



16 October 2017

(17-5560)

Page: 1/6

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 to implement international food safety, animal and plant health standards and gain and maintain access to markets. The STDF is a global coordination and knowledge platform. It identifies and disseminates good practice, leverages resources and works on coordinated, coherent solutions to enhance SPS capacity building. In addition, the STDF provides support and funding for the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative SPS projects.

1.2. 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, which houses and manages the STDF Secretariat and Trust Fund. Many other international and regional organizations involved in SPS capacity building, donors contributing to the STDF trust fund and developing country experts participate actively in STDF's work. This also includes the Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

1.3. This document provides a brief update on STDF activities and projects since the last meeting of the SPS Committee in July 2017. Delegates who would like to know more about the STDF are encouraged to visit the STDF website to view the projects and download STDF briefing notes and publications. Delegates are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>).

1.4. The next STDF Working Group meeting will be held on **30-31 October 2017**.

2 OPTIONS, COSTS AND BENEFITS OF FMD CONTROL

2.1. On **1 November 2017** (at 13.30), on the margins of the SPS Committee, the STDF will hold an Information Session on options, costs and benefits of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control in the context of livestock trade. This information session will present findings of two studies, which were conducted in 2017 by the Royal Veterinary College, as part of STDF Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) in Tanzania and Zimbabwe:

- Feasibility of establishing a fresh meat producing compartment in Zimbabwe (STDF/PPG/550);² and
- Cost-Benefit Analysis for establishing a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone or Compartment in Tanzania (STDF/PPG/516).³

2.2. The program is attached as Annex 1. Further information is also available on the STDF website.⁴

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 See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-550>.

³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-516>.

3 GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE

3.1. The STDF is carrying out work to analyse how Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) can be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures in developing countries, in order to ensure health protection and facilitate safe trade. Good regulatory practices are defined as internationally recognized processes, systems, tools and methods to improve the quality of regulations and ensure that regulatory outcomes are effective, transparent, inclusive and sustained (World Bank, 2015).

3.2. STDF's work in this area aims to provide guidance to ensure that SPS measures are "fit for purpose" and that they avoid the creation of non-tariff barriers. It will seek to identify good practices and recommendations to enhance the development and implementation of SPS measures in order to:

- Strengthen the effectiveness of regulatory interventions;
- Improve compliance with international standards and the WTO SPS Agreement;
- Ensure health protection while facilitating trade.

3.3. A survey was recently circulated to officials of government ministries/agencies/departments responsible for food safety, animal and plant health in developing countries. The purpose was to gather information on if and how SPS agencies in developing countries are applying GRPs to strengthen the development, implementation and review of SPS measures. Information obtained will be compiled in a short document which will be shared with respondents and discussed at the STDF Working Group on **30-31 October 2017**. The findings will complement regular data collection exercises and work on measuring regulatory performance within OECD countries.

3.4. For further information on this work, please see the STDF website including a concept note and a link to the survey.⁵

4 TRANSITIONING FROM PAPER-BASED TO AUTOMATED SPS SYSTEMS

4.1. During the 6th Aid for Trade Global Review, on 12 July 2017, the STDF organized a brief high-level information session on the current state of play in SPS e-cert and more generally on the use of new technologies in the context of SPS compliance and trade. Over 250 participants attended the session. Presentations, as well as a briefing note, are available on the STDF website.⁶ Key points raised include:

- Paperless SPS systems can improve traceability throughout SPS supply chains, reduce food wastage, reduce trade times and costs, reduce fraudulent certificates, and build trust among trading partners;
- E-cert can reduce certification times from 15 days to 4 hours; Codex, IPPC and OIE are creating guidelines, platforms and capacity building tools to facilitate e-cert, complementing the modernising reforms encouraged by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- Certain conditions must be in place to enable full digitisation across all agencies; public and private sectors must leverage existing solutions to improve data transfer and information exchange; financing models need to be made available to developing countries to support the effective transition to automated SPS systems.

5 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS (P-IMA)

5.1. STDF's user guide "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA): A framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes" was published in 2016. To date, the framework has been used to prioritize SPS investment options in several developing countries that differ considerably in the scale and diversity of their food and agricultural exports, and the range and magnitude of SPS capacity-building needs. Experiences highlight several benefits, for instance to facilitate public-private dialogue on SPS matters, increase political awareness about the benefits

⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/info-session-costs-and-benefits-fmd-control-context-livestock-trade>.

⁵ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

⁶ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/A4T_Review_2017.

of strengthening SPS capacity, inform and improve national SPS planning and decision-making processes, support project design and leverage additional funding resources.

5.2. In March 2017, the STDF Working Group approved a request from Madagascar to apply the P-IMA framework and prioritize SPS investment needs in key value chains with export potential. Regional trade bodies have also expressed a strong interest in the framework. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) recently submitted a project application to utilize the P-IMA framework in helping selected COMESA member states to prioritize and mainstream SPS investments into sector investments plans for agriculture, trade, climate change and the environment. This would include the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP).

5.3. The P-IMA user guide, as well as a short briefing note, is available for download on the STDF website.⁷ Delegates who would like to have more information on how to use and benefit from the P-IMA framework are encouraged to contact the STDF Secretariat.

6 ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

6.1. As part of its role to share available know-how and SPS-related good practice, the STDF regularly issues briefing notes on issues of interest. In 2017, briefing notes were issued on: (i) how STDF projects are improving the private sector's capacity to implement SPS measures and take advantage of trade opportunities⁸; and (ii) SPS e-cert.⁹ Recently, the STDF also issued a background paper to provide practitioners in the SPS area involved in trade transactions with basic information on the concept of paperless trade, the role of SPS e-cert, and how it relates to other trade procedures.¹⁰

6.2. The STDF also continues to prepare and issue project results stories, highlighting the results and impacts of STDF projects on the ground in Africa, Asia and Latin America.¹¹ On 26-28 September 2017, during the WTO Public Forum on "Trade: Behind the Headlines", the STDF hosted a booth with exhibits and explanatory material from projects and its work on cross-cutting SPS issues.

6.3. STDF's YouTube channel includes links to all STDF films such as "Safe Trade Solutions" and "Cocoa: a sweet value chain". It now also includes links to many other relevant SPS film material.

7 VIRTUAL LIBRARY

7.1. The STDF Virtual Library¹² is an online information repository providing quick and easy online access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building. Countries are encouraged to submit relevant documents to the Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) for inclusion in the Library including: project documents and final reports, training materials, project evaluations/reviews, SPS capacity needs assessments, cost-benefit analyses, case studies, relevant research papers and other articles on SPS capacity building. The Library complements and includes links to other information systems and databases developed and maintained by STDF partners, donors and other organizations.

8 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

8.1. 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 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 and/or the STDF.

⁷ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/p-ima>.

⁸ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/partnering-private-sector>.

⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/going-paperless-sps-e-certification>.

¹⁰ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/SPS_Ecert_Backgroundpaper.pdf.

¹¹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-results-series>.

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

8.2. A total of **86 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.¹³

8.3. In 2017, the STDF received 29 applications for PPGs. In March 2017, the STDF Working Group approved five new PPGs. Depending on financial resources available in the STDF trust fund, the STDF Working Group may approve additional PPGs for funding at its next meeting on **30-31 October 2017**.

9 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

9.1. Grant financing for projects is also 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.

9.2. 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.

9.3. A total of **80 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Information on on-going and completed projects is available on the STDF website.¹⁴

9.4. In 2017, the STDF received 26 applications for projects. In March 2017, the STDF Working Group approved four new projects. Depending on financial resources available in the STDF trust fund, the STDF Working Group may approve additional projects for funding at its next meeting on **30-31 October 2017**.

9.5. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 66% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and other low income countries (OLICs), as shown below in Figure 1. The STDF continues to meet 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. 75% of the overall budget for PPGs).

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

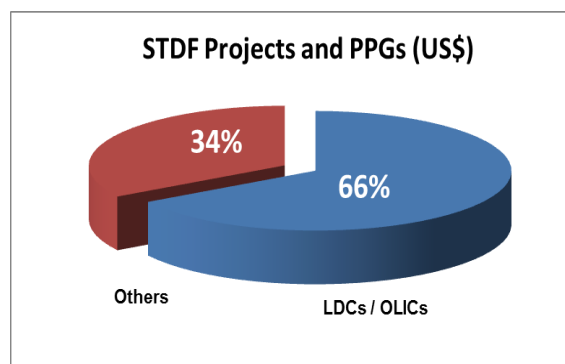
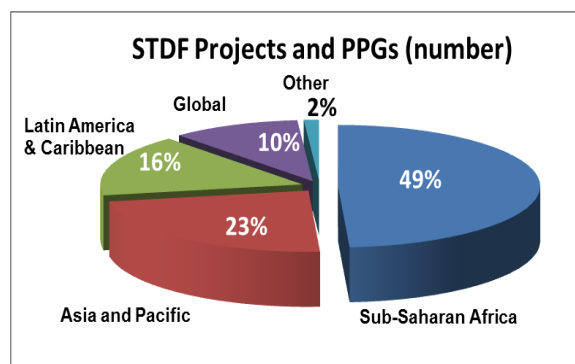


Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)



9.6. Figure 2 above indicates that 49% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 23% to Asia, and 16% to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, 10% of STDF projects and PPGs are classified as global.

9.7. 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 **22 December 2017**. Further information on eligibility criteria, application forms, etc. is available on the STDF website.

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

¹⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

RECOMMENDED STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN SEEKING PG OR PPG FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE STDF:

- 1. Browse the webpages for information (aims, eligibility criteria, etc.) on:**
 - PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-preparation-grants>
 - PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-grants>
- 2. View examples of previous projects:**
 - PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>
 - PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>
- 3. Carefully read the guidance note for applicants:**
http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.pdf
- 4. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.**
- 5. Send a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).**
- 6. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline:**
 - PPGs:
http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PPGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc
 - PGs:
http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc

ANNEX 1

**Options, costs and benefits of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)
control in the context of livestock trade:
Findings from STDF studies in Tanzania and Zimbabwe**

**STDF Information Session
Room E, Centre William Rappard, WTO
Wednesday 1 November 2017
13.30-15.00**

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) can have an important impact on livestock populations worldwide by reducing livestock productivity and affecting food security. At the same time, the presence, or even threat, of FMD has a major impact on trade, preventing access to international markets. Effectively controlling and managing FMD depends on significantly improved capacity in national veterinary services, as well as other actors in livestock value chains. It also requires substantial resources. Different options exist to control and manage FMD, in line with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC). Different strategies also exist to export livestock products from areas with FMD. In general, these options are costly, and investments need to be balanced against resulting benefits.

This information session will present findings on the costs, benefits and feasibility of the following two studies, which were conducted in 2017 by the Royal Veterinary College, as part of STDF Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) in Tanzania and Zimbabwe:

- Feasibility of establishing a fresh meat producing compartment in Zimbabwe ([STDF/PPG/550](#))
- Cost-Benefit Analysis for establishing a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone or Compartment in Tanzania ([STDF/PPG/516](#))

The session will take place in English (no interpretation is available)

Tentative Programme

13:30: Welcome remarks, STDF Secretariat

13:40: Keynote presentation, Barbara Häslar, Royal Veterinary College, UK

14:10: Panel discussion: Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Latin American country (tbc)

14:30: Q&A

Light sandwich lunch served outside the meeting room from 13:00

For more information, contact: STDFSecretariat@wto.org
