

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) 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. In doing so, it contributes to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries. The STDF helps in increasing awareness, mobilizing additional resources, strengthening collaboration and identifying and disseminating good practice to enhance the effectiveness of SPS-related technical cooperation. The STDF also provides support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements.

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 March 2012 as well as information on planned work. It also provides an overview of current STDF projects and project preparation grants.

II. COORDINATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

A. STDF SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

4. The STDF is organizing a seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Geneva on 12-13 July 2012 on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee meeting. 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

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, including projects and project preparation grants, is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>).

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.

5. The seminar has been prepared and will be delivered in close collaboration with STDF's partners, in particular the OIE and the IPPC Secretariat. A desk study on International Trade and IAS has been prepared and will be presented at the seminar. On 12 July, during lunchtime, the IPPC Secretariat will hold a side-event titled "Emerging Pathways and Challenges in the Area of Trade-Related IAS" which will include presentations on recent work related to internet trade and invasive aquatic plants.

6. More information on the seminar is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>).

B. MULTI CRITERIA DECISION ANALYSIS (MCDA)

7. The STDF continued its work on the use of Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) to inform decision-making on SPS capacity building and resource allocation. The STDF will participate in the application of the MCDA tool in Viet Nam in September 2012 as well as in a regional workshop for Asia scheduled for November 2012. The purpose of the latter will be to raise awareness on the MCDA approach and encourage its use as a decision-support tool in the SPS area. Government officials and other stakeholders who are interested in this regional event are encouraged to contact the STDF Secretariat for more information.

8. More information on MCDA, including previous STDF events and publications, can be found on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAEcoAnalysis.htm>).

C. SPS AND TRADE FACILITATION

9. As part of its 2012 Work Plan, the STDF initiated the preparation of a global level event in 2013 on the links between SPS and Trade Facilitation. A first discussion on this topic took place in the STDF Working Group in March 2012. Objectives of this STDF work include raising awareness about the synergies between SPS and Trade Facilitation and identifying lessons learned and good practices to strengthen future work and technical cooperation in this area. The work will 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.

10. If you have information on activities in the area of SPS and Trade Facilitation, as outlined above, you are encouraged to share this information with the STDF Secretariat by email (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

D. STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

11. In August 2012, the STDF will launch the STDF Virtual Library, a central repository containing electronic documentation, including SPS needs assessments, action plans, training materials, evaluations of projects funded by the STDF and other donors, research papers and articles from various publishers and sources. Information may be provided in English, French and/or Spanish, as available. 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.

12. If you have documents related to SPS technical cooperation and capacity building that you would like to share through the Virtual Library, please send them to the STDF Secretariat by email (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

E. NEW STDF STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS

13. In April 2012, the STDF released the joint STDF/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) publication "Public-Private Partnerships to enhance SPS capacity: What can we learn from this collaborative approach?". This paper analyses the emergence, operation and performance of selected SPS-related partnerships between government agencies responsible for food safety, animal and plant health and/or trade and the private sector. It raises awareness about the potential value and role of PPPs in enhancing SPS capacity and to provide practical guidance to facilitate and promote PPPs for SPS capacity development. This publication is available on the STDF website (http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Publications/STDF_PublicPrivatePartnerships_EN.pdf).

14. As a result of collaborative efforts between the STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), a practical guide on trade-related project development was produced by the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) at the University of Wolverhampton, UK. This handbook titled "Capacity Building in Project Identification, Formulation and Design" is now available in English on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIntegratedFramework.htm>).

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. The STDF participated in and contributed to a series of meetings and events, providing training, highlighting experiences and good practice and sharing information about STDF's work. This included, *inter alia*, participation in the regional WTO SPS seminar for Latin America, co-organized with the IDB (25-29 June 2012).

III. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

16. 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.

17. A total of 52 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. At the Working Group meeting in March 2012, two PPG applications were approved for funding:

- STDF/PPG/370: Strengthening the Competent Authority Analytical Laboratory for fish and other potential agricultural exportable products in the Solomon Islands; and
- STDF/PPG/377: Comprehensive Assessment and Development of a Project Proposal to Strengthen the National Plant Protection System in the Gambia

IV. PROJECT FUNDING

18. A total of 60 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. In March 2012, the Working Group approved five new projects for funding:

- STDF/PG/242: Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros;
- STDF/PG/335: Strengthening the Capacity for Phytosanitary Controls of Floriculture Sector in Uganda;
- STDF/PG/344: Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in Central America and Dominican Republic;
- STDF/PG/354: Improving Safety and Quality of Sri Lankan Fruits and Vegetables;
- STDF/PG/358: Improving veterinary legislation in OIRSA member countries.

19. An overview of current STDF projects and PPGs is provided in the Annex. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 47 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.

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

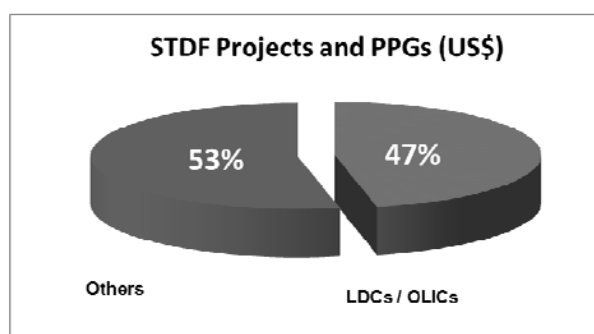
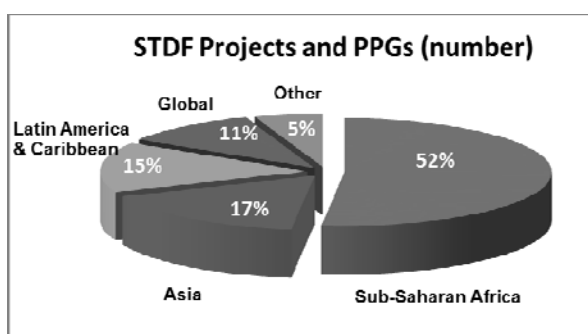


Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)



20. 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.

Recommended steps to follow when seeking PG or PPG funding opportunities with the STDF

1. Browse our PPG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/PGPpgStat.htm> and PG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/PGProStat.htm> webpages for examples of previous projects.
2. Carefully read our guidance note for applicants: http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Forms/STDFGuidanceNote_en.pdf
3. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.
4. Send us a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (stdfsecretariat@wto.org).
5. Fill out an application form (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/FDAppForms.htm>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

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/242	Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros	Build SPS capacity in the country in a comprehensive and systematic manner in order to increase its market access for potential agricultural products and fisheries	Comoros	UNDP	30-Mar-12	TBC	TBC	\$998,366
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/335	Strengthening the Capacity for Phytosanitary Controls of Floriculture Sector in Uganda	Enhance pest surveillance and diagnostic capacity to enable a better understanding of pest distribution and facilitate the implementation of efficient control strategies	Uganda	CABI Africa	30-Mar-12	TBC	TBC	\$428,274
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/354	Improving Safety and Quality of Sri Lankan Fruits and Vegetables	Analyse SPS constraints along the value chains, enhance public and private sector stakeholders capacity to meet international SPS requirements and improve public-private cooperation and networking	Sri Lanka	International Trade Centre	30-Mar-12	TBC	TBC	\$466,550
STDF/PG/358	Improving veterinary legislation in OIRSA member countries	Strengthen the veterinary services in the region by harmonizing the legal framework in accordance with OIE standards for the control and eradication of animal diseases	Central America	OIRSA	30-Mar-12	TBC	TBC	\$488,330

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	\$560,994
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

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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	\$422,118
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	\$533,770
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	\$474,208
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	\$273,035
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	\$664,675

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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	\$355,732
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	\$432,491
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	\$433,620
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	\$637,000

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, Viet Nam	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/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	07-Jun-12	06-Jun-14	\$462,144
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	01-Jun-12	31-May-14	\$572,083
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	01-Jul-12	30-Jun-14	\$630,000

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/344	Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in Central America and Dominican Republic	Harmonize modern inspection procedures conducted by a properly trained cadre of food inspectors and food safety auditors in the region to contribute to facilitating trade and improving public health	Central America	IICA	30-Mar-12	01-Jul-12	30-Jun-15	\$905,225
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	\$672,000
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/370	Strengthening the Competent Authority Analytical Laboratory for fish and other potential agricultural exportable products in the Solomon Islands	Develop a project that addresses SPS constraints in selected fish/agri-products, as well as outstanding capacity needs within the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL)	Solomon Islands	TBD	30-Mar-12	TBC	TBC	\$29,900
STDF/PPG/377	Comprehensive Assessment and Development of a Project Proposal to Strengthen the National Plant Protection System in the Gambia	Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the phytosanitary capacity gaps using the IPPC-PCE Tool and develop a project to implement action points to enhance the national plant protection system	The Gambia	TBD	30-Mar-12	TBC	TBC	\$30,000

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/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

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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
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	\$31,800
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/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
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	TBD	27-Jun-11	01-Jan-12	Upon approval	\$90,000

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