



**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 November 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 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 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.<sup>4</sup>

1.3. The Secretariat continues to learn, adapt, and actively monitor the implications of the COVID pandemic across all STDF's work streams and has conducted a new survey on the impacts of COVID on STDF-funded project implementation. The results of this survey will be released in March 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**2 STDF POLICY COMMITTEE**

2.1. The STDF Policy Committee (i.e., STDF's highest body), met on 14 October 2021.<sup>6</sup> Members prioritized climate change and the environment as topics for future STDF thematic work. They also approved minor revisions to the STDF Operational Rules, bringing them up to date and in line with the STDF Strategy.<sup>7</sup>

2.2. The Policy Committee agreed on a transition mechanism that will apply to countries that have graduated from Least Developed Country (LDC) status to ensure a smooth graduation process. These countries will continue to benefit from the "10% contribution requirement for LDCs" for a period of three years - after leaving the LDC category.

**3 STDF WORKING GROUP**

3.1. The STDF Working Group allows members to share and learn from each other's work, helping to disseminate, influence and scale up good practices in SPS capacity development more widely. At its last meeting on 19-21 October 2021, members approved STDF's Work Plan and budget for 2022<sup>8</sup>, as well as two new project and four project preparation grants (PPGs).<sup>9</sup> Members elected

<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/updates-covid-19>.

<sup>6</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/policy-committee-summary-reports>.

<sup>7</sup> See: [https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_139rev.5\\_EN.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_139rev.5_EN.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> See: [https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_Work\\_Plan\\_2022.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Work_Plan_2022.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> See for the summary report: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/working-group-documents>.

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Mrs Kelly McCormick from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as chairperson of the Working Group in 2022.

#### 4 PAST AND PLANNED STDF EVENTS

4.1. On 30 November 2021, the STDF organized jointly with the IPPC Secretariat an outreach event on the PCE Facilitators project ([STDF/PG/401](#)). Findings and recommendations of the project evaluation were shared and discussed to build on the project's results and further support the PCE's use in developing countries.<sup>10</sup>

4.2. On 8 December 2021, the STDF organized jointly with the World Bank/IFC a webinar on "Food Safety Reform: Learning from the Best" to hear from national agencies and international organizations on the role of the public and private sector in designing solutions to ensure and strengthen food safety.<sup>11</sup>

4.3. A roundtable held on 13 January 2022 jointly organized by the Government of Comoros, the WTO and the STDF, brought together government officials and development partners to discuss technical assistance and capacity building needs related to Comoros' accession to the WTO. Donors and partners were encouraged to support Comoros in addressing financing gaps to build up its SPS system.<sup>12</sup>

4.4. The following STDF events are being planned:<sup>13</sup>

- a. 21 March 2022: webinar organized jointly with France and Canada to celebrate the "Journée Internationale de la Francophonie", highlighting projects in Burkina Faso ([STDF/PG/566](#)) and Cameroon ([STDF/PG/593](#)) to strengthen their SPS capacity for market access.
- b. 27 April 2022: webinar organized jointly with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation on SPS electronic certification, as part of UNCTAD's E-commerce week.<sup>14</sup>
- c. 2-6 May 2022: series of short webinars organized jointly with STDF partners on climate change and SPS risks. Three webinars will be dedicated to climate change and food safety, animal health and plant health, respectively. The last webinar will be a panel session, aiming to identify common challenges and recommendations for future work in this area.

#### 5 STDF KNOWLEDGE WORK

5.1. 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.

##### 5.1 Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access: P-IMA

5.2. 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 1**). The Secretariat hosted a P-IMA practitioner group on 15 December 2021, where the main learnings, opportunities, and next steps regarding the

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<sup>10</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/joint-stdfippc-outreach-event-pce-facilitators-project>.

<sup>11</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/food-safety-reform-learning-best>.

<sup>12</sup> See: [WTO | 2022 News items - Comoros discusses accession, post-accession technical assistance with development partners](#).

<sup>13</sup> More information on how to register will be available on STDF's website soon: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/events>.

<sup>14</sup> See: <https://unctad.org/eweek2022>.

application of P-IMA in East Africa, under the STDF-funded project [STDF/PG/606](#), were presented. A summary report of this meeting can be found on the P-IMA Practitioner Group webpage.<sup>15</sup>

5.3. Delegates who would like to know more about, or benefit from, the P-IMA framework can visit the STDF website<sup>16</sup> or contact Ms Roshan Khan ([roshan.khan@wto.org](mailto:roshan.khan@wto.org)) in the STDF Secretariat.

## 5.2 Public Private Partnership (PPP)

5.4. The Secretariat has published examples of PPPs that strengthen food safety, animal health and/or plant health capacity and facilitate trade on a dedicated PPPs webpage<sup>17</sup>. These include PPPs related to boosting exports of table grapes from India, using ICT mobile applications for pest surveillance in Nicaragua, upgrading quarantine control in Djibouti, amongst others. Additional case stories are under finalization and will be shared in due course. SPS delegates are encouraged to share other PPP examples via the survey (available in English, French and Spanish) on the website. The next PPP practitioner group will be convened on 8 March 2022, where STDF partners and developing country experts will share some of their successful PPP stories.<sup>18</sup>

5.5. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's PPP work can visit the STDF website<sup>19</sup> or contact Ms Marlynne Hopper in the STDF Secretariat ([marlynne.hopper@wto.org](mailto:marlynne.hopper@wto.org)).

## 5.3 Good Regulatory Practice (GRP)

5.6. STDF's GRP work aims to provide guidance to ensure that SPS measures are "fit for purpose" and avoid the creation of non-tariff barriers. In November 2021, STDF published "Good regulatory practices to improve SPS measures: A practical guide".<sup>20</sup> Targeted at SPS regulators in developing countries, the Guide offers support to use GRPs to improve SPS measures and facilitate safe trade. It includes practical guidance on how to use GRPs to support the design, development and review of SPS measures (even when resources are limited), examples of how GRPs are being used in different countries, and links to available resources on GRPs published by STDF partners and others. The Guide was presented to SPS delegates during a side event on 3 November 2021, and the recording is available on the STDF website<sup>21</sup>. French and Spanish versions of the Guide are being finalized, and further outreach and training sessions are planned in 2022.

5.7. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's GRP work can visit the STDF website<sup>22</sup> or contact Ms Marlynne Hopper in the STDF Secretariat ([marlynne.hopper@wto.org](mailto:marlynne.hopper@wto.org)).

## 5.4 Electronic SPS certification (eCert)

5.8. 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>23</sup> The fifth meeting of the Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (ECAC) was held on 23 November 2021 and included a presentation by Codex on its draft guidance document on Paperless Use of Electronic Certificates. A summary report of this meeting can be found on ECAC webpage.<sup>24</sup>

5.9. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's work on SPS e-Cert can visit the STDF website<sup>25</sup> or contact Mr Simon Padilla in the STDF Secretariat ([simon.padilla@wto.org](mailto:simon.padilla@wto.org)).

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<sup>15</sup> See: [https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_P-IMA\\_practitioner\\_group\\_summary\\_15Dec2021.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_P-IMA_practitioner_group_summary_15Dec2021.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

<sup>17</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnership-ppp-case-stories>.

<sup>18</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-public-private-partnerships-ppps-practitioner-group>.

<sup>19</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships>.

<sup>20</sup> See: [https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_GRP\\_Guide\\_EN.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_GRP_Guide_EN.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-guide-good-regulatory-practices-improve-sps-measures>.

<sup>22</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

<sup>23</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/sps-ecac>.

<sup>24</sup> See: [Summary ECAC 5th Virtual Meeting Nov-21 Final.pdf \(standardsfacility.org\)](#).

<sup>25</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert>.

## 6 STDF FUNDING MECHANISM

6.1. 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 1% 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**.

### 6.1 Project development

6.2. 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.

6.3. A total of **117 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>26</sup>

### 6.2 Project implementation

6.4. 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).

6.5. A total of **106 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>27</sup> A selection of completed STDF projects is subject to an independent ex-post evaluation according to the STDF evaluation guidelines.<sup>28</sup>

### 6.3 How to apply for funding?

6.6. 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 **12 August 2022**. 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)

<sup>26</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

<sup>27</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

<sup>28</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. 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**

Country	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
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
Burundi	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/773</a>	SPS needs assessment for private and public actors in the Burundian horticultural sector
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
Nigeria	<a href="#">STDF/PG/817</a>	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) to improve the plant health system in Nigeria
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
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
Zambia	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/789</a>	Building phytosanitary capacity for small-scale cross-border traders in Zambia

## 2 REGIONAL PROJECTS AND PPGS

Region/countries	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
<b><i>Africa</i></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
Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/809</a>	Regional approach towards addressing invasive quarantine pests of potato in East and Southern Africa
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon COMESA members	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/768</a>	Harmonizing phytosanitary legislation in Central Africa
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
<b><i>Asia and Pacific</i></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
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PG/798</a>	Improving pig biosecurity and African swine fever control
<b><i>Latin America and Caribbean</i></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

Region/countries	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
Colombia, Ecuador	<a href="#">STDF/PG/681</a>	Improving institutional capacity to mitigate trade barriers due to high cadmium levels in cacao
Dominican Republic, Haiti	<a href="#">STDF/PG/751</a>	Strengthening the phytosanitary and food safety system in key value chains
<b><i>Global</i></b>		
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, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	<a href="#">STDF/PG/502</a>	Rolling out phytosanitary measures to expand market access
Developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PG/503</a>	Rolling out a system approach globally
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