[China's grain heartland cultivates more high-yield fields](#)

Central China's Henan Province added 7.55 million mu (around 500,000 hectares) of high-yield farmland in 2016, as the grain base modernizes its agriculture, according local officials on Saturday.

The province, which produces a tenth of China's grain, plans to upgrade 63.69 million mu of farmland by 2020, according to the local high-yield grainfield office.

So far, about 53.57 million mu has been upgraded to high-yield, 84.1 percent of the overall target. In 2016, the provincial government spent 9.94 billion yuan (1.44 billion U.S. dollars) on the project.

Agricultural machinery and professional fertilizing methods are used to support the endeavor.

The province also established an information system which contains information on location of the fields and agricultural knowledge enquiry points, soil conditions and meteorological conditions.

[Crossrail for the North will become the foundations for a transformed Northern economy – McDonnell](#)

Labour will invest to transform the economy of the North – McDonnell commits Labour to delivering Crossrail for the North

Today the Shadow Chancellor has committed Labour to delivering on "Crossrail for the North", a series of major rail improvements across existing west-east links in the North of England.

Labour will commit to reversing decades of underinvestment in Northern transport infrastructure that has undermined the economic potential of the north of England and help deliver 850,000 new jobs by 2050.

The current Tory Government has failed to invest in essential electrification of Hull to Selby and other lines, and delayed electrification of the critical Manchester-Leeds Transpennine route, which is not now due for completion until at least 2022. Labour will commit to fight alongside its mayoral candidates and local authorities to demand that the Westminster Government brings forward the resources needed to help unlock the £97bn of economic potential in the North.

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, is expected to say:

"Labour is absolutely committed to delivering HS3, a Crossrail for the North, starting right here in Liverpool and connecting the great cities of the north of England.

"There is so much potential here currently squandered by underinvestment, delays and a lack of real commitment from Whitehall.

"So with our mayoral candidates in Manchester and Liverpool, and councils across the north, Labour will be pushing for this government to deliver.

"It's at least a £10bn commitment from Labour to invest in the north.

"It means the journey from Manchester to Leeds will take just 25 minutes, instead of close to an hour.

"Or you could get from Liverpool to Manchester in 25 minutes.

"Crossrail for the North will become the foundations for a transformed Northern economy."

Ends

[Getting things done – Annfield Street](#)

Residents have expressed concern to me that the temporary barriers round Scottish Water's contractor's works in Annfield Street have fallen over,

partially blocking the road — see below :

I have drawn this to the attention of Scottish Water and requested these be reinstated and properly secured as soon as possible.

Border police seizes 1.6 tonnes of drugs in 2016

Border police in a prefecture in southwest China's Yunnan Province seized 1.6 tonnes of narcotics in 2016, the police announced Saturday.

Police in Dehong Dai-Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture completed investigations into 668 drug-related crimes and arrested 662 suspects in 2016.

The prefecture is near the opium-growing Golden Triangle.

Seven dead in north China car accident

Seven people were killed when a car crashed into a wall in a county road in

north China's Hebei Province, local authorities said Saturday.

The accident occurred at about 10:36 p.m. Friday in Anzhou town, Hebei.

Six people died at the scene and one died in hospital.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.