

# **Supply and Demand Situation of Alfalfa in China and the Future Development Trend**

WANG Ming li      YANG Chun      WANG Guogang

Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development, Chinese Academic of  
Agricultural Sciences, P.R. China, 100081

In recent years, China's alfalfa imports have rapidly increased year by year. Meantime, the alfalfa production has been developing gradually, but it still cannot satisfy the enormous demands in China's breeding industry. Therefore, the investigation of the alfalfa's supply and demand pattern and the prediction of the alfalfa's future development trend are of great significance. Since 2001, China's alfalfa production has been growing on the whole, which are mainly concentrated in northwest China, North China and northeast China. As reported, China's domestic alfalfa production and supply increased from 2207 thousand tons in 2001 to 4270.8 thousand tons in 2014, with an average annual growth rate of 5.2%. China's alfalfa demands are mainly from dairy industry and the other herbivore husbandry industries. According to the statistical data, the demands for alfalfa in China's dairy industry increased from 1401.3 thousand tons in 2001 to 3710.3 thousand tons in 2014, with an average annual growth rate of 7.8%; the demands for alfalfa in the other herbivore husbandry industries reached up to 900 thousand tons. Currently, China's alfalfa production and supply can hardly satisfy the market requirements and mainly rely on the imports from abroad as supplementary. China's alfalfa imports increased from 2.4 thousand tons in 2001 to 1008 thousand tons in 2014, i.e., it was characterized by a net import pattern. It is predicted that China's high-quality alfalfa demand will continue increasing and the alfalfa production will still maintain an increase trend. The import dependence of alfalfa in China can hardly be improved in a short time and the industrial integration degree is still fairly low. As a consequence, it is suggested that the alfalfa industry should be incorporated into the rank of effectively solving China's food safety. We should further adjust the agricultural plantation structure, reduce the surplus corn planting and simultaneously develop the alfalfa planting. More specifically, we should increase funding and technique supports, integrate the existing projects such as 'The Project of Promoting the Alfalfa for Dairy Industry', 'The Project of Changing Crops into Fodders', 'The Project of Developing the Breeding Industry in South China' and 'The Project of Adjusting the Corn Planting Structure in Liandaowan Region', so as to promote the development of alfalfa industry towards scale expansion, organization and diversification.