

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**EEB(F)082**

**(Question Serial No. 1987)**

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to enhance rodent control work. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. As for the rodent control surveys conducted in 2022-23, what are (i) the expenditure incurred as well as (ii) the amount involved in engaging outsourced service providers and the number of outsourced staff?
2. What are the manpower and expenditure to be allocated for taking forward rodent control work in 2023-24?
3. It is stated that the Department will make trial use of new rodent control technologies and tools and conduct night rodent operations in 2023-24. What are the details of the new technologies and tools? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower for such work?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. (i) In 2022-23, a total of 746 rodent control surveys were conducted by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. The overall revised estimated expenditure on pest control services in the financial year was \$796 million. The Department does not keep a separate breakdown of the expenditure on rodent control surveys.  
(ii) The Department did not engage outsourced service contractors to conduct rodent control surveys.
- 2 and 3. The Department actively explores and introduces different methods and technologies to enhance the effectiveness of rodent control work. The new technologies tried out by the Department in the past 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23), their effectiveness and the expenditure involved are provided at the **Annex**.

745 in-house staff and 2 175 staff engaged by the contractors provide pest control services, including rodent control work. In 2023-24, the overall estimated expenditure on pest control services is \$797 million.

**Rodent control methods/technologies and the expenditure incurred**

Rodent control method/technology	Effectiveness	Expenditure		
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>New design snap trap</b>	The new design snap trap was tested in 5 districts and 6 markets between January and June 2020. Test results showed that it was effective in catching rodents. The Department has introduced the use of the new design snap trap in its regular anti-rodent work.	About \$3,000	No breakdown is available	No breakdown is available
<b>Thermal imaging camera surveillance system</b>	The Department conducted trials on thermal imaging cameras with artificial intelligence analytical function in 2020 and found it effective in facilitating objective assessment of rodent infestation situation. The equipment is widely employed currently.	About \$3.96 million	About \$2.39 million	About \$3.89 million

<b>Rodent control method/technology</b>	<b>Effectiveness</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>		
		<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>Placing poisonous baits in a T-shaped bait box</b>	The bait box was tested between October and November 2020. Test results showed that the T-shaped bait box was more effective than ordinary rectangular bait boxes in attracting rodents to enter and consume the baits. The equipment is widely employed currently.	About \$20,000	-	About \$580,000
<b>Alcohol rodent trapping device</b>	The Department has conducted trials progressively on alcohol rodent trapping devices in public markets and refuse collection points since October 2022. The initial results are positive. The Department will consider the introduction of alcohol rodent trapping devices in other suitable places under its management.	-	-	About \$380,000

Rodent control method/technology	Effectiveness	Expenditure		
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Glue trap</b>	The Department has tried out the application of glue traps in public markets with more serious rodent infestation as an additional measure for rodent disinfestation since November 2022. The initial results are positive. Further trials of the equipment are being conducted in 11 markets.	-	-	About \$630,000

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