



联合国
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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des 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

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fourteenth Session

Rome, 1-5 April 2019

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

Agenda item 14.3

Prepared by the STDF Secretariat

English, French and Spanish only



STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-14

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-13 (2018). 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.

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

2 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

2.1. The STDF has on-going work on the implementation of standards through public-private partnerships (PPPs). In March 2018,¹ the concept note on PPPs was updated to outline planning for new STDF work on PPPs, with the overall aim of building on, updating and complementing previous work by the STDF and its partners.

2.2. The planned activities will involve: (i) an informal survey/consultation of WTO Members and Codex Contact Points on how they are making use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes; (ii) an STDF event, as part of the STDF Working Group meeting, or a broader event; and (iii) updating the joint 2012 STDF Inter-American Development Bank publication² on PPPs with additional examples/case stories.

2.3. The STDF also calls on its partners to identify and disseminate new case stories of SPS-related PPPs and their role in supporting implementation of international standards and building SPS capacity. The findings are expected to be shared with the STDF Working Group in 2020, as well as at a larger (global or regional event). In addition, a new briefing note is expected to be finalised and published around the first quarter of 2020.

2.4. National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) are encouraged to provide ideas and examples of PPPs in the area of plant health to the STDF Secretariat.

3 GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE

3.1. The STDF contracted an external expert to work on a Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) study, which will document and analyse specific case stories and examples of the use of GRPs by developing countries, to identify relevant good practices, lessons and recommendations. It

¹ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/Concept_note_PPPs_revMar18.pdf

² See: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_PublicPrivatePartnerships_EN_1.pdf

will also develop a checklist on the use of GRP to enhance the development and implementation of SPS measures in developing countries, to ensure health protection and facilitate safe trade.

3.2. In developing the survey and study, the STDF received valuable input from the IPPC Secretariat. NPPOs in developing countries were encouraged to share case stories for inclusion in the study. A final draft of the GRP study is expected in the first half of 2019.

4 FACILITATING SAFE TRADE

4.1. The STDF published a new Briefing entitled "Facilitating safe trade: protecting health, reducing SPS trade costs" in July 2018.³ The briefing note highlights a number of opportunities where governments are implementing solutions in order to enable trade to flow more smoothly and quickly. In Azerbaijan,⁴ for example, an STDF-funded project, implemented by FAO, is building capacity for phytosanitary import and export controls, and helping to integrate these controls into a single window system. As a result, procedures for phytosanitary inspection at border points have been simplified, with customs officials trained alongside plant health inspectors to effectively carry out phytosanitary controls. A computerised system for import permits to regulate the entry of plants and plant products has also been rolled out, which is supporting efforts to move towards electronic certificates. This will promote efficiency, and reduce processing times.

5 BORDER AGENCY COOPERATION WORKSHOP, CAPE TOWN

5.1. The Border Agency Cooperation (BAC) workshop from 14-16 November 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa,⁵ initiated by the STDF, was a joint initiative of Codex, FAO, IPPC, OIE, STDF, UN Office of the High-Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), WCO and WBG and WTO (Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility and SPS units).

5.2. The purpose of the workshop was to: (i) help improve border agency cooperation at the national and regional levels, and in transit countries; (ii) raise awareness about the linkages between the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and SPS Agreement; and, (iii) explore ways in which coordinating border clearance processes can facilitate trade, while ensuring human, animal and plant health. Over 80 participants attended the BAC workshop including delegates from 13 African countries and representatives from NPPOs, Customs Authorities, National Food Safety Authorities, Ministries of Trade, National Trade Facilitation Committees, and Transit Authorities.

5.3. A workshop in Saint Lucia entitled "The WTO TFA: Supporting Strategic and Effective Implementation in CARICOM⁶" was organized on 28 January – 1 February 2019. This workshop also highlighted linkages between the TFA and SPS Agreements and saw the participation of SPS authorities, along with custom authorities.

6 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS (P-IMA)

6.1. STDF's P-IMA framework⁷ is an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making, including on resource allocation. It links SPS investments to policy goals including export growth, agricultural productivity and poverty reduction. In the process, P-IMA encourages public-private dialogue, boosts transparency and accountability, and improves the economic efficiency of investment decisions. A new STDF Briefing highlights the benefits of P-IMA and how to use it.⁸

6.2. The P-IMA framework was used by the State Service on Phytosanitary Inspection and Plant Quarantine in the Ministry of Agriculture in Tajikistan to prioritize phytosanitary

³ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/Briefing_Facilitating_safe_trade.pdf

⁴ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PG-316>

⁵ See: <http://www.tfafacility.org/workshops>

⁶ Caribbean Community

⁷ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>

⁸ See: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PIMA_Briefing_2019.pdf

investment options for market access under an STDF Project Preparation Grant (PPG) implemented by FAO in 2018.⁹

7 EX-POST EVALUATION OF PROJECT STDF/PG/350

7.1. An independent ex-post evaluation of the STDF Project "Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits"¹⁰ was recently completed. The project, implemented by the IPPC, developed technical resources with the aim of improving the implementation of International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) by NPPOs in developing countries.

7.2. The evaluation report provides an independent assessment of the project's performance based on a detailed review and analysis of the project's reports, interviews and surveys. It highlights key lessons across project design, implementation and management. It also formulates recommendations to the IPPC Secretariat and the Implementation Committee as well as to the STDF Secretariat and the wider donor community. The report will be available on STDF website in the coming weeks.¹¹

8 STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

8.1. 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. 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.

9 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

9.1. 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.

9.2. A total of **93 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. A new PPG related to plant health (STDF/PPG/634: Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the promotion of biopesticides)¹³ addressing the use of biopesticides to reduce pesticide residues and facilitate trade was approved since CPM-13.

10 PROJECT FUNDING

10.1. 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.

10.2. 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.

10.3. The STDF is currently supporting IPPC's efforts to improve export opportunities of plant products in developing countries through better capacity to deal with phytosanitary issues

⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-561>

¹⁰ See: <http://standardsfacility.org/PG-350>

¹¹ See: idem

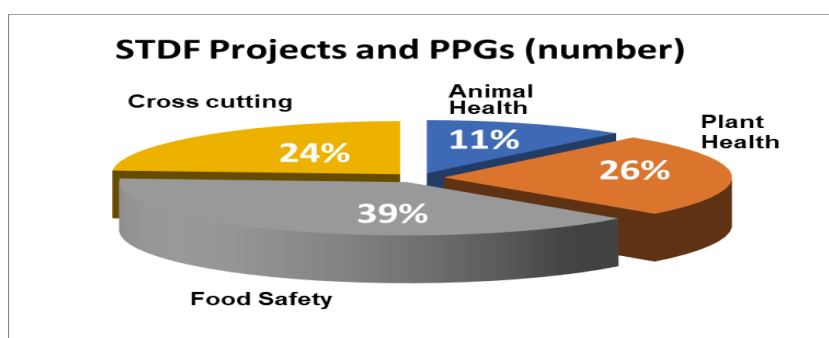
¹² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>

¹³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-634>

during market access negotiations and more options for managing pest risks. Specifically, this project¹⁴ will enhance competency and confidence in using a Systems Approach in pest management¹⁵ through the use of innovative tools. The application of these tools will contribute to the development of trade proposals, enhancement of market negotiations, mapping out of phytosanitary risks and actions to be undertaken along the production chains to ensure high quality production of plant products and identification of the most feasible and efficient pest management options and the strengthening of collaboration on national levels among the stakeholders involved in international trade.

10.4. A total of **91 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. In October 2018, the STDF Working Group approved a project that will enhance the capacity of Uganda's fruit and vegetable sector to comply with phytosanitary requirements for export to the European Union, and other regional markets.¹⁶ In 2018, a project focused on plant health in Azerbaijan was completed.¹⁷

10.5. The figure below illustrates that since the inception of the STDF, **26 per cent** of the projects and PPGs have addressed plant health issues.



10.6. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from 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 2019**.

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

¹⁴ See: www.standardsfacility.org/PG-503

¹⁵ ISPM no. 14 (The use of Integrated Measures in a Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management)

¹⁶ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-543>

¹⁷ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-316>

b. PGs: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc

10.7. **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/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 being 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/503: Rolling out a systems approach globally in <u>developing countries</u> | <p>Expanding market opportunities for developing countries in order 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. The project started in July 2018 and is being implemented by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).</p> <p>More information available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-503</p> | 568,966 |
| STDF/PG/504: An ePhyto Solution: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products through innovation in <u>developing countries</u> | <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 |