



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

UPDATE ON THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

This document provides a brief update on the activities and projects of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) since the last update to the meeting of the SPS Committee in February 2019 (G/SPS/GEN/1683). Delegates are encouraged to visit the STDF website to view and learn from STDF projects and download STDF briefing notes and other publications.² Delegates are also encouraged to subscribe to STDF's mailing list and receive regular updates on activities of the STDF and its partners (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>).

1 STDF 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

1.1. The STDF 2018 Annual Report³ was published on 7 June, the first World Food Safety Day. The publication illustrates how the STDF contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on zero hunger, good health and well-being, decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and production, and global partnerships. The report highlights the main results achieved by the STDF in 2018, including through its projects, and identifies a number of important lessons and opportunities to be taken into account in moving the STDF forward.

2 EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE STDF

2.1 The external evaluation of the STDF, which started in September 2018, is almost completed. The evaluation's findings and recommendations were discussed among members at a meeting of the STDF Policy Committee in June 2019, in particular with a view to inform the development of a new strategy for the STDF from 2020 to 2024. The company evaluating the STDF, Nathan Associates, will submit the final report to the Secretariat in the coming weeks, after which it will be published on the STDF website.

3 STDF SESSION, AID FOR TRADE GLOBAL REVIEW – 4 JULY 2019

3.1. The STDF Secretariat organizes a thematic session during the Aid for Trade Global Review 2019 on 4 July, entitled "Investing in SPS capacity for safe trade and sustainable development". The session will look at the impact of SPS capacity building on inclusive growth, highlighting experiences from the public and private sectors in Guatemala, Sri Lanka and Uganda. It will also discuss opportunities for developing countries to address resource constraints in building and sustaining SPS capacity. Delegates are encouraged and welcome to visit STDF's stand in the WTO Atrium from 3 to 5 July, where samples of Sri Lankan cinnamon tea, Guatemalan honey, and Ugandan flowers will be offered. Further information about the thematic session is 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: <https://www.standardsfacility.org>.

³ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-annual-reports>.

⁴ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-aid-trade-global-review>.

4 NEW STDF BRIEFING NOTE "TRADE POLICY EFFECTS: THE IMPACT ON DOMESTIC FOOD SAFETY"

4.1. In April, the STDF issued a new briefing note entitled "Trade policy effects: the impact on domestic food safety"⁵ at the FAO/WHO/WTO International Forum on Food Safety and Trade. The briefing explains how trade-related projects can have positive spillovers on domestic food safety including on knowledge, good regulatory practices, institutions and infrastructure. It highlights findings from a recent STDF PPG on how to maximize the benefits of trade-related food safety capacity building and explains that more needs to be done to measure the impact of trade related projects on domestic food safety and public health (STDF/PPG/535).⁶ Going forward, more analysis and guidance is needed across different country and industry contexts based on strong evidence. In October this year, the STDF Working Group will consider further work on this topic.

5 STDF INFORMATION SESSION – 20 MARCH 2019

5.1. From 2012 to 2015, an STDF project, implemented by FAO, supported the Government of Cameroon in the development of strategies to monitor and control four major animal diseases in the country which affect livestock production and in the longer-term opportunities for export (STDF/PG/336). The Secretariat organized an information session on 20 March at the WTO to present key results and lessons from this project.⁷ Panellists highlighted ongoing challenges including lack of resources and traceability in livestock value chains, limited capacity of veterinary services as well as porous borders. The manuals and capacity developed through the STDF project were considered a good starting point to control and eventually eradicate the four diseases. The Government of Cameroon is making efforts to sustain the impact of the project through other national, regional and international mechanisms, including collaboration with FAO and the World Bank Group.

6 TRADE FACILITATION

6.1. The Secretariat continues to identify, analyse and foster dialogue on experiences, lessons learned and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that facilitates safe trade, while minimizing transaction costs.⁸ An STDF project in Azerbaijan which strengthened phytosanitary border controls and facilitated cooperation between customs and phytosanitary border agencies was completed in 2018 (STDF/PG/316).⁹ The results and lessons from this project will be shared in an upcoming UNCTAD Compendium of Good Practice in Implementing Measures under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

7 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS: P-IMA

7.1. Work continues on STDF's P-IMA framework, which offers an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes.¹⁰ A P-IMA focused PPG is on-going in Madagascar (STDF/PPG/575)¹¹ and a new PPG to apply the P-IMA tool in Ecuador (STDF/PPG/709)¹² is about to start. An STDF project (STDF/PG/606)¹³ to assist selected COMESA members states in using P-IMA to mainstream SPS investments into their agriculture, trade, and environment planning and financing frameworks, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP), is being implemented in partnership with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF).

8 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

8.1. The STDF is updating its work on the implementation of standards through public-private partnerships (PPPs). Delegates who have case stories to share in this regard are encouraged to contact the Secretariat. The Secretariat aims to prepare and issue a new STDF publication and

⁵ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/briefings>.

⁶ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-535>.

⁷ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/information-session-cameroon>.

⁸ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade>.

⁹ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-316>.

¹⁰ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

¹¹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-575>.

¹² See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-709>.

¹³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-606>.

briefing note in 2020. In the meantime, two STDF PPGs in Africa and Latin America, related to the use of third-party assurance schemes are underway (STDF/PPG/665¹⁴ and STDF/PPG/682¹⁵).

9 LIBRARY

9.1. The STDF Library¹⁶ 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. Delegates 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.

10 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

10.1. 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.

10.2. A total of **96 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. The STDF Working Group approved 3 PPGs in March 2019. The newly approved PPGs included: (i) Strengthening SPS capacity in the shellfish sector in Senegal (STDF/PPG/672¹⁷); (ii) Overcoming barriers to trade through regulatory harmonization and related research with biopesticides for the SADC region (STDF/PPG/694¹⁸); and (iii) Applying the P-IMA tool in Ecuador (STDF/PPG/709¹⁹).

11 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

11.1. Project grant (PG) financing for projects is also available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and disseminate 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.

11.2. 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.

11.3. A total of **93 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Information on on-going and completed projects is available on the STDF website. The STDF Working Group approved 2 PGs in March 2019. These newly approved projects included: (i) Building Guinea's capacity to facilitate trade (STDF/PG/498²⁰); and (ii) Improving SPS capacity in the Penja pepper value chain in Cameroon (STDF/PG/593²¹).

11.4. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 65% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and other low-income countries (OLICs). The STDF continues to meet its target to devote at least 40%

¹⁴ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-665>.

¹⁵ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-682>.

¹⁶ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>.

¹⁷ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-672>.

¹⁸ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-694>.

¹⁹ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-709>.

²⁰ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-498>.

²¹ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-593>.

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. 72% of the overall budget for PPGs).

11.5. 49% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Africa, 24% to Asia-Pacific, 15% to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 2% to other regions (Middle East and Europe). In addition, 10% of the STDF projects and PPGs are classified as global.

11.6. 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 to be considered at that meeting. The next deadline for the submission of applications is **19 July 2019**. Further information on eligibility criteria, application forms, etc. is available on the STDF website.

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