SAKATA
PASSION in Seed

NEWS RELEASE

October 3, 2024

Sakata Seed Corporation's American Subsidiary Unveils New Headquarters

The Sakata Woodland Innovation Center

Ribbon cutting at grand opening ceremony: from left, Japan's Ambassador to the United States, Shigeo Yamada, Dave Armstrong and Hiroshi Sakata

Sakata Seed Corporation (Headquarters: Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan; President: Hiroshi Sakata)'s a major subsidiary, Sakata America Holding Company, Inc. (Headquarters: Woodland, California, U.S.A.; hereinafter, "SAH"), is proud to announce the grand opening of its new headquarters, the Sakata Woodland Innovation Center. This state-of-the-art facility, located on 219 acres of prime agricultural land in Yolo County, California, marks a significant milestone in SAH's commitment to advancing agricultural innovation and sustainability.

The Woodland Innovation Center will serve as the central hub for SAH's operations, consolidating SAH's key functions into one expansive campus, including research and development, seed production, processing, testing, packaging, distribution and biotechnology —the embodiment of a "21st-century Farmstead" for SAH.

Dave Armstrong, President and CEO of Sakata Seed America, states, "The expansion of the Woodland Innovation Center is an exciting and necessary step for the future of Sakata. As we broaden our leadership position in an expanding portfolio of crops, it's imperative that we support our growing business and deepen our roots in one of the world's most dynamic agriculture regions—the 'Silicon Valley of seed.' Our headquarters relocation to Woodland reflects our commitment to California's vital agriculture and seed sectors, and the investment enables us to consolidate R&D and multiple other functions on a single, state-of-the-art campus."

The development of the Woodland Innovation Center has been strategically planned in four phases. Phases 1 and 2, completed in November 2018, established a research head house, greenhouses for key SAH crops, a farm shop, a washery building, and a LEED-certified office building. The recently completed Phases 3 and 4, which began in November 2022, include:

- A 9,000 square foot state-of-the-art lab building.
- An 18,000-square-foot office building constructed in alignment with LEED sustainability standards.
- A solar energy plant covering all electricity needs for the entire site, reflecting SAH's commitment to sustainability.
- A 32,000-square-foot warehouse facility featuring cutting-edge milling and processing equipment with a proprietary seed mill design exclusive to SAH.
- A horticulturally curated campus designed to promote the collaboration and well-being of employees.

The move to Woodland will also strengthen SAH's ties with the University of California at Davis, enhancing collaborative opportunities with the world-renowned agricultural science institution.

SAH's legacy of excellence in the seed industry, beginning with broccoli and expanding into a wide assortment of vegetables and flowers, has been enhanced by significant additional investments in infrastructure and personnel across North and Central America. The new headquarters will support the integration of five research stations, multiple seed processing sites, labs and administration offices throughout North America and foster global collaboration among SAH's breeding teams.

The grand opening celebration, held on September 12, 2024, brought together 200 guests, including Japan's Ambassador to the United States: Shigeo Yamada, President of Sakata Seed Corporation: Hiroshi Sakata, California State Assembly, local dignitaries, key business partners, SAH Executive Management, employees, and media. The event featured a local chef's catering using SAH products, facility tours, a Japanese taiko drum performance, and a traditional Japanese Sake Ceremony.

……

SAKATA SEED CORPORATION
2-7-1 Nakamachidai, Tsuzuki-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa, 224-0041, Japan
https://global-sakata.com

[Reference materials for news coverage]

Speech by Hiroshi Sakata

Grand tent entrance

Stage decoration