

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0589)**

Head: (139) Government Secretariat: Food and Health Bureau  
(Food Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) (Mrs Cherry TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Regarding the devising and implementation of a strategic plan for encouraging reduced intake of salt and sugars in food to promote a healthy diet, what is the work progress of the plan in 2015-16? What are the concrete plan and timetable for such work in 2016-17? What are the estimated manpower and resources required?

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 43 )

Reply:

It has always been the Government's policy to encourage and promote healthy eating. An integral part of the policy in promoting healthy diet is to encourage and facilitate the public to reduce the intake of salt and sugar in food on an ongoing basis. The Government's target is to gradually reduce the intake of salt and sugar by Hong Kong citizens to the levels recommended by the World Health Organization.

2. To this end, the Government set up in March 2015 the Committee on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (CRSS), and re-appointed five public health experts from the Mainland and overseas as members of the International Advisory Panel on Reduction of Salt and Sugar in Food (IAP) in order to advise the Government on salt and sugar reduction measures from local and overseas perspectives respectively. So far, the two bodies have held a series of meetings for gauging the views of relevant stakeholders, including food manufacturers and the catering industry, conducting focused discussions and devising possible measures for salt and sugar reduction appropriate to Hong Kong's context. The CRSS' current preference is a non-legislative approach and in this connection, has been considering possible voluntary and educational measures in consultation with the trade and other sectors. We expect to be able to roll out the measures progressively with effect from Q2 of 2016.

3. In 2016-17, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department plans to create five additional civil service posts, involving an estimated annual expenditure of \$3.764 million, to strengthen the executive and technical support for work relating to reduction of salt and sugar. Other manpower and expenditure required are absorbed from within existing resources.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)116**

**(Question Serial No. 0590)**

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:

With regard to the indicator for mosquito breeding places eliminated, please advise on the reason(s) for the significant increase in the number for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2015. Please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources, to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases; if yes, please give details of the work, the manpower and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

In 2014 and 2015, 49 425 and 55 353 mosquito breeding places were eliminated respectively. The increase in 2015 was attributable to the enhanced mosquito prevention and control measures taken by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) in public places in response to a number of confirmed local cases of Japanese encephalitis and dengue fever in that year. In addition to about 700 departmental staff responsible for pest control (including mosquito control), the Department engages private contractors to provide pest control services in the territory through roving teams. In the wet season from April to October 2015, 266 roving teams (with a workforce of about 1 600) were deployed to undertake mosquito control work during that period. The Department has deployed largely the same number of roving teams in the winter months in the last two years to sustain the efforts in mosquito control and prevention. A total of 32 additional roving teams were also deployed to enhance work in this respect during the "Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong: Our Home" Campaign in August and September 2015. We would keep up the work on mosquito control and prevention in 2016-17 with an estimated expenditure of \$247.2 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)117**

**(Question Serial No. 0591)**

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:

With regard to the indicator for pest control surveys conducted, please advise on the reason(s) for the increase in the number for two successive years, as well as the details and effectiveness of the work concerned in 2015. As it is estimated that the number will continue to increase in the current year, please also advise whether sufficient resources have been earmarked with relevant measures drawn up, including the deployment of manpower and allocation of resources; if yes, please give details of the work, the manpower and the estimated expenditure in this respect; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

In 2014 and 2015, 7 702 and 8 043 pest control surveys were conducted respectively. The increase was mainly attributable to (i) the increase in the number of investigations relating to vector-borne diseases; (ii) the strengthening of dengue vector surveillance in the community, whereby the number of locations covered by the survey is increased from 44 to 52, and the frequency of the surveillance in port areas from once per month to once every fortnight (other than the Airport which is as before subject to surveillance on a weekly basis); and (iii) the extension of the Japanese encephalitis vector surveillance to cover Tuen Mun, North, Sai Kung, Kwai Tsing, Southern and Sham Shui Po districts in addition to Yuen Long district. A total of six Non-Civil Service Contract staff have been employed for implementation of the strengthened measures. It is anticipated that the enhanced vector surveillance programmes would continue in 2016 with the addition of three civil service staff. The revised estimated expenditure in 2015-16 and estimated expenditure in 2016-17 in this respect is \$33.4 million and \$34.3 million respectively.

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