For information

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Notification System between Hong Kong and the Mainland on Plant Inspection and Quarantine Matters

PURPOSE

Following the requests of Members during the meeting on 1 February 2005, this paper introduces the improvement measures of the notification system between Hong Kong and the Mainland on plant inspection and quarantine issues.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEM BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE MAINLAND

2. To prevent cross-border spread of plant pests between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Administration has discussed the matter with the State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) in Beijing. Both sides agreed to further improve and strengthen the existing communication mechanism.

3. To facilitate timely communication with our closest neighbour, the Health Welfare and Food Bureau and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in Hong Kong, and the AQSIQ, the Guangdong Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau and the Shenzhen Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau in the Mainland, would designate relevant officials to serve as the liaison points in the field of plant quarantine matters. Relevant authorities in Guangdong and Shenzhen will notify Hong Kong in the event of any major plant quarantine incidents in their localities, and vice versa.

4. Members are requested to note the measures set out in the above paragraphs.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department March 2005