

PRESS RELEASE

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

US gives \$150k for food, animal and plant health standards projects in 2008

The WTO has received the United States' 2008 contribution of US\$150,000 (approximately 176,000 Swiss francs) for projects to help developing countries analyse and implement international standards on food safety and animal and plant health — so-called sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards. This contribution builds on similar grants in 2006 and 2007.

The donation is for the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a programme set up for the purpose jointly by the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the World Organization for Animal Health, and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

As before, the funds will be used to implement the STDF's Medium Term Strategy. This emphasizes STDF acting as a vehicle to coordinate SPS-related technical assistance and to identify related good practice. As part of this function, the STDF is liaising closely with existing US industry efforts on sanitary and phytosanitary issues — such as the West African Trade Hub — to ensure the programmes support each other and avoid duplication.

The Medium Term Strategy will run until 2011 and aims to achieve a facility with annual operating funds of \$5 million. Since its inception in 2002, the STDF has built a portfolio of 25 projects and is financing a further 25 project-preparation grants.

Weblinks

Sanitary-phytosanitary measures: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm
STDF: <http://www.standardsfacility.org>

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