

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0015)**

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

Question:

How many non-local food production farms and food processing plants (apart from those on the Mainland) were inspected by the Department in each of the years from 2012 to 2014? Please advise on the staff establishment required and expenditure involved in each of the above three years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (Member Question No. 15)

Reply:

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.

In 2014, a total of six farms and 14 food processing plants in the United States, Ireland, France, India, Japan and the Netherlands 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, involving an actual expenditure in 2012-13 and 2013-14 of \$7.7 million and \$8.5 million respectively. The revised estimate is \$9.2 million in 2014-15, and the estimated expenditure in 2015-16 is \$10.2 million. We do not keep separate breakdown on the resources used for inspection in the Mainland and overseas.

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. We do not keep separate breakdown of expenses used for inspection in the Mainland and overseas. Nor do we keep separate breakdown on the

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resources used for inspection of vegetable farms, orchards and food processing plants outside Hong Kong.

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