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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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

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

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1. This document provides a brief update on the work of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) since the last meeting of the Committee in June 2022. Delegates are encouraged to visit the [STDF website](#) to view and become familiar with the work and activities of the STDF, download STDF briefing notes and other publications, and subscribe to STDF's mailing list to receive regular updates.

1.2. The STDF operates as a global platform for dialogue and learning on SPS capacity development and finances the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative SPS projects. The STDF Working Group convenes and connects STDF partners, donors and beneficiaries and allows them to share and learn from each other's work, helping to disseminate, influence and scale up good practices in SPS capacity development more widely. Its next meeting, chaired by Ms Kelly McCormick from the US Food and Drug Administration, will be held from 29 November to 1 December 2022.

**2 GENDER ASSESSMENT**

2.1. The STDF will shortly publish the final report of an external gender assessment of STDF's work. This assessment was commissioned to evaluate how (and to what effect) gender equality is addressed, how gender is mainstreamed throughout STDF's work, and to draw key findings, conclusions and practical recommendations for improving mainstreaming in the future. The report finds that the level of awareness of the gendered impacts of SPS measures across the STDF partnership is low, limiting the integration of gender mainstreaming into STDF processes and capacity development. While the STDF has taken steps to mainstream gender in its workstreams, as evidenced by results from some STDF projects, the report concludes that more should be done to improve mainstreaming for stronger and more inclusive results. The Working Group will soon discuss follow-up to the gender assessment and a session to present the key findings, recommendations and learning from the assessment to SPS delegates is planned in 2023.

**3 RECENT STDF EVENTS**

3.1. On 3-5 October, the STDF organized the [Vienna Food Safety Forum](#) (VFSF) jointly with UNIDO and the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The event entitled "Data Driven Innovation in Food Safety" brought together over 400 representatives of public and private sector stakeholders from some 60 countries globally. Speakers and participants shared their experiences, results and challenges in using digital and innovative approaches to strengthen food safety practices including remote audits, e-certification and voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes, linked to Codex standards and ongoing/planned work by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). STDF initiatives were presented and discussed, including a [global survey](#) on the application of remote audit practices in food safety as well as the three ongoing STDF projects piloting the use of vTPA programmes in [East](#) and [West Africa](#) and in [Central America](#).

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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.

3.2. The STDF joined the [WTO Public Forum](#) from 27 to 30 September 2022, exhibiting a sample of bio honey from Niue and cashew nuts from Burkina Faso, as well as STDF publications and briefing notes, and including an interview on the role of the STDF in the WTO.<sup>2</sup>

3.3. On 21 and 23 September, the STDF organized two [side-events](#) at the IPPC International Plant Health Conference (IPHC). The first event, with the International Grains Council, the International Grain Trade Coalition, and the International Seed Federation, highlighted the importance of a rules-based trading system, and capacity, in international grain and seed trade, in support of food security. The second session, which involved the World Bank Group, the LadyAgri Investment Hub and other partners and beneficiaries explored the role of gender equity in the safe trade of plants and plant products.

3.4. On 5 September, the STDF and the Food Trade Coalition for Africa, housed by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), hosted a [side-event](#) during the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Summit, entitled "Driving Safe Food Trade in Africa." The event engaged public and private stakeholders from across Africa on the use of innovative evidence-based approaches to leverage food safety investments for regional trade and identified opportunities for collaborative solutions to support the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA).

3.5. In July, the STDF participated in WTO's Aid for Trade Global Review. The STDF joined the Directorate General of the French Treasury in organizing a [session](#) on 28 July entitled "Improving quality along agri-food value chains in Africa for market access." The session brought together different stakeholders who shared their experiences on the importance of meeting SPS standards in agri-food value chains, highlighting challenges and opportunities for market access. In addition, a [session](#) was organized on 27 July with the World Bank and the WTO on how the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) can help overcome border delays through enhanced connectivity among border agencies, specifically between customs and SPS agencies.

## 4 KNOWLEDGE WORK

4.1. The aim of STDF's knowledge work is to identify and promote good practice and improve SPS capacity development outcomes. Some of this work takes place in virtual practitioner groups that bring together stakeholders for in-depth discussions on topics that cut across the areas of food safety, animal and plant health, and trade.

### 4.1 Public Private Partnership (PPP)

4.2. Many STDF projects promote [PPP approaches](#), leveraging expertise and resources from diverse private sector actors to support longer-term impact and sustainability. The [vTPA Partnership Platform](#), hosted by UNIDO with STDF and IICA, is actively supporting PPPs as part of the STDF vTPA pilot projects in [East](#) and [West Africa](#), and [Central America](#). The Platform held its first in-person meeting in Vienna, facilitated by Steve Wearne, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, on the margins of the VFSF. Following an internal assessment of STDF Practitioner Groups in 2022, members of the [STDF PPP Practitioner Group](#) met in September to discuss how to strengthen their work and collaboration. [Case stories on PPPs](#) to strengthen food safety, animal health and/or plant health capacity and facilitate trade are available on the STDF website.<sup>3</sup>

4.3. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's PPP work can visit the [STDF website](#) or contact Ms Marlynn Hopper in the STDF Secretariat ([marlynn.hopper@wto.org](mailto:marlynn.hopper@wto.org)).

### 4.2 Good Regulatory Practice (GRP)

4.4. STDF's GRP work provides guidance to ensure that SPS measures are "fit for purpose" and avoid the creation of non-tariff barriers. The STDF encourages SPS delegates to download and widely disseminate [STDF's Guide](#) entitled "Good regulatory practices to improve SPS measures: A practical guide" (also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#)). The Guide outlines how to use GRPs (e.g., stocktaking tools, forward looking regulatory agendas, regulatory impact assessments, transparency and engagement tools, etc.) to support the design, development and review of SPS measures (even

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://twitter.com/i/broadcasts/1mnxeRqyybKX>.

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnership-ppp-case-stories>.

when resources are limited) including country examples and experiences and links to relevant resources published by STDF partners.

4.5. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's GRP work can visit the [STDF website](#) or contact Ms Marlynn Hopper in the STDF Secretariat ([marlynn.hopper@wto.org](mailto:marlynn.hopper@wto.org)).

### 4.3 Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA)

4.6. The P-IMA framework is an evidence-based approach to help inform and improve SPS planning and decision making, and mobilize public, private and/or donor resources for SPS investments. The framework is currently applied through PPGs in several regions. For example, in Armenia it was recently used by a local think tank, the Ministry of Economy and the private sector to identify high priority value chains and commodities, and identify resources required to pivot towards new markets ([STDF/PPG/761](#)). The STDF also supported Ghana in prioritizing investments to implement its new National Policy for Aflatoxin Control in Food and Feed (groundnuts, maize, and other raw and processed products) ([STDF/PPG/786](#)). New work is planned early 2023 in Bangladesh to improve coordination and resource identification for the horticulture and fisheries sectors ([STDF/PPG/831](#)).

4.7. Delegates who wish to know more about the P-IMA framework can visit the [STDF website](#) or contact Ms Roshan Khan ([roshan.khan@wto.org](mailto:roshan.khan@wto.org)) in the STDF Secretariat.

### 4.4 Electronic SPS certification (eCert)

4.8. The STDF promotes and supports the transition to paperless SPS systems in developing countries. Paperless SPS systems can improve traceability throughout SPS supply chains, cut trade times and costs, reduce fraudulent certificates, and build trust among trading partners. An external evaluation of STDF "ePhyto" project ([STDF/PG/504](#)) is underway. The evaluation will assess the results, impact and sustainability of the project and draw key findings, recommendations and lessons relevant for future work in this area. The evaluation will also consider work on e-certification in the food safety and veterinary areas, including the STDF "eVet" project ([STDF/PG/609](#)). The final report will be shared in the first half of 2023.

4.9. Delegates who would like to know more about STDF's work in this area can visit the [STDF website](#) or contact Mr Simon Padilla in the STDF Secretariat ([simon.padilla@wto.org](mailto:simon.padilla@wto.org)).

## 5 FUNDING

5.1. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 65% of its project resources to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Other Low-Income Countries (OLICs), going beyond its target to devote at least 40% of its resources to these countries. 48% of the number of STDF projects and PPGs has gone to Africa, 25% to Asia-Pacific, 17% to Latin America-Caribbean, and 1% to other regions (Middle East and Europe). 9% of all STDF projects and PPGs are classified as global, benefiting all developing countries. An overview of on-going projects and PPGs and beneficiaries is provided in **Annex 1**.

### 5.1 Project development

5.2. The STDF provides advice and support 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.

5.3. A total of **120 PPG applications** have been approved by the STDF since its inception. Information on all on-going and completed PPGs is available on the STDF website.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>.

## 5.2 Project implementation

5.4. Financing for projects is also available from the STDF. The STDF Working Group gives favourable consideration to projects that: (i) identify, develop and disseminate 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. 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).

5.5. A total of **111 PG applications** have been approved by the STDF since its inception. Information on all on-going and completed projects is available on the STDF website.<sup>5</sup> A selection of completed STDF projects is subject to an independent ex-post evaluation according to the STDF evaluation guidelines.<sup>6</sup>

## 5.3 How to apply for funding?

5.6. 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 to be considered at that meeting. The next deadline for the submission of applications is **24 February 2023**. Further information on the system, eligibility criteria, etc. is available on the STDF website.

### RECOMMENDED STEPS:

**1. Browse the webpages for information (aims, eligibility criteria, etc.) on:**

<https://www.standardsfacility.org/funding>

**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:**

[https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote\\_Rev.Feb-22\\_EN.docx](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_Rev.Feb-22_EN.docx)

**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](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)).**

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

- PPGs: [https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppg\\_application](https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppg_application)
- PGs: [https://wto.formstack.com/forms/pg\\_application](https://wto.formstack.com/forms/pg_application)

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>.

<sup>6</sup> See:

[https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_214\\_Evaluation\\_Guidelines\\_2021\\_Final.pdf](https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_214_Evaluation_Guidelines_2021_Final.pdf).

**ANNEX 1****ONGOING STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGS)****1 COUNTRY PROJECTS AND PPGS**

<b>Country</b>	<b>STDF reference and hyperlink</b>	<b>Project / PPG name</b>
Armenia	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/761</a>	Applying the P-IMA framework to promote export of agricultural products
Bangladesh	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/831</a>	Prioritizing SPS Investment in Bangladesh
Bhutan	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/734</a>	Strengthening capacity for border inspection and control of plants, animals and their products
Burkina Faso	<a href="#">STDF/PG/566</a>	Reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize
Burundi	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/773</a>	SPS needs assessment for private and public actors in the Burundian horticultural sector
Cameroon	<a href="#">STDF/PG/593</a>	Improving SPS capacity in the Penja pepper value chain
Ecuador	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/709</a>	Applying the P-IMA framework
Ethiopia	<a href="#">STDF/PG/477</a>	Improving sanitary capacity to facilitate livestock exports
Ghana	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/786</a>	Supporting implementation of the National Policy for Aflatoxin Control in Food and Feed using the P-IMA framework
Guinea	<a href="#">STDF/PG/498</a>	Strengthening the phytosanitary system
India	<a href="#">STDF/PG/517</a>	Strengthening the spice value chain and improving market access
Jamaica	<a href="#">STDF/PG/759</a>	Ensuring food safety capacity of the pepper value chain to access strategic export markets
Kyrgyz Republic	<a href="#">STDF/PG/569</a>	Enhancing capacity for food safety management in the fruit and vegetable industry
Mali	<a href="#">STDF/PG/611</a>	Promotion of Codex standards and codes of practice particularly in the smoked fish industry
Mongolia	<a href="#">STDF/PG/534</a>	Piloting an improved animal identification and registration system
Nigeria	<a href="#">STDF/PG/817</a>	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) to improve the plant health system in Nigeria
Papua New Guinea	<a href="#">STDF/PG/553</a>	Expanding cocoa trade
Philippines	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/722</a>	Piloting the use of Regulatory Impact Assessment in the agriculture and fisheries sector
Peru	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/767</a>	Feasibility study on implementation of zoning as means to control infectious diseases in aquaculture
Senegal	<a href="#">STDF/PG/672</a>	Meeting sanitary standards to improve the safety of shellfish and boost market access
Solomon Islands	<a href="#">STDF/PG/521</a>	Laboratory capacity building to support fish exports
Sudan	<a href="#">STDF/PG/435</a>	Upgrading the sesame seed value chain
Tajikistan	<a href="#">STDF/PG/447</a>	Improving food safety in honey and apricots to boost exports
Togo	<a href="#">STDF/PG/375</a>	Strengthening the SPS system
Uganda	<a href="#">STDF/PG/543</a>	Enhancing the capacity of the fruit and vegetable sector to comply with EU phytosanitary requirements
Uganda	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/847</a>	Sustainably managing aflatoxins in maize using systems approach in Uganda
Uganda	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/846</a>	Comparing post-harvest technologies for Uganda's fresh fruits and vegetables to reduce pests
Zambia	<a href="#">STDF/PG/481</a>	Strengthening phytosanitary capacity for plant exports in Zambia
Zambia	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/789</a>	Building phytosanitary capacity for small-scale cross-border traders in Zambia

## 2 REGIONAL PROJECTS AND PPGS

Region/countries	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
<b><u>Africa</u></b>		
Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda	<a href="#">STDF/PG/807</a>	Managing scale insects in fresh fruits in East Africa
Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe	<a href="#">STDF/PG/694</a>	Enhancing trade through regulatory harmonisation and biopesticide-based residue mitigation in the SADC Region
Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Togo	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/770</a>	Voluntary food quality control in West Africa through digitisation
Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/809</a>	Regional approach towards addressing invasive quarantine pests of potato in East and Southern Africa
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/768</a>	Harmonizing phytosanitary legislation in Central Africa
Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/765</a>	Establishing an ISO 17025 accredited mobile laboratory for food safety testing in the SADC region
Mali, Senegal	<a href="#">STDF/PG/665</a>	Piloting the use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (TPA) Programme in Africa to improve food safety outcomes for public health and trade
Mozambique, South Africa	<a href="#">STDF/PG/567</a>	Establishing and maintaining fruit production areas free and under low prevalence of fruit fly pests
Rwanda, Uganda	<a href="#">STDF/PG/842</a>	Piloting a vTPA programme in East Africa to improve food safety in horticulture and fisheries
<b><u>Asia and Pacific</u></b>		
Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PG/755</a>	Strengthening phytosanitary compliance to boost seed trade in the Asia Pacific
Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sri Lanka	<a href="#">STDF/PG/634</a>	Asia pesticide residue mitigation through the promotion of biopesticides and enhancement of trade opportunities
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PG/619</a>	Safer spices: boosting food safety and market access for the peppercorn value chain
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/755</a>	Enhancing seed trade in the Asia-Pacific region through phytosanitary compliance and public private partnerships
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PG/798</a>	Improving pig biosecurity and African swine fever control
<b><u>Latin America and Caribbean</u></b>		
Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru	<a href="#">STDF/PG/753</a>	Mitigating pesticide residues in Latin America using biopesticide
Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	<a href="#">STDF/PG/495</a>	Accreditation of diagnostic tests for animal diseases
Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru	<a href="#">STDF/PG/838</a>	Strengthening regional pest surveillance, monitoring on banana farms in the Andean Community
Belize, Honduras	<a href="#">STDF/PG/682</a>	Piloting the use of Third-Party Assurance (TPA) Programme in Central America to improve food safety outcomes for public health and trade
CARICOM countries	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/733</a>	Piloting the use of the P-IMA framework in the CARICOM region

Region/countries	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/716</a>	Food safety risk analysis capacity building in Latin America
Colombia, Ecuador, Peru (and Trinidad and Tobago)	<a href="#">STDF/PG/577</a>	Improving coordination to support management of cadmium levels in cocoa in Latin America and the Caribbean
Colombia, Ecuador	<a href="#">STDF/PG/681</a>	Improving institutional capacity to mitigate trade barriers due to high cadmium levels in cacao
Dominican Republic, Haiti	<a href="#">STDF/PG/751</a>	Strengthening the phytosanitary and food safety system in key value chains
<b><i>Global</i></b>		
All developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/782</a>	Remote inspection practices in food safety for improved trade

### 3 EVALUATIONS (ON-GOING)

Country(ies)	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project name
Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	<a href="#">STDF/PG/502</a>	Rolling out phytosanitary measures to expand market access
Developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PG/504</a>	ePhyto: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products
Developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PG/609</a>	Facilitating e-veterinary certification based on single window system