

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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STDF UPDATE FOR THE 34TH CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) aims to improve the capacity in developing countries to meet international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements and to increase the effectiveness of high-quality SPS-related technical cooperation. In doing so, the STDF contributes to improved food safety, animal and plant health, economic growth, poverty reduction and food security in developing countries. Its work programme focuses on the following five output areas: (i) development of high-quality tools and information resources to support SPS capacity building for use by beneficiaries, donors and other organizations; (ii) dissemination of experiences and good practices in SPS capacity building; (iii) SPS issues and priorities addressed by other trade capacity building programmes at the country level; (iv) improved capacity of beneficiaries of STDF projects to analyse and implement international SPS requirements; and (v) improved capacity of beneficiaries to identify SPS needs and formulate project proposals.

2. This document provides an overview of STDF activities since the 33rd Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2010 and highlights the activities that the STDF will undertake in 2011. It also provides an overview of past and ongoing STDF projects and project preparation grants in the food safety area.

3. The STDF is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO provides the secretariat for the STDF. Other participating organizations include the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Representatives of donors contributing funds to the STDF and representatives of developing countries are also members of the Facility.

OVERVIEW OF STDF ACTIVITIES IN 2010

A. SPS INDICATORS

4. The STDF prepared a draft Technical Working Paper on the development and application of SPS indicators to track and measure performance of national SPS systems, in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In July 2010, the STDF

organized a technical working meeting on this topic in Geneva, attended by over 80 experts, including 16 persons from developing countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, sponsored by the STDF. Participants discussed and reviewed the draft paper and made recommendations on next steps to carry this work forward through pilot testing activities in selected countries.

5. More specifically, participants agreed on the value of a results-based management approach to assist SPS practitioners in developing countries to measure the performance of their national SPS systems, and on the use of the logical framework in this context. There was consensus that one size does not fit all and that indicators should be adapted by countries depending on their particular circumstances. The importance of ensuring synergies with FAO, OIE, IICA and other organizations that are developing and applying capacity evaluation tools (which provide useful baseline data) was underlined. Background documents and presentations from the technical working meeting are available on the [STDF website](#).

B. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

6. The STDF initiated new work on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the SPS area, a topic of increasing interest to many stakeholders in the SPS community. This work included an international workshop in The Hague on 4-5 October 2010, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of The Netherlands (LNV) and the World Bank Institute (WBI), on the potential role and value of PPPs in facilitating agricultural development and market access, with a focus on PPPs in support of SPS capacity and co-regulatory approaches. A desk study on PPPs focused on SPS capacity building and co-regulatory approaches is under preparation.

7. A total of 95 experts attended the workshop, comprising representatives of public sector agencies in developed and developing countries, international and regional organizations, donors, the private sector (including multinational companies such as Cargill, Nestle and Metro, as well as private sector associations and companies from Africa, Asia and Latin America) and research/academic institutions. Presentations and plenary discussions fostered an extensive dialogue across the public and private sector on the policy considerations and implementation issues related to such partnerships, considering drivers and working modalities, challenges, innovations and good practices. Presentations and speeches delivered at the workshop are available on the [STDF website](#). An STDF Briefing (N° 6, November 2010) was produced in English, French and Spanish summarizing the main findings and conclusions.

C. REGIONAL SPS FRAMEWORKS AND STRATEGIES IN AFRICA

8. The STDF prepared and disseminated the results of a scoping study on regional SPS frameworks and strategies in Africa. The study concludes, *inter alia*, that there is potential for the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to play a coordinating role in SPS issues at the regional/sub-regional level. However, certain conditions must be in place, notably: (i) increased SPS capacity, including core SPS staff, in the AUC and RECs; (ii) high-level national support for the work of the AUC/RECs and commitment of national institutions to regional coordination; and (iii) clarity and consensus on SPS capacity needs and priorities, based on consultation with all concerned public and private stakeholders. The STDF had informal meetings with the AUC and the RECs on the margins of the EU-funded Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative in October and November 2010 to discuss how to take forward the recommendations in the report. The full report is available on the [STDF website](#).

D. STDF FILM

9. The STDF produced an eight minute "short" version of the STDF film "Trading Safely: Protecting Health, Promoting Development", as well as a three minute video clip about the mission

and functions of the Facility. These films were produced in English, French and Spanish using existing video footage, and have been shown at a number of SPS events organized by the STDF and others. The STDF also finalized the production of Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions of the "Trading Safely" film (both the 30 minute and eight minute versions), with the financial support of the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE) Initiative. All of the STDF film materials have been posted on the [STDF website](#).

E. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

10. The STDF launched a new and improved website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>) in July 2010, with enhanced content and functionality, new features, and a more contemporary look. In addition, the STDF introduced an electronic distribution service in March. This service allows those interested to subscribe to an e-mail list to receive news about new STDF publications, as well as current and planned STDF activities. Instructions on how to register for this service are provided on the [STDF website](#).

11. Three STDF newsletters were produced in 2010 (March, June and October) in an effort to share information on SPS capacity building activities implemented by the STDF, as well as other SPS-related news. The newsletters were distributed electronically and in hard copy at a number of SPS events including WTO SPS Committee meetings. In addition to the STDF Briefing on PPPs in the SPS area (see paragraph 7 above), another Briefing was published on "Mobilizing Aid for Trade for SPS-related Technical Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region".

F. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER INITIATIVES

12. The STDF continued efforts to draw attention to the Facility as an example of "Aid for Trade in action" (at an issue-specific level) and to highlight the impact that SPS measures can have on the ability of developing countries to gain and/or maintain market access. This included participation in Aid for Trade events, including the ECOWAS Aid for Trade Review in Abuja in January 2010, and the Aid for Trade Ministerial for the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) in Baku in December 2010. Collaboration with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) in the preparation, validation and update of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and project development was also strengthened.¹

13. The STDF actively engaged with the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSEF) in Africa programme funded by the European Union (EU). The STDF continued to provide strategic advice to the "PAN SPSO" project funded by the EU and implemented by the African Union/Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, in collaboration with the African Union/Inter-African Phytosanitary Council. The STDF actively participated in several other external 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 regional development banks as well as the Trade Facilitation Facility, managed by the World Bank.

OVERVIEW OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN 2011

14. In December 2010, the STDF adopted a revised STDF Operating Plan for 2011. The plan continues to put major emphasis on STDF's role as a vehicle for coordination and information exchange on SPS-related technical cooperation. The Operating Plan for 2011 is available on the [STDF website](#). The STDF also agreed on the development of a new STDF strategy and work programme for 2012 and beyond. As a first step, a brief survey on the future direction of the STDF was circulated to the members of the STDF Working Group and other relevant stakeholders, and

¹ 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.

discussed in the Working Group in March 2011. These discussions will continue in the Working Group meetings in June and October 2011. The aim is to adopt a new STDF strategy and work programme for adoption by the STDF Policy Committee in December 2011.

A. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS TO INFORM SPS DECISION-MAKING

15. The STDF is continuing its work on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision making and resource allocation, building on the STDF workshop on this topic held in October 2009. A consultant, Mr Spencer Henson, recently developed a framework to apply the "Multi Criteria Decision Analysis" (MCDA) approach in the SPS context. This framework will be pilot tested in 2011 in two countries in Africa (Mozambique and Zambia) in order to refine the methodology and develop a set of practical tools for staff of authorities responsible for food safety, animal and plant health, and trade. These will include a manual on the MCDA framework, as well as training materials on its application for use by developing country experts.

16. The draft MCDA guidebook was used for the first time in Mozambique in April 2011. As part of this work, 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 on 13 April to identify SPS capacity building options ("investments") to be considered, 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" produced for each of the eleven capacity building options. 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, and a draft report is under preparation. In addition to ranking identified SPS capacity building options, the work in Mozambique demonstrated the usefulness of the MCDA approach to facilitate an open discussion about SPS capacity building needs.

17. Following the pilot testing exercise in Zambia in July, a regional training workshop will be organized to equip SPS experts in Africa with knowledge and skills to apply the MCDA methodology. This workshop is planned in August in Johannesburg, South Africa. Further to the work in Africa, pilot testing activities may be organized in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean in 2012. The selection of pilot countries for these regions will be discussed in the Working Group.

B. SPS INDICATORS

18. The STDF plans to pilot test a set of preliminary indicators to measure the performance of national SPS systems, based on the logframe's intervention logic, in selected developing countries. This work will build on the results of the technical working meeting on this topic in July 2010 and the aforementioned draft STDF/OECD Technical Working Paper. As a first step, discussions will be scheduled in the second half of 2011 with key partners, including the OIE, on how to advance this work.

C. NATIONAL SPS COORDINATION IN AFRICA

19. The STDF will shortly publish a study on national SPS coordination mechanisms in Africa, based on desk research and a series of meetings with stakeholders in *inter alia* Burkina Faso, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda. The study will analyze existing SPS coordination mechanisms in a number of countries in Africa and propose a set of practical guidelines to inform the future establishment of such mechanisms and enhance national-level SPS coordination. The study will complement a previous study completed in 2010 on regional SPS frameworks and strategies in Africa (see para. 8 above). Both studies will be presented at a WTO workshop on SPS Coordination at National and Regional Levels, scheduled on 17 October 2011.

D. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

20. The STDF will continue to disseminate information through its series of STDF briefings, as well as the tri-annual STDF newsletter. Newsletters were issued in March and June 2011. Additional publications on trade, climate change and SPS risks (highlighting key issues from the STDF seminar on this topic in 2009), the use of economic analysis to guide SPS decision-making (based on the consultancy report produced in 2009) and on SPS-related PPPs (based on the research work currently undertaken) will be completed and shared on the STDF website. A revised version of a previous STDF publication on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools (issued in 2008) is also available. In addition, the STDF will develop an on-line "Virtual Library" which will contain relevant SPS-related electronic documentation, including needs assessments, technical and meeting reports, research papers and articles from various publishers and sources.

E. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER INITIATIVES

21. The STDF will continue its collaboration with a wide range of other activities and initiatives in the area of SPS-related technical cooperation to monitor developments, ensure synergies, share experiences and ensure maximal coordination. This includes initiatives of partners, donors, observers and other initiatives such as Aid for Trade and the EIF. The STDF plans to participate in at least two targeted training workshops on project design in the context of results-based management in selected LDCs organized by the EIF Secretariat in collaboration with the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) of the University of Wolverhampton. The objective of STDF's involvement in these training events is to work with SPS beneficiaries on the ground to improve the overall quality and "ownership" of a number of SPS-related proposals. The first training workshop was held in March 2011 in Nepal.

STDF PROJECTS

22. As a financing mechanism, the STDF provides grant funding to public and private organizations in developing countries seeking to comply with international SPS standards and hence gain or maintain market access. Two types of grants are available through the STDF: project preparation grants (PPGs) and project grants.

23. PPGs help overcome constraints faced by developing countries in the articulation of their needs and are a key mechanism for ensuring synergies with other on-going initiatives in the SPS area. The main criterion when awarding PPGs is the likelihood that the project developed may receive funding by the STDF or from another funding source, e.g. a bilateral donor. Up to US\$30,000 for project development is available through the STDF. As of June 2011, a total of 48 PPGs have been approved for funding since STDF's inception. The following PPGs addressing food safety issues and/or general SPS issues are currently being implemented or awaiting implementation:

- Work will start on developing a project proposal in the Central African Republic to establish a national SPS Action Plan to enable the country to maximize its participation in the multilateral trading system through the protection of consumers from food safety risks, animal and plant health. This PPG will also benefit from a joint EIF/STDF training workshop on project design which will be held in the Central African Republic in the second half of 2011.
- The Latin America and Caribbean Feed Industry Association (FEEDLATINA) is developing a project proposal to harmonize feed safety regulations in Latin America and the Caribbean as part of its strategy: "Feed and Food Safety Program".
- In Nepal, a project proposal is being developed to strengthen SPS capacity in the public and private sector in Nepal, as a means to increase agri-food exports. The proposal will be considered by the STDF Working Group in June 2011.

- The Pasteur Centre of Cameroon is coordinating a regional Total Diet Study (TDS) involving five African countries including Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal, in addition to Cameroon. A preliminary step was to elaborate a manual describing a methodology to conduct a regional TDS. The proposal will be considered by the STDF Working Group in June 2011.
- In Sri Lanka, a project proposal is being developed to establish a National Cinnamon Training Academy (NCTA), in the Southern Province, to train peelers in producing safe cinnamon of a high quality.
- IICA is developing a project proposal to establish a regional food inspector's school to harmonize food inspection procedures and strengthen the technical competence and skills of food inspectors within the Central American region.

24. Limited grant financing is available for projects which address underlying issues of SPS capacity building through innovative, preventative and replicable pilot projects, in particular in Least-developed Countries (LDCs) and other Low Income Countries (OLICs), and on a regional basis. Grant financing is also available for projects which aim to address gaps in SPS information, develop training materials or improve co-ordination among SPS technical co-operation providers. Projects are preferably in the range of US\$150,000 and US\$600,000. Beneficiaries are required to meet part of the cost of the implementation of projects - either through financial or in-kind contributions – at levels dependent on their country classification in the OECD Development Assistance Committee List of ODA recipients. As of June 2011, a total of 49 projects have been approved for funding.

25. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 39 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address food safety issues, corresponding to 40 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding. Table 1 below provides an overview of the STDF projects addressing food safety issues, while Table 2 gives an overview of the STDF projects of general SPS interest.

Figure 1

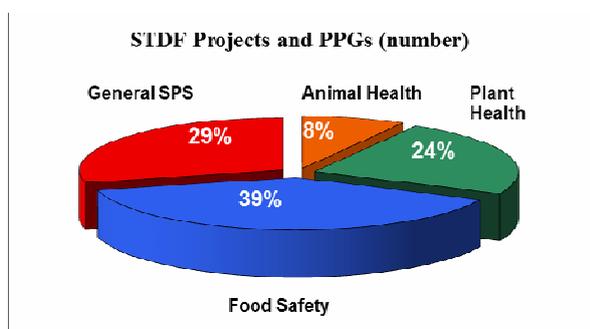
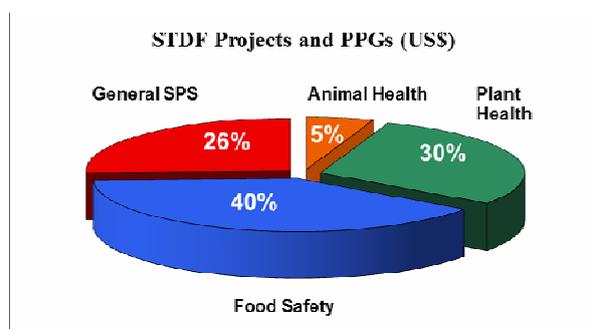


Figure 2



26. The STDF Operating Plan for 2011 sets a target to fund at least six PPGs and six projects in 2011. Applications for PPGs are actively encouraged and requests for funding from National Food Safety Services will be considered. Proposals may be made at any time in the year. The STDF Working Group meets three times per year to consider funding requests. The next deadline for the receipt of applications is 22 July 2011. 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 STDF project grants addressing food safety issues

Project Title	Status	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/326: A Southeast Asian partnership to build trade capacity for fresh and processed fruit and vegetable products	Project approved in July 2010. Implementation ongoing. The project aims to develop a competency-based education and training platform for selected value chains and provide customized training using a combination of face-to-face instruction and e-learning. Implementation started in January 2011 and is due to finish in December 2012.	581,665
STDF/PG/319: Strengthening the Food Safety Risk Assessment Unit in Colombia	Project approved in July 2010. Implementation ongoing. The project aims to elaborate the functioning procedures of the Unit, establish its work programme and create a network of risk assessors to conduct future risk analyses. Implementation started in February 2011 and is due to finish in January 2013.	401,500
STDF/PG/318: National program for the monitoring and integral management of contaminants in export product	Project approved in March 2010. Implementation ongoing. The project aims to establish a comprehensive program to control residues of pesticides and mycotoxins and implement this program for two pilot exportable products. Implementation started in December 2010 and is due to finish in November 2012.	400,455
STDF/PG/300: Development of a combined e-learning curriculum and web-based information system for food standards	Project approved in December 2009. Implementation ongoing. The project aims to develop a combined e-Learning curriculum and information system on food standards in Ghana as a contribution to up-grading the quality infrastructure in developing countries. Implementation started in December 2010 and is due to finish in November 2012.	262,246
STDF/PG/298: SPS capacity building in Africa to mitigate the harmful effects of pesticide residues in cocoa and to maintain market access	Project approved in July 2010. It aims to build SPS capacity 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 and is due to finish in December 2012.	593,460
STDF/PG/283: Support for SPS risk assessment in the mango export sector	Project approved in December 2009. Implementation ongoing. The project aims to support SPS risk assessment in the mango export sector and improve Mali's capacity to comply with international and private SPS standards. Implementation started in May 2010 and is due to finish in May 2012.	423,400
STDF/PG/238: Development of accredited HACCP certification schemes for processed food products	Project approved in February 2009 and under implementation. It aims to implement accredited inspection and certificates for Good Manufacturing Practices and HACCP in Guatemala recognized by the competent authorities. Implementation started in February 2010 and is due to finish in January 2012.	398,225
STDF/PG/173: Assessing capacity building needs of food control systems in developing APEC Member Economies	Completed. The project trained food safety regulators from developing member economies in Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) using FAO's food safety capacity evaluation tools.	97,500
STDF/PG/172: Expanding exports of sesame seeds and sheanut/ butter through improved SPS capacity building for private and public sector	Project approved in December 2009. Implementation ongoing. The project aims to identify critical control points and factors along the Nigerian shea nut production chain and develop predictive models for aflatoxin production and fungal growth, pesticide residues and other contaminants. Implementation started in October 2010 and is due to finish in September 2012.	324,240
STDF/PG/134: Capacity building to improve fish trade performance of selected West African countries	Completed. The project improved the knowledge and awareness of SPS issues in the fisheries sector in Benin, Gambia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Senegal.	469,000

Project Title	Status	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/114: Effective aflatoxin management system in Brazil nut production	Completed. The project recovered and consolidated export market access through implementation of an effective system to reduce aflatoxin contamination in the Brazil nut production chain.	619,664
STDF/PG/69: Improved capacity to ensure safety and quality of Yemeni seafood products	Completed. The project assisted the Yemeni Seafood Exporter's Association (YSEA) to improve the quality and safety of Yemeni seafood products.	398,750
STDF/PG/65: Develop a private/public safety control system for the horticultural export sector in Guinea	Completed. The project assisted in developing a private/public safety control system for the horticultural export sector, including the creation of a public inspection force of 10 inspectors drawn from key national agencies.	530,300
STDF/PG/62: Strengthening food safety in Cameroon	Project approved in November 2007 and under implementation. It aims to reactivate a national committee on food safety and train public and private sector stakeholders in Cameroon.	445,964
STDF/PG/48: Improving shea and cashew nut production in Benin through the application of good agricultural practice	Completed. The project helped operators to acquire the necessary skills to implement good agricultural practices to overcome problems related to mycotoxin contamination in shea and cashew nut production.	455,575
STDF/PG/09: Model programme for developing food standards within a risk analysis framework	Completed. The project strengthened capacity of low income countries in the Asia Pacific Region to develop food standards based on international requirements and participate in Codex.	70,848

Table 2: Overview of STDF projects of general SPS interest

Project Title	Status	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/309: Strengthening SPS capacity in Guinea-Bissau	Project approved in October 2010 and awaiting contracting. The project is aimed at strengthening SPS capacity of technical services at national and regional level and updating SPS-related legislation.	274,300
STDF/PG/302: Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal	Project approved in March 2010 and awaiting contracting. 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. .	273,895
STDF/PG/284: Strengthening the National SPS Committee (Honduras)	Project approved in March 2010. Implementation ongoing. The project aims to strengthen the National SPS Committee of Honduras, further support the implementation of the National SPS Agenda (developed by the Committee) and consolidate and develop institutional SPS capacities. Implementation started in July 2010 and is due to finish in June 2012.	257,580
STDF/PG/259: Strengthening Vietnamese SPS Capacities for Trade	Project approved in June 2009. Implementation on-going. 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 and is due to finish in February 2012.	476,580
STDF/PG/246: Development of SPS Action Plan for Cambodia	Completed. The project established an SPS action plan for Cambodia with the view to enhance the SPS system in the country.	178,000
STDF/PG/170: Strengthening capacity of government SPS officials in Nepal	Completed. The project provided specific training to government officials on SPS implementation issues.	347,900
STDF/PG/155: Nicaragua market oriented training service on market application of SPS	Project approved in October 2008. It aims to establish SPS professional training units, to develop training manuals, quality and good process controls for pilot products. Implementation started in June 2010 and is due to finish in May 2012.	519,439
STDF/PG/127: Support for SPS information systems in Benin	Completed. The project undertook capacity building activities to improve information flow on SPS requirements and coordination among stakeholders, particularly in the private sector in Benin. A continuation of this project (Phase II) was submitted to the STDF Working Group in March 2011, however it was recommended that the project be revised and resubmitted for consideration.	359,790
STDF/PG/120: Risk analysis and risk assessment training in India	Completed. The project provided specific training on risk analysis procedures for Indian SPS officials. External evaluation conducted.	95,060
STDF/PG/108: Institutional capacity of countries in the Americas	Completed. The project undertook peer reviews of SPS compliance structures and practices in Latin American countries.	575,588

Project Title	Status	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/79: Quality information on SPS issues - a pre requisite for capacity building	Completed. The project improved the sharing of information on official standards through the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health.	435,185
STDF/PG/20: Country-based plans for SPS-related development	Completed. The project undertook baseline studies of SPS capacity and applied cost-benefit analysis to examine returns on investment in terms of trade and an improved SPS situation. External evaluation conducted.	170,862
STDF/PG/19: Model arrangements for SPS stakeholder involvement at the national level	Completed. The project examined national arrangements for circulation of SPS information and made recommendations of general applicability on how co-ordination could be improved. Fieldwork was done in Paraguay and Sri Lanka. External evaluation conducted.	291,218