



## **AVA'S FOOD FUND – 2<sup>nd</sup> TRANCHE OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) launched a second tranche of \$10 million under its Food Fund programme today. AVA's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Tan Poh Hong, urged companies to take this opportunity and apply for the funds. "It is our aim to help as many companies as possible to raise their productivity level and enhance food supply resilience for Singapore. We have reviewed the Food Fund programme and made several changes based on feedback from the industry to make it more attractive for companies."

2 The Food Fund was launched in Dec 2009 to strengthen our strategies of food source diversification and local farming to ensure a resilient supply of food for Singapore. It is used to support food diversification and farm capability development. The inaugural launch attracted 48 applications, of which AVA awarded approximately \$6 million to 15 projects.

3 For the second tranche, several changes were introduced to the funding categories under the area of farm capability development.

### **Farm Capability Development**

4 In this area, the aim of the Fund is to maximize local farm productivity. AVA will continue to co-fund research and development (R&D) in local food farming technology, and the upgrading of the production capability of local farms.

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### R&D Projects: Challenge and Open Calls

5 Two new R&D categories are introduced – a Challenge Call for R&D projects to tackle specific challenges faced by the industry; and an Open Call for all other R&D projects to allow new ideas and innovative projects to surface.

6 Under the Challenge Call, applicants are invited to submit proposals for R&D projects on the following topics:

a) To develop a cost effective technology to manage poultry waste and produce good quality and disease-free composts for vegetable farming and/or biogas production.

b) To achieve consistent fish fry production for commonly farmed species. The species identified are common and affordable foodfish species such as trevallies, pompano, tilapias, snappers & mullet. The proposed hatchery system must demonstrate production capability of at least 4 million fry per hectare per annum.

7 Under the Open Call, applicants are invited to submit proposals for R&D projects that maximise local farm productivity in any of the three key food items of eggs, fish and leafy vegetables.

### Farm Capability Upgrading: Basic, Advance and Technical Boosters

8 For the upgrading of local farms, co-funding will continue to be focused on automation, mechanization and the use of modern technology. As farms at different productivity levels have different needs, funding for the upgrading of local farm capability has been differentiated into the following three categories to help farms increase productivity or production quality:

a) Basic Farm Capability – Purchase of basic equipment (e.g. auto feeders, generators, workboats)

b) Advance Farm Capability – Purchase of advance equipment, machinery and farming systems (e.g. irrigation systems, cold chain facilities)

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- c) Technical Boosters – Trial usage of seeds or fish fry from new sources, or which are of better quality

### **Food Diversification**

9 In the area of food diversification, AVA will continue to co-fund feasibility studies in investments in overseas food zones, overseas contract farming and food sourcing from non-traditional sources or existing sources that are not major exporters to Singapore.

### **Application**

10 Interested companies can visit AVA's website at [www.ava.gov.sg/FoodFund.htm](http://www.ava.gov.sg/FoodFund.htm) or email [AVA\\_Funds\\_Enquiries@ava.gov.sg](mailto:AVA_Funds_Enquiries@ava.gov.sg) for more information

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