

Summary of Lim Chu Kang Master Plan Stakeholder Engagement Phase 2 Discussions

A) Industry and the Ecosystem

To develop Lim Chu Kang into a global centre of excellence for agri-tech and urban farming, participants proposed the development of shared facilities and smart infrastructure. The introduction of such premises could encourage collaboration, enhance productivity and logistics, as well as reap economies of scale.

Participants also recommended greater synergies between the future Lim Chu Kang and neighbouring precincts like the Jurong Innovation District, Sungei Kadut and Tengah Town, such that a whole agri-food ecosystem could be developed. They reiterated the importance of community involvement, as Lim Chu Kang could be a place that connects community farmers and home growers to the wider agri-food ecosystem. Ultimately, participants shared consensus that Lim Chu Kang should be a place to build symbiotic relationships between different industry players and the wider community, which would give rise to more knowledge sharing and collaborations to further strengthen our food security.

B) Climate Resilience and Sustainability

Participants stressed that climate and the environment should not be an afterthought — farming and the environment should not be seen as separate and conflicting but complementary. For example, the Lim Chu Kang area is surrounded by mangroves, a nature reserve and has rich biodiversity, which should be taken into consideration to master plan Lim Chu Kang into a sustainable agri-food hub.

Participants concluded that creating an ecosystem which adopts circular economy principles that minimises waste would be critical for the future Lim Chu Kang. The aim would be to achieve an end-to-end zero waste model, such as through the use of renewable energy sources and reusing industrial waste. Participants emphasised the importance of collaboration between producers of raw materials, farms, manufacturers, restaurants and consumers, in developing Lim Chu Kang into a sustainable hub for circular activities.

C) R&D, Education and Training

Participants agreed that Lim Chu Kang has the building blocks necessary for it to become an R&D hub for tropical agriculture. This hub could build on our in-depth knowledge of agriculture in the tropics and encourage R&D in agri-tech that would support Singapore's agri-production. For example, Lim Chu Kang could be a source of data collection on tropical agriculture and a space for farms and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) to conduct trials or discussions on farming technologies, and the findings could be shared with current and future players and communities. Participants proposed that IHLs set up research facilities within Lim Chu Kang, with collaborations and partnerships with worldwide institutions such as Wageningen University from the Netherlands. This would add an international presence and global exchange of ideas to build Lim Chu Kang into an agri-food education hub.

Participants planned for Lim Chu Kang to be an attractive agri-food hub with opportunities to attract a healthy pipeline of youths to join the farming industry. It would also be an agri-food hub with networks of shared knowledge between those with farming experience and others more familiar with advanced agri-tech. This cross-pollination will enrich Lim Chu Kang and our knowledge of urban agriculture.

D) Attractiveness, Vibrancy and Accessibility

Participants recommended that Lim Chu Kang be developed into an attractive and vibrant destination to enable work, learn and play, with some parts retained as a restorative and rustic oasis.

Participants reiterated that the accessibility of Lim Chu Kang must be enhanced, such as improved vehicular, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and public transport services to facilitate the movement of workers in the area and logistics for distribution.

To educate the public on local farming, a food museum could be established. It could showcase our rich agri-food history and curate activities and workshops for the public to experience and better appreciate and connect with farms and understand what goes into growing local produce. In tandem, commercial facilities for public to shop, buy, and eat quality fresh produce were suggested for incorporation into the overall Lim Chu Kang Master Plan.

E) Branding of Lim Chu Kang and placing Singapore on the World Map

Participants agreed that to brand Lim Chu Kang and local produce, more public education could be done to enable better appreciation of Lim Chu Kang farmers and their produce.

Participants also suggested the development of niche and innovative offerings, such as seeds that are unique to Singapore or produce that is exceptionally high-value could also differentiate Singapore produce from others.

Participants also agreed that some form of certification would be useful to showcase the quality and nutritional value of our local produce. This could also be used to brand our local produce to provide a much needed edge domestically and when exporting.