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Enterprise Singapore and the Singapore Food Agency launch industry guide to help local companies navigate regulatory requirements to set up farms

Singapore, Friday, 9 October 2020

1. Enterprise Singapore (ESG) and the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) have launched an industry guide to provide companies in the farming industry with one consolidated knowledge resource. This is part of continued efforts by the Regulations Workgroup¹ (RWG), established by ESG and SFA in 2019 to drive inter-agency efforts to proactively review and update regulations that impact farm developments, with the aim to catalyse the development of a vibrant agri-food tech sector.
2. Mr Melvin Chow, Senior Director of SFA's Food Supply Resilience Division and co-chair of the RWG, said, "We embarked on a project to develop the guide after receiving feedback from companies on the importance of having clarity on the various regulatory approvals required for the setting up of land-based farms in Singapore. By helping them better understand and navigate the regulatory landscape in Singapore, we hope to help expedite farm development which in turn will accelerate local food production as we strive towards Singapore's '30 by 30' goal."
3. Developed in consultation with various industry players, including the Singapore Agro-Food Enterprises Federation Limited (SAFEF), the guide aims to address companies' concerns through:

¹ Led by ESG and SFA, the RWG comprises 11 other agencies, including the Building and Construction Authority, Economic Development Board, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore, JTC Corporation, Land Transport Authority, National Environment Agency, National Parks Board, Public Utilities Board, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Singapore Land Authority and Urban Redevelopment Authority.

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- Consolidating key information on the various regulatory approvals (e.g. fire safety requirements, structural and building safety, farm licence applications) under the purview of different agencies, and the various document submissions, permits and fees involved. This single point of reference will serve as a checklist for companies as they prepare their farm development plans.
 - Mapping out agencies' approval processes involved for the setting up of farms, and the typical processing time required. This will help companies better manage their project timelines.
4. Mr G. Jayakrishnan, Executive Director of ESG's Business Environment and Resource Division and co-chair of the RWG, said, "The industry guide is a practical tool that helps local agriculture players get to market as quickly as possible. Speed and regulation clarity are critical ingredients for companies to capture opportunities in this exciting emerging growth sector valued at approximately S\$5 trillion globally, and this will contribute towards our overall food resilience efforts."
 5. "Like the agencies, SAFEF received feedback from members who won SFA land tenders about the regulatory challenges they face in setting up their high-tech farms," said Mr George Huang, SAFEF Chairman. "The tips and recommendations in the guide, such as to establish their team of Qualified Persons including architects and engineers early, will be of great help for soon-to-be-farmers. I am heartened by the commitment of the agencies to hear out the industry, guide us along and take steps to improve existing processes."
 6. The guide, which is available online at [ESG](#) and [SFA](#), will be updated regularly to reflect any changes to existing regulatory requirements. In the past year, the RWG has been assisting companies that were awarded agricultural land tenders to set

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up their farms. Through consultation sessions with the companies on their set up plans, the RWG was able to promptly resolve their regulatory issues².

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About Enterprise Singapore

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development. We work with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate and internationalise.

We also support the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and startups, and build trust in Singapore's products and services through quality and standards.

Visit www.enterprisesg.gov.sg for more information.

About Singapore Food Agency

As the lead agency for food-related matters, the Singapore Food Agency's mission is to ensure and secure a supply of safe food for Singapore. SFA works hand-in-hand with the industry and consumers to grow our three "food baskets" – Diversify import sources, Grow local, and Grow overseas, as well as ensure food safety from farm-to-fork.

² For example, one of the reviews conducted by the RWG led to a decrease in the building setback requirements between two agricultural plots (from 4.5m to 2m), allowing farms to maximise their food production area and further intensify land use.

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

SFA also partners food businesses to strengthen capabilities, tap on technologies to raise productivity, undertake research to develop new lines of business, and catalyse industry transformation to ensure food security.

For more information on SFA, visit www.sfa.gov.sg.