



**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) is a global partnership that supports developing countries to implement international food safety, animal and plant health standards, guidelines and requirements, and improve their ability to gain and maintain market access. The STDF acts as a coordination and knowledge platform. It identifies and disseminates good practice, leverages resources and works on coordinated, coherent solutions to enhance SPS capacity building. The STDF also provides support and funding for the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative SPS projects.

1.2. The STDF was 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), which houses and manages the STDF Secretariat and Trust Fund. Many other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors contributing to the STDF trust fund, and developing country experts, participate actively in STDF's work. This also includes the Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

1.3. This document provides a brief update on STDF activities and projects since the last meeting of the SPS Committee in March 2017. Delegates who would like to know more about the STDF are encouraged to visit the STDF website to view the projects and download STDF briefing notes and publications. Delegates can also subscribe to the STDF mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>).

1.4. The next STDF Working Group meeting will be held on **30-31 October 2017**.

**2 STDF 2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

2.1. The STDF recently published its 2016 Annual Report, which illustrates how the STDF continues to deliver collaborative solutions in SPS capacity building to support developing countries and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The full scope of 2016 activities highlights STDF's strong convening power, its role as a leading knowledge hub and how the partnership is able to leverage wider resources and networks. Highlights include:

- Highly rated Working Group in March and October with 40+ partners, donors, developing country experts and other organizations as part of STDF's leading knowledge platform;
- New STDF film "Cocoa: a sweet value chain", on how to keep the cocoa value chain safe, premiered at the World Cocoa Conference and used in training events worldwide;
- Seminar on good practices in e-certification for 150 representatives from WTO Members, international organizations, industry and global business, building on trade facilitation work;
- Outreach and training sessions on P-IMA with SPS delegates, generating positive feedback and high interest in using the framework, including in developing project applications in 2017;

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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 and obligations under the WTO.

- EIF/STDF study and briefing note shared on supporting Least Developed Countries to analyse SPS issues in Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies and identify capacity building needs;
- New STDF briefing note published on "Women in SPS capacity building" highlighting how STDF projects and knowledge tools focus on supporting women farmers, producers and traders;
- 22 SPS capacity building projects from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean at various stages of implementation;
- STDF Secretariat participated in over 55 events worldwide, reaching more than 3,800 public and private sector stakeholders with an interest in SPS issues, promoting dialogue and knowledge transfer.

### 3 TRANSITIONING FROM PAPER-BASED TO AUTOMATED SPS SYSTEMS

3.1. As part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Aid for Trade Global Review, the STDF will organise an information session, on the current state of play in SPS e-cert and its role in facilitating safe trade, as well as the potential of the Internet of Things to transform how SPS risks are managed within supply chains. The objective of the session is to have an informed dialogue on the use of new technologies in the context of SPS compliance and trade, identify best practices, and consider challenges and opportunities for future action to support developing countries, to benefit from new technologies.

3.2. The session will be held on **12 July** from **15:30 to 17:00 (Room W)** - on the margins of the SPS Committee. Delegates are highly encouraged to attend. More information on the program and speakers is available on the STDF website.<sup>2</sup>

### 4 BRIEFING NOTES AND RESULTS STORIES

4.1. As part of its role to share available know-how and SPS-related good practice, the STDF regularly issues briefing notes on issues of interest. Earlier this year, a briefing note entitled "Partnering with the private sector: delivering SPS outcomes" was issued. The note examines how STDF projects are improving the private sector's capacity to implement SPS measures and take advantage of trade opportunities.<sup>3</sup>

4.2. A briefing note on SPS e-Cert is being prepared for distribution at the Global Aid for Trade Review (see above) and SPS Committee. Recently, the STDF also issued a background paper to provide practitioners in the SPS area involved in trade transactions with basic information on the concept of paperless trade, the role of SPS e-cert, and how it relates to other trade procedures.<sup>4</sup>

4.3. The STDF continues to prepare and issue project results stories under the title "Driving SPS capacity, delivering results", highlighting the results and impacts of STDF projects on the ground in Africa, Asia and Latin America.<sup>5</sup>

### 5 JOINT EIF/STDF ANALYSIS

5.1. The STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)<sup>6</sup> recently finalized and published a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in EIF Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation. The study makes practical and strategic recommendations to improve the analysis on SPS issues in the DTIS process, enhance capacity to implement SPS-related actions and to promote synergies between EIF and STDF-related processes. This includes recommendations to make better use of relevant SPS-related capacity evaluation tools and to consider ways to actively engage SPS agencies and ministries at national level as well as international organizations (such as FAO, OIE and IPPC) in the DTIS process.

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<sup>2</sup> See: [http://www.standardsfacility.org/A4T\\_Review\\_2017](http://www.standardsfacility.org/A4T_Review_2017).

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/partnering-private-sector>.

<sup>4</sup> See: [http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/SPS\\_Ecert\\_Backgroundpaper.pdf](http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/SPS_Ecert_Backgroundpaper.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-results-series>.

<sup>6</sup> The EIF is a trade capacity building programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). For more information, see: <http://www.enhancedif.org/en/about/how-does-it-work>.

5.2. The final study, as well as a short EIF/STDF briefing note highlighting the scope, findings and recommendations of this joint work, is available on the STDF website.<sup>7</sup> A joint EIF/STDF presentation on this work was held at the EIF Steering Committee in May 2017.

## 6 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS (P-IMA)

6.1. STDF's user guide "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA): A framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes" was published in 2016. To date, the framework has been used to prioritize SPS investment options in a number of developing countries that differ considerably in the scale and diversity of their food and agricultural exports, and the range and magnitude of SPS capacity-building needs.<sup>8</sup> The experiences highlight several benefits, for instance to facilitate public-private dialogue on SPS matters, increase political awareness about the benefits of strengthening SPS capacity, inform and improve national SPS planning and decision-making processes, support project design and leverage additional funding resources.

6.2. In March 2017, the STDF Working Group approved a request from Madagascar to apply the P-IMA framework and prioritize SPS investment needs in key value chains with export potential. Regional trade bodies such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have also expressed a strong interest in the framework.

6.3. The P-IMA user guide, as well as a short briefing note, is available for download on the STDF website.<sup>9</sup> Delegates from developing countries who would like to have more information on how to use and benefit from the P-IMA framework are encouraged to contact the STDF Secretariat.

## 7 VIRTUAL LIBRARY AND YOUTUBE

7.1. The STDF Virtual Library<sup>10</sup> is an online information repository providing quick and easy online access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building. Countries are encouraged to submit relevant documents to the Secretariat ([STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)) for inclusion in the Library, including: project documents and final reports, training materials, project evaluations/reviews, SPS capacity needs assessments, cost-benefit analyses, case studies, relevant research papers and other articles on SPS capacity building. The Library complements and includes links to other information systems and databases developed and maintained by STDF partners, donors and other organizations.

7.2. STDF's YouTube channel includes links to all STDF films such as "Safe Trade Solutions" and "Cocoa: a sweet value chain". It also includes links to many other relevant SPS films.

## 8 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

8.1. The STDF provides advice and support to applicants on issues related to SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs). PPGs, normally up to US\$50,000, are available to help applicants articulate their SPS needs and develop technically sound and sustainable project proposals. PPGs can be requested to: (i) apply SPS capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) prepare feasibility studies before project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of costs and benefits; and (iii) develop project proposals for funding by donors and/or the STDF.

8.2. A total of **86 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. Information on on-going and completed PPGs is available on the STDF website.<sup>11</sup> In March 2017, the STDF Working Group approved five new PPGs (see table 1). Depending on financial resources available in the STDF trust fund, the STDF Working Group may approve additional PPGs for funding at its next meeting in October 2017.

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.standardsfacility.org/sps-in-dtis>.

<sup>8</sup> Belize, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

<sup>9</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/p-ima>.

<sup>10</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>.

<sup>11</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

**Table 1: PPGs approved in March 2017**

Number	Title of PPG	STDF funding (US\$)
STDF/PPG/498	Application of the IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool in the Republic of Guinea	50,000
STDF/PPG/566	Improving post-harvest practices to reduce aflatoxin contamination in maize in Burkina Faso	47,500
STDF/PPG/575	Prioritization of SPS investments for market access and value chains in Madagascar	50,000
STDF/PPG/576	Feasibility study for value addition in the fruit and vegetable sector of Sri Lanka	49,500
STDF/PPG/593	Improving the safety and quality of Penja pepper in Cameroon	34,460

## 9 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

9.1. Grant financing for projects is also available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and dissemination good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) apply regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iii) implement collaborative approaches across food safety, animal and plant health and trade.

9.2. Beneficiaries must contribute to the project from their own resources, either in the form of financial or in-kind contributions such as staff time, use of premises, vehicles or other existing assets.

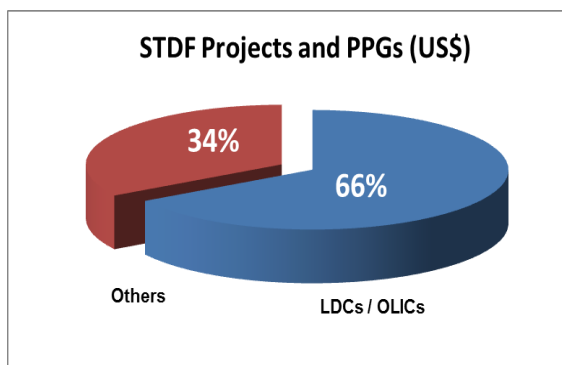
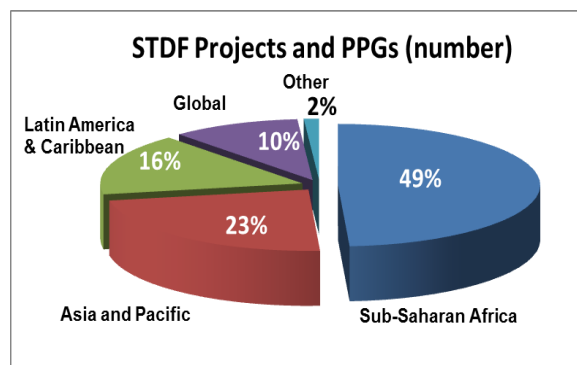
9.3. A total of **80 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Information on on-going and completed PGs is available on the STDF website.<sup>12</sup> In March 2017, the STDF Working Group approved four new projects (see table 2). Depending on financial resources available in the STDF trust fund, the STDF Working Group may approve additional projects for funding at its next meeting in October 2017.

**Table 2: Projects approved in March 2017**

Number	Title of PPG	STDF funding (US\$)
STDF/PG/447	Enabling market access of agricultural products in Tajikistan	786,121
STDF/PG/477	Improving sanitary capacity and facilitating export trade of livestock and livestock products from Ethiopia	795,450
STDF/PG/503	Implementing a systems approach in pest risk management and market access negotiations (Beyond Compliance Global)	580,474
STDF/PG/578	Creation of an online system for inspection, control and supervision of establishments that produce food of animal origin (Costa Rica)	91,951

9.4. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 66% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and other low income countries (OLICs), as shown below in Figure 1. The STDF continues to meet 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. 75% of the overall budget for PPGs).

<sup>12</sup> See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

**Figure 1: STDF projects and PPGs (US\$)****Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)**

9.5. Figure 2 above indicates that 49% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 23% to Asia, and 16% to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, 10% of STDF projects and PPGs are classified as global.

9.6. 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 **4 August 2017**. 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: [http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote\\_English\\_FINAL\\_2015.pdf](http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.pdf)
3. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.
4. 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)).
5. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline:
  - PPGs: [http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PPGApplicationForm\\_English\\_FINAL\\_2015.doc](http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PPGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc)
  - PGs: [http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm\\_English\\_FINAL\\_2015.doc](http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc)