



## ALBERTA COMPANIES EXPLORE NEWLY OPENED THAILAND SEED POTATO MARKET

Three Alberta companies and one association participated in the Seed Potato Trade Mission to Thailand from November 19-27, 2017. Companies included Haarsma Farms, Parkland Seed Potatoes, Sunnycrest Seed Potatoes and the Potato Growers of Alberta. Participants met with importers, distributors and potential customers in Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, Thailand. They also toured local potato farm operations.

“This was the first market development mission focused on seed potato suppliers to Thailand since Alberta was granted market access last year,” says Rachel Luo, Senior Trade and Relations Officer, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. “Alberta seed potato companies pushed to make this mission a reality and all the companies expect to generate new sales.” says Luo.



*Delegation at potato chip plant in Bangkok*



*Potato fields*

“We expect to be exporting Alberta seed potatoes by 2019 starting with a trial order, says Kirby Sawatzky, Parkland Seed Potatoes. “We made excellent connections with two major seed potato importers.”

The Alberta delegation met with PEPSICO and toured their potato chip factory and contracted farm. They also met with BJC Foods and toured their storage facilities and contracted potato farm. The Thai importers made it clear that the opportunities for Alberta seed potatoes were positive due to the hearty nature of Alberta’s seed potato varieties.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry collaborated with the Canadian Embassy in Thailand to organize this mission to Thailand.

For more information on the Southeast Asia market, contact:

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