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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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**Written reports from relevant international organizations - Report by the
STDF Secretariat**

Agenda item 14.3

Prepared by the STDF Secretariat

STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-13

1 OVERVIEW

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) supports developing countries to implement international food safety, animal and plant health standards and gain and maintain access to markets. The STDF is a global coordination and knowledge platform. It identifies and disseminates good practise, leverages resources and works on coordinated, coherent solutions to enhance SPS capacity building. In addition, the STDF provides support and funding for the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative SPS projects.

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) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), which houses and manages the STDF Secretariat and Trust Fund. Many other international and regional organizations involved in SPS capacity building, donors contributing to the STDF trust fund and developing country experts participate actively in STDF's work. This includes the IPPC and Codex Secretariats.

1.3. This document provides a brief update on STDF's activities and projects since CPM-12. 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.

2 STDF RESULTS BOOK LAUNCHED

2.1. The STDF regularly prepares and issues project results stories, highlighting the results and impacts of STDF projects worldwide in Africa, Asia and Latin America.¹ The STDF recently completed a book, which highlights the results and impacts of a wide range of STDF projects that have been implemented over the last decade in the areas of food safety, animal and plant health and trade. The results book is available on the STDF website.²

2.2. As part of its role to share available know-how and SPS-related good practice, the STDF regularly issues briefing notes on issues of interest. In 2017, briefing notes were issued on: (i) how STDF projects are improving the private sector's capacity to implement SPS measures and take advantage of trade opportunities³; (ii) SPS e-cert⁴; and (iii) SPS capacity evaluation tools in action, including the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool.⁵

2.3. STDF's YouTube channel⁶ includes links to all STDF films such as "Safe Trade Solutions" and "Cocoa: a sweet value chain". It now also includes links to many other relevant SPS film material including "Knowledge solutions on how safe wood packaging supports trade". This film shows how the STDF supported four African countries in identifying solutions to improve compliance with the international wood packaging standard (ISPM 15).⁷

2.4. Delegates are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>) to receive regular updates on the STDF.

3 GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE

3.1. The STDF carried out a survey to analyse how Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) can be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures in developing countries, in order to ensure health protection and facilitate safe trade. In developing the survey, it received valuable input from the IPPC Secretariat. The purpose was to gather information on if and how SPS agencies in

¹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-results-series>.

² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/driving-safe-trade-solutions-worldwide>.

³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/partnering-private-sector>.

⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/going-paperless-sps-e-certification>.

⁵ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_14.pdf.

⁶ See: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3ZaHQUne0GAELWjcxwFwkq>.

⁷ See for more information on the project: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-460>.

developing countries are applying GRPs to strengthen the development, implementation and review of SPS measures.

3.2. The STDF Secretariat received 118 responses to the survey from officials of government ministries/agencies/departments responsible for food safety, animal and plant health in 64 countries/territories. Preliminary results show that GRPs (e.g. public consultations, use of international standards, etc.) are being used by some countries to support the development of SPS measures, albeit with slightly more focus on assessing the risks to health, rather than the expected trade impacts. Responses also suggest that less attention is given to reviewing or evaluating whether existing SPS measures are achieving the intended objectives.

3.3. The STDF will continue work on this topic. This will include a desk study to research and compile a collection of case stories describing experiences, results and lessons related to the use of GRP, as well as development of a practical checklist. National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in developing countries are encouraged to share case stories for inclusion in the study. More information will shortly be available on the STDF website.⁸

4 TRANSITIONING FROM PAPER-BASED TO AUTOMATED SPS SYSTEMS

4.1. During the 6th Aid for Trade Global Review, on 12 July 2017, the STDF organized a high-level information session on the current state of play in SPS e-cert and more generally on the use of new technologies in the context of SPS compliance and trade. Over 250 participants attended the session. Presentations, as well as a briefing note, are available on the STDF website.⁹ Key points raised include:

- a. Paperless SPS systems can improve traceability throughout SPS supply chains, reduce food waste, reduce trade times and costs, reduce fraudulent certificates, and build trust among trading partners;
- b. E-cert can reduce certification times from 15 days to 4 hours; Codex, IPPC and OIE are creating guidelines, platforms and capacity building tools to facilitate e-cert, complementing the modernising reforms encouraged by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- c. Certain conditions must be in place to enable full digitisation across all agencies; public and private sectors must leverage existing solutions to improve data transfer and information exchange; financing models need to be made available to developing countries to support the effective transition to automated SPS systems.

4.2. 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.¹⁰

5 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS

5.1. STDF's user guide "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA): A framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes" was published in 2016. To date, the framework has been used to prioritize SPS investment options in several 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. 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.

5.2. In 2017, the STDF Working Group approved a request from Madagascar to apply the P-IMA framework and prioritize SPS investment needs in key value chains with export potential. The Working Group also approved a request from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to utilize the P-IMA framework in helping selected COMESA member states to prioritize and mainstream SPS investments into sector investments plans for agriculture, trade, climate

⁸ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/good-regulatory-practice>.

⁹ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/A4T_Review_2017.

¹⁰ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504> and Annex.

change and the environment. This would include the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP).

5.3. The P-IMA framework is currently being used by the State Service on Phytosanitary Inspection and Plant Quarantine in the Ministry of Agriculture in Tajikistan to prioritize phytosanitary investment options for market access under an STDF Project Preparation Grant implemented by FAO in 2018 (STDF/PPG/561).

5.4. The P-IMA user guide, as well as a short briefing note, is available for download on the STDF website. Delegates 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.

6 STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

6.1. The STDF Virtual Library¹¹ 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. 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).¹²

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 **90 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. The following PPGs addressing plant health and trade were approved since CPM-12:

- STDF/PPG/498: Building phytosanitary capacity to facilitate trade in Guinea.
- STDF/PPG/626: Digitalizing pest surveillance, reporting and seed certification in Nigeria.

8 PROJECT FUNDING

8.1. 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.

8.2. 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.

8.3. A total of **87 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. In March 2018, the STDF Working Group approved a project that will benefit Togo in strengthening its SPS control and certification system for the fruit and vegetable sector. In addition, the following projects focusing on plant health were completed in 2017:

- STDF/PG/401: Training of PCE Facilitators¹³

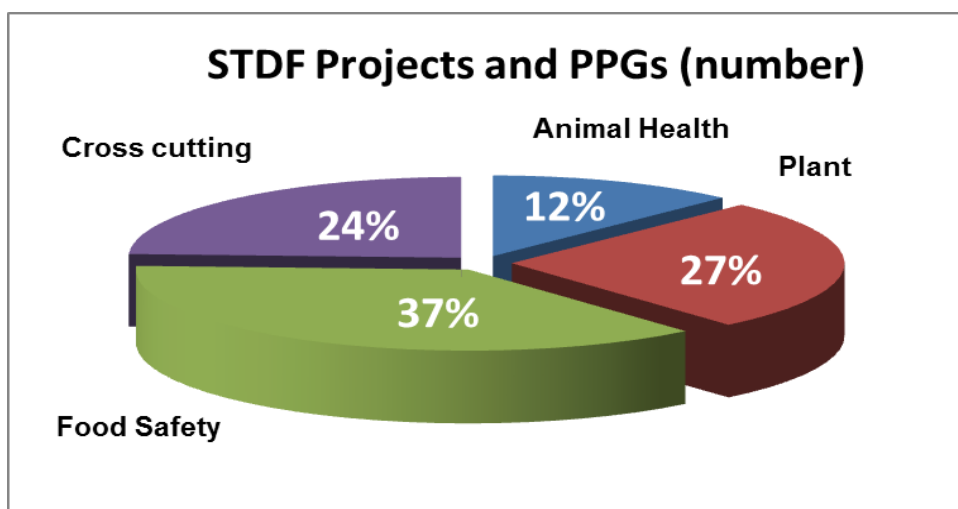
¹¹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>.

¹² See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PG-350>.

¹³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-401>.

- STDF/PG/460: Knowledge solutions on how safe wood packaging supports trade in Africa¹⁴

8.4. The figure below **illustrates** that since the inception of the STDF, 27 per cent of the projects and PPGs have addressed plant health issues.



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 **10 August 2018**.

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:

- PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>
- 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:

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

8.6. 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.

¹⁴See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-460>.

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>	<p>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.</p> <p>More information available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-316</p>	1,000,000
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 and Water Resources began in December 2016.</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 from non- STDF funding.</p> <p>More information available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-432</p>	997,595
STDF/PG/502: Regional Strengthening for the Implementation of Phytosanitary Measures and Market Access in <u>COSAVE</u> member countries	<p>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).</p> <p>More information available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-502</p>	1,084,270
STDF/PG/504: An ePhyto Solution: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products through innovation	<p>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.</p> <p>More information available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504</p>	1,000,000