



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT¹

This document provides a brief update on activities and projects of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) since the last meeting of the SPS Committee in November 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.² Delegates are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>).

1 GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE

1.1. The STDF carried out a survey to analyse how Good Regulatory Practice (GRP)³ can be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures in developing countries, in order to ensure health protection and facilitate safe trade. The purpose was to gather information on if and how SPS agencies in developing countries are applying GRPs to strengthen the development, implementation and review of SPS measures.

1.2. The STDF Secretariat received 118 responses to the survey from officials of government ministries/agencies/departments responsible for food safety, animal and plant health in 64 countries/territories. Preliminary results show that GRPs (e.g. public consultations, use of international standards, etc.) are being used by some countries to support the development of SPS measures, albeit with slightly more focus on assessing the risks to health, rather than the expected trade impacts. Responses also suggest that less attention is given to reviewing or evaluating whether existing SPS measures are achieving the intended objectives.

1.3. The Secretariat is currently further analysing the data collected by sector, region etc. for a further discussion at the upcoming STDF Working Group in March 2018. Options for further STDF work on this topic are outlined in a background note, which is available on the STDF website, as well as the survey and a summary report of the main findings.⁴

2 FMD CONTROL: OPTIONS, COSTS AND BENEFITS

2.1. On **1 November 2017**, on the margins of the previous SPS Committee meeting, the STDF organized an Information Session on options, costs and benefits of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control in the context of livestock trade. This session presented findings of two studies, which were conducted in 2017 by the Royal Veterinary College, as part of STDF Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) in Tanzania and Zimbabwe:

- Feasibility of establishing a fresh meat producing compartment in Zimbabwe (STDF/PPG/550);⁵ and

¹ 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.

² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/>.

³ Good regulatory practices are defined as internationally recognized processes, systems, tools and methods to improve the quality of regulations and ensure that regulatory outcomes are effective, transparent, inclusive and sustained (World Bank, 2015).

⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

⁵ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-550>.

- Cost-Benefit Analysis for establishing a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone or Compartment in Tanzania (STDF/PPG/516).⁶

2.2. The session highlighted some of the challenges in setting up disease-free zones in developing countries (e.g. limited border controls and gaps in animal identification and traceability throughout supply chains). It emphasized that more resources are needed to help developing countries improve their veterinary services to better control FMD and other livestock diseases to gain market access. More information on the session, including the presentations, is available on the STDF website.⁷

3 STDF RESULTS BOOK

3.1. The STDF regularly prepares and issues project results stories, highlighting the results and impacts of STDF projects worldwide in Africa, Asia and Latin America.⁸ The STDF recently completed a book, which highlights the results and impacts of a wide range of STDF projects that have been implemented over the last decade in the areas of food safety, animal and plant health and trade. The results book will be published and available on the STDF website shortly.

3.2. 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. In 2017, briefing notes were issued on: (i) how STDF projects are improving the private sector's capacity to implement SPS measures and take advantage of trade opportunities⁹; (ii) SPS e-cert¹⁰; and (iii) SPS capacity evaluation tools in action.¹¹ In addition, the Secretariat regularly issues e-news items, most recently on the STDF funded e-phyto project, implemented by FAO and IPPC.¹² Delegates are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>) to receive regular updates on the STDF.

3.3. STDF's YouTube channel includes links to all STDF films such as "Safe Trade Solutions" and "Cocoa: a sweet value chain". It now also includes links to many other relevant SPS film material including two new videos presenting: (i) the results and impact of an STDF-funded project in Bangladesh "Building capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers"; and (ii) "Knowledge solutions on how safe wood packaging supports trade". This film shows how the STDF supported four African countries in complying with international wood packaging standard (ISPM 15).

4 VIRTUAL LIBRARY

4.1. The STDF Virtual Library¹³ 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) 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.

5 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

5.1. 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.

⁶ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-516>.

⁷ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/costs-and-benefits-fmd-control-context-livestock-trade>.

⁸ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-results-series>.

⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/partnering-private-sector>.

¹⁰ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/goinq-paperless-sps-e-certification>.

¹¹ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_14.pdf.

¹² See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/mailchimp_archive.

¹³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>.

5.2. A total of **88 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.¹⁴

5.3. In 2017, the STDF received 29 applications for PPGs. The STDF Working Group approved five new PPGs in March 2017 and two new PPGs in October 2017. Depending on financial resources available in the STDF trust fund, the STDF Working Group may approve additional PPGs for funding at its next meeting on **20-21 March 2018**.

6 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

6.1. 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.

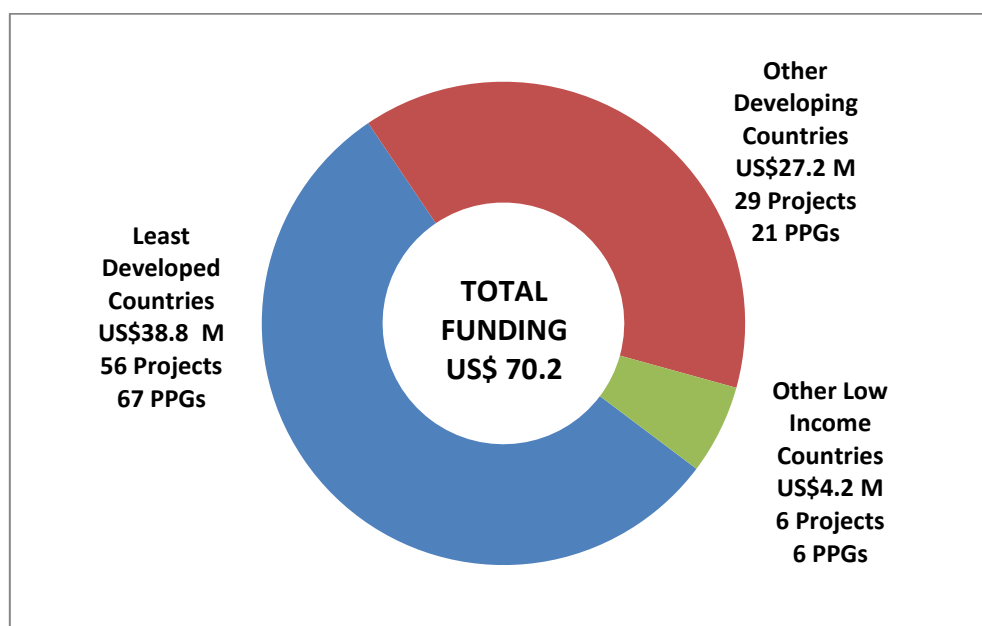
6.2. Beneficiaries must contribute to the project from their own resources, either in the form of financial or in-kind contributions such as staff time, use of premises, vehicles or other existing assets.

6.3. A total of **85 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Information on on-going and completed projects is available on the STDF website.¹⁵

6.4. In 2017, the STDF received 25 applications for projects. The STDF Working Group approved four new projects in March 2017 and five new projects in October 2017. Depending on financial resources available in the STDF trust fund, the STDF Working Group may approve additional projects for funding at its next meeting on **20-21 March 2018**.

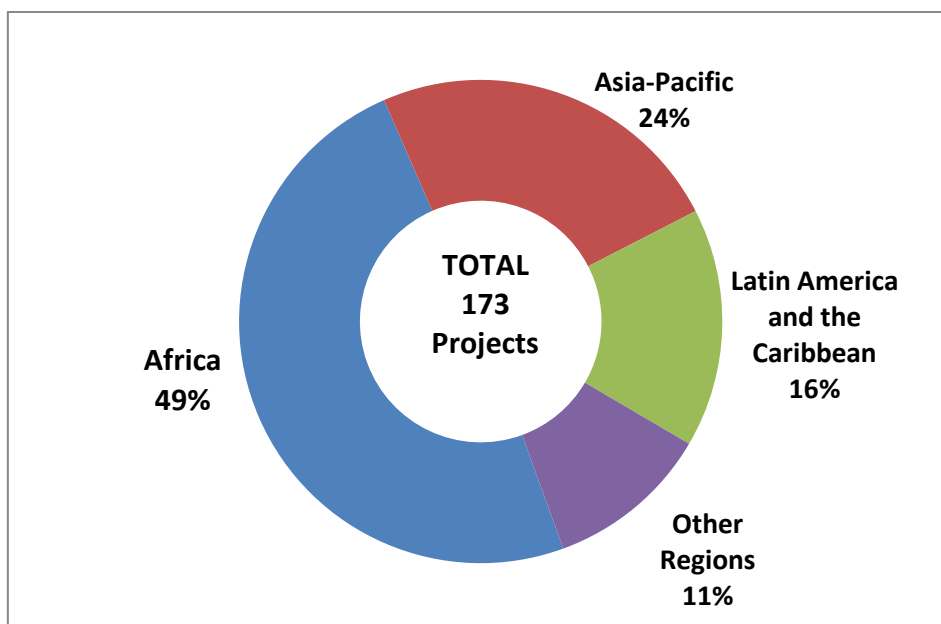
6.5. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 61% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and other low income countries (OLICs), as shown below in Figure 1. The STDF continues to meet its target to devote at least 40% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs. In particular, the allocation of PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs remains high (i.e. 75% of the overall budget for PPGs).

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



¹⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

¹⁵ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

Figure 2: STDF Projects and PPGs (number)

6.6. Figure 2 above indicates that 49% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Sub-Saharan Africa, 24% to Asia-Pacific, and 16% to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, 11% of STDF projects and PPGs are classified as global.

6.7. 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 **10 August 2018**. 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 the webpages for information (aims, eligibility criteria, etc.) on:

- PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-preparation-grants>
- PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-grants>

2. View examples of previous projects:

- PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>
- PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>

3. Carefully read the guidance note for applicants:

http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.pdf

4. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.

5. Send a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

6. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline:

- PPGs: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PPGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc
- PGs: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc