Study Comparatively on Agricultural Imports between China and Thailand in the Background of the Belt and Road Initiative

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Keywords: Agricultural product import, Comparative method research, Belt and road, China and Thailand.

Abstract. In order to promote the agricultural cooperation between China and Thailand, this paper uses comparative research methods to comparatively study the import status of agricultural products between China and Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010. The results show that the import volume of agricultural products between China and Thailand is very different. It can be concluded that the “One Belt, One Road” initiative is conducive to China and Thailand to play their respective advantages in agricultural products and promote the common development of agriculture between the two countries.

Introduction

The “Belt and Road” is the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The implementation of this initiative will bring more development opportunities to countries along the route.

In 2013, China proposed to build the concept and advocacy of the “One Belt, One Road” common development.

China and Thailand have strong complementarities in agriculture and great potential for cooperation. Especially with the advancement of the “Belt and Road” construction, the cooperation space between China and Thailand will be further broadened. As an important hub of the Silk Road Economic Belt, Thailand will play an important role in agricultural cooperation between China and Thailand.

The agricultural cooperation between China and Thailand will help to consolidate and deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries and promote the common progress of the agricultural industry in the field of cooperation through cooperation. The agricultural cooperation between China and Thailand will help the Chinese and Thai people to enjoy the fruits of the “Belt and Road” strategy construction as soon as possible.
Comparison of Agricultural Imports between China and Thailand

China's Agricultural Imports

China’s agricultural imports in the 30 years from 1981 to 2010 are shown as Table 1.

Table 1. China's agricultural imports in the 30 years from 1981 to 2010; Unit: One million U.S. dollars.

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Export amount</td>
<td>7721.0</td>
<td>7038.0</td>
<td>5338.0</td>
<td>4385.4</td>
<td>4487.0</td>
<td>4427.0</td>
<td>5998.7</td>
<td>9030.6</td>
<td>9665.2</td>
<td>7855.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export amount</td>
<td>7833.7</td>
<td>7873.8</td>
<td>6224.5</td>
<td>10172.6</td>
<td>16099.2</td>
<td>15300.3</td>
<td>14632.7</td>
<td>12609.5</td>
<td>13852.9</td>
<td>19543.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export amount</td>
<td>20124.8</td>
<td>21847.1</td>
<td>30482.5</td>
<td>42278.1</td>
<td>45189.1</td>
<td>51653.3</td>
<td>65368.7</td>
<td>86807.2</td>
<td>76616.9</td>
<td>108259.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Sources: World Trade Organization

Scatter plot on China's agricultural imports in the 30 years from 1981 to 2010 are shown as Figure 1.

Figure 1. Scatter plot on China's agricultural imports in the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

Thailand’s Agricultural Imports

Imports of agricultural products in Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010 are shown as Table 2.

Table 2. Imports of agricultural products in Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010; Unit: One million U.S. dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Export amount</td>
<td>846.8</td>
<td>720.0</td>
<td>838.5</td>
<td>958.7</td>
<td>877.5</td>
<td>1039.4</td>
<td>1349.6</td>
<td>2049.0</td>
<td>2674.2</td>
<td>3229.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Export amount</td>
<td>3229.7</td>
<td>4222.6</td>
<td>4089.3</td>
<td>4634.2</td>
<td>5575.1</td>
<td>5607.6</td>
<td>4960.0</td>
<td>3724.4</td>
<td>3961.6</td>
<td>4483.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export amount</td>
<td>4797.9</td>
<td>4976.1</td>
<td>5719.4</td>
<td>6399.8</td>
<td>7120.5</td>
<td>7347.4</td>
<td>8481.5</td>
<td>11668.5</td>
<td>9364.0</td>
<td>11984.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Sources: World Trade Organization
Scatter plot on agricultural imports of Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010 are shown as Figure 2.

![Agricultural imports of Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010](image)

Figure 2. Scatter plot on agricultural imports of Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

**Comparison of Agricultural Products Import Status between China and Thailand**

Scatter plot on comparison of agricultural products import trade volume between China and Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010 are shown as Figure 3.

![Comparison of Agricultural Products Import Trade between China and Thailand during the 30 Years from 1981 to 2010](image)

Figure 3. Scatter plot on comparison of agricultural products import trade volume between China and Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

**Summary**

As can be seen from the above figure, the gap in imports between China and Thailand has widened from around 1995.

The agricultural industrial structure of both China and Thailand has their own advantages, and they should learn from each other to achieve a win-win situation. China should introduce Thailand's superior products. Thailand has great potential for food production and is an important source of Chinese rice imports.
Acknowledgement

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the support of the project from Xu Yanli being selected in the introduction of shortage top talent of “Sailing up (Yangfan) project” in Guangdong Province in 2014.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the support from the talents introduction project of universities in Guangdong Province and from Guangdong University of Petrochemical Technology, and from the comprehensive reform experiment of International Economics and Trade major in Guangdong University of Petrochemical Technology, and from International Education Department in Guangdong University of Petrochemical Technology (Grant No. 2014GDUPTGJ-07).

It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the support from South China Sea Silk Road Collaborative Innovation Center in Lingnan Normal University (Grant No. 2017EL03).

It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the support from Excellent Course “Macroeconomics” in Teaching Quality and Teaching Reform Project in Lingnan Normal University in 2017 (Grant No. 114961700227).

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the support from the talents introduction project of Lingnan Normal University in 2018. The project is Research on Economic Growth in Underdeveloped Areas (Xu Yanli, Grant No. ZW1807).

References


