

Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

Note by the Secretariat¹

Overview of the STDF

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global programme in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity building and technical cooperation established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). A range of other organizations - including the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – as well as donors and developing countries also participate in the Facility.²

2. The STDF has two main aims:

- to assist developing countries enhance their expertise and capacity to analyze and implement international SPS standards, improving their human, animal and plant health situation, and thus ability to gain and maintain market access; and
- to act as a vehicle for awareness raising on the importance of SPS issues, 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.

3. This document provides an overview of STDF activities since the last report to the LDC Sub-Committee meeting in October 2008, in relation to the four areas of STDF's Operating Plan for 2009: (i) coordination³; (ii) project development; (iii) project funding; and (iv) information dissemination.

Coordination

4. The STDF Secretariat is preparing three major events in the second half of 2009. On 22-23 September 2009, the World Bank Development Research Group and the STDF will organize an expert seminar in Washington D.C to discuss new developments in climate change and trade, and the implications for SPS risks. The event will address key issues related to climate change, including effects on agriculture trade and the regulatory reforms needed to adapt to these changes, as well as the expected SPS impacts. Presentations will consider how climate change may require countries to upgrade their SPS systems to deal with emerging challenges, and the implications for SPS technical cooperation. More details are available on the STDF website: www.standardsfacility.org.

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 More detailed information on the STDF can be found on www.standardsfacility.org.

³ It is worth noting that the STDF's coordination mandate is not LDC specific.

5. On 29-30 September 2009, the STDF will co-host with ECOWAS a donor workshop in Bamako, Mali, on the implementation of a regional action plan to control fruit fly in West Africa, in close collaboration with the World Bank, the European Commission (EC) and the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP). The meeting will gather donors, regional institutions with expertise in fruit fly control, national plant protection services and other concerned stakeholders from West Africa. The workshop will review findings and recommendations of ongoing preparatory work by COLEACP on priority actions and implementation arrangements and aim to mobilize resources to implement a coordinated response to control fruit fly in the region.

6. Finally, on 30 October 2009, the STDF will organize a workshop in Geneva (back-to-back with the meeting of the SPS Committee) on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision-making. The workshop will discuss the cost / benefit ratio of investing in SPS systems in order to prevent animal diseases, plant pests and food safety problems as opposed to the costs of control. Recent research analysing economic aspects of investments in SPS capacity building in particular areas will be presented, as well as relevant lessons and experiences from developing countries.

7. As part of the preparations for the event on climate change and SPS risks, the STDF Secretariat participated in a seminar on "Food and Environmental Security: The role of food and agricultural trade policy" in Salzburg on 10-11 May 2009 organized by the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC). At a subsequent meeting of the ICTSD-IPC Platform "Climate change, agriculture and trade: Promoting policy convergence" on 12 May, the Secretariat made a presentation on the impact of climate change on food safety, animal and plant health and the development and implementation of standards. The meeting explored areas at the nexus of climate change, agricultural and trade policy in the run-up to the meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

8. The STDF also participated in a high-level meeting and training week organized by the EC to launch its "Better Training for Safer Food in Africa" (BTSF-Africa) Initiative at the African Union's (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 March to 2 April 2009. As part of the EC-funded "PAN-SPSO" programme⁴, the STDF and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) will jointly organize two seminars in Nairobi (13-16 July) and Bamako (20-23 July), respectively, to provide in-depth training to SPS officials from the AU Commission and several regional economic communities. The training will be provided by representatives from WTO, Codex, OIE and IPPC. Meetings have also been held with representatives from the UK National Resources Institute (NRI) to collaborate on the development of a tool for the assessment of potential impact of SPS measures by developing countries (based on causal chain analysis techniques).

9. The STDF continues to strengthen the linkages with other trade-related and/or SPS-specific initiatives. As part of an Aid-for-Trade activity in Peru, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the STDF was involved in examining the need for and provision of SPS-related technical cooperation. A balance sheet on outstanding SPS priority needs and a list of concrete technical assistance projects were presented at a National Aid-for-Trade Dialogue held in Lima on 3 March 2009, which identified enhancement of SPS performance as one of the Aid-for-Trade priority areas. The final STDF report is available on the STDF website.

Project development

10. Project preparation grants (PPGs) are a key mechanism for future STDF programme development. PPGs help overcome constraints faced by developing countries in the articulation of

⁴ PAN-SPSO is a joint initiative of the AU/IBAR and the EC that aims to contribute to the reduction of poverty and enhanced food security in Africa through greater access of African countries to international markets for agricultural products. PAN-SPSO specifically seeks to facilitate effective involvement of African countries in the activities of the OIE, IPPC and Codex during the formulation of international standards.

their needs and are a mechanism for ensuring synergy with other on-going initiatives, in particular the Enhanced IF and the Aid for Trade initiative. Greater reliance is placed on the use of PPGs to provide a basis for donor interventions and as a vehicle for the mobilization of funds.

11. As of 31st May 2009, a total of 33 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. 21 out of 33 of approved PPGs (or 64%) since the STDF's inception have benefited LDCs. See figures 1 and 2 below.

12. At the STDF Working Group meeting in February 2009, two PPGs were approved, one of which (STDF 262) was benefiting LDCs:

- STDF 262: Renforcement du contrôle des maladies animales et préparation à l'accès des viandes sahéliennes aux marchés des pays de l'Afrique du Nord; and
- STDF 286: Accessing new markets by reducing phytosanitary risk through participatory research and expansion: the Clean Stock Program in ornamental plants in Costa Rica.

Summary charts PPG

Figure 1:

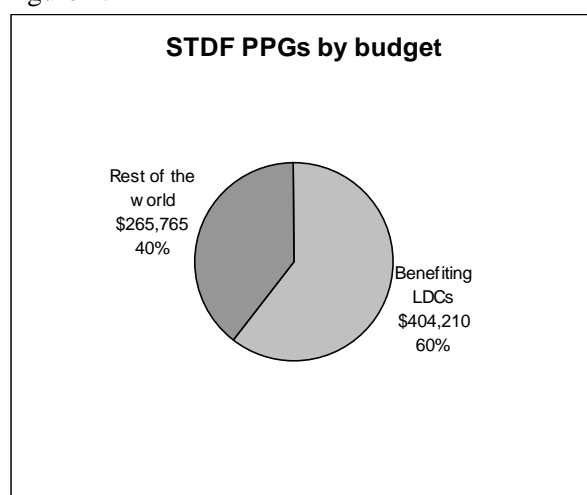
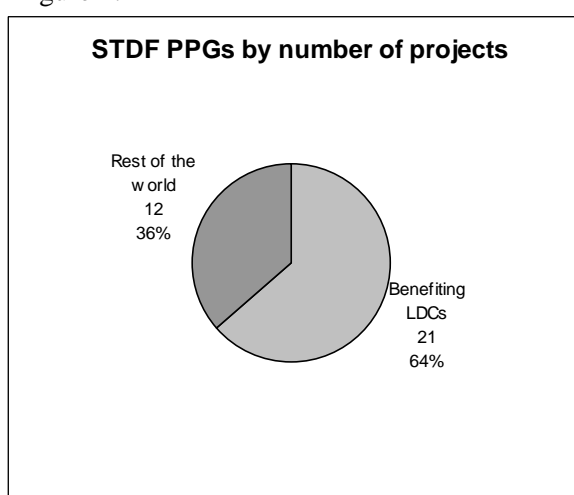


Figure 2:



Project funding

13. As of 31 May 2009, a total of 36 projects have been approved for STDF funding. Of these projects, 14 have directly benefited LDCs. As Figure 4 demonstrates, 39% of projects benefit LDCs (when accounted for by number of projects). This figure climbs to 45% when accounted for by project budget. This demonstrates that projects benefiting LDCs account for an above average share of STDF projects.

14. At the STDF Working Group meeting in February 2009, two new projects were approved for funding:

- STDF 267: Devising a National GAP Programme and a Commercial GAP Standard in the Philippines; and
- STDF 287: Information sharing initiative on the actions to control fruit flies in Sub-Saharan Africa: publication of a newsletter (COLEACP).

Summary charts PG

Figure 3:

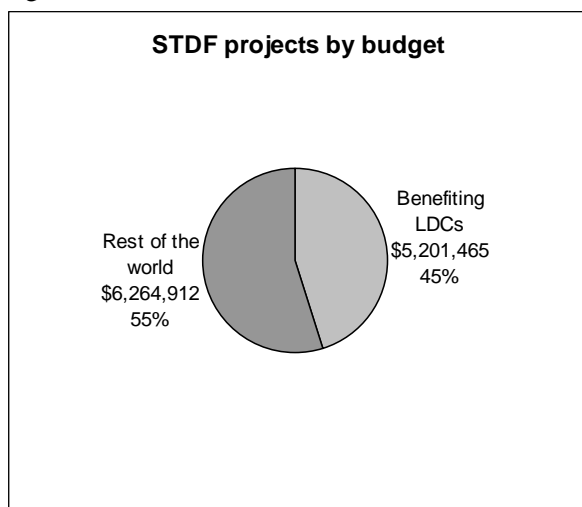
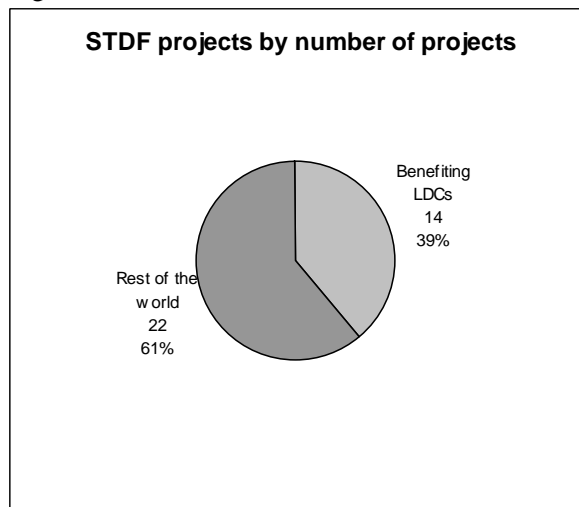


Figure 4:



Other statistics on Project and Project Preparation Grants

15. An overview of the current status of STDF projects and PPGs benefiting LDCs is provided in Annex I. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 53% of project resources to LDCs and Other Low Income Countries (OLICs), as shown in Figure 5. Figure 6 indicates that 52% of all STDF projects and PPGs have been implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa, 16% in Latin America and the Caribbean and 12% in Asia. In addition, 14% of projects can be classified as global.

Figure 5:

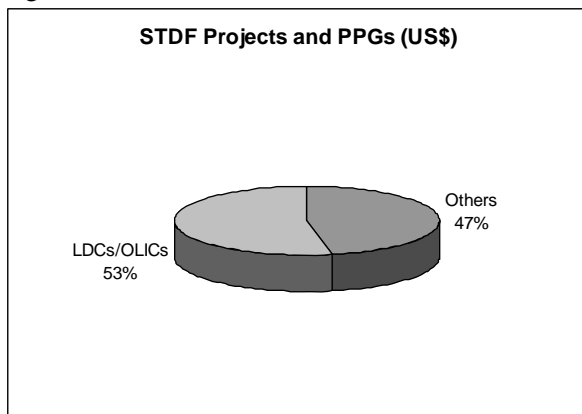
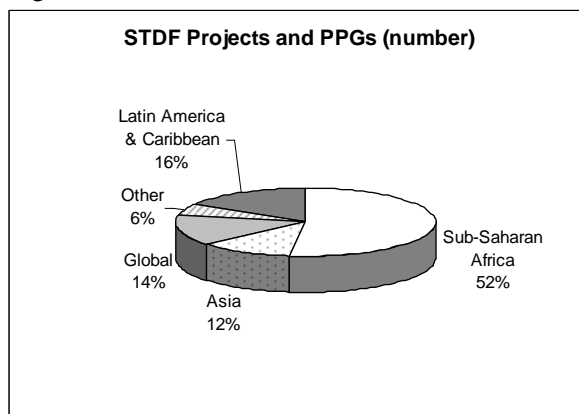


Figure 6:



16. Applications for STDF funding can be made at any point in the year but should be received 60 working days in advance of each Working Group meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. The next deadline for the submission of project proposals is 10 September 2009.

Information dissemination

17. The STDF developed a short film to raise awareness among policy and decision-makers about the importance of SPS issues and promote SPS capacity building. With stories from Benin, Belize, Thailand and Viet Nam, the film illustrates how some countries are rising to the challenge of meeting food safety and animal and plant health requirements to be able to benefit from trade in food and agricultural products. In Belize, the film looks at efforts to control the Medfly pest. In Benin, the focus is on sanitary and hygiene problems in shrimp sector. In Thailand, Viet Nam and Geneva, the film addresses the impact of avian influenza on public health, livelihoods and trade, and explains how countries use the SPS Committee to share information and address their trade concerns. The film is available on DVD in English, French and Spanish.

18. A number of improvements and updates were made to the STDF website (www.standardsfacility.org) and additional changes are underway. These changes include the addition of new pages on SPS needs of developing countries and sources of technical cooperation. Country SPS briefings, compiling information on SPS constraints and priorities, for 19 countries are available on the site. Partners and donors are encouraged to use the STDF website to exchange information on their work in the SPS area.

19. A new STDF publication on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools was published in February 2009. It provides information on sectoral tools, developed by international organizations in the area of food safety, animal and plant health, as well as cross-sectoral tools and related methodologies. This publication is a useful reference for all those interested in evaluating capacity needs in the SPS area. The document is available in print and on the STDF web site (www.standardsfacility.org). Moreover, the fifth issue of the tri-annual STDF newsletter has been published.

20. Finally, the STDF Secretariat also participated in the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) held in Accra, Ghana from 24-27 February 2009, and in the 18th Geneva Week for non WTO-resident members and observers held in Geneva from 25-29 May 2009, where presentations on STDF current and future work were given.

ANNEX 1: SELECTED PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS BENEFITING LDCs

List of STDF project preparation grants (PPGs) benefiting LDCs –21 out of 33 PPGs benefiting LDCs (or 64%)

Project number	Title	Beneficiary	Description	Implementing agency	Budget (US\$)	Start date/ end date	Status
STDF 46	Implementation of Codex standards (WHO Africa)	Benin and Tanzania	Assist WHO Africa to develop a project proposal to support selected African countries to implement Codex standards.	Kenza Le Mentec J. Claude Cheftel	19,000	Aug-06 Aug-07	Completed
STDF 52	Post-harvest contamination in Malawi and Zambia	Malawi and Zambia	Develop a project proposal to address post-harvest contamination problems in the paprika and groundnut sectors in Malawi and Zambia. Project based on IF DTIS.	Gordon Shephard	20,000	Feb-07 Aug-07	Completed
STDF 63	Strengthening Capacity and Information Exchange for Food Quality and Export Promotion in West Africa: A Regional Perspective	Benin	Apply the FAO/WHO "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems".	Lois C. Laleye	20,000	Jun-05 Jul-05	Completed
STDF 64	Develop a project proposal to strengthen SPS capacity in Djoubti	Djibouti	Field research and design of project in the livestock sector in Djibouti. Project based on needs identified in IF DTIS report.	Greg Sullivan	20,000	May-05 Aug-05	Completed
STDF 65	Develop a project proposal to strengthen SPS capacity in Guinea	Guinea	Develop a project proposal that builds on the UNCTAD evaluation of costs of compliance in the tropical fruit sector.	UNCTAD	20,000	Jun-05 Aug-05	Completed

Project number	Title	Beneficiary	Description	Implementing agency	Budget (US\$)	Start date/ end date	Status
STDF 66	Develop a project proposal to strengthen SPS capacity in Mozambique	Mozambique	Develop a project proposal that builds on the UNCTAD evaluation of costs of compliance in the tropical fruit sector. Project based on needs identified in IF DTIS report.	UNCTAD	20,000	May-05 Aug-05	Completed
STDF 69	Develop a project proposal to strengthen SPS capacity in Yemen	Yemen	Survey of SPS issues in the fisheries sector and project design. Project based on needs identified in IF DTIS report.	Tim Huntington	19,700	Oct-05 Nov-05	Completed
STDF 88	Strengthening SPS human resource capacity	Nepal	Evaluation of the training needs of Nepal's SPS authorities and design a training programme.	FAO	20,000		Completed
STDF 101	Capacity evaluation of national food control system in Eritrea	Eritrea	Apply FAO/WHO "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" and design a project.	Arpad Ambrus, Centre for Plant Protection and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary	20,000	Jan-06 Mar-06	Completed
STDF 102	SPS constraints and export diversification project preparation grant	Mali	Enhance SPS capacity in the fruit and vegetable sector.	Malika Bounfour	20,000	Mar-06 May-06	Completed
STDF 103	Rwanda Horticulture Export Standards Initiative (RHESI)	Rwanda	Enhance SPS capacity in the fruit and vegetable sector.	Daniel Clay	22,000	Feb-06 May-06	Completed

Project number	Title	Beneficiary	Description	Implementing agency	Budget (US\$)	Start date/ end date	Status
STDF 113	Survey of food safety needs in Burundi	Burundi	Apply the FAO/WHO "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" to survey the food safety situation in Burundi and develop a trade-related project.	WTO/ Burundi Standards Bureau Mohammed Majdi	20,000	Sep-06 Nov-06	Completed
STDF 126	Assistance to establish a horticulture industry organization in Tanzania	Tanzania	Develop a business plan and facilitate the establishment of a horticulture association in Tanzania	TAHA	5,500	Jul-06 Sep-06	Completed
STDF 127	Strengthening the capacity of the Benin Chamber of Commerce to track SPS-related development in exports markets	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	Stefan Skrzypczak	20,000	Nov-06 Feb-07	Completed
STDF 165	Improving fruit production SPS controls in Madagascar	Madagascar	Assist Madagascar to establish pest-free places of production.	CTHA Centre Technique Horticole d'Antananarivo	20,000	Feb-08 TBC	Ongoing
STDF 191	Enhancing Sierra Leone's national SPS capacity	Sierra Leone	Design a national SPS framework.	CARANA Corporation	20,000	Jan-07 TBC	Ongoing
STDF 221	Improving the competitiveness of suppliers in Burkina Faso national, regional and international markets	Burkina Faso	Identify specific SPS issues and constraints affecting sesame production and exports and develop a project proposal aimed at overcoming these constraints and improving market access.	Tidiane Traore	20,000	Jan-09 Apr-09	Ongoing

Project number	Title	Beneficiary	Description	Implementing agency	Budget (US\$)	Start date/ end date	Status
STDF 234	Design of Lao GAP scheme	Lao PDR	Create institutional infrastructure to ensure market access for agricultural products from Lao PDR	Andrew Wilson	18,410	Aug-08 Jan-09	Completed
STDF 242	Elaboration of SPS needs expressed in the IF DTIS of Comoros	Comoros	Assess SPS human resource and infrastructure needs based on the IF DTIS and formulate a proposal to improve the competitiveness of the lychee and lobster sectors.	Chokri Damergi	20,000	Feb-09 Apr-09	Ongoing
STDF 262	Renforcement du contrôle des maladies animales et préparation à l'accès des viandes sahéaliennes aux marchés des pays d'Afrique du Nord	Mali/ Niger/ Burkina Faso	Review of regional strategy to strengthen veterinary services	CILSS (Comité permanent inter-états de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel)	19,600	TBC	Awaiting contracting
STDF 268	Harmonization of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for an SPS control management system	Tanzania	Strengthening the relevant legislation and improving institutional coordination. An improved management system would help in raising confidence among trading partners, stimulating economic growth and alleviating poverty.	NRI University of Greenwich John Eric Orchard	20,000	May-09 TBC	Ongoing

List of STDF projects (PGs) benefiting LDCs – 14 out of 36 PGs benefiting LDCs (or 39%)

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implement-tation	Status
STDF 13	Development of Regional Action Plans to Enhance Veterinary Capacity in East and West Africa	Mali, Ethiopia and Djibouti	Develop regional strategies to strengthen veterinary capacity in East and West Africa with emphasis on improved surveillance, reporting, control and implementation of international standards.	OIE	305,000	Oct-06 Jul-08	Completed
STDF 48	Improving shea and cashew nut production in Benin through the application of good agricultural practice	Benin	Apply good agricultural practices to overcome problems of mycotoxin contamination in shea and cashew nut production.	CRA-Agonkanmey (Centre de Recherches Agricoles d'Agonkanmey)	470,575	Jun-08 May-09	Ongoing
STDF 65	Develop a private/public safety control system for the horticultural export sector in Guinea	Guinea	Assist the public and private sector to meet official and commercial standards for fruit and vegetable exports through development of a safety control system. Project developed based on IF DTIS report.	UNCTAD	530,300	Dec-05 Feb-09	Completed
STDF 69	Improved capacity to ensure safety and quality of Yemeni seafood products	Yemen	Assist the Yemen Seafood Exporter's Association to improve the quality and safety of Yemeni seafood products.	YSEA (Yemeni Seafood Exporters Association)	408,750	Aug-07 Dec-09	Ongoing
STDF 126	Support for the establishment of the Horticulture Development Council of Tanzania	Tanzania	Assist the Tanzanian horticulture sector to address SPS issues.	TAHA	268,755	TBC	Awaiting contracting

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF 127	Support for SPS information systems in Benin	Benin	Improve information flows on SPS requirements, particularly in the private sector in Benin.	Benin Chamber of Commerce	374,790	Jul-08 Jun-10	Ongoing
STDF 134	Capacity building to improve fish trade performance of selected West African countries	Benin, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia	Improve knowledge and awareness of SPS issues in the fisheries sector in five West African countries.	FAO	469,000	Mar-08 Feb-10	Ongoing
STDF 145	Rwanda Horticulture Export Standards Initiative (RHESI)	Rwanda	Increase Rwanda's exports of fruit, vegetables and flowers in international and regional markets.	Michigan State University (MSU)	526,647	May-07 May-09	Ongoing
STDF 146	Strengthening phytosanitary controls in Mali (with a focus on mango exports)	Mali	Expand international market access for fresh produce from Mali through improved phytosanitary control capacity. Project developed based on IF DTIS.	Ministry of Trade (IF management unit) and FAO	518,800	Jan-07 Dec-09	Ongoing
STDF 170	Strengthening the capacity of government SPS officials in Nepal	Nepal	Train government officials on implementation of SPS measures. Project supports Integrated Framework (IF) Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS).	FAO	357,900	Apr-08 Mar-10	Ongoing
STDF 230	Establishment of Pest Free Areas for Lethal Yellowing Disease in Coconuts	Mozambique	Build phytosanitary capacity to implement international standards to manage LYD in palms and thereby expand market access for coconuts.	FAO	385,528	TBC	Awaiting contracting
STDF 246	Development of SPS Action Plan for Cambodia	Cambodia	Identify actions to be taken to enhance the SPS system in Cambodia.	FAO	193,000	Apr-09 Apr-10	Ongoing

Project Number	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Implementing Agency	Budget in US\$	Implementation	Status
STDF 255	Regional initiative on the fight against fruit flies in West Africa	West Africa	Conduct tests in pilot mango orchards using different fruit fly control and other Integrated Pest Management techniques to monitor and control fruit fly populations in 8 pilot countries.	CIRAD (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement)	279,620	Apr-09 May-10	Ongoing
STDF 287	Information sharing initiative on the actions to control fruit flies in Sub-Saharan Africa: publication of a newsletter (COLEACP)	Sub-Saharan Africa	Information newsletter on fruit fly.	COLEACP (Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique pour la Promotion des Exportations horticoles ACP)	112,800	Jun-09 Apr-11	Ongoing