

Question on Notice

No. 581

Asked on 12 May 2021

MR J MADDEN ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on Queensland's agricultural trade exports to Japan?

ANSWER:

Japan is Queensland's second largest agricultural export market importing almost 20 per cent of the State's total exports, which were valued at \$9.54 billion in 2019-20.

It is clear that exports to Japanese consumers of Queensland beef, seafood and fruit and vegetables, to name just a few of our key exports, are set to continue.

Despite the impacts of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, our strong trading relationship is thriving, largely due to the long-term trust between Queensland and Japan, the flexibility and resilience of Queensland producers and the dedicated support of the Palaszczuk Government.

Queensland's export success stories to Japan over the past 12 months include:

- the first exports of farmed tiger prawns to Costco
- the first sea-freight shipment of kabocha squash – a new export crop with great potential for Queensland growers. Further shipments of kabocha are on their way to Tokyo this month
- the first trial shipment of a new variety of Queensland pumpkin, the Orange Glow.

Over the next four years, the Palaszczuk Government will invest more than \$5 million to bolster our agricultural trade relationships in key markets through virtual engagement, e-commerce initiatives and improved air and sea freight services. This will allow Queensland producers to not only strengthen and develop their business-to-business relationships along the supply chain, but to achieve more of these export firsts.

In September 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, Queensland's first virtual trade mission with Japan was held. The guest of honour during the three-day mission was Mr Kazunari Tanaka, Japan's Consul-General to Queensland. The mission featured a virtual trade event at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre for 60 of Queensland's leading exporters, their supply chain partners and agribusiness representatives working in Japan.

A new Retractable Roof Greenhouse (RRG) was also launched in Ayr and showcased virtually to representatives from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The facility was purpose built to support the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' innovative research and development work in protected cropping.

The Ayr greenhouse has significant potential, in the long-term, to enable Queensland growers to produce counter-seasonal crops, specifically tailored to Japanese and Asian consumer preferences (for example, sweeter melons, smaller eggplants, unblemished tomatoes.)

Strong bilateral relationships can survive global trade shocks, and Queensland's relationship with Japan is stronger than ever. Consul-General Tanaka was also a special guest of the Queensland Government at Beef Week in Rockhampton in May 2021.

The Government's investment in our key trade relationships will enable Queensland producers and their supply chain partners to grow their agricultural exports to Japan and this means more jobs for regional Queensland.