

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 4 March 2021)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Result of the public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF)	April 2021
<p>At the meeting between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the work plan of the Panel ("work plan meeting") for the 2020-2021 session held on 23 November 2020, the Administration advised that it planned to report to members on the result of the public consultation on the proposals to update the regulatory regime of harmful substances in food (including industrially-produced trans fats and mycotoxins) and the proposed amendments to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF) in April or May 2021.</p>	
2. Site formation and associated infrastructural works for development of columbarium at Siu Ho Wan, Lantau Island (5841CL)	April 2021
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to consult members on the above public works project.</p>	
3. Progress of the initiatives under the New Agricultural Policy	2 nd quarter of 2021
<p>At the meeting on 8 January 2019, the Administration consulted members on the proposed construction of Phase 1 of the Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park") in Kwu Tung South. Noting that the Agri-Park is planned to be implemented in two phases, members, after taking into account its proposed scale, considered it necessary for the Administration to regularly report to the Panel</p>	

Subject

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for discussion**

on the progress of this works project. To facilitate members' better understanding of the scope and nature of the project, the Panel conducted a visit on 28 February 2019 to the proposed site for establishing the Agri-Park.

At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Administration advised that it planned to report to members on the latest implementation progress of various initiatives under the New Agricultural Policy (including the establishment of the Agri-Park, promotion of application of technology in agricultural production among farmers and training for farmers to facilitate transfer of knowledge) in the second quarter of 2021.

4. Measures to facilitate the establishment of co-operative societies

2nd quarter of 2021

In his letter dated 12 December 2016 (LC Paper No. CB(2)413/16-17(01)), Hon CHU Hoi-dick expressed concern on the need for the Administration to review the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 33) and to draw up measures for promoting local community economy by facilitating the establishment of co-operative societies. He suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a future meeting. The Administration's response to issues raised in the letter from Hon CHU was set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)514/16-17(01) issued on 3 January 2017.

At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, it was agreed that this issue be subsumed under the discussion of the item "Progress of the initiatives under the New Agricultural Policy" (Please also see item 3 above).

- | Subject | Proposed timing
for discussion |
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| 5. Food import control | 2 nd quarter of 2021 |
| <p>In their respective letters dated 22 October 2020 (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)77/20-21(01) and (02)), Dr KWOK Ka-ki* and Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Panel should discuss the following subject matters at a future meeting: (a) import arrangements of hairy crabs and relevant food safety issues; and (b) effects of radioactive water discharged from Fukushima nuclear plant on the safety of imported food from Japan.</p> <p>At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Chairman suggested that the Administration should brief members on issues relating to the safety and surveillance of imported food. By then, the above-mentioned issues could be discussed at the same meeting.</p> | |
| 6. Implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630) | 2 nd or 3 rd quarter of 2021 |
| <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to report to members on the implementation of the licensing scheme for regulating private columbaria, including the progress in processing applications for specified instruments as well as the enforcement actions taken.</p> | |
| 7. Promoting the sustainable development of mariculture | 2 nd or 3 rd quarter of 2021 |
| <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief members on the work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to promote sustainable development of mariculture (including measures facilitating Hong Kong fishermen to develop deep-water mariculture in the Greater Bay Area).</p> | |

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
8. Progress update on enhancement of the information technology systems of the Centre for Food Safety	2 nd or 3 rd quarter of 2021
<p>At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Administration undertook to, upon the Chairman's request, report to members on the subject matter or provide an information paper on the latest progress of the subject matter in due course.</p>	
9. Findings of the Second Hong Kong Population-based Food Consumption Survey	2 nd or 3 rd quarter of 2021
<p>At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Administration undertook to, upon the Chairman's request, report to members on the subject matter or provide an information paper on the latest progress of the subject matter in due course.</p>	
10. Wholesale market consultancy study	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 10 June 2014, members noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultancy study on the present-day functions and purpose of the wholesale business in the sale of fresh food produce, and to analyse the geographical spread of the five existing wholesale markets from the perspectives of land use and food safety.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 11 October 2018, members considered it necessary for the Administration to brief members on the outcome of the consultancy study (including the timetable, proposed sites and detailed plan for relocating Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Poultry Market and Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market).</p>	
<p>At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Administration undertook to, upon the Chairman's request, review whether it could report to the Panel on this study in the 2020-2021 session.</p>	

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According to the Administration, the Development Bureau is responsible for the wholesale market consultancy study. The Bureau expects that the study will be completed by the first quarter of 2021. The Government will report to the Panel (or the Panel on Development) on the progress in due course. It is expected that the subject will be put to discussion in the next session.

11. Regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong

To be confirmed

At previous meetings of the Panel, concern was expressed about the over-expansion of oyster culture in Shenzhen Bay and the need of introducing in Hong Kong a licensing mechanism for regulating the activities of oyster culture. There was a suggestion that the issue of regulating and monitoring the activities of oyster culture in Hong Kong should be discussed by the Panel.

12. Issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested that the Panel should follow up and discuss issues relating to the relocation of Yen Chow Street Temporary Hawker Bazaar to Tung Chau Street Market, including how the Administration would address the needs and concerns of street sleepers in the vicinity of Tung Chau Street Market arising from the Administration's plan to improve the surroundings of Tung Chau Street Market.

At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Chairman requested the Administration to find out with relevant bureaux/departments the latest development of the relocation plan and report to members on the subject

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matter or provide an information paper on the work progress in due course.

13. Ancillary facilities for storage and distribution of chilled meat and poultry

At the meeting on 15 October 2015, concern was raised about the lack of ancillary facilities for wholesaling of chilled meat and poultry. Noting that the trade had made repeated requests to the Government for the setting up of an approved distribution and storage centre for chilled meat and poultry with a view to reducing food safety risks, members requested that the subject matter be discussed at a future meeting.

At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Administration undertook to, upon the Chairman's request, provide an information paper to report on the latest progress of the subject matter within the 2020-2021 session.

14. Regulatory control of genetically modified food

At the meeting on 12 March 2013, the Panel was briefed on the Administration's proposal on regulating genetically modified ("GM") food by introducing a mandatory pre-market safety assessment scheme ("PMSAS") in Hong Kong. At the meeting on 11 July 2017, the Administration advised that it would launch a public consultation on PMSAS in due course, taking into account the international development on regulation of GM food.

At the work plan meeting for the 2019-2020 session on 4 November 2019, the Administration was requested to step up efforts to encourage the trade to voluntarily adopt GM food labelling and to review the trade's receptiveness to those recommendations set out in the "Guidelines on Voluntary Labelling of Genetically Modified Food" issued by the Centre for Food Safety in 2006.

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At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Administration undertook to, upon the Chairman's request, provide an information paper to report on the latest progress of the subject matter within the 2020-2021 session.

15. Enforcement standards of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department against irregularities of food premises

In his letter dated 22 October 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)77/20-21(01)), Dr KWOK Ka-ki* suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject matter at a future meeting.

At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Administration undertook to, upon the Chairman's request, provide an information paper to report on the latest progress of the subject matter within the 2020-2021 session.

16. Implementation of measures to reduce salt and sugar in food

At the work plan meeting for the 2020-2021 session on 23 November 2020, the Administration undertook to, upon the Chairman's request, provide an information paper to report on the latest progress of the subject matter within the 2020-2021 session.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 March 2021

* According to the announcement made by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government on 11 November 2020 pursuant to the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Issues Relating to the Qualification of the Members of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, KWOK Ka-ki was disqualified from being a member of the Legislative Council on 30 July 2020.