

Abstract of the speech of the Ambassador of the Netherlands

The implementation of an integrated agricultural and innovation policy in combination with an open attitude towards international trade, explains much of the success of Dutch agriculture and agribusiness which is quite recognized by the China.

Food Safety is quite important for the consumers who can only enjoy high quality food when the safety is guaranteed by professionals in the sector and by governmental organizations. The European Union harmonized food safety standards and created one internal market in Europe. The government creates a framework for food safety through a system of rules, inspections and controls, but the food company remains primarily responsible for the safety of its products.

Due to fact that there is a gap between the real risk and the risk as perceived by the consumer, the communication on the risk is a key point.

A good animal health policy requires effective tracking and tracing systems. For the prevention of animal diseases the entire food chain from farm to fork is important. One Health Approach is fundamental to the Dutch Approach as our antimicrobial reduction plan. The Netherlands is very much engaged to promote the One Health Approach in the EU, with compulsory reduction targets in the use of antibiotics for the entire EU.

International cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experiences has resulted in enormous steps forward towards offering healthy food for people all over the world. With this in mind the Netherlands would like to conclude by congratulating China on its revised Food Safety Law which has the power to restore consumer's confidence in Chinese food industry and farming products.