

inspection technologies and new risks, there are many challenges that both countries share in this area. Under the terms of the Economic Framework, the two governments determined specifically to cooperate and share experiences to respond to these challenges through enhanced dialogue and a joint work plan between the relevant Canadian and Japanese authorities. This work plan was finalized in July 2006 and builds upon existing cooperation and dialogue that has achieved important results. For example, past food safety seminars in Japan provided a useful means for exchanging information and experiences on ways to communicate risk to the public.

Canola is an area of long-standing close relations between Canada and Japan, given the mutually dependent nature of our markets in this sector. Japan is Canada's largest market for canola, while Canada is the main supplier of Japan's imports of canola and rapeseed. Since 1976, the Canada-Japan Canola Consultations and Pre-consultations have been an important semi-annual event involving government and industry participants. This 30-year history has fostered mutually beneficial consultations, where issues of concern to the Canadian canola industry and the Japanese importing and crushing industry are discussed, and approaches for addressing these concerns are explored.

With respect to the promotion of agriculture and food trade, Canada and Japan have a long history of cooperation in helping to develop mutually beneficial business opportunities. AAFC, the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service and JETRO play an important role in promoting bilateral trade and investment in the agriculture and food sector by building strong networks and partnership opportunities between Canadian and Japanese firms.

In addition, while agricultural scientific cooperation between Canada and Japan at the institutional level remains relatively modest, exchanges between AAFC and the Japanese private sector have been enhanced through a number of joint science and trade initiatives. For instance, AAFC and a major Japanese