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**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 March 2022. 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 its 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>

**2 STDF WORKING GROUP**

2.1. 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. The next meeting of the STDF Working group will be held on 7-8 June 2022 and will be chaired by Ms Kelly McCormick from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**3 STDF EVENTS**

3.1. On 21 March 2022, an STDF webinar was jointly organized with Canada and France to celebrate the International Francophonie Day. This event highlighted projects in Burkina Faso ([STDF/PG/566](#)) and Cameroon ([STDF/PG/593](#)) that aim to strengthen SPS capacity for market access and safe trade.

3.2. On 28 April 2022, the STDF organized a joint session with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) on SPS electronic certification, as part of UNCTAD's E-commerce week.<sup>5</sup> This session provided an overview of the status of SPS eCert and its use by developing countries and opportunities and ways to scale up SPS e-Certification and its implementation in different regions.<sup>6</sup>

3.3. On 10 May 2022, a joint ADB/STDF virtual seminar was held on Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) to improve SPS measures. In this seminar, speakers shared different experiences of countries in Asia using GRPs, challenges they faced, results achieved, and lessons learnt. Presentations and background material can be found on the event homepage.<sup>7</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://unctad.org/eweek2022>.

<sup>6</sup> See: <https://unctadeweek2022.pathable.co/meetings/virtual/3De3hXH5K4WP7CM9k>.

<sup>7</sup> See: <https://adb.eventsair.com/grponspsmeasures/>.

3.4. From 3 to 6 May 2022, the STDF organized a series of four inter-connected webinars that brought together representatives of STDF partners and stakeholders on the ground, to explore the challenges of climate change for food safety, animal and plant health, and identify opportunities to respond to emerging risks and facilitate safe trade. Further background on the webinars, including panellists and presentations, can be found on the dedicated webpage.<sup>8</sup>

- a. [Webinar Recording 1](#): Climate Change and Animal Health
- b. [Webinar Recording 2](#): Climate Change and its effect on the Plant Health
- c. [Webinar Recording 3](#): Effects of Climate Change and its relatedness with food Safety
- d. [Webinar Recording 4](#): Climate Change and the SPS Issues – Looking ahead

## 4 STDF KNOWLEDGE WORK

4.1. 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 that bring together stakeholders for in-depth discussions on topics that cut across the areas of food safety, animal and plant health, and trade.

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

4.2. 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 currently being applied through project preparation grants in Armenia, Ecuador, and Ghana and was recently applied in several COMESA Members States through an STDF project (see [Annex 1](#)).

4.3. Delegates who would like to know more about, or benefit from, the P-IMA framework can visit the STDF website<sup>9</sup> or contact Ms Roshan Khan ([roshan.khan@wto.org](mailto:roshan.khan@wto.org)) in the STDF Secretariat.

### 4.2 Public Private Partnership (PPP)

4.4. 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>10</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. A PPP practitioner Group meeting was held on 8 March 2022, where STDF partners and developing country experts shared PPP experiences including on the India and Djibouti case stories.<sup>11</sup>

4.5. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's PPP work can visit the STDF website<sup>12</sup> or contact Ms Marlynn Hopper in the STDF Secretariat ([marlynn.hopper@wto.org](mailto:marlynn.hopper@wto.org)).

### 4.3 Good Regulatory Practice (GRP)

4.6. STDF's GRP work provides 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>13</sup> French and Spanish versions of the Guide were made available on the STDF website in April 2022. 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.

<sup>8</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/exploring-impact-climate-change-global-food-system>.

<sup>9</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

<sup>10</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnership-ppp-case-stories>.

<sup>11</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-public-private-partnerships-ppps-practitioner-group>.

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

<sup>13</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

4.7. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's GRP work can visit the STDF website<sup>14</sup> or contact Ms Marlynn Hopper in the STDF Secretariat ([marlynn.hopper@wto.org](mailto:marlynn.hopper@wto.org)).

#### 4.4 Electronic SPS certification (eCert)

4.8. The STDF promotes and supports the transition to paperless SPS systems in developing countries. Paperless SPS systems can improve traceability throughout SPS supply chains, cut trade times and costs, reduce fraudulent certificates, and build trust among trading partners. An effective paper-based certification system needs to be in place, with adequate institutional capacity and clarity on roles and responsibilities, to be able to move to an electronic SPS certification system. The recently completed STDF project on "ePhyto" ([STDF/PG/504](#)) will be evaluated in 2022 drawing wider lessons learned for SPS eCert. This evaluation will also consider the findings of the "eVet" project ([STDF/PG/609](#)).

4.9. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's work on SPS e-Cert can visit the STDF website<sup>15</sup> or contact Mr Simon Padilla in the STDF Secretariat ([simon.padilla@wto.org](mailto:simon.padilla@wto.org)).

### 5 STDF FUNDING MECHANISM

5.1. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 65% of its project 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**.

#### 5.1 Project development

5.2. 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.

5.3. A total of **117 PPGs** has been approved by the STDF since its inception. Information on all on-going and completed PPGs is available on the STDF website.<sup>16</sup>

#### 5.2 Project implementation

5.4. 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).

5.5. 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>17</sup> A selection of completed STDF projects is subject to an independent ex-post evaluation according to the STDF evaluation guidelines.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>14</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

<sup>15</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert>.

<sup>16</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

<sup>17</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

<sup>18</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).

### 5.3 How to apply for funding?

5.6. 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/STDFGuidanceNote\\_Rev.Feb-22\\_EN.docx](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_Rev.Feb-22_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).**

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

- PPGs: [https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppq\\_application](https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppq_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>
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
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/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