

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN

**THE CROP PRODUCTION BUREAU,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES OF JAPAN**

AND

THE U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES

**ON THE STABILIZATION OF THE SUPPLY OF WHEAT
FROM THE UNITED STATES TO JAPAN**

The Crop Production Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) and the U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) (hereinafter referred to as individually as “Participant” and collectively as “Participants”),

Reaffirming each other as an important long-term partner in the trade of U.S. wheat;

Acknowledging that the demand for food is increasing due to the growing world population, and that various risks are increasing, such as unstable production in major production areas caused by climate change and disruption of logistics;

Recognizing the importance of strengthening communication and cooperation between Participants;

Have reached the following recognition:

PARAGRAPH I

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as this “MOC”) is to strengthen mutual cooperation between the Participants, which will enable the continuous production in the U.S. of wheat varieties suitable for the export to Japan as well as the stable import by Japan of U.S. wheat that meets MAFF purchasing standards. Participants share the view that the cooperation under this MOC will further develop wheat industry in the United States and Japan.

PARAGRAPH II

FORMS OF COOPERATION

Forms of cooperation under this MOC may include, but are not limited to:

1. Exchange of relevant information:

a. USW is to provide U.S. wheat information on;

- (i) Trends in wheat production, supply, demand and quality
- (ii) Status of domestic logistics, shipping operations and port facilities
- (iii) Status of new technologies, innovations and new pesticides
- (iv) Status of production measures for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin

Note: USW maintains a single country office in Tokyo, Japan for the duration of this MOC to provide direct service to the Japanese milling industry and government officials.

b. MAFF is to provide information on;

- (i) Trends in wheat supply and demand
- (ii) Needs of domestic users
- (iii) Results of pesticide residue testing
- (iv) Changes in wheat purchase policy

Note: Changes or revisions of wheat purchase specifications to be notified to USW in the earliest and timely manner

2. Management in case of incidents:

USW is to immediately provide information on incidents listed below and to manage them without delay;

- (i) Shipment delays caused by incidents in domestic distribution and port facilities
- (ii) Food safety concerns due to contamination of GM wheat and exceedance of mycotoxin standards

3. Joint research and development to improve U.S. wheat varieties for Japan.

PARAGRAPH III IMPLEMENTATION

1. Each Participant may share documents and information provided by the other Participant with related organizations in line with paragraph II.
2. Participants will hold regular information exchange meetings to facilitate mutual understanding and to implement the stable wheat supply to Japan.
3. The regular meetings referred to in the previous subparagraph will be held:
 - a. at least once a year alternately in Japan and the United States in virtual and/or in person, and
 - b. participants can jointly decide to have related organizations participate in the regular meetings.

PARAGRAPH IV FOCAL POINT

Each Participant will appoint a Focal Point for the purpose of implementing this MOC. For the MAFF, the Focal Point will be the Grain Trade and Operation Division, Crop Production Bureau. For USW, the Focal Point will be the U.S. Wheat Associates, Tokyo Office.

PARAGRAPH V LEGAL STATUS

This MOC is not legally binding and does not create any legal rights or obligations.

PARAGRAPH VI REVISION

This MOC may be revised as may be required at any time by mutual written consent of Participants. Once such revisions are signed and dated by Participants, they will be in operation and will form part of this MOC on the date of signature.

PARAGRAPH VII
DURATION AND DISCONTINUATION

This MOC will remain in operation for five (5) years, automatically extendable for equal periods, unless one of Participants notifies the other in writing of its intention to discontinue this MOC.

This MOC may be discontinued by either Participant by providing and delivering written notice to the other Participant no later than ninety (90) days before the intended discontinuation date.

Signed in duplicate in Tokyo Japan, on the 2nd of October 2025 in the English language.

For the Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

For the U.S. Wheat Associates

YAMAGUCHI Yasushi
Director-General,
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Jim PELLMAN
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