

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

4. Members who would like to receive more information on SPS-related technical cooperation are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/ContactUs.htm>). The STDF regularly issues an electronic newsletter which contains an overview of major developments in the area of SPS capacity building, including activities of the STDF and its partners.

II. COORDINATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

A. STDF SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

5. The STDF, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), organized a seminar on

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>).

International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Geneva on 12-13 July 2012. The seminar, attended by 110 participants, sought to raise awareness about the mutually supportive objectives of the WTO SPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the contribution of effective SPS control systems to help protect against the entry of harmful species, including pests, diseases and other IAS.

6. Participants agreed on the following conclusions and actions to improve the management of trade-related IAS:

- Measures applied to prevent the entry, spread and establishment of IAS via trade, that aim to protect human, animal and plant life or health or territory, fall within the scope of the SPS Agreement and should abide by its provisions;
- Risk-based approaches under the SPS Agreement are a key tool in preventing the movement of organisms that have potential to become invasive;
- Countries are encouraged to use the relevant IPPC and OIE guidelines in dealing with IAS;
- International organizations should further collaborate to enhance the implementation of the SPS Agreement and the CBD;
- Increased SPS capacity building efforts will ensure that international standards are adequately implemented to prevent trade from spreading harmful alien species; and
- Regional approaches are effective in the prevention and control of IAS, which do not respect political borders, and regional networks are useful means to share relevant experiences and knowledge.

7. On 12 July the IPPC Secretariat held a successful side-event entitled "Emerging Pathways and Challenges in the Area of Trade-Related IAS" which included a presentation on recent work related to internet trade and invasive aquatic plants.

8. More information on the seminar, including presentations, an STDF Briefing Note highlighting the findings and conclusions, and other relevant documentation, is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>).

B. MULTI CRITERIA DECISION ANALYSIS (MCDA)

9. The STDF continued its work on the application of Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) to inform decision-making on SPS capacity building and resource allocation. The STDF facilitated application of the MCDA tool in Viet Nam in September 2012 and will organize a regional workshop for selected experts in food safety, animal and/or plant health and trade from Asian and Pacific countries in Bangkok, Thailand on 12-13 November 2012. The objectives of the regional workshop will be to:

- increase knowledge about the MCDA Tool and its use to prioritize SPS capacity building needs;
- provide practical skills to enable participants to apply the MCDA Tool in their countries and use the associated computer software; and
- obtain feedback to further improve the MCDA Tool.

10. The selection of SPS experts to participate in this workshop has been completed. More information on the MCDA tool, 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

11. As part of its 2012 Work Plan, the STDF initiated preparatory work on the linkages between SPS and Trade Facilitation, in collaboration with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other interested regional development banks and organizations. The purpose of this work, to be carried out in 2013, will be to enhance understanding among SPS practitioners and staff of customs authorities in developing countries about the role of SPS agencies in trade facilitation, and to identify key needs, opportunities and good practices to enhance the effective engagement of SPS agencies in collaborative border management.

12. This work will be further discussed in the STDF Working Group on 11-12 October 2012 and may include: (i) regional research in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America to identify, analyse and document examples of how SPS agencies are supporting and/or hampering trade facilitation, and the publication of three regional reports; (ii) publication of a synthesis study, targeted at SPS and customs agencies, that analyses available experiences, identifies good practices and lessons learned, and makes recommendations to promote and enhance the role of SPS agencies in collaborative border management; and (iii) organization of a global-level event on SPS and Trade Facilitation in the second half of 2013 (venue and date to be confirmed) to raise awareness on the role of SPS agencies in trade facilitation, and present and discuss the findings and recommendations of the regional research work.

13. Key questions to be addressed during the research may include:

- What is the current role of SPS agencies in collaborative border management?
- How are SPS agencies working with customs and other border agencies in the area of trade facilitation?
- How are SPS agencies using risk management principles and modern tools (e.g. X-ray equipment, IT) to improve inspection-detection?
- What is the actual and potential role of the private sector in enhancing compliance with SPS regulatory control objectives at the border?
- What is the role of regional institutions, donors and development partners in supporting the effective engagement of SPS agencies in collaborative border management and trade facilitation initiatives?
- Which factors influence the engagement of SPS authorities in collaborative border management?

14. Members are encouraged to share information with the STDF Secretariat on their experiences in the area of SPS and Trade Facilitation, as outlined above, by email (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

D. STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

15. In November 2012, the STDF will launch the STDF Virtual Library, a central repository containing SPS-related 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 is provided in English, French and/or Spanish, as available. The Virtual Library will allow the STDF Secretariat to better manage a large amount of documentation, inform and assist beneficiaries, international organizations, stakeholders, researchers and consultants in the development and implementation of SPS-related capacity building initiatives, and further facilitate the dissemination of relevant experiences and good practices.

16. The Virtual Library will be accessible on the STDF website. Members are encouraged to share documents related to SPS technical cooperation and capacity building for inclusion in the Virtual Library, as outlined above, with the Secretariat by email (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

E. JOINT AUC /STDF MEETING ON REGIONAL SPS COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

17. The STDF facilitated the organization of a joint meeting with the African Union Commission (AUC) on regional SPS coordination and capacity building in Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 28 September 2012. The meeting was attended by approximately 25 officials of the AUC and its technical agencies, SPS representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and relevant international organizations. The purpose was to discuss the role and function of the AUC, its technical offices and the RECs in adding value to SPS coordination and capacity building initiatives at the continental, regional and national level³. The Secretariat and STDF partners will report on the outcomes of this event to the STDF Working Group on 11-12 October.

F. STUDY ON SPILL OVER EFFECTS OF EXPORT-ORIENTED SPS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON DOMESTIC FOOD SAFETY SITUATION

18. The STDF, in close collaboration with FAO and WHO, will commission a study on the spill over effects of export-oriented SPS technical assistance on the domestic food safety situation. The aim will be to draw key lessons to improve the design and delivery of future trade related technical assistance programmes. A background note summarizing the rationale, objectives and a proposed work plan will be discussed by the Working Group on 11-12 October. Implementation of this work is expected to start in November 2012 and will include an open call for relevant projects and programmes to be analysed during the course of this work.

G. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER INITIATIVES

19. 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 a Workshop on SPS Measures for countries of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program, organized by the ADB (25-26 July), the Second Meeting of the SADC SPS Coordinating Committee (24-27 July) and the Fourth Technical Meeting of the COMESA SPS Sub-Committee (20-22 August).

III. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

20. 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

³ Based on the recommendations from the STDF study on "Regional SPS Frameworks and Strategies in Africa" available on the STDF website (http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Publications/STDF_Regional_SPS_Strategies_in_Africa_EN.pdf).

expected costs and benefits; and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by the STDF or other donors. A total of 52 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception.

21. It is expected that the STDF Working Group will approve additional PPGs for funding at its next meeting on 11-12 October.

IV. PROJECT FUNDING

22. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1,000,000 is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that focus on one or more of the following: (i) the identification, development and dissemination of good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) STDF work on cross-cutting topics of common interest; (iii) the use of regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches focused on the interface / linkages between human, animal and plant health and trade, and benefiting from the involvement of two or more STDF partners or other relevant organizations. A total of 60 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception.

23. It is expected that the STDF Working Group will approve additional projects for funding at its next meeting on 11-12 October.

24. 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, 14 per cent to Latin America and the Caribbean, 11 per cent to Global, and 5 per cent to Other.

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

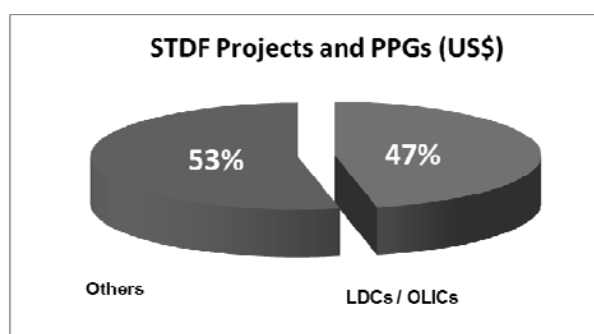
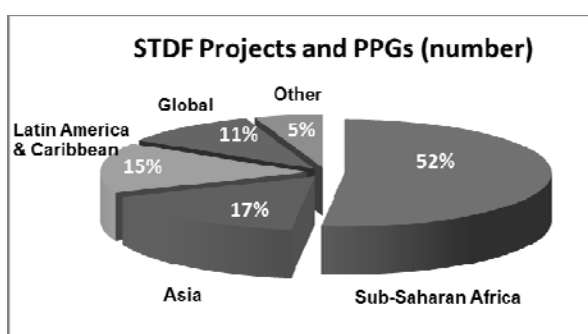


Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)



25. 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 28 December 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/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
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-Dec-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	31-Mar-13	\$324,240
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	17-Sep-12	16-Sep-15	\$1,033,673
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 Nationale de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (ANSSA)	10-Dec-09	15-May-10	15-Nov-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-Dec-12	\$273,035

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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
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

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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
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/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	01-Oct-12	30-Sep-14	\$348,632

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	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
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

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/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
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	Upon approval	\$27,750