

international trading company signed an MOU under which a collaborative scientific cooperation project is providing value-added to commodities suited for the Japanese market. Furthermore, AAFC and the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo have been working closely over the last few years to build a stronger Canada-Japan relationship in the agri-food sector and position Canada as a serious scientific and commercial partner. To date, this partnership has proven highly successful given the significant commercialization opportunities resulting from investment into Canadian scientific research.

Forestry and Building Products

The relationship between Canada and Japan in forestry dates back to the first shipment of Douglas fir lumber from Canada to Japan in 1903, and the years since have been punctuated by significant events. For instance, after the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, large Canadian forest companies shipped lumber to Japan to help with reconstruction. In the early 1960s, as the cost of domestic harvesting rose in Japan, Canada became one of Japan's largest suppliers – a trend that continues today. Then in the late 1960s, during a housing shortage, and at a time when the Japanese government was actively looking for new housing technology, a new era of collaboration in forestry and building products between our governments and private sectors arose.

Collaboration and technical exchanges between our governments and private sectors have continued and contributed to many improvements in housing technology and regulations. One key example is in respect of premium-grade softwood lumber and related building products. In the early stages, the sawmill industry in British Columbia worked with Japanese lumber importers and home-building companies to produce premium-grade softwood for Japan, resulting in the special "J" grade, as it is known today. In 1973, the Canadian Council of Forest Industries committed to an aggressive market develop-