

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**UPDATE ON THE OPERATION OF THE STANDARDS AND
TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY**

Note by the Secretariat¹

I. OVERVIEW

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) aims to improve the capacity in developing countries to meet international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements and to increase the effectiveness of high-quality SPS-related technical cooperation. In doing so, the STDF contributes to improved food safety, animal and plant health, economic growth, poverty reduction and food security in developing countries. Its work programme focuses on the following five output areas: (i) development of high-quality tools and information resources to support SPS capacity building for use by beneficiaries, donors and other organizations; (ii) dissemination of experiences and good practices in SPS capacity building; (iii) SPS issues and priorities addressed by other trade capacity building programmes at the country level; (iv) improved capacity of beneficiaries of STDF projects to analyse and implement international SPS requirements; and (v) improved capacity of beneficiaries to identify SPS needs and formulate project proposals.

2. The STDF is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO provides the secretariat for the STDF. Other participating organizations include the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Donors contributing funds to the STDF and representatives of developing countries, including LDCs, are also members of the Facility.²

3. This document provides an overview of STDF activities in support of its work programme since the previous SPS Committee meeting in June 2011. It also provides an overview of current STDF projects and project preparation grants. Information about completed projects, including progress, final and evaluation reports, is available on the STDF website.

II. STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

4. The STDF Working Group is developing a new five-year Medium Term Strategy (2012-2016) for the Facility within the broader context of results based management. This also includes a revision of the STDF Operational Rules and preparation of a specific STDF Work Plan for 2012 outlining planned activities and outputs. In June 2011, the Working Group agreed on the following vision and mission statements for the STDF:

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 or obligations under the WTO.

² More detailed information on the STDF and its activities can be found on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>).

STDF vision

Improved sanitary and phytosanitary capacity in developing countries supports sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection.

STDF mission

The STDF is a global partnership that supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets.

STDF's mandate is to:

- Increase awareness, mobilize resources, strengthen collaboration, identify and disseminate good practice; and
- Provide support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements.

The STDF is committed to the Paris Principles on Aid Effectiveness and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

5. The Working Group will meet on Thursday 20 October to discuss and agree on the new Medium Term Strategy, Operational Rules and Work Plan for 2012 for final endorsement by the STDF Policy Committee on 9 December 2011. More information in this regard will be provided to the Committee in March 2012.

III. COORDINATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

A. PILOT TESTING WORK ON MULTI CRITERIA DECISION ANALYSIS

6. Building on the STDF workshop on the use of economic analysis methodologies to inform SPS decision making (Geneva, 30 October 2009) the STDF continued its work to assist countries to use Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) to inform SPS decision-making. In this context, a draft MCDA guidebook (to apply the MCDA approach in the SPS context) was developed by a consultant, Spencer Henson, and applied in Mozambique in April 2011.

7. A second pilot testing exercise was conducted in Zambia in July 2011, including a half-day workshop on 6 July to identify SPS capacity building options for consideration, as well as decision criteria and weights. The framework and preliminary results were discussed by development partners and government representatives at a meeting hosted by the World Bank in Zambia on 7 July. The application in Zambia was useful to further improve the methodology and process presented in the draft MCDA guidebook. As in Mozambique, it demonstrated the usefulness of the approach to facilitate dialogue among SPS stakeholders about priorities for SPS capacity building. The World Bank and COMESA expressed significant interest in the use of the framework to inform their own resource allocation decisions.

8. The STDF also organized a regional training workshop on 16-17 August in Johannesburg, South Africa, to train selected SPS experts from Africa on the use of MCDA. The workshop was attended by 41 participants, mainly from government departments and regional organizations in

Africa, of whom 27 were funded by the STDF. Participants confirmed the utility of the MCDA approach as a tool to support decision-making in the SPS area and made a number of useful observations to improve its future application. There was general agreement that this framework presents a useful tool to guide and support SPS decision-making and is likely to work best in countries where there is an effective SPS coordination mechanism in place, but that the results generated need to be seen in terms of the reliability of, and confidence in, the data used. Some participants expressed interest to apply this tool in their national SPS committees or as part of STDF PPG requests. Further to the work in Africa, additional pilot testing activities may be organized in 2012 in either Asia or Latin America (as part of STDF's Work Plan for 2012), following a discussion on the MCDA in the Working Group on 21 October. The STDF welcomes expressions of interest from countries in these regions.

B. PROPOSED STDF SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

9. Based on the recommendations arising from the second meeting of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) held at the WTO on 14-15 February 2011, the STDF will organize a seminar on international trade and IAS on Monday 9 July 2012, on the margins of the SPS Committee. The seminar will in particular seek to:

- raise awareness of the negative consequences of IAS to animal and plant health and the importance of coherence and dialogue at the national level between environmental institutions and those responsible for SPS measures when building strategies to control trade-related IAS; and
- review existing assistance to strengthen national capacity to manage IAS, and share experiences on the various approaches adopted by countries / regions with the view to promote good practice in this area.

10. The seminar will be organized in close consultation with key STDF partners, notably the IPPC, OIE and WTO Secretariats, and benefit from the input of other relevant organizations, in particular other members of the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on IAS. This seminar will be open to SPS delegates, as well as representatives of international organizations and bilateral development agencies with experience in IAS issues. Consideration is being given to open the seminar for limited external participation upon registration. More information on this event will be communicated to the Committee in March 2012.

C. STDF STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS

11. The following two STDF studies / publications were completed, circulated via the STDF e-mailing list and made available on the STDF website:³

- SPS-Related Capacity Evaluation Tools: An Overview of Tools Developed by International Organizations (second edition)
- Climate Change and Trade: The Link to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (joint World Bank/STDF publication).

12. The STDF will present the preliminary conclusions and recommendations of a study on national SPS coordination mechanisms in Africa at the WTO workshop on SPS Coordination at

³ If you would like to subscribe to the e-mailing list and receive information about the latest STDF publications and activities, please follow the instructions on the STDF website: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/ContactUs.htm>

National and Regional Levels on 17 October 2011. This study was conducted by the UK Natural Resources Institute (NRI) and based on desk research and a series of meetings with key stakeholders. The study analyses existing SPS coordination mechanisms in several countries and provides a set of practical recommendations to inform the future establishment of these mechanisms and enhance national-level SPS coordination. The study complements a previous STDF report in 2010 on regional SPS frameworks and strategies in Africa. The study will be finalized in the final quarter of 2011 taking into account the discussions in the WTO workshop on 17 October.

D. STDF FILM

13. The STDF has finalized the production of the Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions of the STDF film "*Trading Safely: Protecting Health, Promoting Development*" (both the eight-minute and 30-minute versions), with the financial support of the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE) Initiative. The new language versions are available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/IRVideos.htm>. Copies can be obtained from the STDF Secretariat upon request.

E. STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

14. The STDF is developing a Virtual Library. The library will contain SPS-related electronic documentation, including SPS needs assessments, action plans, technical assistance and meeting reports, training materials, research papers, capacity evaluation reports, articles from various publishers and sources, etc. This central repository of SPS-related resources will inform and assist in further improving the quality of SPS-related capacity building activities. It will assist beneficiaries, international organizations, stakeholders, researchers and consultants in the development and implementation of SPS-related initiatives and in further disseminating experiences and good practices.

F. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER INITIATIVES

15. The STDF continued its collaboration with various other activities and initiatives in the area of SPS-related technical cooperation to monitor developments, ensure synergies, share experiences and ensure maximal coordination. This includes STDF involvement in the Aid for Trade initiative and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF).

16. The STDF collaborates with the EIF and the UK Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) at the University of Wolverhampton in the delivery of training workshops on project development to support countries where SPS issues are identified as priorities to unleash export potential. On 1-4 August 2011, the STDF participated in a workshop in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR). Three project concepts in the agri-food sector were identified and developed into logical frameworks by participants working in groups. Agriculture is the mainstay of the CAR's economy and has the highest potential for export expansion. The project concepts that were developed will be further elaborated and submitted to the EIF, STDF and/or other donors.

17. The STDF participated in the fifth PAN-SPSO (Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards-Setting Organizations) Steering Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2011 in Bamako, Mali. The objective of the PAN SPSO programme is to enhance the effective participation of African countries in the work of the international standard setting bodies (Codex, IPPC and OIE).⁴ Participants developed recommendations to guide the completion of activities before the end of the programme's implementation period in December 2011. A second phase of the

⁴ The PAN SPSO programme is funded by the European Union and implemented by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), in collaboration with the African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC).

PAN-SPSO programme is scheduled to start in 2012. At the meeting, preliminary findings of a draft external evaluation report of the programme were presented to the Committee.

18. The STDF also participated in a stakeholder workshop on the safety and quality of cinnamon on 7-8 July in Colombo, organized by the Spice Council of Sri Lanka in collaboration with UNIDO. This workshop was held in the context of an STDF PG focusing on the establishment of a national cinnamon training academy for cinnamon processors. Around 80 participants representing the private and public sector gathered to discuss constraints identified along the cinnamon value chain and agreed on the best options to provide assistance to the sector to enhance the safety and quality of Sri Lankan cinnamon, and hence its export potential. The resultant project will be considered by the Working Group at its meeting on 21 October 2011.

IV. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

19. Project preparation grants (PPGs) are a key mechanism in STDF programme development and help overcome constraints faced by developing countries in the articulation of their needs. They also assist in ensuring synergies with other on-going initiatives, in particular Aid for Trade and the EIF, and in the mobilization of funds to implement activities. A total of 51 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception.

20. At the Working Group meeting in June 2011, three PPGs submitted by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) were approved and combined into one feasibility study to clarify the concept of the COMESA Green Pass and address technical / legal issues as well as the economic / commercial viability of this concept.⁵

V. PROJECT FUNDING

21. A total of 52 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. In June 2011, the Working Group approved three new projects for funding:

- STDF/PG/321: Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh - Investing in the Bottom of the Pyramid Approach
- STDF/PG/329: Enhancing the control of Sanitary and Phytosanitary capacity of Nepalese ginger exports through Public-Private Partnerships (for co-funding with the EIF) and;
- STDF/PG/336 Enhancing the control of transboundary animal diseases in Cameroon.

22. An overview of current STDF projects and PPGs is provided in the Annex. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 49 per cent of project resources to LDCs and Other Low Income Countries (OLICs), as shown in Figure 1 below. Hence, the STDF continues to meet its target to devote at least 40 per cent of Facility project resources to LDCs and OLICs. Figure 2 indicates that 54 per cent of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 14 per cent to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 16 per cent to Asia. In addition, 12 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs can be classified as global.

⁵ STDF/PPG/346, STDF/PPG/347 and STDF/PPG/348.

Figure 1: STDF projects and PPGs (US\$)

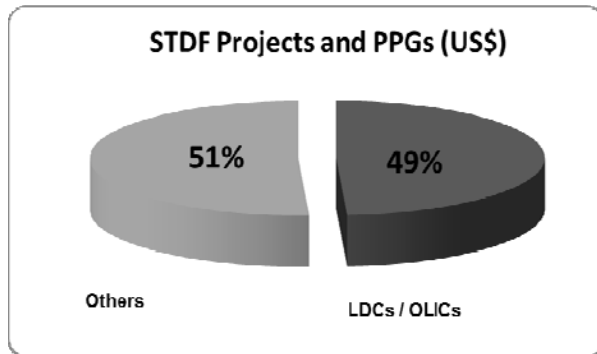
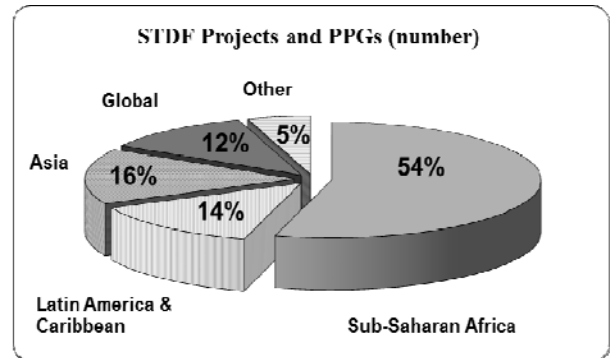


Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)



23. 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 in order to be considered at that meeting. The next deadline for the submission of applications is 2 January 2012. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the "Guidance Note for Applicants" available on the STDF website.

ANNEX

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS

STATUS OF APPROVED PROJECTS

(a) Projects awaiting contracting

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/302	Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal	Increase the production of cabbage and hence exports to the sub-region by controlling the spread and impact of two specific pests and assisting producers in meeting the Maximum Residue Limit established by Codex	Senegal	Senegal's Horticulture Union of the Niayes region (AUMN)	19-Mar-10	TBC	TBC	\$273,895
STDF/PG/309	Strengthening SPS capacity in Guinea-Bissau	Strengthening SPS capacity of technical services at national and regional level and updating SPS-related legislation	Guinea Bissau	EIF Project Implementation Unit	22-Oct-10	TBC	TBC	\$274,300
STDF/PG/321	Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh	Organize small-scale farmers in manageable clusters and assist them in developing and adopting Better Management Practices (BMPs) to address the contamination problem at grass-roots level.	Bangladesh	FAO	27-Jun-11	TBC	TBC	\$568,750
STDF/PG/329	Enhancing Sanitary and Phytosanitary capacity of Nepalese ginger exports through Public Private Partnerships	Increase incomes of Nepalese stakeholders in the ginger value chain by adding value to the product exported to India and increasing capacity to access new markets.	Nepal	FAO	27-Jun-11	TBC	TBC	\$471,429

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/336	Enhancing the control of transboundary animal diseases in Cameroon	Build institutional capacity and strengthen the capacity of the decentralized veterinary services - mainly those involved in the surveillance system.	Cameroon	FAO	27-Jun-11	TBC	TBC	\$498,330
STDF/PG/350	Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits	Address the need in developing countries for documented technical resources to enhance their capacity to understand and implement International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)	Côte D'Ivoire, Jamaica, Malaysia and Sudan	IPPC Secretariat	28-Mar-11	TBC	TBC	\$600,000

TBC: To be confirmed

(b) Ongoing projects

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/116	Development and implementation of a traceability system in the livestock sector in Costa Rica	Develop a sustainable traceability system in the livestock sector which facilitates the management of information related to agricultural units and epidemiological events	Costa Rica	IICA	10-Oct-08	01-Mar-09	30-Jun-11	\$455,220
STDF/PG/126	Establish the Horticulture Development Council of Tanzania	Assist the Tanzanian horticulture sector to address SPS issues	Tanzania	Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA)	26-Jun-08	01-Jul-09	31-Aug-11	\$253,755
STDF/PG/155	Nicaragua market oriented training service on market application of SPS	Establish SPS professional training units, to develop training manuals, quality and good process controls for pilot products	Nicaragua	IICA	10-Oct-08	01-Jun-10	31-May-12	\$519,439

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/172	Expanding exports of sesame seeds and sheanut/ butter through improved SPS capacity building for private and public sector	Identify critical control points and factors along the Nigerian shea nut production chain and develop predictive models for aflatoxin production and fungal growth, pesticide residues and other contaminants	Nigeria	Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC)	10-Dec-09	01-Oct-10	30-Sep-12	\$324,240
STDF/PG/230	Establishment of Pest Free Areas for Lethal Yellowing Disease (LYD) in Coconuts in Mozambique	Build phytosanitary capacity to implement international standards to manage LYD in palms and thereby expand market access for coconuts	Mozambique	FAO	26-Jun-08	01-Jul-09	31-Jul-11	\$326,528
STDF/PG/238	Development of accredited HACCP certification schemes for processed food products	Implement accredited inspection and certificates for Good Manufacturing Practices and HACCP recognized by the competent authorities	Guatemala	AGEXPORT	27-Feb-09	01-Feb-10	30-Jan-12	\$398,225
STDF/PG/259	Strengthening Vietnamese SPS Capacities for Trade	Strengthen Vietnamese SPS capacities for trade by improving safety and quality for fresh vegetables through the value chain approach	Viet Nam	FAO/Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute (FAVRI)	26-Jun-09	01-Mar-10	29-Feb-12	\$476,580
STDF/PG/283	Support for SPS risk assessment in the mango export sector	Improve Mali's capacity to comply with international and private SPS standards in the mango sector	Mali	Agence National de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (ANSSA)	10-Dec-09	15-May-10	15-May-12	\$423,400

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/284	Strengthening the National SPS Committee of Honduras	Strengthen the National SPS Committee of Honduras, further support the implementation of the National SPS Agenda (developed by the Committee) and consolidate and develop institutional SPS capacities	Honduras	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)	19-Mar-10	01-Jul-10	30-Jun-12	\$257,580
STDF/PG/298	SPS capacity building in Africa to mitigate the harmful effects of pesticide residues in cocoa and to maintain market access	Build SPS capacity in Africa to produce good quality cocoa that complies with the relevant international regulations and legislation on pesticide residues and other harmful substances	Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo	International Cocoa Organization	02-Jul-10	01-Jan-11	31-Dec-12	\$593,460
STDF/PG/300	Develop a combined e-learning curriculum and web-based information system for food standards	Develop a combined e-learning curriculum and information system on food standards as a contribution to up-grading the quality infrastructure in developing countries	Ghana	University of Cape Coast (UCC)	10-Dec-09	01-Dec-10	30-Nov-12	\$262,246
STDF/PG/318	National program for the monitoring and integral management of contaminants in export product	Establish a comprehensive program to control residues of pesticides and mycotoxins and implement this program for two pilot exportable products	Ecuador	IICA	19-Mar-10	01-Dec-10	30-Nov-12	\$400,455
STDF/PG/319	Strengthening the Food Safety Risk Assessment Unit in Colombia	Elaborate the functioning procedures of the Unit, establish its work programme and create a network of risk assessors to conduct future risk analyses	Colombia	IICA	02-Jul-10	01-Feb-11	31-Jan-13	\$401,500

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/326	A Southeast Asian partnership to build trade capacity for fresh and processed fruit and vegetable products	Develop a competency-based education and training platform for selected value chains and provide customized training using a combination of face-to-face instruction and e-learning	Thailand, Vietnam	Michigan State University (MSU)	02-Jul-10	01-Jan-11	31-Dec-12	\$581,665
STDF/PG/328	Beyond Compliance: Integrated Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management in Southeast Asia	Develop and test new decision-support tools focused on an integrated Systems Approach for pest risk management in the Southeast Asian sub-region (support implementation of ISPM No. 14)	Southeast Asia	CABI Southeast Asia	28-Mar-11	11-Jul-11	10-Jul-13	\$600,000

STATUS OF APPROVED PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGs)

(c) PPGs awaiting contracting

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/345	Project for Feed Safety Regulations in Latin America and Caribbean	Develop a project to harmonize feed safety regulations in Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure feed safety and increase competitiveness at national and regional levels	Latin America & Caribbean	TBD	28-Mar-11	TBC	TBC	\$30,000
STDF/PPG/346-347-348	Feasibility study on the concept of the COMESA Green Pass	Conduct a a feasibility study to clarify the concept of the Green Pass and address legal and technical issues as well as its economic and commercial viability.	COMESA	TBD	27-Jun-11	TBC	TBC	\$90,000

TBC: To be confirmed

(d) PPGs currently being implemented

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/232	A phytosanitary capacity building strategy for Africa	Improve phytosanitary capacity in African countries through the development and implementation of a phytosanitary capacity building strategy	Cameroon and other African countries	CABI (Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International)	26-Jun-08	01-Dec-08	Upon approval	\$29,000

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/303	Project preparation grant to conduct a total diet study for Sub-Saharan Africa	Elaborate a manual describing a methodology to conduct a regional TDS to evaluate the risks of chemical contamination of food	Sub-Saharan Africa	Centre Pasteur du Cameroun	26-Jun-09	12-Oct-09	31-Mar-11	\$20,000
STDF/PPG/308	Developing an SPS action plan for the Central African Republic (CAR)	Develop an SPS Action Plan for the CAR to enable the country to maximize its participation in the multilateral trading system through the protection of consumers from food safety risks, animal and plant health	Central African Republic	Mr Etienne Legendre	22-Oct-10	01-Jul-11	31-Dec-11	\$30,000
STDF/PPG/316	Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan	Strengthen the capacity of pre-border quarantine inspection points, notably through the provision of laboratory equipment and training of laboratory staff	Azerbaijan	IPPC/FAO	19-Mar-10	01-Dec-10	31-May-11	\$30,000
STDF/PPG/323	Enhancing the Safety and Quality of Agricultural Products in Senegal	Develop a project proposal to address the issue of pest surveillance and application of good agriculture practices to enhance Senegal's potential of horticultural exports	Senegal	IPPC/FAO	02-Jul-10	01-Mar-11	31-Aug-11	\$30,000
STDF/PPG/335	Strengthening the capacity for phytosanitary controls in the floriculture sector in Uganda	Develop a national surveillance programme to monitor and control pests affecting the sector in order to maintain and further enhance market access	Uganda	Hubertus Stoetzer	22-Oct-10	07-Feb-11	06-Aug-11	\$30,000

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/343	Establishment of a National Cinnamon Training Academy (NCTA) for Cinnamon Processors in the Southern Province	Develop a project to establish a National Cinnamon Training Academy (NCTA) to train the peelers in producing safe cinnamon of a high quality.	Sri Lanka	UNIDO	28-Mar-11	15-Jun-11	15-Dec-11	\$30,000
STDF/PPG/344	Establishment of a Regional Food Inspectors School in Central America	Develop a project to establish a regional food inspectors school to harmonize food inspection procedures and strengthen the technical competence and skills of food inspectors within the region	Central America	Ms Ana Marisa Cordero	28-Mar-11	01-Aug-11	31-Dec-11	\$30,000