



**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. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) promotes improved food safety, animal and plant health capacity in developing countries and helps imports and exports to meet SPS requirements for trade, based on international standards. It operates as a funding mechanism and global partnership for dialogue and learning on SPS capacity development.<sup>2</sup>

1.2. The STDF identifies good practice in thematic areas that cut across food safety, animal and plant health, and trade, drawing on the input of STDF partners, donor organizations and beneficiaries. Outputs include practical and user-friendly knowledge products (briefing notes, publications, events, videos, etc.), available in English, French and Spanish.

1.3. STDF founding partners, relevant organizations and beneficiaries from across agriculture, health, trade and development come together in the [STDF Working Group](#) to share information on ongoing and planned SPS initiatives and programmes, and review applications for new project and project preparation grants. The next meeting is scheduled on 20-21 June 2024. Ms Sarah Brunel from the IPPC Secretariat was elected chairperson of the STDF Working Group in 2024.

1.4. This document provides a brief update on STDF's activities and projects. Delegates are encouraged to visit the [STDF website](#) to view and become familiar with STDF's work, download briefing notes and other publications. Delegates are also encouraged to subscribe to STDF's monthly newsletter [here](#).

**2 UPCOMING AND RECENT STDF EVENTS**

2.1. On **20 March 2024**, on International Francophonie day and during the SPS Committee week, the STDF will organize a panel discussion on the importance of SPS capacity development in French-speaking countries (**1.30 - 2.45pm** at the WTO, Room S3 and online). The event will showcase the results and good practices from STDF projects on the ground and explore opportunities to further strengthen SPS capacity. More information on the event, including the programme, speakers and how to register online, is available [here](#).

2.2. The STDF will actively participate in the upcoming [Global Review of Aid for Trade](#), which will take place from 26 to 28 June 2024 at the WTO under the theme "Mainstreaming Trade". The Review will provide an opportunity to highlight opportunities to strengthen SPS capacity in developing countries, so that they can fully participate in international and regional trade. The SPS Committee will also meet during that week. On **27 June 2024**, the STDF is planning to host an evening reception to celebrate STDF's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for which all SPS delegates will be invited.

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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.

<sup>2</sup> The STDF was established in 2004 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the World Bank and the WTO, which houses and manages the partnership. It also benefits from active engagement and participation of the Secretariats of Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

2.3. On 18 January 2024, the STDF hosted a webinar with Grow Asia on how public-private partnerships (PPPs) play a vital role in driving the transformation of our food systems. Grow Asia highlighted examples of partnerships focused on agri-food innovation, responsible investing, women's economic empowerment, and climate change adaptation. ASEAN provided valuable insights into its engagement with the private sector, including examples related to SPS e-certification and digital solutions within the ASEAN single window platform. To explore the session further, access the recording [here](#).

2.4. On 10 December 2023, the STDF hosted a [side-event](#) at COP28, together with STDF founding partners, FAO and the World Bank. The dialogue explored how investing in SPS capacity supports more sustainable agri-food systems and markets that protect biodiversity and the environment and are more resilient to climate change. The event built on previous STDF work on climate change and SPS systems, including a series of [climate change webinars](#) in 2022, and a new [STDF briefing note](#) on the topic, issued in November 2023.

2.5. On 5 and 6 December 2023, the STDF organized two side-events at UNCTAD's [eWeek](#). The [first event](#), organized with the International Seed Federation, the International Grain Trade Coalition and the OECD highlighted the role of digital technologies in managing risk and ensuring efficient agri-food markets. The [second event](#), organized in collaboration with UNCTAD and the Permanent Mission of Italy in Geneva, shed light on the impact of trade regulations in e-commerce/digitalization on men and women and how such measures can provide new opportunities or create new barriers for women to access and benefit from e-commerce.

### 3 KNOWLEDGE WORK

3.1. The STDF identifies and promotes good practice across all its activities and projects to 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. This includes work on [Public Private Partnerships](#) (PPPs) to strengthen SPS capacity, the use of [Good Regulatory Practices](#) (GRPs) to improve compliance with the SPS Agreement, and a focus on [Trade Facilitation](#) to reduce SPS-related trade costs, including electronic SPS certification ([SPS eCert](#)).

3.2. In 2023, the STDF issued a [Gender Action Plan](#) that outlines how the STDF promotes a more inclusive approach to improve the results and impact of STDF's work in facilitating safe trade. The plan aims to advance and support women's capacity to meet SPS requirements and promote greater attention to gender mainstreaming in SPS capacity development work led by members of STDF's global partnership and other organizations.

3.3. The STDF also started work to assess and learn how (and to what effect) the environment, biodiversity and climate change have been integrated across STDF's work, as well as SPS capacity development work led by STDF partners and other members. The report is scheduled for completion in June 2024 and will draw key findings, conclusions, and recommendations to improve mainstreaming of the environment, biodiversity, and climate change into future SPS capacity development.

3.4. To inform and improve SPS planning and decision making, the STDF has developed an evidence-based framework that developing countries can use to prioritize SPS investments for market access ([P-IMA](#)). The approach is being applied in STDF and other SPS projects, resulting in additional SPS investments and market access for agri-food products. An [external evaluation](#) of the P-IMA framework in February 2024 unpacked the results, experiences and learning from its use globally. The report made recommendations to address challenges with P-IMA's use, including to build more synergies with SPS capacity evaluation tools, strengthen relationships to institutionalize P-IMA and support resource mobilization, and improve monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

### 4 EXTERNAL STDF EVALUATION

4.1. An external evaluation of the STDF started in September 2023 and is expected to be completed by May 2024. The purpose of the evaluation is to objectively assess the results and impact achieved by the STDF, based on the OECD DAC criteria, and capture key lessons learned. The Secretariat will

inform the Committee on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations at the Committee meeting in June 2024.

## 5 STDF FUNDING

5.1. The STDF provides funding for the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative SPS projects. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 63% of its project resources to Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Of all STDF projects, 49% have benefited Africa, 25% the Asia-Pacific region and 17% the Latin America-Caribbean region, while 8% are classified as global, benefiting all developing countries. An overview of all on-going project and project preparation grants (PPGs) is provided in **Annex 1**.

### 5.1 Project development

5.2. **PPGs**, normally up to US\$50,000, are available to help beneficiaries 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 STDF or other donors.

### 5.2 Project implementation

5.3. The STDF funds **projects** that promote compliance with international standards and requirements. Preference is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and disseminate good practice in SPS technical cooperation, including innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) apply regional and cross-cutting approaches to address SPS constraints; and (iii) implement collaborative approaches across food safety, animal and plant health, and trade. Beneficiaries must contribute to STDF projects 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).

### 5.3 How to apply for funding?

5.4. 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 deadlines for the submission of applications are **1 March** and **9 August 2024** (for consideration in June and November 2024, respectively). Further information is available on the [STDF website](#).

#### RECOMMENDED STEPS TO APPLY FOR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE STDF

1. Browse the [funding webpage](#) for information (aims, eligibility criteria, etc.) on PPGs and PGs.
2. View examples of previous projects:
  - PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>
  - PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>
3. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region
4. Send a brief concept note of your potential project for comments to: [STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)
5. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline to: [stdf.funding@wto.org](mailto:stdf.funding@wto.org)

## ANNEX 1

## ONGOING STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGS)

## 1 COUNTRY PROJECTS AND PPGS

Country	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
Bangladesh	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/831</a>	Prioritizing SPS investments in Bangladesh
Bhutan	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/734</a>	Strengthening Bhutan's border inspection and control capacities
Burkina Faso	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/859</a>	Strengthening Burkina Faso's sesame and cashew export capacity
Cabo Verde	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/869</a>	Strengthening food safety control capacities in Cabo Verde
Ecuador	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/709</a>	Prioritizing SPS investments in Ecuador using the P-IMA tool
Egypt	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/720</a>	Establishing an avian influenza-free compartment in Egypt
Ghana	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/909</a>	Improving food safety and market access in Ghana's spice value chain
Grenada	<a href="#">STDF/PG/880</a>	Enhancing SPS capacity and market access for Grenadian soursop exports
Guinea	<a href="#">STDF/PG/498</a>	Strengthening Guinea's phytosanitary system
India	<a href="#">STDF/PG/517</a>	Strengthening the spice value chain in India to improve market access
Indonesia	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/860</a>	Reducing histamines in pole and line caught tuna in Indonesia
Jamaica	<a href="#">STDF/PG/759</a>	Enhancing food safety capacity of the pepper value chain in Jamaica to increase market access
Kyrgyz Republic	<a href="#">STDF/PG/569</a>	Enhancing food safety of fruits and vegetables in Kyrgyzstan
Mali	<a href="#">STDF/PG/611</a>	Improving the safety of smoked fish in Mali
Nigeria	<a href="#">STDF/PG/845</a>	Improving SPS compliance to boost Nigeria's export capacity
Nigeria	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/817</a>	Evaluating phytosanitary capacity to improve the plant health system in Nigeria
Papua New Guinea	<a href="#">STDF/PG/553</a>	Enhancing trade for cocoa farmers in Papua New Guinea
Senegal	<a href="#">STDF/PG/672</a>	Improving shellfish safety in Senegal to boost market access
Sri Lanka	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/721</a>	Strengthening food safety and quality compliance in select Sri Lankan spices
The Gambia	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/921</a>	Scaling up the P-IMA tool in The Gambia
Uganda	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/847</a>	Sustainably managing aflatoxins in maize using a systems approach in Uganda
Zambia	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/789</a>	Building phytosanitary capacity of 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>	Harmonizing regulations and mitigating pesticide residues in the SADC region
Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	<a href="#">STDF/PG/809</a>	Managing invasive potato pests in Eastern and Southern Africa
Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/765</a>	Mobile food safety laboratories in Southern Africa
Mali, Senegal	<a href="#">STDF/PG/665</a>	Piloting vTPA programmes to improve public health and trade in West Africa
Mozambique, South Africa	<a href="#">STDF/PG/567</a>	Establishing fruit fly-free areas in Southern Africa
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, India, Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/858</a>	Piloting One Health to manage aflatoxin in Asia
Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sri Lanka	<a href="#">STDF/PG/634</a>	Mitigating pesticide residue through promotion of biopesticides in Asia
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
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PG/619</a>	Safer spices: food safety and market access for peppercorn
Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Viet Nam	<a href="#">STDF/PG/798</a>	Improving biosecurity and control of African swine fever in four ASEAN countries
Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/935</a>	Advancing apiculture for economic development in the Pacific Islands
<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 chemical residues in Latin America through the promotion of biopesticides
Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru	<a href="#">STDF/PG/716</a>	Improving food safety risk analysis capacity in Latin America
Belize, Honduras	<a href="#">STDF/PG/682</a>	Piloting the use of vTPA in Central America
Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru	<a href="#">STDF/PG/838</a>	Strengthening regional pest surveillance on banana farms in the ANDEAN community
CARICOM countries	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/733</a>	Prioritizing SPS investments in the Caribbean using the P-IMA tool
Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago	<a href="#">STDF/PG/577</a>	Coordinating management of cadmium levels in cocoa in Latin America and the Caribbean
Colombia, Ecuador	<a href="#">STDF/PG/681</a>	Mitigating high levels of cadmium in cacao in Colombia and Ecuador
Dominican Republic, Haiti	<a href="#">STDF/PG/751</a>	Strengthening the phytosanitary and food safety system in key value chains

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Region/countries	STDF reference and hyperlink	Project / PPG name
<b><u>Global</u></b>		
All developing countries	<a href="#">STDF/PPG/782</a>	Applying remote food safety inspection practices for improved trade

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