

Introduction

On a site near present-day Quebec City, one day in 1617, a Frenchman named Louis Hébert cleared land and began growing grain, pumpkins, and beans. Hébert didn't know it at the time, but he was the first settler to make his living from farming in what would later become Canada.

In the following 370 years, farms have grown from small plots of land to 70 million ha of fertile soil spanning the second-largest nation in the world. Canadian farmers, in the same time, have gone from growers of bare necessities to being among the world's foremost food producers and exporters.

Canada's land mass stretches 5 500 km, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, and from the same latitude as northern Italy to the high Arctic. As a result, the country's five major geographic regions — Atlantic, Central, Prairie, Pacific, and Northern — encompass widely varying land and climatic conditions. Each region has special features that make it different from the others. Together, these features also make Canadian agricultural products and techniques among the world's most diverse.

Canadian processes meet new challenges

In order to adapt to Canada's agricultural conditions, the Canadian farm equipment industry has had to devise a variety of new farming techniques. Since its roots in the nineteenth century, this industry has continually met new challenges by developing methods and technology to suit the land, climate, and needs of the people. The result is equipment for a multitude of applications: land clearing and soil

