



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

UPDATE ON THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

This document provides a brief update on the activities and projects of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) since the last update to the meeting of the SPS Committee in October 2018 (G/SPS/GEN/1653). Delegates who would like to know more about the STDF are encouraged to visit the STDF website to view the projects and download STDF briefing notes and publications.² Delegates are also encouraged to subscribe to the STDF mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>).

1 STDF INFORMATION SESSION – 20 MARCH 2019, WTO

1.1. Animal diseases can have a major impact on trade and food security. From 2012 to 2015, an STDF project, implemented by FAO, supported the Government of Cameroon in the development of strategies to combat and control four animal diseases which affect livestock production in the country. An information session entitled "Strengthening the control of transboundary animal diseases in Cameroon"³ has been organized to present the results and lessons learnt from this project on 20 March 2019. The session will be held in Room D at the WTO from 14.30 - 15.30 hrs. More information, including a programme is available on the STDF website.

2 FACILITATING SAFE TRADE

2.1. The Secretariat continues to identify, analyse and foster dialogue on experiences, lessons and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that facilitates safe trade, while minimizing transaction costs. The Border Agency Cooperation (BAC) workshop held from 14-16 November 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa, initiated by the STDF, was a joint initiative of Codex, FAO, IPPC, OIE, STDF, the UN Office of the High-Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), WCO, WBG and WTO (Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility and SPS Units).

2.2. Over 80 participants participated from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), Customs Authorities, National Food Safety Authorities, Ministries of Trade, National Trade Facilitation Committees, and Transit Authorities. The workshop helped to improve understanding of SPS and customs processes at the national and regional levels and raised awareness on the linkages between the TFA and SPS Agreement. Through interactive sessions, and presentations,⁴ developing countries took the floor to disseminate best practices in coordinating border clearance processes for trade facilitation, while ensuring human, animal and plant health. On average, 95% of participants felt that sessions met their learning expectations and would recommend this type of workshop to other colleagues.

2.3. A workshop in Saint Lucia entitled "The WTO TFA: Supporting Strategic and Effective Implementation in CARICOM⁵" was organised on 28 January to 1 February 2019. This workshop also

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/>.

³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-336>.

⁴ See: <http://www.tfafacility.org/border-agency-cooperation-workshop-presentations>.

⁵ Caribbean Community.

highlighted the linkages between the TFA and SPS Agreements and saw the participation of SPS authorities, along with customs authorities.

3 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS: P-IMA

3.1. Work continues on STDF's P-IMA framework, which offers an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes.⁶ The STDF published a new briefing note entitled "Driving better decision-making: Prioritizing SPS investments for market access (P-IMA) in January 2019.⁷ It provides a concise introduction to the P-IMA framework, highlighting different country and regional experiences. It also sets out the key benefits of applying the P-IMA framework, and outlines the steps to do so.

3.2. A P-IMA focused PPG is on-going in Madagascar (STDF/PPG/575).⁸ An STDF project (STDF/PG/606)⁹ to assist selected COMESA members states in using P-IMA to mainstream SPS investments into their agriculture, trade, and environment planning and financing frameworks, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP), is being implemented in partnership with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF).

4 GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE

4.1. The STDF is developing a study to support developing countries in using good regulatory practices (GRPs) to improve the design, implementation and monitoring of SPS measures. This study will include illustrative case stories and good practices, as well as a practical check-list and links to available resources. Follow-up work will be undertaken to communicate and disseminate the key findings of this study to relevant audiences in developing countries, including through the SPS Committee.¹⁰

4.2. An STDF briefing note on the use of GRPs to improve the development, implementation and/or periodic review of SPS measures and regulatory frameworks is also envisaged in due course. More information on this work is available on the STDF website.¹¹

5 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

5.1. The STDF is updating work on the implementation of standards through public-private partnerships (PPPs). This work will involve: (i) an informal survey/consultation of WTO Members and Codex Contact Points on how they are making use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes to improve food safety outcomes; (ii) an STDF event, as part of an STDF Working Group meeting or broader event; and (iii) updating the joint 2012 STDF Inter-American Development Bank publication¹² on PPPs with additional examples and case stories.

5.2. The STDF also calls on SPS delegates to identify and disseminate new case stories of SPS-related PPPs and their role in supporting the implementation of international standards and building SPS capacity. The findings are expected to be shared with the STDF Working Group in 2020, as well as at a larger (global or regional event). In addition, a new briefing note is expected to be finalized and published around the first quarter of 2020.

6 LIBRARY

6.1. The STDF Library¹³ is an online information repository providing quick and easy online access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building. Delegates are encouraged to submit relevant documents to the Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) for inclusion in the Library, including: project documents and final reports, training materials, project evaluations/reviews, SPS capacity needs assessments, cost-

⁶ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

⁷ See: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PIMA_Briefing_2019.pdf.

⁸ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-575>.

⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-606>.

¹⁰ See: www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/Revised_STDF_concept_note_GRP_Mar18.pdf.

¹¹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

¹² See: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_PublicPrivatePartnerships_EN_1.pdf.

¹³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>.

benefit analyses, case studies, relevant research papers, and other articles on SPS capacity building. The Library complements and includes links to other information systems and databases developed and maintained by STDF partners, donors and other organizations.

7 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

7.1. The STDF provides advice and support to applicants on issues related to SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs). PPGs, normally up to US\$50,000, are available to help applicants articulate their SPS needs and develop technically sound and sustainable project proposals. PPGs can be requested to: (i) apply SPS capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) prepare feasibility studies before project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of costs and benefits; and (iii) develop project proposals for funding by donors and/or the STDF.

7.2. A total of **93 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. Information on on-going and completed PPGs is available on the STDF website.¹⁴ The STDF Working Group approved 4 PPGs in October 2018.

7.3. These newly approved PPGs included: (i) developing projects on third party assurance programmes, linked to Codex in Africa¹⁵ and Latin America;¹⁶ (ii) developing a collaborative, regional framework on biopesticides in Asia;¹⁷ and (iii) supporting the establishment of a bee sanctuary in Niue.¹⁸

8 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

8.1. Project grant (PG) financing for projects is also available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and disseminate good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) apply regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iii) implement collaborative approaches across food safety, animal and plant health and trade.

8.2. Beneficiaries must contribute to the project from their own resources, either in the form of financial or in-kind contributions such as staff time, use of premises, vehicles or other existing assets.

8.3. A total of **91 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Information on on-going and completed projects is available on the STDF website.¹⁹ The STDF Working Group approved 4 PGs in October 2018.

8.4. These newly approved projects included: (i) addressing aflatoxin challenges in maize for export and domestic markets in Burkina Faso; (ii) upgrading food safety management in selected spice value chains in India;²⁰ (iii) helping the public and private sector address food safety for regional markets in the Kyrgyz Republic; and (iv) improving SPS compliance of fruit and vegetable exports in Uganda.²¹

8.5. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 71% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and other low-income countries (OLICs). The STDF continues to meet its target to devote at least 40% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs. In particular, the allocation of PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs remains high (i.e. 73% of the overall budget for PPGs).

¹⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

¹⁵ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-665>.

¹⁶ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-682>.

¹⁷ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-634>.

¹⁸ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-616>.

¹⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

²⁰ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PG-517>.

²¹ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PG-543>.

8.6. Forty-nine per cent of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Africa, 25% to Asia-Pacific, 15% to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 2% to other regions (the Middle East and Europe). In addition, 10% of the STDF projects and PPGs are classified as global.

8.7. Applications for STDF funding can be made at any point in the year but should be received at least 60 working days in advance of each Working Group meeting to be considered at that meeting. The next deadline for the submission of applications is **19 July 2019**. Further information on eligibility criteria, application forms, etc. is available on the STDF website.

RECOMMENDED STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN SEEKING PG OR PPG FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE STDF:

1. Browse the webpages for information (aims, eligibility criteria, etc.) on:

- PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-preparation-grants>
- PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-grants>

2. View examples of previous projects:

- PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>
- PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>

3. Carefully read the guidance note for applicants:

http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.pdf

4. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.

5. Send a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

6. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline:

- PPGs:
http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PPGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc
- PGs:
http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc