



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

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COMMUNICATION FROM STDF

STDF OVERVIEW FOR THE 35TH CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION¹

INTRODUCTION

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

2. This document provides an overview of relevant STDF activities in support of its work programme since the 34th Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2011 and provides an overview of past and ongoing STDF projects and project preparation grants in the food safety area.

NEW STDF MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY

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

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

- Projects relevant to the identification, development and dissemination of good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including projects that develop and apply innovative and replicable approaches;
- Projects linked to STDF work on cross-cutting thematic topics of common interest. Examples of previous successful topics include public-private partnerships in support of SPS capacity, the use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision-making, the links between SPS and climate change, SPS-related capacity evaluation tools, etc.;
- Projects that address SPS constraints through regional approaches; and

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

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

OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

5. The STDF Annual Report, which is available on the STDF website, provides an overview of the main results achieved by the STDF in 2011. The STDF 2012 Work Plan, also available on the [STDF website](#), outlines specific activities to be implemented by the STDF within the broader context of the strategic results identified in the new STDF Medium Term Strategy. Reference is made to the following activities in particular:

A. MULTI CRITERIA DECISION ANALYSIS (MCDA) IN AN SPS CONTEXT

6. Building on the STDF workshop on the use of economic analysis methodologies to inform SPS decision making held in Geneva in October 2009, the STDF assisted two countries (Mozambique and Zambia) in 2011 in using Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) as a tool to inform SPS decision-making and resource allocation. A draft MCDA tool and guidebook was developed and tested in both countries. The draft MCDA guidebook is available on the [STDF website](#).

7. A regional training workshop was held on 16-17 August 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to train selected SPS experts from Africa on the use of MCDA. The workshop was attended by 41 participants, mainly from government departments and regional organizations. Participants confirmed the utility of the MCDA approach as a tool to support decision-making in the SPS area and made a number of observations to improve its future application. There was general agreement that the framework presents a useful tool to guide and support SPS decision-making and is likely to work best in countries where there is an effective "SPS coordination mechanism" in place. Participants also considered that the results generated need to be seen in terms of the reliability of, and confidence in, the data used. Presentations delivered at the workshop, as well as background documentation from the pilot testing exercises are available on the [STDF website](#).

8. In 2012, the STDF will continue its work on the use of MCDA. Specific activities will include: (i) application of the MCDA tool in Viet Nam; and (ii) organization of one regional workshop in Asia to raise awareness on the MCDA approach and how to apply it, and encourage its use as a decision-support tool in the SPS area. Particular outputs of this work will include: (i) at least one case study documenting the application of the MCDA framework to help prioritize capacity building options in Viet Nam; and (ii) a revised MCDA toolkit (comprising the guidebook and training materials).

B. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

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

10. The seminar will be prepared and delivered in close collaboration with STDF partners, in particular the IPPC Secretariat and the OIE, as well as other relevant stakeholders including the Inter-

Agency Liaison Group on IAS. A desk study on International Trade and IAS is currently under preparation and will be presented at the seminar. The WHO has been invited to give a short presentation and to discuss trade-related invasive alien species of public health concern. The seminar is open to official SPS delegates to the WTO, as well as experts with an interest in and/or responsibility for work on IAS from relevant national, regional and/or international institutions. Registration is open on the [STDF website](#) (until seating capacity is reached).

C. REGIONAL MEETING ON SPS FRAMEWORKS AND STRATEGIES IN AFRICA

11. Building on the STDF study on "Regional SPS frameworks and strategies in Africa" (2010), the STDF will collaborate with the African Union Commission (AUC) in organizing a regional strategic meeting to exchange views on the coordinating role of the AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on SPS issues at the regional/sub-regional level. More specifically, participants will exchange views on the role and function of the AUC and RECs in adding value to SPS capacity building initiatives at the continental, regional and national level (in the context of broader initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Aid for Trade, etc.). This meeting will be organized on 28 September 2012 on the margins of the WTO regional SPS training seminar for English speaking African countries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (24-27 September). The seminar and the one-day AUC/STDF meeting will include the participation of Codex, IPPC and OIE. The STDF will fund the participation of up to two officials from each REC in Africa and from the relevant AU agencies (notably AU-IAPSC and AU-IBAR) to participate in the entire training week. Officials from RECs and the AU agencies are encouraged to register for this training event by the deadline of 15 June 2012 using the application process and form available on the WTO SPS Technical Assistance gateway (<http://www.wto.org/sps/ta>).

D. LINKS BETWEEN SPS AND TRADE FACILITATION

12. Building on existing collaborative efforts with the Trade Facilitation Facility (TFF) in the World Bank and other relevant initiatives, the STDF has initiated the preparation of background research and possibly the organization of a global level event (in 2013) on the synergies between SPS and trade facilitation. The aim of this work will be to identify lessons learned and good practices to strengthen future work and technical cooperation focused on SPS and trade facilitation. It will be based on an in-depth analysis of examples of trade facilitation in the SPS area, which may include activities focused on the simplification, standardization and harmonization of SPS procedures and information systems to facilitate compliance with SPS requirements and trade, collaboration between SPS agencies and customs to harmonize and improve SPS border management, and/or the impact of large trade facilitation projects on the national SPS situation. Specific examples to be considered will be identified through discussions with STDF partners, the STDF Working Group and other relevant organizations.

E. STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

13. In 2011, the STDF started working on the development of the "STDF Virtual Library", a searchable online information repository including a variety of SPS-related capacity building documentation, including research papers, studies, SPS needs assessments, project evaluations, training materials and articles from various publishers and sources. This work will be completed in 2012. The Virtual Library will allow the Secretariat to better manage a large amount of documents in its possession and inform and help beneficiaries, international organizations, stakeholders, researchers and consultants in the development and implementation of SPS-related capacity building initiatives, the creation of synergies and reduction of gaps and overlaps in SPS capacity building, and assist in further disseminating experiences and good practices.

14. National food safety agencies and institutions in possession of capacity building documents, such as project reports, needs assessments, external evaluations that are in the public domain, are

encouraged to forward these documents to the STDF Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) for publication in the Virtual Library.

F. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

15. The STDF Working Group is the main forum for discussion of ongoing and planned SPS-related technical cooperation activities, needs assessments, evaluations, etc. Since the 34th Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2011, the Working Group met in October 2011 and in March 2012. The next meeting will take place in Geneva on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee, on 11-12 October 2012.

16. The STDF continues to disseminate information through its website, briefing notes, as well as the STDF Newsletter. The STDF film "Trading Safely" was translated in Arabic, Chinese and Russian and can be viewed on the STDF website. A new STDF electronic newsletter will be launched in the second quarter of 2012. To subscribe to the new STDF mailing list, please visit the [STDF website](#).

17. In 2011 and 2012, the STDF issued the following studies and publications:

- In May 2011, the STDF released the second edition of its publication "[SPS-Related Capacity Evaluation Tools: An Overview of Tools Developed by International Organizations](#)". Initially published in February 2009, this publication provides up-to-date information on sector-specific and cross-cutting tools to assess SPS capacity developed by international organizations. The purpose of this publication is to inform developing countries about the range of tools that can be used to evaluate their SPS-related capacity needs, and offer guidance on the selection of tools for various purposes. The tools are classified in three broad categories: (i) sector-specific tools that look exclusively at a particular thematic area within SPS, including the current FAO food safety capacity evaluation tools; (ii) cross-cutting tools that look at the SPS system as a whole; and (iii) related methodologies and approaches that treat one aspect of SPS in a more general setting. For each tool, information is presented on how the tool is applied, its scope, an overview of the countries in which it has been applied, as well as experiences.
- In September 2011, a joint STDF/World Bank paper on "[Climate Change and Trade: The Link to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards](#)" was released. This paper reflects and builds on discussions at a seminar on this topic, organized by the World Bank's Development Research Group and the STDF in Washington D.C. in September 2009. The paper further seeks to raise awareness about issues related to SPS risks and standards in the context of agri-food trade and climate change. It analyses the scientific understanding of the relationship between climate change, food safety, plant pests, animal diseases and trade, and identifies and discusses four key areas for future policy consideration, notably risk assessment, SPS capacity in developing countries, climate change resilience and basic research challenges.
- In November 2011, the STDF issued a publication entitled "[Use of Economic Analysis to Inform SPS-related Decision-Making](#)". This report reviews experiences with the use of economic analysis to guide priority-setting for SPS capacity building in developing countries, highlights the challenges faced in using such methods and provides general guidance to decision-makers on which economic analysis approaches are best suited to particular decision scenarios. In preparing the report, existing literature was reviewed and practitioners of economic analysis consulted on their experiences.
- In January 2012, the STDF published a paper on "[National SPS Coordination Mechanisms: An African Perspective](#)". The publication provides suggestions and guidance to support the further establishment and operation of national SPS committees. Recognizing that there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach, the study underlines the need to: (i) continue awareness-raising,

notably at decision-making levels, on the importance of SPS capacity for trade and economic growth; (ii) clarify organizational mandates and roles in the SPS area based on a review and update of legislation, as appropriate; (iii) build on existing mechanisms in the food safety (Codex!), animal and plant health area, and in specific expert sectors; (iv) establish effective communication strategies and consider the creation of web-based SPS information networks; and (v) use national SPS coordination mechanisms to promote regional SPS coherence.

- In May 2012, the STDF and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) released a joint desk study on "Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in support of SPS capacity". Building on the STDF seminar on this topic in October 2010, the study examines a range of partnerships in the SPS area, highlights experiences and draws lessons for the future establishment and operation of SPS-related PPPs. The study will shortly be available on the STDF website.

18. The STDF continued to participate in a range of external meetings and events organized by its partners, donors and relevant organizations and initiatives as part of continuing efforts to highlight the importance of capacity building to control SPS risks and meet international standards. These included WTO regional and Geneva-based training events, participation in the 3rd Global Aid for Trade Review in Geneva on 18-19 July 2011 and STDF's involvement in the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) in the preparation, validation and update of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) (Tier 1) and project development and implementation (Tier 2).² In 2011, the STDF Secretariat reviewed and circulated draft DTIS documents for Afghanistan, Burundi, Bangladesh and Bhutan to the STDF Working Group for comments. Collaboration with the EIF also included two successful pilot training workshops on project design and logical frameworks in Nepal in March 2011 and in Central African Republic (CAR) in August 2011.

STDF FUNDING

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

20. Funds up to US\$50,000 are available for project preparation grants (PPGs), which can be used for any of the following purposes (or a combination thereof): (i) application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) preparation of feasibility studies that precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by the STDF or other donors. To date, a total of 52 PPGs have been approved for funding since STDF's inception.

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

22. To date, a total of 60 projects have been approved for funding. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that 40 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address food safety issues, corresponding to 41

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

per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding. Table 1 overleaf provides an overview of current STDF projects addressing food safety issues, while Table 2 gives an overview of current STDF projects of general SPS interest.

Figure 1

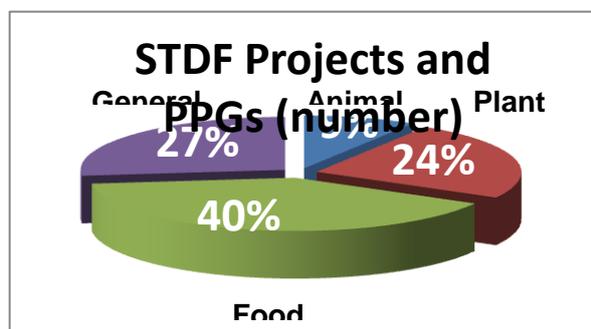
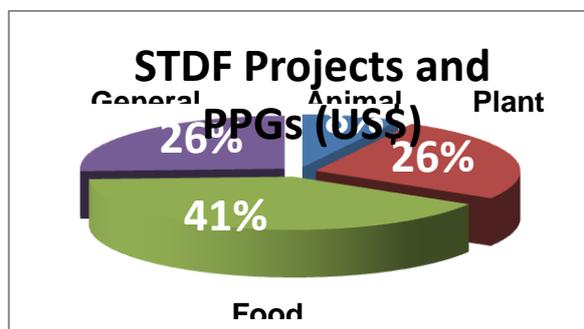


Figure 2



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

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

Project Title	Status	STDF support (US\$)
STDF/PG/344: Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in Central America and Dominican Republic	The project aims to harmonize modern inspection procedures through a properly trained cadre of food inspectors and food safety auditors in the region. The project is currently being contracted and will be implemented by IICA.	905,225
STDF/PG/343: Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in Sri Lanka	Enhance the competitiveness of the cinnamon industry and the capacity of the cinnamon value added segment by improving processing and handling practices. The project is currently being contracted and will be implemented by UNIDO - in collaboration with FAO.	600,000
STDF/PG/337: ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project	The project aims at establishing a regional process to generate reliable data for MRLs for selected "minor-use" crops, as a means to promote harmonization with international standards and enhance market access. The project is currently being contracted and will be implemented by ASEAN.	607,000
STDF/PG/326: A Southeast Asian partnership to build trade capacity for fresh and processed fruit and vegetable products	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. It is implemented by FAO.	581,665

STDF/PG/321: Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh	The project aims to organize small-scale farmers in manageable clusters and assist them in developing and adopting Better Management Practices (BMPs) to address the contamination problem at grass-roots level. Implementation by FAO started in April 2012 and is due to finish in March 2014.	568,750
STDF/PG/319: Strengthening the Food Safety Risk Assessment Unit in Colombia	The project aims to elaborate the functioning procedures of the Risk Assessment Unit, establish its work programme and create a network of risk assessors to conduct future risk analyses. Implementation by IICA 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 products in Ecuador	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 by IICA 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 in Ghana	The project aims to develop a combined e-Learning curriculum and information system on food standards as a contribution to up-grading the quality infrastructure in developing countries. Implementation by FAO 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	The project 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 by IICO 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	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 by the national authorities and supervised by the World Bank 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	The project aims to implement accredited inspection and certificates for Good Manufacturing Practices and HACCP in Guatemala recognized by the competent authorities. Implementation by the national authorities and supervised by OIRSA started in February 2010 and is due to finish in May 2012.	398,225
STDF/PG/172: Expanding exports of sesame seeds and sheanut/ butter through improved SPS capacity building for private and public sector	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 by the Nigeria Export Promotion Council and supervised by ITC started in October 2010 and is due to finish in September 2012.	324,240

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

Project Title	Status	STDF support (US\$)
STDF/PG/365: Application of the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) tool to inform SPS decision-making in Belize	The project aims to apply the MCDA tool to provide a structured process for establishing priorities across multiple SPS capacity building options. Implementation started in January 2012 and is expected to end in September 2012.	30,000
STDF/PG/309 – Strengthening SPS capacity in Guinea-Bissau	The project aims to strengthening SPS capacity of technical services at national and regional level and updating SPS-related legislation. The project is currently awaiting contracting and will be implemented by the World Bank	274,300
STDF/PG/302: Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal	The project aims to increase the production of cabbage and hence exports to the sub-region by controlling the spread and impact of two specific pests and assisting producers in meeting the Maximum Residue Limit established by Codex. Implementation started in February 2012 and is due to finish in January 2014.	577,142
STDF/PG/284: Strengthening the National SPS Committee of Honduras	The project aims to strengthen the National SPS Committee of Honduras, support the implementation of a national SPS agenda (developed by the Committee) and consolidate institutional SPS capacities. Implementation by OIRSA started in July 2010 and is due to finish in December 2012.	257,580
STDF/PG/259: Strengthening Vietnamese SPS Capacities for Trade	The project aims to strengthen Vietnamese SPS capacity for trade by improving safety and quality for fresh vegetables through a value chain approach. Implementation by FAO started in March 2010 and is due to finish in August 2012.	476,580
STDF/PG/242: Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros	The project aims to 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. The project is currently awaiting contracting and will be implemented by UNDP.	998,366
STDF/PG/329: Enhancing SPS capacity of Nepalese ginger exports through Public Private Partnerships	The project aims to increase incomes of Nepalese stakeholders in the ginger value chain by adding value to the product exported to India and increasing capacity to access new markets. The project will be co-funded with the EIF, implemented by FAO and will start in 2012.	471,429
STDF/PG/155: Nicaragua market oriented training service on market application of SPS	The project aims to establish SPS professional training units, to develop training manuals, quality and good process controls for pilot products. Implementation by IICA started in June 2010 and it is expected to end in December 2012.	519,439