

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

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(Question Serial No. 0020)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 249 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 16):

How many non-local food production farms and food processing plants (apart from those in the Mainland) were inspected by the Department in each of the years from 2011 to 2013? What were the staff establishment required and expenditure involved in each of the above three years?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

In 2011, a total of 11 farms and ten processing plants in Mexico, Germany and Sweden were inspected.

In 2012, a total of 15 farms and 16 processing plants in Chile, Italy, France, Hungary and Ireland were inspected.

In 2013, a total of nine farms and ten food processing plants in Spain, Vietnam and Iceland were inspected.

An inspection unit comprising three veterinary officers, eight field officers and one fisheries officer is responsible for inspection of food animal farms (including fish farms) outside Hong Kong. The actual expenditure on Mainland and overseas food animal farm inspections in 2011-12 and 2012-13 was \$6.6 million and \$7.7 million respectively. The revised estimate is \$8.6 million in 2013-14, while the estimated expenditure in 2014-15 is \$9.5 million.

The inspection of vegetable farms and orchards outside Hong Kong is carried out by a team led by an agricultural officer, while an inspection unit comprising five health inspectors is responsible for inspecting food processing plants outside Hong Kong. These officers are also tasked with other duties. Separate breakdown on the manpower resources spent on inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants is not readily available.