

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

Note by the Secretariat¹

Background

1. The aim of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is to assist developing countries enhance their capacity to meet international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, improving the human health, animal health and phytosanitary situation, and thus gaining and maintaining market access. The partner agencies of the STDF are: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

2. The STDF is both a financing and a coordination mechanism. Grant financing is available for private and public organizations in developing countries seeking to comply with international SPS standards and hence gain or maintain market access. The STDF provides funds for two types of grants: project preparation grants and project grants. Project preparation grants up to US\$20,000 aim to act as a bridge between the identification of technical assistance needs and the development of coherent project proposals. The STDF also funds project grants. The size of grants typically ranges between US\$300,000 and US\$600,000. Applicants must assume some of the financial cost of the projects.²

3. Further information on the STDF, including the Business Plan, application forms and information on projects approved can be found at the STDF website www.standardsfacility.org. The website also contains training materials collected from partner agencies and a link to the database on SPS technical activities.

September 2005 meetings

4. Meetings of the Policy Committee and the Working Group of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) took place on 6 and 7 September 2005 at the offices of the World Health Organization.

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 or obligations under the WTO.

² Applicants from least-developed countries must meet at least 10 per cent of the cost of the project from their own resources, while other developing countries are required to fund at least 25 per cent of the project cost. Further information on eligibility criteria, the application process and governance arrangements for the STDF can be found in document G/SPS/GEN/523.

5. The Policy Committee meeting included representatives of the partner agencies of the STDF and WTO Members having contributed funds to the STDF (Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom). A rotating mechanism for the representation of all stakeholders, including both donors and beneficiaries, in STDF bodies was agreed.

6. The Working Group meeting considered a total of 39 applications for funding. Of these applications, a total of five projects and seven project preparation grants were approved. In addition, the Working Group considered favourably a further seven projects and project preparation grants subject to certain amendments or clarifications. An updated overview of the status of implementation of STDF project grants is provided in Table 1 and of project preparation grants in Table 2.

7. The next meeting of the STDF Working Group is planned for 3 February 2006. The deadline for the receipt of applications for consideration at this meeting is 15 December 2005. Applications received after that date will be considered at the following meeting of the Working Group.

Table 1: Status of implementation of STDF project grants

Project title	Implementation status	Project budget
STDF 62: Cameroon	Project approved in September 2005. The project results from a project preparation grant. The aim of the project is to reactivate a national committee on food safety and provide training for key stakeholders in the public and private sector in Cameroon. Contract and project terms of reference are currently being elaborated. Implementation expected in 2006.	\$422,000
STDF 64: Djibouti	Project approved in September 2005. The project emanates from a project preparation grant. The aim of the project is to facilitate livestock trade from Djibouti. The project will be focused around training for both the private and public sector in SPS issues in veterinary area. Contract currently being elaborated. Implementation expected in 2006.	\$560,000
STDF 65: Support to compliance with official and commercial standards in the fruit and vegetable sector in Guinea	Project approved in September 2005. The project is focused on assisting the public and private sector in Guinea in training to meet official and commercial standards for fruit and vegetable exports. Contract and project terms of reference currently being elaborated. Implementation expected in 2006.	\$600,000
STDF 79: Quality information on SPS issues - a pre requisite for capacity building	Project approved in September 2005. The project is a one-off activity to improve the sharing of information on official standards (including the supporting scientific evaluations) developed by the three international standards-setting bodies referred to in the SPS Agreement through the medium of the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health. The project will be implemented by the FAO in collaboration with Codex, OIE and the IPPC. The project will improve the sustainability of core resources for the Portal. Implementation is expected to commence in the final quarter of 2005.	\$470,000
STDF 89: International Plant Health Risk Analysis Workshop	Project approved in September 2005. The aim of the project is to provide funding for 29 developing and least-developed country officials to attend a workshop on pest risk analysis to be held in Canada on 24-28 October 2005. The aim of the workshop is to strengthen expertise in and capacity to apply IPPC's standards for PRA (ISPMs No. 2, 11 and 21, in particular) with a view to harmonizing methods for their implementation internationally. Project will be completed by the end first quarter of 2006.	\$147,000
STDF 56: Capacity building for implementation of the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for animal feeding	Project approved in March 2005. Contract signed with International Feed Industry Federation. Implementation began in July 2005.	\$150,000

Project title	Implementation status	Project budget
STDF 37: Assistance to Developing Countries in the Implementation of ISPM 15 (Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade)	Project approved in September 2004. Project centrepiece, a workshop on implementation of ISPM 15, was held in Vancouver, Canada on 28 February – 4 March 2005. Project nearing completion. Training materials related to the workshop can be found on the IPPC website at www.ippc.int	\$332,000
STDF 13: Development of a Strategy and Action Plan for Selected African Regions to Enhance Public and Private Sector Capacity in Meeting Sanitary Standards for International Trade of Livestock and Livestock Products	Project approved in September 2004. Awaiting detailed implementation plan from OIE.	\$305,000
STDF 14: OIE veterinary capacity evaluation project	Project approved in November 2003. Implementation on-going. The capacity evaluation tool (developed in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture) has been field-tested in South America. Tool will next be pilot-tested in two Sub-Saharan African countries. Project to finish in 2006.	\$37,000
STDF 20: Country-based plans for SPS-related development	Project approved in September 2004. Implementation on-going. Draft methodology submitted for comment. Fieldwork in Uganda and Peru planned for last quarter of 2005. Project to finish in 2006.	\$170,862
STDF 19: Model arrangements for SPS stakeholder involvement at the national level	Project approved in September 2004. Implementation on-going. Preliminary fieldwork undertaken in Paraguay and Sri Lanka. Awaiting methodology and follow-up fieldwork. Project to finish in 2006.	\$291,218
STDF 9: Model Programme for Developing Food Standards within a Risk Analysis Framework	Project approved in November 2003. Implementation delayed, but planned to begin in the second half of 2005. Project to finish in 2006.	\$70,848
STDF 10: International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health project	Project approved in November 2003. Implementation on-going with fieldwork undertaken in Turkey and planned in Uganda. Project to finish in 2006.	\$59,400
STDF 15: Expanding SPS Capacities at National and Regional Levels	Project approved in September 2004. Implementation on-going. Training syllabus developed and tested. Implementation to begin with two workshops in September and October 2005. Project to finish in 2006.	\$130,614
STDF 5: STDF Database	Project approved in June 2003. Database on SPS technical assistance has been established at http://stdfdb.wto.org . Data collection exercises took place in July 2004 and another is planned in July 2005. Data covers years 2001-2003.	\$73,474
Total Project Grants		\$3,819,416

Table 2: Status of implementation of STDF project preparation grants

Project title	Implementation status	Project budget
STDF 88: Nepal SPS training project preparation grant	Approved in September 2005. Consultant to be contracted. Preparation activities will focus on evaluating the training needs of Nepal's SPS control authorities and designing a training programme which responds to those needs.	\$20,000
STDF 100: Project preparation grant for Cape Verde	Approved in September 2005. Consultant to be contracted. Fieldwork to be focused on applying the FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" and designing a project on the basis of findings.	\$20,000
STDF 101: Eritrea project preparation grant	Approved in September 2005. Consultant to be contracted. Fieldwork to be focused on applying the FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" and designing a project on the basis of findings.	\$20,000
STDF 102: Project preparation grant for Mali	Approved in September 2005. Consultant to be contracted. Preparation activities should be focused on project design in the fruit and vegetable sector which will support current initiatives.	\$20,000
STDF 103: Project preparation grant for Rwanda	Approved in September 2005. Consultant to be contracted. Preparation activities should be focused on project design in the fruit and vegetable sector which will support current initiatives.	\$20,000
STDF 105: Project preparation grant on compartmentalization	Approved in September 2005. A concept project to design, if possible, a demonstration project on how to apply the concept of compartmentalization. Terms of reference to be elaborated by WTO and OIE in 2006.	\$20,000
STDF 38: Agricultural Health and Food Safety Laboratory Needs Assessment for CARICOM Countries	Approved in September 2004. Implementation currently delayed, although contract signed with CARICOM to begin implementation.	\$20,000
STDF 62: Project preparation grant in Cameroon	Approved in September 2004. Consultant contracted. Fieldwork on-going and concentrated on application of FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems". Grant application presented in August 2005.	\$20,000
STDF 67: Project preparation grant on aflatoxin in Malawi and Zambia	Approved in March 2005. Terms of Reference being developed with FAO to design project to address post-harvest aflatoxin contamination problems in the paprika and groundnut sectors. Resubmitted to expand country coverage to Zambia in September 2005.	\$30,000

Project title	Implementation status	Project budget
STDF 68: Project preparation grant on South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) SPS co-operation	Approved in March 2005. Terms of Reference in development for consultant to support efforts at regional co-operation on SPS among SAARC countries.	\$20,000
STDF 63: Project preparation grant in Benin	Approved in March 2005. Consultant contracted. Fieldwork concentrated on application of FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems". Grant applications presented in August 2005.	\$20,000
STDF 61: Project preparation grant in Cambodia	Approved in March 2005. Consultant contracted. Fieldwork undertaken in Cambodia. Grant application presented in July 2005.	\$20,000
STDF 64: Project preparation grant in Djibouti	Approved in March 2005. Consultant contracted to conduct field research and design project in the livestock sector in Djibouti. Grant application presented in August 2005.	\$20,000
STDF 65: Project preparation grant in Guinea	Approved in March 2005. Consultant contracted to build on UNCTAD evaluation of costs of compliance in the tropical fruit sector and design project application. Grant application presented in August 2005.	\$20,000
STDF 66: Project preparation grant in Mozambique	Approved in March 2005. Consultant contracted to build on UNCTAD evaluation of costs of compliance in the tropical fruit sector and design project application. Grant application presented in August 2005.	\$20,000
STDF 69: Project preparation grant in Yemen	Approved in March 2005. Terms of Reference in development for consultant to support efforts at resolving SPS issues in the fisheries sector. Fieldwork scheduled to start in October.	\$20,000
Total Project preparation grants		\$330,000