

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

Note by the Secretariat¹

Overview

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is both a coordinating and a financing mechanism. Its Medium Term Strategy (2007-2011), adopted in December 2006, places greater emphasis on the STDF as a vehicle for coordination among technical cooperation providers, for the exchange of experience, and for the dissemination of good practice in the provision and receipt of SPS-related technical co-operation. The STDF continues to provide funding for projects, but with more focus on project development through the use of project preparation grants (PPGs) and on the mobilization of donors to fund resultant projects.

2. To implement the Medium Term Strategy, a target level of annual funding of US\$5 million has been established by the STDF Policy Committee. This target is still some way from being achieved for 2007 and forthcoming years, and a funding strategy is being developed. This strategy will aim to raise the profile of the STDF in the wider donor community, pursue contacts with existing and potential donors, and complement the broader Aid for Trade and Enhanced Integrated Framework (IF) initiatives.

3. At its last meeting on 2 March 2007, the STDF Working Group approved a further three projects and three project preparation grants for funding, and withdrew its approval for four projects due to implementation delays of over one year. For these four projects, applicants were invited to update their applications and re-apply for funding at the next meeting of the Working Group. The total number of projects and PPGs approved by the STDF currently stands at 22 projects and 23 PPGs. Six projects were completed in 2006 and evaluations of three of these projects are in the process of being finalized. Further evaluations are commissioned and/or planned for all five STDF projects finishing in 2007.

4. Applications for STDF funding may be made at any point in the year. Provided that applications are received within the appropriate deadline, they will be considered at the following STDF Working Group. The Working Group will meet twice more in 2007, on 29 June and (tentatively) on 20 October 2007. The deadline for the submission of project proposals for the October meeting is 2 September 2007. More detailed information on the STDF can be found at the website: www.standardsfacility.org.

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 or obligations under the WTO.

Regional consultations

5. The Medium Term Strategy places greater emphasis on the STDF acting as a vehicle for coordination among technical cooperation providers and beneficiaries. As part of its coordination function, the STDF will organize regional consultations which will examine issues related to the provision and receipt of SPS-related technical cooperation. To catalyze these consultations, research on tracking flows of SPS-related technical cooperation and the continuing needs of recipient countries in the SPS area will be carried out. The consultations will also provide an opportunity for donors, beneficiaries and other relevant organizations to identify good practice and to establish future SPS-related technical cooperation priorities.

6. On the basis of an evaluation of the pilot events, further regional consultations would be planned for 2008 and beyond. The intention would be to cover all regions during the life of the Medium Term Strategy.

Funding strategy

7. The STDF has limited resources and new contributions from donors are actively being sought to implement its work programme for 2007 and future years. A new funding strategy is being developed which seeks to raise the profile of the STDF in the wider donor community. Key to this awareness raising is complementing the broader Aid for Trade and Enhanced Integrated Framework (IF) initiatives. Significant efforts will be made to publicize the STDF in these ongoing programmes and their events.

8. Developing synergies between the STDF and the IF has been successful in the past, in particular by building on the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and designing projects from the priorities identified in these documents. The enhancement of the IF provides new opportunities for future STDF - IF collaboration. In particular, projects developed under STDF PPGs and reflecting DTIS priorities could be picked up for funding through the Enhanced IF. To this end, STDF's project development function and catalyst role will be brought to the attention of IF national coordinating committees and donors.

New projects approved

9. A total of seven project grant applications and two PPGs were considered by the STDF Working Group at its meeting on 2 March 2007. Of these funding requests, a total of three projects and two PPGs were approved for funding. It is to be noted that implementation of these projects depends on the conclusion and signature of the general framework agreement between WTO and FAO regulating the implementation and supervision of STDF projects.

10. In line with the STDF's function to catalyze resources in the SPS area from the broader donor community, project STDF 113 in Burundi was approved by the STDF Working Group but a decision was taken to seek funding outside the Facility. Discussions are in an advanced stage on the funding of this project by a bilateral donor. Likewise, a PPG for project STDF 171 was approved with the same intention of soliciting funds from the broader donor community.

Table 1: New projects approved for funding

Project title	Description	Project budget (US\$)
STDF 173: Strengthening capacity in assessing food control systems in developing APEC Member Economies	The project aims to develop the knowledge of food safety regulators from developing Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries. The project promotes and facilitates the use of two new FAO food safety capacity evaluation tools.	96,500
STDF 170: Strengthening the capacity of government SPS officials in Nepal.	The project aims to develop a basic training program to support implementation of the SPS Agreement.	321,600
STDF 134: Capacity building for improving the fish trade performance of selected African countries	The project aims to further develop capacity built by other project efforts in five African countries (competent authorities and industry) to ensure that SPS issues are well understood and do not constrain the export of fish and fishery products.	469,000

Table 2: New project preparation grants approved for funding

Project title	Description	Project budget (US\$)
STDF 172 Expanding Nigeria's Food Exports through Enhanced SPS Capacity.	PPG to develop a project that should enhance Nigeria's capacity in the SPS area and improve the country's ability to export high value food products	20,000
STDF 171: African Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence	PPG to further develop a project to establish an African Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence in Kenya for both public and private sector	20,000
STDF 165: Improving fruit production SPS controls in Madagascar	PPG approved for Madagascar subject to the Secretariat receiving further information on the competence of the local implementing organization and further information on a previous EC-funded project.	20,000

On-going and completed projects

11. Table 3 below provides an overview of the implementation status of STDF projects and PPGs. Summaries on projects, PPGs and accompanying reports have been updated and will soon be available on the STDF website (www.standardsfacility.org). It is to be noted that implementation of project STDF 133 will be supervised by the IPPC Secretariat. Its commencement therefore depends on the conclusion and signature of the general framework agreement between WTO and FAO. For the supervision of project STDF 145, negotiations with the local World Bank office in Rwanda are ongoing.

12. Evaluations of three STDF projects are ongoing. Evaluation reports will be presented and discussed at the next meeting of the STDF Working Group and made available on the STDF website. The three projects are as follows:

- STDF 14: Development of a veterinary capacity evaluation tool by the OIE in collaboration with IICA
- STDF 37: Organization of a workshop addressing issues surrounding the implementation of ISPM No. 15 (Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade)

- STDF 56: Development of a Manual of Good Practice for Animal Feeding and providing practical support and guidance for the implementation of the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding

Project approvals withdrawn

13. Four projects were withdrawn for funding at the March 2007 Working Group meeting. Implementation of each project had been outstanding for over one year. In the case of three projects (STDF 62, 64 and 69), the delay was due to failure to agree implementation arrangements for STDF projects between FAO, the World Bank, and the WTO. To rectify this situation, agreement on a general framework agreement is at an advanced stage with FAO. It is hoped that a similar agreement will be signed with the World Bank shortly.

14. For one additional project, STDF 48, the withdrawal of approval was caused by additional updates to the project document requested by the Working Group and delays on the part of the applicant in providing the information sought. In all cases, the applicants were invited to resubmit their funding applications.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS

STATUS OF APPROVED PROJECTS

(a) Projects awaiting contracting

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget in US\$	Approval date	Start /End Date	Status
STDF 173	Strengthening capacity in assessing food control systems in developing APEC Member Economies	To train food safety regulators from developing Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries in the use of FAO's food safety capacity evaluation tools. Knowledge acquired will then be applied by participants in their home countries.	FSANZ/FAO	Developing APEC countries	96,500	Mar-07	To be confirmed (TBC)	Approved in principle - subject to revision to reflect changes requested by the Working Group (WG). March 2008 deadline for contracting Awaiting revised project document.
STDF 170	Strengthening the capacity of government SPS officials in Nepal	To train government officials on SPS implementation issues. Project developed from Integrated Framework Diagnostic Trade Integration Study.	FAO	Nepal	321,600	Mar-07	TBC	Approved in principle - subject to revision to reflect changes requested by the WG. March 2008 deadline for contracting. Awaiting revised project document.
STDF 134	Capacity building for improving the fish trade performance of selected African countries	To improve knowledge and awareness of SPS issues in the fisheries sector in five African countries.	FAO	Benin, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia	469,000	Mar-07	TBC	Project approved, but awaiting FAO update of project document and signature of WTO-FAO agreement on STDF project implementation and associated letter of agreement. March 2008 deadline for contracting

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget in US\$	Approval date	Start /End Date	Status
STDF 108	Institutional capacity of countries in the Americas	Peer review of SPS compliance building on the Initiatives of the Americas. The project will build on the IICA Initiative of the America by conducting a peer survey of SPS structures and practice in IICA countries.	IICA	IICA Countries	585,588	Oct-06	TBC	Awaiting final letters of support from all IICA countries. WG decided to revoke approval if all letters have not been received by mid-May.
STDF 133	Phytosanitary capacity evaluation in the Pacific	Application of the phytosanitary capacity evaluation tool in the South Pacific.	South Pacific Forum Secretariat	South Pacific Forum Members	261,780	Oct-06	TBC	Contracting dependant on finalization of FAO – WTO Framework Agreement (IPPC Secretariat being the supervising agency). Oct-07 deadline for contracting.
STDF 145	Rwanda Horticulture Export Standards Initiative (RHESI)	To strengthen the plant health management systems in Rwanda. The project will address plant health related issues for specific commodities. Project developed from the Integrated Framework (IF) Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS).	Michigan State University	Rwanda	526,674	June-06	TBC	Awaiting appointment of supervisory agency to oversee implementation. Discussions on-going with World Bank office in Kigali. June-07 deadline for contracting

(b) On-going projects funded by STDF

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget in US\$	Approval date	Start /End Date	Status
STDF 146	Strengthening phytosanitary controls in Mali – with particular reference to mango exports	To strengthen phytosanitary control capacity in Mali. Project developed from the IF DTIS.	Ministry of Commerce (IF focal point)	Mali	508,000	June-06	Feb-07/ Feb-09	Contracted. Implementation commenced in February 2007.
STDF 120	Risk analysis and risk assessment training in India	Provide training on risk analysis and risk assessment procedures for key Indian officials.	WTO	India	244,050	Feb-06	Dec-07/ Dec 08	Implementation underway. Food safety and plant health training complete.
STDF 114	Effective aflatoxin management system in Brazil nut production	Research into factors affecting aflatoxin contamination in Brazil nut production and provides training to meet international standards. Results will be shared with other producers in the region.	WTO	Brazil (Peru and Bolivia)	619,664	Feb-06	Jul-06 / Jul-08	Implementation ongoing.
STDF 65	Support to compliance with official and commercial standards in the fruit and vegetable sector in Guinea	Assisting the public and private sector in Guinea in training to meet official and commercial standards for fruit and vegetable exports. Project developed to respond to issue identified in Guinea's IF DTIS report	UNCTAD	Guinea	600,000	Sep-05	Dec-05 / May-08	Implementation ongoing.

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget in US\$	Approval date	Start /End Date	Status
STDF 79	Quality information on SPS issues- a pre requisite for capacity building	Improving the sharing of information on official standards (including the supporting scientific evaluations) developed by OIE, IPPC and Codex on the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health (IPSAPH). The project will improve the sustainability of core resources for IPSAPH.	FAO	All developing countries	470,000	Sep-05 /	June 2006 / May-08	Implementation ongoing.
STDF 13	Development of Regional Action Plans for Selected African Regions to Enhance Veterinary Capacity	Design of regional approach to strengthen veterinary capacity in East and West Africa. .	OIE/FAO	Mali, Ethiopia and Djibouti	305,000	Sep-04	Oct-06 / Apr-07	Project under implementation.
STDF 15	Expanding SPS Capacities at National and Regional Levels	Additional training for veterinary officials after WTO technical assistance activities. OIE has commissioned a training syllabus of general use for technical co-operation activities.	OIE	Workshops held in Mali, Thailand, Egypt, CIS and in Latin America.	130,614	Sep-04	Sep-04 / Nov-07	Project completed according to original project Terms of Reference. Plans being made to extend the training to a WTO regional workshop for COMESA countries in 2007.

(c) **Completed projects funded by STDF**

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget in US\$	Approval date	Start /End Date	Status
STDF 89	International Plant Health Risk Analysis Workshop	Project provided funding for 29 developing and least-developed country officials to attend a workshop on pest risk analysis in Canada on 24-28 October 2005.	FAO	Developing and Least-Developing Country participants in workshop.	147,000	Sep-05	Oct-05 / May-07	Completed Information to be found at: https://www.ippc.int/servlet/CDSServlet?status=ND01ODQ1NSY2PWVuJjMzPSomMzc9a29z .
STDF 56	Capacity building for implementation of the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for animal feeding	Training on implementation of the Codex Code of Good Practice on Animal Feeding through a series of regional workshops in Africa, Latin America and Asia.	International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)	Feed industry in developing countries.	150,000	Mar-05	Sep-05 / Nov-06	Completed. Evaluation on-going.
STDF 37	Assistance to Developing Countries in the Implementation of ISPM 15	Project centrepiece, a workshop on implementation of ISPM 15, was held in Vancouver, Canada on 28 February – 4 March 2005.	IPPC/ FAO	Participants at ISPM 15 workshop	332,000	Sep-04	Nov-04 / Mar-06	Completed. Evaluation on-going. Training materials related to the workshop can be found on the IPPC website at https://www.ippc.int/servlet/CDSServlet?status=ND00OTeyNyY2PWVuJjMzPSomMzc9a29z

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget in US\$	Approval date	Start /End Date	Status
STDF 14	OIE veterinary capacity evaluation project	Development of a veterinary capacity evaluation tool based on the Performance Vision Strategy document of the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture. Africa. The veterinary capacity evaluation was endorsed at the OIE International Committee meeting on (21-26 May 2006).	OIE	IICA	37,000	Nov-03	May-06	Completed. Independent evaluation on-going. See http://www.oie.int/eng/oie/organisation/en_vet_eval_tool.htm?e1d2 for more details. OIE's collaborating centre in Lyon has trained a group of OIE-approved evaluators to use the tool.
STDF 20	Country-based plans for SPS-related development	To undertake baseline studies of SPS capacity and apply cost-benefit analysis to examine the returns on investment in terms of foreign trade and an improved SPS situation. Fieldwork in Uganda and Peru.	WTO	Peru and Uganda	170,862	Sep-03	Nov-04 / March-07	Completed. Independent evaluation to be contracted.

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget in US\$	Approval date	Start /End Date	Status
STDF 19	Model arrangements for SPS stakeholder involvement at the national level	To examine national arrangements for the circulation of SPS information at national level among relevant stakeholders and to make recommendations of general applicability on how this co-ordination may be improved. Fieldwork in Paraguay and Sri Lanka. Project extended until April 2007	WTO	Sri Lanka and Paraguay	291,218	Sep-04	Dec-04 / Apr-07	Completed. Awaiting final project report. Independent evaluation to be undertaken.
STDF 9	Model Programme for Developing Food Standards within a Risk Analysis Framework	Food safety risk analysis training for policy makers in the Asia Pacific region	FAO	Asia Pacific countries	70,848	Nov-03	Mar-05 / Sep-06	Project completed.
STDF 10	International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health project	Establishment of national windows to the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health. Fieldwork undertaken in Turkey and Uganda.	FAO	Turkey and Uganda	59,400	Sep-03	Mar-05 / Sep-06	Completed. Independent evaluation planned.

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Budget in US\$	Approval date	Start /End Date	Status
STDF 5	STDF Database	Database on SPS technical assistance established at http://stdfdb.wto.org . Data covers years 2001-2003.	WTO	Database	73,474	Jun-03	Jul-03 / Dec-05	Project completed. Report prepared for SPS Committee in document G/SPS/GEN/726.

(d) Completed PPGs for projects which have not been funded

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Approval date	Status
STDF 101	Eritrea project preparation grant	Fieldwork focused on applying the FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" and designing a project on the basis of findings.	WTO	Eritrea	Sep-05	Fieldwork complete. Report and project submitted to the STDF Working Group. Project not accepted for funding.
STDF 61	Project preparation grant in Cambodia	Fieldwork undertaken in Cambodia. Grant application presented in July 2005.		Cambodia	Mar-05	Fieldwork complete. Report and project submitted to the STDF Working Group. Project not accepted for funding.

(e) PPGs revoked by the Working Group

Project	Title	Objective	Implementing Agency	Beneficiary	Approval date	Status
STDF 105	Project preparation grant on compartmentalization	A concept project to design a demonstration project on how to apply compartmentalization.	OIE	TBC	Sep-05	In March 2007, the Working Group decided to withdraw approval for the PPG but to invite the OIE to update the application and re-apply for the next meeting in June 2007.
STDF 68	Project preparation grant on South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) SPS co-operation	Support for efforts at regional co-operation on SPS among SAARC countries.	TBC	SAARC	Mar-05	Delay in implementation for more than two years. In March 2007, the Working Group decided to withdraw approval for the PPG but to invite the SAARC to re-apply.