

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)090****(Question Serial No. 2278)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and HealthQuestion:

Under the Programme, it is mentioned that the Department conducted 10 116 pest control surveys in 2018.

- I. Among the above surveys, please give details of those on mosquitoes, biting midges and rodents (including the number of surveys conducted, the areas surveyed and the coverage of the surveys) in the past 3 years.
- II. Given that the number of such surveys is expected to increase further this year as shown under the indicators, does the Department have plans to increase the manpower and expenditure? If yes, the details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)Reply:

- I. The requested information is provided as follows -

Types of Surveys	Number of Surveys Conducted		
	2016	2017	2018
Mosquito	5 322	5 284	6 077
Rodent	1 838	1 969	2 033
Biting midge	32	128	120
Other pests	1 893	1 863	1 886
Total	9 085	9 244	10 116

Mosquito surveys include the following -

1. Dengue vector surveillance is conducted by setting up ovitraps to monitor the distribution of Aedes mosquitoes in all districts. In 2016 and 2017, the number of survey locations was 52 and the surveys were conducted once weekly per month. The programme has been enhanced since July 2018 by increasing the number of survey locations to 57 and the frequency to 2 weeks per month. Besides, the programme covers the Hong Kong International Airport on a weekly basis. The frequency of surveys in all sea and land ports has also been raised from bi-weekly to weekly since July 2018.
2. Japanese encephalitis (JE) vector surveillance is done through setting up light traps every month to collect adult mosquitoes (*Culex tritaeniorhynchus*) for testing the presence of JE virus. The programme used to cover 7 districts, including Southern, Sham Shui Po, Sai Kung, North, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun and Yuen Long. Since 2018, Eastern has also been included.
3. Malaria vector surveillance is conducted by carrying out rotational larval surveys at all fresh water streams in the territory to monitor the distribution of local malaria vectors.
4. Ad hoc mosquito surveys are carried out in response to mosquito-borne diseases including dengue fever, JE, Zika virus infection, Chikungunya, etc. They cover the surrounding areas of local movements of patients of relevant diseases.

Rodent surveillance includes the following -

1. Rodent infestation surveys are conducted half-yearly for detecting the presence of rodents in 41 selected locations covering all 18 districts.
2. Rat-flea surveys are conducted in selected biotope every year to assess the risk of plague transmission. In 2016 and 2017, the survey was conducted in the industrial areas. In 2018, the survey was conducted in street market areas.
3. Ad hoc rodent surveys are done in response to rodent-borne diseases including Hantavirus infection, scrub typhus, urban typhus, spotted fever, leptospirosis, rat hepatitis E virus infection, etc. They cover the surrounding areas of local movements of patients of relevant diseases.

Besides, there was a special territory-wide survey on biting midges conducted from July 2017 to July 2018 to study the seasonal variation and distribution of biting midges as well as to assess the presence of any disease vector species in Hong Kong.

- II. In 2019-20, 14 new posts will be created in the Pest Control Advisory Section of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to strengthen the dengue vector and rodent surveillance programmes as well as vector-borne disease control. The estimated additional expenditure is \$5.2 million.

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