



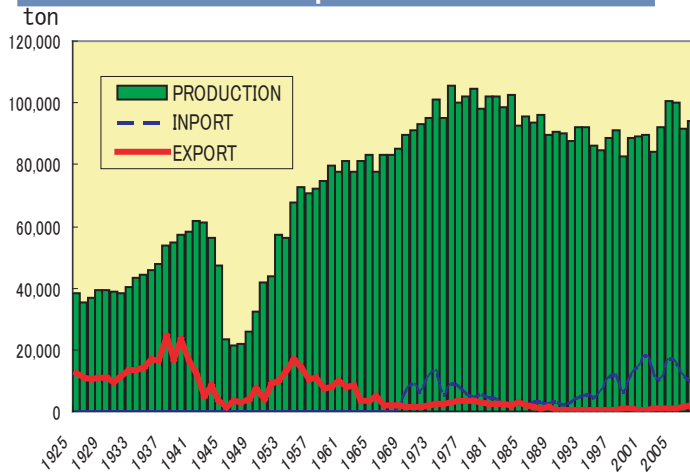
Present Situation of Tea Production in Japan

The Buddhist monks Eisai (榮西) in the early part of the 12th century introduced tea into Japan from China. In the Edo (江戸) era (1598-1867), tea production were significantly developed, regard to the cultivation and processing, and consequently the methods of manufacture of Sencha and Gyokuro were established in 1738 and 1835, respectively.



Statue of Buddhist priest Eisai (Kanaya, Shizuoka)

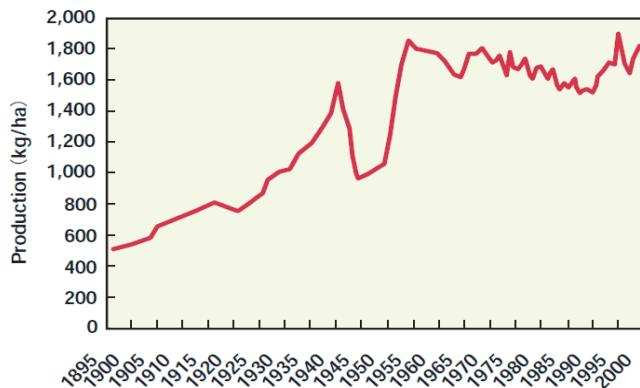
Amount of crude tea production and its trade



In 1859, when Japanese Government abandoned its policy of isolation and was opened to international trade, green tea became one of the most important exportable commodities along with silk. With the advancement of national modernization of Japan during late of 19th to the beginning of the 20th century, a significant development in the technology of tea production, such as the invention of machines for processing and mechanical shears for harvesting of

leaves was established. Tea production increased steadily, but decreased rapidly during the World War II, on account of the conversion of some tea areas. With Japan's postwar rehabilitation, tea production got back to the prewar level. Thereafter, green tea production of Japan favorably increased up to 1975 and then converted from plateau of about 100,000 tons to a gradual decrease since 1980, falling to about 90,000 tons in 2000.

Amount of crude tea production per ha in Japan



Crude tea production of each crop season in Japan

