



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

38th Session, CIGG

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STDF OVERVIEW FOR THE 38TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION¹

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) 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 increases awareness, mobilizes additional resources, strengthens collaboration and identifies and disseminates good practice to enhance the effectiveness of SPS assistance. The STDF also provides support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements.

1.2. The STDF 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. The STDF is managed and housed by the WTO.

1.3. This document provides an overview of relevant STDF activities since the 37th session of CAC in July 2014. 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 NEW STDF STRATEGY (2015-2019)

2.1. On 12 February 2015, the STDF Policy Committee considered and endorsed a revised strategy for the STDF for the period 2015-2019. The new strategy strengthens STDF's results based management (RBM) framework and includes a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. It provides the framework to operationalize the STDF's key role as a coordination and financing mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of SPS capacity building. This role includes, *inter alia*, activities to promote collaboration among STDF partners, donors, recipients and other relevant organizations, and further strengthen the Facility as a knowledge platform for the exchange of information and experiences and identification and dissemination of good practice. The new strategy, M&E framework and bi-annual work plan for 2015-16 are available on the STDF website.²

3 IMPLEMENTING SPS MEASURES TO FACILITATE SAFE TRADE

3.1. The STDF has carried out research in selected countries in Southeast Asia and Africa on how SPS controls are implemented for select agri-food products, based on the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement (notably Article 8 and Annex C on Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures). This work aimed to identify key needs, opportunities and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that facilitates safe trade, and also strengthens health protection. Research in Southeast Asia (encompassing

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

² See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/key-documents>

Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand) was completed in 2014. The final report is available on the STDF's website.³ The report of the research in Southern Africa (focused on Malawi, South Africa and Zambia) is currently being finalized.

3.2. "Facilitating Safe Trade" is the title of a high-level plenary session to be organized by the WTO at the Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade, which takes place in Geneva from 30 June to 2 July 2015 under the theme "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth". This plenary session will discuss how trade facilitation can be married with robust, science and risk-based SPS controls, and the role that Aid for Trade can play in ensuring that these twin goals can be met. While some organizations have identified opportunities to leverage funds and strengthen SPS capacity linked to the new WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), others have expressed concerns that the TFA could erode their ability to protect animal, plant and human health from risks arising from pests and diseases associated with the importation of food and plant products. The plenary session will provide an opportunity for STDF partners and other stakeholders to debate these questions. More information on the Global Review is available on the WTO web site.⁴ Delegates who wish to participate in the Global Review must register by completing an online [registration form](#).

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

4.1. The STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Secretariat are preparing a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in EIF Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation.⁵ The purpose is to ensure that SPS issues are adequately prioritized in future DTIS and to mobilize additional Aid for Trade resources for SPS capacity building initiatives. Cambodia, Tanzania and Senegal were selected for an in-depth field study, while an additional twenty DTIS reports were selected for further desk review. The study is expected to be completed by October 2015.

5 NEW STDF WEBSITE

5.1. The new STDF website was launched in August 2014 in English, French and Spanish. It includes individual project web pages (fact sheets), summary tables of projects and PPGs (with optional search filters) and a function to download relevant documents. An upgraded version of the STDF Virtual Library (an online information repository providing quick access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building) was integrated into the new website.⁶ Codex delegates are encouraged to submit relevant documents to the STDF Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) for inclusion in the Library. These may include project documents and final reports, training materials, project evaluations/reviews, SPS capacity needs assessments, cost-benefit analyses, case studies, relevant research papers and other articles on SPS capacity building.

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). This assists applicants in the articulation of their SPS needs and the development of technically sound and sustainable project proposals. Seed funding up to US\$50,000 is available for PPGs, which can be used for any of the following purposes (or a combination thereof): (i) application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) preparation of feasibility studies that precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals (expected costs and benefits); and/or (iii) preparation of project proposals that can be funded by donors or STDF. A total of 66 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. Examples of ongoing PPGs in the food safety area are listed in the Annex.

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 focus on one or more of the following: (i) identification, development and dissemination of good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iii) collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches focused on the interface/linkages between human, animal and

³ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade>

⁴ See: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/global_review15_e.htm

⁵ The EIF supports Least Developed Countries in trade capacity building. In this context, countries carry out Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) to identify constraints to competitiveness, supply chain weaknesses and sectors of greatest growth and/or export potential. For more information, see: <http://www.enhancedif.org/en/about/how-does-it-work>

⁶ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>

plant health and trade, and benefiting from the involvement of two or more STDF partners or other relevant organizations.

7.2. 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 their classification in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of ODA recipients.

7.3. A total of 72 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 42% of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding. In practice, some projects categorized as "general SPS" also address food safety issues so the amount of STDF funding allocated to food safety projects is likely to be higher.

Figure 1

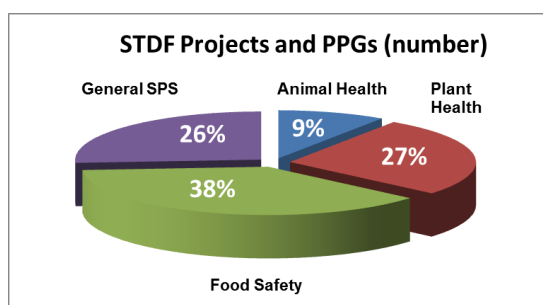
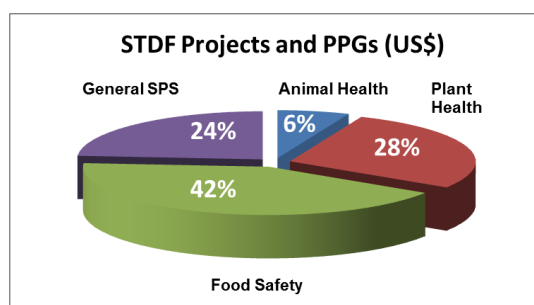


Figure 2



7.4. Since its inception, the STDF has devoted 56% of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and other low income countries (OLICs). Hence, the STDF is consistently meeting its target to devote at least 40 % of its project and PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs. In particular the allocation of PPG resources to LDCs and OLICs remains high (i.e. 74% of the overall budget for PPGs).

7.5. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from government authorities responsible for food safety are 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 **17 July 2015**.

7.6. Examples of ongoing STDF projects addressing food safety 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://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_en.pdf
3. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.
4. Send us a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).
5. Fill out an application form (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/application-forms>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

Annex : Overview of ongoing⁷ STDF projects and PPGs related to food safety

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF support (US\$)
Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros (STDF/PG/242)	Build SPS capacity in the country in a comprehensive and systematic manner in order to increase its market access for agricultural products and fisheries. Ongoing since September 2012. Implementation by UNDP.	1,106,030
Regional Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa (STDF/PG/303)	Contribute to strengthen capacity of risk managers to implement international standards based on a good knowledge of hazards, risks and exposure levels to harmful substances in commonly produced and consumed food. Ongoing since April 2014. Implemented by FAO.	1,191,353
Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh (STDF/PG/321)	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. Ongoing since April 2012. Implemented by FAO.	637,000
Enhancing SPS capacity of ginger exports through a Public-Private Partnership in Nepal (STDF/PG/329)	Increase incomes of Nepalese stakeholders in the ginger value chain by adding value to the product exported to India and increase capacity to access new markets. Ongoing since June 2012. Implemented by FAO.	462,144 Co-funded by EIF.
ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/337)	Establish a regional process to generate reliable data for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for selected "minor-use" crops, as a means to promote harmonization with international standards and enhance market access. Ongoing since December 2012. Implemented by Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).	607,000
Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in Sri Lanka (STDF/PG/343)	Enhance the competitiveness of the cinnamon industry and the capacity of the cinnamon value added segment by improving processing and handling practices. Ongoing since July 2012. Implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).	705,600
Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in Central America and Dominican Republic (STDF/PG/344)	Harmonize modern inspection procedures conducted by a properly trained cadre of food inspectors and food safety auditors in the region to contribute to facilitating trade and improving public health. Ongoing since July 2012. Implemented by Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).	977,643
Feed and Food Security Programme for Latin America	Contribute to the harmonization of the regulatory framework for the production and	1,050,566

⁷ This table also includes some projects and PPGs, which were approved by the STDF Working Group in October 2014 and March 2015 and are awaiting contracting.

and the Caribbean (STDF/PG/345)	commercialization of animal feed, ensuring its safety and access to markets, based on the standards and recommendations of Codex and the OIE. Ongoing since February 2014. Implementation by FEEDLATINA (Asociación de las Industrias de Alimentación Animal de América Latina y Caribe).	
Breaking barriers, facilitating trade in COMESA member states (STDF/PG/346)	Increase intra-COMESA trade in selected agri-food products by reducing trading costs associated with SPS measures on selected trade routes. Ongoing since November 2014. Implementation by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).	902,690
African Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/359)	Enhance regional capacity in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring for establishing, implementing, and complying with international pesticide residue standards. Ongoing since May 2013. Implementation by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).	446,150
CocoaSafe: SPS capacity building and knowledge sharing for the cocoa sector in South East Asia (STDF/PG/381)	Maintain and increase market access of cocoa exports by improving practices along the supply chain to meet international food safety standards. Ongoing since November 2013. Implemented by International Cocoa Organization (ICCO).	652,851
Strengthening regional capacity in Latin America to meet pesticides export requirements (STDF/PG/436)	Strengthen the capacity of Latin American countries in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring, to support the establishment and implementation of international standards. Ongoing since October 2013. Implemented by Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).	374,166
Improving food safety and compliance with SPS measures to increase export revenues in the oilseeds value chain in Myanmar (STDF/PG/486)	Strengthen food safety and compliance with international standards related to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems in the oilseeds value chain. Project approved in October 2014 for implementation by International Trade Centre (ITC). Contract under development.	825,071
Technical assistance on SPS and the value-chain, to improve market access for small-scale / artisanal fisheries in West Africa (STDF/PG/489)	Provide coordinated technical assistance in the dissemination of information about sanitary standards and develop technical capacity in the handling and processing of fisheries products. Project approved in October 2014 for implementation by UNIDO. Contract under development.	892,857
Honey Chain Traceability in Guatemala (STDF/PG/515)	Maintain market access and increase the volume of honey exports from Guatemala through the implementation of an electronic traceability system. Project approved in March 2015 to be implemented by the Directorate for Food Safety - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala. Contract under development.	45,400

PPG Title	Objective and Status	STDF Support (US\$)
Integrating SPS in Sierra Leone: A whole chain approach to developing the national food safety management system (STDF/PPG/392)	Assess the national food safety management system and develop plans for institutional capacity building and determine priorities in order to achieve compliance with SPS requirements. Ongoing since November 2013. Implemented by FAO.	43,680
Aflatoxin management in chillies in Pakistan (STDF/PPG/431)	Establish quality systems to address mycotoxin contamination of agri-food commodities and resulting international trade barriers. Ongoing since May 2015. Implemented by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) in conjunction with FAO.	34,000
Strengthening SPS compliance of sesame production in Sudan for enhanced access to international markets (STDF/PPG/435)	Assess compliance challenges of sesame production for exports and elaborate a project proposal aiming to strengthen SPS compliance to enhance access to international markets. The PPG will be implemented by UNIDO and the contract is under development.	50,000
Development of a project proposal to address SPS capacity needs focusing on the national food safety system in Tajikistan (STDF/PPG/447)	Assist Tajikistan in implementing the National Food Safety Strategy and Food Law. Contract is under development and implementation arrangements to be finalized.	40,600
Building capacity and facilitating enabling mechanisms for harmonizing Aquaculture Certification (STDF/PPG/453)	Pilot test the conformity evaluation framework being developed by FAO and develop a project proposal to support the development and implementation of public aquaculture certification systems to contribute to intra-regional free trade. Ongoing since June 2014. Implemented by the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific (NACA).	48,000
Development of a proposal for a Regional Total Diet Study (TDS) in Latin American and Caribbean Countries (STDF/PPG/487)	Develop a feasibility study to identify the main capacity gaps in chemical risk assessment in select countries and prepare a project proposal to fund a regional TDS. The PPG will be implemented by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the contract is under development.	50,000