

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)547/17-18
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of special meeting
held on Friday, 5 October 2018, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS (Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon AU Nok-hin
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH

Member attending : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Members absent : Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

Public Officers attending : The Administration

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP
Under Secretary for Food and Health

Mr Bill WONG Kwok-piu
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 3

Dr SO Ping-man, JP
Deputy Director
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Dr LIU Kwei-kin, JP
Assistant Director (Agriculture)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr LAW Man-tim
Deputy Project Manager (North)
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Attendance by invitation : Item I

Session one

Individual

Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

The Conservancy Association

Mr NG Hei-man
Campaign Manager

Federation of Hong Kong Agricultural Associations

Mr CHAN Kin-yip
President

Farmket Ltd

Mr WONG Yuen-tai
President

Hong Kong Pig Raising Development Federation

Mr CHONG Chung-ping
Director

The Tsiu Keng Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative
Society, Limited

Mr CHU Kam-ming
Chairman

Individual

Mr WONG Wan-chuen

Individual

Miss LIU See-ling

受發展影響漁農聯會

Mr FUNG Chak-ming
Representative

Individual

Miss CHAK Shui-fa

Individual

Mr Jim LIU Hung-cheung

Individual

Mr YIP Tsz-lam

Hong Kong & Kowloon Flowers and Plants Workers
General Union

Mr WAN Chung-ping
Chairman

Hong Kong Florists Association

Mr TSANG Kwok-keung
Chairman

Hong Kong Vegetable Union

Mr CHAN Nga-leong
常務會長

The Kwan Ti Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited

Mr FUNG Kin-chung
Chairman

The Ping Shan District Vegetable Marketing Co-operative
Society, Limited

Mr TANG Nuen-fun
Chairman

Hong Kong Hydroponics Technology Cooperation Association

Mr Poon To-ming
Chairman

Hong Kong Organic Farmers Association

Mr SHEA Sheung-kwong
Chairman

Individual

Mr TSE Tsang-kwan

Hydrogro Company Limited

Mr LIN Tak-wai
Director

Farm66 Investment Limited

Mr TAM Chi-ho
Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong Farmers Pride Association Limited

Mr David LEUNG Wai-tong
Representative

Evergreens Republic Company Limited

Mr Andrew SHEUNG
Manager

Individual

Mr YUEN Lin-cheong

Individual

Mr Felix LAM Ho-yin

Individual

Mr YAU Yuk-lun

香港新界本地農協會

Ms WONG Chat-tai
Chairman

Environmental Association

Dr YAU Wing-kwong
Chief Executive Officer

New Territories Local Farmers Organic Vegetable
Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited

Ms HU Li-li
Treasurer

Session two

Hong Kong Hydroponics Plantation Group Limited

Mr YIP Siu-lun
Manager

State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology (The Chinese
University of Hong Kong)

Dr LIU Pui-shan
Assistant Director

Individual

Ms LAM Tsz-ching

Individual

Mr CHICK Chi-leung

Individual

Ms LIN Sau-mui

Individual

Ms CHOW Tak-choi

Individual

Miss WONG Suet-mei

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Ms WOO Ming-chuan
Senior Conservation Officer

Individual

Mr TAM Wai-man

Individual

Ms LIU Chung-ling

Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden

Mr NIP Hin-ming
Senior Ecologist

The Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative
Societies, Limited

Mr TSANG Chu-kwong
Chairman

Hong Kong Organic Association

Mr WONG Yu-wing
社長

蕉徑長瀝關注組

Ms SO Pui-wan
Member

Individual

Ms Erica LIU Siu-mei

農村社區發展中心

Ms LAM On-ki
Member

土地維權行動中心

Mr LEUNG Tak-ming
Member

Clerk in attendance : Miss Josephine SO
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Miss Michelle TANG
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Cally LAI
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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I. Issues relating to the proposed establishment of the Agricultural Park

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1745/17-18(01), CB(2)1840/17-18(01), CB(2)1886/17-18(01), Annex F to CB(2)1977/17-18(01) and CB(2)2032/17-18(01))

Presentation of views by deputations/individuals

The Chairman reminded the deputations attending the meeting that they were not covered by the protection and immunity provided under the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382) when addressing the Panel. At the invitation of the Chairman, a total of 47 deputations/individuals presented their views. A summary of the deputations' views is in the **Appendix**. Members also noted that four written submissions from organizations/individuals not attending the meeting were received by the Panel.

The Administration's responses to deputations' views

2. Under Secretary for Food and Health ("USFH") and Deputy Director, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("DDAFC") gave the following responses:

- (a) as one of the key initiatives of the New Agriculture Policy ("NAP"), the Administration proposed to establish an Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park") under the management of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") in Kwu Tung South, New Territories to help nurture agro-technology and knowledge on modern farm management as well as to facilitate related knowledge transfer so as to enhance productivity. The first phase of Agri-Park ("Phase 1") was relatively small in scale, about 11 hectares in area. Between July and October 2017, the Administration consulted stakeholders (including the North District Council, the Sheung Shui District Rural Committee, landowners, local villagers, farmers and interest groups) on the infrastructure works of the Agri-Park Phase 1 and the land resumption arrangements. The proposed infrastructure works and land resumption arrangements were generally supported by the North District Council;
- (b) for the operation and long-term development of the Agri-Park, it was necessary to construct a new carriageway and footpaths in the Agri-Park to connect Tsiu Keng Road and Fan Kam Road and provide appropriate supporting transport facilities for the

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Agri-Park. After considering the views of stakeholders and carefully examining the technical feasibility, the design of the proposed carriageway had been modified to minimize the impact of the proposed road and other construction works on existing structures, private land and the local community;

- (c) on 3 November 2017, the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD") gazetted the proposed road works of the Agri-Park Phase 1 under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370). On the same day of the said gazettal, the Lands Department conducted a freezing survey for the scope of the Phase 1 works. The Administration had received more than 50 submissions from the stakeholders and the public on the proposed road works. Although some stakeholders were opposed to the proposal, others considered the provision of a new carriageway and footpaths connecting Tsiu Keng Road and Fan Kam Road pivotal to the long-term development of the Agri-Park. CEDD and relevant government departments had held objection resolving meetings with parties concerned, further explaining to them the issues raised in the submissions. The objections would be submitted to the Chief Executive in Council for consideration of whether to proceed with the proposed road works and land resumption arrangements for the Agri-Park;
- (d) the farmland in the Agri-Park would mainly be made available to the public through open applications, with a view to encouraging and nurturing new agro-businesses to invest in and explore new agricultural production methods on a commercial scale. Rent for the farmland would be set at an affordable level to attain these objectives rather than profit-making. Farmers operating within the area prior to the establishment of the Agri-Park as well as farmers affected by Government development projects that happened to take place within the same timeframe would be accorded priority to apply for operating in the Agri-Park. A fair and reasonable mechanism for rental adjustment would be introduced;
- (e) prospective tenants would each be offered a five-year term standard tenancy agreement in the Agri-Park at the existing rents that they were respectively paying to their private landowners. For new entrants who wished to pursue farming in the Agri-Park, the Administration would make reference to the rental levels for farmland in nearby areas and the facilities to be provided in the Agri-Park in setting the rents. To meet the overall objectives of the Agri-Park and ensure reasonable production output, each

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tenant would be required to submit an annual production plan to AFCD for assessment of the farming modes and overall productivity. The targets set out in the production plan would form part of the tenancy conditions. Tenants that had fulfilled the agreed tenancy conditions would be considered for renewal;

- (f) existing farmers operating within the area of the Agri-Park might, upon production of valid tenancy agreements or supporting documents, enter into the first tenancy agreement with the Agri-Park at the same rent and tenancy period, up to a maximum of five years. Upon expiry of such period, the farmers concerned would be offered the standard tenancy agreement like other tenants;
- (g) the Administration would endeavor to make arrangements for the affected farmers to relocate to other farmland in the Agri-Park prior to commencing the proposed road and other construction works in their affected farmland so as to minimize the impact on them. AFCD would also provide technical support to help the affected farmers rehabilitate as soon as possible after the relocation;
- (h) the Administration was planning to set up an advisory committee to provide independent advice to the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation on the overall development and management of the Agri-Park, including the demarcation of the Agri-Park for different types of farming operations, the rental arrangements as well as the technical support to farmers operating in the Agri-Park. The proposed advisory committee would comprise members including representatives of the agricultural industry, professionals, academics and government officials; and
- (i) the Administration would submit the funding proposal for the construction works of Phase 1 (including the proposed road works) of the Agri-Park to this Panel, the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee ("FC") for examination. The Administration would commence land resumption only after funding approval had been obtained from FC.

Discussions

Design of the Agri-Park

3. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan expressed disappointment that the Administration had not provided detailed information about the design of the Agri-Park. She sought information about the amount of farmland within the Agri-Park to be allocated respectively for different types of farming operations (e.g. conventional, organic and modern technological farming) and the infrastructural facilities (such as irrigation system, drainage and sewerage, power supply, and collection and recycling of agricultural waste) to be provided in the Agri-Park. Mr POON Siu-ping enquired about the planning progress of the entire Agri-Park project and the timetable for implementing the relevant construction works.

4. DDAFC responded that the consultant appointed in 2017 was carrying out the detailed design and site investigation work for the infrastructure support of the Agri-Park (including roads and footpaths, major irrigation systems, composting facilities, basic accommodation and agricultural storage facilities) and would make recommendations on the boundary of Phase 2 of the Agri-Park. The consultant would also study the provision of a visitor centre for public display of information about the Agri-Park as well as a farmers' market for marketing and promotion of farm produce by farmers. The Administration and the consultant would take into account the stakeholders' views, when working out the overall design and infrastructure support of the Agri-Park. Subject to the funding approval by FC, the construction works of the Agri-Park Phase 1 were expected to commence in the third quarter of 2019. In response to Ms Claudia MO's follow-up enquiry, Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 3 ("PASFH(F)3") advised that the estimated project cost for Phase 1 of the Agri-Park would be no more than \$200 million.

5. Pointing out that hydroponics was a soil-less production method, Ms Claudia MO and Mr CHU Hoi-dick questioned the suitability of allocating farmland in the Agri-Park for practising hydroponics. In their view, the Administration should better utilize the quality agricultural land within the Agri-Park for other farming operations.

6. DDAFC responded that the main objective of the Agri-Park was to encourage the adoption of modern farming practices as well as the development of new agricultural technology and related knowledge transfer. Hydroponic cultivation was one such example, which could be adopted under a completely- or partially-controlled environment. To facilitate the utilization of industrial buildings for engaging in technology-based and/or mechanization-based agricultural productions (including new

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agro-technology such as hydroponics and aquaculture), the Town Planning Board had amended the definition of terms used in statutory plans by adding the use of "Technology-based Crop and Aquaculture Production". Such use in general did not contravene the "Industrial Purposes" stipulated in land lease.

7. In response to Mr CHU Hoi-dick's enquiry as to whether hydroponic farm operators would consider establishing hydroponic farms elsewhere if the Administration offered a longer-term tenancy in locations such as brown field sites and restored landfill sites, Mr YIP Siu-lun of Hong Kong Hydroponics Plantation Group Limited considered that apart from soil-based conventional farming, the Agri-Park should also accommodate technology-based farming operations in order to improve and diversify the production methods for local agriculture.

Proposed road works for the Agri-Park Phase 1

8. Ms Claudia MO expressed worries that the proposed road works for the Agri-Park Phase 1 would damage the existing quality farmland. She criticized the Administration for not considering alternatives put forward by the community which could minimize the impact on existing farmland and environment. It was also unsatisfactory that the Administration had not consulted all of the households being affected by the proposed road works. Mr CHU Hoi-dick said that the development of the Agri-Park would force villagers who had been farming and living there for a long time to move out. He asked whether special arrangements could be made for the affected villagers to rehouse and re-establish their farms in the Agri-Park.

9. DDAFC responded that the Administration received more than 50 submissions from the stakeholders and the public on the proposed road works. The public gave their views on issues such as the necessity for, and the alignment of, the road, the impact of the construction works on existing farmers, farmland and environment, as well as the planning of the Agri-Park. The Administration had considered each and every submission received and provided written replies to all units/organizations. In the replies, the justifications for, and the design of, the proposed road as well as the principles of land resumption were clearly explained. In addition, CEDD and relevant departments had held objection resolving meetings with green groups, representatives of landowners and farmers/local villagers, further explaining to relevant stakeholders the issues raised in the submissions. The objections would be submitted to the Chief Executive in Council for consideration of whether to proceed with the proposed road works and land resumption arrangements for the Agri-Park. PASFH(F)3 supplemented that the Administration had distributed to local villagers and relevant stakeholders an information leaflet to explain the specific details of the Agri-Park project

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and issues relating to the land resumption arrangements. When the Lands Department conducted the freezing survey for the Agri-Park Phase 1 works on the day of gazettal of the proposed road works (i.e. 3 November 2017), the staff concerned had left their contact details for the affected households to make enquiries in future.

10. Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Dr Fernando CHEUNG echoed the views expressed by some deputations that while they generally supported the proposed establishment of the Agri-Park, they queried the need of constructing a new carriageway in the Agri-Park. Dr CHEUNG enquired about the expected traffic volume after the commissioning of the Agri-Park. Noting that the new carriageway would allow access of large vehicles and tourist coaches, Ms Claudia MO wondered whether the Agri-Park would strive to promote tourism.

11. In response, DDAFC explained that the Agri-Park would rehabilitate existing fallow farmland and increase the amount of arable land in the area. Coupled with the introduction and promotion of modern agricultural production methods, it was expected that, after full commissioning of the Agri-Park, there would be greater demand for logistics services and transport. For the operation and long-term development of the Agri-Park, it was necessary to construct a new carriageway to connect the Agri-Park with Tsiu Keng Road and Fan Kam Road and provide appropriate supporting transport facilities for the Agri-Park. The carriageway would allow access of large vehicles to facilitate the transportation of farming machinery and equipment and agricultural produce. It would also be open for the public and visitors to participate in farming-related educational activities, sharing sessions and experimental programmes.

12. Dr Fernando CHEUNG queried the justifications for constructing a single two-lane carriageway in the Agri-Park. Sharing a similar concern, Mr NIP Hin-ming of Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden said that the Administration could not address his concern about the design and the expected traffic volume of the proposed road works although a number of objection resolving meetings were held. Ms Claudia MO expressed dissatisfaction that many parts of the report of the engineering feasibility study for the Agri-Park provided by the Administration were redacted. Members of the public could hardly understand the argument for constructing the proposed carriageway.

13. Deputy Project Manager (North), CEDD ("DPM(N)/CEDD") advised that having taken into account the advice of the consultant, the proposed carriageway would be designed to a public road standard for a single two-lane carriageway to cater for the long-term traffic demand arising from the commissioning of the Agri-Park. In response to some deputations'

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concern that the construction of the proposed carriageway might disrupt the hydrological regime of the area surrounding the Agri-Park, DPM(N)/CEDD said that the proposed road works would comprise, among others, the construction of two vehicular bridges over two natural streams crossing the proposed carriageway. In addition, ancillary works (such as drainage systems and roadside slopes) would be built to facilitate the discharge of rainwater on and adjacent to the proposed carriageway. These works would minimize any impact on the existing hydrological regime of the area.

14. Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Dr Fernando CHEUNG both considered that the Administration should give consideration to the alternative road works option put forward by a deputation as set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(06). In their view, the alternative option could reduce the impact on the local community in terms of number of households and size of farmland affected. Dr CHEUNG suggested that the Administration should arrange a meeting with the deputation concerned to discuss the alternative road works option. DDAFC replied that the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries had set up a working group to follow up on various issues relating to the establishment of the Agri-Park. The working group, comprising members including local villagers and interest groups, would be an appropriate forum for relevant stakeholders to discuss the proposed road works. At the request of Dr CHEUNG, the Administration would provide a written response on the justifications for constructing a single two-lane carriageway for the Agri-Park Phase 1 and whether the alternative road works option put forward by a deputation would be considered.

Admin

Operation and management of the Agri-Park

15. The Chairman and Ms YUNG Hoi-yan sought information on how the establishment of the Agri-Park would support existing farmers in converting to more modernized farming operations. Dr Elizabeth QUAT asked whether the Administration would engage farmers to try out new agricultural practices in the Agri-Park, with a view to enhancing their productivity and raising their income.

16. USFH and DDAFC responded that the Agri-Park would serve as a base for experimenting with new agricultural practices for commercial production, thereby encouraging other farms to develop and adopt modern production methods. By accommodating various types of farming operations (including conventional, organic, floriculture and modern technological farming), the Agri-Park could provide a platform for cross fertilization of farming techniques and facilitate knowledge transfer (i.e. agro-technology and knowledge of modern farm management). AFCD would provide technical support to farmers operating in the Agri-Park, as well as advice on the production plan, marketing and consumer trends and associated technological

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advancement. Apart from the establishment of the Agri-Park, the \$500 million Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund ("SADF") provided funding to projects that would enhance agricultural productivity and output, or help farmers switch to sustainable or high value-added operations so as to raise the overall competitiveness of the agricultural sector. The Farm Improvement Scheme under SADF also provided direct grants of up to a maximum of \$30,000 each to eligible farmers to assist them in acquiring mechanized and modernized equipment and materials to improve farming productivity and efficiency.

17. The Chairman and Ms YUNG Hoi-yan expressed concern that the proposed five-year term standard tenancy agreements for prospective tenants in the Agri-Park might not be able to give certainty to tenants to make long-term investment in their farms. It would be preferable if the farmland in the Agri-Park could be rented out to farmers for cultivation under a longer (e.g. eight to 10 years) tenancy term. The Chairman enquired about the criteria for renewal of tenancy agreements; and whether it would be assessed in terms of productivity output or the level of achievement of the production plan. Pointing out that many local farmers had suffered loss of crops and farming machinery as a result of Super Typhoon Mangkhut, Ms YUNG asked whether the Administration would devise relief measures to assist tenants operating in the Agri-Park if, in future, they were affected by natural disasters.

18. DDAFC responded that to meet the overall objectives of the Agri-Park and ensure reasonable production output, each tenant would be required to submit an annual production plan to AFCD for assessment of the farming modes and overall productivity. The targets set out in the production plan would form part of the tenancy agreement. Tenants who had fulfilled the agreed tenancy conditions would be considered for renewal. As advised earlier, AFCD would provide technical support and advice to tenants operating in the Agri-Park, whenever necessary, to help them meet the targets. When assessing tenancy renewal applications, AFCD would take into account various factors, including damages caused by natural disasters that were out of the tenants' control preventing them from meeting the targets set out in the production plan. The proposed advisory committee would provide advice to AFCD when vetting the tenancy renewal applications. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration would provide, after the meeting, the criteria for determining the rent and standard tenancy period (i.e. five years) for leasing the farmland in the Agri-Park for cultivation, as well as the criteria for renewal of tenancy agreements.

Admin

Other initiatives under NAP

19. Pointing out that nowadays, consumers were willing to spend more money to buy premium and quality agricultural produce as a healthier choice,

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Dr Elizabeth QUAT enquired whether the Administration had any plan to enhance the relevant certification systems (e.g. the certification system for organic food) so as to strengthen consumers' confidence in purchasing local agricultural produce.

20. DDAFC advised that AFCD had, through SADF, funded various projects that promoted the production and sale of local agricultural produce. These projects aimed at managing an organic certification system, developing local organic agriculture brands as well as establishing marketing platforms for farmers to promote local agricultural produce. In addition, AFCD and the Vegetable Marketing Organization had been working closely in the marketing and brand building of organic vegetables through various channels, such as providing local vegetable purchase and delivery services via the mobile application "Local Veggie". AFCD would make further efforts in enhancing the marketing of local quality produce.

21. Mr Kenneth LAU declared that he was the Chairman of Heung Yee Kuk and he owned businesses engaging in agricultural production. In his view, the development scale of the Agri-Park was too small, unable to accommodate farmers practising conventional farming. Consideration should be given to revitalizing the farmland on the periphery areas of country parks. The Chairman called on the Food and Health Bureau to work in collaboration with relevant bureaux/government departments to devise effective measures to forestall farmland from being irreversibly damaged or channelled to any other incompatible uses. He also expressed concern about flooding caused by private residential developments adjacent to farmland, and hoped that the Administration could strengthen regulation on such misdeeds.

22. DDAFC advised that to apply the innovative farming practices successfully developed or tested in the Agri-Park on a larger scale, the Food and Health Bureau and the Development Bureau had, in the second half of 2018, jointly commissioned a consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas to identify relatively large areas of quality agricultural land and recommend suitable policies and measures to provide incentives to encourage landowners to put fallow agricultural land into long-term agricultural use so as to support local agricultural development. In addition to identifying agricultural land for crop farming, the consultancy study would help identify potential sites suitable for relocation or consolidation of livestock farms.

23. Mr Kenneth LAU asked whether a self-sufficiency target aiming at ensuring food safety and stable local supply of agricultural products would be set. DDAFC responded that the Administration would not set any self-sufficiency target for local agricultural production given the relatively modest scale of local agriculture. That said, the Administration envisaged that the objectives of sustaining local agriculture to provide high quality and

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fresh agricultural produce to meet local demand could be achieved through the adoption of various initiatives under NAP and in time, the overall production capacity of the local agriculture could be scaled up. The Administration would review the effectiveness of NAP, before setting any specific targets for local agricultural production.

II. Any other business

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:08 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 January 2019

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Special meeting held on Friday, 5 October 2018, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Item I - Issues relating to the proposed establishment of the Agricultural Park

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations

No.	Name of deputation	Submission / Major views and concerns
<i>Session one</i>		
1.	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of the Agricultural Park ("Agri-Park") would force small farmers who had been practising conventional farming and living there for a long time to move out and would bring in mainly technology-based farming operations (e.g. hydroponics) for the production of high-end crops (e.g. organic vegetables) only affordable by the rich. • There was a lack of supporting measures to assist small farmers to pursue their farming operations.
2.	The Conservancy Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2057/17-18(01)
3.	Federation of Hong Kong Agricultural Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(02)
4.	Farmket Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the proposed establishment of the Agri-Park and the proposed construction of a wider carriageway in the Agri-Park. • The Administration should provide comprehensive support facilities (e.g. roads and footpaths, basic accommodation, cold storage, car parking spaces, etc.) to complement the commissioning of the Agri-Park, and should develop branding and set up outlets for marketing the agricultural produce of the Agri-Park. • Consideration should be given to reserving a cluster of farmland in the Agri-Park specifically for poultry and livestock rearing.
5.	Hong Kong Pig Raising Development Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(01)
6.	The Tsiu Keng Vegetable Marketing and Credit Co-operative Society, Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(02)
7.	Mr WONG Wan-chuen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(03)
8.	Miss LIU See-ling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(03)
9.	受發展影響漁農聯會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(03)

No.	Name of deputation	Submission / Major views and concerns
10.	Miss CHAK Shui-fa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2065/17-18(03) and CB(2)2071/17-18(01)
11.	Mr Jim LIU Hung-cheung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(03)
12.	Mr YIP Tsz-lam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(03)
13.	Hong Kong & Kowloon Flowers and Plants Workers General Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LC Paper No. CB(2)2057/17-18(02)
14.	Hong Kong Florists Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(04)
15.	Hong Kong Vegetable Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration should not focus only on facilitating high-end farming operations in the Agri-Park. Consideration should be given to allocating at least 8% of the farmland in the Agri-Park to local small farmers for small-scale cultivation. The Administration should allocate resources to upgrade the North District Temporary Wholesale Market for Agricultural Products, with a view to creating synergy with the neighbouring Agri-Park.
16.	The Kwan Ti Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LC Paper No. CB(2)2057/17-18(03)
17.	The Ping Shan District Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported the proposed establishment of the Agri-Park. The Administration should ensure sound planning of the transport facilities in the Agri-Park to meet the long-term traffic demand of the Agri-Park. Given the relatively small scale of the Agri-Park, consideration should be given to establishing more agricultural parks to meet the demand for agricultural land from local farmers.
18.	Hong Kong Hydroponics Technology Cooperation Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LC Paper No. CB(2)2057/17-18(05)
19.	Hong Kong Organic Farmers Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Administration should make reference to overseas experience in the running of organic farms and the introduction/promotion of modern agricultural production methods. The Administration should provide well-planned road facilities to allow access of large vehicles to facilitate the transportation of farming machinery and equipment as well as agricultural produce to and from the Agri-Park. The Administration should expedite the construction of the Agri-Park.

No.	Name of deputation	Submission / Major views and concerns
20.	Mr TSE Tsang-kwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the provision of appropriate supporting transport facilities for and basic accommodation in the Agri-Park. • Consideration should be given to establishing more agricultural parks to meet the demand for agricultural land from local farmers. • Existing farmers operating within the area prior to the establishment of the Agri-Park should be accorded priority to rent farmland in the Agri-Park.
21.	Hydrogro Company Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the proposed establishment of the Agri-Park. • Given the rising trend in the international arena of adopting various cultivation modes (e.g. conventional, organic and hydroponic) under controlled environment, the Administration was called on to relax the existing constraints on erecting agricultural structures (e.g. greenhouses) within the Agri-Park. • The farmland in the Agri-Park should be rented out to farmers for cultivation under a longer (e.g. seven to eight years) tenancy term, having regard to the time required for recovering investment capital.
22.	Farm66 Investment Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(05)
23.	Hong Kong Farmers Pride Association Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2071/17-18(02)
24.	Evergreens Republic Company Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the proposed establishment of the Agri-Park, as it would provide a platform for promoting applications of advances in technology to agricultural uses. • The Administration should utilize the Agri-Park to conduct scientific research on new agro-technology specifically tailored for local use. • The Agri-Park could provide an opportunity for members of the younger generation to study and experience farming activities.
25.	Mr YUEN Lin-cheong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should formulate a more comprehensive agriculture policy and strengthen its support to existing farmers. • The Administration should rehabilitate more farmland to enhance the productivity of local farms, thereby raising the market share of local agricultural produce and helping reduce reliance on imported food.
26.	Mr Felix LAM Ho-yin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help farmers maintain a stable production output, consideration should be given to renting out farmland in the Agri-Park together with suitable farm structures (e.g. rain shelters) or providing subsidies to tenants of the Agri-Park for acquiring these farm structures.

No.	Name of deputation	Submission / Major views and concerns
27.	Mr YAU Yuk-lun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the proposed establishment of the Agri-Park. • The Administration should ensure that the management of the Agri-Park would cope with the needs of the tenant farmers. • It was necessary to strengthen the road networks in the rural areas to facilitate access to the Agri-Park as well as other fallow farmland located in the New Territories.
28.	香港新界本地農協會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(05)
29.	Environmental Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public should have more confidence in the Administration in implementing the Agri-Park project. Excessive emphasis should not be placed on the supporting facilities to be provided in the Agri-Park. • Apart from the establishment of the Agri-Park, the Administration had implemented various initiatives (e.g. the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund) under the New Agriculture Policy to facilitate the modernization and sustainable development of the local agriculture.
30.	New Territories Local Farmers Organic Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Society, Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(06)
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31.	Hong Kong Hydroponics Plantation Group Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The farmland in the Agri-Park should be rented out to farmers for cultivation under a longer tenancy term, having regard to the high upfront investment and the time required for setting up hydroponic facilities. • The Administration should strengthen its support to facilitate the development of hydroponic farming. • The Administration should consider organizing educational or promotional programmes in the Agri-Park with a view to attracting the younger generation to join the agricultural sector.
32.	State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(04)
33.	Ms LIN Sau-mui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed worries that existing quality farmland within the area of the Agri-Park would be damaged before the Agri-Park project could bring any benefits to the community. • The establishment of the Agri-Park would force villagers who had been farming and living there for a long time to move out. The Administration should provide proper rehousing arrangements. • The Administration had not provided any assistance to

No.	Name of deputation	Submission / Major views and concerns
		farmers operating in the Tsiu Keng area who had suffered substantial loss of crops as a result of Super Typhoon Mangkhut.
34.	Mr CHICK Chi-leung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should restore brown field sites for hydroponic farming. • The construction of the proposed carriageway might disrupt the hydrological regime of the area surrounding the Agri-Park and affect the operation of irrigation systems. Neither the Administration nor the consultant provided a solution to address these problems. • The Administration should strengthen enforcement against illegal dumping of waste (including construction waste) to prevent contamination of water sources in the area of the Agri-Park.
35.	Ms LAM Tsz-ching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration should promote the development and adoption of the "terra preta" technique to improve soil quality and rehabilitate fallow farmland, thereby revitalizing the local agricultural industry. • There was no need to build a large scale road network to meet the transportation demand of genuine farmers. • Technology-based farming operations should be pursued in restored landfill sites instead of in the Agri-Park.
36.	Ms CHOW Tak-choi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2071/17-18(03)
37.	Miss WONG Suet-mei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(07)
38.	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(08)
39.	Mr TAM Wai-man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2071/17-18(04)
40.	Ms LIU Chung-ling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2071/17-18(05)
41.	Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(09)
42.	The Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies, Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(10)
43.	Hong Kong Organic Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No farmers should oppose the establishment of the Agri-Park, as the project was to promote the modernization and sustainable development of local agriculture. • Consideration should be given to establishing more agricultural parks, so as to accommodate various types of farming operations. • The construction of a new road would only destroy the existing natural resources in the area of the Agri-Park if it did not complement farmers' actual needs.

No.	Name of deputation	Submission / Major views and concerns
44.	蕉徑長瀝關注組	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2065/17-18(06) and CB(2)2071/17-18(06)
45.	Ms Erica LIU Siu-mei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2071/17-18(07)
46.	農村社區發展中心	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2071/17-18(08)
47.	土地維權行動中心	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No farmers should oppose the establishment of the Agri-Park, as the project was to promote the modernization and sustainable development of local agriculture. Nevertheless, the Administration should adopt a bottom-up approach in working out the design for and developing the Agri-Park, to ensure the project would cope with farmers' actual needs. • The Administration should consider the alternative road works option put forward by some farmers. • The Agri-Park should not be positioned as a "science park". The Administration should suitably allocate farmland in the Agri-Park.
<i>Written submission from organizations/individuals not attending the meeting</i>		
1.	Civic Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(11)
2.	TourisMan.hk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2032/17-18(12)
3.	北區蔬菜協會	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2057/17-18(04)
4.	Hong Kong Livestock Industry Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC Paper No. CB(2)2065/17-18(07)