

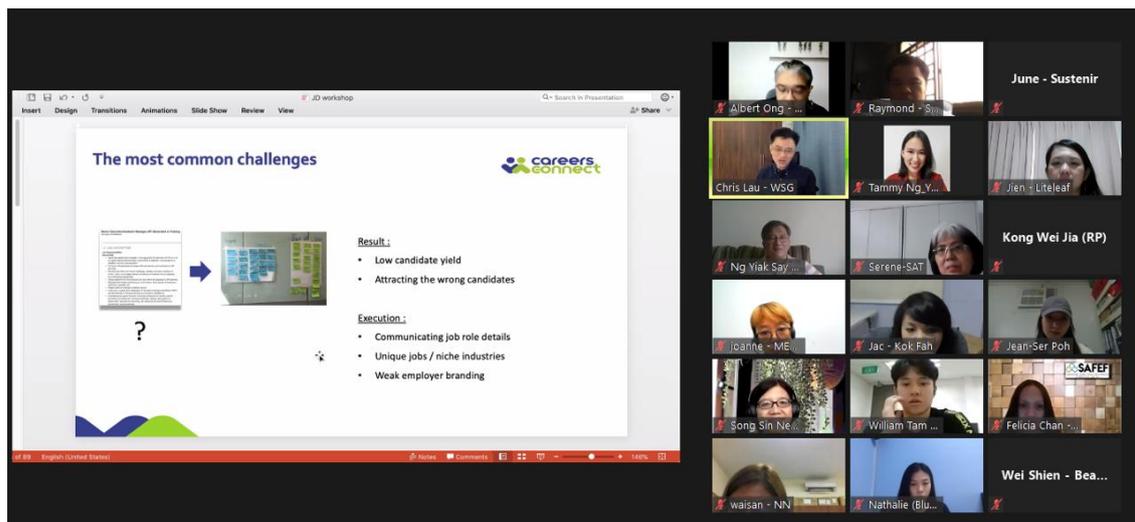
Dear SAFEF Member

We trust you are all keeping well during these unsettling times. We have all adapted to the new normal, kept our safe distances and steered away from physical events. But we have been keeping busy behind the scenes, and this last e-Newsletter of 2020 brings you news of what we have been doing in the last couple of months.

1. JOB DESCRIPTION WRITING WORKSHOP (21 October 2020)

Many of you have told us that you have found it difficult to attract the right workers for your farm operations, even as you try to ramp up your productivity. Yet, we have been told that the job seekers' market is plentiful, especially since many have lost their jobs because of the pandemic. So what's the missing link?

To help the industry attract the right talent, Workforce Singapore (WSG) and Singapore Food Agency (SFA) jointly organised a workshop on "Writing Effective Job Description to Attract the Right Talent", which SAFEF was more than happy to support.



Conducted virtually on 21 October 2020, this workshop provided the 22 participants from 18 companies with tips on how to write effective job descriptions and how to market the job and industry to attract the right talent.

2. SAFEF's MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (02 November 2020)

In the previous edition of SAFEF's e-Newsletter, we announced the names of SAFEF's new Management Committee for October 2020 – September 2022. 1 month after the elections on 02 October 2020, the new Management Committee held its first meeting.

In this edition, we are pleased to put faces to the names of our Management Committee members:

President



Mr Chew Chee Bin
SAFEF Director &
Former Executive Chairman
Chew's Group Limited

Vice-Presidents



Mr Dave Huang
SAFEF Director &
Business Development Director
Kok Fah Technology Farm Pte Ltd



Mr Frank Tan
SAFEF Director &
Director
Food Platform Holdings Pte Ltd

Members - Food Fish Sector



Mr Lucky Phua
Senior Director
Apollo Aquaculture Group Pte Ltd



Ms Stella Chia
Director
Nippon Koi Farm Pte Ltd



Mr Sam Choo
Business Development Manager
Rong'Yao Fisheries Pte Ltd

Members - Livestock Sector



Mr Edwin Lim
Director
Chew's Agriculture Pte Ltd



Mr Ma Chin Chew
Director
N&N Agriculture Pte Ltd



Mr Koh Yeow Koon
Managing Director
Seng Choon Farm Pte Ltd

Members - Vegetable Sector



Mr Peter Barber
CEO
ComCrop Pte Ltd



Mr Jack Moy
General Manager
Sustenir Agriculture (Singapore) Pte Ltd



Mr Alan Toh
Director
Yill Vegetation & Trading Pte Ltd

We thank them for volunteering their time and expertise to guide SAFEF's activities for the next two years.

3. BLACK SOLDIER FLY WEBINAR (09 December 2020)



Black Soldier Fly (BSF) has been widely recognised as an alternative source of protein and nutrients for food fish and livestock. BSF larvae has been known to process food waste streams/food by-products into nutritious feed, meal and oil. In the process, BSF larvae also produce frass (excreta from the larvae) which can be used as soil amendment. Such applications of BSF ensure that resources return to the food supply chain, strengthening the resilience and sustainability of the food system.

The National Environment Agency (NEA) and Singapore Food Agency (SFA) organised a **Black Soldier Fly Webinar** with the support of Singapore Agro-Food Enterprises Federation (SAFEF), to enable participants to learn more about the BSF technology

and its end products and how this can potentially benefit your operations.

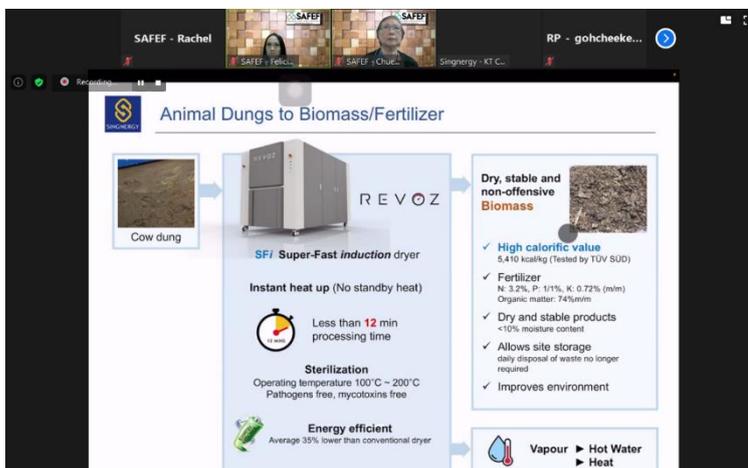
The webinar which was on 09 December 2020 was attended by more than 25 of SAFEF's Business Members.

4. TECHNOLOGY MATCHING WEBINAR (18 December 2020)

Following feedback from our members that they would like to have more opportunities to be connected to solution providers that could potentially benefit your farms' operations, SAFEF organised its first Technology Matching Webinar.

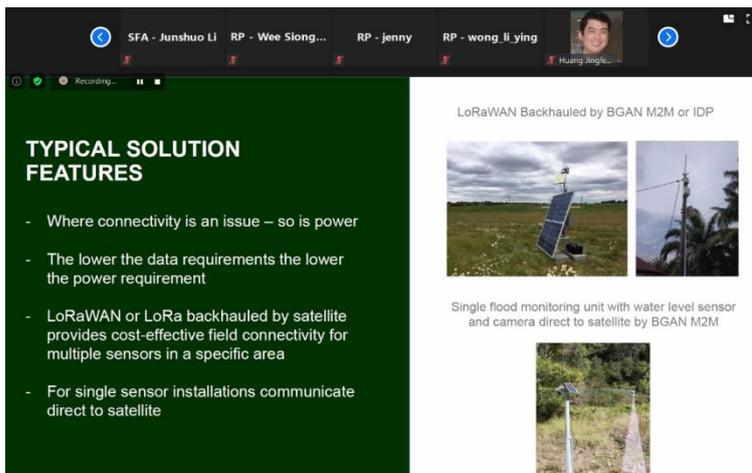
Three of SAFEF's Associate Members had the opportunity to present their technology solutions and equipment to more than 25 participants who attended the webinar.

4(a) Singnergy Corporation Pte Ltd



Singnergy focused on how wet organic waste such as fish waste, animal dung, food waste, sludge, etc, can be feed, fertilizer and biomass.

4(b) Galaxy 1 Asia Pte Ltd



Galaxy 1 showed the participants how sensor devices in their agriculture / aquaculture farms can be connected to the LORAWAN sensors to enable data to be captured and sent via satellite connectivity.

4(c) Republic Polytechnic



Republic Polytechnic’s presentation showcased their research capabilities, addressing Plant Quality – for nutrients, taste and freshness; Farm Productivity – automation and machine learning; and SMART Farming – Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Each presentation was followed by a Q&A session where participants could engage the presenter to find out more about their solutions.

A poll at the end of the event drew a 60% response rate from the 25 participants who attended the Webinar and more than 90% of the respondents rated the Webinar “Good” and “Excellent”.

We look forward to bringing more of such events to you in the future.

5. CITIZENS' WORK GROUP



As announced in our last e-Newsletter, the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE), through SFA, organised several Citizens' Workgroup sessions to brainstorm ideas on how to raise the demand for local produce. SAFEF and 3 of its trade members were invited to be subject experts at these Citizens' Work Groups.

The Work Groups brainstormed over 6 sessions and their suggestions and recommendations have been submitted to SFA. MSE and SFA once again reached out to SAFEF to ascertain the industry's views on these ideas before the next steps are determined. We look forward to working with MSE and SFA on these initiatives.

6. VIRTUAL SG FARMERS' MARKET



While a physical SG Farmers' Market is not practical when safe distancing needs to be observed, SAFEF has been planning for a Virtual SG Farmers' Market to carry on giving consumers the opportunity to interact with our local farmers, learn more about their produce and purchase these produce direct from the farmers.

SAFEF has confirmed 2 pre-Chinese New Year editions of the Virtual SG Farmers' Market, with 7 farms participating on 30 January 2021 and 6 farms on 6 February 2021.

Each event will be live-streamed from the respective farms at 30-minute intervals. During these live-stream sessions, the farms will have the opportunity to take the viewers on a short virtual tour of the farm before they promote and sell their produce during a Show and Sell session.

7. UPDATE FROM SFA

Fee Review by BCA and SCDF

BCA and SCDF have both reviewed and relaxed the plan fees for agricultural and industrial buildings.

For BCA, the plan fees for agricultural and industrial buildings ("Type 1 buildings") have been reduced. The revised fees are reflected in the amended Second Schedule of the Building Control Regulations 2003. This revision came into effect on 31 August 2020. The changes meant a reduction of BCA plan fees for companies setting up a farm today. You may refer to BCA circular (available at: <https://go.gov.sg/bca-circular-plan-fee-industrial-agri>) for more details.

For SCDF, the plan fees have been reduced for simple buildings and most farms will benefit from this review. The change means a SCDF fee reduction of about 40% and this revision came into effect on 14 September 2020. The revised fees are summarised in SCDF's circular dated 1 December 2020 which can be accessed at:

[https://www.scdf.gov.sg/docs/default-source/scdf-library/fssd-downloads/circulars/circular--revision-of-minor-additions-and-alterations-\(maa\)-lodgement-scheme-and-building-plan-fee.pdf](https://www.scdf.gov.sg/docs/default-source/scdf-library/fssd-downloads/circulars/circular--revision-of-minor-additions-and-alterations-(maa)-lodgement-scheme-and-building-plan-fee.pdf).

Other than plan fees, SCDF has also completed the review of the fire safety requirements for farm buildings. The set of fire safety requirements for farm buildings are reflected in the SCDF Circular "Amendments to Fire Code 2018 – 7th Batch of Amendments" issued on 1 Dec 2020. You may access this link for more information - <https://corenet.gov.sg/media/2330632/circular-amendments-to-fire-code-2018-7th-batch-of-amendments.pdf>. The requirements to be relaxed include Occupant Load factor, Width of Corridor, Travel distance, Fire engine accessway, Compartmentation size, Sprinkler system, Smoke Control System etc., most of which are related to common feedback provided by farms.

We are very happy that SAFEF's efforts to bring some of the pain points that our members face have been taken seriously by the authorities and that these issues are gradually being addressed to the benefit of our industry players.

2020 has been an unusual year for everyone, not just in Singapore, but right around the globe. Here's wishing all of you and your loved ones a better 2021.



Meanwhile, take care, stay safe and healthy!

SAFEF Secretariat