

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 support 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. In doing so, the STDF contributes to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries. The STDF work programme focuses on the following strategic results: (i) enhanced collaboration on SPS-related technical cooperation; (ii) improved capacity of beneficiaries to identify and prioritize SPS needs and formulate proposals that are able to secure funding from the STDF or external funding sources; and (iii) improved performance of beneficiaries of STDF projects. These results will be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner, recognizing that more effective coordination among providers of SPS-related technical cooperation is at the heart of the STDF.

2. The STDF is a global partnership established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors contributing to the STDF and developing country experts participate actively in the Facility's work. The STDF is managed and housed by the WTO.²

3. This document provides an overview of STDF activities in support of its work programme since the previous SPS Committee meeting in October 2011, and information on planned activities. 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. NEW STDF MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY

4. The new STDF Medium Term Strategy (2012-2016) (http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/KeyDocs/STDF_367_Medium_Term_Strategy_Eng.pdf) was adopted by the STDF Policy Committee on 10 January 2012. It builds on: (i) extensive consultations with members and other stakeholders involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, including through an initial survey carried out by the Secretariat in February 2011; (ii) the results of the previous strategy, which was successful in putting greater emphasis on information sharing and

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>).

coordination of SPS-related technical cooperation; and (iii) conclusions and recommendations of external evaluations of the Facility in 2005 and 2008.

5. The new strategy is underpinned by the need to: (i) further promote increased collaboration and interaction among providers of SPS-related technical cooperation; and (ii) continue strengthening the STDF as a "knowledge platform" for information exchange, sharing experiences and the identification and dissemination of good practice. The overall goal, purpose and strategic results of the STDF are summarized in a logical framework, annexed to the new strategy. The specific activities to be carried out by the STDF under each of the strategic result areas are further described in STDF's Work Plan for 2012 ("http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/KeyDocs/STDF_368_WorkPlan_2012.pdf"), which was agreed by the Working Group in October 2011 and finalized by the Secretariat in January 2012.

6. Finally, the STDF Policy Committee also agreed to a number of revisions to the STDF Operational Rules (http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/KeyDocs/STDF_139_Rev.3_Operational_Rules_Eng.pdf) in order to address issues raised by respondents to the survey and make the rules up-to-date, coherent and consistent with the new strategy. In particular, the following revisions should be noted:

- Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) can be used for the following purposes (or a combination thereof): (i) application of SPS-related capacity evaluation/prioritization tools; (ii) preparation of feasibility studies to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and (iii) development of project proposals. The maximum amount of funding available for PPGs was raised to US\$50,000 per PPG (from US\$30,000).
- The maximum amount of STDF funding available for projects was raised to US\$1 million per project (from US\$600,000), over a three-year period (previously two years).
- The number of developing country experts in the STDF was raised from three to six (with a two-year term, instead of 18 months). At least two experts should be nationals of least-developed countries (LDCs) or other low-income countries.
- Implementation of STDF-funded projects can be undertaken by applicants demonstrating their capability for this purpose, by STDF partners or by third parties acceptable to the Working Group. Where STDF partners are not directly responsible for project implementation, they may provide an important role in terms of technical advice and guidance.

III. COORDINATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

A. MULTI CRITERIA DECISION ANALYSIS (MCDA)

7. Building on the STDF workshop on the use of economic analysis methodologies to inform SPS decision making held in Geneva on 30 October 2009, the STDF continued its work to assist countries to use Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) to prioritize SPS capacity needs. In this context, a publication entitled "Use of Economic Analysis to Inform SPS-related Decision-Making" was issued in November 2011 and is available on the STDF website (http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Publications/STDF_Economic_Analysis_Nov-11_EN.pdf). This report reviews experiences with the use of economic analysis to guide priority-setting for SPS capacity building in developing countries, highlights the challenges faced in using such methods and provides general guidance to decision-makers on which economic analysis approaches are best suited to particular decision scenarios.

8. In addition, a two-page STDF briefing note, "Prioritizing SPS Capacity Needs using Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis", presenting the MCDA approach and summarizing the initial experiences with the application of the tool was produced in English, French and Spanish. The briefing note is available at <http://www.standardsfacility.org/IRBriefings.htm>.

9. The STDF will continue its work on the use of MCDA to inform decision-making on SPS capacity building and resource allocation in 2012. Activities will consolidate, and build on, the initial applications of the framework in Mozambique and Zambia and the regional workshop on this topic held in South Africa in August 2011. Specific activities will include the application of the MCDA tool in one developing country in Asia and the organization of one regional workshop to raise awareness on the MCDA approach and encourage its use as a decision-support tool in the SPS area.

B. STDF SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

10. The STDF will organize an international seminar on international trade and invasive alien species (IAS) in Geneva on 12-13 July 2012 on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee. The purpose of the seminar will be to raise awareness and create synergies between the SPS and environmental communities about IAS as a trade-related issue. More specifically, the seminar will seek to: (i) raise awareness about the detrimental effects of the introduction and spread of IAS for human, animal and plant health, and the importance of coherence and dialogue among SPS and environmental institutions at the national level in the development of strategies to control trade-related IAS; and (ii) review existing technical cooperation to strengthen national capacity to manage IAS, and share experiences on the approaches adopted by countries/regions with a view to promote good practice.

11. The seminar will be prepared and delivered in close collaboration with STDF's partners, in particular the IPPC, OIE and WTO Secretariats, as well as other relevant stakeholders including the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on IAS. A desk study on international trade and IAS is currently under preparation and will be presented at the seminar. Online registration for the seminar for official SPS delegates to the WTO, as well as experts with an interest in and/or responsibility for work on IAS from relevant national, regional and/or international institutions, will open on 16 April 2012 on the STDF website, and close when seating capacity is reached. More information on the seminar is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>).

C. SPS AND TRADE FACILITATION

12. As part of its 2012 Work Plan, the STDF will initiate the preparation of a global level event on SPS and trade facilitation, to be held in 2013. A first discussion on this topic will take place in the Working Group meeting on 29-30 March 2012. Possible objectives of this STDF work could be to raise awareness about the synergies between SPS and trade facilitation and identify lessons learned and good practices to strengthen future work and technical cooperation focused on SPS and trade facilitation. The work would be based on examples of trade facilitation in the SPS area, which may include activities focused on the simplification, standardization and harmonization of SPS procedures and information systems to facilitate compliance with SPS requirements and trade, management collaboration between SPS agencies and customs to harmonize and improve SPS border management, and/or the impact of large trade facilitation projects on the national SPS situation.

D. STDF STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS

13. In addition to the STDF publication and briefing note on the MCDA (see section A), in October 2011, the STDF presented the preliminary recommendations of a study on "National SPS Coordination Mechanisms: An African Perspective" at a WTO workshop on best practices in national and regional SPS coordination. The study, which will be available soon on the STDF website

(<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/IROthers.htm>), provides suggestions and guidance to support the further establishment and operation of national SPS committees. Recognizing that there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach, the study underlines the need to: (i) continue awareness-raising, notably at decision-making levels, on the importance of SPS capacity for trade and economic growth; (ii) clarify organizational mandates and roles in the SPS area based on a review and update of legislation, as appropriate; (iii) build on existing mechanisms in the food safety, animal and plant health area, and in specific expert sectors; (iv) establish effective communication strategies and consider the creation of web-based SPS information networks; and (v) use national SPS coordination mechanisms to promote regional SPS coherence. In addition, a two-page STDF briefing note, "Enhancing SPS coordination at the country level", highlighting the main conclusions and recommendations of this study was produced and is available at <http://www.standardsfacility.org/IRBriefings.htm>.

14. The STDF/World Bank publication, "Climate Change and Trade: The Link to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards", which was released in English in October 2011, was issued in French and Spanish at the start of 2012.

E. STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

15. In 2011, the STDF started development of the STDF Virtual Library, a central repository containing electronic documentation, including SPS needs assessments, action plans, training materials, research papers and articles from various publishers and sources. The Virtual Library will allow the STDF Secretariat to better manage a large amount of documents, inform and assist beneficiaries, international organizations, stakeholders, researchers and consultants in the development and implementation of SPS-related capacity building initiatives, and assist in further disseminating relevant experiences and good practices. The STDF will finalize and launch its Virtual Library in the second quarter of 2012.

F. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER INITIATIVES

16. 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 included STDF involvement in the Aid for Trade initiative and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). The STDF participated in and contributed to a series of internal and external meetings and events, providing training, highlighting experiences and good practice and sharing information about STDF's work. These included three WTO regional training seminars on the SPS Agreement; notably for French-speaking African countries (15-18 November 2011, Mali), for English-speaking African countries (22-25 November 2011, Kenya) and for Arab and Middle-East countries (27-30 November 2011, Qatar). The STDF also provided training to participants in the WTO Advanced SPS Course.

IV. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

17. Under the new Medium Term Strategy, funds up to US\$50,000 are available for project preparation grants (PPGs), which can be used for any of the following purposes (or a combination thereof): (i) application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) preparation of feasibility studies that precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by the STDF or other donors.

18. A total of 50 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. At the Working Group meeting in October 2011, one PPG submitted by the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) was approved for funding:

- STDF/PPG/359: Africa Pesticide MRL Initiative

V. PROJECT FUNDING

19. A total of 55 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. In October 2011, the Working Group approved three new projects for funding:

- STDF/PG/337: ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project
- STDF/PG/343: Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in Sri Lanka; and
- STDF/PG/365: Application of the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) tool to inform SPS decision-making in Belize.

20. An overview of current STDF projects and PPGs is provided in the Annex. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 48 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 52 per cent of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 17 per cent to Asia, and 14 per cent to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, 11 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs can be classified as global, and 5 per cent as other.

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

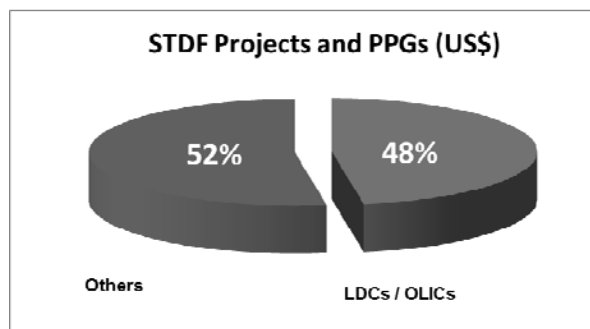
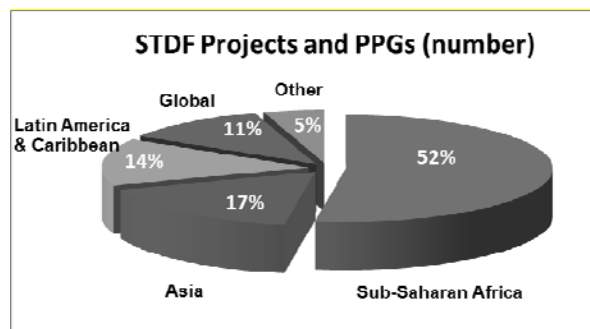


Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)



21. 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 20 July 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/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	01-Apr-12	21-Mar-14	\$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	\$412,629
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/337	ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project	Establish a regional process to generate reliable data for MRLs for selected "minor-use" crops, as a means to promote harmonization with international standards and enhance market access.	ASEAN member states	ASEAN Secretariat	21-Oct-11	TBC	TBC	\$607,000

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/343	Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in Sri Lanka	Enhance the competitiveness of the cinnamon industry and the capacity of the cinnamon value added segment by improving processing and handling practices.	Sri Lanka	UNIDO	21-Oct-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/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
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/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-Apr-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

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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-Nov-12	\$423,400
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/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	01-Feb-12	31-Jan-14	\$577,142
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

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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
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
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	01-Feb-12	31-Jan-14	\$600,000
STDF/PG/365	Application of the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) tool to inform SPS decision-making in Belize	Apply the MCDA tool building on the results of previous capacity evaluations and provide a structured process for establishing priorities across multiple SPS capacity building options	Belize	BAHA	21-Oct-11	08-Jan-12	08-Sep-12	\$30,000

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/346-347-348	Feasibility study on the concept of the COMESA Green Pass	Conduct 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	TBC	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/165	Improving SPS controls in fruit production in Madagascar.	Assist Madagascar to establish pest-free places of production	Madagascar	CTHA (Centre Technique Horticole d'Antananarivo)	07-Nov-07	01-Feb-08	Upon approval	\$20,000
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	Upon approval	\$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	Upon approval	\$30,000

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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	Upon approval	\$30,000
STDF/PPG/323	Enhancing the Safety and Quality of Agricultural Products in Senegal	Develop a project proposal to addresses 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	Upon approval	\$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	Upon approval	\$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
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	FEEDLATINA	28-Mar-11	01-Nov-11	31-May-12	\$30,000

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/359	Africa Joint Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project	Generate high-quality pesticide residue data on "minor-use"/speciality crops, which represent a vital source of income for rural farming communities	Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda	AU-IBAR	21-Oct-11	02-Jan-12	30-Jun-12	\$27,750