



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

1 OVERVIEW

1.1. 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.

1.2. 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

1.3. This document provides an overview of STDF activities in support of its work programme since the previous SPS Committee meeting in October 2012 as well as information on planned work. It also provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants.

1.4. 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.

2 COORDINATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

2.1 Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)

2.1. 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 purpose of the MCDA framework is to improve the effectiveness of decisions on where to allocate public, private and/or donor resources aimed at enhancing SPS capacity. As such, the tool helps to: (i) enhance the economic efficiency of SPS resource allocation decisions so that scarce resources are allocated in a manner that best meets a country's economic development, poverty alleviation, public health and/or other objectives; (ii) promote more transparent and accountable choices between multiple

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>).

investment options; and (iii) facilitate dialogue and coordination among public and private sector stakeholders with an interest in SPS and encourage more inclusive decision-making processes.

2.2. A successful regional workshop for selected mid- to high-level officials in food safety, animal and/or plant health and trade from the Asian and Pacific region was organized by the STDF in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2012. The objectives of the workshop were to present the MCDA approach, share practical experiences from countries where it had been used (including in Viet Nam in 2012 with STDF support), and equip SPS experts from the Asian and Pacific region with knowledge and skills to apply this approach. A total of 40 participants from 18 countries/territories participated in the event.

2.3. On 24-25 June 2013 the STDF will organize an MCDA workshop in Geneva for selected participants to: (i) review work to date on the use of MCDA to prioritize SPS capacity building options in a number of developing countries; (ii) discuss options to improve and refine the MCDA tool and its practical application; and (iii) make recommendations to guide future work on MCDA. The selection of participants for this workshop has already been completed by the STDF Secretariat. 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>).

2.2 SPS and Trade Facilitation

2.4. The STDF, in collaboration with its partners, has begun work on exploring the linkages between SPS and Trade Facilitation. This work will analyse the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation, which is defined as the simplification, harmonisation, standardisation and modernisation of trade procedures (Grainger, 2008). The specific objectives will be to: (i) raise awareness about the synergies between the implementation of SPS measures and trade facilitation; (ii) identify key needs, opportunities and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that ensures the appropriate level of health protection while minimizing trade transaction costs; and (iii) develop recommendations to strengthen future work and technical cooperation focused on SPS and trade facilitation.

2.5. The work will include regional research in selected countries and sub-regions in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia to review and analyse the implementation of SPS measures, procedures and processes in the context of trade facilitation. Based on the findings of the regional research, the STDF Secretariat, in cooperation with the organizations involved in the regional research, will publish a synthesis study and a two-page STDF Briefing summarizing the key messages and conclusions.

2.6. Members are encouraged to share information with the STDF Secretariat on their experiences in the area of SPS and Trade Facilitation (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

2.3 STDF Virtual Library

2.7. In November 2012, the STDF launched a Virtual Library, a central repository of electronic SPS capacity building documentation. The system contains around 800 publicly available documents, including project reports and evaluations, capacity assessments, training materials, research papers, articles, etc., from various publishers and sources. Information is provided in English, French and/or Spanish, as available. The library allows the STDF Secretariat to: (i) better manage a large amount of documentation; (ii) inform and assist beneficiaries, international organizations and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of SPS capacity building initiatives; and (iii) further facilitate the dissemination of relevant experiences and good practices. The library is accessible from the STDF website, and at the following web address: <http://www.stdfvirtuallibrary.org>.

2.8. Members are encouraged to share SPS technical cooperation and capacity building documents with the STDF Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) for possible inclusion in the library.

2.4 Study on Effects of Export-Oriented SPS Technical Cooperation on Domestic Food Safety

2.9. The STDF, in close collaboration with FAO and WHO, is preparing to commission a study on the spill-over effects of export-oriented SPS technical cooperation project and programmes on domestic food safety. The aim is to draw key lessons to improve the design and delivery of future SPS-related technical cooperation. The study will be primarily based on a review of selected technical assistance projects and programmes (including relevant STDF projects) and will comprise desk-top research, questionnaires and direct interviews.

2.10. Members are encouraged to share information on relevant projects and programmes with the STDF Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) in relation to this topic.

2.5 International Trade And Invasive Alien Species

2.11. In July 2012, the STDF, in collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), organized a seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Geneva. The STDF is currently finalizing and will shortly publish a desk study that was prepared for and presented at the seminar. The main objectives of this work is to: (i) provide a common understanding of the concepts and principles used in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the SPS Agreement and related instruments with regard to IAS in the context of international trade; and (ii) highlight the contribution that can be made by effective SPS systems in helping to protect against the entry of harmful species, including pests, diseases, and other IAS. In doing so, this work aims to foster increased and better collaboration between the SPS and the CBD "communities" at both regional and national levels. More information on the seminar, including presentations, an STDF briefing note highlighting findings and conclusions, and other relevant documentation, is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>).

3 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

3.1. The STDF generally acts as a helpdesk on SPS project development and funds project preparation grants (PPGs) to assist beneficiaries in the articulation of their SPS needs and the development of technically sound and sustainable project proposals. Funds up to US\$50,000 are available for 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.

3.2. A total of 53 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. It is expected that the STDF Working Group will approve additional PPGs for funding at its next meeting on 18-19 March.

4 PROJECT FUNDING

4.1. 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.

4.2. A total of 63 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. It is expected that the STDF Working Group will approve additional projects for funding at its next meeting on 18-19 March.

4.3. An overview of current STDF projects and PPGs is provided in the Annex. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 44% of its project and PPG resources to Least-developed countries (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% of Facility project and PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs. Figure 2 indicates that 52% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 18% to Asia, and 15% to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, 11% of STDF projects and PPGs can be classified as global.

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

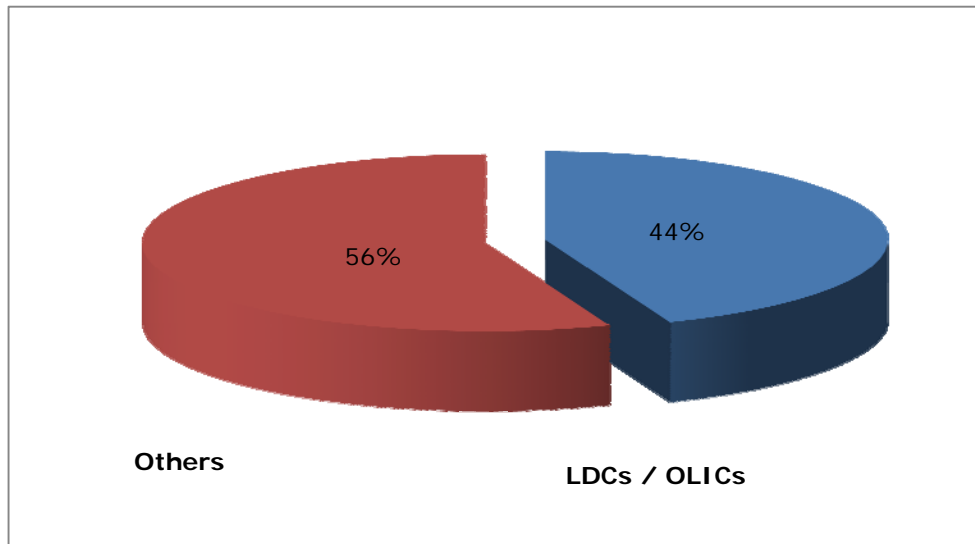
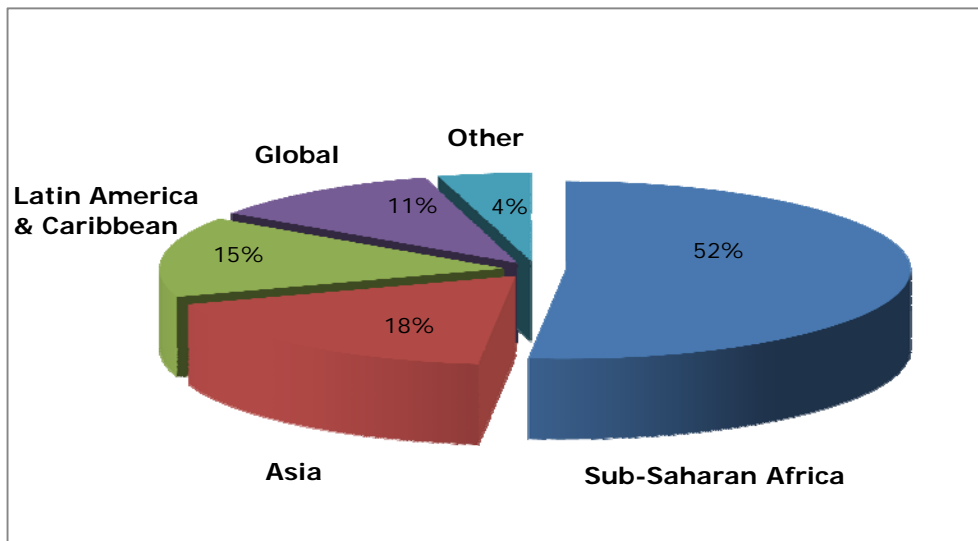


Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)



4.4. 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 19 July 2013.

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 ONGOING STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS¹

STATUS OF APPROVED PROJECTS

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-13	\$364,240
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/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	28-Feb-13	\$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 (ICCO)	02-Jul-10	01-Jan-11	31-Dec-13	\$593,460

¹ Projects and project preparation grants that have a start and end date to be determined (TBD) have not yet been contracted.

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-13	\$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	31-May-13	\$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-Jul-13	\$401,500
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/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	30-Jun-13	\$581,665

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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-14	\$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	\$412,629
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
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	\$510,788
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	01-Dec-12	30-Nov-15	\$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	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	\$600,000
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	TBD	TBD	\$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	TBD	TBD	\$488,330

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/359	African Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project: Strengthening regional capacity to meet pesticides export requirements based on international standards	Enhance regional capacity in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring for establishing, implementing, and complying with international pesticide residue standards	Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda	AU-IBAR	11-Oct-12	TBD	TBD	\$446,150
STDF/PG/381	CocoaSafe: SPS capacity building and knowledge sharing for the cocoa sector in South East Asia	Maintain and increase market access of cocoa exports by improving practices along the supply chain to meet international standards of food safety	Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea	International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)	11-Oct-12	TBD	TBD	\$593,204
STDF/PG/401	Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators	Improve the capability of developing countries to use the PCE tool to evaluate their capacities, identify gaps and plan their national phytosanitary and development programmes	Developing countries	IPPC Capacity Development Committee (CDC)	11-Oct-12	TBD	TBD	\$625,148

STATUS OF APPROVED PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGS)

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	TBD	27-Jun-11	01-Jan-12	Upon approval	\$90,000
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	TBD	TBD	\$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	Gambia	IPPC	30-Mar-12	01-Feb-13	31-Jul-13	\$50,000
STDF/PPG/400	Capacity building for aflatoxin management and control in groundnuts in Malawi	Develop a proposal for a national programme to address aflatoxin contamination in Malawi	Malawi	Luz Diaz & International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	11-Oct-12	25-Feb-13	24-Aug-13	\$46,265