

tries seek to become improved gateways to their respective regions.

6.3.2 Individual Approach: Cooperative Issues

Chapter 4 described recent developments in bilateral cooperation, including the priority areas of the Canada-Japan Economic Framework. This section contains a number of these areas and others.

6.3.2.1 Food Safety

The relationship between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Japanese regulatory agencies has strengthened over the last several years. On complex and sensitive issues, the relationship is one of mutual trust, collaboration and transparency.

The CFIA and Health Canada and Japan's food safety authorities finalized an informal document in July 2006 for cooperation on food safety issues. The cooperation focuses on three areas: risk communications, risk assessment and international cooperation. Under the responsibility of the CFIA, Health Canada and the Food Safety Commission of Japan, initial cooperation in these areas will be carried forward in line with the content of the framework document. It would be constructive for authorities in both countries, as mutually decided, to coordinate cooperation between the Canadian and Japanese relevant authorities, which would enhance professional contacts at all levels and enhance the exchange of information.

The initial step of cooperation on food safety will be a touchstone for next steps. It is envisioned that the scope of the cooperation may be extended to include the areas of risk management, laboratory cooperation in the field of food safety, as contemplated by the existing food safety cooperation document, and further to include animal health and plant health. Given the increase in international trade in food, animals and plant prod-