

Agriculture brings Japan and SA closer

First Japan–South Africa Joint Agricultural Working Committee and Reception

PRETORIA, 21 April – The first Joint Agricultural Working Committee (JAWC) between Japan and South Africa was held from 21 to 22 April 2026.

This meeting was convened following the Memorandum of Intent (MOI) signed between the two countries' agricultural authorities in September 2025, and marked an important first step toward advancing concrete cooperation in the agricultural sector.

On 20 April, a reception was hosted at the Embassy of Japan to commemorate the inaugural JAWC. Ms TATENO Chisato, 2025 Miss SAKE Japan from Japan, attended the event and introduced Japanese sake while it was served to guests. Japanese cuisine and South African dishes were also provided, offering an opportunity to highlight the compatibility of Japanese sake with Japanese food and South African food.

During the first JAWC held on 21 April, participants engaged in in-depth discussions on areas of mutual interest and explored further opportunities for cooperation. Building on the bilateral discussions held to date, participants deepened exchanges while sharing knowledge, technologies, and innovations in the agricultural sector, and held discussions on strengthening technical cooperation and support for human resource development.

On 22 April, a site visit was conducted, allowing Japanese participants to observe agricultural practices in South Africa firsthand and deepen mutual understanding.

Through this JAWC, participants, including representatives from both countries' agricultural authorities and private sectors, expressed their expectation to continue and further strengthen their cooperative relationship in the future.





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