

China:

- Chinese President Xi Jinping is championing the role of e-commerce in boosting the economy. On April 20, during a visit to a Taobao live studio in Zhashui county, Shaanxi province, which was set up to sell black fungus, a local speciality, Xi praised the delicacy and said: "E-commerce is very important in promoting sales of agricultural products."

Hongarije:

- Hotels can reopen after May 15 outside of Budapest and Pest county. Restaurants, coffee shops, confectioneries can reopen open-air garden and terrace spaces to customers this week but a 1.5 m interpersonal distance must be maintained. Public space usage fees for terraces have been waived until September.
- The losses in decorative gardening and plants will be lower than previously expected. The annual aggregated performance of the sector is about €1,345 billion and this year's losses due to the pandemic were previously estimated to be a catastrophic €860 mln. Due to economic measures, these losses might turn out to be half the previous estimation, in which case, the sector could still reach 70% of its mean annual profit in 2020. Many small shops are still severely affected, especially fresh flower shops.
- Due to the economic hardships presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minister of Agriculture is proposing draft legislation on a new agricultural insurance scheme. Participating producers would pay annual contributions, and get insured if their income in a year drops by more than 30%. Upon ratification by parliament, the insurance plan would be launched in 2021.
- To boost the 'Pandemic Protection State Fund', the Ministry of Finance proposed a new tax for big retailer companies at a progressive rate of 0.1-0.4% of their annual income. Global online retailers, such as Amazon and AliExpress will also be subject to this. According to stakeholders, the tax might remain in place after the end of the crisis.

Italië:

- De Nationale Federatie van Bloemisten heeft de week van 4 t/m 10 mei uitgeroepen tot 'Moederweek' om de aankoop van bloemen over meer dagen uit te spreiden. Het zou een grote toestroom moeten voorkomen op Moederdag a.s. zondag. De detailhandel voor bloemen en planten is sinds deze week weer officieel toegestaan.

Japan:

- As a temporary working solution to prevent disruption of trade, Japan will accept scanned copies of the original paper certificates for animals, plants and their products to be imported, provided that the original will follow at a later stage. The competent Dutch authorities have been informed about the procedure.
- Japanese customs published their trade figures for the first quarter of 2020. Dutch agro export figures (Jan-Mar) compared to 2019 dropped with two digits, but still appr. on 2018 level. April is expected to be worse. Meat: € 30,2 mln. (-10,5%), dairy: € 26,3 mln. (-13,3%), plants and flowers: € 0,5 mln. (-23,6%), vegetables: € 1,2 mln. (-33,4%).

Verenigd Koninkrijk:

- Premier Johnson kondigde aan dat de regering volgende week met een gedetailleerd **plan** komt voor het "**herstarten van de economie**".
- De Horticultural Trades Association hoopt met *guidance* voor veiligheidsmaatregelen het politieke vertrouwen te winnen dat **tuincentra** binnenkort weer open kunnen. De brancheorganisatie adviseert maximaal 1 klant per 93 m2 binnen te laten.

Zuid-Korea:

With the strict social distancing campaign coming to an end on 5 May, South Korea begins its 'everyday life quarantine scheme' on 6 May. This means various public institutions will re-open, and events and gatherings will be permitted. Over a span of six weeks, the number of daily confirmed cases has decreased to the single digits through strict social distancing measures. If a second outbreak occurs, the country will return to strict social distancing measures at any time. Business activities are coming back to normal. LAN Seoul is also slowly meeting with people to seek cooperation opportunities for the coming months

De informatie is afkomstig van het Landbouwwattaché Netwerk van het Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit.