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## **Belarusian-Chinese Supply Chain Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges**

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### **Abstract:**

This paper discusses the cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of supply chain, comprehensively analyzes its current situation, opportunities and challenges, and puts forward strategic suggestions for future development. Through detailed specific cases and data support, the great significance of supply chain cooperation between the two sides to the economic development of the two countries was profoundly expounded.

The trade turnover between Belarus and China is steadily increasing year by year. In many fields, the trade cooperation between the two sides has been continuously expanded and deepened.

In the field of agricultural products, Belarus has fertile land and advanced agricultural technology, and the dairy products, meat and other agricultural products produced are well-known in the international market for their high quality. In recent years, these high-quality agricultural products have become more and more favored by consumers in the Chinese market. For example, Belarusian milk is gradually gaining a place in the Chinese dairy market due to its pure taste and rich nutritional content. At the same time, China, as one of the world's largest consumer markets for agricultural products, provides a broad space for Belarusian agricultural exports [2, P. 65–66].

In the field of machinery and equipment, China has obvious advantages in performance and price by virtue of its strong manufacturing strength and technological innovation capabilities. Belarus also has deep technical accumulation and rich experience in certain specific areas of machinery

manufacturing. The trade cooperation between the two sides in the field of machinery and equipment has achieved complementary advantages. For example, China's construction machinery and equipment have played an important role in the infrastructure construction of Belarus, and Belarusian high-end machine tools and other equipment have also been widely used in China's manufacturing industry [4, P. 80–84].

In other areas, such as chemical products, trade cooperation between the two sides has also been fruitful. Belarus's abundant chemical resources and advanced chemical technology, combined with China's huge chemical market demand, have brought huge economic benefits to both sides.

As a landmark project of cooperation between the two countries, the China-Belarus Industrial Park plays a crucial role in the construction of logistics infrastructure. The park is not only equipped with a modern logistics center, but also equipped with advanced warehousing facilities and efficient transportation equipment. These facilities provide convenient and efficient logistics services for settled enterprises, which greatly reduces the logistics costs of enterprises.

For example, a large logistics center in the park has an intelligent warehouse management system and automated loading and unloading equipment, which can realize the rapid storage and sorting of goods. At the same time, the logistics center has also established close cooperation with major logistics nodes at home and abroad to ensure that goods can be delivered to their destinations in a timely and accurate manner.

Today, Belarusian and Chinese companies are cooperating more closely in the field of supply chains. Many Chinese companies have seen the market potential and resource advantages of Belarus and have invested in Belarus. These enterprises take advantage of the abundant local resources and preferential policies to carry out production and sales activities, injecting new vitality into the local economic development [1, P.34–35].

Opportunities for supply chain cooperation between Belarus and China can be following:

1. Strong policy support. The two governments attach great importance to the cooperation between the two sides and have issued a series of policies to support supply chain cooperation. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides a broad platform for cooperation between the two sides. The Belt and Road Initiative aims to strengthen trade and economic cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road and promote common development. Belarus has responded positively to this initiative and formulated a corresponding

development strategy, creating a favorable policy environment for supply chain cooperation between the two sides.

For example, the Belarusian government has provided tax incentives, land incentives and other policy support to enterprises participating in China-Belarus cooperation projects, encouraging enterprises to increase investment and expand their business scope. At the same time, the Chinese government also provides for the investment and trade activities of enterprises in Belarus [4, P. 80–84].

2. The market demand is strong. As one of the world's largest consumer markets, China has a huge demand for Belarusian agricultural products and raw materials. With the continuous development of China's economy and the continuous improvement of people's living standards, Chinese consumers' demand for high-quality agricultural products and raw materials will continue to grow [3, P. 114–116].

3. Technological innovation is promoted. With the continuous advancement of science and technology, the supply chain field is also constantly innovating. The application of technologies such as big data, Internet of Things, and artificial intelligence provides new opportunities for the optimization and upgrading of the supply chain. Belarus and China can strengthen cooperation in technological innovation and jointly promote the intelligent development of supply chains.

The Challenges for supply chain cooperation between Belarus and China can be following:

1. Logistics costs are high. Although the two countries have made certain achievements in the construction of logistics infrastructure, logistics costs are still high due to factors such as long distances and single modes of transportation. This not only leads to an increase in enterprise operating costs but also has an impact on the efficiency and competitiveness of the supply chain.

For example, goods from Belarus to China are mainly transported by rail and road. Given the long transportation distance, the transportation cost is relatively high. Additionally, the single transportation mode also restricts the flexibility and efficiency of logistics. In some instances, the transit time of the goods is longer, which might affect the production and sales plans of enterprises.

2. Trade barriers are present. Although trade cooperation between the two sides has been enhanced, there are still some impediments. Tariffs and non-tariff barriers restrict the flow of goods and increase enterprise costs. Additionally, different standards and certification systems also create challenges for enterprises.

For instance, in agricultural product trade, non-tariff barriers such as differences in inspection and quarantine standards can lead to longer customs clearance times and higher costs for enterprises. In the area of machinery and equipment, diverse standards and certification systems can affect market access and product sales.

3. Cultural disparities between Belarus and China in aspects such as culture, language, and law pose challenges to enterprise cooperation. These differences can cause issues like miscommunication and misunderstandings, affecting cooperation effectiveness.

For instance, in business negotiations, cultural differences might lead to variations in the understanding and implementation of contract terms. In business management, different cultural backgrounds can result in differences in management styles and concepts. Moreover, language barriers can impact the effectiveness of communication and cooperation.

The development strategy and outlook of supply chain cooperation between Belarus and China may involve the following steps [5, P. 42–46]:

1. Strengthen logistics cooperation through optimizing the logistics network.

The two sides can collaborate to optimize the logistics network and enhance logistics efficiency. By establishing more logistics centers and opening new transportation routes, logistics time can be shortened and logistics costs can be reduced.

For example, it is possible to open more direct transport routes between major cities in Belarus and China, reducing the number of transfers of goods. At the same time, strengthen the construction and management of logistics centers, and improve the operational efficiency and service quality of logistics centers.

Strengthening logistics cooperation by *development of multimodal transport* like railway, highway, waterway and other multimodal transport to improve the flexibility and efficiency of transport. At the same time, strengthen the connection and coordination between different modes of transportation to achieve seamless docking.

For example, we should give full play to the advantages of large volume and low cost of railway transportation and the flexibility of road transportation to realize the combined transportation of rail and road. At the same time, the use of Belarus's inland river transport resources, the development of waterway transport, combined with railway and road transport, the formation of a multimodal transport system.

Strengthening logistics cooperation by *promotion of logistics informatization* via big data, Internet of Things and other technologies. Realize real-time sharing and tracking of logistics information, and improve the level and efficiency of logistics management.

For example, establish a logistics information platform to realize the full tracking and management of goods. Through big data analysis, optimize logistics routes and transportation plans to improve logistics efficiency. At the same time, the Internet of Things technology is used to realize the intelligent management of goods and improve the safety and accuracy of goods.

2 Eliminate trade barriers by *strengthening trade negotiations* in thriving to lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers, to promote the free flow of goods.

For example, through bilateral trade negotiations, the level of tariffs on agricultural products, machinery and equipment and other fields will be reduced. At the same time, we will strengthen cooperation in inspection and quarantine, standard certification, etc., and reduce non-tariff barriers.

Eliminate trade barriers by *harmonization of standards and certification systems*, which will reduce the cost and burden of enterprises and improve the efficiency of commodity circulation.

For example, in the field of agricultural products, the inspection and quarantine standards and certification systems of both sides should be unified to ensure the quality and safety of agricultural products. In the field of machinery and equipment, the technical standards and certification systems of both sides will be unified to promote market access and circulation of products.

So, this paper analyzes the supply chain cooperation between Belarus and China. The trade turnover between the two countries is increasing steadily, with cooperation expanding and deepening in fields like agricultural products, machinery and equipment, and chemical products. The China-Belarus Industrial Park plays a crucial role in logistics infrastructure [5, P. 42–46].

Opportunities for cooperation include strong policy support from both governments (e. g., China's Belt and Road Initiative), strong market demand, and technological innovation promotion. Challenges include high logistics costs, trade barriers (tariffs and non-tariff barriers, different standards and certification systems), and cultural differences.

The development strategy and outlook involve strengthening logistics cooperation by optimizing the logistics network (opening more transport routes and strengthening logistics center construction, developing multi-modal transport, promoting logistics informatization), and eliminating

trade barriers through strengthening trade negotiations and harmonizing standards and certification systems.

In conclusion, Belarus and China have significant potential for supply chain cooperation, but also face challenges that need to be addressed through various strategies to achieve sustainable development.

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### **Small business and entrepreneurship as factors of employment and well-being of the population**

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Abstract:

Small business and entrepreneurship are key drivers of the economy that ensure the well-being of the population. This article discusses the attention given to small business and entrepreneurship in the Republic of