

March 2013



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
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Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Eighth Session
Rome, 8 - 12 April 2013
STDF Overview
Agenda item 12.2.2
Prepared by the Standards and Trade Development Facility

I. Introduction

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets. In doing so, it contributes to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries. The STDF helps in increasing awareness, mobilizing additional resources, strengthening collaboration and identifying and disseminating good practice to enhance the effectiveness of SPS-related technical cooperation. The STDF also provides support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements.
2. The STDF is a global partnership 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 contributing to the STDF and developing country experts participate actively in the Facility's work. The STDF is managed and housed by the WTO.
3. This document provides an overview of relevant STDF activities since March 2012 (i.e. when CPM-7 was held). It also highlights activities that the STDF plans to implement in 2013, in accordance with its 2013 Work Plan, and provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPG) in the plant health area.
4. Delegates who would like are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/ContactUs.htm>) to receive information on SPS-related technical co-operation. The STDF regularly issues an electronic newsletter which contains an overview of major developments in SPS capacity building, including activities of the STDF and its partners.

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II. ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

A. International Trade and Invasive Alien Species

5. On 12-13 July 2012 the STDF organized a seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Geneva, on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee meeting, in close collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat and the OIE. The seminar, attended by 110 participants from the SPS and biodiversity "communities" offered a unique opportunity to consider the mutually supportive objectives of the SPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The STDF is currently finalizing and will shortly publish a desk study that was prepared for and presented at the seminar.

6. The main objectives of STDF's work in this area are to: (i) provide a common understanding of the concepts and principles used in the CBD, the SPS Agreement and related instruments with regard to IAS in the context of international trade; and (ii) highlight the effective contributions that can be made by effective SPS systems in preventing the entry and control of IAS. In doing so, this work aims to foster increased and better collaboration between the SPS and the CBD "communities" at both regional and national levels. More information on the seminar, including the presentations, an STDF briefing note highlighting the main findings and conclusions of the seminar, as well as other relevant documentation, is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>).

B. Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)

7. Work continued on the application of Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) to inform decision-making on SPS capacity building and resource allocation. The purpose of the MCDA framework is to improve the effectiveness of decisions on where to allocate public, private and/or donor resources aimed at enhancing SPS capacity. As such, the tool can help to: (i) enhance the economic efficiency of SPS resource allocation decisions so that scarce resources are allocated in a manner that best meets a country's economic development, poverty alleviation, public health and/or other objectives; (ii) promote more transparent and accountable choices between multiple investment options; and (iii) facilitate dialogue and coordination among public and private sector stakeholders with an interest in SPS and encourage more inclusive decision-making processes.

8. In 2012, the MCDA tool was applied in Viet Nam with STDF support. The STDF also organized a successful regional MCDA training workshop for selected mid- to high-level officials in food safety, animal and/or plant health and trade from Asian and Pacific countries in Bangkok from 12-13 November 2012. The objectives of the workshop were to present the MCDA approach, share practical experiences from countries where it had been used, and equip SPS experts from the region with knowledge and skills to apply this approach.

9. Building on the STDF-facilitated MCDA work in Africa in 2011, the governments in Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda, in collaboration with COMESA and/or USDA/USAID, applied MCDA in 2012 and 2013 to prioritize SPS capacity building options. The MCDA framework was also used by the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), in collaboration with public and private sector stakeholders, under an STDF project from May to September 2012.

10. The STDF is planning the organization of an MCDA workshop on 24-25 June 2013 in Geneva for its partners, including the IPPC Secretariat, and participants from the countries where the tool has been applied to: (i) review work to date on the use of MCDA to prioritize SPS capacity building options; (ii) discuss options to improve and refine the MCDA tool and its practical application; and (iii) make recommendations to guide future work on MCDA.

11. More information on the MCDA tool, including previous STDF events and publications, can be found on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAEcoAnalysis.htm>).

C. SPS Coordination and Capacity Building in Africa

12. The African Union Commission (AUC) and the STDF jointly organized a meeting on 28 September 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss issues related to regional SPS coordination and

capacity building in Africa. The specific objective was to reflect and agree on how to implement the recommendations of the 2010 STDF study titled "Regional SPS Frameworks and Strategies in Africa" and other relevant meetings, notably in relation to the role and function of the AUC, its technical offices and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in adding value to SPS coordination and capacity building initiatives. This one-day meeting was held on the margins of the WTO Regional SPS Workshop for English-speaking Africa (24-27 September 2012).

13. The meeting was attended by approximately 25 officials from the AUC and its technical agencies, RECs and relevant international organizations (including Codex, IPPC, and OIE). Participants from the AU and RECs agreed that the AUC should take the lead in draft preliminary terms of reference for a continental SPS working group. One main task of this group would be mainstream SPS issues into CAADP implementation and other relevant initiatives, such as in relation to Aid for Trade. The STDF will continue to offer advice and support to the process and assist the AUC in any further efforts in this area upon request.

D. Public-Private Partnerships To Build SPS Capacity

14. In April last year, the STDF released the joint STDF/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) publication "Public-Private Partnerships to enhance SPS capacity: What can we learn from this collaborative approach?". The paper analyses the emergence, operation and performance of selected SPS-related partnerships between government agencies responsible for food safety, animal and plant health and/or trade and the private sector. The paper raises awareness about the potential value and role of PPPs in enhancing SPS capacity and to provide practical guidance to facilitate and promote PPPs for SPS capacity development. It is available on the STDF website (http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Publications/STDF_PublicPrivatePartnerships_EN.pdf).

E. STDF Virtual Library

15. In November 2012, the STDF launched the STDF Virtual Library, a central repository of SPS capacity building documentation. The system currently contains around 800 publicly available documents, including project documents and end reports, project evaluations, SPS capacity assessments, training materials, cost benefit analysis studies, and research papers and articles, from various publishers and sources in English, French and/or Spanish, as available. The library allows the STDF Secretariat to: (i) better manage and share large amounts of documentation in its possession; (ii) inform and assist beneficiaries, international organizations and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of SPS capacity building initiatives; and (iii) further facilitate the dissemination of relevant experiences and good practices. The library is accessible from the STDF website, and at the following web address: <http://www.stdfvirtuallibrary.org>.

16. Delegates are encouraged to share relevant SPS technical cooperation and capacity building documents with the STDF Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) for possible inclusion in the library.

F. SPS and Trade Facilitation

17. The growing spotlight on trade facilitation is focusing additional attention on SPS measures, how they are applied to imports, exports and transit goods, and the extent to which, if any, these measures unnecessarily increase the cost (including time) of doing business. Trade transactions costs are estimated to be generally higher for agricultural and food products, fish, forest and wood products linked to additional procedures related to SPS controls (OECD, 2003). While the implementation of SPS measures for imports, exports and goods in transit, both at the border and behind the border, may understandably result in some trade transaction costs, which are justified by the need to ensure health protection, the SPS Agreement requires that they should not be higher than necessary.

18. Based on discussions in the STDF Working Group, the work in 2013 will analyse the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation, defined as the simplification, harmonisation, standardisation and modernisation of trade procedures (Grainger, 2008). This work will encompass regional research in selected countries and sub-regions in Africa, Latin America and Asia to review and analyse the implementation of SPS measures, procedures and processes in the

context of trade facilitation. The purpose will be to: (i) identify experiences and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that ensures the appropriate level of health protection, while minimizing trade transaction costs; and (ii) develop recommendations to strengthen future work and technical cooperation focused on SPS and trade facilitation

19. Delegates are encouraged to share information with the STDF Secretariat on their experiences in the area of SPS and Trade Facilitation (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

III. Project development

20. The STDF acts as a helpdesk on SPS project development and funds project preparation grants (PPGs) to assist beneficiaries in the articulation of their SPS needs and the development of technically sound and sustainable project proposals. Funds up to US\$50,000 are 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 in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by the STDF or other donors.

21. A total of 53 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. The following PPGs addressing plant health issues are currently being implemented:

- STDF/PPG/377: Comprehensive Assessment and Development of a Project Proposal to Strengthen the National Plant Protection System in the Gambia.
- STDF/PPG/400: Capacity building for aflatoxin management and control in groundnuts in Malawi.

22. 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 available in English on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIntegratedFramework.htm>).

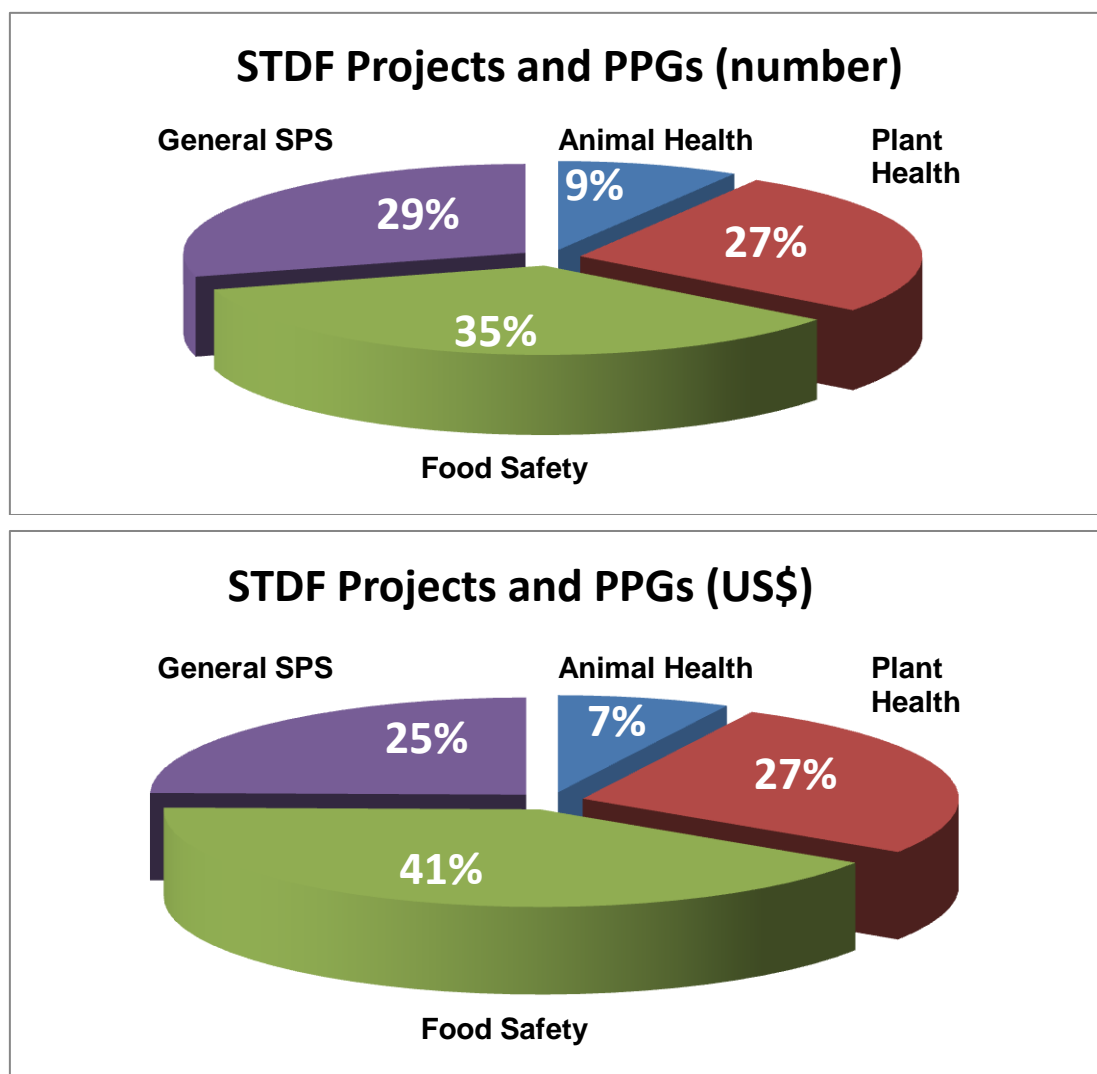
IV. Project funding

23. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1 million is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given by the STDF Working Group 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.

24. 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.

25. To date, a total of 63 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 27 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address plant health issues, corresponding to 27 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding.

Figure 1 and Figure 2



26. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) are being encouraged. Proposals can be made at any time in the year. The next deadline for the receipt of applications is 19 July 2013. The Working Group will meet in October 2013 to consider these funding requests.

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.

27. Table 1 provides an overview of the STDF projects addressing plant health issues and projects of general SPS interest. Further information on the STDF, its activities, application forms, eligibility criteria and information on projects 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/284: Strengthening the National SPS Committee of Honduras	Strengthen the national SPS Committee of Honduras, further support the implementation of the national SPS Agenda (developed by the Committee) and consolidate and develop institutional SPS capacities. Implementation by OIRSA started in July 2010.	257,580
STDF/PG/302: Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal	Increase the production of cabbage and exports to the sub-region by controlling the spread and impact of two specific pests and assisting producers in meeting the Maximum Residue Limit established by Codex. Implementation by Senegal's Horticulture Union of the Niayes region (AUMN) started in February 2012.	577,142
STDF/PG/328: Beyond Compliance - Integrated Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management in Southeast Asia	Develop and test new decision-support tools focused on an integrated Systems Approach for pest risk management in the Southeast Asian sub-region (support implementation of ISPM No. 14). Implementation by CABI Southeast Asia started in July 2011.	600,000
STDF/PG/329: Enhancing Sanitary and Phytosanitary capacity of Nepalese ginger exports through Public Private	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	412,629

Partnerships	June 2012. This project is co-funded with the EIF.	
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 Manuals, 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.	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 will be implemented by the IPPC and monitored by the Capacity Development Committee (CDC). The start date is to be confirmed.	625,148