



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-ninth session

FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy), 27 June – 1st July 2016

STDF OVERVIEW FOR THE 39TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION¹

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)² is a global partnership that supports developing countries to implement international food safety, animal and plant health standards, guidelines and recommendations to gain and maintain access to markets. More specifically, the STDF raises awareness on the importance of strengthening SPS capacity, mobilizes additional resources and strengthens collaboration between providers 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 was 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). Other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors contributing funds to the STDF and developing country experts also participate actively in the Facility's work. The Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) also participate.

1.3. This document provides an overview of relevant STDF activities since the 38th session of CAC in July 2015. Information on ongoing STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) in the food safety area – several of which benefit from the involvement and guidance of FAO and WHO – is provided in the Annex. Codex delegates who would like to receive more information are invited to visit the STDF website and subscribe to the STDF e-newsletter at: www.standardsfacility.org

2 SEMINAR ON ELECTRONIC SPS CERTIFICATION- JUNE 2016

2.1. The STDF will organize a seminar on Electronic SPS Certification on Tuesday **28 June 2016** at WTO headquarters in Geneva. The overall objective of the seminar is to share information and experiences about the use of electronic certification (e-Cert) in the SPS area, identify key challenges and opportunities for developing countries and consider possible avenues to support the transition from paper based to automated SPS cross-border trade procedures. This will include an Update on the work of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) in the area of paperless certification.

2.2. Due to limited seating capacity, participation in the seminar is subject to prior registration. Participants will be registered on first come first served basis until maximum capacity is reached. Registration will be open until 30 May 2016. To register and access more information on the Seminar, please visit the STDF website.³ A full podcast of the Seminar (including links and video recording of presentations made by speakers) will be posted on the STDF website after the seminar.

3 IMPLEMENTING SPS MEASURES TO FACILITATE SAFE TRADE

3.1. The STDF issued a report of an analysis, carried out by a consultant in selected countries in Southern Africa (Malawi, South Africa and Zambia), of how SPS controls are implemented in practice for selected food and agricultural products, based on the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement (notably Article 8 and Annex C on Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures). The research identified key needs, opportunities and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that facilitates safe trade, and reinforces health protection. The report includes a number of country-specific recommendations, as well as more general recommendations that can be of value to other countries interested in facilitating safe trade. It identifies good

¹ This document has been prepared by and under the responsibility of STDF.

² See: [See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/](http://www.standardsfacility.org/)

³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/STDF-eCert-Seminar>

practices in the implementation of SPS measures (e.g. publication of costs, application forms and fees online, online payments, etc.), as well as opportunities for improvement (e.g. greater use of risk-based approaches, improved transparency on SPS regulations, simplification and streamlining of documentary requirements, strengthened inter-agency coordination at borders, etc.).

3.2. The report builds on and complements similar STDF-funded work conducted in 2014 in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand). Based on both reports, the STDF prepared and issued a short 2-page Briefing Note highlighting good practices and summarizing key findings and recommendations. The note, as well as the reports and other relevant documentation, are available on the STDF website.⁴

3.3. At a high-level plenary session, coordinated by the STDF, during the Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade (which took place under the theme "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth from 30 June to 2 July 2015), panellists debated on how trade facilitation can be married with robust, science and risk-based SPS controls. This session brought together a diverse mix of panellists, including, *inter alia*, José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the FAO, Monique Eloit, Director-General of the OIE, and Anabel González, Senior Director of the Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness in the World Bank Group. Representatives from governments and the private sector also participated. Detailed information about the session, as well as a full podcast, is also available on the STDF website.⁵

3.4. Finally, the STDF produced a short film, entitled "**Safe Trade Solutions**". The film takes a look at what Chile, Peru and Colombia have done to make goods flow faster across their borders, while at the same time preventing the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants, and ensuring that food is safe for consumers. The film (and other previous STDF films) is available on the STDF website⁶. The STDF currently finalizing production on another short film entitled "**Cocoa: a sweet value chain**". Today's cocoa value chain is a complex interconnection of processes, places and people, which requires countries along the entire cocoa value chain to meet SPS requirements to ensure access to international markets. This film will be made available on the STDF website shortly.

4 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS

4.1. Building on work carried out in previous years, the STDF finalized a user guide "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA): A framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes". To date, this framework has been used to prioritize SPS investment options in 10 developing countries (Belize, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia) that differ considerably in the scale and diversity of their food and agricultural exports, and the range and magnitude of SPS capacity-building needs. The experiences highlight several benefits of the P-IMA framework, for instance to facilitate public-private dialogue on SPS matters, increase political awareness about the benefits of strengthening SPS capacity, inform and improve national SPS planning and decision-making processes, support project design and leverage additional funding resources. The new P-IMA user guide, as well as a short STDF briefing note on the P-IMA framework, is available on the STDF website.⁷

5 JOINT EIF/STDF ANALYSIS ON SPS ISSUES IN DTIS STUDIES

5.1. The STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariats⁸ have undertaken a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in EIF Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS)⁹ and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation. The study highlights good practices and makes several practical and strategic recommendations to improve the analysis on SPS issues in the DTIS process, enhance capacity to implement SPS-related actions and to promote synergies between EIF and STDF-related processes. This includes recommendations to make better use of relevant SPS-related evaluations including food safety assessment tools, and to consider ways to engage international organizations involved in SPS capacity building (such as the FAO) in EIF processes. An EIF/STDF briefing note highlights the scope, findings and recommendations of this joint work is available on the STDF website.¹⁰ The study will be made available shortly on the STDF website.

⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade>.

⁵ See foot note 2.

⁶ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/video-gallery>

⁷ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>.

⁸ The EIF is a trade capacity building programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). For more information, see: <http://www.enhancedif.org/en/about/how-does-it-work>.

⁹ The DTIS is a cornerstone of the EIF in LDCs to mainstream and integrate trade into national development plans. The DTIS sets the basis for all subsequent interventions and establishes priorities to increase exports from LDCs.

¹⁰ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_no12_EN.pdf.

6 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

6.1. The STDF provides advice and support to applicants on issues related to SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs). 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 of SPS capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) prepare feasibility studies that precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of costs and benefits ; and/or (iii) develop project proposals for funding by donors or the STDF. A total of **74 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception.

7 PROJECT FUNDING

7.1. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1,000,000 is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and dissemination good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) apply regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (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.

7.2. A total of **75 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 38% of STDF projects and PPGs focus on food safety, corresponding to 39% of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding. In practice, some projects categorized as "general SPS" or "food safety" projects also have some animal health components so the amount of STDF funding allocated to animal health is likely to be slightly higher.

Figure 1

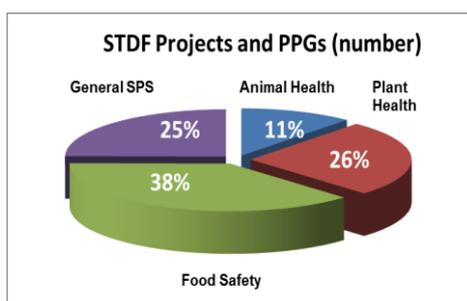
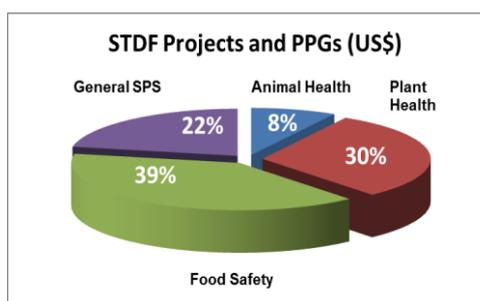


Figure 2



7.3. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from national veterinary services are strongly 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 **19 July 2016**.

7.4. Examples of ongoing STDF projects addressing animal health issues are provided in the Annex. Further information on the STDF, its activities, application forms, eligibility criteria and information on projects can be found on the STDF website.

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

1. Browse our PPG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants> and PG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants> webpages for examples of previous projects.
2. Carefully read our guidance note for applicants:
http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.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/application-forms>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

Annex : Overview of ongoing STDF projects and PPGs related to food safety

Project Title	Webpage
Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in <u>Comoros</u> (STDF/PG/242)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-242
Regional Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa (STDF/PG/303)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-303
Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in <u>Bangladesh</u> (STDF/PG/321)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-321
ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/337)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-377
Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in <u>Sri Lanka</u> (STDF/PG/343)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-343
Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in <u>Central America</u> and <u>Dominican Republic</u> (STDF/PG/344)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-344
Feed and Food Security Programme for <u>Latin America</u> and the Caribbean (STDF/PG/345)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-345
Breaking barriers, facilitating trade in <u>COMESA member states</u> (STDF/PG/346)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-346
African Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/359)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-359
CocoaSafe: SPS capacity building and knowledge sharing for the cocoa sector in <u>South East Asia</u> (STDF/PG/381)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-381
Strengthening regional capacity in <u>Latin America</u> to meet pesticides export requirements (STDF/PG/436)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-436
Improving food safety and compliance with SPS measures to increase export revenues in the oilseeds value chain in <u>Myanmar</u> (STDF/PG/486)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-486
Technical assistance on SPS and the value-chain, to improve market access for small-scale / artisanal fisheries in <u>West Africa</u> (STDF/PG/489)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-489
Honey Chain Traceability in <u>Guatemala</u> (STDF/PG/515)	Webpage under construction

PPG Title	Webpage
Development of a project for the establishment of a National SPS Strategy in <u>Togo</u> (STDF/PPG/375)	Webpage under construction

Integrating SPS in <u>Sierra Leone</u> : A whole chain approach to developing the national food safety management system (STDF/PPG/392)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-392
Aflatoxin management in chillies in <u>Pakistan</u> (STDF/PPG/431)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-431
Strengthening SPS compliance of sesame production in <u>Sudan</u> for enhanced access to international markets (STDF/PPG/435)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-435
Development of a project proposal to address SPS capacity needs focusing on the national food safety system in <u>Tajikistan</u> (STDF/PPG/447)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-447
Capacity building and knowledge sharing to combat SPS issues in spices in <u>India</u> (STDF/PPG/517)	Webpage under construction
Spillover Effects of Export-Oriented SPS Technical Assistance on the Domestic Food Safety Situation (STDF/PPG/535)	Webpage under construction
Development of a project for a biosecurity classification system and registration for SPS Laboratories in <u>Guatemala</u> (STDF/PPG/539)	Webpage under construction
Training of champion coffee and cocoa farmers in <u>Papua New Guinea (PNG)</u> to adopt good agriculture practices (GAP) and to ensure compliance with SPS requirements to enhance trade (STDF/PPG/553)	Webpage under construction