

Food and food processing

Being a farming and fishing nation with proud traditions in production, processing, marketing and food safety, Denmark is a natural business partner for the Thai food and fishing industries, at a time when domestic and international consumer demands are changing.

For generations, the Danish agricultural sector has covered the food needs of three times the entire population of Denmark. Today the sector is modern, efficient and highly export oriented, with exports concentrated on products such as meat products, furs and hides, ingredients, seeds and dairy products as well as know-how and processing equipment.

From farm to fork

Thanks to the use of modern management and technology, Danish agriculture ranks among the most modern and cost-efficient in the world. This is maintained through a comprehensive production system from soil to table. The system is based on a reliable food safety control system, quality seeds and breeding animals, sophisticated equipment and efficient globally oriented marketing. Nearly two-thirds of Denmark's total area is under cultivation, which requires very strict environmental guidelines in order to maintain the sustainability of Danish agricultural production.

The production of food and beverages for the consumers is a leading economic sector, with the food-processing sector alone accounting for almost one quarter of all sales of manufactured goods. Denmark's primary trading partner in the food and food processing industry is the EU. Outside the EU, Japan is the main trading partner, because of its large imports of pig meat.

Did you know:

Denmark is the world's largest exporter of pig meat. It accounts for almost one fourth of total exports in agricultural and manufactured products.

This position calls for and reflects an optimisation in the chain of production. This is seen in the unique co-operation between research bodies, extension services, farmers, companies and the authorities. The competitiveness of Danish food products is highly due to the focus on food safety. The Danish legislation sets very high standards for food safety, and the processing of food is subject to a thorough control from the Danish authorities. The safety and tracking system, which is focused on consumer and animal health protection, starts at farm and fishing levels and continues all the way to the dining tables of consumers all over the world.

The Agro-industry

The importance of the agricultural sector has fostered the development of an extensive industrial sector producing almost all kinds of equipment needed by the food sector. Denmark has taken a leading role in producing equipment to promote resource- and environmentally friendly production. For farms, it consists of for example fertiliser and pesticide spraying

techniques for responsible plant care as well as highly nutritional feed for animal breeding programs and equipment for handling mud and slurry. Food processing plants, process equipment and ingredients in the food processing industry are among important products.

As the market demand for pig meat in Thailand is rising, high standards for food safety and hygiene in the farms, the slaughterhouses and the meat processing as well as efficient equipment are of growing importance for domestic production. Being the world's largest exporter of pig meat, Denmark certainly has knowledge and efficient equipment to offer to the pork industry in Thailand.

The fishing industry

Surrounded by sea, Denmark has a long tradition in fishing. When it comes to Danish food delicacies, fish in different variants play an important role, with pickled herrings as the most famous one. The Danish fishing industry is subject to thorough control. This is seen in quotas ensuring a sustainable development in the fish population in Danish waters, and control on the hygienic conditions on board the fishing boats and in the processing industry.

Denmark is the world's fourth largest exporter of fish and fish products, but imports fish as well. The products consist of freshwater and sea fish, crayfish and prawns as well as processed and preserved fish products. The main part of the Danish fish imports come from Norway and Greenland. Though European countries are by far the largest export destinations, countries such as Japan and Thailand are of increasing importance.

In order to maintain its position on the world market, the Danish fishing industry uses and produces very technologically efficient equipment. As a result of Thai fishing companies' compliance with national fishing policies, the demand for deep-sea fishing equipment as well as other fishing equipment will rise. Danish suppliers will be a good choice of trading partner. The same goes for the Danish export of fresh shrimps and prawns to Thailand, where the high standards for fishing procedures in Denmark ensures the Thai processing companies raw material of good quality, and thereby improved sales and export potentials.

In conclusion, the Danish food production is innovative and research based. Besides safety, it also focuses on consumer health, and when purchasing Danish food products and equipment, Thai companies are thus ensured thoroughly tested products and machinery of a very high quality and a high level of expertise.

The Agricultural Council of Denmark: www.landbrugsraadet.dk

The Danish Board of Food: www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fishing; The Directorate for fishing: www.fd.dk

Danish Fishing Equipment Group: www.dk-fishing-equipment.com