



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)² is a global partnership that supports developing countries to implement international food safety, animal and plant health standards, guidelines and recommendations, and hence to gain and maintain access to markets.

1.2. The STDF acts as a coordinating and financing mechanism. As part of its coordination role, the STDF increases awareness, identifies and disseminates good practice and strengthens collaboration in SPS capacity building. Sections two to five of this document highlight recent work undertaken by the Facility as part of its coordination function. As a financing mechanism, STDF provides grants for projects and support to applicants on SPS project development through project preparation grants (PPGs). Information is available in sections six and seven of this document. Annex 1 provides a brief overview of on-going STDF projects and PPGs.

1.3. Delegates who would like to receive more information on the STDF are invited to visit the STDF website and subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list.³ The next STDF Working Group meeting will be held on 14-15 March 2016.

2 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS - INFORMATION SESSION

2.1. Developing countries face considerable demands to enhance their SPS capacity in the context of broader domestic economic and social policy objectives, including the desire to boost agri-food exports. In most cases, the resources available to governments from national budgets, donors and/or private businesses are insufficient to meet all of the identified needs, especially when prevailing export-oriented SPS capacity is weak. This requires hard choices to be made between competing investments that may all be likely to bring appreciable benefits, for example in terms of export performance, agricultural productivity and/or health protection. The STDF has developed a framework to help inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes. The framework – known as "**Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access**" (P-IMA)⁴ – aims to inform decisions on where to invest in SPS capacity building.

2.2. The STDF will hold an information Session on the P-IMA framework on **Wednesday, 16 March 2016** from **13:00 – 14:00** at WTO headquarters in Geneva (sandwiches will be offered outside the meeting room from 13:00, prior to the start of the session). The objective of the information session is to briefly present the new P-IMA user Guide and share experiences from countries that have used this approach. A new STDF briefing note on the P-IMA framework is available on the STDF website.⁵

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 and obligations under the WTO.

² The STDF was 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 WTO.

³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/>.

⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

⁵ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_No11_PIMA_EN.pdf.

3 IMPLEMENTING SPS MEASURES TO FACILITATE SAFE TRADE- REPORT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

3.1. A new report, entitled "The Implementation of SPS Measures to Facilitate Safe Trade: Selected Practices and Experiences in Malawi, South Africa and Zambia", is available on the STDF website.⁶ The report examines how SPS measures are implemented in practice for selected products in Malawi, South Africa and Zambia, and identifies opportunities and good practice to reduce SPS-related transaction costs, while reinforcing health protection. The report includes a number of country-specific recommendations, as well as more general recommendations that can be of interest to other countries interested in facilitating safe trade. A new STDF briefing note⁷ draws on the findings of the report on Southern Africa as well as similar STDF-funded research in Southeast Asia. It highlights opportunities to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that facilitates safe trade, while minimizing transaction costs, based on the SPS Agreement.

3.2. The findings and recommendations of STDF's work on implementing safe trade are aligned with the 2014-15 Aid-for-Trade (Aft) work programme, "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth", which reiterated that high trade costs inhibit many developing countries from fully exploiting their trade and development potential. Trade costs remain particularly high in some critical sectors where growth is associated with strong poverty reduction effects, most prominently in the agriculture sector. The new Aft work programme for 2016-2017 will focus on "Promoting Connectivity" and will continue to build on insights emerging from the Aft work in 2014-2015. More information is available on the WTO website.⁸

4 ELECTRONIC SPS CERTIFICATION

4.1. The STDF will organize an information seminar on Electronic SPS Certification on **Tuesday 5 July 2016** at WTO headquarters in Geneva, back-to-back with the WTO SPS Committee. The main objective will be to share information and experiences about the use of electronic certification⁹ (e-certification) in the SPS area, including identification of key challenges and opportunities for developing countries. The seminar will be open for SPS delegates, other trade and development officials as well as for those working in the area of certification. Information on the seminar, including a detailed programme and on registration, will be made available in the coming weeks on the STDF website (<http://standardsfacility.org/>).

5 JOINT EIF/STDF ANALYSIS ON SPS ISSUES IN DTIS STUDIES

5.1. The STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)¹⁰ Secretariat have undertaken a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in EIF Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS)¹¹ and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation. The study highlights a number of good practices and lessons learned to inform SPS analysis in future DTIS reports and processes. First and foremost, the EIF Secretariat may wish to explore more systematic ways of engaging the international standard-setting bodies, as well as organizations or programs with a specific role in SPS capacity building, in the preparation of DTIS reports and their follow-up. It is expected that the study will be available on the STDF website by mid-April 2016.

6 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

6.1. The STDF provides advice and support to applicants on issues related to SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs). PPGs, normally up to US\$50,000, are available to help applicants articulate their SPS needs and develop technically sound and sustainable project proposals. PPGs can be requested to: (i) apply SPS capacity evaluation and

⁶ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade>.

⁷ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_No10_EN_web.pdf.

⁸ See: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/aid4trade_e.htm.

⁹ Presentations made on this topic at the STDF Working Group in October 2015 are available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/working-group-documents>.

¹⁰ The EIF is a trade capacity building programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). For more information, see <http://www.enhancedif.org/en/about/how-does-it-work>.

¹¹ The DTIS is the cornerstone of the EIF deployment in LDCs in terms of mainstreaming and integrating trade into national development plans. The DTIS sets the basis for all subsequent interventions and establishes priorities to reach trade expansion targets for a given country.

prioritization tools; (ii) prepare feasibility studies before project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of costs and benefits; and (iii) develop project proposals for funding by donors or the STDF.

6.2. A total of **70 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. Information on on-going and completed PPGs is available on the STDF website.¹² The STDF Working Group may approve additional PPGs for funding at its next meeting on 14-15 March 2016.

7 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

7.1. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1,000,000 is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and dissemination good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) apply regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iii) implement collaborative approaches across food safety, animal and plant health and trade.

7.2. Beneficiaries must contribute to the project from their own resources, either in the form of financial or in-kind contributions such as staff time, use of premises, vehicles or other existing assets.

7.3. A total of **75 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Information on on-going and completed PGs is available on the STDF website.¹³ The STDF Working Group may approve additional projects for funding at its next meeting on 14-15 March 2016 – depending on the resources available in the STDF trust fund.

7.4. Annex 1 provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and PPGs. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 54% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and other low income countries (OLICs), as shown in Figure 1. Hence, the STDF continues meeting its target to devote at least 40% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs. In particular the allocation of PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs remains high (i.e. 74% of the overall budget for PPGs).

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

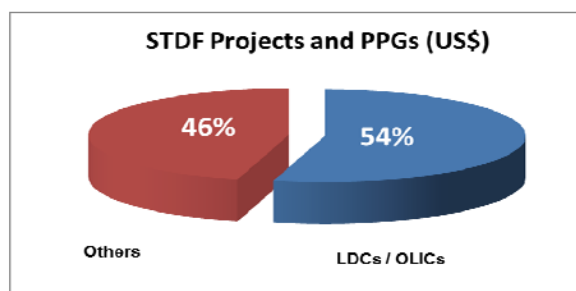
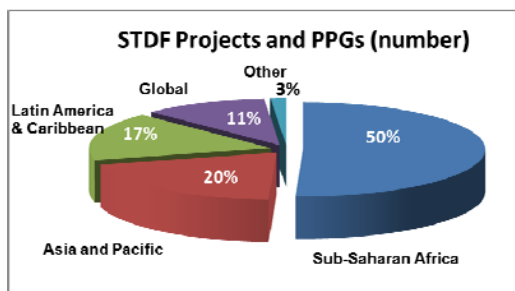


Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)



7.5. Figure 2 above indicates that 50% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 20% to Asia, and 17% to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, 11% of STDF projects and PPGs can be classified as global.

7.6. 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 2016**. Further information on eligibility criteria, application forms, etc. is available on the STDF website.

¹² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

¹³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

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

1. Browse our PPG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants> and PG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants> webpages for examples of previous projects.
2. Carefully read our guidance note for applicants: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/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/application-forms>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

ANNEX 1

OVERVIEW OF ONGOING STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS

PROJECTS

Ref. No.	Title	Beneficiary	Implementing entity	Start Date	End Date	STDF Contribution (US\$)
STDF/PG/242	Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros	Comoros	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	17-Sep-12	16-Sep-16	\$1,033,673
STDF/PG/303	Regional Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa	Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Mali	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	01-Apr-14	31-Mar-17	\$1,063,708
STDF/PG/316	Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	01-Sep-14	28-Feb-17	\$1,000,000
STDF/PG/321	Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	01-Apr-12	30-Jun-16	\$568,750
STDF/PG/329	Enhancing SPS capacity of ginger exports through a Public-Private Partnership in Nepal	Nepal (co-funded with EIF)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	07-Jun-12	06-Sep-15 (awaiting final project report)	\$412,629
STDF/PG/337	ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project	ASEAN member states	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	01-Dec-12	30-Nov-16	\$607,000
STDF/PG/343	Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	01-Jul-12	30-Apr-16	\$630,000
STDF/PG/344	Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in Central America and Dominican Republic	Central America, Dominican Republic	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	01-Jul-12	30-Jun-16	\$905,225
STDF/PG/345	Feed and Food Security Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	Asociación de las Industrias de Alimentación Animal de América Latina y Caribe (FEEDLATINA)	15-Feb-14	14-Feb-17	\$991,100
STDF/PG/346	Breaking barriers, facilitating trade in COMESA member states	COMESA members	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	01-Nov-14	31-Oct-17	\$902,690
STDF/PG/350	Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits	Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Malaysia, Sudan	International Plant Protection Convention (FAO-IPPC)	01-Feb-12	31-Jul-15 (awaiting final project report)	\$600,000
STDF/PG/354	Improving Safety and Quality of Fruits and Vegetables in Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	International Trade Centre (ITC)	01-Mar-13	28-Feb-16	\$562,484

Ref. No.	Title	Beneficiary	Implementing entity	Start Date	End Date	STDF Contribution (US\$)
STDF/PG/359	African Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project	Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)	01-May-13	30-Apr-17	\$446,150
STDF/PG/381	CocoaSafe: SPS capacity building and knowledge sharing for the cocoa sector in South East Asia	Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea	International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)	01-Nov-13	30-Apr-16	\$604,491
STDF/PG/401	Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators	Developing countries	International Plant Protection Convention (FAO-IPPC)	01-Apr-14	30-Sep-16	\$655,436
STDF/PG/432	Demonstrating the impact on trade and regional plant protection of streamlined information systems for pest surveillance and reporting (Asia/Pacific countries)	Asia Pacific countries	Australia Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR)	TBD	TBD	\$997,595
STDF/PG/436	Strengthening regional capacity in Latin America to meet pesticides export requirements	Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama; Peru	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	01-Oct-13	30-Sep-16	\$346,450
STDF/PG/460	Implementation of ISPM 15	Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique	International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) - Erasmus University of Rotterdam	01-Feb-15	31-Jan-17	\$285,159
STDF/PG/486	Improving food safety and compliance with SPS measures to increase export revenues in the oilseeds value chain in Myanmar	Myanmar	International Trade Centre (ITC)	17-Aug-15	16-Aug-18	\$736,671
STDF/PG/489	Technical assistance on SPS and the value-chain, to improve market access for small-scale / artisanal fisheries in West Africa	Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	01-Sep-15	31-Aug-17	\$910,714
STDF/PG/495	Accreditation of laboratory diagnostic tests for animal diseases in OIRSA member countries	Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)	TBD	TBD	\$793,300

Ref. No.	Title	Beneficiary	Implementing entity	Start Date	End Date	STDF Contribution (US\$)
STDF/PG/502	Regional Strengthening for the Implementation of Phytosanitary Measures and Market Access in COSAVE member countries	Argentina; Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Brazil; Chile; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	01-Nov-15	31-Oct-18	\$985,700
STDF/PG/504	Global electronic trade facilitation: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products through innovation (e-phyto)	Global	International Plant Protection Convention (FAO-IPPC)	TBD	TBD	\$1,000,000
STDF/PG/515	Honey Chain Traceability in Guatemala	Guatemala	Directorate for Food Safety - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala	15-Dec-15	14-Dec-17	\$45,400

PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGs)

Ref. No.	Title	Beneficiary	Implementing entity	Start Date	End Date	STDF Contribution (US\$)
STDF/PPG/375	Development of a project for the establishment of a National SPS Strategy in Togo	Togo	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$38,000
STDF/PPG/379	Promoting the effective participation of SADC member states in the WTO SPS Committee	SADC member states	Kevin Walker (consultant)	15-Jul-13	Upon approval	\$25,000
STDF/PPG/392	Integrating SPS in Sierra Leone: A whole chain approach to developing the national food safety management system	Sierra Leone	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	01-Nov-13	Upon approval	\$39,000
STDF/PPG/404	Developing virus indexing capacity for planting materials in Malawi	Malawi	Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS), Malawi	01-Nov-13	Upon approval	\$18,701
STDF/PPG/431	Aflatoxin management in chillies in Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)	01-May-15	30-Apr-16	\$34,000
STDF/PPG/435	Strengthening SPS compliance of sesame production in Sudan for enhanced access to international markets	Sudan	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	01-Jun-15	31-Mar-16	\$50,000
STDF/PPG/447	Development of a project proposal to address SPS capacity needs focusing on the national food safety system in Tajikistan	Tajikistan	International Trade Centre (ITC)	01-Oct-15	30-Sep-16	\$40,600
STDF/PPG/453	Building capacity and facilitating enabling mechanisms for harmonizing Aquaculture Certification	ASEAN member states	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific (NACA)	01-Jun-14	Upon approval	\$48,000
STDF/PPG/477	Improving sanitary capacity and facilitating export of livestock and livestock products in Ethiopia	Ethiopia	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development Sector, Veterinary Service Directorate	11-May-15	Upon approval	\$37,500
STDF/PPG/481	Strengthening the phytosanitary capacity of the horticulture sector in Zambia	Zambia	Ruth Frampton (consultant)	01-Nov-15	30-Apr-16	\$31,380
STDF/PPG/516	Cost-Benefit Analysis for Establishing a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone or Compartment in Tanzania	Tanzania	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$50,000

Ref. No.	Title	Beneficiary	Implementing entity	Start Date	End Date	STDF Contribution (US\$)
STDF/PPG/534	Preparation for a project proposal to develop traceability and identification of livestock in Mongolia	Mongolia	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$49,750
STDF/PPG/535	Spillover Effects of Export-Oriented SPS Technical Assistance on the Domestic Food Safety Situation	Global	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$75,000