

Opportunities for Canadian Agricultural Technology/Machinery

In conjunction with Thailand's goal to become a world leader in food processing, Thailand is also looking to increase production without increasing the harvested area. Canada has equipment and expertise to assist Thailand in becoming more efficient in production in the following areas:

1. Four wheel drive tractors.
2. Seeding equipment.
3. Tillage equipment.
4. Harvesting equipment.
5. Grain handling.
6. Storage equipment and silos.
7. Specialized machinery for the production of grains under dryland farming. Potential exist in the dry region of the Northeast part of Thailand.

Food Processing

Thailand's food processing industry is enjoying an investment boom as the export of highly processed foods continues to expand. The agro-food business is becoming more attractive because it yields the maximum benefit in terms of the value-added component, employment and export earnings, unlike the manufacturing industries, which often rely on imported raw materials.

Areas such as fruit and vegetables, cashew nuts, dairy, livestock and seafood are spearheading the growth of Thailand's food processing industry.

Investment is in a broad range of products including canned and frozen fruits and vegetables; seafood products such as crabs and baby clams; processed meat; and prawn farming. Other promising areas are processed foods derived from non-traditional crops such as tomatoes, mushrooms, asparagus and baby corn.

During the past two years of the Sixth Plan, the Thai government has introduced various production promotion programmes in the agricultural sector:

- * diversification of crops;
- * introduction of new hybrids;
- * new types of extension services;
- * commercialization of farm products instead of relying on traditional outlet of surplus for exports;
- * fruit preservation;
- * export of chicken parts;
- * livestock production in small and large scale farms;
- * introduction of broiler (meat type) and chicken (egg type) hybrids.