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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



BUILDING CANADA'S FOOD AND AGRICULTURE BRAND IN THE WORLD

Canada's agriculture and food industry feeds the world safe, healthy food that is well-respected by international trading partners. Canada is the world's fourth-largest exporter in the agriculture and seafood trade, and is internationally recognized for high-quality products.

British Columbia's Contribution

British Columbia has some of the most varied geography and climate in all of Canada, uniquely positioning the province to produce a vast array of quality agri-food and seafood products. In 2008, BC exported more than \$2-billion worth of agri-food, fish and seafood products outside of Canada.

The Fraser Valley has rich alluvial soils ideal for vegetable cultivation in the field, which has expanded to a year-around greenhouse industry. The valley is also home to mixed farming, dairy, hog and poultry production. The greenhouses produce 96 per cent of BC's tomatoes, most of which go to the United States.

In the interior, the Okanagan is home to fruit orchards and vineyards which flourish in the hot summers. The region has nurtured a growing wine industry. And in the northeast, the prairie landscape of the Peace River region hosts grain crops and cattle ranches.

British Columbia's 25,000 kilometres of Pacific coast presents an ideal marine environment for harvesting an abundant range of fish and seafood, from farmed salmon to more than 80 species of wild and cultured finfish, shellfish and plants for domestic and international consumption.

Seafood

Fresh and frozen farmed Atlantic salmon accounts for almost 13 per cent of the value of British Columbia's combined agri-food, fish and seafood exports. About 80 per cent of production, worth more than \$300-million, is exported fresh. The largest market is the U.S., followed by Japan, Taiwan and Korea. The export value of BC's internationally famous wild salmon comes in at about \$20-million.

Agri-food

The top three agri-food exports, representing 9.6 per cent of total agri-food, fish and seafood export sales in 2008, were tallow (3.4 per cent), tomatoes (3.2 per cent) and food preparations (3 per cent).

Did you know?

Marine shellfish farms in BC trace their origin to commercial Pacific oyster culture introduced in 1912. The shellfish farms primarily located on the west coast of Vancouver Island and around the Georgia Basin, raise a variety of oysters, clams, scallops and mussels. New aquaculture species include geoduck, sea cucumber, sea urchin, spot prawn and giant rock scallops.

