

25

Safe Food

(formerly under the then Environment and Food Bureau)

Detailed Progress

I Upgrade veterinary public health standard

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past year. Details are set out below —

Initiative *	Target #	Present Position †
To enhance monitoring and control of important diseases of food animals and birds (e.g. avian flu) on local farms and markets and implement new control of misuse of chemicals in livestock <i>(Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department)</i>	To upgrade the diagnostic capacity of laboratory testing and step up local farm inspections in 2002 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To step up inspection of food animals and detection of food animal diseases in slaughterhouses to further protect public health <i>(Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD))</i>	To carry out more inspections on food animals in the waiting and holding lairages of slaughterhouses and to monitor the disease situation of food animals more closely <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To enhance the inspection of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong <i>(FEHD)</i>	To set up a specialised team for inspection of registered farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong in the Mainland in 2002 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>

* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set

† the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To ensure poultry retailers' compliance with hygiene conditions to help prevent recurrence of avian flu outbreak</p> <p>(FEHD)</p>	<p>To enhance staffing for inspecting market stalls and fresh provision shops selling poultry</p> <p>(2001)</p>	<p>(Action Completed)</p>

2 Ensure food safety

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To combat illegal slaughtering and unlicensed food business activities</p> <p><i>(Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD))</i></p>	<p>To set up intelligence-cum-raiding teams in 2002</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p>FEHD is reviewing the staffing requirement and examining the feasibility to redeploy existing resources to set up the teams.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>
<p>To formulate a framework for the labelling of genetically modified food</p> <p><i>(the then Environment and Food Bureau/ FEHD)</i></p>	<p>To consult the public in 2000-2001 on the labelling of genetically modified food and related measures and then introduce the necessary legislative amendment</p> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<p>We have completed the public consultation and are conducting a regulatory impact assessment study which will be completed by end 2002. We will take into account the results of the study when deciding on the way forward.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To update the existing food labelling legislation (FEHD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To introduce legislative amendments in respect of labelling of food additives and allergic food ingredients in 2001 ● To complete the feasibility study on nutrition labelling in 2002 <p>(2000)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The amending regulation for labelling of food additives and allergic food ingredients is being drafted. Due to the need to consider carefully the legal and technical issues involved, we have taken more time than expected to amend the regulations. <p><i>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
<p>To set up a framework for mandatory food recall (FEHD)</p>	<p>To put forward proposal in 2001</p> <p>(2000)</p>	<p>We are reviewing the need to introduce a mandatory food recall system, taking into account the overseas experiences and the local situation.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>
<p>To strengthen food surveillance on chemical contaminants, biotoxins and viruses in food (FEHD/Department of Health/Government Laboratory)</p>	<p>To increase the number of tests to be performed per year in 2001-2002</p> <p>(2000)</p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To conduct a study on dietary exposure of secondary school students to dioxin and heavy metals (FEHD)	To conduct the study in 2001-2002 (2000)	(Action Completed)
To set up a reference information system for nutritional values of various food items (FEHD)	To establish a nutrient database in 2001 (2000)	(Action Completed)

3 Facilitating the development of agriculture and fisheries

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past year. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To adapt wetland organic production technologies and promote marketing of organic vegetables (Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department)	To complete adaptation and promotion in 2002 (2001)	(Action Completed)

4 Provide quality environmental hygiene services

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To raise the hygiene standards of food premises through the introduction of Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor Schemes and improvement to the inspection system</p> <p><i>(Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To start preparation work for the Hygiene Manager and Hygiene Supervisor Schemes in 2002 ● To develop a comprehensive Food Hygiene Code on inspection standards in 2002 <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To improve the licensing system for non-restaurant food premises</p> <p><i>(FEHD)</i></p>	<p>To implement measures to streamline licensing procedures for non-restaurant food premises in 2002</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To improve the management of public markets</p> <p><i>(FEHD)</i></p>	<p>To start examining in 2002 measures to improve the management of public markets in the light of the consultancy study on market management and the pilot scheme of appointing market managers in selected markets</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To review the policy on on-street cooked food stalls and bazaars (FEHD)	To complete the review in 2002 (2001)	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To launch an anti-littering campaign in conjunction with the new fixed penalty legislation (FEHD)	To launch the campaign and implement the new fixed penalty system in early 2002 (2001)	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To strengthen public education on food, environmental and personal hygiene (FEHD)	To launch a two-year programme to reach out target groups, including students and youngsters through visits, talks and seminars in 2002 (2001)	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To streamline licensing procedures for restaurants and other food premises (FEHD)	To start the review on licensing procedures for other food premises in late 2000 and complete the review in 2001 (2000)	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To implement the Hygiene Manager Scheme so as to raise food safety and hygiene standards of food premises (FEHD)	To consult the trade and implement the Scheme in 2001-2002 (2000)	FEHD has completed the consultation in July 2001. Taking into account comments from the trade, we have revised the implementation timetable to 2004-05 to allow adequate preparation. <i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To introduce a fixed penalty system for minor littering offences</p> <p><i>(the then Environment and Food Bureau(EFB) /FEHD)</i></p>	<p>To introduce legislative amendments within the 2000-2001 legislative session</p> <p><i>(2000 and 1999)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To review the construction and management of public markets</p> <p><i>(EFB/FEHD)</i></p>	<p>To complete the review in 2001</p> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

5 Ensure supply of fresh food produce by facilitating development of agriculture and fisheries

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To adapt greenhouse and organic production technologies under local climatic conditions to improve productivity <i>(Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD))</i>	To complete adaptation in 2001 <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To review the operation of the Fish Marketing Organisation and its wholesale fish markets to enhance viability <i>(AFCD)</i>	To complete the review in 2001 <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To monitor antibiotic usage in livestock and the development of resistance in bacteria flora <i>(AFCD/Government Laboratory)</i>	To implement testing in 2001-2002 <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>

6 Establish and maintain policies and a regulatory framework to facilitate the development of agriculture and fisheries

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To amend the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation to extend import control to animal products and feeds to prevent animal diseases <i>(Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department)</i>	To start preparing the Amendment Bill in 2000-2001 <i>(1999)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>

7 Identify the need for the development of agriculture and fisheries

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To conduct a study on the feasibility of developing an off-shore fishing industry for Hong Kong <i>(Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department)</i>	To complete the study in 2000-2001 <i>(1999)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>

8 Ensure adequate provision and efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To implement the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Market Complex Phase 2 project which aims at maintaining efficient operation of wholesale markets by placing all fresh food produce wholesale activities in Kowloon under one roof, including the reprovisioning of the Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market, the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market and the Wholesale Vegetable Market of the Vegetable Marketing Organisation</p> <p><i>(Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD))</i></p>	<p>To complete the project in or before 2004</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>We are reviewing the operational feasibility and the cost effectiveness of the project taking into account the current economic environment, land demand and wholesalers' views.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>
<p>To reprovision the Tuen Mun Wholesale Fish Market</p> <p><i>(AFCD)</i></p>	<p>To provide a new market by 2002</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The results of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study will be released for public comment in November 2002. We will review the way forward in the light of the public reaction.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>

9 Enhance preventive measures, programmes and capabilities

To achieve results in this area, the following initiative has been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below —

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To strengthen the ability of the Government to monitor and ensure food safety <i>(Food and Environmental Hygiene Department)</i>	To introduce the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System, which is a quality assurance approach to identify, assess and control potential food hazards so as to ensure food safety, to 20% of the food industry by 2002 <i>(1998)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>