

MTI COS 2020: Agri-tech Regulatory Sandbox

[农业科技监管沙盒]

1. MTI, ESG, SFA, JTC, and several other regulatory agencies have been working to establish a regulatory sandbox ¹ for the agri-tech sector. Engagement with stakeholders is ongoing. The regulatory sandbox is targeted to be implemented in 2021 along with Phase 1 of AFIP at Sungei Kadut.
2. The objectives are to:
 - a. Streamline regulations to bring down compliance costs and set clear regulatory guidelines from the outset, to increase business viability for the sector and encourage new ideas to take off quickly.
 - b. Explore if the regulatory review areas can be tested within the Agri-Food Innovation Park (AFIP) farm developments, so that we can study how the changes can be subsequently adopted beyond AFIP to benefit the industry.
3. The regulatory sandbox will allow Government agencies to quickly review regulations for agri-tech companies and farms, to support industry growth, innovative business models, and farming technology. For example, there is room to explore tweaking existing rules that may not be applicable to buildings that are built with newer technologies and/or concepts while still safeguarding public safety and interest. Agencies like SCDF and BCA are working on the possibility of doing so, and this can benefit Agri-Tech farms as well.
4. This regulatory sandbox is crucial in the fast-growing, high-tech agri-tech sector where we are seeing greater adoption of technology, more innovative ways of 'farming', and a more diversified ecosystem of farms and companies.
5. As the economy evolves with an increasing emergence of new business models that cut across multiple domains that may not come under existing regulatory frameworks, start-ups and other types of businesses with new ideas will need more support navigating the regulatory ecosystem in their entrepreneurial

¹ Regulatory sandboxes can be used to develop, review or test regulations where existing rules are not available or may not fit the sector. Agencies may suspend existing regulations or experiment with new regulations within a set of mutually agreed parameters by agencies and businesses involved. Regulatory sandboxes allow regulators and businesses to experiment with innovative business ideas in a safe and controlled environment that fosters innovation and regulators can work collaboratively with industry partners to develop appropriate rules and regulations.

journey. To remain a competitive economy, Singapore's regulatory environment must continue to support innovative businesses, and the agri-tech regulatory sandbox is one effort to do so.

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