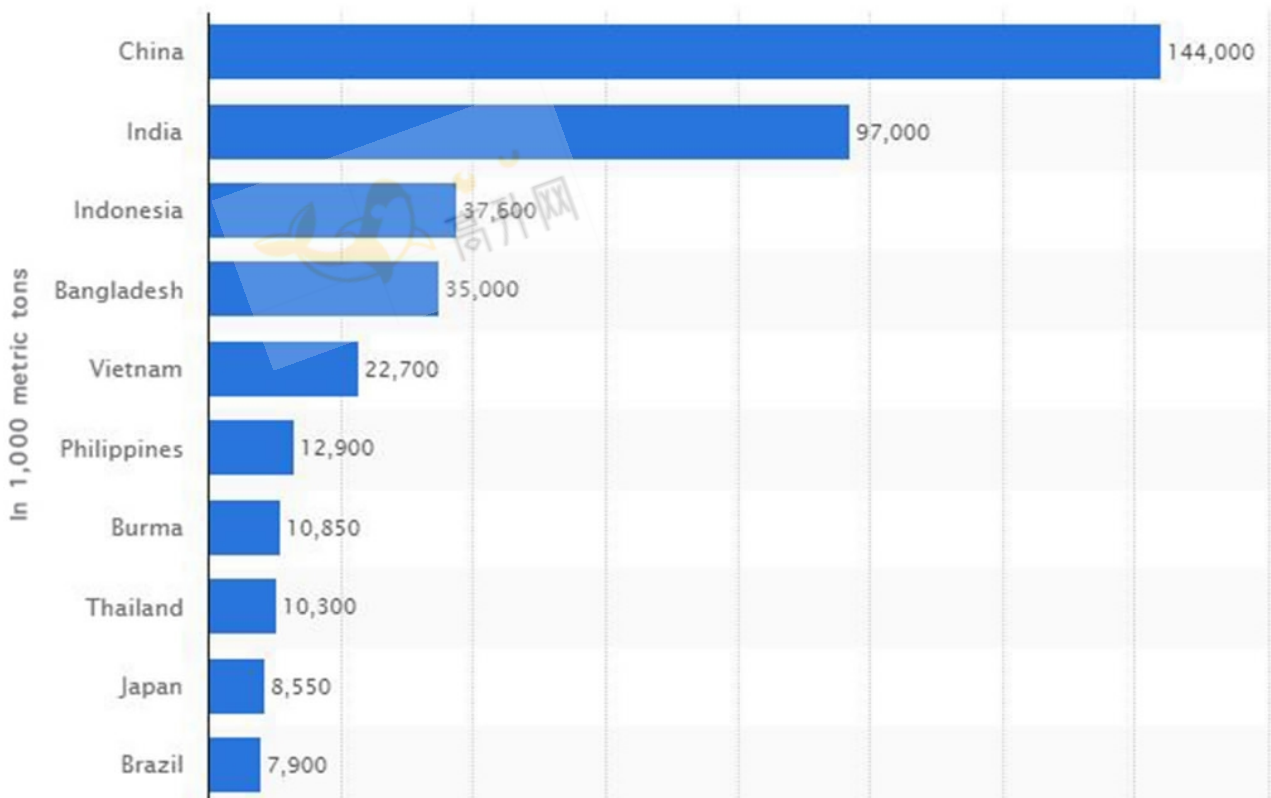


《中国将首次允许进口美国大米》

China has agreed on a protocol to allow imports of US rice, according to a statement released on Thursday by a Chinese delegate to the first China-US Comprehensive Economic Dialogue (CED) in Washington, D.C..

The US can begin shipping rice to China for the first time, after China completes an audit of US rice facilities, the US Department of Agriculture announced.

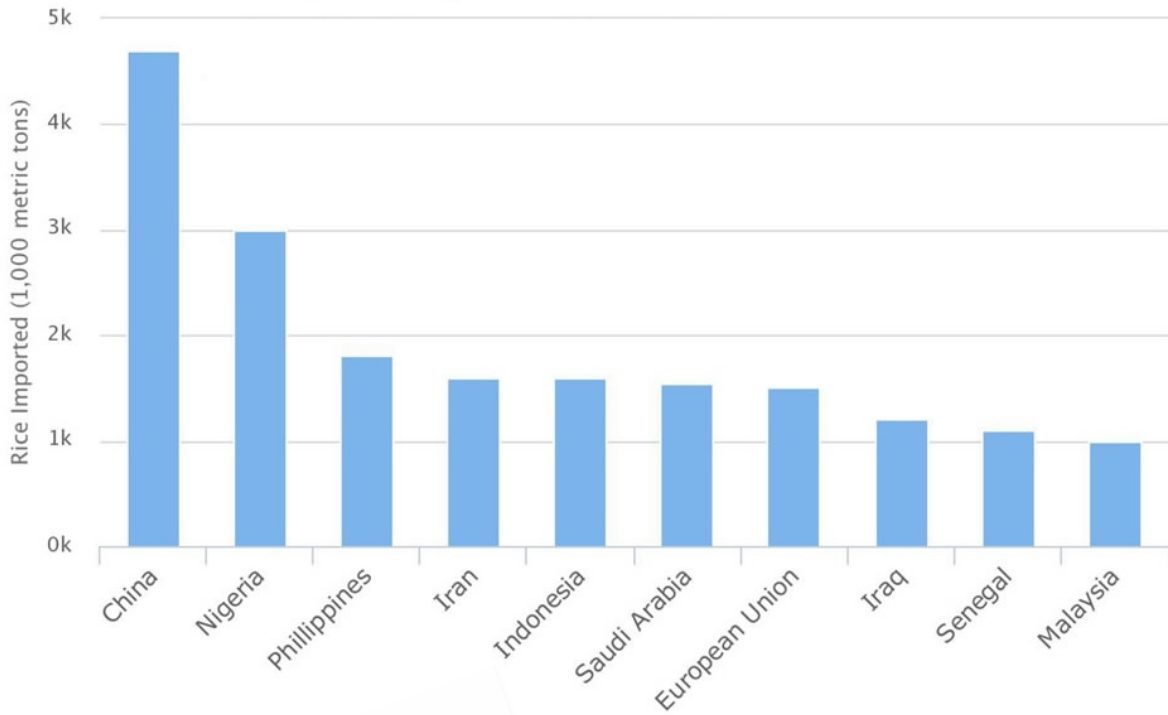
Rice consumption worldwide in 2016/2017, by country



Source: Statista

The move would give US farmers access to the world's largest consumer market and importer of rice following over a decade trade talks between the two countries.

Top rice importers worldwide (March, 2017)

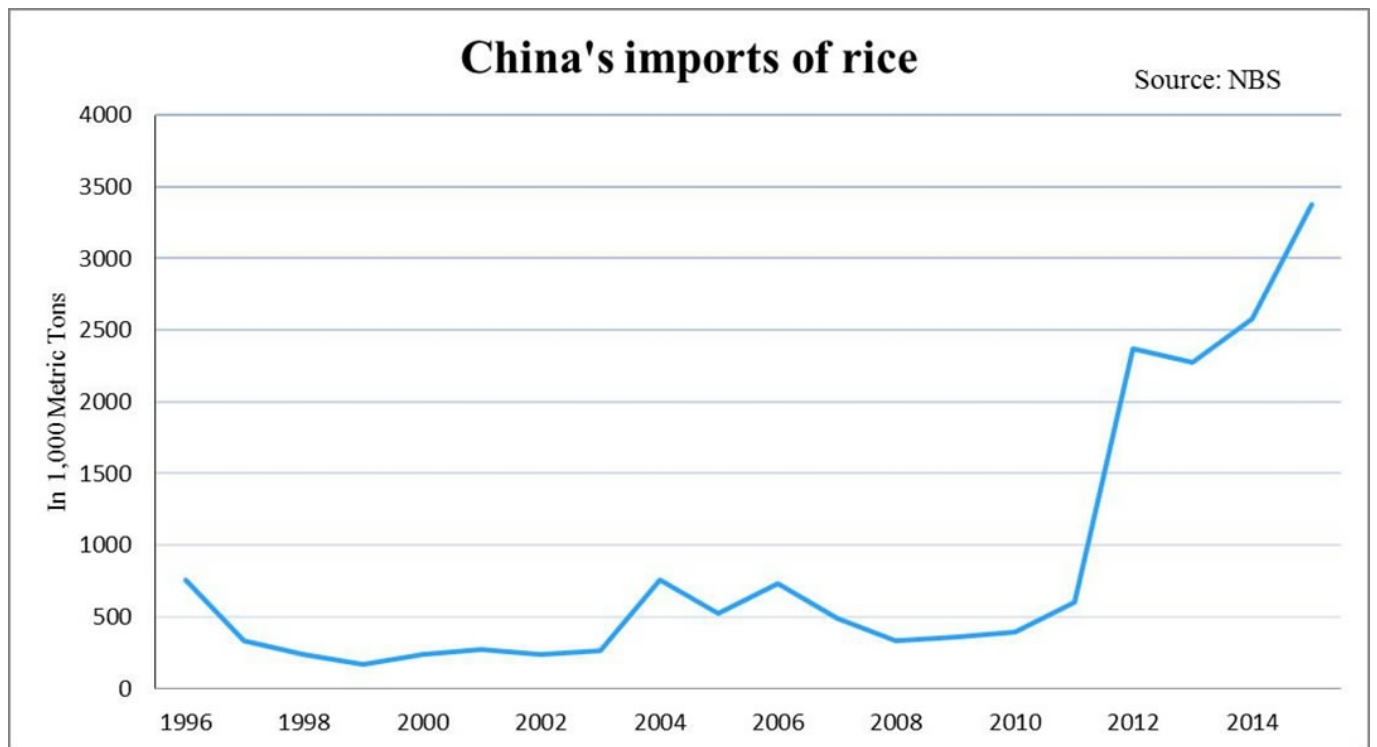


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China has a growing appetite for rice imports, with the number dramatically up in the past decade and reaching 3.4 million metric tons in 2015. However, US farmers will have to compete with those in Vietnam, Thailand and Pakistan, the biggest rice exporters to China in 2016.

China's imports of rice

Source: NBS



The rice agreement is a sign of strengthening China-US relations on agriculture trade. It comes just a month after China resumed imports of US beef.

During the CED, China and the US reached agreements on agricultural cooperation, and both sides exchanged views on exports of China's dairy products and aquatic products to the US.

The CED was one of the four major dialogue mechanisms established by the two countries in April when Chinese President Xi Jinping met US President Donald Trump in Palm Beach, Florida.