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Written reports from relevant international organizations - Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Overview

Agenda item 14.2

Prepared by the STDF Secretariat

English only

STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-12

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. More specifically, the STDF raises awareness on the importance of enhancing SPS capacity and strengthens collaboration between providers of SPS assistance. The STDF also provides support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS standards and requirements.

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), which houses and manages the STDF Secretariat and Trust Fund. 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-11. 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. Delegates who would like 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 ELECTRONIC SPS CERTIFICATION

2.1. On 28 June 2016, the STDF held a seminar on electronic SPS certification, which brought together over 150 participants from WTO Members, international organizations and global business. Participants shared the latest knowledge and good practice on automated systems operating worldwide and their impact on facilitating trade by cutting time and costs, while simultaneously improving health protection. Electronic SPS certification can contribute to faster movement of food and agricultural products and to reduced transaction costs. It can do this through improving compliance with regulations and policies, reducing errors and fraud, supporting risk management and enhancing trust among partners. Processes, institutions and legislation must be in place to support the transition from paper-based to electronic certification systems.

2.2. On the margins of the seminar, the IPPC Secretariat organized a well-attended business dialogue session which provided an opportunity for industry and regulators to discuss the needs and challenges associated with implementation of paperless trade procedures. A podcast and the presentations of the seminar, including the IPPC session, are available on the STDF website.¹ A short background paper will be issued in the upcoming weeks to provide an overview of electronic systems currently available in the areas of food safety, animal and plant health.

2.3. The Sixth Global Review of Aid for Trade will be held at the WTO from 11 July to 13 July 2017 and is themed: "Promoting Connectivity". An STDF side-event on E-cert is planned during the Global Review. The objective of this event will be to have an informed dialogue on the implementation of SPS e-cert. It will aim to further identify good practices and consider challenges and opportunities in supporting the smooth transition of developing countries from paper-based to automated SPS controls systems.

2.4. The STDF also supports the E-phyto project, implemented by FAO/IPPC, which seeks to improve the capacity of developing countries to facilitate safe, secure and efficient trade in plants and plant products through the establishment of a self-sustaining global framework for electronic phytosanitary certification.²

¹ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert>

² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504> and Annex

3 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS

3.1. In 2016, the STDF published the user guide "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA): A framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes". An information session on P-IMA was organized for SPS delegates on the margins of the SPS Committee in March 2016, which generated a lot of interest. To date, this framework has been used to prioritize SPS investment options in ten developing countries that differ considerably in the scale and diversity of their food and agricultural exports, and the range and magnitude of SPS capacity-building needs.³ The experiences highlight several benefits, 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 resources.

3.2. The P-IMA user guide, as well as a short briefing note, is available for download on the STDF website.⁴ Delegates from developing countries who would like to have more information on how to use and benefit from the P-IMA framework are encouraged to contact the STDF Secretariat.

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

4.1. The STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat⁵ have undertaken a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in EIF Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS)⁶ and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation. The study highlights good practice 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 recommendations to make better use of relevant SPS-related capacity evaluation tools (such as the PCE tool) and to consider ways to actively engage SPS agencies and ministries at national level as well as international organizations (such as FAO) in the DTIS process. An EIF/STDF briefing note, highlighting the scope, findings and recommendations of this joint work is available on the EIF and STDF websites.⁷ The study will be available shortly on the EIF and STDF websites.

5 STDF BRIEFING NOTES

5.1. As part of its role to share available know-how and SPS-related good practice, the STDF has published two briefing notes:

- a. The note entitled "Inclusive Trade Solutions: women in SPS capacity building"⁸ looks at how STDF's global partnership is working to build women's capacity on SPS issues through its knowledge hub and grassroots projects. STDF projects are helping women working in agricultural value chains to overcome obstacles by plugging the knowledge gap on SPS issues and accessing domestic and export markets. Results of these projects, including in the area of plant health, featured extensively at the International Women's Day held at the WTO on 8 March 2017.
- b. "Partnering with the private sector: delivering SPS outcomes"⁹ examines how STDF projects are improving the private sector's capacity to implement SPS measures and take advantage of trade opportunities. A broad spectrum of STDF projects contribute to private sector development, which plays a key role in commercializing agriculture, generating economic growth and creating employment.

³ Belize, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia.

⁴ See <http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

⁵ 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>.

⁶ The DTIS is the 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.

⁷ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_no12_EN.pdf.

⁸ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/women-sps-capacity>

⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/partnering-private-sector>

5.2. A new STDF project results series entitled "Driving SPS capacity, delivering results" highlights the results and impact of various STDF projects on the ground in Africa, Asia and Latin America.¹⁰

6 STDF FILM "COCOA: A SWEET VALUE CHAIN"

6.1. The STDF has produced a new film entitled "Cocoa: a sweet value chain".¹¹ The film follows the journey of the cocoa bean from a tropical plantation to one of the world's most loved products, chocolate. The film highlights how in today's global value chain, SPS capacity helps to make sure that cocoa plants are free from pests and diseases and that chocolate is safe for consumers. Moreover, the film draws attention to the various actors who play a role in keeping the cocoa value chain safe, from small-holder farmers to chocolate manufacturers in Europe and elsewhere.

7 STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

7.1. The STDF Virtual Library¹² 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).¹³

8 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

8.1. 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.

8.2. A total of **81 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. The following PPGs addressing plant health and trade were approved in 2016:

- STDF/PPG/543: Enhancing the capacity of the fruits and vegetable sector in Uganda to comply with European phytosanitary requirements.
- STDF/PPG/548: Strengthening SPS capacity in Lao PDR to support market access of fresh fruit and vegetable produce to the EU and other potential markets.
- STDF/PPG/561: Strengthening phytosanitary capacity and increasing market access in Tajikistan.
- STDF/PPG/567: Establishment and maintenance of fruit production areas free and under low prevalence of fruit fly pests in Southern Africa.

9 PROJECT FUNDING

9.1. Project grant financing is also available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and dissemination 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.

¹⁰ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-results-series>

¹¹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/video-gallery>

¹² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>

¹³ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PG-350>

9.2. 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.

9.3. A total of **76 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 31 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding.

Figure 1

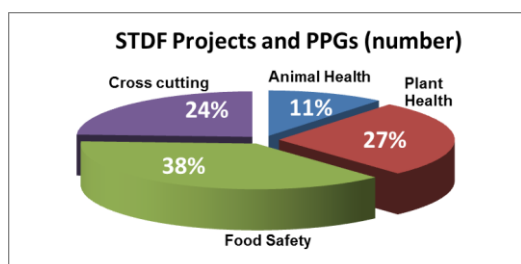
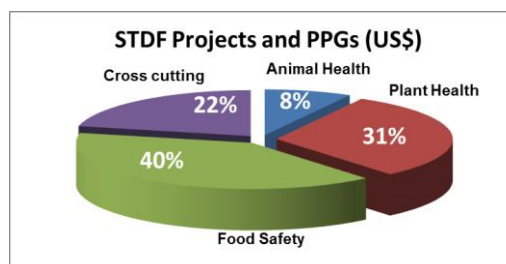


Figure 2



9.4. 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 **4 August 2017**.

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.

9.5. Table 1 provides an overview of ongoing STDF projects addressing plant health and trade issues. 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/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/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. Implementation of the project by Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources began in December 2016.	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 has been carried out in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique. The project started in February 2015 and is implemented by the Institute of Social Studies (The Netherlands). A side session on this project will be organized during CPM-12.	278,870
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 Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).	1,084,270
STDF/PG/504: An ePhyto Solution: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products through innovation	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. Implementation of the project by FAO/IPPC began in December 2016.	1,000,000