



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

UPDATE ON THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This document provides a brief update on the work of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) since the last meeting of the Committee in March 2021. Delegates are encouraged to visit the STDF website² to view and get familiar with STDF activities and projects, download STDF briefing notes and other publications, and subscribe to STDF's mailing list (at the bottom of the STDF homepage) to receive regular updates on STDF work.

1.2. The work of the STDF partnership is guided by the STDF Strategy (2020-2024), which aims to further strengthen STDF's role as a global platform for dialogue and learning on SPS capacity development.³ The STDF also finances the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative SPS projects, with the potential to influence and catalyse SPS improvements. The STDF Strategy is accompanied by a new Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework, which is being integrated into STDF projects.⁴

1.3. The pandemic has changed the way the STDF and its partners work. The Secretariat will release its third COVID risk management report in July and continues to learn, adapt, and actively monitor the implications of COVID across all its work streams. STDF's new film "Shaping a safer world" highlights the importance of investing in SPS capacity development as a global public good to support economic recovery and longer-term resilience against COVID-19 and similar shocks.⁵ SPS delegates are encouraged to watch and share this film widely.

2 STDF GLOBAL PLATFORM

2.1. The STDF convenes and connects diverse public and private sector organizations across agriculture, health, trade, and development to exchange experiences, identify opportunities for collaboration, and promote a more coherent approach to SPS capacity development. As part of this platform, the STDF Working Group allows members to share and learn from each other's work, helping to disseminate, influence and scale up good practices more widely.

2.2. The Working Group met virtually from 30 March to 1 April 2021, chaired by Mr Tom Heilandt, Codex Secretary. Ms Kelly McCormick from the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) acted as vice-chairperson of the Working Group. Members welcomed three new SPS developing country experts in the STDF, namely Shitar Dorjee (Bhutan), Juliet Goldsmith (Jamaica) and Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu (Zimbabwe).⁶ The summary report of the meeting is available on the STDF website.⁷

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 for the website: <http://www.standardsfacility.org>.

³ See: https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Strategy_2020-2024.pdf.

⁴ See: https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_MEL_Framework_Final_English.pdf.

⁵ Watch STDF's new film at: <https://youtu.be/DT3dnlz-nTg>.

⁶ See for their bios: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/developing-country-experts>.

⁷ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/working-group-documents>.

2.3. On **28 June 2021**, the STDF will organize a UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue session entitled "Transforming food systems for the 21st Century: Why does facilitating safe trade matter?"⁸ In addition, on **14 July 2021**, the STDF will organize a webinar during the SPS Committee week on Systems Approaches in Food Safety and Plant Health.⁹ SPS delegates are strongly encouraged to register and participate actively in these events.

2.4. The Secretariat is currently finalizing STDF's 2020 Annual Report to be released in July. The next meeting of the STDF Working Group meeting is scheduled on 19-21 October.

3 STDF KNOWLEDGE WORK

3.1. The aim of STDF's knowledge work is to identify and promote good practices and improve SPS capacity development outcomes. Some of this work takes place in virtual practitioner groups, set up in 2020, that bring together stakeholders for in-depth discussions on topics that cut across the areas of food safety, animal and plant health, and trade.

3.1 Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access: P-IMA

3.2. The P-IMA framework is an evidence-based approach to help inform and improve SPS planning and decision making, and mobilize public, private and/or donor resources for SPS investments. The framework is being applied in several developing countries through project and project preparation grants (PPGs). The STDF is currently piloting a P-IMA online course in English under STDF/PPG/733 in the Caribbean region, in partnership with the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA).¹⁰ A virtual P-IMA course in Spanish is planned in the second half of 2021 in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). STDF's collaboration with TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) also continues, aiming to catalyse experiences, learnings and synergies from the application of the P-IMA framework in East African countries.¹¹

3.3. Delegates who would like to know more about - or benefit from - application of the P-IMA framework can visit the STDF website¹² or contact Ms Angelica Cottica (angelica.grisuk@wto.org) in the STDF Secretariat.

3.2 Public Private Partnership (PPP)

3.4. The Secretariat continues to identify, collect and compile new examples of PPPs in the area of SPS capacity (across food safety, animal health and/or plant health) to facilitate safe trade. SPS delegates are encouraged to share PPP examples via the survey (English, French and Spanish) on the STDF website.¹³ The Secretariat hosted the 4th PPP Practitioner Group on 29 April. The Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) at the World Economic Forum (WEF) presented its work on assisting LDCs and developing countries in implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement through engagement with the private sector.

3.5. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's PPP work can visit the STDF website¹⁴ or contact Ms Marlynne Hopper in the STDF Secretariat (marlynne.hopper@wto.org).

3.3 Good Regulatory Practice

3.6. STDF's work on Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) aims to provide guidance to ensure that SPS measures are "fit for purpose" and avoid the creation of non-tariff barriers. A practical Guide on GRP in the SPS area for developing countries is being developed in cooperation with STDF partners and other stakeholders.¹⁵ The Guide is currently being finalized with the help of a review group

⁸ Register at: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).

⁹ Register at: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

¹⁰ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-733>.

¹¹ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-606>.

¹² See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

¹³ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships>.

¹⁴ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-public-private-partnerships-ppps-practitioner-group>.

¹⁵ Including: Codex, FAO, IFC, IPPC, ISO, OECD, OIE, WBG, WHO, WTO, US FDA and USDA.

composed of selected SPS regulators in developing countries. The Guide will be issued in the second half of this year and presented to SPS delegates during the SPS Committee week in November.

3.7. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's GRP work can visit the STDF website¹⁶ or contact Ms Marlynn Hopper in the STDF Secretariat (marlynn.hopper@wto.org) and/or Ms Camille Fléchet at the WTO (camille.flechet@wto.org).

3.4 Electronic SPS certification

3.8. The STDF continues to promote and support the transition in developing countries to paperless SPS systems. Benefits include improving traceability throughout SPS supply chains, lowering food waste, cutting trade times and costs, reducing fraudulent practices, and building trust among trading partners. The focus of STDF's work is on increasing the use of electronic SPS certificates (SPS e-cert), including through innovative and collaborative projects with the IPPC, OIE and other partners. Stakeholders with an interest in SPS e-Cert convene regularly to exchange experiences, identify opportunities for collaboration, promote synergies and disseminate good practices. The fourth virtual meeting of this practitioner group was held on 15 April, at which the OECD presented its recent research project on "Digital opportunities for SPS systems and the trade facilitation effects of SPS electronic certification".

3.9. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's work on SPS eCert can visit the STDF website¹⁷ or contact Mr Simon Padilla in the STDF Secretariat (simon.padilla@wto.org).

4 STDF FUNDING MECHANISM

4.1. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 65% of its resources to least developed countries (LDCs) and other low-income countries (OLICs), going beyond its target to devote at least 40% of its resources to these countries. 48% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Africa, 25% to Asia-Pacific, 17% to Latin America-Caribbean, and 2% to other regions (Middle East and Europe). 9% of all STDF projects and PPGs are classified as global, benefiting all developing countries. An overview of on-going projects and PPGs and beneficiaries is provided in **Annex 1**.

4.1 Project development

4.2. The STDF provides advice and support 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.

4.3. A total of **113 PPGs** have been approved by the STDF since its inception. Information on all on-going and completed PPGs is available on the STDF website.¹⁸

4.2 Project implementation

4.4. Financing for projects is also available from the STDF. The STDF Working Group gives favourable consideration 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. 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).

¹⁶ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

¹⁷ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert>.

¹⁸ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

4.5. A total of **104 projects** have been approved by the STDF since its inception. Information on all on-going and completed projects is available on the STDF website.¹⁹

4.3 Project evaluation

4.6. A selection of completed STDF projects is subject to an independent ex-post evaluation. The aim is to assess the overall relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact of STDF's projects to ensure accountability, support learning and inform decision-making on future policy and practices related to SPS capacity development. Practical guidelines for the evaluation of STDF projects are available on the STDF website, based on the new MEL Framework. These Guidelines aim to promote consistency and a common standard in the quality of evaluations of STDF projects and draw on the OECD-DAC Principles for the Evaluation of Development Assistance.²⁰

4.7. Findings, conclusions and recommendations of a first remote evaluation of a global STDF project that supported training for facilitators to conduct the IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool were presented to the STDF Working Group on 30 March - 1 April.²¹ Other remote evaluations are being finalized for STDF projects in Comoros and Latin America. More evaluations will be contracted in the second half of 2021. An overview of ongoing evaluations is provided in **Annex 1**.

4.4 How to apply for funding?

4.8. 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 **23 July 2021**. The STDF launched a new online application system which replaced the traditional form of receiving grant proposals via email. Further information on the system, eligibility criteria, etc. is available on the STDF website.

RECOMMENDED STEPS:

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:

<https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote2020.docx>

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: https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppg_application
- PGs: https://wto.formstack.com/forms/pg_application

¹⁹ See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

²⁰ See: https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_214_Evaluation_Guidelines_2021_Final.pdf.

²¹ See: https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_401_ProjectEvaluation_Mar-21.pdf.

ANNEX 1

ONGOING STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGS)¹

1 COUNTRY PROJECTS AND PPGS

Country	STDF reference (i.e. hyperlink to STDF website)	Project / PPG name	Contact point at STDF
Afghanistan	STDF/PPG/669	Promoting compliance with international SPS requirements in food of animal origin and feed for food-producing animals	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Armenia	STDF/PPG/761	Applying the P-IMA framework to promote export of agricultural products	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Bhutan	STDF/PPG/734	Strengthening capacity for border inspection and control of plants, animals and their products	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Burkina Faso	STDF/PG/566	Reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org
Cameroon	STDF/PG/593	Improving SPS capacity in the Penja pepper value chain	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Ecuador	STDF/PPG/709	Applying the P-IMA framework	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Egypt	STDF/PPG/720	Assessing the establishment of a HPAI Free Compartment	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Ethiopia	STDF/PG/477	Improving sanitary capacity to facilitate livestock exports	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Ghana	STDF/PPG/786	Supporting implementation of the National Policy for Aflatoxin Control in Food and Feed using the P-IMA framework	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Guinea	STDF/PG/498	Strengthening the phytosanitary system	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
India	STDF/PG/517	Strengthening the spice value chain and improving market access	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Jamaica	STDF/PG/759	Ensuring food safety capacity of the pepper value chain to access strategic export markets	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Kyrgyz Republic	STDF/PG/569	Enhancing capacity for food safety management in the fruit and vegetable industry	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Mali	STDF/PG/611	Promotion of Codex standards and codes of practice particularly in the smoked fish industry	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Mongolia	STDF/PG/534	Piloting an improved animal identification and registration system	Marlynn Hopper marlynn.hopper@wto.org
Niue	STDF/PPG/616	Supporting the establishment of a bee sanctuary	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Papua New Guinea	STDF/PG/553	Expanding cocoa trade	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org

¹ Webpages are provided for projects and PPGs that have been contracted and for which implementation has started. Webpages are being developed for projects and PPGs approved more recently.

Country	STDF reference (i.e. hyperlink to STDF website)	Project / PPG name	Contact point at STDF
Philippines	STDF/PPG/722	Piloting the use of Regulatory Impact Assessment in the agriculture and fisheries sector	Marlynne Hopper marlynne.hopper@wto.org
Peru	STDF/PPG/767	Feasibility study on implementation of zoning as means to control infectious diseases in aquaculture	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Senegal	STDF/PG/672	Meeting sanitary standards to improve the safety of shellfish and boost market access	Catalina Pulido catalina.pulido@wto.org
Solomon Islands	STDF/PG/521	Laboratory capacity building to support fish exports	Marlynne Hopper marlynne.hopper@wto.org
Sri Lanka	STDF/PPG/721	Strengthening food safety and quality compliance in spices	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Sudan	STDF/PG/435	Upgrading the sesame seed value chain	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Tajikistan	STDF/PG/447	Improving food safety in honey and apricots to boost exports	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Togo	STDF/PG/375	Strengthening the SPS system	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org
Uganda	STDF/PG/543	Enhancing the capacity of the fruit and vegetable sector to comply with EU phytosanitary requirements	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Zambia	STDF/PG/481	Strengthening phytosanitary capacity for plant exports in Zambia	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org

2 REGIONAL PROJECTS AND PPGS

Region/countries	STDF reference (link to website)	Project / PPG name	Contact point at STDF
<i>Africa</i>			
Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	STDF/PG/694	Enhancing trade through regulatory harmonisation and biopesticide-based residue mitigation in the SADC Region	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Togo	STDF/PPG/770	Voluntary food quality control in West Africa through digitisation	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	STDF/PPG/768	Harmonizing phytosanitary legislation in Central Africa	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
COMESA members	STDF/PG/606	Mainstreaming SPS investments into CAADP and other frameworks in COMESA member states	Marlynne Hopper marlynne.hopper@wto.org
Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa	STDF/PPG/765	Establishing an ISO 17025 accredited mobile laboratory for food safety testing in the SADC region	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org
Mali, Senegal	STDF/PG/665	Piloting the use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (TPA) Programme in Africa to improve food safety outcomes for public health and trade	Marlynne Hopper marlynne.hopper@wto.org
Mozambique, South Africa	STDF/PG/567	Establishing and maintaining fruit production areas free and	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org

Region/countries	STDF reference (link to website)	Project / PPG name	Contact point at STDF
		under low prevalence of fruit fly pests	
Asia			
Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sri Lanka	STDF/PG/634	Asia pesticide residue mitigation through the promotion of biopesticides and enhancement of trade opportunities	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam	STDF/PG/619	Safer spices: boosting food safety and market access for the peppercorn value chain	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	STDF/PG/432	Promoting IT solutions for surveillance and pest reporting	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam	STDF/PPG/755	Enhancing seed trade in the Asia-Pacific region through phytosanitary compliance and public private partnerships	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Americas			
Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Paraguay	STDF/PPG/753	Latin American residue mitigation through the promotion of biopesticides	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	STDF/PG/495	Accreditation of diagnostic tests for animal diseases	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org
Belize, Honduras	STDF/PG/682	Piloting the use of Third-Party Assurance (TPA) Programme in Central America to improve food safety outcomes for public health and trade	Marlynn Hopper marlynn.hopper@wto.org
CARICOM countries	STDF/PPG/733	Piloting the use of the P-IMA framework in the CARICOM region	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	STDF/PPG/716	Food safety risk analysis capacity building in Latin America	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org
Colombia, Ecuador, Peru (and Trinidad and Tobago)	STDF/PG/577	Improving coordination to support management of cadmium levels in cocoa in Latin America and the Caribbean	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org
Colombia, Ecuador	STDF/PG/681	Improving institutional capacity to mitigate trade barriers due to high cadmium levels in cacao	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org

3 GLOBAL PROJECTS AND PPGS

Region/countries	STDF reference (link to website)	Project / PPG name	Contact point at STDF
All developing countries	STDF/PG/503	Rolling out a system approach globally	Angelica Cottica Grisuk angelica.grisuk@wto.org
All developing countries	STDF/PPG/782	Remote inspection practices in food safety for improved trade	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org

4 EVALUATIONS (ON-GOING AND PLANNED)

Country(ies)	STDF reference (link to website)	Project name	Contact point at STDF
Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	STDF/PG/345	Regional feed and food safety programme	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	STDF/PG/502	Rolling out phytosanitary measures to expand market access	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org
Comoros	STDF/PG/242	Strengthening the SPS system	Catalina Pulido Catalina.pulido@wto.org
Developing countries	STDF/PG/504	ePhyto: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org
Developing countries	STDF/PG/609	Facilitating e-veterinary certification based on single window system	Simon Padilla simon.padilla@wto.org
Myanmar	STDF/PG/486	Improving compliance with SPS measures to boost oilseed exports	Pablo Jenkins pablo.jenkins@wto.org