

## Message

Fresh food produce to meet the needs of Hong Kong is supplied by the private sector, largely through import and partly through local production. The focus of our work is on facilitating the development of agriculture and fisheries and the provision of wholesale markets for fresh food produce.

We help farmers and fishermen to improve productivity and upgrade the quality of their produce through technical assistance, training and providing loans for upgrading production facilities. We promote environmentally friendly farming and fishing practices to help the sustainable development of these industries. We have commissioned a consultancy study on the arrangements for the development of agriculture in Hong Kong and one on fisheries resources and fishing operations in Hong Kong waters. With the help of the findings of these studies, we will formulate strategies for the future development of our agriculture and fisheries industries.

We will continue to improve the management of government fresh food produce wholesale markets and to upgrade the facilities to ensure the availability of efficient and orderly wholesale outlets for fresh food produce. We shall also examine ways to put the operation of these markets on more commercial lines.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Ip', with a stylized, cursive script.

(Stephen Ip)

Secretary for Economic Services

# Provision of Fresh Food Produce

Our Policy Objective is to ensure the provision of fresh food produce to meet the needs of Hong Kong.

Our target in pursuing this Policy Objective is to ensure no disruption in the supply of fresh food produce.

## Key Result Areas (KRAs)

To ensure that this Policy Objective can be achieved, we must deliver results in a number of key areas, that is, we must –

<b>I</b>	<b>Identify the need for the development of agriculture and fisheries</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>Establish and maintain policies and a regulatory framework to facilitate the development of agriculture and fisheries</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>Facilitate productivity improvements in agriculture and fisheries</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>Ensure adequate provision and efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>Promote sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries in the long term</b>	<b>Page 12</b>

The following sections of this booklet explain the importance of these KRAs, describe the broad thrust of our efforts, and outline the indicators which we are using to assess progress. Each section lists the new key initiatives being taken to achieve our objectives and pinpoints the agency accountable for each initiative and the specific targets which we intend to meet.

# I

## Identify the need for the development of agriculture and fisheries

We aim to facilitate the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries by providing technical support services; administering loan funds; implementing development schemes and resources conservation programmes; and providing wholesale markets. The demand for Government support for the development of the industries is kept under regular review to make sure that appropriate measures are put in place to achieve the stated policy.

### Indicator

The indicator we will use to measure progress in this area is the number of studies and reviews conducted against plan.

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To conduct a consultancy study on arrangements for supporting the development of agriculture in Hong Kong <i>(Agriculture and Fisheries Department (A&amp;FD))*</i></p>	<p>To complete the study in October 1998 and then decide the way forward</p>
<p>To conduct a review on the manpower requirements of the fisheries industry <i>(A&amp;FD)</i></p>	<p>To complete the review in early 1999</p>
<p>To conduct a study on red tide monitoring in Hong Kong with a view to improving early warning of red tide outbreaks in Hong Kong waters and to minimising the likely impact of red tides on mariculture <i>(A&amp;FD)</i></p>	<p>To complete the study and decide the way forward in 1999</p>

\* the brackets denote the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

## II

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

We facilitate the development of the agriculture and fisheries industries through implementation of policies of providing basic infrastructure, technical support and loan facilities, and enforcement of relevant legislation such as Fisheries Protection Ordinance, Plant (Importation and Pest Control) Ordinance, Marine Fish Culture Ordinance etc.

#### **Indicators**

The indicators we will use to measure progress in this area are –

- the percentage of inspections fulfilling statutory requirements
- the degree to which we introduce legislation against plan
- the implementation of new policies against plan

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To formulate and implement a management strategy for fisheries resources and fishing operations, having regard to the recommendations of the Consultancy Study on Fisheries Resources and Fishing Operations in Hong Kong Waters and public opinion</p> <p><i>(Agriculture and Fisheries Department (A&amp;FD))</i></p>	<p>To start public consultation on the consultants' recommendations in 1998 and to start formulating the management measures in 1999</p>
<p>To introduce the Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Bill 1998 and related regulations to increase the maximum level of fine to deter destructive fishing and to extend the legal controls on such activity</p> <p><i>(Economic Services Bureau/A&amp;FD)</i></p>	<p>To pursue passage of the Bill in 1998 and to implement the new controls in 1999</p>



## Facilitate productivity improvements in agriculture and fisheries

Local farmers and fishermen need to improve productivity and upgrade produce quality to compete effectively with imports. We help the agriculture and fisheries industries to improve productivity through introduction of high-yield, high-value produce varieties, support of pest and disease control, transfer of modern technology and provision of credit facilities to farmers and fishermen for upgrading their production facilities.

### Indicators

The indicators we will use to measure progress in this area are –

- the rate of increase in the composite productivity index which is based on the value of local agricultural production per farmer at constant price
- the number of farms growing premium vegetables
- the number of vocational training courses and seminars held
- the number of participants in training functions

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To screen and introduce varieties of premium vegetables suitable for cultivation in Hong Kong</p> <p><i>(Agriculture and Fisheries Department (A&amp;FD))</i></p>	<p>Two new varieties of vegetable to be identified and introduced in 1999-2000</p>
<p>To implement the Accredited Vegetable Farm Scheme, through which the A&amp;FD endorses vegetable farms which adopt approved standards of production, in particular on the safe use of pesticides</p> <p><i>(A&amp;FD)</i></p>	<p>To have a total of 180 farms on the Scheme in 1999-2000</p>

# IV

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

Provision of fresh food produce relies on the availability of efficient and orderly outlets for wholesale buyers and sellers. Accordingly we –

- design, plan and develop wholesale markets
- re-provision outdated and dilapidated wholesale market structures
- manage existing wholesale markets

### Indicators

The indicators we will use to measure progress in this area are –

- the percentage of rentable market stall space occupied
- the annual throughput
- the number of capital projects completed against plan

Initiatives	Targets
<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 and Fisheries Department (A&amp;FD))</i></p>	<p>To complete the project in or before 2004</p>
<p>To consider how best to redevelop the Fish Marketing Organisation Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market into a modern integrated fish market complex to benefit the fishing and tourism industries having regard to outcomes of a planning study</p> <p><i>(A&amp;FD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To complete the study by early 1999</li> <li>● To decide the best way forward in 1999</li> </ul>
<p>To reprovision the Tuen Mun Wholesale Fish Market</p> <p><i>(A&amp;FD)</i></p>	<p>To provide a new market by 2002</p>

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To ensure improvements in the way market users keep their stalls, equipment, cages and fixtures clean to maintain general market cleanliness (A&amp;FD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In 1998 and 1999, to include in new market tenancy agreements the requirement for users to maintain high hygiene and cleanliness standards</li> <li>● To inspect all market users in 1999 to ensure compliance of high hygiene and cleanliness standards</li> </ul>

# V

## Promote sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries in the long term

Local agricultural and fisheries produce make a considerable contribution to meeting the demand for fresh food in Hong Kong. It is therefore in Hong Kong's interest to facilitate, where possible, the sustainable development of the farming and fishing industries. This can be achieved through the provision of technical assistance, special development projects and vocational training to local producers to help them adopt better and more environmentally friendly farming and fishing practices.

### Indicators

The indicators we will use to measure progress in this area are –

- the number of resource enhancement projects completed against plan
- the number of programmes completed against plan to promote environmentally friendly practices

Initiatives	Targets
<p>To dredge sediment underneath fish culture zones</p> <p><i>(Agriculture and Fisheries Department (A&amp;FD))</i></p>	<p>To complete a pilot scheme by early 1999</p>
<p>To encourage more fish farms to adopt environmentally friendly practices</p> <p><i>(A&amp;FD)</i></p>	<p>500 farms to adopt better practices by 2000</p>