

NEWSLETTER

CHEMICAL & PHARMACEUTICAL

11 - 17 May 2026



Phosphate Fertilizer Supply is Constrained by Sulfur Imports

China is the world's largest phosphate fertilizer producer, but its core raw material, sulfur, is imported, accounting for approximately 56% of its supply. Supply is highly concentrated in the Middle East. Sulfur, a byproduct of oil refining and natural gas processing, is directly affected by shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, which severely impacts its import lifeline. **(ChemNet Chemical Headlines)**

Potash Fertilizer Resource Shortage

China's potash fertilizer import dependence exceeds 50%, and global potash resources are monopolized by a few countries such as Canada, Russia, and Belarus. Although new import channels have been developed, they cannot replace the mainstream supply structure. If geopolitical conflicts or trade controls occur in major producing countries, the existing potash fertilizer supply-demand balance could easily be disrupted. **(ChemNet Chemical Headlines)**

Six Provincial Departments Jointly Release New Management Measures for Chemical Industrial Parks

On May 7, 2026, six departments in Zhejiang Province jointly issued the "Management Measures for the Evaluation and Recognition of Chemical Industrial Parks in Zhejiang Province." Officially released after approval by the provincial government, it will take effect 30 days after issuance, and the original 2024 version will be simultaneously repealed. **(ChemNet Chemical Headlines)**

China launches national rare disease gene therapy access program

China has launched a national access program to provide approved gene therapies for rare diseases to patients through a novel outcome-based payment model. The program initially covers five therapies for conditions like spinal muscular atrophy and hemophilia. It aims to treat 5,000 patients in its first year, with costs shared by national insurance and drug manufacturers. **(National Healthcare Security Administration)**

First oral microbiome drug for obesity and diabetes approved

China has approved the first orally administered live biotherapeutic product targeting the gut microbiome for the adjunct treatment of obesity and type 2 diabetes. The capsule contains a consortium of engineered bacteria designed to improve metabolic health. In trials, it led to an average 8% body weight reduction and improved glycemic control over standard care alone. It represents a new drug class in metabolic disease management. **(Cell Metabolism)**