

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

THIS Report is submitted in accordance with Section 9E(3) of the Agricultural Products (Marketing) Ordinance, Cap. 277.

1. The Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund (the Fund) was established on 17 February 1978 under Section 9A of the Agricultural Products (Marketing) Ordinance for the purpose of providing scholarships, grants and loans for the education and training of persons (including their families and dependants), who are employed in agriculture or agricultural product marketing industries in Hong Kong; and persons who wish to enter the agriculture or agricultural product marketing industries in Hong Kong. The Fund was first created with an allocation of \$1 million from the Vegetable Marketing Organization's accumulated surplus and it may be increased by way of interest, and by moneys and assets donated, subscribed or bequeathed to the Fund. The capital of the Fund was increased to \$2 million in 1987-88 by the injection of an additional \$1 million from the Vegetable Marketing Organization. During the years 1989-90, 1992-93 and 1994-95, the Vegetable Marketing Organization further injected an additional \$2 million in each of the respective years into the Fund, thereby increasing its capital to \$8 million. During the year of 2024-25, the Vegetable Marketing Organization had further injected \$4 million into the Fund. The funding is recognized as income and then transferred to the capital thereby increasing the capital of the Fund to \$12 million.

2. The Fund is administered by its Trustee (the Director of Marketing) on the advice of the Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund Advisory Committee which comprises the Trustee (as ex-officio Chairman), four members appointed by the Chief Executive and three members elected amongst members of the Marketing Advisory Board.

Income and Expenditure

3. In the financial year 2024-25, aggregate income including the fund from Vegetable Marketing Organization and interest income on bank deposits was \$4,090,323 whilst the total expenditure amounted to \$592,620. The surplus for the year was \$3,497,703.

Awards of Scholarships, Grants and Loans

4. During 2024-25, a total of \$552,000 was awarded to 16 students studying various courses at local and overseas universities, and to 3 students pursuing senior secondary school education locally. Of this, \$537,000 was awarded as scholarships and \$15,000 as grants. No loans were issued during the year.

Financial Statements

5. The financial statements of the Fund have been audited by an auditor appointed by the Chief Executive. The audited financial statements together with the Auditor's Report for the financial year 2024-25 are attached.

LAI Kin-ming

Director of Marketing

Trustee, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Encl.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Financial statements for
the year ended 31 March 2025

Independent auditor's report to the trustee of the Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund

(Established under the Agricultural Products (Marketing) Ordinance, Chapter 277)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund (the "Fund"), set out on pages 4 to 15, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2025, the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended, the statement of changes in funds for the year then ended and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund as at 31 March 2025 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA").

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSA") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the trustee of the Fund for the financial statements

The trustee of the Fund is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA, and for such internal control as the trustee of the Fund determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee of the Fund is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustee of the Fund either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditor's report to the trustee of the Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund (continued)

(Established under the Agricultural Products (Marketing) Ordinance, Chapter 277)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. We report our opinion solely to you, in accordance with our agreed terms of engagement and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustee of the Fund.

Independent auditor's report to the trustee of the Agricultural Products Scholarship Fund (continued)

(Established under the Agricultural Products (Marketing) Ordinance, Chapter 277)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the trustee of the Fund regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is LUNG, Miu Ling (practicing certificate number: P07554).

KPMG

Certified Public Accountants

8th Floor, Prince's Building
10 Chater Road
Central, Hong Kong
18 August 2025

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

(All amounts in Hong Kong dollars unless otherwise stated)

	Note	<u>As at 31 March</u>	
		2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Other receivables		12,747	12,588
Bank deposits with original maturities over three months	5	5,700,593	2,200,000
Cash and cash equivalents	5	69,053	72,102
Total assets		<u>5,782,393</u>	<u>2,284,690</u>
FUNDS			
Capital allocated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization		12,000,000	8,000,000
Accumulated deficit		<u>(6,258,228)</u>	<u>(5,755,931)</u>
Total funds		<u>5,741,772</u>	<u>2,244,069</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current and total liabilities			
Accruals		<u>40,621</u>	<u>40,621</u>
Total funds and liabilities		<u>5,782,393</u>	<u>2,284,690</u>

The financial statements on pages 4 to 15 were approved by the trustee on 18 August 2025.

Lai Kin-ming

Trustee

Hong Kong

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 March 2025 (All amounts in Hong Kong dollars unless otherwise stated)

	<u>Year ended 31 March</u>	
	2025	2024
Income		
Fund from the Vegetable Marketing Organization	4,000,000	-
Interest income on bank deposits	88,803	117,763
Sundry income	1,520	3,640
	<u>4,090,323</u>	<u>121,403</u>
Expenditure		
Auditor's remuneration	(38,500)	(38,500)
Scholarships	(537,000)	(503,000)
Grants	(15,000)	(15,000)
Bank charges	(2,120)	(2,180)
	<u>(592,620)</u>	<u>(558,680)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	3,497,703	(437,277)
Other comprehensive income for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	<u><u>3,497,703</u></u>	<u><u>(437,277)</u></u>

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of changes in funds for the year ended 31 March 2025 (All amounts in Hong Kong dollars unless otherwise stated)

	<i>Capital allocated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization (note)</i>	<i>Accumulated deficit</i>	<i>Total funds</i>
Balance as at 1 April 2023	8,000,000	(5,318,654)	2,681,346
Total comprehensive loss			
Deficit for the year	-	(437,277)	(437,277)
Balances as at 31 March 2024 and 1 April 2024	8,000,000	(5,755,931)	2,244,069
Total comprehensive income			
Surplus for the year	-	3,497,703	3,497,703
Transfer	4,000,000	(4,000,000)	-
Balance as at 31 March 2025	12,000,000	(6,258,228)	5,741,772

Note: The balance represents capital allocated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization to support the operations of the Fund.

The above statement of changes in funds should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2025

(All amounts in Hong Kong dollars unless otherwise stated)

		<u>Year ended 31 March</u>	
	Note	2025	2024
Net cash generated/(used in) operating activities	6(a)	<u>3,408,900</u>	<u>(557,159)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		88,644	119,016
Net (deposit)/withdrawal of bank deposits with original maturities over three months		<u>(3,500,593)</u>	<u>460,000</u>
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from investing activities		<u>(3,411,949)</u>	<u>579,016</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(3,049)	21,857
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		<u>72,102</u>	<u>50,245</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	5	<u><u>69,053</u></u>	<u><u>72,102</u></u>

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the financial statements

(All amounts in Hong Kong dollars unless otherwise stated)

1 General information

The Agricultural Products (Marketing) Ordinance, Chapter 277, requires the trustee to keep proper accounts. The Fund was established for the following objects:

- (a) the provision of scholarships, grants and loans for the education and training of persons who are employed in agriculture and agricultural product marketing industries in Hong Kong and their families and dependants; and
- (b) the provision of scholarships, grants and loans for the education and training of persons who wish to enter the agriculture and agricultural product marketing industries in Hong Kong.

The address of the Fund is 757 Lai Chi Kok Road, Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Vegetable Market, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon.

These financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars unless otherwise stated.

2 Summary of material accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Fund have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRS"), which term collectively includes all applicable individual HKFRS, Hong Kong Accounting Standards ("HKAS") and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Fund's accounting policies. There are no areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements.

The HKICPA has issued certain amendments to HKFRS that are effective for the current accounting year of the Fund. None of the developments have had a material effect on how the Fund's results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented. The Fund has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

(a) Amendments that are not yet effective and have not been early adopted by the Fund

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of new or amended standards, which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 March 2025 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements. These developments include the following which may be relevant to the Fund.

	<i>Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after</i>
Amendments to HKAS 21, <i>The effects of changes in foreign exchange rates-Lack of exchangeability</i>	1 January 2025
Amendments to HKFRS 9, <i>Financial instruments</i> and HKFRS 7, <i>Financial instruments: disclosures - Amendments to the classification and measurement of financial instruments</i>	1 January 2026
Annual improvements to HKFRS Accounting Standards - Volume 11	1 January 2026
HKFRS 18, <i>Presentation and disclosure in financial statements</i>	1 January 2027
HKFRS 19, <i>Subsidiaries without public accountability: disclosures</i>	1 January 2027

The Fund is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these developments is expected to be in the period of initial application. So far it has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

2.2 Foreign currency translation

(a) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of the Fund are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Fund operates (the "functional currency"). The financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars, which is the Fund's functional and presentation currency.

(b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at year end exchange rates are generally recognised in profit or loss.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Financial assets

(a) Classification

The trustee of the Fund classifies its financial assets as those to be measured at amortised cost. The classification depends on the Fund's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

(b) Recognition and derecognition

Regular way purchases and sale of financial assets are recognised on trade-date, the date on which the trustee of the Fund commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the trustee of the Fund has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

(c) Measurement

At initial recognition, the trustee of the Fund measures a financial asset at its fair value plus transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial assets.

Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Interest income from these financial assets is included in other income using the effective interest rate method. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition is recognised directly in comprehensive income and presented in other gains/(losses). Impairment losses are presented as separate line item in the statement of comprehensive income.

(d) Impairment

The trustee of the Fund assesses on a forward looking basis the expected credit losses associated with its debt instruments carried at amortised cost. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk.

Impairment of other financial assets at amortised cost are measured as either 12-month expected or lifetime credit loss, depending on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition.

2.4 Receivables

Receivables are recognised initially at the amount of consideration that is unconditional unless they contain significant financing components, when they are recognised at fair value. The Fund holds the receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment.

If collection of receivables is expected in one year or less, they are classified as current assets. If not, they are presented as non-current assets.

2 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the balance sheet where the Fund currently has a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts, and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. The Fund has also entered into arrangements that do not meet the criteria for offsetting but still allow for the related amounts to be set off in certain circumstances, such as bankruptcy or the termination of a contract.

2.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts, if any.

2.7 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Fund has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

2.8 Interest income

Interest income on financial assets at amortised cost calculated using the effective interest method is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Interest income is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset except for financial assets that subsequently become credit-impaired. For credit-impaired financial assets the effective interest rate is applied to the net carrying amount of the financial asset (after deduction of the loss allowance).

2.9 Sundry income

Sundry income is recognised on an accruals basis.

2.10 Capital allocated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization

The funding is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as income and then transferred to the "capital allocated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization", which is used to support the operation of the Fund.

3 Financial and capital risks management

3.1 Financial risk factors

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks factors: foreign exchange risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and cash flow interest rate risk. The Fund's overall risk management procedures focus on the unpredictability of financial markets and seek to minimise potential adverse effects on the Fund's financial performance.

(a) Foreign exchange risk

Foreign exchange risk arises where future commercial transactions and recognised assets and liabilities are denominated in a currency that is not the Fund's functional currency. The Fund is not exposed to material foreign exchange risk as it has no significant transactions which are denominated in foreign currency. In the opinion of the trustee, the Fund has minimal exposure to the foreign exchange risk as the transactions are mainly denominated in Hong Kong dollars and no sensitivity analysis is performed.

(b) Credit risk

Credit risk includes risks resulting from counterparty default. It arises from cash and cash equivalents, contractual cash flows of debt instruments carried at amortised cost and outstanding receivables.

The Fund's financial assets are subject to the expected credit loss model. While cash and cash equivalents are also subject to the impairment requirements of HKFRS 9, the identified impairment loss was immaterial as they are mainly deposited in reputable banks in Hong Kong.

For other financial assets at amortised cost, the Fund applies the HKFRS 9 general approach to measuring expected credit losses. The impairment provision is determined as 12-month expected credit losses as there was no significant increase in credit risk on these assets since initial recognition and reflected the forward-looking information on macroeconomic factors affecting the ability of the debtors to settle the receivables. No loss allowance provision was determined as at 31 March 2025 as the trustee considered that the expected credit loss was immaterial.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each financial asset in the balance sheet.

(c) Liquidity risk

Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient bank deposits and bank balances. In the opinion of trustee of the Fund, the Fund does not have any significant liquidity risk.

The table below analyses the Fund's financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows. Balances due within 12 months equal their carrying balances, as the impact of discounting is not significant.

3 Financial and capital risks management (continued)

As at 31 March 2025 and 2024, the maturity analysis of the financial liabilities is as follows:

	2025	2024
Less than one year		
Accruals	40,621	40,621

(d) Cash flow interest rate risk

Other than the bank deposits, the Fund has no other significant interest-bearing assets and liabilities. The Fund's income and operating cash flows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates. Accordingly, in the opinion of the trustee of the Fund, the exposure to cash flow interest rate risk is considered to be low and no sensitivity analysis is performed.

3.2 Fund risk management

The Fund's objectives when managing fund are to safeguard the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern and to have sufficient funding for future operations. The Fund's overall strategy remains unchanged from prior years.

The capital of the Fund comprises its capital allocated by the Vegetable Marketing Organization and accumulated deficit.

3.3 Fair value estimation

Fair value measurement by level of hierarchy is not disclosed as the Fund has no financial instruments measured at fair value on the three level hierarchy basis in the balance sheet.

The carrying value less impairment provision of receivables and payables are a reasonable approximation of their fair values. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purpose is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Fund for similar financial instruments, unless the effect of discounting is insignificant.

3.4 Offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities

No disclosure of the offsetting of financial assets and financial liabilities is made in these financial statements as there is no netting arrangement in place during the year.

4 Financial instruments by category

The Fund's financial instruments include the following:

	2025	2024
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Other receivables	12,747	12,588
Bank deposits with original maturities over three months	5,700,593	2,200,000
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5)	69,053	72,102
	<u>5,782,393</u>	<u>2,284,690</u>
Financial liabilities at amortised cost		
Accruals	<u>40,621</u>	<u>40,621</u>

5 Bank deposits with original maturity over three months and cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
Cash at banks	69,053	72,102
Bank deposits	<u>5,700,593</u>	<u>2,200,000</u>
	5,769,646	2,272,102
Less: Bank deposits with original maturity over three months	<u>(5,700,593)</u>	<u>(2,200,000)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet	<u>69,053</u>	<u>72,102</u>
Maximum exposure to credit risk	<u>5,769,646</u>	<u>2,272,102</u>

As at 31 March 2025, the effective interest rate on the bank deposits with original maturity over three months is 3.22% (2024: 4.45%); these deposits have an average maturity of 270 days (2024: 182 days).

The carrying amounts of cash and deposits are denominated in Hong Kong dollars.

6 Cash flow information

(a) Cash generated from/(used in) operations

	2025	2024
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	3,497,703	(437,277)
Adjustment for:		
- Interest income on bank deposits	<u>(88,803)</u>	<u>(117,763)</u>
	3,408,900	(555,040)
Change in working capital:		
- Accruals	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,119)</u>
Cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	<u>3,408,900</u>	<u>(557,159)</u>

(b) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities was not presented as there was no change in liabilities arising from financing activities during the year.