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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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

Agenda item 16.2

Prepared by STDF Secretariat

English and French only

STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-16

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 and helps imports and exports to meet sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements for trade, based on international standards. STDF's work is guided by a five-year [Strategy \(2020-2024\)](#).

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 as core partners. The STDF 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-15. Table 1 provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) in the plant health area, many of which benefit from the involvement and technical guidance of the 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. STDF KNOWLEDGE WORK

2.1. 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

2.2. Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) are processes and tools to help improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures so that they protect human, animal, or plant life or health, without creating unnecessary barriers to trade. Using [GRPs](#) improves compliance with the WTO SPS Agreement, including greater alignment with international standards for food safety, animal and plant health.

2.3. In November 2021, the STDF launched a [GRP Guide](#), which offers a handbook to navigate and use GRPs when designing, developing, and reviewing SPS measures.¹ The Guide consolidates information on GRPs in the SPS context and provides practical guidance to SPS regulators in developing countries to ensure that SPS measures are "fit for purpose" and avoid creating non-tariff barriers. The Guide can also be used to support the development and/or implementation of capacity development projects at the national or regional level, supported by the STDF or other partners.

b) Prioritization of SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA)

2.4. STDF's [P-IMA framework](#) is an evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making, including on resource allocation. The framework has been applied in several developing countries through projects and PPGs. The framework involves plant health authorities and uses data collected from Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs), where possible. An STDF

¹ See the event's recording here: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-guide-good-regulatory-practices-improve-sps-measures>

[Briefing Note](#) provides a concise introduction to the P-IMA framework highlighting different country and regional experiences, and setting out the key benefits and outlining the steps in applying P-IMA.

2.5. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the STDF supported the fully remote application of P-IMA. The first virtual training took place in the [Caribbean region](#), under an STDF project preparation grant (PPG), which started in May 2021. In addition, a joint STDF/EIF/COMESA/AGRA webinar was organized in August 2021 to share the results of P-IMA's application in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, under an STDF/EIF supported project.² At present, P-IMA work is ongoing in the Caribbean region, Armenia, Ecuador and Ghana. The STDF holds frequent [P-IMA practitioner group meetings](#) to promote the use of P-IMA linked to other ongoing/planned work, encourage innovations and synergies, catalyse resources for SPS priority needs in various P-IMA reports, and exchange experiences and learning.

c) Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

2.6. In many countries, government authorities and the private sector are working together to address SPS challenges and improve outcomes. Many STDF projects promote public private collaboration, for instance within value chains, on electronic certification and on the use of voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes. The objective of STDF's [PPP work](#) is to raise awareness about the potential value and role of PPPs in enhancing SPS capacity, provide practical guidance to facilitate and promote PPPs, and identify lessons learned.

2.7. Two meetings of the [PPP Practitioner Group](#) were held in 2021, which included presentations by: (i) the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation on its work with the IPPC Secretariat and the private sector to support trade facilitation (April 2021); and (ii) FAO on its new private sector engagement strategy (September 2021).³ The STDF Secretariat is currently identifying and documenting new examples of SPS-related PPPs and will disseminate lessons, results and experiences in a new publication on PPPs in 2022. Five [case stories](#) are already available on the STDF website.

2.8. The Secretariat encourages CPM delegates and NPPOs to share PPP examples in the plant health area with the STDF Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

d) SPS electronic certification

2.9. 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 increasing the use of [electronic SPS certificates](#) (SPS e-cert) in the broader context of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which aims, inter alia, to simplify and streamline trade documents.

2.10. Two meetings of STDF's Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (ECAC) were held in 2021. They included presentations by: (i) Codex on new guidelines on paperless use of electronic food certificates; (ii) OECD on a new study on digital opportunities for SPS systems and the trade facilitation effects of SPS electronic certification. The OECD study noted a major increase in the use and the enormous benefits of the ePhyto Solution.⁴ The STDF organized a [webinar](#) on SPS eCert in September 2021 for countries across the Asia-Pacific region, together with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The webinar included a case study on the ePhyto Solution in Fiji.

e) Climate change

2.11. Climate change is one of several global change factors that are contributing to increased and new food safety, animal and plant risks. Since the launch of the STDF Strategy in 2020 several STDF members have raised climate change as a cross-cutting topic for future STDF work. Based on its

² See the event's recording here: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-investments-and-leveraging-resources-boost-agri-food-exports-comesa-region>

³ See meeting summaries, presentations and additional PPP resources here: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-public-private-partnerships-ppps-practitioner-group>

⁴ Information on meeting summaries, presentations and additional eCert resources is available here: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert>

[previous work](#) on climate change in collaboration with the World Bank, the STDF plans to organize a webinar on climate change and SPS risks in the first half of 2022. The event will be an opportunity for the IPPC Secretariat and other STDF partners to share recent work in this area with a broader trade and development audience. IPPC delegates will be invited to join this webinar and the ensuing discussion on future planned STDF work.

3 PPGS AND PROJECTS

a) Overview of PPGs

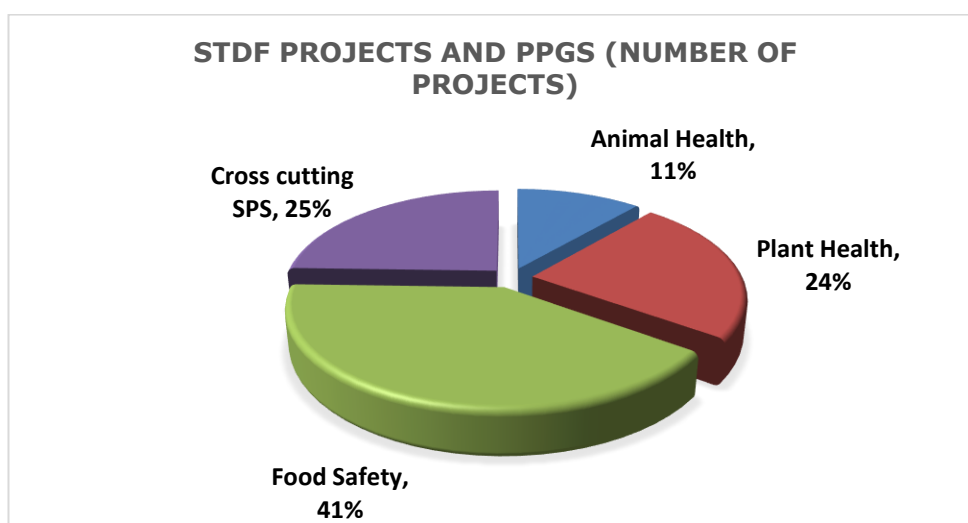
3.1. The STDF provides advice and support to beneficiaries on SPS project development. Project preparation grants (PPGs), normally up to US\$50,000, are available to help applicants articulate their SPS needs and develop technically sound and sustainable project proposals. PPGs can be requested to (i) 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.

3.2. A total of **117 PPGs** has been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. Two new PPGs related to plant health were approved in October 2021: (i) Addressing invasive quarantine pests of potato in East and Southern Africa (STDF/PPG/809); and (ii) Applying the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool in Nigeria (STDF/PPG/817).⁵

b) Overview of projects grants

3.3. The STDF also finances projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements. 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.

3.4. A total of **106 projects** has been approved for STDF funding since its inception. In 2021, the STDF approved a regional project aiming to strengthen the phytosanitary system (with a focus on the tomato, eggplant and chili value chains) in the Dominican Republic and Haiti (STDF/PG/751).⁶ Since the inception of the STDF, **24%** of the projects and PPGs have addressed plant health issues (see below):



⁵ Information on PPGs is available here: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>

⁶ Information on projects is available here: <https://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>

3.5. 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 deadlines for the submission of applications are **18 February 2022** (for consideration in June) and **12 August 2022** (for consideration in November).

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

1. **Browse the funding webpage for information (aims, eligibility criteria, etc.) on PPGs and PGs:**
2. <https://www.standardsfacility.org/funding> **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:**
https://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote2021_EN.docx
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: https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppg_application
 - PGs: https://wto.formstack.com/forms/pg_application

3.6. **Table 1** (below) 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.

c) Evaluations of STDF projects

3.7. The systematic and independent evaluation of STDF projects is one way in which information can be gathered and lessons can be learned about the relative effectiveness of different approaches to SPS capacity development. All STDF projects are subject to an independent end-of-project assessment, carried out at the completion of the project, by an external evaluator. In addition, the STDF Working Group selects projects for independent ex-post impact evaluations, which are normally carried out two to three years after their completion.

3.8. The STDF completed the ex-post evaluation of a project that strengthened the SPS system in Comoros ([STDF/PG/242](#)). The corresponding report is available on the STDF website. Work is underway to contract ex-post evaluations of the following projects: (i) "Rolling out phytosanitary measures to expand market access in the COSAVE region" ([STDF/PG/502](#)); and (ii) ePhyto ([STDF/PG/504](#)) and eVet ([STDF/PG/609](#)) as a joint evaluation.



Table 1: Ongoing relevant STDF projects and PPGs

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF Contribution (US\$)	Total Project Value (US\$)
STDF/PG/694: Enhancing trade through regulatory harmonization and biopesticide-based residue mitigation in the <u>SADC Region</u>	Address the problem of low export market access by some Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries, owing to the non-compliance with existing maximum residue limits (MRL). The project aims to combine the use of conventional pesticides with the use of microbial-based biopesticides to control key pests, within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy. The project started in March 2021 and is being implemented by International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). More information available at: https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-694	798,493	1,193,219
STDF/PG/567: Fruit Fly Free: Pest-free and low prevalence areas to support fruit production and exports in <u>Mozambique and South Africa</u>	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. Implementation of the project by Agricultural Research Council (ARC) - South Africa started in September 2020. More information available at: https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-567	721,584	2,893,259
STDF/PG/543: Enhancing the capacity of the fruit and vegetable sector to comply with phytosanitary requirements for export to global markets in <u>Uganda</u>	Improve market access to the EU, other high-end and regional markets for Ugandan fresh fruits and vegetables (FFVs). The key purpose is to improve Uganda's compliance with international phytosanitary standards for production and export of FFVs. Sustained incomes to FFV producers and their employees will contribute to economic growth, poverty reduction and food security in line with Uganda's development policy. The project started in February 2019 and is being implemented by CAB International (CABI). More information available at: https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-543	484,788	882,726
STDF/PG/498: Strengthening of the phytosanitary system in <u>Guinea</u>	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)	559,491	847,959



	<p>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>		
<p>STDF/PG/481: Strengthening phytosanitary capacity for plant exports in <u>Zambia</u></p>	<p>Improve Zambia's phytosanitary capacity and increase the confidence of its trading partners, especially SADC Member States, by complying with their phytosanitary requirements. This will contribute to the growth of plant and plant-product exports as well as strengthening the phytosanitary regulatory system. The project started in November 2018 and is implemented by the EIF National Implementation Unit (NIU), Zambia.</p> <p>More information available at: https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-481</p>	254,675	629,697
<p>STDF/PG/432: Strengthening information systems for pest surveillance and reporting in <u>Asia Pacific</u></p>	<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.</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
<p>STDF/PPG/768: Harmonizing the phytosanitary legislation framework in <u>Central Africa</u></p>	<p>Develop a project proposal whose objective will be to (i) apply the IPPC's Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool in six beneficiary countries to assess their overall phytosanitary system, including their needs in terms of updating their phytosanitary legislation; and (ii) to carry out a programme to harmonize the phytosanitary legislation at the sub-regional level. Implementation of the project by the international consultant began in October 2021.</p> <p>More information available at: https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-768</p>	50,000	50,000
<p>STDF/PPG/567: Maintenance of fruit production areas free and under low prevalence of fruit fly pests in <u>Southern Africa</u></p>	<p>Bring together the different stakeholders to assess the development of Pest Free Areas (PFA) and Areas of Low Pest Prevalence (ALPP). The main output of this PPG is a comprehensive project proposal to establish PFA and ALPP in selected parts of South Africa and Mozambique, tackling invasive and indigenous fruit fly pests in tropical, subtropical and temperate horticultural commodities. The project began in July 2017 and is implemented by the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA).</p> <p>More information available at: https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-567</p>	40,000	40,000



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STDF/PPG/498: Building phytosanitary capacity to facilitate trade in <u>Guinea</u>	Elaborate a project proposal based on the results of the IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool in order to improve the safety and quality of Guinean agricultural products, strengthen consumer health protection, and facilitate safe trade. Implementation of the project by the international consultant began in February 2018.	45,250	45,250
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