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Food and  
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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

# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Seventh Session

Rome, 19 - 23 March 2012

Standards Trade and Development Fund (STDF) Report

Agenda item 12.4.2 of the Provisional Agenda

1. The STDF Overview for CPM-7 is attached herewith for information.



## Standards and Trade Development Facility

### STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-7

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global partnership, established by FAO, OIE, WHO, WTO and the World Bank, to support developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain and maintain access to markets. Other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors contributing to the STDF and developing country experts participate actively in the Facility's work. The STDF is managed and housed by the WTO.

2. This document provides an overview of STDF activities in support of its work programme since March 2011 (i.e. at the time of CPM-6). It also highlights the activities that the STDF aims to undertake in 2012 and provides an overview of past and ongoing STDF projects and project preparation grants in the plant health area.

#### NEW STDF MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY

3. Following extensive consultations in 2011, the STDF adopted a new [Medium Term Strategy \(2012-2016\)](#) setting out the principles and strategic priorities that will guide the work of the Facility and the use of its resources. The strategy is built on the need to: (i) promote increased collaboration and interaction among providers of SPS-related technical cooperation; and (ii) continue strengthening the STDF as a "knowledge platform" for exchange of information, sharing experiences and identification and dissemination of good practice.

4. The STDF will pursue the following strategic results over the next five years: (i) enhanced collaboration on SPS-related technical cooperation; (ii) improved capacity of beneficiaries to identify and prioritize SPS needs and formulate proposals that are able to secure funding from the STDF or external funding sources; and (iii) improved performance of beneficiaries of STDF projects. These results will be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner, recognizing that more effective coordination among providers of SPS-related technical cooperation is at the heart of the STDF.

5. The STDF will continue to support the development and implementation of SPS projects. In particular, the following type of projects will be given favourable consideration by the STDF Working Group:

Projects relevant to the identification, development and dissemination of good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including projects that develop and apply innovative and replicable approaches;

Projects linked to STDF work on cross-cutting thematic topics of common interest. Examples previous successful topics include public-private partnerships in support of SPS capacity, the use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision-making, the links between SPS and climate change, SPS-related capacity evaluation tools, etc.;

Projects that address SPS constraints through regional approaches; and

Collaborative and inter-disciplinary projects focused on the interface/linkages between human, animal and plant health and trade, and benefiting from the involvement of two or more partners or other relevant organizations.

## MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2011

### A. Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)

6. Building on the STDF workshop on the use of economic analysis methodologies to inform SPS decision making held in Geneva in October 2009, the STDF continued its work to assist countries to use MCDA to inform SPS decision-making. In this context, a draft MCDA tool and guidebook was developed and tested in two countries in Africa (Mozambique and Zambia). The draft MCDA guidebook is available on the [STDF website](#).

7. The MCDA tool was applied in Mozambique in April 2011. National stakeholders (mainly from government agencies and academia) with an interest in food safety, animal and plant health, trade and export promotion came together for a one-day workshop to identify and consider SPS capacity building options ("investments"), as well as decision criteria and weights to set priorities between the identified options. After the workshop, outstanding data was collected and detailed "information cards" were produced for eleven capacity building options that were identified. This data and information was used to run the MCDA analysis, which ranked the identified priorities for SPS capacity building. The preliminary findings were presented to representatives of government agencies and development partners at a meeting at the FAO Office in Maputo on 18 April. A second workshop in Maputo was held in January 2012 with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This workshop, which also benefited from private sector participation, validated the results of the previous workshop in April.

8. A second pilot testing exercise was conducted in Zambia in July 2011, including a half-day workshop on 6 July to identify SPS capacity building options, as well as decision criteria and weights. The framework and preliminary results were discussed by development partners and government representatives at a meeting hosted by the World Bank on 7 July. The application in Zambia was useful to further improve the methodology and process. As in Mozambique, it demonstrated the usefulness of the approach to facilitate a transparent dialogue among SPS stakeholders about priorities for SPS capacity building.

9. A regional training workshop was held on 16-17 August in Johannesburg, South Africa, to train selected SPS experts from Africa on the use of MCDA. The workshop was attended by 41 participants, mainly from government departments and regional organizations. Participants confirmed the utility of the MCDA approach as a tool to support decision-making in the SPS area and made a number of observations to improve its future application. There was general agreement that the framework presents a useful tool to guide and support SPS decision-making and is likely to work best in countries where there is an effective "SPS coordination mechanism" in place. Participants also considered that the results generated need to be seen in terms of the reliability of, and confidence in, the data used. Presentations delivered at the workshop, as well as background documentation from the pilot testing exercises are available on the [STDF website](#).

### B. STDF Studies And Publications

10. In May 2011, the STDF released the second edition of its publication "[SPS-Related Capacity Evaluation Tools: An Overview of Tools Developed by International Organizations](#)". Initially published in February 2009, this publication provides up-to-date information on sector-specific and cross-cutting tools to assess SPS capacity developed by international organizations. The purpose of this publication is to inform developing countries about the range of tools that can be used to evaluate their SPS-related capacity needs, and offer guidance on the selection of tools for various purposes. The tools are classified in three broad categories: (i) sector-specific tools that look exclusively at a particular thematic area within SPS, including the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool developed and applied by the IPPC; (ii) cross-cutting tools that look at the SPS system as a whole; and

(iii) related methodologies and approaches that treat one aspect of SPS in a more general setting. For each tool, information is presented on how the tool is applied, its scope, an overview of the countries in which it has been applied, as well as experiences.

11. In September 2011, a joint STDF/World Bank paper on "[Climate Change and Trade: The Link to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards](#)" was released. This paper reflects and builds on discussions at a seminar on this topic, organized by the World Bank's Development Research Group and the STDF in Washington DC in September 2009. The paper further seeks to raise awareness about issues related to SPS risks and standards in the context of agri-food trade and climate change. It analyses the scientific understanding of the relationship between climate change, food safety, plant pests, animal diseases and trade, and identifies and discusses four key areas for future policy consideration, notably risk assessment, SPS capacity in developing countries, climate change resilience and basic research challenges.

12. In October 2011, the STDF presented preliminary recommendations of a study on "National SPS Coordination Mechanisms: An African Perspective" at a WTO workshop on best practices in national and regional SPS coordination. The study, which will be available on the STDF website in the first quarter of 2012, provides suggestions and guidance to support the further establishment and operation of national SPS committees. Recognizing that there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach, the study underlines the need to: (i) continue awareness-raising, notably at decision-making levels, on the importance of SPS capacity for trade and economic growth; (ii) clarify organizational mandates and roles in the SPS area based on a review and update of legislation, as appropriate; (iii) build on existing mechanisms in the food safety, animal and plant health area, and in specific expert sectors; (iv) establish effective communication strategies and consider the creation of web-based SPS information networks; and (v) use national SPS coordination mechanisms to promote regional SPS coherence.

13. In November 2011, the STDF issued a publication entitled "[Use of Economic Analysis to Inform SPS-related Decision-Making](#)". This report reviews experiences with the use of economic analysis to guide priority-setting for SPS capacity building in developing countries, highlights the challenges faced in using such methods and provides general guidance to decision-makers on which economic analysis approaches are best suited to particular decision scenarios. In preparing the report, existing literature was reviewed and practitioners of economic analysis consulted on their experiences. This report was presented at the STDF workshop on the use of economic analysis methodologies to inform SPS decision-making held in Geneva in October 2009.

### C. STDF Film

14. The STDF finalized the production of Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions of its film: "Trading Safely" (both the 30 minute and eight minute versions), with the financial support of the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE) Initiative. Copies of the new language versions were distributed and shown on various conferences, meetings and training events of partners, donors, observers and beneficiaries, and are available on the [STDF website](#).

### D. Information Dissemination

15. The STDF Working Group met in March, June and October 2011. Members and observers shared information and experiences in relation to previous, on-going and planned SPS capacity building initiatives. The STDF website was kept up-to-date on a regular basis, its content and functionalities were improved, and work on the French and Spanish versions of the website was completed.<sup>1</sup> Work also started on the development of the "STDF Virtual Library", a searchable online information repository of a variety of SPS-related capacity building documentation, including research papers, studies, needs assessments, training materials and articles from various publishers and sources.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/index.htm>

The Virtual Library will allow the STDF secretariat to better manage a large amount of documents. This work will be completed in 2012. Finally, three STDF newsletters were produced and distributed in hard and electronic copy and published on the [STDF website](#).

#### E. Participation In Other Initiatives

16. The STDF continued to highlight the importance of capacity building to control SPS risks and meet international standards to enhance developing countries' ability to gain and maintain market access. The STDF participated in the 3rd Global Aid for Trade Review in Geneva on 18-19 July 2011 and collaborated with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) in the preparation, validation and update of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) (Tier 1) and project development and implementation (Tier 2).<sup>2</sup> In 2011, the STDF Secretariat reviewed and circulated draft DTIS documents for Afghanistan, Burundi, Bangladesh and Bhutan to the STDF Working Group for comments. Collaboration with the EIF also included two successful pilot training workshops on project design and logical frameworks in Nepal in March 2011 and in Central African Republic (CAR) in August 2011.

17. The STDF participated in a range of other meetings and events organized by its partners, donors and relevant organizations and initiatives as part of continuing efforts to ensure that SPS issues are properly addressed. These included WTO regional and Geneva-based training events and events organized by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Trade Standards Practitioners Network (TSPN). The STDF continued to provide strategic advice to the EU-funded "PAN-SPSO" programme, which aims to enhance the effective participation of African countries in standard-setting bodies and the WTO SPS Committee.

### OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT ACTIVITIES IN 2012

18. The STDF Work Plan for 2012 outlines specific activities to be implemented by the STDF under each of the three strategic result areas in the new Medium Term Strategy, and is available on the [STDF website](#).

#### A. International Trade And Invasive Alien Species

19. The STDF will organize an international seminar on international trade and invasive alien species (IAS) in Geneva on 12-13 July 2012 on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee. The purpose of the seminar will be to raise awareness and create synergies between the SPS and environmental communities about IAS as a trade-related issue. More specifically, the seminar will seek to: (i) raise awareness about the detrimental effects of the introduction and spread of IAS for human, animal and plant health, and the importance of coherence and dialogue among SPS and environmental institutions at the national level in the development of strategies to control trade-related IAS; and (ii) review existing technical co-operation to strengthen national capacity to manage IAS, and share experiences on the approaches adopted by countries/regions with a view to promote good practice.

20. The seminar will be prepared and delivered in close collaboration with STDF's partners, in particular the IPPC, OIE and WTO Secretariats, as well as other relevant stakeholders including the

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<sup>2</sup> The EIF is a multi-donor programme which supports Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to be more active players in the global trading system by helping them tackle supply-side constraints to trade. See <http://www.enhancedif.org/>

Inter-Agency Liaison Group on IAS. A desk study on international trade and IAS is currently under preparation and will be presented at the seminar. The seminar is open to official SPS delegates to the WTO, as well as experts with an interest in and/or responsibility for work on IAS from relevant national, regional and/or international institutions. A provisional programme will be available shortly. Online registration will open in the first half of April for official SPS delegates. Registration for other interested experts will start in the second half of April. Registration forms will be processed on a first come, first served basis within the limits of seating capacity. More information on the seminar is available on the [STDF website](#).

#### B. Further Application Of The MCDA Tool

21. The STDF will continue its work on the use of MCDA to inform decision-making on SPS capacity building and resource allocation. Activities will consolidate, and build on, the initial applications of the framework and the regional workshop on this topic held in 2011. Specific activities in 2012 will include the application of the MCDA tool in one developing country in Asia and the organization of one regional workshop in Asia to raise awareness on the MCDA approach and how to apply it, and encourage its use as a decision-support tool in the SPS area. Particular outputs of this work will include: (i) at least one case study documenting the application of the MCDA framework to help prioritize capacity building options in the selected country; and (ii) a revised MCDA toolkit (comprising a guidebook, an STDF Briefing Note and training materials) to support the prioritization of SPS capacity building needs and decision-making.

#### C. Regional Meetings On SPS Frameworks And Strategies In Africa

22. Building on the STDF study on "Regional SPS frameworks and strategies in Africa" (2010), the STDF will collaborate with the African Union Commission (AUC) to organize regional strategic meetings to exchange views on the coordinating role of the AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on SPS issues at the regional/sub-regional level. More specifically, participants will exchange views on the role and function of the AUC and RECs in adding value to SPS capacity building initiatives at the continental, regional and national level (in the context of broader initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Aid for Trade, etc.). To the extent possible, these meetings will be organized on the margins of existing events, including under the PAN-SPSO project, WTO regional SPS training events, etc.

#### D. Links between SPS and Trade facilitation

23. Building on existing collaborative efforts with the Trade Facilitation Facility (TFF) in the World Bank and other relevant initiatives, the STDF Working Group will initiate the preparation of a global level event on the issue of harmonizing and improving SPS border management, to be organized in 2013. Possible topics may include the collaboration between SPS agencies and customs at the border, the impact of trade facilitation projects on the SPS situation in developing countries, etc.

#### E. Information Dissemination

24. The Working Group will remain the main forum for discussion of ongoing and future SPS-related technical cooperation activities, needs assessments, evaluations, etc. Two meetings are planned in Geneva on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee, in March and October 2012. The STDF will also continue to collaborate with a range of other activities and initiatives in the area of SPS-related technical cooperation to monitor developments, foster synergies, share experiences and promote coherence and coordination. The STDF will disseminate information through its website, publications,



briefing notes, as well as the STDF Newsletter. The "STDF Virtual Library" (see above) will be launched and the use of new information and communication technologies will be further explored to maximize impact.

## STDF FUNDING

25. As a financing mechanism, the STDF provides funding to assist developing countries in building their capacity to comply with international SPS requirements, as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status, and facilitate access to markets. Two types of grants are available through the STDF: project preparation grants (PPGs) and project grants.

26. Under the new Medium Term Strategy, funds up to US\$50,000 are available for project preparation grants (PPGs), which can be used for any of the following purposes (or a combination thereof): (i) application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) preparation of feasibility studies that precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by the STDF or other donors.

27. To date, a total of 50 PPGs have been approved for funding since STDF's inception. In 2011, the following project applications addressing plant health issues were developed through PPGs and will be considered by the Working Group in March 2012.

- STDF/PG/316: Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan.
- STDF/PG/323: Enhancing the safety and quality of agricultural products in Senegal.
- STDF/PG/335: Strengthening the capacity for phytosanitary controls in the floriculture sector in Uganda.

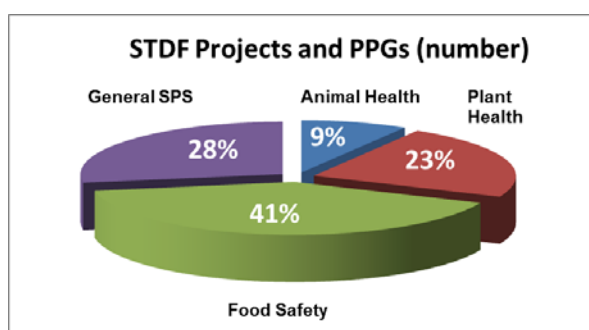
28. In addition, the following project application addressing plant health issues will also be considered by the Working Group in March 2012.

- STDF/PG/354: Improving safety and quality of the Sri Lankan fruits and vegetables.

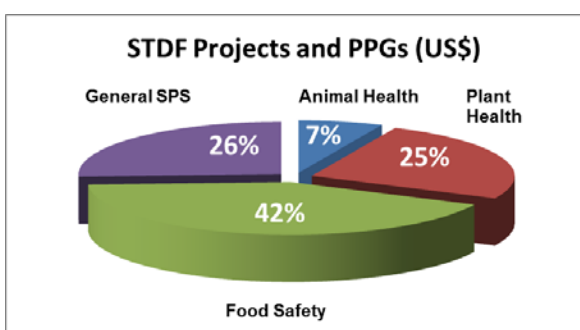
29. Funds up to a maximum of US\$1 million are available for project implementation. No minimum limit applies on the size of projects funded, but projects should preferably be in the range of US\$250,000 and US\$1 million in size. Beneficiaries must contribute to the project from their own resources, either in the form of financial or in-kind contributions such as staff time, use of premises, vehicles or other already existing assets. The beneficiaries' own contribution to the project depends on the beneficiary country or countries' classification in the most recent OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) List of ODA recipients.

30. To date, a total of 55 projects have been approved for funding. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 23 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address plant health issues, corresponding to 25 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding. Table 1 overleaf provides an overview of current STDF projects addressing plant health issues, while Table 2 gives an overview of current STDF projects of general SPS interest.

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



31. The STDF Work Plan for 2012 sets a target to fund at least four PPGs and four projects in 2012. Applications for PPGs are actively encouraged and requests for funding from National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) will be considered. Proposals may be made at any time in the year. The Working Group will meet in March and October 2012 to consider funding requests. The next deadline for the receipt of applications is 20 July 2012. Further information on the STDF, its activities, application forms, eligibility criteria and information on projects can be found on the [STDF website](#). This includes a Guidance Note for applicants.

**Table 1: Overview of current STDF project grants addressing plant health issues**

Project Title	Status	STDF support (US\$)
<b>STDF/PG/350: Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits</b>	The project addresses the need in developing countries for documented technical resources to enhance their capacity to understand and implement ISPMs. Implementation by the IPPC Secretariat started in February 2012.	600,000
<b>STDF/PG/328: Beyond Compliance: Integrated Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management in Southeast Asia</b>	The project develops and tests new decision-support tools focused on an Integrated Systems Approach for pest risk management in the Southeast Asian sub-region (support implementation of ISPM-14). Implementation started in July 2011.	600,000
<b>STDF/PG/230: Establishment of Pest Free Areas for Lethal Yellowing Disease (LYD) in coconuts in Mozambique</b>	The project builds phytosanitary capacity in Mozambique to implement international standards to manage LYD in palms and thereby expand market access for coconuts. Implementation started in July 2009 and will be completed shortly.	326,528
<b>STDF/PG/126: Establish the Horticulture Development Council of Tanzania</b>	The project aims to assist the Tanzanian horticulture sector to address SPS constraints by establishing the Horticulture Development Council (HODECT). Implementation started in July 2009 and will be completed shortly.	253,755

**Table 2: Overview of current STDF projects of general SPS interest**

Project Title	Status	STDF support (US\$)
<b>STDF/PG/365: Application of the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) tool to inform SPS decision-making in Belize</b>	The project aims to apply the MCDA tool building on the results of previous capacity evaluations and provide a structured process for establishing priorities across multiple SPS capacity building options. Implementation started in January 2012.	30,000
<b>STDF/PG/329: Enhancing SPS capacity of Nepalese ginger exports through Public Private Partnerships</b>	The project aims to increase incomes of Nepalese stakeholders in the ginger value chain by adding value to the product exported to India and increasing capacity to access new markets. The project will be co-funded with the EIF and will start in 2012.	471,429



Project Title	Status	STDF support (US\$)
<b>STDF/PG/309 – Strengthening SPS capacity in Guinea-Bissau</b>	The project aims to strengthening SPS capacity of technical services at national and regional level and updating SPS-related legislation. Implementation will start in 2012.	274,300
<b>STDF/PG/302: Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal</b>	The project aims to increase the production of cabbage and hence exports to the sub-region by controlling the spread and impact of two specific pests and assisting producers in meeting the Maximum Residue Limit established by Codex. Implementation started in February 2012.	577,142
<b>STDF/PG/298: SPS capacity building in Africa to mitigate the harmful effects of pesticide residues in cocoa</b>	The project aims to build capacity of selected pilot countries in Africa to produce good quality cocoa that complies with the relevant international regulations and legislation on pesticide residues and other harmful substances. Implementation started in January 2011.	593,460
<b>STDF/PG/284: Strengthening the National SPS Committee of Honduras</b>	The project strengthens the National SPS Committee of Honduras, supports the implementation of a national SPS agenda (developed by the Committee) and consolidates institutional SPS capacities. Implementation started in July 2010.	257,580
<b>STDF/PG/259: Strengthening Vietnamese SPS Capacities for Trade</b>	The project aims to strengthen Vietnamese SPS capacity for trade by improving safety and quality for fresh vegetables through a value chain approach. Implementation started in March 2010.	476,580
<b>STDF/PG/155: Nicaragua market oriented training service on market application of SPS</b>	The project aims to establish SPS professional training units, to develop training manuals, quality and good process controls for pilot products. Implementation started in June 2010.	519,439