



SINGAPORE HOSTS INAUGURAL VISIT BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UN FAO

Issued on 5 September 2014

Singapore welcomed the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, Mr José Graziano da Silva, during his inaugural official visit to Singapore from 4-6 September 2014.

2 This is Mr Graziano da Silva's first visit to Singapore in his official capacity, since Singapore became a member of FAO in June 2013. Since then, Singapore and FAO have engaged in dialogue on opportunities for cooperation, to advance food safety and security for Singapore and the region.

3 During his visit, Mr Graziano da Silva called on Mr Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for National Development, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority. Dr Maliki bin Osman, Minister of State for National Development and Defence also hosted Mr Graziano da Silva to lunch. In addition, Mr Graziano da Silva visited Sky Greens and Swee Chioh Fishery, progressive local farms which makes use of technology to maximise productivity and land efficiency. Mr Graziano da Silva also visited a hawker centre, where the National Environment Agency shared with him Singapore's approach to ensuring the availability of affordable dining options in a clean and hygienic environment.

4 During the visit, Singapore and FAO also affirmed their intent to collaborate on joint projects to boost food security and food safety in Singapore and the region, such as vertical farming in a land-scarce urban environment, and the attachment of Singapore expertise to FAO.

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5 Minister Khaw said, "Food safety and security have become a major concern as urbanisation intensifies and global warming worsens. We have some experience in this area and in recent years have also developed some expertise in urban and vertical farming. Singapore welcomes the opportunity to partner with FAO and learn from fellow FAO members on best practices in this field."

6 Mr Graziano da Silva said, "The world can learn from Singapore's success stories. Singapore has made efforts particularly, to maximise productivity from very limited land resources. Commercial indoor and rooftop vegetable farms are opening and other urban and peri-urban agricultural initiatives are taking shape."



Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, meets Minister for National Development, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, in his inaugural official visit to Singapore.

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About the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) is responsible for ensuring a resilient supply of safe food, safeguarding the health and welfare of animals, safeguarding the health of plants and facilitating agri-trade.

AVA is constantly on the lookout for new and potential food sources, through our push for source diversification in collaboration with the food industry. AVA works closely with the industry through various platforms like food business clusters, taskforces and dialogues. Simultaneously, AVA continues to help raise local agricultural productivity to enhance Singapore's food supply.

We have in place integrated food safety programmes which incorporate risk management, and leverage on industry engagement and public outreach to ensure food safety as a shared responsibility.

AVA's comprehensive animal and plant health system prevents the introduction of exotic animal and plant diseases. AVA also takes steps to ensure compliance with animal health and welfare standards.

With the world as Singapore's marketplace, AVA facilitates agri-trade through our inspection, testing and certification services.

AVA goes above and beyond to ensure a resilient supply of safe food, to safeguard animal and plant health, and to facilitate agri-trade for Singapore. With your well-being protected, you can have the peace of mind to enjoy moments that are picture perfect with your loved ones.

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

About the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate covering all aspects of food and agriculture. Its mission is the attainment of global food security.

FAO's vision, shared with its 194 members, two associate members and one member organization (the European Union) and development stakeholders is that of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, where food security and agriculture contribute to improving living standards, especially for the rural poor, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way. These are the overarching aims, which the Organization pursues from its headquarters in Rome, Italy, and through its presence in more than 130 countries worldwide. This clear vision is translated into the three global goals defined for FAO by its members:

- The eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
- The elimination of poverty, and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods.
- The sustainable management and use of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

To ensure our shared vision and goals are translated into concrete actions and results, all FAO work and efforts are focused on five strategic objectives:

- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters

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