

SFA's Food Safety Monitoring and Forensics Department designated as WHO Collaborating Centre

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA)'s Food Safety Monitoring and Forensics Department, under the National Centre for Food Science (NCFS), has been designated as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Food Contamination Monitoring from 2020 to 2024.

2 As one of two WHO Collaborating Centres for Food Contamination Monitoring in the world, NCFS will leverage on its expertise in areas such as foodborne pathogens and toxins to support WHO's food safety initiatives in the Western Pacific region. This includes:

- **Providing technical assistance and food testing services** for the investigation of food safety incidents, with a focus on chemical contaminants and natural toxins in food.
- **Contributing monitoring data** on levels of emerging chemical contaminants and natural toxins in food. The data will be used as reference for the setting of food safety standards through regional and international mechanisms, such as *Codex Alimentarius*.

3 As the scientific arm of SFA, NCFS supports SFA's regulatory and monitoring programmes by providing comprehensive testing and diagnostic capabilities in areas such as chemical contaminants, drug and pesticide residues etc. NCFS also conducts in-depth applied research and risk assessment studies to address emerging food safety concerns.

4 Dr Tan Lee Kim, Director-General (Food Administration) and Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SFA, said: "This designation is a testament to NCFS' food testing and research capabilities, which are critical in supporting our mission to ensure and secure a supply of safe food for Singapore. We recognise the importance of close collaboration with international bodies and other food safety agencies, as food safety assurance is a global objective. We are pleased to support WHO as a regional knowledge and technical resource centre."

5 Dr Takeshi Kasai, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, said: "As an agency known for upholding high food safety standards in Singapore through its science-based risk assessment and management approach, SFA is a valuable member of WHO's global network of Collaborating Centres. We are pleased to have partnered with Singapore's food safety



MEDIA RELEASE

authorities since 1992 to improve food safety in the Western Pacific, and look forward to more years of collaboration.”

Issued by the Singapore Food Agency

8 February 2021