

STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-18

1 OVERVIEW

1.1. The [Standards and Trade Development Facility](#) (STDF) promotes improved food safety, animal and plant health capacity in developing and least developed countries 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.

1.2. This document provides a brief update on relevant STDF activities and projects since CPM-17. Table 1 provides an overview of on-going STDF project grants (PG) and project preparation grants (PPGs) in the plant health area, some of which benefit from the involvement and technical guidance of the IPPC Secretariat.

1.3. An independent external evaluation of STDF's partnership is ongoing. Initiated in 2023 and structured around the OECD/DAC's evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact, the evaluation seeks to identify and compile evidence of STDF's contribution to increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries. The final report will be issued in May 2024.

1.4. STDF's 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 Sarah Brunel from the IPPC Secretariat is the chairperson of the [STDF Working Group](#) in 2024.

1.5. IPPC delegates are encouraged to [subscribe](#) to the STDF newsletter and receive regular updates on the STDF.

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, improve 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".

b) Prioritizing SPS investments

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. A recently concluded external

evaluation of the P-IMA framework found growing evidence that the framework has contributed to improved SPS capacity and market access. The evaluation report can be found [here](#).

c) Reducing 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 supported the [ePhyto project](#), implemented by the IPPC Secretariat. The project established the ePhyto Hub, developed a web-based generic system for the production, submission and receipt of ePhytos, and tested this system in Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka. An external evaluation of the project in 2023 found that it has streamlined trade processes, reduced transaction costs and enhanced the security of plant trade. The report includes several recommendations, including for the IPPC Secretariat, and can be accessed [here](#). Many development partners continue to support the implementation of ePhyto in developing countries, illustrating the impact of STDF's investment in this area.

d) Environment, biodiversity, climate change

2.6. The STDF started work to assess and learn how (and to what effect) the environment, biodiversity and climate change have been integrated across STDF's work, as well as SPS capacity development work led by STDF partners and other members. The report is scheduled for completion in June 2024 and will draw key findings, conclusions, and recommendations to improve mainstreaming of the environment, biodiversity, and climate change into future SPS capacity development.

2.7. In December 2023, the STDF hosted a [side-event](#) at COP28, together with FAO and the World Bank. The dialogue explored how investing in SPS capacity supports more sustainable agri-food systems and markets that protect biodiversity and the environment and are more resilient to climate change. The event built on previous STDF work on climate change and SPS systems, including a series of [climate change webinars](#) in 2022, and a new [STDF briefing note](#) on the topic, issued in November 2023.

e) Gender mainstreaming

2.8. In 2023, the STDF issued a [Gender Action Plan](#) that outlines how the STDF promotes a more inclusive approach to improve the results and impact of STDF's work in facilitating safe trade. The plan aims to advance and support women's capacity to meet SPS requirements and promote greater attention to gender mainstreaming in SPS capacity development work led by members of STDF's global partnership and other organizations.

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.

b) Project Grants

3.2. 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. Table 1 (below) provides an overview of selected STDF projects addressing plant health and trade issues.

3.3. 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 deadline for the submission of applications is **2 August 2024** (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. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.**
- 4. Send a brief concept note of your potential project for comments to: STDFSecretariat@wto.org**
- 5. Fill out the application form and submit it before the deadline.**

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

Link	Project Title	Beneficiaries	STDF Contribution (US\$)	Total Project Value (US\$)
STDF/PG/498	Strengthening of the phytosanitary system in Guinea	Guinea	559,491	847,959
STDF/PG/517	Strengthening the spice value chain in India to improve market access	India	508,830	892,030
STDF/PG/567	Fruit Fly Free: Pest-free and low prevalence areas to support fruit production and exports in Mozambique and South Africa	Mozambique, South Africa	721,584	2,893,259
STDF/PG/577	Coordinating management of cadmium levels in cocoa in Latin America and the Caribbean	Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago	381,946	550,585
STDF/PG/694	Enhancing trade through regulatory harmonization and biopesticide-based residue mitigation in the SADC_Region	Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya	798,493	1,193,219
STDF/PG/751	Strengthening the phytosanitary and food safety system in key value chains	Dominican Republic, Haiti	554,180	692,980
STDF/PG/755	Strengthening phytosanitary compliance to boost seed trade in the Asia Pacific	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	899,335	1,131,637
STDF/PG/807	Strengthening management of scale insects in fresh fruits (papaya, mango, avocado, citrus) in East Africa	Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda	254,675	629,697
STDF/PG/809	Managing invasive potato pests in Eastern and Southern Africa	Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	999,634	1,196,844
STDF/PG/838	Strengthening regional pest surveillance on banana farms in the Andean Community (TR4)	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru	1,000,000	2,643,852
STDF/PG/946	Strengthening phytosanitary capacity to promote exports of horticulture products from Senegal	Senegal	612,157	817,881
STDF/PPG/945	Evaluating Phytosanitary capacity in Ethiopia	Ethiopia	47,000	47,000
STDF/PPG/859	Strengthening Burkina Faso's sesame and cashew export capacity	Burkina Faso	49,750	49,750
STDF/PPG/858	Piloting One Health to manage aflatoxin in Asia	Bangladesh, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand	49,840	66,390
STDF/PPG/847	Sustainably managing aflatoxins in maize using a systems approach in Uganda	Uganda	50,000	50,000
STDF/PPG/817	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) to improve plant health systems	Nigeria	49,840	59,440

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