

Objective

Since 1994, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Vegetable Marketing Organization (VMO) have jointly run the Accredited Farm Scheme, which allows local farmers to participate on a voluntary basis. Subsequently, the Scheme was further extended to cover vegetable farms in Guangdong and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, which are operated by Hong Kong farmers and supply produces to Hong Kong. The Scheme aims at promoting the adoption of good agricultural practices and environment-friendly production methods. Integrated pest management and proper use of pesticides are emphasized with a view to ensuring production of quality vegetables that are safe for consumption. The Scheme thus safeguards the public health and benefits the farming community.



Why do farmers join the Scheme Marketing facilitation

Accredited vegetables should be wholesaled through the VMO. They are easily identified with special sales memos (basket card). This arrangement facilitates and promotes the marketing of the produces.



Publicity

To increase public awareness of the accredited produces, a Good Farmer image has been used since 1998 to publicize accredited vegetables. Publicity is also made at the accredited retailers for easy identification by the public. In addition, territory-wide promotion events and educational activities are held regularly to promote and stimulate market demand for accredited vegetables.



Technical support

AFCD staff or its authorized body will make regular visits to the accredited farms, introduce new farming technology and give technical advice and assistance to the accredited farmers.



Requirement for joining the scheme

The accredited farmers have to follow the guidelines in the Accredited Farmer's Handbook and other regulations of the Scheme, allow officers of the Department and its authorized body to inspect their farms, and take samples of vegetables, soil, irrigation water and pesticides for relevant laboratory analysis.



Accredited vegetables should be wholesaled through VMO. VMO will randomly take samples of vegetables for pesticide residue analysis before they are sold at accredited retailers recognized by VMO.

When production does not meet the required standards, accredited farmers should adhere to the Department's instruction and stop marketing their vegetables through VMO. The Department will suspend or cancel the accredited status of the farmers who do not observe the above requirement.

Application



Application for joining the Accredited Farm Scheme can be made to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The Department will assess the farm management, horticultural practice, use of pesticides and test results of farm samples before granting accreditation.

Accredited Farm Scheme



Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

For enquiries on accreditation for local/ Mainland Accredited Farm, please contact the following office :

Crop Farm Development Section

Tai Lung Experimental Station,
Lin Tong Mei, Fan Kam Road,
Sheung Shui, N.T.
Tel: 2668 0197

AFCD Website

<http://www.afcd.gov.hk/>



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