

Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries

OVERVIEW OF THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

Note by the Secretariat¹

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global programme in capacity building and technical cooperation established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

2. The STDF grew out of a joint communiqué issued by the Heads of FAO, OIE, World Bank, WHO and WTO at the Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001. In the communiqué, the five organizations agreed to jointly explore new technical and financial mechanisms for coordination and resource mobilization. They also agreed to build alliances between standard setting bodies and implementing and financing agencies so as to ensure the most effective use of technical and financial resources. From this communiqué, the STDF was born in 2002.

3. The STDF acts both as a coordinating and a financing mechanism. Its strategic aims are:

- to assist developing countries - in particular Least-Developed Countries (LDCs)² and Other Low Income Economies (OLIEs)³ - enhance their expertise and capacity to analyze and to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, so improving their human, animal and plant health situation, and thus ability to gain and maintain market access; and
- to act as a vehicle for coordination among technical cooperation providers, the mobilization of funds, the exchange of experience and the dissemination of good practice in relation to the provision and receipt of SPS-related technical cooperation.

II. COORDINATION

4. As a coordinating mechanism, the STDF is a forum for information sharing on past, present and planned SPS-related technical cooperation activities. Central to the STDF's coordination role is reporting on technical cooperation provided or planned, the sharing of project and programme implementation experience and the dissemination of good practice in relation to both the provision and receipt of SPS-related technical cooperation. A further component of STDF's coordination function is to ensure that projects and other proposed initiatives do not duplicate past, present or planned technical cooperation activities. The STDF coordination role has been reinforced in the recently adopted Medium Term Strategy.

¹ This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and without prejudice to the positions of Members and to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

² For a list of LDCs go to: <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrlls/ldc/list.htm>

³ For a list of OLIEs go to: <http://www.worldbank.org/>

III. FUNDING

5. As a financing mechanism, two forms of grants are available. Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) up to a maximum of US\$20,000 are available for proposal development. PPGs are a key mechanism for STDF programme development as they help overcome constraints faced by developing countries in the identification of their SPS needs and their articulation into sustainable projects. PPGs are also a mechanism for ensuring synergy with other ongoing initiatives - in particular the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least-Developed Countries (EIF).⁴

6. Project grants aim to address underlying issues of SPS capacity building in beneficiary countries. Ideally, projects should be innovative, preventative and/or pilot projects which may be replicated by other donors. Projects may aim to address gaps in SPS information or training materials, or to improve coordination. Projects which aim at regional solutions to SPS concerns are particularly encouraged. Financing up to 90 per cent of project total cost is available for private and public organizations in LDCs and OLIEs. The STDF funds projects that typically range from to US\$300,000 to US\$600,000.

7. The STDF has a target to devote 40 per cent of grant resources to LDCs and OLIEs. To achieve this target, the STDF continues to build synergies with other technical cooperation programmes. The STDF Secretariat works closely with colleagues in the EIF Executive Secretariat to assist in the identification of SPS, the elaboration of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and the development of project grants. To date, the number of LDC-specific projects approved by the STDF stands at 10 projects and 17 PPGs (out of a total of 23 projects and 23 PPGs). Further details on these projects and project preparation grants can be found in Annex 1.

IV. MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY (2007-2011)

8. A new STDF Medium Term Strategy (2007-2011) was adopted in December 2006.⁵ This strategy places emphasis on the STDF as a vehicle for coordination among technical cooperation providers, for the exchange of experience, and for the dissemination of good practice in the provision and receipt of SPS-related technical cooperation. The STDF continues to provide funding for projects, but with more focus on project development through the use of PPGs and on the mobilization of donors to fund resultant projects. It will also aim to mobilize financial resources for project funding within the general donor community, rather than relying exclusively on the STDF's limited budgetary funds.

9. As part of its coordination function, the STDF is researching the supply and receipt of SPS-related technical cooperation in three regions. The regions surveyed will be Central America⁶, the East African Community (EAC)⁷ and a sub-group of ASEAN countries.⁸ This research feeds into the broader Aid for Trade⁹ initiative and should provide valuable insights, not just with regard to the future provision of SPS-related cooperation, but with respect to the provision of technical cooperation in other specific subject areas. Results of STDF research on SPS "demand" and "supply" response will be presented at the regional Aid for Trade events in Asia, Africa and Latin America planned for September and October 2007.

⁴ For more information on the Enhanced IF see: <http://www.integratedframework.org/>

⁵ The Medium Term Strategy can be downloaded from the STDF website: www.standardsfacility.org

⁶ Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

⁷ Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

⁸ Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Vietnam.

⁹ For more information on the Aid for Trade see: http://www.wto.org/english/aid4trade_e.htm

10. The Aid for Trade events will be followed up with further research and coordination between countries in each region to examine the effectiveness of past SPS-related technical cooperation activities, the identification of good practice which can be replicated in future cooperation projects or programmes and how ongoing needs can be prioritized. This research will culminate in regional consultations between donors, beneficiaries and organizations engaged in the delivery of SPS-related technical cooperation in 2008.

11. The intention is to repeat this exercise across other regions during the life of the Medium Term Strategy (2007-11). In addition to further regional consultations, at least one global level workshop/consultation will be organized to ensure that lessons learnt from the regional consultations can be disseminated more widely.

ANNEX 1: SELECTED PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS BENEFITING LDCs

(a) Completed Projects

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF-10	National implementation of the International Portal on food safety, animal and plant health	Turkey and Uganda (pilot countries)	Develop a Portal implementation handbook to assist countries in the establishment of a national internet-based site for the exchange of official legislation and regulations on food safety, animal and plant health.	FAO	59,400	Start date: Mar-05 End date: Sep-06	Under evaluation
STDF-20	Country-based plans for SPS-related development	Peru and Uganda (pilot countries)	Develop a methodology for systematic identification and prioritisation of SPS capacity-building needs in developing countries, which encourages a cooperative relationship between donors and private and public sector stakeholders in recipient countries, with special emphasis on enhancement of market access.	WTO	170,862	Start date: Nov-04 End date: Mar-07	Under evaluation
STDF-89	International plant health risk analysis workshop	Developing and Least-Developed Country participants	Provide funding for 29 developing and least-developed country officials to attend a workshop on pest risk analysis in Canada. (24 to 28 October 2005)	FAO	147,000	Start date: Oct-05 End date: May-07	Under evaluation

(b) Ongoing Projects

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF-13	Development of a strategy and action plan for selected African regions to enhance capacity in meeting sanitary standards for livestock and livestock products	Djibouti, Ethiopia and Mali	Develop regional strategies for enhancing veterinary service's and other stakeholders capabilities for export of livestock and livestock products with special emphasis on improving animal disease surveillance, reporting and control, and the implementation of international animal sanitary standards.	OIE / FAO	305,000	Start date: Oct-06 End date: TBC	Under implementation
STDF-65	A model for the development of a private/public safety control system for tropical fruit exports	Guinea	Develop a safety control system for the tropical fruit export sector. Establish a Safety Management Expert Force to assist companies implementing control systems and lay the ground for the establishment of a Public Inspection Force.	UNCTAD	600,000	Start date: Dec-05 End date: May-08	Under implementation
STDF-146	Strengthening phytosanitary controls in Mali - with particular reference to mango exports	Mali	Strengthen capacities of the National Phytosanitary Control System to meet international SPS standards. Provide institutional and operational support to facilitate fruit and vegetables trade (especially mango), to contribute to export diversification and poverty reduction.	Ministry of Commerce (IF focal point)	508,000	Start date: Feb-07 End date: Feb-09	Under implementation
STDF-145	Rwanda Horticulture Export Standards Initiative (RHESI)	Rwanda	Address the priority SPS capacity building needs identified by stakeholders in the sector and establish a plant health management system conforming SPS standards that will instil confidence among trading partners. (promotion of good practices, legal reform, information development and monitoring)	Michigan State University	526,674	Start date: TBC End date: TBC	Awaiting contracting

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF-113	Strengthening SPS controls in Burundi	Burundi	Enhance the capacity of the Burundi Bureau of Standards (BBN) using a training component for public and private sector officials on SPS compliance. Defining strategies and means required to introduce a hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system. (Particular attention should be paid to the agri-food sector.)	To be defined	513,000	Start date: TBC End date: TBC	Recommended for funding by other donor
STDF-134	Capacity building for improving the fish trade performance of selected African countries	Benin, Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone	Develop countries' capacities to understand SPS issues and deliver training in safe fish handling to the beach level. Construct a technical and trade information data base to encourage the dissemination of findings to other countries in the region.	FAO	469,000	Start date: TBC End date: TBC	Awaiting contracting
STDF-170	Strengthening the capacity of government SPS officials to effectively implement SPS measures	Nepal	Provide support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) to effectively implement SPS measures to reduce food safety risks for domestic consumers, enhance the protection of animals and plants and promote economic development through increased food and agricultural exports.	FAO	321,600	Start date: TBC End date: TBC	Awaiting contracting

TBC: To be confirmed

(c) Projects for which approval has been revoked

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Reason	Status
STDF-64	Facilitating livestock trade in Djibouti	Djibouti	Assist public and private sectors to implement SPS legislation conform to OIE standards, through conducting risk assessments, verification, trace-back and certification, to facilitate livestock and livestock products trade.	FAO	560,000	Failure of the FAO-WTO agreement	Seeking ways to find funding directly from bilateral donor
STDF-48	Quality control for agricultural products in Benin - with particular reference to shea and cashew nut products	Benin	Apply good agricultural practices (training and capacity building activities) so as to overcome problems of mycotoxin contamination for shea and cashew nut production, to contribute to the development of national, regional and international markets, meeting international quality standards.	IITA	260,000	Problems defining the budget and the use of laboratory capacity	Applicant invited to update and resubmit the request
STDF-69	Improved capacity for ensuring the quality and safety of Yemeni seafood products	Yemen	Enable Yemen Sea Food Association to develop the capacity of its members to better meet the commercial requirements of SPS measures and thereby improve the quality and safety of seafood products and access key overseas markets.	World Bank	371,075	Failure of the World Bank-WTO agreement	Framework agreement ITC-WTO prepared to facilitate implementation

(d) Project Preparation Grants

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF-61	SPS standards and trade advisor, Cambodia	Cambodia	Build on the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) and other relevant country reviews by researching technical assistance through contacts with key stakeholders and submitting a project proposal.	WTO	20,000	Start date: Apr-05 End date: Jul-05	Not accepted for funding
STDF-64	Facilitating livestock trade in Djibouti	Djibouti	Build on the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) and other relevant country reviews by researching further SPS constraints in the livestock sector and submitting a technical assistance project proposal.	WTO	20,000	Start date: May-05 End date: Aug-05	Accepted for funding
STDF-63	Quality control for agricultural products in Benin	Benin	Build on the DTIS and other relevant country reviews by applying a specific evaluation tool and assist the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and the Institut National des Recherches Agricoles to submit reworked applications for STDF funding.	WTO	20,000	Start date: Jun-05 End date: Jul-05	Accepted for funding
STDF-65	A model for the development of a safety control system for tropical fruit exports in Guinea	Guinea	Build on the DTIS and UNCTAD study by organizing a consultation with national stakeholders to establish priority actions for SPS compliance and submitting a technical assistance project proposal which corresponds to one or more of these priority actions.	UNCTAD	20,000	Start date: Jun-05 End date: Aug-05	Accepted for funding
STDF-66	Strategy to increase capacity to comply with SPS and retailers' agrifood protocols to facilitate exports	Mozambique	Build on the DTIS and UNCTAD study by organizing a consultation with national stakeholders to establish priority actions for SPS compliance and submitting a technical assistance project proposal which corresponds to one or more of these priority actions.	UNCTAD	20,000	Start date: May-05 End date: Aug-05	Accepted for bilateral funding (UK)

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF-69	Fish handling, safety and quality improvement project	Yemen	Evaluate the Seafood Processors Association to improve safety and quality of products, harmonize standards and strengthen private domestic enforcement, and submit a technical assistance project proposal.	WTO	20,000	Start date: Jul-05 End date: Aug-05	Accepted for funding
STDF-101	Capacity evaluation of National Food Control System in Eritrea	Eritrea	Evaluate capacities of the National Food Control System and use this evaluation to develop suitable projects which meet Eritrea's requirements.	WTO	20,000	Start date: Jan-06 End date: Apr-06	Not accepted for funding
STDF-88	Proposal on human resource development for SPS implementation in Nepal	Nepal	Identification of technical assistance needs in human resource development for SPS implementation, preparation of an action matrix for effective and efficient management of SPS measures and development of a coherent project proposal.	FAO	20,000	Start date: Nov-06 End date: Jan-07	Accepted for funding
STDF-102	SPS constraints and export diversification project preparation grant	Mali	Complement existing export diversification initiatives (under the Integrated Framework) by further studying SPS constraints in the fruit and vegetables sector and, in consultation with stakeholders, develop a project to address these constraints.	WTO	20,000	Start date: Mar-06 End date: May-06	Accepted for funding

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF-103	Rwanda horticulture export standards initiative	Rwanda	Build on the DTIS by participating in a national SPS seminar to stimulate interest from stakeholders, conducting field research on SPS constraints in the horticultural sector and submitting a technical assistance project proposal and a fieldwork report.	WTO	20,000	Start date: Mar-06 End date: Apr-06	Accepted for funding
STDF-113	Support for the introduction of the HACCP system in Burundian enterprises	Burundi	Review SPS technical assistance needs by applying the joint WHO/FAO evaluation tool of official control services to survey the food situation and submit a technical assistance project proposal corresponding to needs identified in the evaluation.	WTO / Burundi Standards Bureau	19,740	Start date: Oct-06 End date: Dec-06	Seeking non-STDF funding
STDF-52	Regional initiative to assist Malawian and Zambian exporters aflatoxin contamination	Malawi and Zambia	Develop a project which will address post-harvest management problems in the paprika and groundnut sector, in particular with respect to aflatoxin contamination; ensure consultations with private and public sectors, and contact donors.	WTO	30,000	Start date: Feb-07 End date: Aug-07	Under implementation
STDF-100	Capacity evaluation of the national food control system in Cape Verde, with particular attention to the fisheries sector	Cape Verde	Assist Cape Verde in evaluating its capacities in its National Food Control System and prepare a suitable follow-up project which meets its requirements (particular attention should be paid to the WTO accession and the needs of the fisheries sector).	WTO	20,000	Start date: Dec-06 End date: Feb-07	Under implementation
STDF-126	Assistance establishing a horticulture industry organisation in Tanzania	Tanzania	Develop a business plan for the Tanzanian Horticulture Association and a mid-term strategy for effectively dealing with conformity to international standards and increase trade opportunities.	WTO	5,500	Start date: Sep-06 End date: Feb-07	Under implementation
STDF-46	Enhance capacity to implement Codex standards in the African Region	Benin and Tanzania	Conduct field research on on-going SPS activities, identify priority Codex standards and guidelines, establish contacts with key stakeholders, obtain support of the donor community and submit two technical assistance project proposals.	WHO / WTO / World Bank	20,000	Start date: Aug-06 End date: Nov-06	Under revision

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF-127	Build up the Chamber of Commerce's capacity to administer SPS standards with a view to promoting exports	Benin	Establish an information centre within the Benin Chamber of Commerce to ensure that firms are aware of SPS measures affecting their existing or planned exports and examine the feasibility of a well targeted regional approach in the WAEMU.	WTO	20,000	Start date: Nov-06 End date: Feb-07	Under implementation
STDF-165	Improving fruit production SPS controls in Madagascar	Madagascar	Improve fruit production in order to meet SPS requirements.	TBC	20,000	Start date: TBC End date: TBC	Awaiting contracting

TBC: To be confirmed