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**Written reports from international organizations -
STDF Overview for the CPM-11**

Agenda item 11.2.4

**Prepared by the Secretariat of the Standards and Trade Development
Facility (STDF)**

English only

STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-11

1 OVERVIEW

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 market access. As a coordination and knowledge platform, the STDF aims to increase awareness, identify and disseminate good practice, mobilize additional resources and strengthen collaboration in SPS capacity building. As a financing mechanism, the STDF provides grants to support developing countries, and in particular Least Developed Countries, in project formulation and implementation.

1.2. The STDF was established by 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). Other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors and selected developing country experts participate actively in the Facility's work. The Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) also participate actively in the STDF.

1.3. This document provides a brief update on STDF's activities and projects since CPM-10. Table 1 provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) in the plant health area, many of which benefit from the involvement and technical guidance provided by the FAO and the IPPC Secretariat. Delegates who would like to know more about the STDF are encouraged to visit the STDF website and subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/>).

2 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS

2.1. Building on work carried out in previous years, the STDF finalized a user guide "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA): A framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes". To date, this framework has been used to prioritize SPS investment options in 10 developing countries (Belize, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia) that differ considerably in the scale and diversity of their food and agricultural exports, and the range and magnitude of SPS capacity-building needs. The experiences highlight several benefits of the P-IMA framework, for instance to facilitate public-private dialogue on SPS matters, increase political awareness about the benefits of strengthening SPS capacity, inform and improve national SPS planning and decision-making processes, support project design and leverage additional funding.

2.2. The STDF will present the P-IMA user guide to SPS delegates on 16 March 2016, on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee. The new P-IMA user guide, as well as a short STDF briefing note on the P-IMA framework, is available on the STDF website.¹

3 IMPLEMENTING SPS MEASURES TO FACILITATE SAFE TRADE

3.1. The STDF issued a report of an analysis, carried out by a consultant in selected countries in Southern Africa (Malawi, South Africa and Zambia), of how SPS controls are implemented in practice for selected food and agricultural products, based on the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement. The research identified key needs, opportunities and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that facilitates safe trade, and reinforces health protection. The report includes a number of country-specific recommendations, as well as more general recommendations that can be of value to other countries interested in facilitating safe trade. It identifies good practices in the implementation of SPS measures (e.g. publication of costs, application forms and fees online, online payments, etc.), as well as opportunities for improvement (e.g. greater use of risk-based approaches, improved transparency on SPS regulations, simplification and streamlining of documentary requirements, strengthened inter-agency coordination at borders, etc.).

¹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>

3.2. In October 2015, Zambia reported to the WTO SPS Committee on how it is implementing some of the findings and recommendations of this work, for instance to improve transparency (by publishing SPS regulations, forms, fees, etc. online), enhance cooperation between the phytosanitary services and customs, develop risk-based inspection and link phytosanitary inspectors to ASYCUDA world.²

3.3. The report builds on and complements similar STDF-funded work in 2014 in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand). Based on both reports, and considering related work carried out under STDF projects, the STDF prepared and issued a short 2-page Briefing Note highlighting good practices and summarizing key findings and recommendations. The note, as well as the reports and other relevant documentation, is available on the STDF website.³

3.4. At a high-level plenary session, coordinated by the STDF, during the Fifth WTO/OECD Global Review of Aid for Trade (which took place under the theme "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth from 30 June to 2 July 2015) panellists further debated on how trade facilitation can be married with robust, science and risk-based SPS controls. This session brought together a diverse mix of panellists, including, *inter alia*, José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the FAO, Monique Eloit, Director-General of the OIE, and Anabel González, Senior Director of the Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness in the World Bank Group. Representatives from governments and the private sector also participated. Detailed information about the session, as well as a full podcast and a short film (featuring some of the panelists) produced by the WTO, is also available on the STDF website.⁴

3.5. Finally, the STDF produced a short film, entitled "Safe Trade Solutions".⁵ The film takes a look at what Chile, Peru and Colombia have done to make goods flow faster across their borders, while at the same time preventing the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants, and ensuring that food is safe for consumers. The film was launched at the high-level STDF plenary session during the Global Aid for Trade Review and shown to the WTO SPS committee in July 2015. The film has already been used in a number of training and awareness raising activities, targeted at SPS and other border agencies, organized amongst others by the World Bank, WTO and the World Customs Organization.

4 ELECTRONIC SPS CERTIFICATION

4.1. Building on discussions in the STDF Working Group in 2015⁶, the STDF will organize an information seminar on Electronic SPS Certification on Tuesday 5 July 2016 at WTO headquarters in Geneva, back-to-back with the WTO SPS Committee. The main objective will be to share information and experiences about the use of electronic certification (e-cert) in the SPS area, including identification of key challenges and opportunities for developing countries. The IPPC Secretariat will be invited for the seminar, *inter alia* to provide an update on e-phyto, including the project funded by the STDF. Information on the seminar, including the program and registration formalities, will be made available shortly on the STDF website.

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

5.1. The STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariats⁷ have undertaken a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in EIF Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS)⁸ and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation. The study highlights good practices and makes several practical and strategic recommendations to improve the analysis on SPS issues in the DTIS process, enhance capacity to implement SPS-related actions and to promote synergies between EIF and STDF-related processes. This includes

² See: <http://www.asycuda.org/>

³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade>

⁴ See footnote 3.

⁵ The new film can be viewed at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/video-gallery>

⁶ Presentations made on this topic at the STDF Working Group in October 2015 are available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/working-group-documents>.

⁷ 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>.

⁸ The DTIS is a cornerstone of the EIF in LDCs to mainstream and integrate trade into national development plans. The DTIS sets the basis for all subsequent interventions and establishes priorities to increase exports from LDCs.

recommendations to make better use of relevant SPS-related evaluations such as the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool and to consider ways to engage international organizations involved in SPS capacity building (such as the FAO and the IPPC Secretariat) in EIF processes. The study, as well as a STDF/EIF Briefing Note highlighting the main findings and recommendations, will be made available on the STDF website shortly.

6 STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

6.1. The STDF Virtual Library⁹ is an online information repository providing quick and easy online access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building. 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 (created under project STDF/PG/350).

7 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

7.1. The STDF provides advice and support to beneficiaries on 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 or the STDF.

7.2. A total of **70 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/404: Feasibility study to assess the viability of building capacity for indexing and production of virus-free planting materials for bananas in Malawi.
- STDF/PPG/481: Strengthening the phytosanitary capacity of the horticulture sector in Zambia.

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: (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.

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 existing assets.

8.3. A total of **75 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. The following projects addressing plant health issues were completed in 2015:

- STDF/PG/335: Strengthening the Capacity for Phytosanitary Controls of Floriculture Sector in Uganda; and
- STDF/PG/350: Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits

⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>

8.4. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 27 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address plant health issues, corresponding to 31 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding.

Figure 1

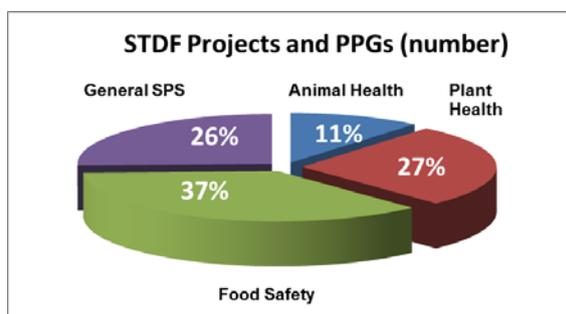
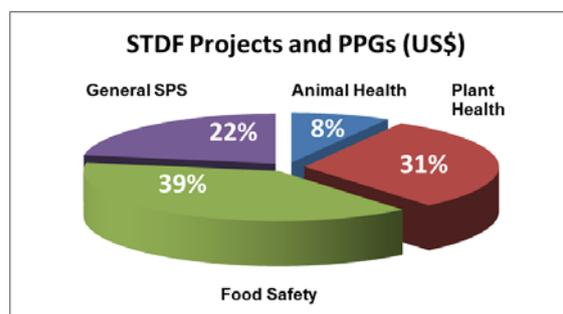


Figure 2



8.5. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) are 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 **19 July 2016**.

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

1. Browse our PPG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants> and PG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants> webpages for examples of previous projects.
2. Carefully read our guidance note for applicants: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.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/application-forms>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

8.6. 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: Ongoing relevant STDF projects

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF Contribution (US\$)
STDF/PG/242: Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in <u>Comoros</u>	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/316: Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in <u>Azerbaijan</u>	Improve inspection and diagnostic services in the Phytosanitary Control Service and Customs to maintain the necessary level of phytosanitary protection for agricultural production. The project complements a project funded by the World Bank (US\$ 2 million) to support agricultural competitiveness. It is implemented by FAO with technical guidance from the IPPC Secretariat. The project started in September 2014.	1,000,000
STDF/PG/354: Improving Safety and Quality of <u>Sri Lanka</u> 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 the International Trade Centre (ITC) started in March 2013.	629, 982
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. The project is implemented by FAO/IPPC. The CDC acts as the Steering Committee. The project started in April 2013.	655,436
STDF/PG/432: Strengthening information systems for pest surveillance and reporting in <u>Asia Pacific</u>	Enhance and promote good practice in the efficient capture, management and reporting of information from pest surveillance in the Asia/Pacific region. This project is currently awaiting contracting. It will be implemented by Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.	997,595
STDF/PG/460: Implementation of ISPM 15: an empirical analysis of how the regulation affects the economy of a group of countries in <u>Africa</u>	Enhance efficient and effective implementation of ISPM 15 in developing countries through increased capacity to design appropriate policies for implementation. A regional study based on an econometric model of the costs and benefits of ISPM 15 implementation at micro and macro levels is carried out in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique. The project started in February 2015 and is implemented by the Institute of Social Studies (The	278,870

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF Contribution (US\$)
	Netherlands). It benefits from guidance of the IPPC Secretariat.	
STDF/PG/502: Regional Strengthening for the Implementation of Phytosanitary Measures and Market Access in <u>COSAVE</u> member countries	Strengthen the capacity to implement phytosanitary measures in order to maintain and improve the phytosanitary status of the COSAVE region (comprising Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay), hence facilitating trade within the region and helping countries to maintain current markets. The project started in November 2015 and is implemented by IICA.	1,084,270
STDF/PG/504: <u>Global</u> electronic trade facilitation: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products through innovation (e-phyto)	Improve the capacity of countries to facilitate safe, secure and efficient trade in plants and plant products through the establishment of a Global framework for electronic phytosanitary certification. The project is awaiting contracting pending a final revision of the project document. It will be implemented by FAO/IPPC.	1,000,000