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Written reports from relevant international organizations - The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Overview
Agenda item 13.2
Prepared by the STDF
<i>English only</i>

***STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-15**

1 OVERVIEW

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global partnership to facilitate safe trade, contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. The STDF promotes improved food safety, animal and plant health capacity in developing countries. It helps imports and exports to meet sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements for trade, based on international standards. Through convening and connecting stakeholders across its knowledge and project work, and piloting and learning from innovative, collaborative and cross-cutting approaches, the STDF influences and catalyses SPS capacity development work globally.

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 Group (WBG), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and includes the Codex and IPPC Secretariats. The partnership brings together diverse stakeholders from across agriculture, health, trade and development, donors and developing country experts who participate actively in STDF's work.

1.3. This document provides a brief update on STDF's activities and projects since CPM-14 (2019). Table 1 provides an overview of on-going STDF projects in the plant health area, many of which benefit from the involvement and technical guidance provided by FAO and the IPPC Secretariat. The next Working Group meeting of the STDF will be hosted by FAO and the Codex and IPPC Secretariats on 7-8 April 2020 in Rome.

1.4. Delegates are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF Newsletter (www.standardsfacility.org) to receive regular updates on the STDF.

2 EXTERNAL EVALUATION

2.1. In 2018-2019, the STDF was subject to an independent external evaluation, following OECD criteria for development assistance: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Conducted by Nathan Associates, the [final report](#) was released in July 2019 and presented positive findings and conclusions. It confirmed that the STDF is responding to the needs of developing countries in building SPS capacity and unlocking market access and delivering outputs and results beyond what might be expected, given STDF's limited budget and resources. It also found that the Secretariat is regarded as efficient, effective and responsive by all stakeholders.

2.2. The final report includes 20 recommendations, 16 of which have been accepted by STDF members. STDF partners and the Secretariat are currently working to implement these recommendations, which are focused on ways to further scale and sustain the work of the STDF.

3 NEW STRATEGY 2020-2024

3.1. In 2019, through an open and consultative process STDF members developed a new [five-year strategy](#) for the STDF. The strategy was officially launched on 30 January 2020 and will run from 2020 to 2024.¹ Drawing on the findings of the external evaluation, the strategy aims to consolidate and build on STDF strengths and performance and further develop the partnership and expand its reach and resources. The strategy does not envisage a major shift in direction. Hence, the STDF will continue to operate as a coordination and knowledge platform, identify good practices, and convene/connect a wide range of SPS stakeholders. It will also continue to operate as a funding mechanism for the development and implementation of collaborative, innovative SPS projects that can act as a catalyst. The STDF will increase efforts on presenting the results and impacts of STDF-funded interventions and on drawing experiences and lessons from STDF activities and projects for wider uptake by its development partners and other providers of SPS assistance.

¹ See message from WTO's Director General: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4c-LEmQfXQ>

4 NEW STDF FILM

4.1. The STDF released a new film "[Investing in Safe Trade](#)" featuring partners, donors and developing country experts speaking on the current global landscape and what more is need to facilitate safe, inclusive trade. The film sets out how in order to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals, investing in SPS capacity in developing countries is vital for people to share in the benefits from trade. Ten experts from Belize, Canada, the European Union, the Global Food Safety Initiative, IPPC Secretariat, The Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, the US and WTO share their views on how building SPS capacity helps producers, traders and consumers and also promotes food safety, animal and plant health. The film, interview series and other SPS related videos are available on the [STDF YouTube channel](#).

5 STDF KNOWLEDGE WORK

5.1. STDF's knowledge work on cross-cutting thematic topics identifies and promotes good practices to improve SPS capacity development outcomes. Knowledge work convenes members, drawing on technical expertise, and aims to influence SPS capacity development work more broadly. Outputs include practical briefing notes, user-friendly knowledge products (publications, films, etc.), global and regional client-facing events, practitioner groups, etc. Members are currently working on the following topics:

- a. **Good Regulatory Practice.** The STDF is finalizing a guidance document and practical checklist on the use of [Good Regulatory Practice](#) (GRP). This work aims to provide guidance for developing countries to ensure that SPS measures are "fit for purpose" and that they avoid the creation of non-tariff barriers. It will seek to identify good practices and recommendations to enhance the development and implementation of SPS measures in order to: (i) strengthen the effectiveness of regulatory interventions; (ii) improve compliance with international standards and the SPS Agreement; and (iii) ensure health protection while facilitating trade.
- b. **Prioritization of SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA).** STDF's [P-IMA framework](#) is an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making, including on resource allocation. The prioritization framework was applied by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Madagascar, following a PCE and development of a national phytosanitary action plan costed at USD27 million. The evidence produced through the P-IMA analysis mobilized financing from COLEACP to address phytosanitary challenges facing pepper exports to the EU. At an [IPPC capacity development seminar](#) in October 2019, further opportunities were identified to use P-IMA in Sri Lanka, Nicaragua and Sierra Leone, which recently conducted or are planning a PCE application.
- c. **Public Private Partnerships to build SPS capacity.** Governments and the private sector are increasingly working together in the SPS area. Some of these PPPs focus on joint efforts to address specific SPS capacity constraints and/or take advantage of market opportunities. Other PPPs are centered on co-regulatory approaches to SPS management. Based on [previous work on PPPs](#) carried out by the STDF and its partners, the STDF Secretariat is currently identifying and documenting new examples of PPPs to learn from and disseminate the results and experiences. IPPC delegates who have examples of plant health-related PPPs are encouraged to contact the STDF Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).
- d. **Electronic certification.** Paperless SPS systems can improve traceability throughout SPS supply chains, lower food waste, cut trade times and costs, reduce fraudulent certificates, and build trust among trading partners. STDF's work in this area focuses on the increasing use of [electronic SPS certificates](#) (SPS e-cert), also in the context of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which aims - inter alia - to simplify and streamline trade documents. The STDF also supports the e-Phyto ([STDF/PG/504](#)) and e-Vet ([STDF/PG/609](#)) projects. In October 2019, the STDF Working Group created an SPS eCert advisory group under the umbrella of the STDF, which currently consists of 11 relevant international organizations (including the IPPC). Its objective will be to exchange information on relevant eCert initiatives, facilitate linkages and synergies among these initiatives, and to maximize outputs and avoid duplication on efforts. Its first meeting is scheduled in March 2020.

- e. **Border risk management.** The World Bank Group will lead a discussion in the next Working Group (7-8 April 2020) on risk management involving customs and SPS agencies and provide examples and good practices from its work on streamlining clearance processes at the border under its Trade Facilitation Support Programme (TFSP). This is a topic that may result in future STDF work.

6 STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

6.1. The STDF [Virtual Library](#) 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. IPPC Contracting Parties 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.

7 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

7.1. The STDF provides advice and support to beneficiaries on SPS project development and finances 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 **101 PPGs** has been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. A new PPG related to plant health ([STDF/PPG/694](#): Overcoming Barriers to Trade Through Regulatory Harmonization and Related Research with Biopesticides for the SADC Region) addressing the use of biopesticides to reduce pesticide residues and facilitate trade was approved in October 2019.

8 PROJECT FUNDING

8.1. Grant financing is also 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 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 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.

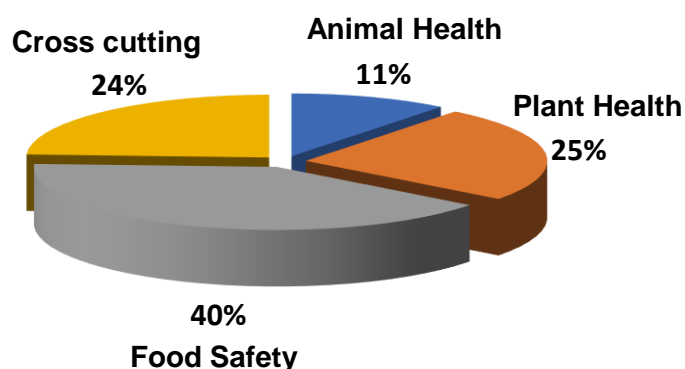
8.2. A total of **97 projects** has been approved for STDF funding since its inception. In 2019, the STDF Working Group approved: (i) project [STDF/PG/498](#), which aims to strengthen Guinea's phytosanitary system; (ii) project STDF/PG/567², which will help to establish and maintain fruit production areas free and under low prevalence of fruit fly pests between South Africa and Mozambique; and (iii) project STDF/PG/634³, aiming to implement a regional approach on pesticide residue mitigation in Asia through the promotion of biopesticides.

8.3. The figure below shows that since the inception of the STDF, **25%** of the projects and PPGs have addressed plant health issues.

² The project page will be available on the STDF website in the coming weeks.

³ The project page will be available on the STDF website in the coming weeks.

STDF Projects and PPGs (number of projects)



8.4. The STDF encourages applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from NPPOs. 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 2020**.

RECOMMENDED STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN SEEKING PG OR PPG FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE STDF:

1. Browse the webpages for information (aims, eligibility criteria, etc.) on:

- PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-preparation-grants>
- PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-grants>

2. View examples of previous projects:

- a. PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>
- b. PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>

3. Carefully read the guidance note for applicants:

http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.pdf

4. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.

5. Send a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

6. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline:

- a. PPGs: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PPGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc
- b. PGs: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc

8.5. **Table 1** provides an overview of ongoing STDF projects addressing plant health and trade issues. Further information on these projects, the STDF, other activities, application forms and eligibility criteria can be found on the STDF website.

9 EVALUATION OF PCE FACILITATORS PROJECT

9.1. An independent ex-post evaluation of project ([STDF/PG/401](#)) entitled "Developing a Network of PCE Facilitators" will be contracted and conducted in the coming months. The project, implemented by the IPPC Secretariat, aimed to select and train experts on the PCE, develop a pool of validated PCE facilitators, and enhance capacity to evaluate national phytosanitary capacity. The evaluation will provide an independent assessment of the project's performance, and point out key lessons and recommendations.

Table 1: Ongoing relevant STDF projects

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF Contribution (US\$)	Total Project Value (US\$)
STDF/PG/432: Strengthening information systems for pest surveillance and reporting in <u>Asia Pacific</u>	<p>Enhance and promote good practice in the efficient capture, management and reporting of information from pest surveillance in the Asia/Pacific region. Implementation of the project by Australia's Department of Agriculture began in December 2016. The project was granted a 12-month no-cost extension in October 2019</p> <p>Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam are participating in the project through STDF support. Singapore and Myanmar are participating with external resources.</p> <p>More information available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-432</p>	997,595	1,705,455
STDF/PG/498: Strengthening of the phytosanitary system in <u>Guinea</u>	<p>Build phytosanitary capacity in Guinea, based on recommendations arising from a PCE and consultations held with national stakeholders. The project aims to improve the: (i) legislative and regulatory framework for phytosanitary controls; (ii) technical and operational capacity of the NPPO to implement a risk-based phytosanitary inspection and certification system; and (iii) capacity of operators in priority sectors to apply good practice. Implementation of the project by COLEACP began in October 2019.</p> <p>More information available at: https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-498</p>	559,491	847,959
STDF/PG/503: Rolling out a systems approach globally in <u>developing countries</u>	<p>Expand opportunities for developing countries to participate fully in the trade of plant products by enhancing competency and confidence in applying Systems Approach through the use of innovative decision support tools (ISPM 14). The project started in July 2018 and is implemented by the IPPC Secretariat.</p> <p>More information available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-503</p>	568,966	771,186
STDF/PG/504: An ePhyto Solution: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products	<p>Improve capacity of developing countries to facilitate safe, secure and efficient trade in plants and plant products through the establishment of a global framework for electronic phytosanitary certification. Implementation of the project by the IPPC Secretariat began in December 2016. The project was granted a 3-month extension until March 2020.</p>	1,120,000	1,728,000

through innovation in <u>developing countries</u>	More information available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504		
STDF/PG/567: Establishment and maintenance of fruit production areas free and under low prevalence of fruit fly pests in <u>Southern Africa</u>	<p>Establish and develop a framework for the maintenance of areas free and under low prevalence of fruit fly pests in South Africa and Mozambique. The project will maintain/improve market access, revenues and employment in these countries concerning export fruit markets where targeted fruit fly pests constitute risks. The project will start in April 2020 and will be implemented by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), in partnership with a range of other public and private sector organizations.</p> <p>Information on the project will become available on the STDF website in the coming weeks.</p>	721,584	2,893,259
STDF/PG/634: <u>Asia</u> Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the Promotion of Biopesticides and Enhancement of Trade Opportunities.	<p>Increase awareness of how pesticide residue issues impact on trade and develop methods for overcoming these trade barriers, as well as help mitigating conventional pesticide residues by incorporating biopesticides into national Integrated Pest Management Programs (IPM) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for specific crops. The project will promote the use of biopesticides by reducing residues of synthetic pesticides, which in turn will improve market access for Asian specialty crops. The project will start in March 2020 and will be implemented by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), together with the IR-4 Project of Rutgers University.</p> <p>Information of the project will become available on the STDF website in the coming weeks.</p>	899,586	1,269,603