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**Reports from selected international organizations - The Standards and
Trade Development Facility (STDF) overview**

Agenda item 14.3

Prepared by the STDF

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STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-10

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global partnership that supports developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations and improve their ability to gain and maintain access to markets. In doing so, the partnership contributes to broader development goals of sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. Reduction of pest and disease burdens, and improved food safety, have a key role to play in raising agricultural production, reducing the prevalence of food-borne diseases, increasing food availability, and the protection of the environment. In this way, the STDF also helps to improve the human, animal and plant health situation in developing countries.

1.2. The STDF brings together the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) (the founding partners), donors, selected developing country experts and other organizations involved in SPS capacity building. The Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) also participate in the partnership, either in their own right or through the involvement of their parent organizations.

1.3. Specifically, the STDF acts as a coordinating and financing mechanism. The partnership at the heart of the STDF is its key added-value. By bringing together the SPS expertise and skills of its founding partners and other organizations, the STDF provides a unique forum to exchange information, encourage collaboration and synergies in SPS capacity building, enabling the stakeholders involved to achieve more effective and sustainable results together, than would be possible alone. As a financing mechanism, STDF provides grants for projects and to support project formulation based on appropriate assessment of the SPS-related capacity building needs. Applications are particularly encouraged from Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

1.4. This document provides an update on STDF's work since the last CPM in March 2014. Table 1 provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) in the plant health area. Several of these benefit from the involvement and technical guidance of the IPPC Secretariat.

1.5. Participants who would like to receive more information on SPS-related technical cooperation are encouraged to visit the STDF website and subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/ContactUs.htm>).

2 NEW STDF STRATEGY (2015-2019)

2.1. On 12 February 2015, the STDF Policy Committee considered and endorsed a revised strategy for the STDF for the period 2015-2019. In line with the main recommendations of STDF's independent mid-term review¹, the new strategy strengthens STDF's results based management framework and includes a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. The strategy continues to put emphasis on the STDF as a coordination and knowledge platform to enhance the effectiveness of SPS capacity building. The STDF will also continue to support the development and implementation of projects that assist developing countries in strengthening their SPS capacity and gaining and maintaining access to markets.

2.2. To implement the STDF work programme in 2015 and beyond, and to continue financing project grants in LDCs and other developing countries, additional contributions to the STDF trust fund are urgently needed, ideally in the form of multi-annual commitments.

¹ The report was issued in January 2014. Previous evaluations were completed in December 2005 and November 2008. See for the evaluation reports: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/history>

3 IMPLEMENTING SPS MEASURES TO FACILITATE SAFE TRADE

3.1. The STDF is implementing research work on the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation. This work aims to identify key needs, opportunities and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that facilitates safe trade and strengthens health protection. More specifically, the research focuses on how SPS controls are implemented in practice for selected agri-food products, notably in light of relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement (including Article 8 and Annex C on Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures). This work may provide timely input towards the inclusion of SPS-related components in broader trade facilitation programmes.

3.2. Research in Southeast Asia (encompassing Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand) was completed last year. The final report, including a set of recommendations for the countries concerned, as well as for the STDF and the larger development community, was published on STDF's website. Research in Southern Africa (encompassing in particular Malawi, South Africa and Zambia) is under way. A draft report was circulated to the countries concerned and to STDF's partner organizations for comments, and will be further discussed in the STDF Working Group on 24-25 March. It will be finalized shortly afterwards. More information on this STDF work is available on the website.²

4 5TH AID FOR TRADE GLOBAL REVIEW – STDF SIDE-EVENT

4.1. The Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade will be held at the WTO from 30 June to 2 July 2015 and is themed: "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth". Numerous case stories submitted to the WTO Secretariat in preparation for the Fifth Review focus on reducing SPS-related trade transaction costs. The STDF is currently considering organizing a side-event during the Fifth Review, for instance on good practice in SPS border management. The side-event would complement the development of new film and training material by the STDF to demonstrate the usefulness of specific approaches in building SPS capacity.³

5 JOINT EIF/STDF ANALYSIS ON SPS ISSUES IN DTIS STUDIES

5.1. The STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat are preparing a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in EIF Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation.⁴ Following a preliminary review of all DTIS reports, twenty were selected for in-depth desk review. Country field-research was carried out in three countries Cambodia, Tanzania and Senegal. Preliminary results will be shared and discussed in the STDF Working Group. The aim is to complete the joint EIF/STDF study by mid-2015.

6 STDF WEBSITE AND VIRTUAL LIBRARY

6.1. The new STDF website was launched in August 2014 in English, French and Spanish. An upgraded version of the STDF Virtual Library, i.e. an online information repository providing quick and easy online access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building, was integrated into the new website.⁵ 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, including the IPPC phytosanitary resources page.

² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade>. The work also benefited from a study by the Inter-American Development Bank on the quarantine control situation in Latin America.

³ Building on the success of the STDF film "Trading Safely: Protecting Health, Promoting Development" (developed in 2009), see <http://www.standardsfacility.org/video-gallery>

⁴ The EIF is a trade capacity building programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). For more information, see <http://www.enhancedif.org/en/about/how-does-it-work>.

⁵ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>

7 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

7.1. The STDF provides advice and support to beneficiaries on issues related to SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs) to assist beneficiaries in the articulation of their SPS needs and the development of technically sound and sustainable project proposals. Seed funding up to US\$50,000 is available for PPGs, which can be used for any of the following purposes (or a combination thereof): (i) application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) preparation of feasibility studies that precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals (expected costs and benefits); and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by the STDF or other donors.

7.2. A total of 66 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. The following PPGs addressing plant health issues are currently under implementation:

- STDF/PPG/377: Comprehensive Assessment and Development of a Project Proposal to Strengthen the National Plant Protection System in the Gambia.
- STDF/PPG/404: Undertake a feasibility study to assess the viability of building capacity for indexing and production of virus-free planting materials for bananas in Malawi.
- STDF/PPG/432: Information systems for surveillance and pest reporting in Asia Pacific countries.

7.3. As a result of collaboration between the STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), a practical guide on trade-related project development was produced by the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) at the University of Wolverhampton, UK. This handbook titled "Capacity Building in Project Identification, Formulation and Design" is a step-by-step manual on how to prepare logical frameworks for projects and programmes. It is available in English on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIntegratedFramework.htm>).

8 PROJECT FUNDING

8.1. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1,000,000 is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that focus on one or more of the following: (i) the identification, development and dissemination of good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) STDF work on cross-cutting topics of common interest; (iii) the use of regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches focused on the interface/linkages between human, animal and plant health and trade, and benefiting from the involvement of two or more STDF partners or other relevant organizations.

8.2. No minimum limit applies on the size of projects funded, but projects should preferably be in the range of US\$250,000 and US\$1 million in size. 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 already existing assets. The beneficiaries' own contribution to the project depends on the beneficiary country or countries' classification in the most recent OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) List of ODA recipients.

8.3. A total of 70 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 26 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address plant health issues, corresponding to 26 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding.

Figure 1

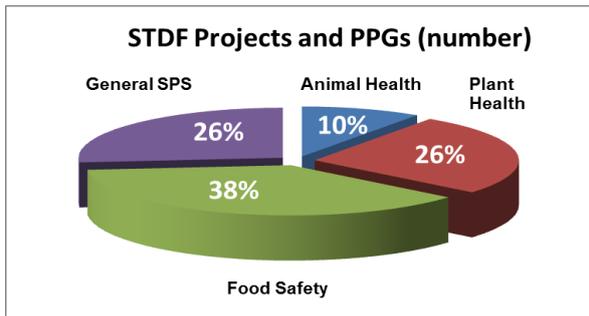
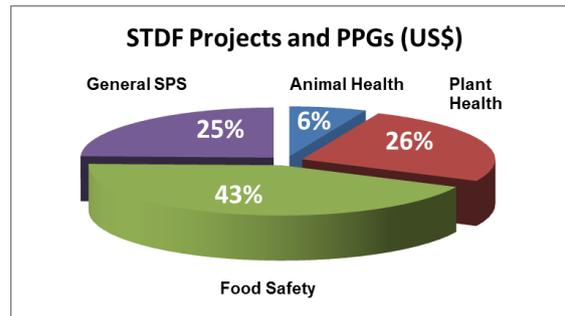


Figure 2



8.4. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) are being encouraged. Proposals can be submitted 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 **17 July 2015**.

Recommended steps to follow when seeking PG or PPG funding opportunities with the STDF:

1. Browse our PPG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/PGPpgStat.htm> and PG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/PGProStat.htm> webpages for examples of previous projects.
2. Carefully read our guidance note for applicants: http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Forms/STDFGuidanceNote_en.pdf.
3. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.
4. Send us a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).
5. Fill out an application form (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/FDAppForms.htm>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

8.5. Table 1 provides an overview of ongoing STDF projects addressing plant health issues and projects of general SPS interest. Further information on these projects, the STDF, its other activities, application forms and eligibility criteria can be found on the [STDF website](#).

Table 1: Overview of on-going relevant STDF projects

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF support (US\$)
STDF/PG/242: Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros	Build SPS capacity in the country in a comprehensive and systematic manner in order to increase its market access for potential agricultural products and fisheries. Implementation by UNDP started in September 2012. The project includes involvement of the IPPC Secretariat.	1,033,673
STDF/PG/329: Enhancing Sanitary and Phytosanitary capacity of Nepalese ginger exports through Public Private Partnerships	Increase incomes of Nepalese stakeholders in the ginger value chain by adding value to the product exported to India and increasing capacity to access new markets. Implementation by FAO started in June 2012. This project is co-funded with the EIF.	412,629
STDF/PG/335: Strengthening the Capacity for Phytosanitary Controls of Floriculture Sector in Uganda	Enhance pest surveillance and diagnostic capacity to enable a better understanding of pest distribution and facilitate the implementation of efficient control strategies. Implementation by CABI Africa started in October 2012.	348,632
STDF/PG/350: Global Phytosanitary Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits	Address the need for documented technical resources to enhance developing countries' capacity to better understand and implement International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Implementation by the IPPC Secretariat started in February 2012. The Capacity Development Committee (CDC) acts as a Steering Committee for this project.	600,000
STDF/PG/354: Improving Safety and Quality of Sri Lankan Fruits and Vegetables	Analyse SPS constraints along the value chains, enhance public and private sector stakeholders' capacity to meet international SPS requirements and improve public-private cooperation and networking. Implementation by ITC started in March 2013.	562,484
STDF/PG/401: Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators	Improve the capability of developing countries to use the PCE tool to evaluate their capacities, identify gaps and plan their national phytosanitary and development programmes. Project is implemented by the IPPC and monitored by the CDC. The project started in April 2013.	655,436
STDF/PG/316: Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan	Improve provision of inspection and diagnostic services by the Phytosanitary Control Service and Customs for maintaining the necessary level of phytosanitary protection for agricultural production. The project complements a US\$ 2 million project funded by the World Bank to support agricultural competitiveness. It is	1,000,000

	implemented by FAO with technical guidance from the IPPC Secretariat. The started in September 2014.	
STDF/PG/460: Implementation of ISPM 15: an empirical analysis of how the regulation affects the economy of a group of countries in Africa	More efficient and effective implementation of ISPM 15 by developing country governments through increased capacity to design appropriate policies for implementation of ISPM 15. A regional study based on an econometric model of the costs and benefits of ISPM 15 implementation at micro and macro levels will be carried out in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique and recommendations will be made on how to enhance implementation in those countries and beyond. The project started in February 2015 and is implemented by the Institute of Social Studies (The Netherlands). It will benefit from guidance of the IPPC Secretariat.	278,870