

PRESS RELEASE

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Sweden donates CHF 5.2 million for food, animal and plant health standards

Sweden donated SEK 35 million (approximately CHF 5.2 million) to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a programme set up to help developing countries improve their expertise and their capacity to analyze and implement international standards on food safety and animal and plant health. The funds are provided as multi-year contribution running for five years from 2009 to 2013.

The STDF is a joint initiative of the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the World Organization for Animal Health, and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Sweden is the biggest contributor to the WTO's technical assistance trust funds. This new multi-year donation brings Sweden's overall contribution up to CHF 30.9 million.

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy declared " Compliance with international standards, especially in the SPS area which is technically and scientifically complicated, is often an obstacle for developing countries to fully participate in the multilateral trading system. I welcome Sweden's donation which will facilitate developing countries' integration in the global economy and will allow longer term programmes to be implemented."

Sweden's Ambassador to the WTO, Marie-Claire Swärd Capra said " Improving developing countries' capacity for analysis and implementation of international SPS standards is key to gain and maintain market access. Sweden is happy to support the STDF with multi-year financing, in line with the Paris principles, and we see the STDF as an important and strategic actor in the broader Aid for Trade architecture."

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