



## STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-17

### 1 OVERVIEW

1.1. This document provides a brief update on the activities and innovative projects of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) since CPM-16. Table 1 provides an overview of on-going STDF project and project preparation grants (PPGs) in the plant health area, many of which benefit from the involvement and technical guidance of the IPPC Secretariat. Delegates are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF Newsletter ([www.standardsfacility.org](http://www.standardsfacility.org)) and receive regular updates on the STDF.

1.2. The STDF promotes improved food safety, animal and plant health capacity in developing and least developed countries and helps imports and exports to meet sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements for trade, based on international standards. It operates as a funding mechanism and global platform for dialogue, learning and good practice on SPS capacity development, bringing together diverse stakeholders from across agriculture, health, trade and development. This work is guided by a five-year [Strategy \(2020-2024\)](#).

1.3. STDF's core founding partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the World Bank Group, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as the Codex and IPPC Secretariats. Ms Gillian Mylrea from WOAH is the chairperson of the STDF Working Group in 2023. Ms Sarah Brunel from the IPPC Secretariat will serve as vice-chairperson (and chairperson in 2024).

### 2 GOOD PRACTICE

2.1. The STDF identifies and promotes good practices across a range of cross-cutting thematic topics to improve SPS capacity development outcomes. This work draws on the input of all STDF partners, donor members and beneficiaries 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.

#### a) Good Regulatory Practice

2.2. Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) are processes and tools to help improve quality and effectiveness of SPS measures to protect human, animal, or plant life or health, without creating unnecessary barriers to trade. Using [GRPs](#), such as internal coordination of regulation, stakeholder engagement and regulatory impact assessments, improves compliance with the SPS Agreement, including greater alignment with international standards. The STDF launched a practical [GRP Guide](#), offering a handbook for using GRPs when designing, developing, and reviewing SPS measures to ensure that they are "fit for purpose". The Guide is also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

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

2.3. The [P-IMA framework](#) is an evidence-based approach to help inform and improve SPS planning and decision making, and mobilize public, private and/or donor resources for SPS investments, including to improve phytosanitary capacity. The framework is currently applied in several STDF and other projects, leading to additional investments in plant health. The STDF is currently conducting an external review of the P-IMA framework to assess how (and to what effect) it has delivered results and wider impacts.

#### c) Reducing SPS-related trade costs

2.4. The increasing attention on [trade facilitation](#) as a means to stimulate economic growth and competitiveness has generated a renewed focus 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 costs of doing business. Implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which

applies to all border agencies, is key in this regard. As part of this agenda, the STDF continues to promote and support the transition to paperless SPS systems in developing countries, including the use of [electronic SPS certificates](#) (SPS e-cert), to improve traceability in SPS supply chains, cut trade times and costs, reduce fraudulent certificates, and build trust among trading partners.

2.5. From 2016 to 2020, the STDF funded the [ePhyto project](#), implemented by the IPPC Secretariat. An external evaluation of this project is underway, assessing its results, impact and sustainability, and drawing key findings, recommendations and lessons relevant for future work in this area. The evaluation will also consider work on e-cert in the food safety and veterinary areas. The final report will be shared with the IPPC community in the first half of 2023.

2.6. In 2022, the NPPO from [Madagascar](#) briefed the WTO LDC Sub-committee on the benefits of ePhyto implementation. The STDF joined the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) and ePhyto was featured prominently at the [Vienna Food Safety Forum](#). The IOTA Foundation made a presentation on the [Trade Logistics Information Pipeline \(TLIP\) system](#), a tool to enhance transparency and data sharing between national authorities and third-party organizations through a decentralized approach to ensure data ownership. In future, this system may provide an alternative way for the exchange of SPS certificates.

#### **d) Public Private Partnership (PPP)**

2.7. Many STDF projects promote [PPP approaches](#) to leverage expertise and resources and support longer-term impact and sustainability. The STDF website includes several case stories of PPPs to strengthen SPS capacity, including in the phytosanitary area. In 2022, the STDF hosted a webinar showcasing experiences in [Tanzania](#) where the Ministry of Agriculture, based on a Memorandum of Understanding, has delegated responsibility for selected plant health inspection services to GreenCert, a subsidiary company under the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA).

2.8. The STDF organized a [side-event](#) during the International Plant Health Conference with the International Grains Council (IGC), the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and the International Seed Federation (ISF) on partnerships to build capacity and support grain and seed trade.

### **3 FUNDING**

#### **a) Project Preparation Grants**

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 beneficiaries in developing countries to articulate their SPS needs and develop technically sound and sustainable project proposals. PPGs can be used to: (i) apply SPS capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) conduct feasibility studies to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of costs and benefits; and (iii) develop project proposals for funding by STDF or other donors.

3.2. Since its inception, the STDF approved **124 PPGs**. In November 2022, two new PPGs relevant to plant health were approved: (i) Enhancing sesame & cashew nut exports in Burkina Faso ([STDF/PPG/859](#)); (ii) Piloting One Health to manage aflatoxin in Asia ([STDF/PPG/858](#)).

#### **b) Project Grants**

3.3. The STDF also finances projects that promote compliance with international SPS standards and requirements. Preference 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 STDF projects 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. Since its inception, the STDF approved **114 projects**, of which **48%** addressed plant health and cross-cutting SPS issues, with a total value of **US\$32.7 million**. In November 2022, the STDF

approved a regional project aiming to strengthen the phytosanitary system (with a focus on potato value chains) in Eastern and Southern Africa ([STDF/PG/809](#)). **Table 1** (below) provides an overview of selected STDF projects addressing plant health and trade issues.

3.5. The STDF encourages funding applications that benefit and involve NPPOs. Proposals can be submitted all year round but should be received at least 60 working days prior to each Working Group meeting to be considered at that meeting. The next deadlines for the submission of applications are **24 February 2023** (for consideration in June) and **11 August 2023** (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. 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](#)**
- 4. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.**
- 5. Send a brief concept note of your potential project for comments to: [STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)**
- 6. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline:**
  - PPGs: [https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppg\\_application](https://wto.formstack.com/forms/ppg_application)
  - PGs: [https://wto.formstack.com/forms/pg\\_application](https://wto.formstack.com/forms/pg_application)

## **4 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING**

4.1. A Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework accompanies the STDF Strategy. This [MEL Framework](#) outlines a practical approach to track progress in terms of achieving results, provide feedback on the management of the Facility and to distil, learn from and communicate key experiences and lessons across STDF's work programme. In 2022, the STDF continued to roll out a new online off-the-shelf MEL tool ([LogAlto](#)) together with STDF project implementing partners, including the IPPC Secretariat. All ongoing STDF projects are expected to be included in LogAlto by the end of 2023.

4.2. In 2022, the STDF conducted and published an external assessment of [gender mainstreaming](#) in STDF's work. The report evaluates how (and to what effect) gender equality is addressed and mainstreamed in STDF's work. It also draws key findings, conclusions and practical recommendations for improving gender mainstreaming in the future. A gender action plan is currently being developed to implement the various recommendations. During the International Plant Health Conference, the STDF organized a [side-event](#) on the role of gender equality in building plant health and trade capacity.

4.3. An independent external evaluation of the STDF programme is scheduled to start in the second half of 2023, structured around the OECD/DAC's evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact. Separately, also in 2023, the STDF will initiate a cross-cutting assessment of STDF's work focused on the environment (including biodiversity, invasive species and climate change) to learn how to address environmental aspects more effectively in STDF projects and SPS capacity development more broadly.

**Table 1: Selected STDF projects and PPGs with focus on plant health**

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF Contribution (US\$)	Total Project Value (US\$)
Managing invasive potato pests in Eastern and Southern Africa	<p>Aims to improve food security and livelihoods in Eastern and Southern Africa by enhancing the productivity and safe trade of potatoes. To enhance the safe trade of potatoes, this project seeks to strengthen the regional SPS capacity to detect, diagnose and manage PCNs by improving understanding among farmers and farmer organizations, NPPOs, and National Research Institutes (NARIs). The project whose implementation is yet to commence will be implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).</p> <p>More information available at: <a href="https://standardsfacility.org/PG-809">https://standardsfacility.org/PG-809</a></p>	999,634	1,196,844
Enhancing trade through regulatory harmonization and biopesticide-based residue mitigation in the <u>SADC Region</u>	<p>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).</p> <p>More information available at: <a href="https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-694">https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-694</a></p>	798,493	1,193,219
Fruit Fly Free: Pest-free and low prevalence areas to support fruit production and exports in <u>Mozambique</u> and <u>South Africa</u>	<p>Establish and develop a framework for the maintenance of areas free and under low prevalence of fruit fly pests in South Africa and Mozambique to 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.</p> <p>More information available at: <a href="https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-567">https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-567</a></p>	721,584	2,893,259
Strengthening phytosanitary compliance to boost seed trade in the Asia Pacific	<p>This project aims to increase seed trade and market access for the Asia-Pacific region by increasing the capacity of national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to meet relevant phytosanitary standards. The project started in November 2022 and is being implemented by Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI).</p> <p>More information available at: <a href="https://standardsfacility.org/PG-755">https://standardsfacility.org/PG-755</a></p>	899,335	1,131,637

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF Contribution (US\$)	Total Project Value (US\$)
Strengthening phytosanitary capacity for plant exports in <u>Zambia</u>	<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: <a href="https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-481">https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-481</a></p>	254,675	629,697
Strengthening of the phytosanitary system in Guinea	<p>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) 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: <a href="https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-498">https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-498</a></p>	559,491	847,959
Piloting One Health to manage aflatoxin in Asia	<p>To apply a <u>One Health</u> approach to raise awareness in selected Asian countries and enhance their level of preparedness and understanding in identifying, preventing, predicting, detecting and responding to the health threats presented by aflatoxin confirmation. The PPG whose implementation is yet to commence will be implemented by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institution (APAARI).</p> <p>More information available at: <a href="https://standardsfacility.org/PPG-858">https://standardsfacility.org/PPG-858</a></p>	49,840	66,390
Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) to improve plant health systems	<p>Improve the capability of the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS) to use the PCE tool to evaluate the national phytosanitary capabilities, which would enable NAQS to plan its national phytosanitary programmes. Support will be provided to the Nigeria's National Plan Protection Organization (NPPO) to develop a project proposal that would help the country address agricultural commodities import and export certification. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) started implementation of PPG in July 2022.</p> <p>More information available at: <a href="https://standardsfacility.org/PPG-817">https://standardsfacility.org/PPG-817</a></p>	49,840	59,440
Harmonizing the phytosanitary	<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</p>	50,000	50,000

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF Contribution (US\$)	Total Project Value (US\$)
legislation framework in <u>Central Africa</u>	<p>the sub-regional level. Implementation of the project by the international consultant began in October 2021.</p> <p>More information available at: <a href="https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-768">https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-768</a></p>		