



**Singapore
Food
Agency**

Workshop for Land-based Farms 2024

19 Sep 2024

Agenda

- **Building the capability and capacity of local farms for local production and food security**
- **Common issues faced by Farms**
- **Tips before starting farm in Singapore**
- **Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund**
- **Food Safety and Security Bill (FSSB from LicD)**



Building the capability and capacity of local farms for local production and food security

Why local production?

- **Buffers** impact of **major overseas food supply disruption**
- **Mitigates impact of climate change and resource constraints** with environment-controlled highly productive technologies
- **Close the production loop in the long run.** Invest in R&D to drive innovations that enable us to strengthen food production capabilities and reduce our reliance on external agri-input sources

Common Issues faced by Farms

Planning, Design and Construction phase

- Did not consider for major agencies' requirements (i.e. water detention tank, fire protection system provision, persons with disability (PWD) accessibility requirements, etc)
- Lack of funding to begin construction, or continue with construction, as farms initially did not take into account the cost and spaces required to adhere to agencies' regulatory requirements.
- Investor withdrawal after tender award, or no seeding of fund to continue with next phase/plot of development

Common Issues faced by Farms

Planning, Design and Construction phase

- Bidding for multiple plots and unable to meet Project Completion Period for all plots
- Lack of manpower or materials to start, and or continue construction
- Engaging QP with no farm development experience which resulted in delay, construction not meeting Agencies requirement (i.e. fire exit)

Common Issues faced by Farms

Operational phase

- Not able to offtake produce (i.e. unable to efficiently sell the vegetables, lack of buyers, mismatch between demand and supply)
- Waste management issue (i.e. animal waste, vegetable waste)
- Not able to sustain business viability

Tips before starting farm in Singapore

Planning, Design and Construction phase

- New farm need to be aware of Singapore's economic climate before tender
- Refer to industry guide which is available on SFA website to find out more about setting up farms in Singapore, including design of Farm's Archetype for a 2.0ha plot.
- Read the tender documents thoroughly once they are made available at tender launch so that you are aware of the terms and conditions of the tender. You are also strongly encouraged to attend the tender briefing.

Tips before starting farm in Singapore

Planning, Design and Construction phase

- Obtain **building plans approval** by agencies before any commencement of works to prevent the need to do corrections later. Designs should factor in all regulatory requirements.
- Prepare **contingency plan** (i.e. extra funding) so project can still proceed even when emergencies arise (i.e. increase in costs, or withdrawal of funding).
- Please note that you are required to complete all the plots within **three years of lease commencement**, so consider whether you have the financial resources to complete multiple plots within the same period of time.

Tips before starting farm in Singapore

Planning, Design and Construction phase

- Engage a professional team with proven track record and knowledge of Singapore's regulations including Qualified Person, Quantity Surveyor, M&E, C&S engineers, consultants and contractors to do a feasibility study for **both construction and operational phases including sales plan and waste management plan (including sourcing of vendors & suppliers)** before submission of tender proposal, to ensure you are able to perform the contractual terms.

Tips before starting farm in Singapore

Operational phase

- **Property tax**: to note that fixed properties like stationary/bolted farming machinery or systems will be factored into annual value of the farmland after installations of the farm are completed.
- Successful Tenderer will be required to hold more than **50% of shares** of the farm.
- **Products used for farming**, may require approvals/permits by Agencies, (i.e. some fertilisers would need NParks/SPF's approval, before they can be imported to Singapore).

Tips before starting farm in Singapore

Operational phase

- Agri-waste disposal, which can be a major operating issue, especially mushroom farming. It is ideal for farms to plan how they can reduce, re-use or recycle the wastes.
- Have in place business continuity plans so business can continue even when emergencies like increase in costs arises.

AGRI-FOOD CLUSTER TRANSFORMATION (ACT) FUND

SFA has launched the ACT Fund to provide financial incentives to assist local farms in their capability development and drive towards higher productivity in a sustainable and resource efficient manner. The ACT Fund is available until 31 December 2025.



Capability Upgrading (CU)

To support pre-qualified equipment, systems, small-scale pilot trials to increase farm productivity, sustainability and improve circularity of resource use.



Technology Upscaling (TU)

To support large commercial-scale, automated, and advanced farming technology to achieve quantum leap in productivity or improve sustainability and/or circularity of resource use.



Funding Quantum



CU Co-fund at **70%** Up to **S\$100k**

TU Co-fund at **70%** Up to **S\$6mil**, inclusive of infra-capital cost



CU Co-fund at **50%** Up to **S\$50k**

TU Co-fund at **50%** Up to **S\$700k**, inclusive of infra-capital cost

Cash Advancement



Provide **20%** of approved fund upfront for TU projects

Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund

With effect from 1 March 2023, application for project in primary production of leafy vegetable, fruited vegetable, food fish, hen egg, mushroom and shrimp is eligible for co-funding at 70% up to \$100k per project.



Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund

The ACT Fund comprises 2 funding components:

- 1. Capability Upgrading (CU):** Supports pre-qualified equipment, systems, small-scale pilot trials to increase farm productivity, sustainability and improve circularity of resource use.
 - Funding quantum: Co-fund at **70%** up to **\$100k** per project for priority food farms; and 50% up to \$50k for other farms
- 2. Technology Upscaling (TU):** Support large commercial-scale, automated, and advanced farming technology to achieve quantum leap in productivity or improve sustainability and/or circularity of resource use.
 - Funding quantum: Co-fund at **70%** up to **\$6mil** per project for priority food farms; and 50% up to \$700k for other farms.

Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Applicant must be a farm licensee of a Singapore-based farm with valid licence issued by SFA. For new farms, applicant must have obtained SFA's approval for the proposed farming activity at the farm site.
2. Applicant must have secured a farm site for implementation of the proposed farming system.
3. For existing farms, applicant's farm shall be free of unauthorised or illegal activities for the past 1 year from time of application.

Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund

How to apply:

Log in to the
Business Grants Portal
(BGP)

Food farms

Select sector Select grant Apply for grant

Which sector best describes your business?

Agriculture ^	Air Transport v	Building & Construction
Food	Environmental Services v	Financial Services v
Non-Food	Healthcare	IT
Education v	Logistics	Manufacturing & Engineering v
Food & Beverages v	Media	Professional Services v
Landscape	Retail	Security
Maritime	Tourism v	Wholesale Trade
Real Estate v		
Services		
Others		

Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund

Select this option

The screenshot displays a three-step progress bar at the top: 'Select sector' (completed with a checkmark), 'Select grant' (current step), and 'Apply for grant' (pending). Below the progress bar, the heading 'I need this grant to' is followed by two options. The first option, 'Bring my business overseas or establish a stronger international presence', is highlighted in light grey. The second option, 'Upgrade key business areas, such as adopt technology, improve business processes or raise service standards', is highlighted in blue and is pointed to by a green arrow from the text 'Select this option' on the left. At the bottom of the form, there are 'Previous' and 'Next' navigation buttons.

Select sector Select grant Apply for grant

I need this grant to

Bring my business overseas or establish a stronger international presence
Provides financial incentives to help businesses take the first step overseas or establish a stronger international presence

Upgrade key business areas, such as adopt technology, improve business processes or raise service standards
Provides financial incentives to help businesses upgrade through ready solutions or embarking on capability upgrading projects

← Previous Next →

Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund

Select this option
for CU

Select this option
for TU

The screenshot shows a three-step progress bar at the top: 'Select sector' (checked), 'Select grant' (checked), and 'Apply for grant' (unchecked). Below the progress bar is the question: 'Which best describes the area you will develop with this grant?'. There are three options listed:

- Pre-scoped Productivity Solutions**: Improve productivity with pre-scoped equipment/IT solutions/consultancy services.
- Core Capabilities**: Projects that help companies strengthen their business foundation to grow and transform. Supportable project scopes include Business Strategy Development, Financial Management, Brand & Marketing Strategies Development, Service Excellence and Human Capital Development.
- Innovation & Productivity**: Projects that help companies improve operational efficiencies and develop new business models, technologically novel products or processes. Supportable project scopes include Process Redesign, Product Development, Business Model and Process Innovation.

At the bottom of the form, there is a '← Previous' button on the left and an 'Apply' button on the right.

Summary of Grants

SFA Grants

- Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund (sfa.gov.sg/food-farming/funding-schemes/act-fund)
- Singapore Food Story R&D Programme (sfa.gov.sg/food-farming/singapore-food-story/r-and-d-programme)

Grants administered by other agencies

- Enterprise Development Grant (EDG) ([Enterprise Development Grant \(EDG\)](#))
- SG Eco Fund (www.sgeco.gov.sg)
- Water Efficiency Fund (WEF) ([Water Efficiency Fund | PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency](#))
- Energy Efficiency Fund (E2F) ([Energy Efficiency Grant \(EEG\) \(gobusiness.gov.sg\)](#))
- 3R Fund ([NEA | 3R Fund](#))

Conditions of licence for land-based farms

- ❖ The licensee shall only use the farm for activities approved by the Director-General/ authorized SFA officers, and permit entry at all reasonable times for the purpose of inspection and to furnish any information as required.
- ❖ For any changes in ACRA business profile, the licensee is required to update the Director-General/authorised SFA officers within 14 days of the change.
- ❖ To maintain the farm clean and sanitary condition.
- ❖ Human excreta or raw animal/bird excreta must not be applied.
- ❖ Biosecurity measures must be implemented to prevent introduction and spread of diseases to safeguard animal and plant health.

Scan the QR code to download the full set of conditions:



Additional conditions for Poultry farms

- ❖ Fencing around entire perimeter of the farm and production areas. Farm kept free from unwanted vegetation and debris.
- ❖ Vehicular/personnel disinfection facilities at entrance to production areas.
- ❖ Access to production areas: Restricted to farm workers and essential personnel; Persons undergo bio-sanitation and don protective farm clothing.
- ❖ Each poultry house: Foot-dips with disinfectant at entrance, bird-proofing.
- ❖ Poultry, eggs, or poultry products from outside the farm must not be brought into the farm.
- ❖ Quarantine of replacement chicks.

Additional conditions for Poultry farms (cont')

- ❖ Source birds or hatching eggs from sources free from *Salmonella enteritidis* and no case of diseases stipulated in the Veterinary Conditions for importation of day-old chicks and hatching eggs, or any notifiable disease has been diagnosed on the source farm for the last 6 months.
- ❖ Facilities for disinfection of poultry crates, vehicles and equipment for transport of birds.
- ❖ Premises for storage of feed/eggs properly maintained to prevent entry of wild birds, animals and pests.
- ❖ Proper disposal of dead birds, manure and other farm waste.
- ❖ Biosegregation: Egg collection areas separated from production areas; Equipment/workers not shared with other poultry farms; Garbage collection points outside farm; Use dedicated manure collection vehicles.

Additional conditions for Poultry farms (cont')

- ❖ Delivery vehicles: Feed vehicles only send feed to one layer farm; Spent hen collection vehicles only collect from one layer farm; Vehicles that send day-old chicks proceed directly to the farm from the breeder farm; Vehicles that deliver wood shavings/calcium/other supplies only deliver to one farm.
- ❖ Egg traceability: Eggs must be individually labelled (via food dye or laser) with farm and production code; Records kept for traceability to date and location of production/processing

Scan the QR code to download the full set of conditions:



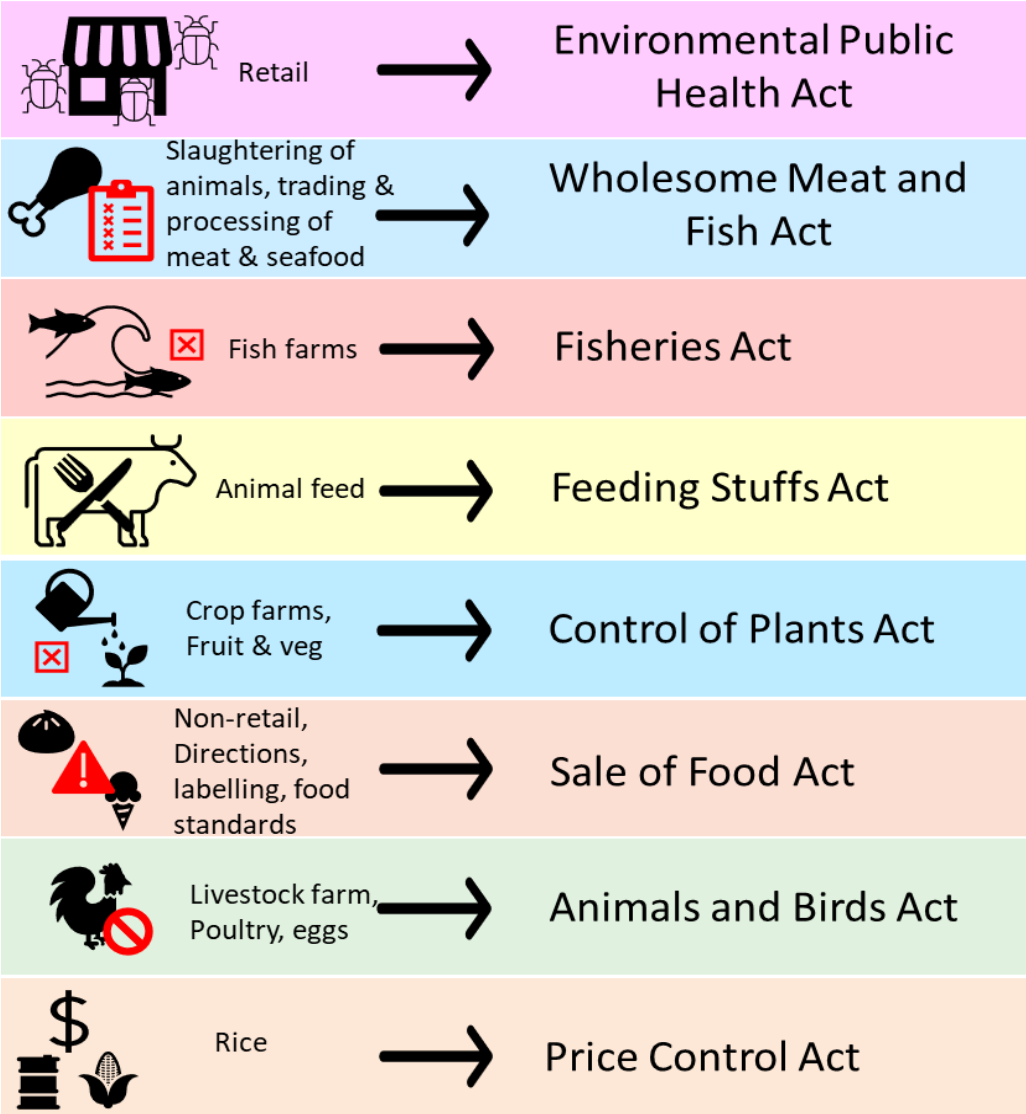
Additional conditions for Cattle farms

- ❖ Fencing around entire perimeter of the farm and production areas.
- ❖ Report death of every cattle to SFA. Report movement of cattle in/out of the farm to SFA.
- ❖ Proper disposal of dead cattle, manure and other farm waste.

Scan the QR code to download the full set of conditions:



Today, SFA draws legal powers from 8 existing Acts to ensure and secure a supply of safe food. The new FSSB will provide a clear scope of law and introduce enhancements to our food safety regime to better protect consumers, and new provisions to better safeguard our food security.



Food Safety and Security Bill (FSSB)

- i. Enhance the food safety regime to better protect the public
- ii. Strengthen resilience against food supply disruptions
- iii. Facilitate joint responsibility between industry, consumers and the Government

Food Safety and Security Bill (FSSB)

The FSSB will cover activities from farm to fork and harmonise the provisions to ensure coherence and consistency across the food supply chain.

FSSB Components

Businesses



Import, Export,
Transshipment



Food Businesses



Pesticides &
Animal Feed



Novel & Genetically-
Modified Food



Non-packaged
Drinking water

Actions to/can be
applied to above



Licensing



Record Keeping
Obligations



Strengthening
resilience of food
supplies in Singapore



Food safety and
sustainable primary
production measures



Offences



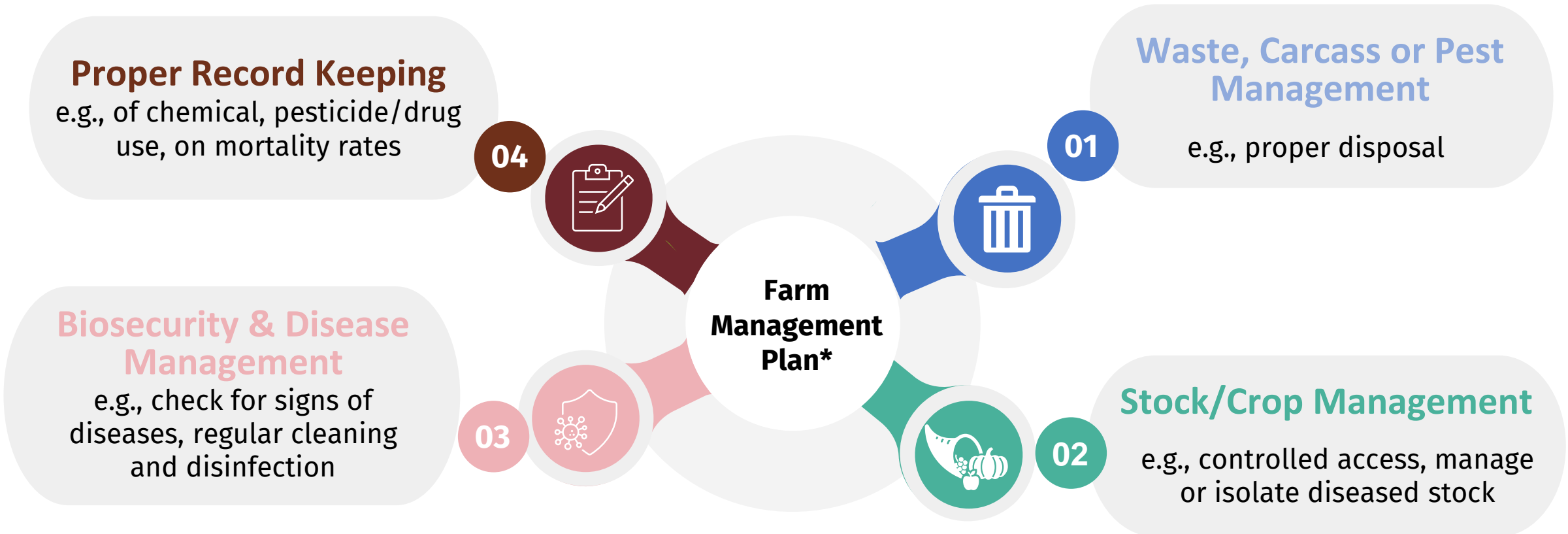
Appeal

**MOH will be allocated a dedicated Part within the FSSB to administer and enforce food-related regulations to promote the health of the general public*

Overview of new requirements for farms under FSSB

Every farm licence application must be accompanied by:

- a **Farm Management Plan (FMP)** to mitigate risks to food safety, disease spread and sustainable production; and
- A trained **Appointed Person (AP)** to manage operations



**Some components may only be applicable to some farms, and details will be contextualised to farm type*



Thank you



@SGFoodAgency
www.sfa.gov.sg