



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMUNICATION FROM STDF¹

UPDATE ON THE OPERATION OF THE STANDARDS AND

TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT²

1. OVERVIEW

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global partnership that supports developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations and improve their ability to gain and maintain market access. More specifically, the STDF raises awareness on the importance of enhancing SPS capacity and strengthens collaboration between providers of SPS assistance. The STDF also provides support and funding for the development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS standards and 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 WTO, which houses and manages the STDF Secretariat and Trust Fund. Many other international and regional organizations involved in SPS capacity building, donors contributing to the STDF trust fund and developing country experts participate actively in STDF's work. This also includes the Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

1.3. This document provides an overview of STDF's activities and projects since the 40th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2017. The Annex I provides an overview of the on-going STDF projects in the food safety area, many of which benefit from the involvement and technical guidance provided by the CAC. Delegates who would like to receive more information are kindly invited to visit STDF website where they can also subscribe for the STDF Newsletter (www.standardsfacility.org).

2. STDF RESULTS BOOK

2.1 During the STDF's Policy Committee on 23 February 2018, the Secretariat launched a new book, "Driving Safe Trade Solutions Worldwide", displaying 25 result stories. The stories depict impacts of a wide range of STDF projects in the areas of food safety, animal and plant health. The STDF regularly disseminates results stories highlighting the impacts of numerous projects supporting small-scale farmers, processors, traders and governments to access global markets and to boost their SPS capacity. The book is available on the STDF website³.

2.2 As part of its role to share available know-how, tools and best practices in SPS capacity building area, the STDF regularly issues briefing notes on issues of interest. In 2017, briefing notes were issued on: (i)

¹ Document prepared by and under the responsibility of the XXX.

² This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

³ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Results_Booklet_EN.pdf

"Partnering with the private sector; delivering SPS outcomes"⁴; (ii) "Facilitating safe trade: going paperless with SPS e-certification"⁵; and (iii) "Driving knowledge on food safety, animal and plant health: SPS capacity evaluation tools in action"⁶.

2.3 STDF shares films through its YouTube channel. Latest STDF videos include "Building food safety skills for shrimp farmers in Bangladesh"⁷, a video highlighting how an STDF project unlocked the access to international market through a better compliance and improved practices in shrimp aquaculture. More films on STDF projects and activities, as well as other SPS related videos from relevant stakeholders, are available on the channel⁸.

3. GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE

3.1 The STDF carried out a survey to analyse how Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) can be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures in developing countries for health protection and to facilitate safe trade. In developing the survey, the Secretariat received valuable input from its partners. The purpose was to gather information on if and how SPS agencies in developing countries are applying GRPs to develop, implement and/or comply with SPS measures.

3.2 118 government officials from ministries/agencies/departments responsible for food safety, animal and plant health, across 64 countries/territories responded to the survey. Results generally indicated that GRPs (e.g. consultations with other parts of government as well as the private sector and other stakeholders, use of international standards, etc.) are being used to support the development of SPS measures, albeit with slightly more focus on assessing health risks, rather than on expected trade impacts. Responses highlighted that a greater attention is given on developing new measures than on reviewing or evaluating the existing ones.

3.3 At the STDF Working Group meeting in March 2018, Members agreed to deepen the work in this area. The Secretariat will develop a "practical checklist" on the use of GRP to improve the development and implementation of SPS measures. A briefing note on these findings will be publicized followed by an STDF workshop or a seminar.

4. TRANSITIONING FROM PAPER-BASED TO AUTOMATED SPS SYSTEMS

4.1 The STDF Secretariat organized a high-level information session during the 6th Aid for Trade Global Review, on 12 July 2017. The session looked at the current state of play on SPS e-certification and its role in facilitating trade. The panellists discussed the future opportunities and challenges in the use of new technologies in the context of SPS compliance and trade. The session brought together over 250 participants. Key outcomes of the session include:

- a. Paperless SPS systems can improve traceability throughout SPS supply chains, reduce food waste, reduce trade times and costs, reduce fraudulent certificates, and build trust among trading partners;
- b. E-cert can reduce certification times from 15 days to 4 hours; Codex, IPPC and OIE are creating guidelines, platforms and capacity building tools to facilitate e-cert, complementing the modernising reforms encouraged by the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement;
- c. Certain conditions must be in place to enable full digitisation across all agencies; public and private sectors must leverage existing solutions to improve data transfer and information exchange; financing models need to be made available to developing countries to support the effective transition to automated SPS systems.

⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/partnering-private-sector>.

⁵ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/e_Cert_Briefing_note_EN.pdf

⁶ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_14.pdf

⁷ See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96BT8a4DXzw>

⁸ See: <https://www.youtube.com/c/STDFvideos>

4.2 The STDF also supports the e-phyto project, implemented by FAO/IPPC, which seeks to improve the capacity of developing countries to facilitate safe, secure and efficient trade in plants and plant products through the establishment of a self-sustaining global framework for electronic phytosanitary certification.⁹

5. PRIORTIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS

5.1 The STDF has developed a framework, called Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA), to share knowledge and allow more informed investment decisions in SPS capacity building. The framework was elaborated in the P-IMA user guide¹⁰, which was published in 2016.

5.2 To date, the framework has been used to prioritize SPS investment options in several developing countries that differ considerably in the scale and diversity of their food and agricultural exports, and the range and magnitude of SPS capacity-building needs. Experiences highlight several benefits, for instance to facilitate public-private dialogue on SPS matters, increase political awareness about the benefits of strengthening SPS capacity, inform and improve national SPS planning and decision-making processes, support project design and leverage additional funding resources.

5.3 In 2017, the STDF Working Group approved a request from Madagascar to apply the P-IMA framework and prioritize SPS investment needs in key value chains with export potential. The Working Group also approved a request from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to utilize the P-IMA framework in helping selected COMESA member states to prioritize and mainstream SPS investments into sector investments plans for agriculture, trade, climate change and the environment. This would include the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP).

5.4 The P-IMA framework is currently being used by the State Service on Phytosanitary Inspection and Plant Quarantine in the Ministry of Agriculture in Tajikistan to prioritize phytosanitary investment options for market access under an STDF Project Preparation Grant implemented by FAO in 2018 (STDF/PPG/561).

5.5 The P-IMA user guide, as well as a short briefing note, is available for download on the STDF website. Delegates who would like to have more information on how to use and benefit from the P-IMA framework are encouraged to contact the STDF Secretariat.

6. STDF VIRTUAL LIBRARY

6.1 The STDF Virtual Library¹¹ is an online information repository providing quick and easy access to a variety of information resources focused on SPS technical cooperation and capacity building. Countries are encouraged to submit relevant documents to the Secretariat (STDFSecretariat@wto.org) for inclusion in the Library, including: 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. The Library complements and includes links to other information systems and databases developed and maintained by STDF partners, donors and other organizations.

7. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

7.1 The STDF provides advice and support to beneficiaries on SPS project development and finances project preparation grants (PPGs). PPGs, normally up to US\$50,000, are available to help applicants articulate their SPS needs and develop technically sound and sustainable project proposals. PPGs can be requested to: (i) apply SPS capacity evaluation and prioritization tools; (ii) prepare feasibility studies before project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of costs and benefits; and (iii) develop project proposals for funding by donors or the STDF. A total of **90 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception. The following PPGs addressing food safety and trade were approved since CAC 40:

- STDF/PPG/611: Supporting control of SPS risks in the cashew and shea value chains in Mali

⁹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504> and Annex

¹⁰ See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/P-IMA_Guide_EN.pdf

¹¹ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/library>

- STDF/PPG/619: Improving food safety in the peppercorn value chain in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam
- STDF/PPG/657: Strengthening the national food control system in Kiribati

7.2 In addition, the following PPGs focusing on food safety were completed in 2017:

- STDF/PPG/517: Ensuring food safety, spicing up trade in India. (Result: Project proposal to address SPS capacity building needs in the supply chain of six key spices to promote export growth)
- STDF/PPG/539: Laboratory biosecurity classification system and registration in Guatemala (Result: Project proposal to establish a lab sample import system based on risk categories)
- STDF/PPG/553: Improving agricultural practices for cocoa and coffee farmers in Papua New Guinea (Result: Two project proposals to strengthen SPS capacity for promoting exports of cocoa and coffee)
- STDF/PPG/569: Supporting SPS compliance to boost regional trade in Kyrgyz Republic (Result: Project proposal to support food safety capacity building for exports of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables to regional markets)
- STDF/PPG/392: Assessing food safety capacity needs in Sierra Leone (Result: Assessment of the national food safety management system for planning institutional capacity building to achieve compliance with SPS requirements)

7.3 An ongoing PPG on "Measuring spill overs of trade-related food safety projects" is identifying and analysing the spill over effects of export-oriented programmes on domestic food safety (STDF/PPG/535). Findings will be presented and discussed at the STDF Working Group meeting in October 2018. This study has synergies with the upcoming World Bank study on "Strengthening the case for food safety investments".

8. PROJECT FUNDING

8.1. Grant financing is also available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and dissemination good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) apply regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iii) implement collaborative approaches across food safety, animal and plant health and trade.

8.2. 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 existing assets.

8.3. A total of **87 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. In October 2017, the STDF Working Group approved a project that will benefit Papua New Guinea in expanding cocoa trade (STDF/PG/553). In addition, the following project focusing on food safety was completed in 2017:

- STDF/PG/359: Strengthening capacity in Africa to meet pesticide-related export requirements.

This project enhanced capacity of selected African countries (Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia) to meet pesticide-related export requirements based on international Codex standards through extensive capacity building in both the field and the laboratory.

8.2 Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that since inception 37 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs have addressed food safety issues, corresponding to 38 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding. In addition, food safety issues were also present in cross-cutting projects which account for 25 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs, corresponding to 24 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding.

Figure 1

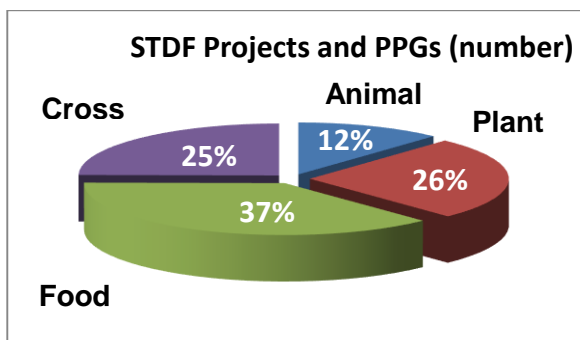
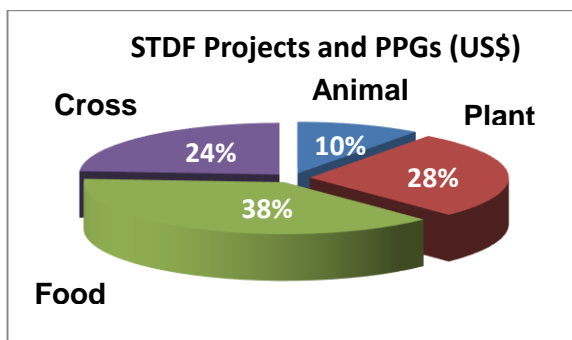


Figure 2



Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from national food safety authorities 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 **10 August 2018**.

RECOMMENDED STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN SEEKING PG OR PPG FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE STDF:

1. Browse the webpages for information (aims, eligibility criteria, etc.) on:

- PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-preparation-grants>
- PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-grants>

2. View examples of previous projects:

- PPGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectpreparationgrants>
- PGs: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/projectgrants>

3. Carefully read the guidance note for applicants:

http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.pdf

4. Consult relevant stakeholders in the country/region.

5. Send a brief concept note of your potential project for feedback on eligibility and likelihood of funding (STDFSecretariat@wto.org).

6. Fill out an application form and submit it electronically before the deadline:

- PPGs: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PPGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc
- PGs: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm_English_FINAL_2015.doc

Annex I provides an overview of ongoing STDF PPGs and projects addressing food safety and trade issues. Further information on these projects, the STDF, its other activities, application forms and eligibility criteria can be found on the STDF website.

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

Project Title	Status	STDF contribution (US\$)
Project grants		
STDF/PG/242: Strengthening SPS capacity in Comoros	Ongoing since September 2012. Implementation by UNDP. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PG-242	1,106,030
STDF/PG/303: Total diet study for Sub-Saharan Africa	Ongoing since April 2014. Implementation by FAO. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PG-303	1,191,353
STDF/PG/447: Improving food safety in honey and apricots to boost exports in Tajikistan	Ongoing since March 2018. Implementation by ITC in partnership with FAO. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PG-447	786,121
STDF/PG/486: Improving compliance with SPS measures to boost oilseed exports in Myanmar	Ongoing since August 2015. Implementation by ITC. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PG-486	825,071
STDF/PG/489: Improving market access for small scale fisheries in West Africa	Ongoing since September 2015. Implementation by UNIDO. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PG-489	1,020,000
STDF/PG/515: Honey chain traceability in Guatemala	Ongoing since December 2015. Implementation by Directorate for Food Safety at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PG-515	48,124
STDF/PG/521: Laboratory capacity building to support fish exports in Solomon Islands	Ongoing since June 2017. Implementation by FAO. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PG-521	355,408
STDF/PG/553: Expanding cocoa trade in Papua New Guinea	Awaiting, approved in October 2017. Developed from PPG. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PG-553	623,275

Project Title	Status	STDF contribution (US\$)
Project preparation grants		
STDF/PPG/435: Improving SPS capacity in sesame to meet market requirements	Ongoing since June 2015. Implementation by UNIDO. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-435	56,000
STDF/PPG/535: Measuring spillovers of trade-related food safety projects	Ongoing since March 2017. Implementation by Michigan State University. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-535	75,000
STDF/PPG/566: Reducing aflatoxins and producing safe maize in Burkina Faso	Ongoing since October 2017. Implementation by Guatemalan Exporters' Association. More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-566	47,500
STDF/PPG/577: Developing safe production practices for cocoa beans in Latin America	Ongoing since March 2017. Implementation by International Cocoa Organization (ICCO). Countries involved: Ecuador, Colombia, Peru , Trinidad & Tobago More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-577	68,458
STDF/PPG/593: Improving the safety and quality of Penja pepper in Cameroon	Ongoing since January 2018 More information available at: http://standardsfacility.org/PPG-593	43,000
STDF/PPG/611: Support to the control of SPS risks in the cashew and shea value chains in Mali	Awaiting to be contracted Upcoming project page	50,000
STDF/PPG/619: Improving food safety in the peppercorn value chain in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam	Awaiting to be contracted Upcoming project page	36,300
STDF/PPG/657: Strengthening the National Food Control System in Kiribati	Awaiting to be contracted Upcoming project page	50,000