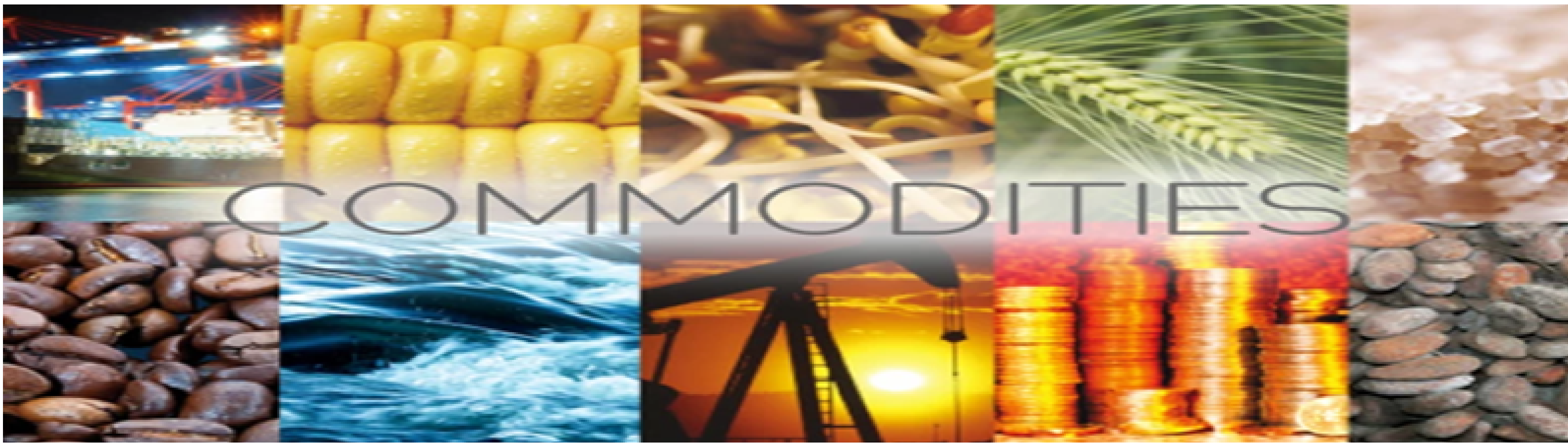
ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY

ITA Beijing Office

NEWSLETTER

COMMODITIES
6 - 12 July 2026



Fertilizer Supply Chain Recovery Faces Long and Uncertain Path
The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz has eased concerns over global energy and fertilizer supplies, reshaping market expectations for urea. However, analysts said supply-chain recovery will be gradual and uncertainties remain. As major exporters including Iran, Qatar and Saudi Arabia resume shipments, global urea supply pressures are expected to ease, though geopolitical risks continue to cloud the longer-term outlook. **(Futures Daily)**

China's Key Steelmakers Raise Crude Steel Output in Mid-June
China's major steel producers recorded average daily crude steel output of 2.10 million tonnes in mid-June, up 0.8% from the previous 10-day period, according to industry data. Daily steel product output rose 5.6% to 2.05 million tonnes. Meanwhile, steel inventories at key steelmakers increased 6.1% from early June to 17.9 million tonnes. **(Xinhua Finance)**

China Soybean Meal Market at Key Turning Point
China's soybean meal market is entering a critical phase. Dalian soybean meal futures rebounded to 2,950-2,980 yuan per tonne (about $411-$415), while commercial inventories exceeded 700,000 tonnes amid abundant soybean arrivals. Analysts said short-term price moves will depend on U.S. weather and crop acreage data, while longer-term trends hinge on U.S. soybean output and China's soybean purchasing activity. **(Futures Daily)**

Battery Recycling Emerges as New Growth Driver for Lithium Industry
China's growing electric vehicle market is reshaping the lithium industry, with battery recycling and second-life applications emerging as new growth areas. While EV penetration exceeded 60%, analysts said its impact on lithium demand is weakening. With ample supply and high inventories, lithium carbonate prices are expected to remain range-bound despite resilient battery demand. **(Futures Daily)**

China Commodity Price Index Edges Lower in June
China's Commodity Price Index fell 1.7% month on month to 130.3 in June, though it remained 17.6% higher than a year earlier. Easing Middle East tensions and lower oil prices helped reduce raw-material costs, while recovering domestic and overseas demand supported market stability. Analysts expect the economy to maintain a steady recovery in the second half. **(CCTV News)**