

# Countermeasures to Enhance Heilongjiang Agricultural International Competitiveness Based on the Open Economy

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**Abstract.** Heilongjiang agriculture has been occupies an important position in China. Green food and commodity grain base and north barn are both its laudatory titles. However, Heilongjiang agriculture does not have high international competition ability and lacks brand effect. In an open market environment, Heilongjiang agriculture actively adapts to the new normal agriculture, seek to develop in the international competition, looks for the inside power and deeply implement “introduct to and go out” two-way trajectory. It also overall plans both international and national “two markets, two resources and two types of rules” and speeds up the development of an open agriculture to enhance heilongjiang agricultural international competitiveness.

## Introduction

The soil of Heilongjiang province is one of only three pieces black soil in China currently. Heilongjiang province has abundant agricultural natural resources and advantages in the soil resources. It borders with Russia, North Korea, Japan and South Korea. Due to geographical reasons, Russia, South Korea and Japan have been the main agricultural export destination countries of Heilongjiang agricultural products. Heilongjiang total grain output reached 68.479 billion kilograms in 2015. Agriculture international competition is mainly agricultural products competition. A large amount agricultural commodities exports including canned and other (16.5%) and animal by-products, honey, fruit (38.5%) is the main part of the Heilongjiang agricultural products export and nearly occupies the half of the whole province agricultural exports. Double exports of agricultural products are grains and grain powder, dried chili, fresh frozen beef, live fish and natural honey and so on. Exports of soybeans, edible fungus and medicinal herbs decrease. Among them, Russia keeps the largest proportion of the total exports of agricultural products in heilongjiang province. The exports of agricultural products to Russia can be accounted for half of the Heilongjiang overall agricultural exports. The second is South Korea. Because of the increase of the Japanese imported agricultural products technical limitations, heilongjiang province agricultural exports to Japan decreases. And the export target countries decide the exports of agricultural products in heilongjiang province have the high dependence and also led to the increasing effects of technical barriers to agricultural exports in heilongjiang province.

Heilongjiang unique green food does not have the advantages of dominant in the international competition. In 2015, heilongjiang province certificate 15000 kinds of products as green food, organic food or pollution-free agricultural products. The products include grains, vegetables, fruits, drinks, aquatic products, livestock, poultry, eggs, milk, oil and other 14 kinds of products. Among all the products, food accounted for 67.5% of the total, livestock and poultry products accounted for 22.5%, aquatic products accounted for 0.3%, drink class accounted for 7.0% and other products accounted for 2.7%. Therefore, our province green product structure is unreasonable. There are too much food exports, the low proportion of multivariate economic crops. It is unable to adapt to the residents' diversified consumer demand.

China business yearbook defines the main agricultural exports as agricultural exports which the value are more than \$10 million. In heilongjiang province, from 2001 to 2012 there are six kinds of

agricultural products' export value over \$10 million. They are rice, corn, fresh apple, soybeans, frozen pork and flue-cured tobacco. This article bases on these six kinds of agricultural products evaluates the international competitiveness of heilongjiang province agricultural products (shown in Table 1 and Fig. 1)

Table 1 The Amount of the Heilongjiang Main Agricultural Products' Export (2004-2012)

Year	Rice	Corn	Fresh apple	Soybean	Frozen pork	Flue-cured tobacco
2004	3860.59	2917.7	1869.99	3164.3	6716.3	1496.64
2005	3870.93	14314.7	2293.63	2367.94	7733.71	1633.96
2006	6110.13	2257.63	2988.78	1436.21	10802.99	1409.17
2007	2004.97	4584.14	4697.34	1165.74	4784.36	1393.06
2008	2120.72	0	7211.65	9194.75	769.83	1520.76
2009	2825.54	15.32	6094.63	1824.88	303.41	2123.9
2010	2944	5.08	5119.14	1288.8	571.12	1511.03
2011	2871	0	4614.2	507	632.9	1504
2012	2988	0	4676.6	2049.4	348	1270
2013						
2014						

Datasource: China Agriculture Yearbook (2004-2015) and heilongjiang yearbook(2004-2015)

It is shown that in Table 1 and Fig. 1 the export amounts of the rice, fresh apple and flue-cured tobacco in heilongjiang province from 2001-2014 remains at more than \$10 million. It is closely related to agricultural development policy in heilongjiang province. Among these six kinds of products, the exports of fresh apple maintain a fast growth momentum, while the exports of corn show a volatile situation and appear zero exports in individual years. The exports of soybeans and frozen pork are not stable as well and appear a downward trend. However, the amplitude of variation is less than that of corn's. The emergence of this phenomenon can be attributed to heilongjiang province agricultural product added value is low, the quality of the product is not in conformity with the international quality certification standards and the low level of processing scale.

### Heilongjiang Agricultural International Competitiveness Factors Analysis under the Open Economy.

This article selects revealed comparative advantage index, TC index and the contribution rate of exports to measure and analyze heilongjiang agricultural and put forward corresponding countermeasures.

**Revealed Comparative Advantage Index.** Due to the international market is often impacted by non-economic factors such as geography, history and politics, some countries' (regions') one product export to these industrial developed countries (regions) have an advantage or the market occupancy rate is high. It is shown that the country of this kind of product has a strong international competitiveness. The formula is as follows:

$$RCA_{ij} = (X_{ij}/X_{it}) / (X_{wj}/X_{wt})$$

Among them, the  $RCA_{ij}$  revealed comparative advantage index,  $X_{ij}$  is the total amount of a country or a region (j) product export.  $X_{wj}$  is the world's total export amount of the product j.  $X_i$  is the export amount of the the whole world's product j.  $X_w$  is the total export amount of the the whole world's product. This formula is usually measured in time. When  $RCA_{ij} \geq 1$ , it is shown that j products has the revealed comparative advantage in this country. The advantages will be more obvious with the increase of the  $RCA_{ij}$ . When the  $RCA_{ij} < 1$ , j products does not have the revealed comparative advantage in this country. The disadvantages will be more obvious with the decrease of the  $RCA_{ij}$ .

The RCA<sub>ij</sub> of all the agricultural products in heilongjiang province is bigger than 1 from 2004 to 2006. It is shown that the agricultural products in heilongjiang province has the obvious revealed comparative advantage. However, only in 2003, the RCA index is higher than 2.5. In other years, the RCA index is always declining, and the comparative advantage is gradually decline. From 2007, the RCA<sub>ij</sub> of the heilongjiang province agricultural products is always smaller than 1. Heilongjiang agricultural international competitiveness is weak, and the comparative advantage is gradually lost.

**Competitiveness Index.** This metric mainly refers to a country or region net exports of some products and the ratio of the total amount of this product import and export. The formula is as follows:

$$TCit = (Xit - Mit) / (Xit + Mit)$$

TCit is the competitiveness index of one kind of product in a country or a region.  $Xit - Mit$  is The net exports of the products in a country or a region.  $Xit + Mit$  is the total amount of the product's import and export in a country or a region. The competitiveness index of one kind of product in a country or a region is always between -1 and 1. When the competitiveness index tends to -1, this kind of product in a country or a region has less competitiveness. Otherwise, when the competitiveness index tends to 1, this kind of product in a country or a region has stronger competitiveness. When the  $TCit=0$ , this kind of product in a country or a region has no comparative advantage, even has disadvantages. And the production efficiency of this kind of product in a country or a region belows the international level. When  $0 \leq TCit \leq 1$ , the production efficiency of this kind of product in a country or a region higher than the international level, and this kind of product has the comparative advantages and stronger international competitiveness. When the  $TCit=0$ , this kind of product in this country has no export and completely relies on imports. When the  $TCit=1$ , this kind of product in this country has the absolute predominance and do not be imported.

From 2004 to 2014, the TC index of heilongjiang province agricultural products international competitiveness is always bigger than 0. Although the fluctuation is bigger in individual years, the overall level is high and were bigger than 0.4. This shows that heilongjiang province has the strong international competitiveness of agricultural products. Agricultural production efficiency have strong comparative advantage as a whole. However, from 2009, trade competitiveness index is less than 0, the agricultural products keep a poor international competitive force. There is a big disadvantage in the face of fierce market competition.

**The Contribution Rate of Exports.** This metric is the ratio of exports of a product in a country or a region accounted for the country's total exports. The formula is as follows:

$$Ci = Xi / X$$

Ci is the contribution rate of exports of the product i. Xi shows a product exports in a country or a region. X is the country's total exports. From 2004 to 2014, the agricultural export contribution rate is in the overall downward trend in heilongjiang province and the nationwide. However, the contribution rate of exports in heilongjiang province is higher than the national level. Heilongjiang province agricultural products export contribution rate has reached the 23. 22% of record levels in 2004. From 2004 to 2012, the decline of the agricultural products export contribution rate in heilongjiang province is accelerated significantly. It is mainly influenced by international market competition and the international financial crisis. Therefore, overall, although the heilongjiang province agricultural products export contribution rate fell, this fell below the overall decline, agricultural exports still showed a modest growth trend.

## Countermeasures to Enhance Heilongjiang Agricultural International Competitiveness under the Open Economy

**Strengthening Agricultural “Go out” and “the Belt and Road Initiatives” Strategic Top-Level Design.** To create an overall development plan for the agricultural “go out”. The major industry, nationality, area, project and some other factors should be cleared. “go out” should be combined with “the Belt and Road Initiatives” to avoid the cutthroat competition and establish the complete

information service platform. It can promote the global agricultural cooperation and transfer between heilongjiang province and the countries along “the Belt and Road Initiatives”, guarantee domestic grain security and the sustainable and steady supplyment of the industrial raw materials.

**Establish the Open Agricultural Demonstration Zones.** The government should establish the open agricultural demonstration zones in the border cities of heilongjiang province and supply the policies support. The production base should be built aiming at target market to strengthen the product competitiveness. On the other hand, the import agricultural products should be adjusted based on the national grand strategies and the distribution centers should be established for the main agricultural products needed to be import to improve the adjustment capacities.

**Reinforce the Agricultural Technology Introduction.** The modern agricultural talents and industrial clusters entrepreneurs with the international operation and management abilities should be introduced. The introduction of the key applied technologies, advanced technologies and patents of the advanced agricultural equipments, stock breeding, agricultural products’ manufactures, processes, storages, logistics and sales should be supported. External scientific and technological achievements’ demonstration zones should be established. Agricultural hi-tech industries should be cultivated faster. And the bottleneck problems of the modern agriculture development should be solved.

**Set up Special Fund for Agricultural Foreign Cooperations.** Appropriate subsidies should be offered to the enterprises to do the overseas early investigations, risk assessments, expert argumentations, greenfield investment, resource developments and cross-border mergers and acquisitions. the government should give full play to all kinds of enterprises , industry organizations actively carry out foreign direct investment and multinational management exploration and practice. Foreign exchange reserve should be used flexible.

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