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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Ninth Session
Rome, 31 March - 4 April 2014
STDF Overview for CPM-9
Agenda item 14.2.2
Prepared by the STDF

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STDF OVERVIEW FOR CPM-9

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international 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. In doing so, it contributes to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries. More specifically, the STDF increases awareness, mobilizes additional resources, strengthens collaboration and identifies and disseminates good practice to enhance the effectiveness of SPS assistance. The STDF also provides support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements.

1.2. The STDF is a global partnership established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). IPPC is a member of the STDF Working Group. Other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors contributing funds to the STDF and developing country experts participate actively in the Facility's work. The STDF is managed and housed by the WTO.¹

1.3. This document provides an overview of STDF activities in support of its work programme since the previous CPM in March 2013, as well as information on planned activities. The Annex provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) in the plant health area. Several of these benefit from the involvement and guidance of the IPPC Secretariat.

1.4. Participants who would like to receive more information on SPS-related technical cooperation are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/ContactUs.htm>). The STDF regularly issues an e-newsletter which contains an overview of major developments in the area of SPS capacity building, including activities of the STDF and its partners.

2 STDF MID-TERM REVIEW

2.1. An independent mid-term review of the STDF was completed in January 2014.² The review was carried out by Saana Consulting and covers the period 2009-2013. It examines the STDF's performance against evaluation criteria developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact. The 57-page report noted that "the results are impressive and a testament to the effective operation of the STDF". It also concluded that the STDF has successfully established itself as a coordination forum. This role was cited as significant "value added" by the evaluators and relevant to the goals of partners, donors and developing countries.

2.2. Projects were considered as "highly relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries and to the policies of partners and donors". Regional approaches were deemed particularly successful and an area that STDF should develop further. Activities funded by the STDF related to preparing projects were considered "a good investment". Over 50% of total grant funding went to projects originating in least developed countries (LDCs) and other low income countries. Donors noted that the grant funding program "allowed them to extend the range of their technical assistance programs on SPS issues at a fraction of the cost than if they were to do it themselves".

2.3. The performance of the Secretariat was rated as "efficient and cost effective". The evaluators found that the Secretariat's participative and consultative approach enhanced the effective implementation of projects and activities. Recommendations on how to further strengthen the

¹ More detailed information on the STDF and its activities, including projects and project preparation grants, is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>).

² This review was the third evaluation of the Facility. Previous evaluations were completed in December 2005 and November 2008, respectively.

operation of the Facility, including by further improving its results-based management framework and by adding staff to maintain and further enhance the coordination function were discussed by STDF's partners, donors and developing country experts in the STDF Policy Committee on 23 January 2014. Implementation of the recommendations will now be considered by the STDF Working Group on 28 March 2014.

2.4. A news story on the STDF mid-term review and the full report (in English only) can be viewed and downloaded from the STDF website³.

3 ONGOING AND PLANNED COORDINATION AND INFORMATION DESSIMINATION ACTIVITIES

3.1 SPS and Trade Facilitation

3.1. In 2012, the STDF initiated work to analyse the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation (defined as the simplification, harmonisation, standardisation and modernisation of trade procedures). This work encompasses regional research in selected countries and sub-regions in Africa and Asia⁴ and aims to identify, analyse and foster dialogue on experiences, lessons and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that facilitates safe trade, while minimizing SPS transaction costs. Moreover, the work may provide timely inputs towards the integration of SPS-related components in broader trade facilitation programmes.

3.2. The preliminary results of this STDF work will be presented and discussed at a thematic session on 26 March 2014. The session will be open to SPS and Trade Facilitation delegates as well as STDF Working Group participants. This will be an opportunity to hear about the findings and recommendations of the regional research and to discuss the need for possible follow-up work by governments and the broader trade and development community, including the STDF, on a topic of widespread interest which has not been systematically addressed until now. A background note on this event, including the programme can also be viewed and downloaded from the STDF website.⁵

3.2 International Trade and Invasive Alien Species

3.3. On the margins of the June 2013 SPS Committee meeting, the STDF, in conjunction with the IPPC and OIE, presented the STDF publication on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species.⁶ The study reviews and analyses key concepts and principles relevant to IAS and international trade in the context of the SPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and in relation to the two relevant standard-setting organizations (IPPC and OIE) under the SPS Agreement. It also considers various initiatives to enhance capacities for managing the entry and spread of IAS (including plant pests and animal diseases), reviews common challenges and good practices, and makes a number of targeted recommendations.

3.4. Translations of this publication in French and Spanish were finalized and will be available shortly on the STDF website.⁷

3.3 Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in a Value Chain Context

3.5. At the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade, held at the WTO from 8-10 July 2013, the STDF, in collaboration with Canada and the Netherlands, held a side-event on "Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in a Value Chain Context". Work undertaken by the North-South Institute (NSI) of Canada and by the STDF on trade- and SPS-related PPPs was presented and fostered a

³ News story: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news13_e/sps_29nov13_e.htm Full report: http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/KeyDocs/STDF_MTR_Jan-14.pdf

⁴ The work also benefited from a study by the Inter-American Development Bank on the quarantine control situation in Latin America.

⁵ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TATradeFacilitation.htm>

⁶ http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/IAS/STDF_IAS_EN.pdf.

⁷ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>

dialogue among public and private sector experts on key lessons learned in this area. Participants considered the importance of building trust among partners in order to ensure that high levels of SPS requirements do not become hidden trade barriers. Ensuring permanent dialogue among partners and measuring and communicating the results and achievements regularly are also important elements.

3.4 Prioritizing SPS investment options

3.6. Since 2010, the STDF has supported the development of a decision-support tool, based on Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA), to help developing countries prioritize options to strengthen SPS capacity for market access. In June 2013, the STDF organized a workshop on the use of this tool. STDF partners, donors, developing country experts, observer organizations and in particular beneficiaries who had applied the tool reviewed and took stock of experiences and lessons learned in countries where the framework was used, and considered options to improve the methodology and process through which it is applied.

3.7. Based on the recommendations of the workshop, and following discussions in the Working Group in October 2013, the STDF will revise and finalize the current user guide into a more practical and easy-to-use toolkit. This work will be further pursued during the second half of the year. Initial discussions on finalizing this into a "multimedia" toolkit were held with WTO's E-learning unit. More information on the decision-support tool, including previous STDF events and publications, and experiences of countries where the tool has been used, can be found on the STDF website.⁸

3.5 New STDF film

3.8. Building on the success of the STDF film "Trading Safely: Protecting Health, Promoting Development" (developed in 2009), the STDF will develop additional audio-visual case stories that demonstrate the usefulness of specific approaches in building SPS capacity. These stories could be linked to previous STDF thematic work, for instance the use of SPS capacity evaluation tools, public-private partnerships to build SPS capacity, international trade and invasive alien species, links between SPS and Trade Facilitation, etc.

3.9. The existing film (also available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian) continues to be widely distributed and shown at workshops, training courses and other events. The film can be viewed and downloaded on STDF's website.⁹ The Secretariat can send hard copies of the film to participants upon request.

3.6 New STDF website and virtual library

3.10. In June 2013, the STDF Secretariat began work on a new STDF website (based on a content management system). This will allow the Secretariat to more easily publish, edit and modify content. Finalization of this project was foreseen in the first quarter of 2014 but then unfortunately delayed. It is expected that the new website be launched in June 2014.

3.11. A new version of the STDF Virtual Library will be integrated into the new website. The library (accessible from the STDF homepage) is an electronic information management system providing quick and easy online access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building. It helps in facilitating STDF's role as a knowledge platform for exchanging SPS-related capacity building information, sharing experiences, and identifying and disseminating good practice. The new version will complement and include links to other information systems and databases developed and maintained by STDF partners, donors and other organizations, including the IPPC phytosanitary resources page.

3.12. Countries are particularly encouraged to submit the following documents to the Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) for inclusion in the Library: project documents and final reports,

⁸ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAecoAnalysis.htm>

⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/IRVideos.htm>

training materials, project evaluations/reviews, SPS capacity needs assessments, cost-benefit analyses, case studies, relevant research papers and other articles on SPS capacity building.

4 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

4.1. The STDF provides advice and support to beneficiaries on issues related to SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs) to assist beneficiaries in the articulation of their SPS needs and the development of technically sound and sustainable project proposals. Seed funding up to US\$50,000 is available for 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 (expected costs and benefits); and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by the STDF or other donors.

4.2. A total of 60 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. The following PPGs addressing plant health issues are currently being implemented:

- STDF/PPG/377: Comprehensive Assessment and Development of a Project Proposal to Strengthen the National Plant Protection System in the Gambia.
- STDF/PPG/404: Undertake a feasibility study to assess the viability of building capacity for indexing and production of virus-free planting materials for bananas in Malawi.

4.3. As a result of collaboration between the STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), a practical guide on trade-related project development was produced by the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) at the University of Wolverhampton, UK. This handbook titled "Capacity Building in Project Identification, Formulation and Design" is available in English on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIntegratedFramework.htm>).

5 PROJECT FUNDING

5.1. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1,000,000 is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that focus on one or more of the following: (i) the identification, development and dissemination of good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) STDF work on cross-cutting topics of common interest; (iii) the use of regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches focused on the interface/linkages between human, animal and plant health and trade, and benefiting from the involvement of two or more STDF partners or other relevant organizations.

5.2. 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.

5.3. A total of 66 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 27 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address plant health issues, corresponding to 27 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding.

Figure 1

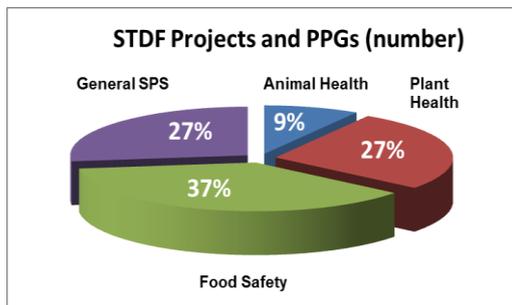
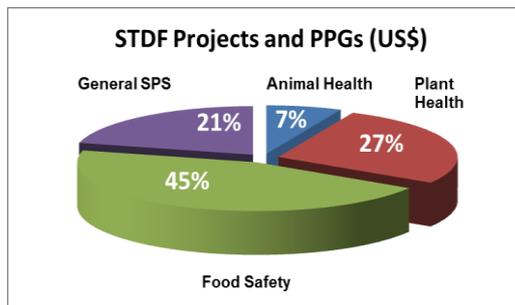


Figure 2



5.4. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) are being 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 **18 July 2014**.

Recommended steps to follow when seeking PG or PPG funding opportunities with the STDF:

1. Browse our PPG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/PGPpgStat.htm> and PG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/PGProStat.htm> webpages for examples of previous projects.
2. Carefully read our guidance note for applicants: http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Forms/STDFGuidanceNote_en.pdf.
3. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.
4. Send us a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).
5. Fill out an application form (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/FDAppForms.htm>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

5.5. Table 1 provides an overview of ongoing STDF projects addressing plant health issues and projects of general SPS interest. Further information on the STDF, its activities, application forms, eligibility criteria and information on projects can be found on the [STDF website](#).

Table 1: Overview of on-going relevant STDF projects

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF support (US\$)
STDF/PG/242: Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros	Build SPS capacity in the country in a comprehensive and systematic manner in order to increase its market access for potential agricultural products and fisheries. Implementation by UNDP started in September 2012. The project includes involvement of the IPPC Secretariat.	1,033,673
STDF/PG/302: Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal	Increase the production of cabbage and 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 by Senegal's Horticulture Union of the Niayes region (AUMN) started in February 2012.	577,142
STDF/PG/328: Beyond Compliance - Integrated Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management in Southeast Asia	Develop and test new decision-support tools focused on an integrated Systems Approach for pest risk management in the Southeast Asian sub-region (support implementation of ISPM No. 14). Implementation by CABI Southeast Asia started in July 2011. The project benefits from guidance of the IPPC Secretariat as a member of the Steering Committee.	600,000
STDF/PG/329: Enhancing Sanitary and Phytosanitary capacity of Nepalese ginger exports through Public Private Partnerships	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. Implementation by FAO started in June 2012. This project is co-funded with the EIF.	412,629
STDF/PG/335: Strengthening the Capacity for Phytosanitary Controls of Floriculture Sector in Uganda	Enhance pest surveillance and diagnostic capacity to enable a better understanding of pest distribution and facilitate the implementation of efficient control strategies. Implementation by CABI Africa started in October 2012.	348,632
STDF/PG/350: Global Phytosanitary Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits	Address the need for documented technical resources to enhance developing countries' capacity to better understand and implement International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Implementation by the IPPC Secretariat started in February 2012. The Capacity Development Committee (CDC) acts as a Steering Committee for this project.	600,000
STDF/PG/354: Improving Safety and Quality of Sri Lankan Fruits and Vegetables	Analyse SPS constraints along the value chains, enhance public and private sector stakeholders' capacity to meet international SPS requirements and improve public-private	562,484

	cooperation and networking. Implementation by ITC started in March 2013.	
STDF/PG/401: Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators	Improve the capability of developing countries to use the PCE tool to evaluate their capacities, identify gaps and plan their national phytosanitary and development programmes. Project will be implemented by the IPPC and monitored by the CDC. The project will start in April 2013.	655,436
STDF/PG/316: Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan	Improve provision of inspection and diagnostic services by the Phytosanitary Control Service and Customs for maintaining the necessary level of phytosanitary protection for agricultural production. The project complements a US\$ 2 million project funded by the World Bank to support agricultural competitiveness. It will be implemented by FAO and will benefit from the guidance of the IPPC Secretariat. The start date is to be determined.	1,000,000