

May 2010

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

E

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.net

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-third Session

Geneva, Switzerland, 5 - 9 July 2010

STDF UPDATE FOR THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Report by the WTO/STDF Secretariat¹

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (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.

2. The STDF has two main aims:

- to assist developing countries enhance their expertise and capacity to analyze and to implement international SPS standards, improving their human, animal and plant health situation, and thus ability to gain and maintain market access; and
- to act as a vehicle for awareness raising on SPS issues, coordination among technical cooperation providers, the mobilization of funds, the exchange of experience, and the dissemination of good practice in relation to the provision and receipt of SPS-related technical cooperation.

3. This document provides an overview of STDF activities since the 32nd Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2009 and highlights the activities that the STDF will undertake in the second half of 2010. It also provides an overview of past and ongoing STDF projects and project preparation grants in the food safety area.

II. STDF OPERATING PLAN 2010-11

4. In December 2009, the STDF Policy Committee adopted the STDF Operating Plan for 2010-11. The plan continues to put major emphasis on STDF's role as a vehicle for coordination and information exchange on SPS-related technical cooperation. This role will be implemented at the global, regional and national level through the implementation of a number of specific activities. These include the organization of thematic workshops and information sessions, enhancement of the STDF website, publications, STDF involvement in project development, and interaction with other initiatives and programmes, including Aid

¹ This report has been prepared under the WTO/STDF Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of WTO Members or of STDF partners and participants.

for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). The Operating Plan for 2010-11 is available on the [STDF website](#).

III. OVERVIEW OF STDF ACTIVITIES IN 2009

A. PAN-SPSO PROGRAMME

5. In July 2009, the STDF organized two "training-of-trainers" workshops for SPS officials of seven African regional economic communities (RECs) and an additional core group of African SPS experts in Nairobi and Bamako. Both events, which greatly benefited from the participation of the Codex Secretariat, were part of STDF's involvement in the Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards-Setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO) project. This project, which runs until December 2011, is largely funded by the European Commission (totalling €3.35 million) and implemented by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR), in close collaboration with the African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (AU/IAPSC), as well as the RECs in Africa.²

B. SPS RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

6. On 22-23 September 2009, the STDF, in close collaboration with the World Bank's Development Research Group, organized a seminar entitled "Climate Change and Agriculture Trade: Risks and Responses" in Washington, D.C. The seminar sought to increase awareness about the implications of climate change for SPS risks and what is needed to address the challenges faced. This was achieved through presenting new research on the topic and discussing priorities for SPS capacity building. The seminar was attended by over 100 representatives from international organizations, regulatory and development agencies, research, academia and the private sector.

7. The event highlighted the impacts that are already occurring on food safety and animal and plant health, and which are likely to become more intense, with implications for future development and implementation of SPS-related standards. Key avenues for future actions were drawn including: (i) further strengthen SPS systems and improve the SPS decision-making process in developing countries to reduce vulnerability and enable proper management of SPS-related challenges posed by climate change; (ii) consider climate change implications in standard-setting and implementation; (iii) encourage research to enhance the knowledge of the ecology of pests/disease agents and their hosts, combined with improved climate and impact modelling to facilitate risk prioritization and improve the reliability of predictions; (iv) encourage interdisciplinary approaches - such as the *One World One Health* initiative - and enhance interagency coordination and collaboration in countries (e.g. through joint research, investigation of risks and training); and (v) mainstream adaptation in development cooperation and SPS capacity building. More information about the event, including documents, presentations, podcasts and a two-page briefing note on the conclusions of the seminar, is available on the [STDF website](#).

C. FRUIT FLY CONTROL IN WEST AFRICA

8. A stakeholder meeting was held in Bamako on 29-30 September 2009, jointly organized by the STDF and the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS), to promote a coordinated multi-stakeholder approach to control fruit fly in West Africa. Representatives of national governments, research institutes, the private sector, civil society and development partners endorsed a five-year Regional Action Plan prepared by the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP), budgeted at €25 million. Development of this plan had been funded by the STDF and the World Bank and complemented an earlier study funded by the European Union in 2007 on the damages inflicted by fruit fly on West African

² These are the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

fruit production. All documents related to the Bamako meeting, including presentations and a two-page briefing note on the event, are available on the [STDF website](#).

D. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

9. On 30 October 2009, the STDF organized a workshop on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS-related decision-making in Geneva. Countries and organizations that have used economic analysis to support SPS decision-making shared their experiences and demonstrated how economic analysis can generate information that is valuable to improve SPS decision-making and enhance the allocation of available resources. The workshop was attended by some 250 persons including delegates from the SPS Committee and 60 officials from developing countries.

10. Participants agreed that not only is economic analysis a practical tool to support decision-making processes and enhance the allocation of resources, but that it can also help to convince policy and decision-makers of the need to invest in SPS capacity building by demonstrating the financial benefits and cost-savings involved. The use of economic analysis generally promotes transparency, objectivity, and accountability in decision-making. Incomplete data and lack of required knowledge and skills limit the application of economic analysis in many developing countries. More information about the event, including presentations, podcasts, a two-page briefing note on the conclusions of the workshop, as well as a background report entitled "Guidelines on the Use of Economic Analysis", is available on the [STDF website](#).

E. STDF FILM AND PUBLICATIONS

11. As part of its awareness raising and information disseminating role, the STDF produced a film in the first half of 2009 entitled: "Trading Safely: protecting health, promoting development". The film features three case studies which demonstrate how countries are rising to the challenge of meeting SPS standards in order to access foreign markets and raise incomes. One case study from Benin highlights the impact of a self-imposed ban on shrimp exports to the European Union on livelihoods, employment and incomes, and shows how fishing communities, the private sector, national authorities and international partners worked together to address the shortcomings and regain market access. A shorter version of this film as well as a short institutional clip about the mission and functions of the STDF were also produced

12. In February 2009, the STDF published a guidance document on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools. This document provides information on sectoral tools developed by international organizations related to food safety, animal and plant health, as well as cross-sectoral tools and related methodologies. The guide makes reference to the FAO Guidelines and Quick Guide to Assess Food Safety Capacity Building Needs. Throughout the year, the STDF also continued to issue its tri-annual newsletter which provides information on STDF activities as well as initiatives of its partners, donors and other actors in the area of SPS-related technical assistance.

13. All STDF publications, including its series of two-page briefing notes, the newsletters and the STDF films are available in English, French and Spanish on the [STDF website](#). The longer version of the STDF film can also be viewed on You Tube.

IV. OVERVIEW OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN 2010

14. At present, the STDF is conducting research on SPS performance indicators, in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This work builds on previous STDF and OECD work on Good Practice in SPS-Related Technical Cooperation in 2007-08 and feeds into the broader context of more rigorous monitoring and evaluation of Official Development Assistance (ODA) that is increasingly at the forefront of the international development agenda. The purpose of the research is to identify common SPS benchmarks at project and programme level and to provide guidance on the selection of meaningful indicators when designing SPS-related capacity building projects and programmes. An expert technical working meeting on this topic, in collaboration with the OECD, is planned on 1 July 2010 in Geneva, on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee.

15. In the second half of 2010, the STDF aims to organize a workshop on public/private partnerships in SPS capacity building. The objective of this event will be to explore new modalities of capacity building and foster a more systematic dialogue with the private sector. To this end, the event will present concrete examples and seek to identify the elements of effective and successful public/private partnerships in SPS capacity building.

16. In the second half of the year, the STDF also plans to fund a pilot project on the use of economic analysis in SPS-related decision making. One conclusion of the STDF workshop on this topic on 30 October 2009 was that in some instances a more flexible approach may have to be taken towards economic analysis than provided by cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis. Extending the scope of economic analysis to multiple and varying capacity building options and to multiple impacts may be more appropriate, notably in a developing country context where data and analytical resources are limited. The pilot project will test this so-called multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) approach in two countries, to be selected, that differ in the amount and/or quality of available data. The pilot work will be followed by the development of a practical user guide on economic analysis for analysts and decision-makers in developing countries.

17. The STDF recently commissioned a scoping study and analysis of existing SPS coordination mechanisms in Africa at national level (as part of its involvement in the PAN SPSO project, see paragraph 5 above). The purpose of the study is to better inform the proposed establishment of such mechanisms in Africa, both at national and REC level, as a means to improve coordination among SPS actors on the ground and to enhance the effective participation of countries in the international standard-setting bodies and the WTO SPS Committee. This work will draw upon experiences and lessons learned in other parts of the world, for instance in Latin America through projects implemented by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and in Asia. The study - including development of a set of guidelines to inform the proposed establishment of SPS coordination mechanisms - is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2010.

18. Finally, 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 collaboration with the Aid for Trade initiative and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat in Geneva to increase the awareness of SPS issues and mobilize additional resources.

V. STDF PROJECTS

19. 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.

20. 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. By the end of April 2010, a total of 40 PPGs had been approved and funded since STDF's inception in 2002. The following PPGs addressing food safety issues or general SPS issues are currently being implemented:

- At the request of the African Union Commission (AUC), a scoping study is undertaken on the role of the AUC and the African RECs in the SPS area, including an assessment of the various SPS frameworks and protocols that are being established at regional level.
- The Pasteur Centre of Cameroon is coordinating a Regional Total Diet Study (TDS) involving five African countries including Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nigeria, Gambia and Mali, in addition to

Cameroon. A preliminary step was to elaborate a manual describing a methodology to conduct a regional TDS.

- The Governments of The Gambia; Guinea Bissau and Liberia are benefiting from STDF assistance to establish a national SPS Strategy and Action Plan.
- In Tanzania, a project is being prepared aiming at harmonizing the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for an improved SPS management system.

21. 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.

22. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 37 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address food safety issues, corresponding to 34 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

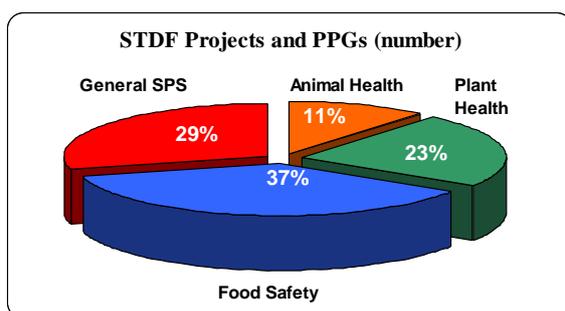
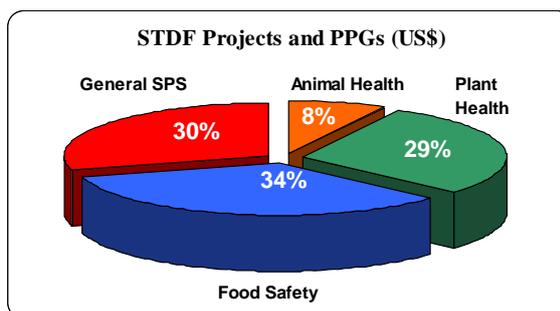


Figure 2



23. A target has been set in the STDF Operating Plan for 2010-2011 to fund at least six PPGs and six projects in 2010. 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 30 July 2010. Further information on the STDF, its coordination and information dissemination activities, application forms, eligibility criteria and information on projects can be found on the [STDF website](#).

Table 1: Overview of STDF project grants addressing food safety issues

Project Title	Status	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/300: Development of a combined e-learning curriculum and web-based information system for food standards	Project approved in December 2009 and awaiting contracting. It 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.	242,798
STDF/PG/283: Support for SPS risk assessment in the mango export sector	Project approved in December 2009 and awaiting contracting. It aims to support SPS risk assessment in the mango export sector and improve Mali's capacity to comply with international and private SPS standards.	454,530
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 and awaiting contracting. It 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.	339,240
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.	422,118
STDF/PG/134: Capacity building to improve fish trade performance of selected West African countries	Project approved in March 2007 and under implementation. It aims to improve knowledge and awareness of SPS issues in the fisheries sector in five West African countries.	532,840
STDF/PG/65: Develop a private/public safety control system for the horticultural export sector in Guinea	Project approved in September 2005 and under implementation. It aims to assist the public and private sector to meet official and commercial standards for fruit and vegetable exports through development of a safety control system. Project developed based on Enhance the Integrated Framework Diagnosis Trade Integration Study.	572,724
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.	499,480
STDF/PG/48: Improving shea and cashew nut production in Benin through the application of good agricultural practice	Project approved in November 2007 and under implementation. It aims to apply Good Agricultural Practices to overcome problems of mycotoxin contamination in shea and cashew nut production.	512,139
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.	464,560
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/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/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 participate in Codex.	70,848

Table 2: Overview of STDF projects of general SPS interest

Project Title	Status	Budget (US\$)
STDF/PG/284 Strengthening the National SPS Committee (Honduras)	Project approved in March 2010 and awaiting contracting. 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.	321,580
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.	543,770
STDF/PG/246: Development of SPS Action Plan for Cambodia	Project approved in June 2008. Implementation on-going. The project aims to establish an SPS action plan for Cambodia with the view to enhance the SPS system in the country. Implementation due to finish in April 2010.	250,000
STDF 170: Strengthening capacity of government SPS officials in Nepal	Project approved in March 2007. The objective of the project is to train government officials on SPS implementation issues. Implementation started in March 2008 and is due to finish in July 2010.	321,600
STDF 127: Support for SPS information systems in Benin	Project approved in November 2007. Implementation on-going. The aim is to improve information flow on SPS requirements and coordination among stakeholders, particularly in the private sector in Benin. Implementation is due to finish in August 2010.	363,858
STDF 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.	244,050
STDF 108: Institutional capacity of countries in the Americas	The project conducts a peer review of SPS compliance structures and practices in Latin American countries. Implementation on-going and due to finish in April 2010.	585,588
STDF 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.	470,000
STDF 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 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