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## 11 days of vegetables in reserve

HONGKONG's local vegetable and poultry supply would hold out for an estimated 11 days, and pork stocks for 25 days in the event of an emergency over food imports, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Mr Yip Shui-ming, said yesterday.

Mr Yip was commenting after attending a meeting of the livestock subcommittee of the Advisory Committee of Agriculture and Fisheries which discussed food supplies and agriculture production in Hongkong.

According to an information paper by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, the daily fresh food consumption by Hongkong's population of six million was 1,080 tonnes of vegetables, 320 tonnes of poultry and 9,800 head of pigs.

Last year 629,110 head (17.6 per cent) of pigs, 28,290 tonnes (38.7 per cent) of live poultry and 132,000 tonnes (29.2 per cent) of fresh vegetables were locally produced.

The territory imports 2,944,680 (82.3 per cent) and 3,370 (0.1 per cent) head of live pigs from China and Taiwan respectively, 44,780 tonnes (61.3 per cent) chicken and 196,040 tonnes (43.4 per cent) vegetables from China.

Agriculture and Fisheries Advisory Committee member, Dr Stan Cheung, said the committee decided to urge the Government to formulate a policy to encourage farming and agriculture in the territory so that Hongkong would be more self-reliant.