



## **Minister Khaw Boon Wan launches AVA's Food Fund (tranche 3)**

Issued on 10 October 2013

The Minister for National Development, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, announced at AVA's inaugural Food Industry Convention, that another \$10 million has been added to the third tranche of Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority's (AVA) Food Fund. Similar to the previous tranches, AVA will continue to co-fund research and development (R&D) in local food farming technology, upgrading of the production capability of local farms and food source diversification

2 AVA's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Tan Poh Hong, highlighted that several improvements have been made in the third tranche of AVA's Food Fund. "Following a review and feedback from the industry, some aspects of the Food Fund, such as the eligibility and evaluation criteria, scope, as well as the funding percentage, have been streamlined and made more comprehensive. I trust that the food industry will find the application process simpler. We encourage the industry to leverage on AVA's Food Fund to boost Singapore's food supply resilience."

### **Changes in eligibility and evaluation criteria**

3 The eligibility criteria under farm capability upgrading has been simplified. For example, under the Basic Farm Capability Upgrading and Technical Boosters categories, applicants no longer need to submit their latest farm income statement or the farm productivity improvement plan. The only supporting document required is the updated ACRA records of the company.

4 The evaluation criteria have also been revised to include farm productivity and past application performance.

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### **Changes in Basic Farm Capability Upgrading**

5           The pre-approved list of farm equipment under Basic Farm Capability Upgrading has been expanded in the third tranche of the Food Fund. Some of the new equipment in the list include a water treatment system for fish and seed sowing machine for vegetables.

### **Changes in Technical Boosters**

6           Under Technical Boosters, in addition to seeds or fish fry from new sources and of better quality, farmers can now also purchase vaccines, feeds, fertilisers and pesticides to boost capability and productivity. The percentage co-funded by AVA under the Technical Boosters category is also increased from 30 percent of the costs incurred to 50 percent in the third tranche of the Food Fund.

### **Application**

7           The Food Fund is open for applications from 10 October 2013. Interested companies can visit AVA's website at [www.ava.gov.sg/FoodFund.htm](http://www.ava.gov.sg/FoodFund.htm) or email us at [AVA\\_Funds\\_Enquiries@ava.gov.sg](mailto:AVA_Funds_Enquiries@ava.gov.sg) for more information.

**Issued by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore**

10 October 2013

**M E D I A   R E L E A S E**

**Background information on the Food Fund**

The Food Fund was launched in December 2009 to strengthen our strategies of food source diversification and local farming to ensure a resilient supply of food for Singapore. It supports:

- **Research and development (R&D) of farming technology**
  - o The objective of this category is to support R&D or pilot trials in food farming technology with direct practical industry application, so as to maximize local farm productivity to ensure food supply resilience.
  - o 2 categories of Challenge Call (only for projects specific to fish and leafy vegetables) and Open Call (for projects specific to eggs, fish and leafy vegetables).
  
- **Farm capability upgrading**
  - o The objective of this category is to upgrade local farm capability and boost productivity.
  - o 3 categories of Basic Farm Capability, Advance Farm Capability and Technical Boosters
  - o Only for projects specific to eggs, fish and leafy vegetables.
  
- **Food source diversification**
  - o The objective of this category is to encourage applicants to conduct feasibility studies on investments in overseas food zones, overseas contract farming and sourcing from sources that are not major exporters to Singapore.
  - o Only for projects specific to chicken, pork, fish, eggs, leafy vegetables and rice.

**M E D I A R E L E A S E**

# AVA's Food Fund

## LAUNCHED IN

**2009**

To strengthen our strategies of food source diversification and local farming to ensure a resilient supply of food for SG

## COMMITTED

**30**

million dollars for three phases so far

## SUPPORTED

**141**

projects, most of which were farm capability upgrades such as automation of farm processes



**71**

farms, mostly



## OUTCOMES

Fish production

**↑550**

tonnes

Leafy vegetable production

**↑350**

tonnes

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SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



Supported by the Food Fund, Seng Choon purchased a robot cleaner to automate processes in cage cleaning, which resulted in

**30%** TIME TAKEN TO CLEAN A LAYER HOUSE  
**80%** MANPOWER TAKEN TO CLEAN CAGES



Staff previously deployed to clean the layer house and crates are deployed to other areas of work and egg packing efficiency improved. Productivity in terms of manpower has improved, which will in turn boost egg production in the long run.

Seng Choon was also able to purchase other equipment to upgrade farm capability and automate processes in tray washing, egg grading and egg packing.



Supported by the Food Fund, Barramundi Asia expanded their existing nursery on Pulau Semakau, which enabled them to achieve a sustainable and high intensity fry production.

Now, it has the capability to produce **10,000kg** FISH FRY PER CYCLE

CAPABILITY **5x**



Barramundi Asia was also able to purchase a biofilter for its expanded nursery. With the biofilter in place, fish fry health is enhanced.



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