch. 3240-11280m ID. No. 403514019. WD/RIDPCHT-2/BAN/LAMA/VILL/W73	08-Jan-2019 17:00	09-Jan-2019 12:00	09-Jan-2019 12:00	13-Jan-2019 17:00	14-Jan-2019 12:00	14-Jan-2019 12:00
03	WD/RIDPC HT-2/BAN/NAIKHO NG/UNR W 67	266161 APP ID: 132060	(i) Improvement of Road from Naikhyongchari UZ H/Q-Tumbru GC Road by 25mm thick Bituminous carpeting with 7mm seal coat at Ch. 32675-33825m. ID No. 403732006 (ii) Improvement of Road from Bodderchara Bazar-Patabari Moricha GC Road by 25mm thick Bituminous carpeting with 7mm seal coat at Ch. 00-1500m. ID No. 403734062	08-Jan-2019 17:00	09-Jan-2019 13:00	09-Jan-2019 13:00	05-Feb-2019 17:00	06-Feb-2019 12:00	06-Feb-2019 12:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Abu Taleb Chowdhury
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French oil company to invest \$400m in Venezuelan field

AFP, Caracas

French oil company Maurel & Prom will invest \$400 million in an oil field in Venezuela, whose production is in free fall, President Nicolas Maduro said on Monday.

"A good deal has been concluded to increase production in an important field" in the northwest, Maduro said on state television after hosting Maurel & Prom owner Michel Hochard at the presidential palace.

Less than five years ago, Venezuela was producing almost three million barrels a day but that figure dropped to 1.17 million in October, according to secondary data published by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

In making his announcement, Maduro reiterated his intention to increase daily production by one million barrels a day in 2019.

Maurel & Prom's investment will give the company a 40 percent stake in the exploitation of the oil field in the region of Maracaibo Lake, oil minister Manuel Quevedo said.

In October, the French company had already spent 70 million euros (\$80 million) to buy Royal Dutch Shell's share in the same field.

Oil-reliant Venezuela is enduring a crippling economic crisis and fourth year of recession exacerbated by its falling oil production.

That's due to a lack of available cash to modernize oil production infrastructure, something that will be facilitated by Maurel & Prom's investment.

EU lifts Thailand from illegal fishing warning list

AFP, Brussels

The EU on Tuesday struck Thailand from its warning list for illegal fishing in recognition of efforts to tackle unregulated over-fishing.

"Fighting illegal fishing is... a priority for the EU. I am excited that today we have a new committed partner in this fight," the EU's Fisheries Commissioner Karmenu Vella said in a statement.

Thailand is the world's third largest exporter of seafood -- a status that rights groups say is achieved through illegal overfishing and a reliance on low-paid trafficked workers from neighbouring countries.

The European Union in 2015 imposed a "yellow card" warning on Thailand, threatening to ban all seafood exports unless the military government tackled rampant illegal fishing and labour abuses among its fleets.

The junta government of General Prayut Chan-O-cha has struggled to revive the kingdom's slumping economy and is desperate to avoid any costly sanctions on the vital sector.

The EU, a market of 500 million consumers, is the world's biggest importer of fisheries products.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD
Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

International Tender for Procurement of Goods

01.	Ministry/division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division.			
02.	Agency	Roads & Highways Department.			
03.	Procuring entity name	Project Director			
04.	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.			
05.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
06.	Invitation for	Package No: GD-01			
07.	Invitation Ref. number	Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Dhaka's Diary No. 779, Date: 02-12-2018 and Diary No. 798, Date: 09-12-2018			
08.	Tender notice No.	01/PD-PE&M(LoC-II)/2018-2019			
09.	Date	06-01-2019			
KEY INFORMATION					
10.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (International).			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
11.	Budget and source of funds	Line of Credit (LOC) Agreement dated: March 09, 2016 for USD 2 billion signed between the Government of Bangladesh & Export-Import Bank of India (Ref: ERD-09.00.0000.183.24.051.16-401, date-06 November 2016).			
12.	Development partners	India			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
13.	Project/program code	224086800 (Old 5344)			
14.	Project/program name	Procurement of Equipment and Machineries for Construction, Repair and Maintenance of Road Infrastructure			
15.	Tender package number	GD-01			
16.	Tender package name	Procurement of 3-Ton Dump Truck for RHD under Indian Line of Credit in completely built-up condition with 10% spare parts and related services.			
17.	Tender publication date	07-01-2019			
18.	Tender last selling date	24-02-2019 up to 4:00pm BST.			
19.	Tender submission date & time	25-02-2019 at 12:00 noon BST.			
20.	Tender opening date & time	25-02-2019 at 3:00pm BST.			
21.	Name and address of the office(s)				
(a)	- Selling tender documents (principal)	Executive Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
(b)	- Selling tender documents (others)	1. Executive Engineer, RHD, Planning Division-1, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. 2. Executive Engineer, RHD, Equipment Control Division, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
(c)	- Receiving tender documents	1. Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. 2. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Equipment Control & Procurement Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. 3. Executive Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
(d)	- Opening tender document	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.			
22.	Place, date & time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 on 23-01-2019 at 11:00am BST.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERERS					
23.	Eligibility of tenderer/manufacturer	Tenderers are limited to Manufacturers from India only. Other eligibility criteria are described in tender document.			
24.	Brief description of goods	Brief description of goods has described in the Sl. No. 27 indicating the Column named "Identification of the Package." More description of goods & spare parts and related services are described in tender document.			
25.	Price of tender documents (Tk)	For the Package No. GD-01 Price will be BD Tk- 10,000.00 (ten thousand) only.			
26.	Tenderer's criteria	Tender security must be submitted by the tenderer /manufacturer. Other tenderer's criteria are described in tender document.			
27.	Package No.	Identification of the package	Location (delivery point)	Tender security amount in foreign currency of US\$ (USD in lakh)	Completion time
	GD-01	3 (three) Ton Dump Truck	RHD, Procurement & Storage Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka	0.08	05 (five months)
28.	Name of official inviting tender		Md. Rafiqul Islam.		
29.	Designation of official inviting tender		Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.		
30.	Address of official inviting tender		RHD, Mechanical Wing, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.		
31.	Contact details of official inviting tender		Telephone # 88-02-8878122, Fax # 88-02-8878123 E-mail address: acemw@rhd.gov.bd		
32.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.				
NB.: If under any unavoidable circumstances last selling, receiving or opening day of tender is disturbed, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.					
Md. Rafiqul Islam Additional Chief Engineer, RHD Mechanical Wing and Project Director Procurement of Equipment and Machineries for Construction, Repair and Maintenance of Road Infrastructure under LoC-II Project Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka					
GD-52					