



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Japan

Agricultural Situation

The 2001 Hokkaido Onion Production Up 7 Percent 2001

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Report Highlights:

This year's Hokkaido onion crop is expected to be excellent, estimated at 665,900 metric tons, up approximately 7 percent from last year. The quality of the harvest is reportedly excellent, with the majority large sized onions. Currently, the Hokkaido onion harvest is at its peak and will continue until late September.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo[JA1], JA

On August 10, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) released a forecast for the 2001 Hokkaido onion production (the crop situation as of July 20). The forecast is as follows:

	2001 Crop Forecast	Changes from 2000
Harvested Area (HA)	12,400 HR	Down 3%
Production (MT)	665,900 MT	Up 7%
Commercial Shipments (MT)	621,300 MT	Up 8%
For Fresh Consumption	535,500 MT	Up 9%
For Processing	85,900 MT	Up 1%

Hokkaido, Japan's largest onion growing region, produces largely storage type onions. MAFF also released a forecast of commercial shipments (domestic supply) for fresh consumption before September 30 and after October 1. The forecast is as follows:

	Commercial Shipment Forecast for Fresh Consumption	Changes from 2000
Before September 30	319,900 MT	Up 11%
After October 1	215,600 MT	Up 7%
Total	535,500 MT	Up 8%

On August 30, the agricultural producer's coop in Hokkaido reported that this year's Hokkaido onion crop is expected to be excellent. They estimate that production will be up 10 percent from last year and the majority are forecasted to be large sized onions. Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, received good weather in spring and summer this year. The recent typhoon that hit Honshu, the main island of Japan, in late August, did not cause any damage to the Hokkaido onion crop, since the typhoon veered to the Pacific Ocean after landing on Honshu. It is currently the peak season for the Hokkaido onion harvest, which is expected to continue until late September this year.