



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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COMMUNICATION FROM STDF¹

STDF OVERVIEW FOR THE 40TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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 World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO houses and manages the STDF Secretariat and Trust Fund. Other organizations involved in SPS-related technical cooperation, donors and selected developing country experts participate actively in the Facility's work. The Secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) also participate actively in the STDF.

1.3. This document provides a brief update on STDF's activities and projects since the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in 2016. Annex I provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) related to food safety, many of which benefit from the involvement and technical guidance provided by FAO and WHO. Delegates who would like to know more about the STDF and its projects, and download STDF briefing notes and publications are encouraged to visit the STDF website. Delegates can also subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list (www.standardsfacility.org/).

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

2 PARTICIPATION IN CCAFRICA AND CCFICS

2.1 The STDF Secretariat participated in the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) in Nairobi from 16-19 January 2017.² At a well-attended side-event, the Secretariat highlighted funding opportunities and shared information on relevant STDF projects in Africa. It also shared experiences and recommendations related to other STDF work, for instance on trade facilitation, public private partnerships and collaboration with the private sector, i.e. topics that were discussed throughout the CCAFRICA meeting.

2.2 The WTO reported on STDF activities to the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) in Mexico City from 1 to 5 May 2017. During the meeting, the STDF film "Safe Trade Solutions" was shown.³ The film takes a look at what Chile, Peru and Colombia have done to make goods flow faster across their borders, while preventing the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants, and ensuring that food is safe for consumers. The film can be viewed on STDF website: www.standardsfacility.org/video-gallery. The STDF continues to closely follow Codex work on electronic certificates and on regulatory approaches to third party assurance schemes.

3 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

3.1. In 2012, the STDF issued a publication which considers how Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) build SPS capacity and what lessons can be learned from this collaborative approach.⁴ Various types of partnerships to improve food safety, animal and plant health capacity have emerged in recent years, with governments, the private sector and others deciding to pool resources, and share information and technical capability in pursuit of a common goal. Some of these partnerships bring together actors – at the international, regional, national and/or sub-national level – to address specific SPS capacity constraints and/or take advantage of market opportunities, sometimes as part of larger initiatives focused on agriculture value chain development or trade facilitation. Other approaches focus on public agencies engaging with the private sector to supply services (e.g. laboratory testing, inspection, certification, training), traditionally provided by government. STDF's ongoing work in this area may be of interest to Codex delegates.

3.2. In February 2017, the STDF issued a briefing note, illustrating how specific STDF projects are engaging the private sector in implementing SPS measures and taking advantage of trade opportunities.⁵

4 PAPERLESS TRADE IN FOOD PRODUCTS

4.1. In June 2016, the STDF held a seminar on electronic SPS certification (e-cert), which brought together over 150 participants from WTO Members, international organizations and global business.⁶ Participants shared the latest knowledge and good practice on automated systems operating worldwide and their impact on facilitating trade by cutting time and costs, while simultaneously improving human, animal and plant health protection. E-cert can contribute to faster movement of food and agricultural products and to reduced transaction costs. It can do this through improving compliance with regulations and policies, reducing errors and fraud, supporting risk management and enhancing trust among partners. Processes, institutions and legislation must be in place to support the transition from paper-based to electronic certification systems.

4.2. The Sixth Global Review of Aid for Trade will be held at the WTO in Geneva from 11 July to 13 July 2017 (i.e. the week prior to the 40th Session of the CAC) and is themed: "Promoting Trade, Inclusiveness and Connectivity for Sustainable Development". An STDF event on the transition from paperless to digital SPS systems will be held during the Review. More information on this event will be issued shortly.

5 PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS

5.1. In 2016, the STDF published the user guide "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA): A framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes". The P-IMA framework complements and builds on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools developed by international organizations. An information session on P-IMA was organized for SPS delegates on the margins of the SPS Committee in March 2016, which generated a lot of interest.

² <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/detail/en/?meeting=CCAFRICA&session=22>

³ <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/detail/en/?meeting=CCFICS&session=23>

⁴ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships>

⁵ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-briefings>

⁶ See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert>

5.2. To date, the framework has been used to prioritize SPS investment options in ten 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. The 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. In March 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. Regional trade bodies such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) have also expressed a strong interest in the framework.

5.3. The P-IMA user guide, as well as a short briefing note, is available for download on the STDF website.⁷ Delegates from developing countries 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 JOINT EIF/STDF ANALYSIS ON SPS ISSUES IN DTIS STUDIES

6.1. The STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)⁸ recently finalized a joint study that analyses the coverage of SPS issues in EIF Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS)⁹ and identifies good practice for future studies and their implementation. The study makes several practical and strategic recommendations to improve the analysis on SPS issues in the DTIS process, enhance capacity to implement SPS-related actions and to promote synergies between EIF and STDF-related processes. This includes recommendations to make better use of relevant SPS-related capacity evaluation tools and to consider ways to actively engage SPS agencies and ministries at national level as well as international organizations (such as FAO, OIE and WHO) in the DTIS process.

6.2. The study and a short EIF/STDF briefing note, highlighting the scope, findings and recommendations of this joint work, are available on the EIF and STDF websites.¹⁰

7 VIRTUAL LIBRARY AND VIDEO GALLERY

7.1. The STDF Virtual Library¹¹ is an online information repository providing quick and easy online 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.

7.2. The STDF video gallery contains short films that explain the significance of standards in value chains and their trade impact, such as the "Safe Trade Solutions" film (see para 2.2 above). In 2016, the STDF finalized production on another short film entitled "Cocoa: a sweet value chain". This film takes a look at how today's cocoa value chain is a complex interconnection of processes, places and people, which requires countries along the entire cocoa value chain to meet SPS requirements to ensure access to international markets.

8 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

8.1. 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 **86 PPGs** have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception.

⁷ See <http://www.standardsfacility.org/p-ima>

⁸ The EIF is a trade capacity building programme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). For more information, see: <http://www.enhancedif.org/en/about/how-does-it-work>

⁹ The DTIS is the cornerstone of the EIF in LDCs to mainstream and integrate trade into national development plans. The DTIS sets the basis for all subsequent interventions and establishes priorities to increase exports from LDCs.

¹⁰ See <http://www.standardsfacility.org/spis-in-dtis>

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

9 PROJECT FUNDING

9.1. Project grant financing is also available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given to projects that: (i) identify, develop and disseminate 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.

9.2. 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.

9.3. A total of **80 projects** have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that since inception, 37 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs have addressed food safety issues, corresponding to 39 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding. In addition, food safety issues have also been present in cross-cutting projects which account for 24 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs, corresponding to 20 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding.

Figure 1

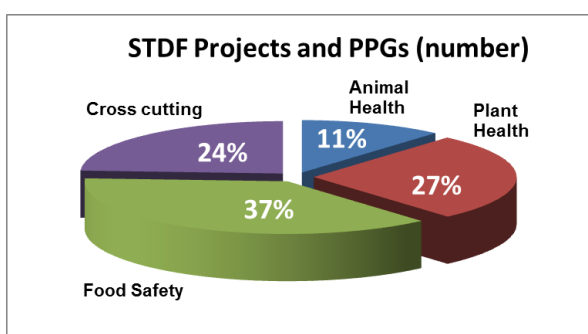
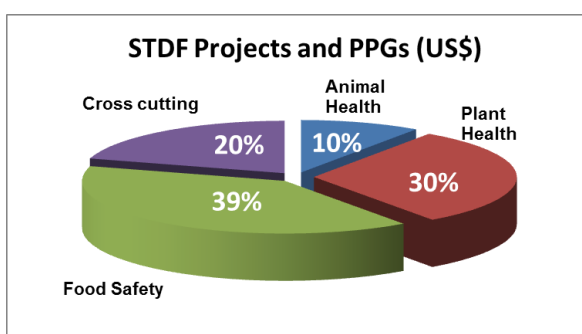


Figure 2



9.4. Applications for PPGs and requests for project funding from national veterinary services 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 **4 August 2017**.

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. Read carefully our guidance note for applicants: http://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDFGuidanceNote_English_FINAL_2015.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.

9.5. 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	Webpage
Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in <u>Comoros</u> (STDF/PG/242)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-242
Regional Total Diet Study for <u>Sub-Saharan Africa</u> (STDF/PG/303)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-303
Feed and Food Security Programme for <u>Latin America and the Caribbean</u> (STDF/PG/345)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-345
Breaking barriers, facilitating trade in <u>COMESA member states</u> (STDF/PG/346)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-346
<u>African</u> Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/359)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-359
Enabling market access of agricultural products in <u>Tajikistan</u> (STDF/PG/447)	Webpage under construction
Improving food safety and compliance with SPS measures to increase export revenues in the oilseeds value chain in <u>Myanmar</u> (STDF/PG/486)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-486
Technical assistance on SPS and the value-chain, to improve market access for small-scale/artisanal fisheries in <u>West Africa</u> (STDF/PG/489)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-489
Honey Chain Traceability in <u>Guatemala</u> (STDF/PG/515)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-515
Strengthening the capacity of the National Public Health Laboratory to provide services in support of market access for <u>Solomon Islands</u> fish exporters (STDF/PG/521)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-521

PPG Title	Webpage
Development of a project for the establishment of a National SPS Strategy in <u>Togo</u> (STDF/PPG/375)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-375
Aflatoxin management in chillies in <u>Pakistan</u> (STDF/PPG/431)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-431
Strengthening SPS compliance of sesame production in <u>Sudan</u> for enhanced access to international markets (STDF/PPG/435)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-435
Development of a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence (SPSCOE) for <u>Pacific Island Countries and Territories</u> (PICTs) (STDF/PPG/461)	Webpage under construction

Capacity building and knowledge sharing to combat SPS issues in spices in <u>India</u> (STDF/PPG/517)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-517
Spillover Effects of Export-Oriented SPS Technical Assistance on the Domestic Food Safety Situation (STDF/PPG/535)	Webpage under construction
Development of a project for a biosecurity classification system and registration for SPS Laboratories in <u>Guatemala</u> (STDF/PPG/539)	Webpage under construction
Training of champion coffee and cocoa farmers in <u>Papua New Guinea (PNG)</u> to adopt good agriculture practices (GAP) and to ensure compliance with SPS requirements to enhance trade (STDF/PPG/553)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-553
Improving post-harvest practices to reduce aflatoxin contamination in maize in <u>Burkina Faso</u> (STDF/PPG/566)	Webpage under construction
Preparation of a project proposal to promote compliance with international SPS requirements in <u>Kyrgyz Republic</u> (STDF/PPG/569)	http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-569
Prioritization of SPS investments for market access and value chains in <u>Madagascar</u> (STDF/PPG/575)	Webpage under construction
Feasibility study for value addition in the fruit and vegetable sector of <u>Sri Lanka</u> (STDF/PPG/576)	Webpage under construction
Mitigation and Remediation of Cadmium Contamination in Cocoa Beans in <u>Latin America and the Caribbean</u> (STDF/PPG/577)	Webpage under construction
Improving the safety and quality of Penja pepper in <u>Cameroon</u> (STDF/PPG/593)	Webpage under construction