

## **A Comparative Study of Agricultural Exports between China and Thailand in the Background of the Belt and Road Initiative**

Yan-li XU<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Sheng-zhe XU<sup>5,6,\*</sup> and H. Eugene STANLEY<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Business, Lingnan Normal University, Zhanjiang, Guangdong, 524048, P.R. China

<sup>2</sup>Center for Polymer Studies and Physics Department, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA

<sup>3</sup>South China Sea Silk Road Collaborative Innovation Center, Lingnan Normal University, Zhanjiang, Guangdong, 524048, P. R. China

<sup>4</sup>Institute of Economic Development of BeiBuWan, Lingnan Normal University, Zhanjiang, Guangdong, 524048, P. R. China

<sup>5</sup>Newton North High School, 457 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460, USA

<sup>6</sup>Affiliated Middle School of Lingnan Normal University, Zhanjiang, Guangdong, 524048, P.R. China

\*Corresponding author

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**Abstract.** In order to promote the agricultural cooperation between China and Thailand, this paper uses comparative research methods to comparatively study the export status of agricultural products between China and Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010. The results show that the export volume of agricultural products between China and Thailand is equivalent. 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.

Thailand is the intersection of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. It is an important hub for the “Belt and Road”. The bilateral trade between China and Thailand is largely complementary. Thailand exports rubber, rice, timber and other products to China. China exports to Thailand the computer products, electromechanical metals and other relatively scarce products in Thailand. China and Thailand have good trading conditions. Thailand has well-established infrastructure such as terminals, airports and highways. Trade can be carried out through the Lancang River - the Greater Mekong River Channel and the China-Thailand Highway and the Railway. This provides a convenient condition for the development of bilateral trade. Thailand ranks second in the economic development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and its economic development and prospects are good. China’s investment flows to Thailand have risen year by year and have become Thailand’s second largest investor. The “Belt and Road Initiative” is conducive to consolidating and strengthening the friendly and cooperative relations between China and Thailand. This also provides new opportunities for Chinese companies to enter Thailand for direct investment. It also provides a new platform for expanding the scale of investment and trade between the two countries and promoting the economic development of the two countries.

## Comparison of Agricultural Exports between China and Thailand

### China's Agricultural Exports

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

Table 1. China's agricultural exports in the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

Unit: One million U.S. dollars

Year	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Export amount	4457.0	4301.0	4561.0	5217.9	5968.2	7075.7	8091.3	9633.9	9954.0	10059.8
Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Export amount	10894.6	11598.8	11852.2	14806.2	14997.3	14944.3	15732.2	14314.4	14209.4	16384.3
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Export amount	16625.9	18795.7	22157.6	24121.0	28711.2	32541.6	38862.3	42258.3	40882.6	51606.9

Data Sources: World Trade Organization

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

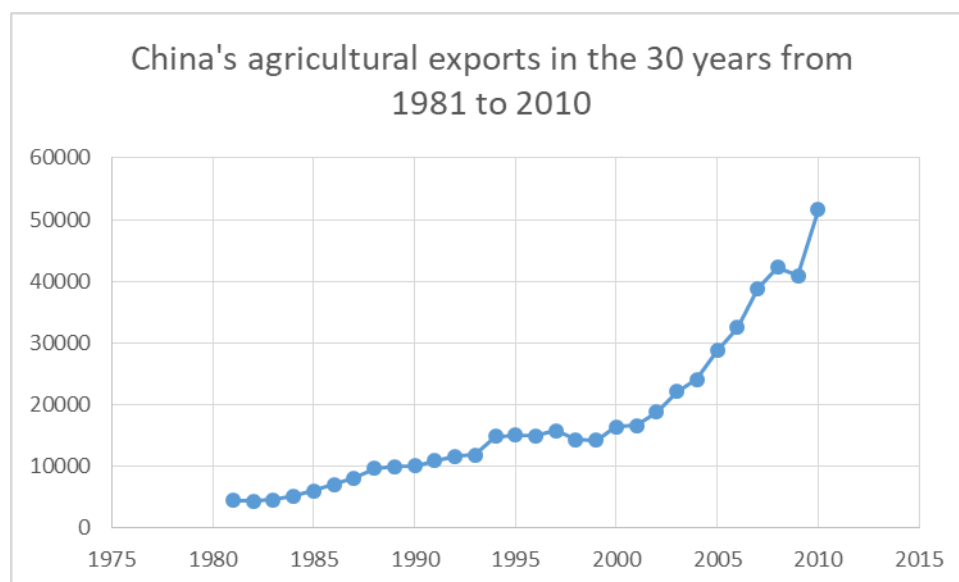


Figure 1. Scatter plot on China's agricultural exports in the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

### 2.2 Thailand's agricultural exports

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

Table 2. Exports of agricultural products in Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

Unit: One million U.S. dollars

Year	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Export amount	4420.2	4449.3	3932.4	4451.8	3909.9	4630.8	5266.2	6792.3	8103.2	7786.5
Year	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Export amount	8952.6	9928.3	9587.3	11582.4	13910.6	14017.2	13021.4	11523.1	11762.3	12220.3
Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Export amount	12055.3	12455.8	15081.1	17072.2	17815.5	21552.1	24985.5	31661.9	28003.9	35136.2

Data Sources: World Trade Organization

Scatter plot on agricultural exports of Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010 are shown as Figure 2.

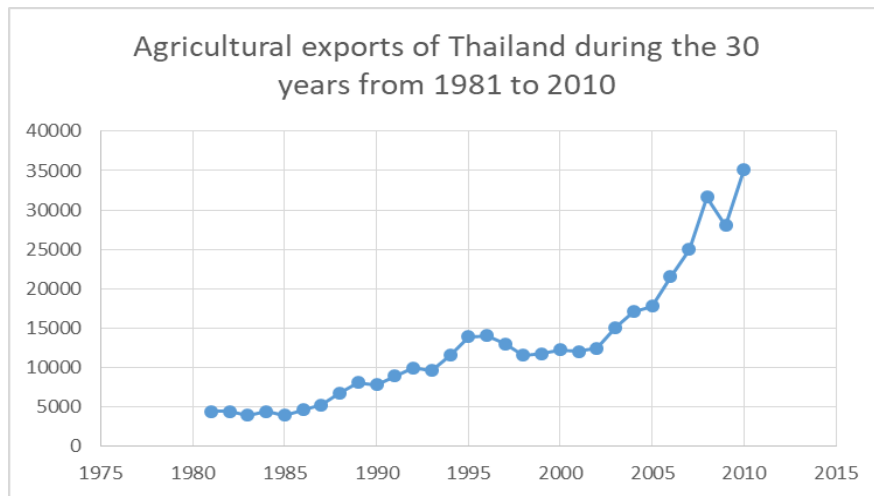


Figure 2. Scatter plot on agricultural exports of Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

### Comparison of Agricultural Products Export Status between China and Thailand

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

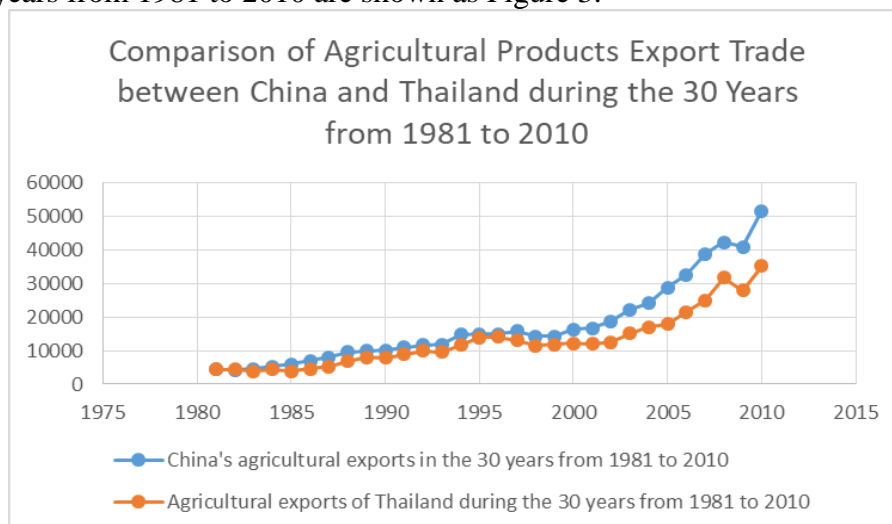


Figure 3. Scatter plot on comparison of agricultural products export trade volume between China and Thailand during the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

### Summary

As can be seen from the above figure, the gap in the export volume between China and Thailand began to widen from around 2000.

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 rely on advantageous industries to cultivate important export products to Thailand.

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