



## **UPDATES ON GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENHANCE FOOD SUPPLY RESILIENCE FOR SINGAPORE**

1. The Ministry of National Development (MND) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) had formed an Inter-agency Committee (IAC) in 2008 to look into the long term strategies to ensure that Singapore continues to enjoy a resilient supply of safe food. The IAC's recommendations were announced for implementation in July 2009.

2. Progress has been made on some of the IAC's recommendations, including the key recommendation for the establishment of a Food Fund.

### Food fund

3. The Food Fund was launched in Dec 2009 with the aim to strengthen our strategies of food diversification and local farming to ensure a resilient supply of food for Singapore.

4. AVA received a total of 48 applications by the closing date in Mar 2010. 24 applications were awarded. 11 successful applicants accepted AVA's offer for funding, 2 declined, and another 11 are pending acceptance. These projects are on farm capability upgrading, R&D and food diversification. The details of the 11 successful applicants who have accepted AVA's offer for funding are attached at Annex A.

5. To support these deserving projects, AVA has doubled the Food Fund from the initial sum of \$5 million to \$10 million.

### Overseas food zones and contract farming

6. Beyond the Food Fund, AVA has also implemented several initiatives to facilitate source diversification. This includes the signing of an agreement with Jilin City in May 2010 to establish and maintain a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone (DFZ) in Jilin. The DFZ will facilitate a resilient supply of safe and high quality food, starting with pork and pork products, to Singapore. AVA and Jilin City has formed a technical working group to provide technical advice and to monitor and review the progress of the DFZ development.

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7. AVA's "matchmaking" efforts have also resulted in the successful establishment of an MOU between the Singapore Food Industries Pte Ltd and Indonesia's fruit and vegetables association. Apart from this, AVA has been working with NTUC FairPrice in their ongoing efforts to expand their contract farming initiative. NTUC FairPrice recently established a new contract farm in Medan, Indonesia, to supply leafy vegetables to Singapore.

#### Food Substitutes

8. To help consumers mitigate the effects of potential supply disruptions and price increases, AVA has implemented public education programmes to create awareness on the availability of good product substitutes. Consumer uptake of frozen meat has increased since the launch of the frozen meat public education programme. A similar programme to raise awareness of liquid eggs and egg powder as viable alternatives to shell eggs was launched in Feb 10.

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## Annex A

<b>Status of Food Fund Applications As at 11 October 2010</b>	
Total Number of Applications Received	48
a) Applicants who were approved for funding and have accepted AVA's offer	11 (8 farm capability upgrading, 2 R&D and 1 Food Diversification)
b) Applicants who were approved for funding but is pending their acceptance of AVA's offer	11
c) Applicants who declined AVA's offer of funding	2
d) Applicants who were rejected or had withdrawn their applications	24 ( 21 rejected + 3 withdrawn)

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Applicant	Project Synopsis
<i>Farm Capability Upgrading Projects</i>	
Chew's Agriculture Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> 2nd Phase of Upgrading Work for Chew's Agriculture PL</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To put in place a complete automation system that can result in increased egg production capacity.</p>
Kok Fah Technology Farm Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> The automation of the packaging process</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To introduce an automated vegetable packing process that will enhance productivity, efficiency and improve food safety through better process controls, handling and improved packaging.</p>
Yili Vegetation & Trading Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> Post-harvest storage capacity increment</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To increase farm storage capacity so as to allow longer shelf life, reduce time between harvesting and storage and extend freshness of produce.</p>
MPG Trading Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> MPG Water Quality Monitoring System</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To establish a Water Quality Monitoring System to enable the monitoring of water quality conditions, real time warning of impending threats and allows for lead time for the farm to mitigate threats</p>
Barramundi Asia Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> Fingerling sorting and vaccination</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To automate fish sorting/grading and vaccination process to Improve farm efficiency, reduce use of unskilled labour and promote employment of fewer but skilled farm personnel.</p>

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Barramundi Asia Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> Automatic feeding system at Barramundi Asia's Open water fish farm off Pulau Semakau</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To automate fish feeding process resulting in optimization of feed requirement enabling farm's expansion into large-scale fish farming.</p>
Barramundi Asia Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> Large round cages (Semakau)</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To introduce a Norwegian cage design to the farm which is currently using Japanese cages for tropical fish farming so as to lay down the benchmarks for open water fish farming cage design in the tropics.</p>
N & N Agriculture Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> Safe shell egg through pasteurisation</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To introduce pasteurized shell eggs as an alternative choice for buyers. Pasteurized eggs are those that have been processed to destroy Salmonella bacteria while still in their shell.</p>
<i>R&amp;D Projects</i>	
Barramundi Asia Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> Pulau Senang site evaluation (for open and deep water fish farming at high current velocities)</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To evaluate a gazetted deep water aquaculture site off Pulau Senang and To design a suitable farming system to suit the harsh (high current velocities) hydrological conditions of the site.</p>
United Engineers (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Seng Choon Farm Pte Ltd	<p><u>Project</u> Abatement of odorous air emissions from poultry farms</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To develop technological solutions to reduce odour emissions from poultry farms so that higher productivity can be achieved.</p>

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<i>Food Diversification Projects</i>	
Aquaproduce LLP	<p><u>Project</u> Edible fishes in Vietnam</p> <p><u>Synopsis</u> To conduct a feasibility study on Increasing an alternative source of seafood supply from Vietnam through long term procurement contracts, contract farming; and introduction of HACCP food safety management system in the seafood handling and distribution process.</p>

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