



CELEBRATING  
AVA'S EXCELLENCE  
THROUGH THE YEARS

THE BEGINNINGS

# 1959



The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority's (AVA) beginnings pre-date an independent Singapore.

The Primary Production Department (PPD) was formed on 25th June 1959, with the merger of 5 Divisions of Singapore's colonial administration – Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operative, Fisheries and Rural – for a coordinated approach to regulating and developing Singapore's farming and fishing industry.

1960s - 1970s

# Agriculture



During the 60s, farming and fishing were a popular means of employment for the population. Back then, there were about 20,000 farms occupying some 14,000 ha of land.

1960s - 1970s

## AGRICULTURE



Most farmers and fishermen were poorly educated and used traditional farming methods. As such, PPD provided extension services and various schemes to assist the farming industry.

Farm licensing, introduced in 1968, provided essential information for the government to formulate policies and plans to further develop intensive farming and ensure optimal use of limited land resources.



1960s - 1970s

## AGRICULTURE



In the 70s, larger commercial farms using intensive methods of production increasingly replaced subsistence farming. Farmers were also relocated from water catchment areas to make way for development projects.

Rapid development brought about more employment opportunities and farmland was directed for other uses. Under the Resettlement Policy, farmers were compensated with cash or HDB flats. Farmers that were more productive were also given the option of relocation. PPD helped the remaining farmers embark on intensive and productive farming methods.



1960s - 1970s

# AGRICULTURE



Piney Production Department Collector, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

An intensive pig farming estate was developed in Punggol after relocation. Pig farms' capacities multiplied from 100-200 to 1000 pigs to a single worker.



Piney Production Department Collector, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Between 1969 and 1979, farmland shrunk by 40%, and the farm population dropped from 175,500 to 109,600 persons. However, the value of agricultural production more than doubled from \$249 million to \$561 million.



Piney Production Department Collector, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

1960s - 1970s

# Animal Health



The animal infirmary in Kampong Java Road was expanded in 1967. It was developed into an animal hospital and veterinary service complex.

The facility provided research and diagnostic services for local pig and poultry farms, as well as veterinary care for pets.

1960s - 1970s

## ANIMAL HEALTH



The Jurong Animal Quarantine Station was constructed in 1968. It was located near the Jurong Wharf and Jurong Abattoir to receive livestock arriving in Singapore by sea.

All imported cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, dogs and cats had to be quarantined there. This allowed for more effective control of spread of disease from imported animals.



1960s - 1970s

# Plant Health



Plant protection services in Singapore provided by PPD dated back to 1961. Plant protection and inspection services were provided to farmers, traders and the general public. Services included sale of recommended pesticides, spraying demonstrations and fumigation services.

1960s - 1970s

## PLANT HEALTH



Research activities in Plant Health Diagnostics commenced only in 1969 when facilities and technical assistance were made available under the Colombo Plan (N.Z) Technical Assistance Scheme. We were initially known as the Plant Pest and Disease Unit with a function to carry out research in the control of major pests attacking local horticulture.



1980s - 1990s

**The Birth of**

# **Agrotechnology Parks**

The 1980s saw a further reduction in agricultural land due to urbanisation. To maintain a degree of self-sufficiency and to maximise land productivity, PPD consolidated farming in Agrotechnology Parks.



1980s - 1990s

# AGROTECHNOLOGY



The Agrotechnology Parks, totalling some 1,500 hectares, was phased in progressively. Mechanised and automated farm systems were promoted, boosting productivity in a tightening labour market.

1980s - 1990s



Singapore's growth as a multi-modal hub of trade brought about challenges and opportunities that arose from an increasingly globalised food supply. As PPD grew in its role to facilitate trade, so did measures for the management and inspection of imported food.

The diversification of food sources was promoted, to buttress Singapore's food supply. The world became our marketplace.

With increasing food import, Singapore's integrated food safety programme was strengthened. It involved accreditation of overseas sources of food, and the stepping-up of food safety inspections.

1980s - 1990s



PPD also started education campaigns on alternative food modes. In 1985, a 5-week national 'Eat Frozen Pork' Campaign was launched to create consumer awareness on frozen pork.

Technical seminars were conducted to give traders and consumers a better understanding of the production, handling, quality and nutritional value of frozen pork.



Concurrently, PPD put surveillance and control programmes in place to keep exotic animal and plant diseases at bay. Animal and plant health measures were also enhanced. Our multi-disciplined plant health diagnostic services also began in the early 1990s at the Sembawang Research Station.

Through strict quarantine measures and up-to-date diagnostic technologies, Singapore remained free from major outbreaks of food-borne diseases caused by imported produce. Singapore's animal and plant health certifications were also widely accepted internationally.



1980s - 1990s



Meanwhile, PPD supported the thriving ornamental plant and fish sectors. Singapore became a leading exporter of orchids and various fish species worldwide. In 1986, Singapore became a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

All in all, Singaporeans enjoyed an ample supply of safe food at affordable prices, and a standard of food safety and plant and animal health on par with developed countries.



2000 AND BEYOND

# The Birth of the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA)

To address the increasingly challenging task of maintaining Singapore's high standards of food safety, animal, plant and public health, PPD was restructured into a statutory board, the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) on 1st April 2000. AVA had a more autonomous framework that allowed it to be more responsive and flexible to meet future challenges.



## 2000 AND BEYOND



In 2002, AVA welcomed a new member into its family – the Food Control Division (formerly part of the Ministry of the Environment), with this addition, AVA now regulates the safety of both fresh produce and processed food from production right up to just before retail.



## AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY (AVA) // REACHING GREATER HEIGHTS



### **Singapore's Excellence in Food Safety and Animal Health Gains Recognition:**

In 2014, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) endorses AVA's Veterinary Public Health Centre (VPHC) as Southeast Asia's first collaborating centre for food safety.



### **International Advisory Committee of Experts (IACE)'s 6th review (2014):**

AVA remains a trusted and well-respected organisation in Singapore and internationally with world-class level food safety and bio-security standards in animal and plant health.

## AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY (AVA) // REACHING GREATER HEIGHTS



**Singapore's Plant Health System receives endorsement from the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (2013)**



**SINGAPORE'S GFSI RANKINGS**  
[Out of 109 Countries]

**Singapore Ranked 2nd in the Global Food Security Index (2015):**

Ranked 2nd just after the United States of America, Singapore scored well for affordability, quality and safety (diet diversification and protein quality).

## AGRI-FOOD & VETERINARY AUTHORITY (AVA) // OUR JOURNEY AHEAD



AVA continues to strive for excellence in the areas of food security, food safety, animal health, plant health, animal welfare and management, and trade facilitation.

**Feeding Singapore through our food security strategies**

**Keeping Singapore free from major animal & plant diseases**

**Safeguarding animal welfare and managing animal issues**

**Facilitating agri-trade & let the world be our marketplace**

**Nurturing & inspiring our staff to be the best that we can be!**