



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 SPS 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. More specifically, the STDF increases awareness, mobilizes additional resources, strengthens collaboration and identifies and disseminates good practice to enhance the effectiveness of SPS assistance. 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 funds 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 March 2013, as well as information on planned activities. The Annex provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs). The STDF recently issued its 2012 Annual Report, which is available on the STDF website (http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/AnnualReports/STDF_AnnualReport_2012.pdf).

1.4. Delegates 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 e-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

2.1 International Trade and Invasive Alien Species

2.1. In July 2012, the STDF organized a seminar on the relationship between international trade and invasive alien species (IAS), and the linkages between the international organizations and legal instruments concerned. The seminar was successful in raising awareness about the mutually-beneficial goals of the SPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the contribution of two relevant standard-setting organizations (the IPPC and the OIE) under the SPS Agreement. In particular, participants highlighted the importance of: (i) effective SPS systems in

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>).

helping to protect against the entry of harmful species, including pests, diseases and other IAS; and (ii) collaboration between the SPS and the CBD "communities" at the global, regional and national level. Information on the seminar, including the presentations, a short two-page STDF briefing note and other relevant documentation, is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>).

2.2. In May 2013, the STDF finalized the background study that was presented at the seminar and subsequently revised based on the discussions and conclusions of the seminar. The study reviews and analyses key concepts and principles relevant to IAS and international trade in the context of the SPS Agreement and the CBD, and in relation to the IPPC and the OIE. It also considers various initiatives to enhance capacities for managing the entry and spread of IAS (including plant pests and animal diseases), reviews common challenges and good practices, and makes a number of targeted recommendations.

2.3. The STDF Secretariat will present the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study during a side-event, in collaboration with the IPPC and OIE, on **Thursday 27 June 2013 (14:00-15:00, Room E)**. Interested delegates are most welcome to attend the side-event. Copies of the study will be made available.

2.2 Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)

2.4. The STDF continued its work on the application of Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) to inform decision-making on SPS capacity building and public, private and/or donor resource allocation. Application of the MCDA framework can help 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 investment options; and (iii) facilitate dialogue and coordination among public and private sector stakeholders and encourage more inclusive decision-making processes.

2.5. On 24-25 June 2013, the STDF will organize a workshop in Geneva for its partner organizations and selected participants from developing countries where the MCDA tool has been applied. Participation in this workshop is upon invitation only and registration is now closed. The objectives of the workshop will be to: (i) review the work to date on the use of MCDA to inform SPS-decision-making in several 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. 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>).

2.3 Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade

2.6. The Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade will be held at the WTO from 8-10 July 2013. The aim of the Global Review is to examine strategies to connect developing country and least-developed country (LDC) firms to international value chains.³ Delegates are reminded that registration for the Global Aid for Trade Review is mandatory (http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/gr13_registration_e.htm). The deadline for registration is **21 June 2013**.

2.7. The STDF, in collaboration with Canada and the Netherlands, will hold a side-event entitled "Public Private Partnerships in a Value Chain Context" on **Tuesday 9 July 2013 (15:00–17:00, Room S3)**. This event will be used to disseminate the results of recent STDF work on SPS-related public-private partnerships⁴ and to present a report prepared by the Canadian North-South Institute entitled "Models for Trade-Related Private Sector Partnerships for Development". The presentations will be followed by a panel discussion among senior public and private sector experts who will address in particular the following questions:

- What is the role and potential of PPPs in helping developing countries connect to value chains? What have been the experiences, challenges, innovations and results?

³ More information on the Global Review is available on the WTO website: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/global_review13_e.htm.

⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAPPP.htm>.

- What role can and should different types of stakeholders (governments, private sector, development partners, etc.) play in facilitating PPPs in the context of connecting to value chains?
- How can the longer-term sustainability of PPPs that seek the inclusion of smallholders in agricultural value chains be ensured

2.8. Delegates are encouraged to register and participate in this side-event. More information on the programme and the speakers is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAAidForTrade4GR.htm>).

2.4 SPS and Trade Facilitation

2.9. The STDF started implementation of research work in selected countries in Asia that will analyse the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation (defined as the simplification, harmonisation, standardisation and modernisation of trade procedures). The aim is to identify, analyse and foster dialogue on experiences, lessons and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that facilitates safe trade. Research is also planned in selected countries in Africa and Latin America, in collaboration with STDF partners and other interested organizations, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and TradeMark Southern Africa.

2.5 STDF Virtual Library

2.10. The STDF Secretariat continues to add relevant SPS capacity building documents to the STDF Virtual Library (<http://www.stdfvirtuallibrary.org>) to facilitate the exchange of information and sharing of experiences, identify and disseminate good practice and enhance the effectiveness of SPS-related technical co-operation. Delegates are encouraged to share project documents, end reports, training materials, project evaluations reports, SPS needs assessments, cost-benefit analyses, research papers and articles, etc. (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

2.6 SPS technical cooperation and impacts on domestic food safety

2.11. The STDF, in collaboration with the FAO and the WHO, would like to commission a study on the spill-over effects of export-oriented SPS technical cooperation projects/programmes on the domestic health situation. One aim will be to draw key lessons to improve the design and delivery of future SPS-related projects and programmes. This study will primarily be based on a review of selected projects and programmes implemented by STDF partners and donors and comprise desk research, questionnaires and direct interviews. Delegates are encouraged to share information on relevant projects and programmes that could be included in this research work (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

3 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

3.1. The STDF provides advice and support to beneficiaries on issues related to SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs) to assist beneficiaries in the articulation of their SPS needs and the development of technically sound and sustainable project proposals. Seed funding up to US\$50,000 is 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 (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 **56** PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. The STDF Working Group may approve additional PPGs for funding at its next meeting on 15-16 October 2013.

4 PROJECT FUNDING

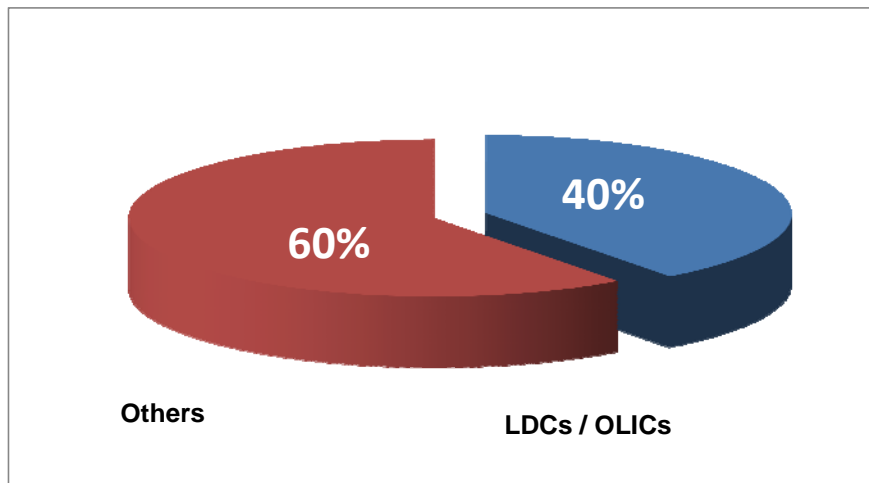
4.1. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1,000,000 is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that focus on one or more of the following: (i) the

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 65 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. The STDF Working Group may approve additional projects for funding at its next meeting on 15-16 October 2013.

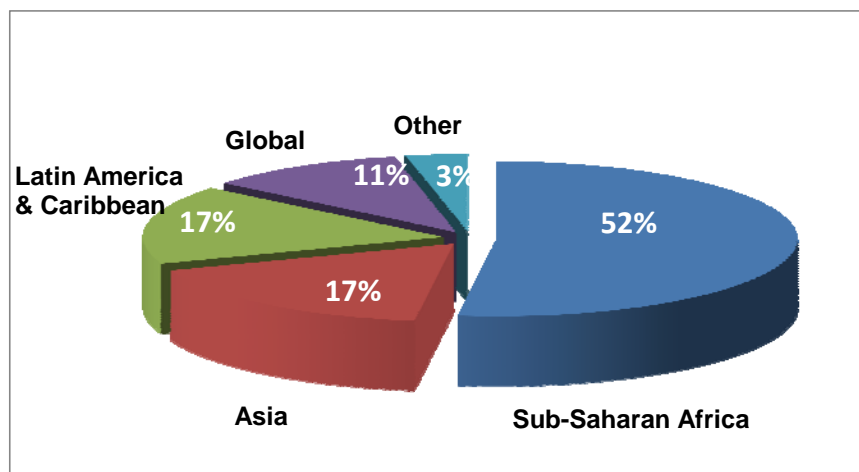
4.3. The Annex provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and PPGs. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 40% of its project and PPG resources to Least-developed countries (LDCs) and Other Low Income Countries (OLICs), as shown in Figure 1 below. Hence, the STDF continues to meet its target to devote at least 40% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs. However, as also indicated in the 2012 Annual Report, this percentage has dropped slowly over the last years (from 54% in 2009 to 40% in 2013). This trend merits attention in the near future. The allocation of PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs remains high (i.e. 66% of the overall budget for PPGs).

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



4.4. Figure 2 below indicates that 52% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 17% to Asia, and 17% to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, 11% of STDF projects and PPGs can be classified as global.

Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)



4.5. 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 and 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/303	Regional Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa	Contribute to strengthen capacity of risk managers to implement international standards based on a good knowledge of hazards, risks and exposure levels to harmful substances in commonly produced and consumed food	Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria and Mali	FAO in collaboration with WHO	19-Mar-13	TBD	TBD	\$1,063,708
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

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 and Viet Nam	Michigan State University (MSU)	02-Jul-10	01-Jan-11	30-Jun-13	\$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-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/345	Feed and Food Security Program for Latin America and the Caribbean	Contribute to the harmonization of the regulatory framework for the production and commercialization of animal feed, ensuring its safety and access to markets, based on the standards and recommendations of Codex and OIE.	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay	FEEDLATINA	19-Mar-13	TDB	TBD	\$1,000,000
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/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

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
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
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/436	Strengthening regional capacity in Latin America to meet pesticides export requirements based on international standards	Strengthen the capacity of Latin American countries in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring, to support the establishment, implementation and compliance with international standards	Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama and Peru	IICA	19-Mar-13	TBD	TBD	\$373,515

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 members	COMESA	27-Jun-11	01-Jan-12	Upon approval	\$90,000
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	IPPC	30-Mar-12	01-Feb-13	31-Jul-13	\$50,000
STDF/PPG/379	Promoting the effective participation of SADC Member States in the WTO SPS Committee	This PPG is requested to strengthen the capacity of SPS authorities in SADC Member States to be able to effectively implement their SPS obligations and assert their rights as WTO Members.	SADC member States	TBD	22-Mar-13	TBD	TBD	\$50,000
STDF/PPG/392	Integrating SPS in Sierra Leone: A whole chain approach to developing the National Food Safety Management System	Assess the national food safety management system and develop plans for institutional capacity building and determine priorities in order to achieve compliance with SPS requirements	Sierra Leone	TBD	19-Mar-13	TBD	TBD	\$39,150
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

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/404	Developing Virus Indexing Capacity for Planting Materials in Malawi	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the viability of building capacity for indexing and production of virus-free planting materials for bananas	Malawi	Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) - Malawi	19-Mar-13	TBD	TBD	\$31,096
STDF/PPG/432	Information systems for surveillance and pest reporting in Asia/Pacific countries	Enable countries to implement international phytosanitary standards and to fulfil their SPS obligations mainly related to transparency and risk assessment	Asia Pacific countries	Australia's Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)	19-Mar-13	TBD	TBD	\$49,990