



## JAPAN - NEWS SCAN

### Japanese Domestic Food Production Via Vegetable Factories – 2009/05

Due to heightened consumer demand for safe food in Japan, a number of small regional businesses are building new facilities to increase vegetable production in factories where computers control temperatures and manage the supply of nutrient solutions. These companies include Murakami Farm Co., a leading producer of sprouting seeds such as radish sprouts and broccoli sprouts, Nippon Noen Co., a producer of salad vegetables, Fairy Angel, a producer of lettuce, and Narita Processed Food Co., a major producer of bean sprouts.

Vegetable factories are able to control the indoor environment with computers and can grow large amounts of vegetables as a result. By closely tracking nutrient amounts and other data, companies can grow vegetables without the use of fertilizers. The development of techniques to mass-produce top-quality vegetables with uniform shapes has also driven demand for factory vegetables. It has mostly been smaller businesses that have developed the expertise within 50 factories in Japan, and now larger companies are looking to vegetable factories to meet their consumer demands.

The Japanese government has been promoting and revitalizing the domestic agricultural production in order to reduce Japan's reliance on imports to meet domestic consumption levels (Japan imports 60% of its daily caloric intake for its population) as well as meeting food safety and traceability concerns by the Japanese public.

Opportunities for Alberta industry include technological advances, nutrient products and expertise to increase the capability, capacity and efficiency for in indoor vegetable production in Japan.

For further information on trends and opportunities in the Japanese market please contact Lana Gudmundson, Trade Development Officer – Japan with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, at 780-422-7195 or [lane.gudmundson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:lane.gudmundson@gov.ab.ca).

Source:

*Nikkei Online*. "Vegetable Factory Output to Grow On Food Safety Concerns." April 29, 2009. <http://www.nni.nikkei.co.jp/e/ac/TNKS/Nni20090428D28JFA14.htm> (subscription required)

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