MEDIA RELEASE

SFA LAUNCHES $60 MILLION AGRI-FOOD CLUSTER TRANSFORMATION FUND TO SUPPORT TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH OF LOCAL AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has launched a $60 million Agri-Food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund to support the transformation of the agri-food sector into one that is highly productive, climate resilient and resource efficient.

2 First announced during the Committee of Supply debate last month, the ACT Fund replaces the Agriculture Productivity Fund (APF) and comprises three co-funding components for local food-producing companies to build and expand their production capacities and capabilities: (a) Technology Upscaling; (b) Innovation and Test-bedding; and (c) Capability Upgrading (*refer to Annex A for details)*.

3 The ACT Fund was designed following a holistic review of the needs of the agri-food sector, and builds on the design of the APF with the following improvements to better support local food-producing farms to achieve the ”30 by 30” goal[1]: These improvements include a higher co-funding quantum for the adoption of technology and advanced farming systems along the farm to fork value chain, as well as an expanded co-funding scope to raise farm’s environmental sustainability in farming methods and practices. Farms that are setting up new farm sites or retrofitting indoor spaces within ready industrial spaces can also tap on the ACT Fund for a one-off support to defray their initial building, construction and retrofitting costs.

4 The funding scope and quantum of the respective components under the ACT Fund can be found in *Annex A*. Applications will be assessed on different sets of criteria under each component. The evaluation criteria are outlined in *Annex B*.

Eligibility and application

5 One of the eligibility criteria is that applicants must be a valid farm licensee of a Singapore-based farm issued by SFA. For new farms, applicants must have obtained SFA’s approval for the proposed farming activity at the farm site and secured a farm site for implementation of the proposed farming system.

[1] Singapore has set a “30 by 30” goal to produce 30% of our nutritional needs locally by 2030.

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6. The ACT Fund is open for application from 30 Apr 2021 to 31 Dec 2025. More details on the fund, full eligibility criteria and application guidelines for the respective funding components can be found at https://www.sfa.gov.sg/explore-by-sections/farms/funding-schemes/act-fund.

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Annex A – Funding Component, Scope and Quantum

Funding Component and Scope	Funding Quantum
<u>Technology Upscaling</u> This component will provide co-funding support for the purchase of large commercial-scale, automated, and advanced farming technology solutions that will be integrated with agri-input production, post-harvest and waste treatment technology to achieve higher levels of productivity[2] in a resource-efficient manner with minimal pollution and waste. Farms that are setting up new farm sites or retrofitting indoor spaces within ready industrial spaces for farming can also tap on the fund for a one-off support to defray infrastructure and building costs that will be incurred to install the farming technology and system funded under this scheme.	Projects in primary production of leafy vegetables, food fish and hen eggs: • Co-funding at **70%** up to **$4.5mil** for farming technology • Additional one-off co-funding at up to **$1.5mil** for farms setting up new farm sites or retrofitting indoor spaces within ready industrial spaces to defray infrastructure and building costs that will be incurred to install the farming system funded under the same component Projects in primary production of other food types: • Co-funding at **50%** up to **$525,000** for farming technology • Additional one-off co-funding at up to **$175,000** for farms setting up new farm sites or retrofitting indoor spaces within ready industrial spaces to defray infrastructure and building costs that will be incurred to install the farming system funded under the same component.

[2] For example, best-in-class productivity levels for leafy vegetable are 1,500 Tonnes/Ha/Year (for vertical farming method) and 400 Tonnes/Ha/Year for other farming methods. For food fish and hen egg, the best-in-class productivity levels are 500 Tonnes/Ha/Year and 14mil pcs/Ha/Year respectively.

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<u>Innovation and Test-bedding</u> This component provides co-funding support for farms to prototype or develop innovative farming technology, with an implementation window of up to two years. This component will also provide co-funding support for farms to pilot or adapt farming technology / system that may have worked in other countries but have yet to be proven in Singapore's context, environmental or weather conditions, to increase farm productivity in a resource-efficient manner with minimal pollution and waste.	Projects in primary production of leafy vegetables, food fish and hen eggs: • Co-funding at **70%** up to **$1mil** for 'Innovation' Projects • Co-funding at **70%** up to **$700,000** for 'Test-bedding' Projects Projects in primary production of other food types: • Co-funding at **50%** up to **$500,000** for 'Innovation' Projects • Co-funding at **50%** up to **$300,000** for 'Test-bedding' Projects
<u>Capability Upgrading</u> This component will provide co-funding support for farms to procure equipment and systems from SFA's pre-qualified list, and conduct small-scale pilot trials to raise productivity and resource-efficiency, and reduce pollution and waste. It also covers farms' expenses related to the Clean & Green (C&G) Standard[3] that SFA launched this year, such as the purchase of equipment and certification-related fees.	Projects in primary production of all food types: • Co-funding at **50%** up to **$50,000**

[3] The Clean & Green Standard for urban farms serves to recognise local farms that have adopted resource-efficient farming practices and ensured clean farming environment. It also serves as a mark of assurance to our consumers that the produce from these farms are not only free from synthetic pesticides, but also grown in a sustainable way.

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Annex B - Evaluation Criteria for funding components under ACT Fund

Funding Component	Evaluation Criteria
Technology Upscaling Component	• Comprehensiveness and farming capacity of proposed farming system • Impact on productivity level and job type creation • Project feasibility and economic viability • Innovation, technical capability and capacity to execute project
Innovation and Test-bedding Component	<u>Projects on Innovation</u> • Project approach and feasibility • Project relevance, technical capability and capacity to execute project • Impact on productivity/sustainability/circularity • Commercialisation potential and ease of implementation <u>Projects on test-bedding</u> • Project feasibility and economic viability • Impact on level of farming capacity and productivity • Scalability and ease of implementation • Technical capability and capacity to execute project
Capability Upgrading Component	• Impact on level of farming capacity and productivity, manpower savings, other types of resource savings • Improvement in sustainability, circularity of resource use, and farming practices/ standards resulting in certification

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