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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT<sup>1</sup>

**1 OVERVIEW**

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) supports developing countries in building capacity to implement international SPS standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets. In doing so, it contributes to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries. More specifically, it increases awareness, mobilizes resources, strengthens collaboration and identifies and disseminates good practice to enhance the effectiveness of SPS assistance. The STDF also provides support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements.

1.2. The STDF is a global partnership established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors contributing funds to the STDF and developing country experts participate actively in the Facility's work. The STDF is managed and housed by the WTO.<sup>2</sup>

1.3. This document provides an update STDF's work since the last SPS Committee in July 2014. Annex I provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs). The STDF Working Group will meet on 20-22 October 2014.

1.4. Delegates who would like to receive more information on SPS-related technical cooperation are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/>). The STDF regularly issues an e-newsletter which contains an overview of major developments in the area of SPS capacity building, including activities of the STDF and its partners.

**2 COORDINATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

**2.1 Implementing SPS Measures to facilitate safe trade**

2.1. The STDF continued to work on the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation (defined as the simplification, harmonisation, standardisation and modernisation of trade procedures). This work aims to identify key needs, opportunities and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that facilitates safe trade. It encompasses regional research<sup>3</sup> in selected countries in Africa (Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and Asia (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> More detailed information on the STDF and its activities, including projects and project preparation grants, is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/>).

<sup>3</sup> The work also benefited from a study by the Inter-American Development Bank on the quarantine control situation in Latin America.

and Thailand). It focuses on how SPS controls are implemented for selected agri-food products, in light of the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement (notably Article 8 and Annex C). This work may also provide timely inputs towards the inclusion of SPS-related components in broader trade facilitation programmes.

2.2. The regional research in Asia was completed. The final report, including a set of recommendations for the countries concerned as well as for the STDF and the larger development community, was distributed to STDF members. The regional research in Africa will be finalized shortly. On 20-22 October 2014, the STDF Working Group will discuss the report for the Asian countries and possible future STDF work in this area. More information on this STDF activity is available on STDF's website.<sup>4</sup> This includes a background note and copies of presentations delivered at a thematic session entitled "Implementing SPS Measures to Facilitate Safe Trade" on 26 March 2014.

## 2.2 Joint EIF/STDF analysis on SPS issues in DTIS studies

2.3. Building on successful collaboration in the past, the STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) are preparing a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation.<sup>5</sup> Following a preliminary review of all DTIS reports, Cambodia, Tanzania and Senegal were selected for an in-depth field study, while an additional twenty DTIS reports were selected for further desk review. The results of the field work in Cambodia will be shared and discussed in the STDF Working Group in October 2014. The aim is to complete the EIF/STDF study by the end of this year.

## 2.3 SPS market access prioritization

2.4. The STDF is continuing its work on revising and finalizing the guide to prioritize SPS investments options for market access, based on multi criteria decision analysis. This work follows up on an STDF workshop in June 2013, which took stock of country experiences in using this framework and discussed options to improve the methodology. Countries that have used the tool have shared their experiences and lessons learned, and these are used to finalize the guide. More information, including the draft guide and the experiences from the countries is available on the STDF website.<sup>6</sup>

## 2.4 New STDF website

2.5. The new STDF website was launched in August 2014 in English, French and Spanish. The new website is based on a content management system and will allow the Secretariat to more easily publish, edit and modify content. An upgraded version of the STDF Virtual Library, i.e. an electronic information management system providing quick and easy online access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building, was integrated into the new website.

## 3 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

3.1. The STDF provides advice and support to beneficiaries on issues related to SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs) to assist beneficiaries in the articulation of their SPS needs and the development of technically sound and sustainable project proposals. Seed funding up to US\$50,000 is available for PPGs, which can be used for any of the following purposes (or a combination thereof): (i) application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) preparation of feasibility studies that precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals (expected costs and benefits); and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by the STDF or other donors.

<sup>4</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade>

<sup>5</sup> The DTIS is the cornerstone of the EIF deployment in LDCs in terms of mainstreaming and integrating trade into national development plans. The DTIS sets the basis for all subsequent interventions and establishes priorities to reach trade expansion targets for a given country. For more information, see <http://www.enhancedif.org/en/about/how-does-it-work>.

<sup>6</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/sp-market-access-prioritization>

3.2. A total of 63 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. The STDF Working Group may approve additional PPGs for funding at its next meeting on 20-22 October 2014.

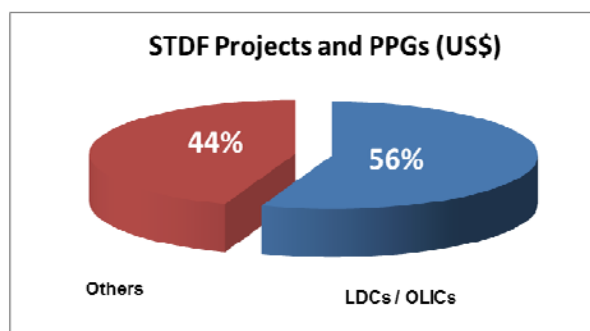
#### 4 PROJECT FUNDING

4.1. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1,000,000 is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that focus on one or more of the following: (i) the identification, development and dissemination of good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) STDF work on cross-cutting topics of common interest; (iii) the use of regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches focused on the interface/linkages between human, animal and plant health and trade, and benefiting from the involvement of two or more STDF partners or other relevant organizations.

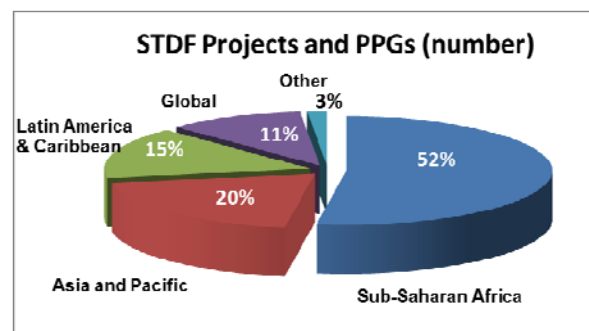
4.2. A total of 68 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. The STDF Working Group may approve additional projects for funding at its next meeting on 20-22 October 2014.

4.3. Annex I provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and PPGs. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 56% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and other low income countries (OLICs), as shown in Figure 1 below. Hence, the STDF is consistently meeting its target to devote at least 40% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs. In particular the allocation of PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs remains high (i.e. 73% of the overall budget for PPGs).

**Figure 1: STDF projects and PPGs (US\$)**



**Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)**



4.4. Figure 2 above indicates that 52% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 20% to Asia, and 15% to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, 11% of STDF projects and PPGs can be classified as global.

4.5. Applications for STDF funding can be made at any point in the year but should be received at least 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 applications is **26 December 2014**. Further information on eligibility criteria, application forms, etc. is available on the STDF website.

Recommended steps to follow when seeking PG or PPG funding opportunities with the STDF:

1. Browse our PPG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants> and PG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants> webpages for examples of previous projects.
2. Carefully read our guidance note for applicants:
3. [http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/public/STDFGuidanceNote\\_en.pdf](http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/public/STDFGuidanceNote_en.pdf)
4. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.
5. Send us a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding ([STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)).
6. Fill out an application form (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/application-forms>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

## ANNEX I

### OVERVIEW OF ONGOING STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS<sup>1</sup>

#### PROJECTS

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/242	Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros	Build SPS capacity in the country in a comprehensive and systematic manner in order to increase its market access for potential agricultural products and fisheries.	Comoros	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	30-Mar-12	17-Sep-12	16-Sep-15	1,033,673
STDF/PG/302	Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal	Increase the production of cabbage and foment exports from the Niayes region by controlling the spread and impact of specific pests and assisting producers in meeting the Maximum Residue Limits established by Codex.	Senegal	Association des Unions Maraichères des Niayes (AUMN), Senegal	19-Mar-10	01-Feb-12	31-Jul-14	577,142
STDF/PG/303	Regional Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa	Contribute to strengthen capacity of risk managers to implement international standards based on a good knowledge of hazards, risks and exposure levels to harmful substances in commonly produced and consumed food.	Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Mali	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	19-Mar-13	01-Apr-14	31-Mar-17	1,063,708

<sup>1</sup> Projects and project preparation grants that have a start and end date to be determined (TBD) have not yet been contracted.

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/316	Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan	Improve provision of inspection and diagnostic services by the Phytosanitary Control Service and Customs for maintaining the necessary level of phytosanitary protection for agricultural production.	Azerbaijan	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	15-Oct-13	TBD	TBD	1,000,000
STDF/PG/321	Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh	Organize small-scale farmers in manageable clusters and assist them in developing and adopting Better Management Practices (BMPs) to address the contamination problem at grass-roots level.	Bangladesh	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	27-Jun-11	01-Apr-12	30-Sep-15	568,750
STDF/PG/328	Beyond Compliance: Integrated Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management in Southeast Asia	Develop and test new decision-support tools focused on an integrated Systems Approach for pest risk management in Southeast Asia (support implementation of ISPM 14).	Southeast Asia	Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI) Asia	28-Mar-11	11-Jul-11	10-Jul-14	600,000
STDF/PG/329	Enhancing SPS capacity of ginger exports through a Public-Private Partnership in Nepal	Increase incomes of Nepalese stakeholders in the ginger value chain by adding value to the product exported to India and increase capacity to access new markets.	Nepal	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	27-Jun-11	07-Jun-12	06-Jun-15	412,629

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/335	Strengthening Phytosanitary Controls in the Floriculture Sector in Uganda	Enhance pest surveillance and diagnostic capacity to enable a better understanding of pest distribution and facilitate the implementation of efficient control strategies.	Uganda	Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI) Africa	30-Mar-12	01-Oct-12	30-Sep-14	348,632
STDF/PG/336	Enhancing the control of transboundary animal diseases in Cameroon	Build institutional capacity and strengthen the veterinary services involved in the surveillance system.	Cameroon	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	27-Jun-11	01-Jun-12	30-Nov-14	510,788
STDF/PG/337	ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project	Establish a regional process to generate reliable data for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for selected "minor-use" crops, as a means to promote harmonization with international standards and enhance market access.	ASEAN member states	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	21-Oct-11	01-Dec-12	30-Nov-15	607,000
STDF/PG/343	Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in Sri Lanka	Enhance the competitiveness of the cinnamon industry and the capacity of the cinnamon value added segment by improving processing and handling practices.	Sri Lanka	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	21-Oct-11	01-Jul-12	30-Jun-14	630,000
STDF/PG/344	Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in Central America and Dominican Republic	Harmonize modern inspection procedures conducted by a properly trained cadre of food inspectors and food safety auditors in the region to contribute to facilitating trade and improving public health.	Central America, Dominican Republic	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	30-Mar-12	01-Jul-12	30-Jun-15	905,225

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/345	Feed and Food Security Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean	Contribute to the harmonization of the regulatory framework for the production and commercialization of animal feed, ensuring its safety and access to markets, based on the standards and recommendations of Codex and the OIE.	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	Asociación de las Industrias de Alimentación Animal de América Latina y Caribe (FEEDLATINA)	19-Mar-13	15-Feb-14	14-Feb-17	991,100
STDF/PG/346	Breaking barriers, facilitating trade in COMESA member states	Increase intra-COMESA trade in agri-food products by reducing trading costs associated with SPS measures for selected commodities on selected trade routes.	COMESA members	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	27-Mar-14	TBD	TBD	902,690
STDF/PG/350	Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits	Address the need in developing countries for documented technical resources to enhance their capacity to understand and implement International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).	Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Malaysia, Sudan	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	28-Mar-11	01-Feb-12	31-Jan-15	600,000
STDF/PG/354	Improving Safety and Quality of Fruits and Vegetables in Sri Lanka	Analyse SPS constraints along the value chains, enhance public and private sector stakeholders capacity to meet international SPS requirements and improve public-private cooperation and networking.	Sri Lanka	International Trade Centre (ITC)	30-Mar-12	01-Mar-13	28-Feb-15	562,484



Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/358	Improving veterinary legislation in OIRSA member countries	Strengthen the veterinary services in the region by harmonizing the legal framework in accordance with OIE standards for the control and eradication of animal diseases.	OIRSA member countries	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)	30-Mar-12	01-May-13	30-Apr-15	488,330
STDF/PG/359	African Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project	Enhance regional capacity in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring for establishing, implementing, and complying with international pesticide residue standards.	Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda , Zambia	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)	11-Oct-12	01-May-13	30-Apr-16	446,150
STDF/PG/381	CocoaSafe: SPS capacity building and knowledge sharing for the cocoa sector in South East Asia	Maintain and increase market access of cocoa exports by improving practices along the supply chain to meet international food safety standards.	Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea	International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)	11-Oct-12	01-Nov-13	31-Oct-15	604,491
STDF/PG/401	Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators	Improve the capability of developing countries to use the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool to evaluate their capacities, identify gaps and plan their national phytosanitary and development programmes.	Developing countries	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	11-Oct-12	01-Apr-14	30-Sep-16	655,436

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/436	Strengthening regional capacity in Latin America to meet pesticides export requirements	Strengthen the capacity of Latin American countries in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring, to support the establishment and implementation of international standards.	Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama; Peru	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	19-Mar-13	01-Oct-13	30-Sep-16	346,450
STDF/PG/460	Implementation of ISPM 15	Conduct an empirical analysis of how the regulation affects the economic growth of a group of countries in Africa	Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique		27-Mar-14	TBD	TBD	285,159

# PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGs)

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/355	Prevention and Control Capacity Building on Aflatoxin Contamination of China Peanut	Carry out an analysis of the main constraints and opportunities concerning aflatoxin contamination in the Jilin and Shandong provinces and develop a project proposal.	China	China National Standardization Administration Institute (CNIS)	27-Mar-14	TBD	TBD	50,000
STDF/PPG/377	Strengthening the National Plant Protection System in The Gambia	Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the phytosanitary capacity gaps using the IPPC-PCE Tool and develop a project to implement action points to enhance the national plant protection system.	The Gambia	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	30-Mar-12	01-Feb-13	Upon approval	50,000
STDF/PPG/379	Promoting the effective participation of SADC member states in the WTO SPS Committee	Strengthen the capacity of SPS authorities in SADC member states to be able to effectively implement their SPS obligations and assert their rights as WTO Members.	SADC member states	Kevin Walker	22-Mar-13	15-Jul-13	Upon approval	25,000
STDF/PPG/392	Integrating SPS in Sierra Leone: A whole chain approach to developing the national food safety management system	Assess the national food safety management system and develop plans for institutional capacity building and determine priorities in order to achieve compliance with SPS requirements.	Sierra Leone	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	19-Mar-13	01-Nov-13	Upon approval	39,000
STDF/PPG/404	Developing virus indexing capacity for planting materials in Malawi	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the viability of building capacity for indexing and production of virus-free planting materials for bananas in Malawi.	Malawi	Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS), Malawi	19-Mar-13	01-Nov-13	Upon approval	18,701

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/428	Trade and Improved Livelihoods in Aquatic Production in Africa (TILAPIA)	Assist in consolidating a concept note for a regional project to build capacity on fish health and aquatic biosecurity to sustain and develop aquaculture and fisheries in Africa.	African countries	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)	15-Oct-13	15-Apr-14	15-Jan-15	50,000
STDF/PPG/431	Aflatoxin management in chillies in Pakistan	Establish quality systems to address mycotoxin contamination of agri-food commodities and resulting international trade barriers	Pakistan	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)	27-Mar-14	TBD	TBD	34,000
STDF/PPG/432	Information systems for surveillance and pest reporting in Asia Pacific countries	Enable countries to implement international phytosanitary standards and to fulfil their SPS obligations mainly related to transparency and risk assessment.	Asia Pacific countries	Australia's Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)	19-Mar-13	15-Mar-14	15-Oct-14	49,990
STDF/PPG/435	Strengthening SPS compliance of sesame production in Sudan for enhanced access to international markets	Carry out an assessment of compliance challenges of sesame production for exports and elaborate a project proposal aiming to strengthen SPS compliance to enhance access to international markets.	Sudan	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	15-Oct-13	TBD	TBD	50,000
STDF/PPG/453	Building capacity and facilitating enabling mechanisms for harmonizing Aquaculture Certification	Pilot test the conformity evaluation framework being developed by FAO and develop a project proposal to support the development and implementation of public aquaculture certification systems to contribute to intra-regional free trade.	ASEAN member states	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific (NACA)	15-Oct-13	01-Jun-14	28-Feb-15	48,000

Ref. No.	Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PPG/457	Global Veterinary Drug Database (GVDD)	Develop information resource on veterinary drug residues to support trade in safe products of animal origin	Global	International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) - Erasmus University of Rotterdam	27-Mar-14	24-May-14	28-Feb-15	76,250
STDF/PPG/462	Operationalization of the Scientific Affairs and Food Control Directorates of the newly established Food Safety and Quality authority of the Gambia	Support a five-year Development Plan in relation to the efficient and effective functioning of the Scientific Affairs Directorate and Food Control Directorate.	The Gambia	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	15-Oct-13	01-Jun-14	31-Dec-14	50,000