

Technology is a key strategy to transform our agri-food industry (Lianhe Zaobao, 16 June 2023)

We refer to 孙惠琴 (Sun Hui Qin)'s letter titled “通过技术提升本地蔬菜质量”, 8 June.

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) agrees with Ms Sun that technology is essential to improve and transform our agriculture industry. As a country with limited resources, the agri-food industry needs to significantly uplift its productivity through innovation and technology for us to move towards our “30 by 30” goal.

As such, SFA has been investing in driving research innovation and plugging technology gaps. Under the Singapore Food Story R&D Programme, over \$300 million has been made available to fund innovative research projects that address various challenges of our agrifood industry. To date, we have awarded close to \$140 million to more than 50 projects, with several focusing on improving quantity and quality of a variety of vegetables. For example, we had awarded 2 projects led by NUS and Republic Polytechnic focusing on improving the shelf-life and nutritional quality of commonly consumed local vegetables such as kailan, bok choy and choy sum. In addition, we had funded another project led by NTU on gene expression analysis that aims to improve the yield, cultivating efficiency and nutrient quality of hydroponically-grown crops. Various local farms are also participating in these projects. We can look forward to seeing the innovative solutions contribute to increasing the productivity of our local food producers.

SFA also encourages our farms to adopt technology and build up their capabilities through various funding initiatives, such as the Agri-Food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund. We have committed \$60 million to the ACT Fund to support farms in adopting technology and advanced farming systems to increase their productivity. For example, indoor vegetable farm GKE Agritech has used our ACT fund to install solar panels on the rooftop of their farm, which helps them increase their production capacity and better weather energy price fluctuations. In 2022, SFA also further enhanced the ACT Fund to provide a higher co-funding quantum of 70% to a wider variety of food types including fruited vegetables, mushrooms, and shrimp.

Local production is a key prong of our food security strategy as it helps to mitigate the impact of supply disruptions and reduce Singapore's reliance on imports. SFA will continue to transform the agri-food sector as we work towards our '30 by 30' goal. We encourage consumers to also do their part by supporting local produce, as sustained demand for local produce will help to spur our farms to embrace technology and become more productive to meet the increased demand. Consumers can support locally farmed produce by looking out for the red SG Fresh Produce logo displayed on the packaging of produce or next to them when shopping for groceries.

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Singapore Food Agency 新加坡食品局

科技是我国农业食品业转型关键战略

谨答复《联合早报·交流站》于6月8日刊登的孙惠琴读者投函《通过技术提升本地蔬菜质量》：

新加坡食品局同意孙女士的看法，即科技对于改善和改造我国的农业至关重要。作为一个资源有限的国家，农业食品业须通过创新和科技大幅提高生产力，以实现“30·30”愿景。

因此，食品局一直在推动研究创新和弥补技术差距方面进行投资。根据新加坡食品故事科研计划（Singapore Food Story R&D Programme），已有3亿多元用于资助创新研究项目，以应对我国农业食品业所面对的各种挑战。

迄今为止，我们已为50多个项目提供近1.4亿元的资助，其中一些项目侧重于提高各种蔬菜的数量和质量。例如，由新加坡国立大学和共和理工学院主导，旨在改善芥

蓝、小白菜和菜心等本地常见蔬菜的保质期和营养质量的两个项目，就得到我们的资助。

此外，我们也资助了另一项由南洋理工大学主导，旨在提高水培作物的产量、栽培效率和营养质量的基因表达分析（gene expression analysis）项目。本地的一些农场也参与了这些项目。我们有望看到创新的解决方案，帮助本地食品生产商提高生产力。

食品局也通过各种资助计划，如农业食品业转型基金（Agri-Food Cluster Transformation Fund，简称ACT），鼓励本地农场采用科技，提高生产能力。我们已为ACT拨款6000万元，协助农场采用科技和先进农业系统提高生产力。例如，室内蔬菜农场GKE农业科技公司就利用ACT，在农场的屋顶安装太阳能电池板，这有助于他们提高产能，并

更好地应对能源价格的波动。2022年，食品局也把ACT的资助范围扩大至果实类蔬菜、菇类和虾类等食品，同时把资助顶限增至70%。

本地生产是我国粮食安全战略的关键一环，因为它有助于减轻供应中断的影响，减少新加坡对进口的依赖。食品局将继续推动农业食品业的转型，努力实现“30·30”愿景。我们也鼓励消费者尽量支持本地农产品，因为对本地农产品的持续需求，将有助于激励农场采用科技并提高生产力，以满足日益增长的需求。消费者在购买食品时，可以留意印在农产品包装上或农产品旁边显示的“SG新鲜农产品”（SG Fresh Produce）红色标志，来支持本地农产品。

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