



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
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Organisation
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l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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Report of the Standards and Trade Development Facility

Agenda Item 8.5 of the Provisional Agenda

1. A report from the Standards and Trade Development Facility is provided in Annex.



STDF UPDATE FOR CPM-5

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO provides the secretariat for the STDF. Other participating organizations include the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Representatives of donors contributing funds to the STDF and representatives of developing countries are also members of the Facility.

2. The STDF has two main aims:

- to assist developing countries enhance their expertise and capacity to analyze and to implement international SPS standards, improving their human, animal and plant health situation, and thus ability to gain and maintain market access; and
- to act as a vehicle for awareness raising on SPS issues, coordination among technical cooperation providers, the mobilization of funds, the exchange of experience, and the dissemination of good practice in relation to the provision and receipt of SPS-related technical cooperation.

3. This document provides an overview of STDF activities since the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) met in March 2009 and highlights the activities that the STDF will undertake in 2010. It also provides an overview of past and ongoing STDF projects and project preparation grants in the plant health area.

II. STDF OPERATING PLAN 2010-11

4. In December 2009, the STDF Policy Committee adopted the STDF Operating Plan for 2010-11. The plan continues to put major emphasis on STDF's role as a vehicle for coordination and information exchange on SPS-related technical cooperation. This role will be implemented at the global, regional and national level through the implementation of a number of specific activities. These include the organization of thematic workshops and information sessions, enhancement of the STDF website, publications, STDF involvement in project development, and interaction with other initiatives and programmes, including Aid for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). The Operating Plan for 2010-11 is available on the STDF website <http://www.standardsfacility.org/>.

III. OVERVIEW OF STDF ACTIVITIES IN 2009

A. PAN-SPSO PROGRAMME

5. In July 2009, the STDF organized two "training-of-trainers" workshops for SPS officials of seven African regional economic communities (RECs) and an additional core group of African SPS experts in Nairobi and Bamako. Both events, which greatly benefited from the participation of the IPPC Secretariat, were part of STDF's involvement in the Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards-Setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO) project. This project, which runs until December 2011, is largely funded by the European Commission (totalling €3.35 million) and implemented by the African

Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR), in close collaboration with the African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU/IAPSC), as well as the RECs in Africa.¹

B. SPS RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

6. On 22-23 September 2009, the STDF, in close collaboration with the World Bank's Development Research Group, organized a seminar entitled "Climate Change and Agriculture Trade: Risks and Responses" in Washington, D.C. The seminar sought to increase awareness about the implications of climate change for SPS risks and what is needed to address the challenges faced. This was achieved through presenting new research on the topic and discussing priorities for SPS capacity building. The seminar was attended by over 100 representatives from international organizations, regulatory and development agencies, research, academia and the private sector.

7. The event highlighted the impacts that are already occurring on food safety and animal and plant health, and which are likely to become more intense, with implications for future development and implementation of SPS-related standards. Key avenues for future actions were drawn including: (i) further strengthen SPS systems and improve the SPS decision-making process in developing countries to reduce vulnerability and enable proper management of SPS-related challenges posed by climate change; (ii) focus on resource-effective risk-based pest/disease surveillance targeted at points of entry; (iii) enhance the use of pest-monitoring plans, participatory investigation, interception techniques and new screening technologies as well as forecasting and early warning networks; (iv) identify more climate-friendly SPS measures mainly to replace those measures that are likely to compound climate change (e.g. methyl bromide); and (v) mainstream adaptation in development cooperation and SPS capacity building. More information about the event, including documents, presentations, podcasts and a two-page briefing note on the conclusions of the seminar, is available on the [STDF website](#).

C. FRUIT FLY CONTROL IN WEST AFRICA

8. A stakeholder meeting was held in Bamako on 29-30 September 2009, jointly organized by the STDF and the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS), to promote a coordinated multi-stakeholder approach to control fruit fly in West Africa. Representatives of national governments, research institutes, the private sector, civil society and development partners endorsed a five-year Regional Action Plan prepared by the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP), budgeted at €25 million. Development of this plan had been funded by the STDF and the World Bank and complemented an earlier study funded by the European Union in 2007 on the damages inflicted by fruit fly on West African fruit production.

9. Stakeholders adopted the Bamako Declaration, outlining a roadmap to implement the Regional Action Plan in the months ahead. This included recommendations to governments and donors to prioritize fruit fly control in national and regional planning and budgetary frameworks. All documents related to the Bamako meeting, including presentations and a two-page briefing note on the event, are available on the [STDF website](#).

10. As a follow-up to the meeting in Bamako, the STDF participated in the ECOWAS Aid for Trade review in Abuja on 27-28 January 2010, which highlighted the importance of including fruit fly control as one of the priorities in ECOWAS' Agricultural Policy. On the margins, the STDF participated in an information session organized by the Trade Facilitation Facility (TFF), a multi-donor trust fund led by the World Bank. Discussions between ECOWAS and the TFF on a possible contribution to assist in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan are ongoing.

¹ These are the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

D. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

11. On 30 October 2009, the STDF organized a workshop on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS-related decision-making in Geneva. Countries and organizations that have used economic analysis to support SPS decision-making shared their experiences and demonstrated how economic analysis can generate information that is valuable to improve SPS decision-making and enhance the allocation of available resources. The workshop was attended by some 250 persons including delegates from the SPS Committee and 60 officials from developing countries.

12. Participants agreed that not only is economic analysis a practical tool to support decision-making processes and enhance the allocation of resources, but that it can also help to convince policy and decision-makers of the need to invest in SPS capacity building by demonstrating the financial benefits and cost-savings involved. The use of economic analysis generally promotes transparency, objectivity, and accountability in decision-making. Incomplete data and lack of required knowledge and skills limit the application of economic analysis in many developing countries. More information about the event, including presentations, podcasts, a two-page briefing note on the conclusions of the workshop, as well as a background report entitled "Guidelines on the Use of Economic Analysis", is available on the [STDF website](#).

E. STDF FILM AND PUBLICATIONS

13. As part of its awareness raising and information disseminating role, the STDF produced a film in the first half of 2009 entitled: "Trading Safely: protecting health, promoting development". The film features three case studies which demonstrate how countries are rising to the challenge of meeting SPS standards in order to access foreign markets and raise incomes. One of the case studies focuses on Belize's successful programme to eradicate fruit fly and increase exports of papaya and other fruits and vegetables to the United States. In the second half of the year, a shorter version of the film was produced as well as a short institutional clip about the mission and functions of the STDF.

14. In February 2009, the STDF also published a guidance document on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools. This document provides information on sectoral tools developed by international organizations related to food safety, animal and plant health, as well as cross-sectoral tools and related methodologies. The guide makes reference to the IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool. Throughout the year, the STDF continued to issue its tri-annual newsletter which provides information on STDF activities as well as initiatives of its partners, donors and other actors in the area of SPS-related technical assistance.

15. All STDF publications, including its series of two-page briefing notes, the newsletters and the STDF films are available in English, French and Spanish on the [STDF website](#). The longer version of the STDF film can also be viewed on You Tube.

IV. OVERVIEW OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN 2010

16. At present, the STDF is conducting research on SPS performance indicators, in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This work builds on previous STDF and OECD work on Good Practice in SPS-Related Technical Cooperation in 2007-08 and feeds into the broader context of more rigorous monitoring and evaluation of Official Development Assistance (ODA) that is increasingly at the forefront of the international development agenda. The purpose of the research is to identify common SPS benchmarks at project and programme level and to provide guidance on the selection of meaningful indicators when designing SPS-related capacity building projects and programmes. An expert meeting on this topic, in collaboration with the OECD, is planned on 1 July 2010 in Geneva, on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee.

17. In the second half of 2010, the STDF aims to organize a workshop on public/private partnerships in SPS capacity building. The objective of this event will be to explore new modalities of capacity building and foster a more systematic dialogue with the private sector. To this end, the event will present concrete examples and seek to identify the elements of effective and successful public/private partnerships in SPS capacity building.

18. In the second half of the year, the STDF also plans to fund a pilot project on the use of economic analysis in SPS-related decision making. One conclusion of the STDF workshop on this topic on 30 October 2009 was that in some instances a more flexible approach may have to be taken towards economic analysis than provided by cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis. Extending the scope of economic analysis to multiple and varying capacity building options and to multiple impacts may be more appropriate, notably in a developing country context where data and analytical resources are limited. The pilot project will test this so-called multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) approach in two countries, to be selected, that differ in the amount and/or quality of available data. The pilot work will be followed by the development of a practical user guide on economic analysis for analysts and decision-makers in developing countries.

19. The STDF recently commissioned a scoping study and analysis of existing SPS coordination mechanisms in Africa at national level (as part of its involvement in the PAN SPSO project, see paragraph 5 above). The purpose of the study is to better inform the proposed establishment of such mechanisms in Africa, both at national and REC level, as a means to improve coordination among SPS actors on the ground and to enhance the effective participation of countries in the international standard-setting bodies and the WTO SPS Committee. This work will draw upon experiences and lessons learned in other parts of the world, for instance in Latin America through projects implemented by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and in Asia. The study - including development of a set of guidelines to inform the proposed establishment of SPS coordination mechanisms - is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2010.

20. Finally, the STDF will continue its collaboration with a wide range of other activities and initiatives in the area of SPS-related technical cooperation to monitor developments, ensure synergies, share experiences and ensure maximal coordination. This includes collaboration with the Aid for Trade initiative and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat in Geneva to increase the awareness of SPS issues and mobilize additional resources.

V. STDF PROJECTS

21. As a financing mechanism, the STDF provides grant funding to public and private organizations in developing countries seeking to comply with international SPS standards and hence gain or maintain market access. Two types of grants are available through the STDF: project preparation grants (PPGs) and project grants.

22. PPGs help overcome constraints faced by developing countries in the articulation of their needs and are a key mechanism for ensuring synergies with other on-going initiatives in the SPS area. The main criterion when awarding PPGs is the likelihood that the project developed may receive funding by the STDF or from another funding source, e.g. a bilateral donor. Up to US\$30,000 for project development is available through the STDF. By the end of 2009, a total of 38 PPGs have been approved and funded since STDF's inception in 2002. The following PPGs addressing plant health issues are currently being implemented:

- The AU-IAPSC is elaborating a strategy for phytosanitary capacity building in Africa with PPG funds. This strategy will take into account IPPC's global capacity building strategy and ensure synergies and complementarities.

- In Madagascar, a project is being prepared to assist the plant health authorities in establishing pest free areas and improve phytosanitary controls in fruit production.
- The International Cocoa Organization is developing a project to assist five cocoa-producing countries in Africa to meet international requirements, notably with respect to reducing residues of pesticides and other harmful substances by improving phytosanitary controls.
- At the request of the African Union Commission (AUC), a scoping study is currently being undertaken on the role of the AUC and the African RECs in the SPS area, including an assessment of the various SPS frameworks and protocols that are being established at regional level.

23. Limited grant financing is available for projects which address underlying issues of SPS capacity building through innovative, preventative and replicable pilot projects, in particular in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other Low Income Countries (OLICs), and on a regional basis. Grant financing is also available for projects which aim to address gaps in SPS information, develop training materials or improve co-ordination among SPS technical co-operation providers. Projects are preferably in the range of US\$150,000 and US\$600,000. Beneficiaries are required to meet part of the cost of the implementation of projects - either through financial or in-kind contributions – at levels dependent on their country classification in the OECD Development Assistance Committee List of ODA recipients.

24. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 23 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address plant health issues, corresponding to 30 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding. Table 1 overleaf provides an overview of the STDF projects addressing plant health issues, while Table 2 gives an overview of the STDF projects of general SPS interest.

Figure 1

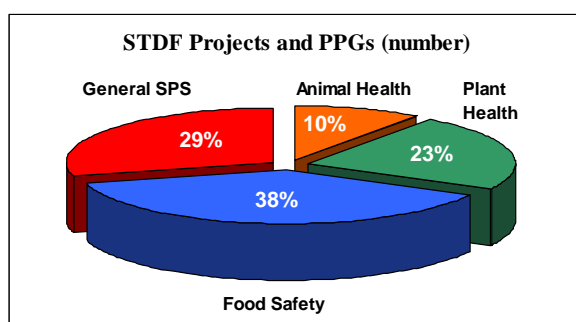
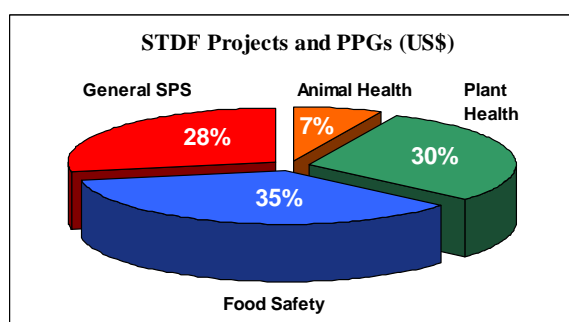


Figure 2



25. A target has been set in the STDF Operating Plan for 2010-2011 to fund at least six PPGs and six projects in 2010. Applications for PPGs are actively encouraged and requests for funding from National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) will be considered. Proposals may be made at any time in the year. The STDF Working Group meets three times per year to consider funding requests. The next deadlines for the receipt of applications are 9 April and 30 July 2010, respectively. Further information on the STDF, its coordination and information dissemination activities, application forms, eligibility criteria and information on projects can be found on the [STDF website](#).

Table 1: Overview of STDF project grants addressing plant health issues

Project Title	Status	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/313 – Continuation of the West African Fruit Fly Initiative (WAFFI) in 2010	Project approved in December 2009 and awaiting contracting. This project is a continuation of STDF/PG/255 which aims to pilot test different fruit fly control methods and other Integrated Pest Management techniques to monitor and control fruit fly populations in eight pilot countries.	562,671
STDF/PG/287: Information sharing initiative on actions to control fruit fly in Sub-Saharan Africa: publication of a newsletter	The project aims to develop and disseminate nine electronic newsletters per year, in both English and French, on fruit fly in sub-Saharan Africa. Implementation started in June 2009 and is due to end in April 2011.	97,800
STDF/PG/255: Regional initiative to control fruit fly in eight West African countries	The project aims to which aims to pilot test different fruit fly control methods and other Integrated Pest Management techniques to monitor and control fruit fly populations in eight pilot countries. Implementation started in April 2009 and is due to end in May 2010.	465,220
STDF/PG/230: Establishment of Pest Free Areas for Lethal Yellowing Disease (LYD) in coconuts	The projects aims to build phytosanitary capacity to implement international standards to manage LYD in palms and thereby expand market access for coconuts. Implementation started in July 2009 and is due to finish in February 2011.	346,528
STDF/PG/171: Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence	The objective of this project is to build phytosanitary capacity and increase market access through the establishment of a regional Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence (COPE) based in Kenya. Implementation started in May 2008 and is due to finish in December 2010.	843,240
STDF/PG/65: Support to compliance with official and commercial standards in the fruit and vegetable sector in Guinea	The project focuses on assisting the public and private sector in Guinea to meet official and commercial standards for fruit and vegetable exports. Implementation started in September 2005 and is due to finish in June 2010.	600,000
STDF/PG/146: Strengthening phytosanitary control in Mali – with particular reference to mango exports	Completed. The project has strengthened capacity in phytosanitary control in order to contribute to export diversification and poverty alleviation in Mali, notably in the mango sub-sector.	508,000
STDF/PG/145: Rwanda Horticulture Export Standards Initiative	Completed. The project has strengthened the plant health management system in Rwanda and addressed various SPS constraints for specific commodities.	526,674
STDF/PG/133: Phytosanitary capacity evaluation in the Pacific	Completed. The project assessed phytosanitary capacity in Pacific island countries using IPPC's Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool.	261,780
STDF/PG/89: International Plant Health Risk Analysis Workshop	Completed. The project developed standard training material and funded 29 developing and least-developed country officials to attend a workshop on pest risk analysis in Canada on 24-28 October 2005. External evaluation conducted.	147,000
STDF/PG/37: Assistance to developing countries in the implementation of ISPM 15	Completed. A workshop on the implementation of ISPM 15 was held on 28 February–4 March 2005. Training materials related to the workshop are available on the IPPC website. External evaluation conducted.	332,000

Table 2: Overview of STDF projects of general SPS interest

Project Title	Status	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/259: Strengthening Vietnamese SPS Capacities for Trade	Project approved in June 2009 and implementation to start in March 2010. The project aims to strengthen Vietnamese SPS capacity for trade by improving safety and quality for fresh vegetables through a value chain approach.	543,770
STDF/PG/267: Devising a National GAP Programme and a Commercial GAP Standard in the Philippines	Project approved in February 2009 and awaiting contracting. The project aims to devise a National GAP Programme and a Commercial GAP Standard in the Philippines.	210,000
STDF/PG/246: Development of SPS Action Plan for Cambodia	Project approved in June 2008. Implementation on-going. The project aims to establish an SPS action plan for Cambodia with the view to enhance the SPS system in the country. Implementation started in April 2009 and is due to finish in April 2010.	250,000
STDF 170: Strengthening capacity of government SPS officials in Nepal	Project approved in March 2007. The objective of the project is to train government officials on SPS implementation issues. Implementation started in March 2008 and is due to finish in July 2010.	321,600
STDF 127: Support for SPS information systems in Benin	Project approved in November 2007. Implementation on-going. The aim is to improve information flow on SPS requirements and coordination among stakeholders, particularly in the private sector in Benin. Implementation started in September 2008 and is due to finish in August 2010.	363,858
STDF 120: Risk analysis and risk assessment training in India	Completed. The project provided specific training on risk analysis procedures for Indian SPS officials. External evaluation conducted.	244,050
STDF 108: Institutional capacity of countries in the Americas	The project conducts a peer review of SPS compliance structures and practices in Latin American countries. Implementation started in 2008 on-going and is due to finish in April 2010.	585,588
STDF 79: Quality information on SPS issues - a pre requisite for capacity building	Completed. The project improved the sharing of information on official standards through the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health.	470,000
STDF 20: Country-based plans for SPS-related development	Completed. The project undertook baseline studies of SPS capacity and applied cost-benefit analysis to examine returns on investment in terms of trade and an improved SPS situation. External evaluation conducted.	170,862
STDF 19: Model arrangements for SPS stakeholder involvement at the national level	Completed. The project examined national arrangements for circulation of SPS information and made recommendations of general applicability on how co-ordination could be improved. Fieldwork was done in Paraguay and Sri Lanka. External evaluation conducted.	291,218