

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)115**

**(Question Serial No. 0882)**

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 248 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 20):

Please provide information on the following in respect of the inspections to food production farms outside Hong Kong:

- (a) the number of food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong inspected by the Department in 2013-14, as well as the major regions / places for inspections; and
- (b) the estimated staff establishment and expenditure to be involved in the inspection of food production farms and food processing plants outside Hong Kong in 2014-15.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yin, Steven

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- (a) Figures on farms and food processing plant inspection are kept on a calendar year basis. In 2013, a total of 86 registered food production farms (including farms which export live food animals, live aquatic products, fish, vegetables and fruits to Hong Kong) and 52 food processing plants in the Mainland were inspected. Another nine farms and ten processing plants in Spain, Vietnam and Iceland were also inspected.
- (b) 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 estimated expenditure on Mainland and overseas food animal farm inspections 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.