



**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

**UPDATE ON THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>

**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 July 2021. Delegates are encouraged to visit the STDF website<sup>2</sup> to view and become 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's 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.<sup>3</sup> The STDF 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.<sup>4</sup>

1.3. The pandemic has changed the way the STDF and its partners work. The Secretariat released 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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 will meet virtually from 19 to 21 October 2021, and will be chaired by Mr Tom Heilandt, Codex Secretary. The summary report of the meeting will be made available on the STDF website.<sup>7</sup> The STDF currently benefits from the expertise and knowledge of six SPS experts from developing countries, namely Visoni Timote (Fiji), Mirian Bueno (Honduras), Lucy Namu (Kenya), Shitar Dorjee (Bhutan), Juliet Goldsmith (Jamaica) and Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu (Zimbabwe).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org>.

<sup>3</sup> See: [https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_Strategy\\_2020-2024.pdf](https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Strategy_2020-2024.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> See: [https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_MEL\\_Framework\\_Final\\_English.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_MEL_Framework_Final_English.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> See: [https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_Risk\\_Management\\_19July\\_2021.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Risk_Management_19July_2021.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Watch STDF's new film at: <https://youtu.be/DT3dnlz-nTg>.

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

<sup>8</sup> See for their bios: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/developing-country-experts>.

3.3. The Secretariat released STDF's 2020 Annual Report in July 2021.<sup>9</sup> The report focuses on how, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the STDF adapted quickly across all its workstreams and kept delivering strong results in 2020.

### 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 (See Annex I). A joint STDF/EIF/COMESA/AGRA webinar was organized on 24 September to share the results of P-IMA's application in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, under an STDF/EIF project. The recording of this webinar can be found on the dedicated webpage for the event.<sup>10</sup>

3.3. Delegates who would like to know more about, or benefit from, the P-IMA framework can visit the STDF website<sup>11</sup> or contact Ms Angelica Cottica ([angelica.grisuk@wto.org](mailto: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.<sup>12</sup> The Secretariat hosted a PPP Practitioner Group meeting on 8 September where FAO introduced its Strategy on Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025.<sup>13</sup> A brief summary report of this meeting can be found on the PPP Practitioner Group webpage.<sup>14</sup>

3.5. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's PPP work can visit the STDF website<sup>15</sup> or contact Ms Marlynn Hopper in the STDF Secretariat ([marlynn.hopper@wto.org](mailto:marlynn.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 will be presented during a SPS Committee side event on 3 November, 13:30 CET. Information on how to register to the webinar can be found on the dedicated webpage for this event.<sup>16</sup>

3.7. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's GRP work can visit the STDF website<sup>17</sup> or contact Ms Marlynn Hopper in the STDF Secretariat ([marlynn.hopper@wto.org](mailto:marlynn.hopper@wto.org)).

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<sup>9</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-2020-annual-report>.

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-investments-and-leveraging-resources-boost-agri-food-exports-comesa-region>.

<sup>11</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

<sup>12</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships>.

<sup>13</sup> See: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3352en/cb3352en.pdf>.

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

<sup>15</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships>.

<sup>16</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-guide-good-regulatory-practices-improve-sps-measures>.

<sup>17</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

### 3.4 Electronic SPS certification

3.8. The STDF promotes and supports the transition to paperless SPS systems in developing countries. The Secretariat regularly hosts SPS e-Cert Practitioner Group meetings to identify opportunities for collaboration, promote synergies and disseminate good practices.<sup>18</sup> A joint UNESCAP/ADB/ICC/STDF webinar was organized on 8 September to provide an overview of SPS eCert in the relevant international standard-setting bodies and to present case studies from countries across the Asia-Pacific region. The recording of this webinar can be found on the dedicated webpage for the event.<sup>19</sup>

3.9. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's work on SPS eCert can visit the STDF website<sup>20</sup> or contact Mr Simon Padilla in the STDF Secretariat ([simon.padilla@wto.org](mailto: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.<sup>21</sup>

### 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).

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.<sup>22</sup> A selection of completed STDF projects is subject to an independent ex-post evaluation according to the STDF evaluation guidelines.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/sps-ecac>.

<sup>19</sup> See: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/webinar-sps-e-certs-accelerating-cross-border-paperless-trade>.

<sup>20</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert>.

<sup>21</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

<sup>22</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

<sup>23</sup> See:

[https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_214\\_Evaluation\\_Guidelines\\_2021\\_Final.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_214_Evaluation_Guidelines_2021_Final.pdf).

### 4.3 How to apply for funding?

4.6. 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 **24 December 2021**. 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:**

<https://www.standardsfacility.org/funding>

**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/STDFGuidanceNote2021\\_EN.docx](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote2021_EN.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](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)).**

**6. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline:**

- PPGs: [https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppg\\_application](https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppg_application)
- PGs: [https://wto.formstack.com/forms/pg\\_application](https://wto.formstack.com/forms/pg_application)

**ANNEX 1****ONGOING STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGS)****1 COUNTRY PROJECTS AND PPGS**

<b>Country</b>	<b>STDF reference and hyperlink</b>	<b>Project / PPG name</b>
Afghanistan	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/669</a>	Promoting compliance with international SPS requirements in food of animal origin and feed for food-producing animals
Armenia	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/761</a>	Applying the P-IMA framework to promote export of agricultural products
Bhutan	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/734</a>	Strengthening capacity for border inspection and control of plants, animals and their products
Burkina Faso	<a href="#">STDF/PG/566</a>	Reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize
Cameroon	<a href="#">STDF/PG/593</a>	Improving SPS capacity in the Penja pepper value chain
Ecuador	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/709</a>	Applying the P-IMA framework
Egypt	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/720</a>	Assessing the establishment of a HPAI Free Compartment
Ethiopia	<a href="#">STDF/PG/477</a>	Improving sanitary capacity to facilitate livestock exports
Ghana	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/786</a>	Supporting implementation of the National Policy for Aflatoxin Control in Food and Feed using the P-IMA framework
Guinea	<a href="#">STDF/PG/498</a>	Strengthening the phytosanitary system
India	<a href="#">STDF/PG/517</a>	Strengthening the spice value chain and improving market access
Jamaica	<a href="#">STDF/PG/759</a>	Ensuring food safety capacity of the pepper value chain to access strategic export markets
Kyrgyz Republic	<a href="#">STDF/PG/569</a>	Enhancing capacity for food safety management in the fruit and vegetable industry
Mali	<a href="#">STDF/PG/611</a>	Promotion of Codex standards and codes of practice particularly in the smoked fish industry
Mongolia	<a href="#">STDF/PG/534</a>	Piloting an improved animal identification and registration system
Niue	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/616</a>	Supporting the establishment of a bee sanctuary
Papua New Guinea	<a href="#">STDF/PG/553</a>	Expanding cocoa trade
Philippines	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/722</a>	Piloting the use of Regulatory Impact Assessment in the agriculture and fisheries sector
Peru	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/767</a>	Feasibility study on implementation of zoning as means to control infectious diseases in aquaculture

Country	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
Senegal	<a href="#">STDF/PG/672</a>	Meeting sanitary standards to improve the safety of shellfish and boost market access
Solomon Islands	<a href="#">STDF/PG/521</a>	Laboratory capacity building to support fish exports
Sri Lanka	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/721</a>	Strengthening food safety and quality compliance in spices
Sudan	<a href="#">STDF/PG/435</a>	Upgrading the sesame seed value chain
Tajikistan	<a href="#">STDF/PG/447</a>	Improving food safety in honey and apricots to boost exports
Togo	<a href="#">STDF/PG/375</a>	Strengthening the SPS system
Uganda	<a href="#">STDF/PG/543</a>	Enhancing the capacity of the fruit and vegetable sector to comply with EU phytosanitary requirements
Zambia	<a href="#">STDF/PG/481</a>	Strengthening phytosanitary capacity for plant exports in Zambia

## 2 REGIONAL PROJECTS AND PPGS

Region/countries	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
<b><u>Africa</u></b>		
Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	<a href="#">STDF/PG/694</a>	Enhancing trade through regulatory harmonisation and biopesticide-based residue mitigation in the SADC Region
Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Togo	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/770</a>	Voluntary food quality control in West Africa through digitisation
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/768</a>	Harmonizing phytosanitary legislation in Central Africa
COMESA members	<a href="#">STDF/PG/606</a>	Mainstreaming SPS investments into CAADP and other frameworks in COMESA member states
Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/765</a>	Establishing an ISO 17025 accredited mobile laboratory for food safety testing in the SADC region
Mali, Senegal	<a href="#">STDF/PG/665</a>	Piloting the use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (TPA) Programme in Africa to improve food safety outcomes for public health and trade
Mozambique, South Africa	<a href="#">STDF/PG/567</a>	Establishing and maintaining fruit production areas free and under low prevalence of fruit fly pests

Region/countries	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
<b><u>Asia and Pacific</u></b>		
Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sri Lanka	<a href="#">STDF/PG/634</a>	Asia pesticide residue mitigation through the promotion of biopesticides and enhancement of trade opportunities
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PG/619</a>	Safer spices: boosting food safety and market access for the peppercorn value chain
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PG/432</a>	Promoting IT solutions for surveillance and pest reporting
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/755</a>	Enhancing seed trade in the Asia-Pacific region through phytosanitary compliance and public private partnerships
<b><u>Latin America and Caribbean</u></b>		
Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Paraguay	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/753</a>	Latin American residue mitigation through the promotion of biopesticides
Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	<a href="#">STDF/PG/495</a>	Accreditation of diagnostic tests for animal diseases
Belize, Honduras	<a href="#">STDF/PG/682</a>	Piloting the use of Third-Party Assurance (TPA) Programme in Central America to improve food safety outcomes for public health and trade
CARICOM countries	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/733</a>	Piloting the use of the P-IMA framework in the CARICOM region
Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/716</a>	Food safety risk analysis capacity building in Latin America
Colombia, Ecuador, Peru (and Trinidad and Tobago)	<a href="#">STDF/PG/577</a>	Improving coordination to support management of cadmium levels in cocoa in Latin America and the Caribbean
Colombia, Ecuador	<a href="#">STDF/PG/681</a>	Improving institutional capacity to mitigate trade barriers due to high cadmium levels in cacao
<b><u>Global</u></b>		
All developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PG/503</a>	Rolling out a system approach globally
All developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/782</a>	Remote inspection practices in food safety for improved trade

**3 EVALUATIONS (ON-GOING AND PLANNED)**

Country(ies)	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project name
Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	<a href="#">STDF/PG/345</a>	Regional feed and food safety programme
Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	<a href="#">STDF/PG/502</a>	Rolling out phytosanitary measures to expand market access
Comoros	<a href="#">STDF/PG/242</a>	Strengthening the SPS system
Developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PG/504</a>	ePhyto: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products
Developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PG/609</a>	Facilitating e-veterinary certification based on single window system
Myanmar	<a href="#">STDF/PG/486</a>	Improving compliance with SPS measures to boost oilseed exports