

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SFA AWARDS CLOSE TO S\$40 MILLION UNDER 30X30 EXPRESS GRANT TO ACCELERATE RAMP UP IN LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION**

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has awarded S\$39.4 million of funding under the '30x30 Express' grant to nine companies, as part of efforts to support the growth of local agri-food enterprises and accelerate the ramp up in local food production over the next six to 24 months.

2 The open grant call was launched on 17 April 2020 and closed on 29 May 2020. More than 40 proposals were received by SFA, and the proposals were assessed based on the following:

- a) Certainty and speed of implementation;
- b) Level of production and productivity;
- c) Project feasibility and economic viability; and
- d) Track record, capability and capacity to execute the project.

3 Of the nine awarded companies, seven have accepted the offer. The list of companies can be found in Annex. These companies' proposals incorporated highly productive farming systems that can be constructed and implemented quickly to achieve high production levels. The proposals also demonstrated good potential to successfully implement the projects based on the company's track record, farming experience and project team. To support these proposals, SFA increased the original S\$30 million budget to close to S\$40 million.

4 The grant will accelerate our efforts to meet our '30 by 30' goal, which is to meet 30 per cent of our nutritional needs with food produced locally by 2030. SFA had set this goal last year to adapt to Singapore's long-term challenges, such as climate change and disruptions in supply chains and resources. The current COVID-19 situation has also further underscored the importance of local food production, as part of Singapore's strategies to ensure food security.

5 Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, said: "While we continue to plan to tackle our long-term challenges, we also need to respond swiftly to the immediate global food supply challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The '30x30 Express' grant

call was announced by SFA in April this year and awarded within months. Our aim is to ramp up local food production in the next six to 24 months. Supporting our agri-food industry and augmenting their production capabilities remains a key strategy in strengthening Singapore's food supply resilience.”

6 The awarded companies will be able to tap on the grant to defray upfront costs to accelerate their farms' expansion in production capacity. Farms are also able to tap on SFA's existing Agriculture Productivity Fund (APF), which aims to support farms to modernise and harness innovative, sustainable technologies and advanced farming systems as well as co-fund test-bedding of technologies. Enterprise Singapore has also set aside over S\$55 million to help local agriculture and aquaculture companies build new capabilities and innovate to grow more with less.

7 “There is urgency for us to accelerate local production to reduce our reliance on imports and provide a buffer during supply disruptions, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding from the ‘30x30 Express’ grant will give the awarded companies an added boost to ramp up their food production capacity. We will continue to work with the agri-food industry and support them to grow more and grow faster to enhance our food security. At the same time, we urge consumers to support our local farms and buy local produce, which can be identified easily by our new SG Fresh Produce logo,” said Mr Lim Kok Thai, Chief Executive Officer of SFA.

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## **ANNEX – List of Companies\***

*\*Details on the other two companies will be shared when they have accepted the offer*

### **a) ComCrop**

The vegetable farm will expand its current site at Woodlands to build additional greenhouses that will leverage its controlled environment agriculture (CEA) system to ramp up production of leafy vegetables. The new Hybrid Rooftop Greenhouses will be equipped with robotic growing systems to optimise space efficiency and reduce manpower, as well as a solar system to reduce the farm's energy consumption. The farm will also incorporate an automated movable gutter system, supplemental LED lighting and remote plant monitoring for real time plant growth management.

### **b) Chew's Agriculture**

The egg farm will construct three additional layer houses, one additional pullet house and one additional cage-free layer house to ramp up its production of hen shell eggs. The houses will be equipped with an integrated climate control system along with egg and manure collection systems that will enable the farm to minimise egg breakage and maximise egg production.

### **c) Green Harvest Pte Ltd**

Green Harvest will be building a self-regulating microclimate greenhouse to optimise growth conditions and an automated mobile gully system that leverages technology and automation. The project will be customised to maximise space usage and incorporates a chain process from transplanting to harvesting.

### **d) I.F.F.I Pte Ltd**

I.F.F.I will set up a mega high-tech indoor vegetable farm with a vertical integration growth system of up to 8 meters in height that employs both soil-based and hydroponics cultivation methods in a fully controlled and pesticide-free environment. The farm will leverage AI farming systems integrated with IoT monitoring, dosing irrigation and an advanced environmental control system to achieve optimum growing conditions all year round. It will also employ an innovative ActivH2O water treatment system that reduces bacteria count, improves its yield rate, and extends the shelf life of its produce.

### **e) LivFresh Pte Ltd**

LivFresh will deploy productive farming systems such as a modified Mobile Moving Gully (MGS) growing system that has been adapted for high density cultivation of leafy greens,

and enables automated crop spacing and retrieval. The vegetable farm will utilise a high-tech, sensor-driven growing house designed for creating an optimal environment for crops .

**f) Genesis One Tech Farm Pte Ltd**

The new indoor leafy green farm will incorporate racking systems of around 6.5 metres in height. The farm will also adopt a hybrid Nutrient Film Technique (NFT) system that uses only a fraction of the water generally associated with hydroponic systems and can accommodate both substrate and NFT planting methods. This will be coupled with a highly energy-efficient 5G lighting system and a “Smart-Agro” network-enabled independent control system which allows efficient monitoring and control of key environmental parameters. Overall, this will enable optimal growth of leafy greens all year round in a climate-resilient, safe and pesticide-free environment.

**g) VertiVegies Pte Ltd**

VertiVegies will construct an indoor vertical farming facility with a fully controlled environment using the latest advances in hydroponics and LED lighting. The modular farm will be optimised for the production of Asian leafy vegetables, and will be producing healthy greens all year round without any dependence on external climate conditions.