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# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
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WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### *Twenty-ninth Session*

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#### **ACTIVITIES OF THE SPS COMMITTEE AND OTHER RELEVANT WTO ACTIVITIES SINCE JANUARY 2005**

#### Report by the WTO Secretariat<sup>1</sup>

1. The present report provides a summary of the activities and decisions of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the "SPS Committee") as well as of a number of other WTO bodies since January 2005.<sup>2</sup> It identifies in particular the work of the SPS Committee which is of relevance to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including: specific trade concerns; equivalence; monitoring the use of international standards; technical assistance; and the Standards and Trade Development Facility. The report also includes updates on dispute settlement and on geographical indications.
2. The SPS Committee held three regular meetings in 2005: on 9-10 March, 29-30 June and 24 October, continuing on 1-2 February 2006.<sup>3</sup> The Committee also held its first meeting of 2006 on 29-30 March, followed by a workshop on the Implementation of the SPS Agreement on 31 March.
3. The Committee has tentatively agreed that regular meetings will be held on 28-30 June and 11-13 October 2006.
4. Mr. Gregg Young (United States) acted as Chairperson for the period 2004/2006 and was replaced as chairperson by Mr. Juan Antonio Dorantes Sánchez (Mexico) as of the end of the meeting in March 2006.

<sup>1</sup> This report has been prepared under the WTO Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of WTO Members or to their rights or obligations under the WTO.

<sup>2</sup> An information note covering the activities of the WTO during 2004 and early 2005 was circulated as document CAC/28 INF 8 during the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the CAC.

<sup>3</sup> The report of the March 2005 meeting is contained in G/SPS/R/36, that of the June meeting in G/SPS/R/37/Rev.1 and Corr.1, that of the October meeting, with the continuation in February, in G/SPS/R/39 and Corr.1, and that of the March 2006 meeting will be circulated as G/SPS/R/40.

### Specific Trade Concerns

5. A large part of each SPS Committee meeting is devoted to the consideration of specific trade concerns. Any WTO Member can raise particular problems with the food safety, plant or animal health requirements imposed by another WTO Member. Problems raised in this context are usually in relation to the notification of a new or changed measure, or based on the experience of exporters. Often other countries will share the same concerns. At the SPS Committee meetings, Members usually commit themselves to exchange information and hold bilateral consultations to resolve the identified concern.

6. A summary of the specific trade concerns raised in meetings of the SPS Committee is compiled on an annual basis by the Secretariat of the WTO.<sup>4</sup> In the eleven years of implementation of the SPS Agreement, from 1995 to the end of 2005, 27 per cent of specific trade concerns raised were related to food safety. At the SPS Committee meetings in 2005 and March 2006, eight new issues relating to food safety were discussed.

7. In 2005, seven food safety issues were raised for the first time in the SPS Committee:

- Canada's concerns with EC food and feed hygiene rules (document G/SPS/GEN/539);
- Canada's concerns about EC (Greece) inspection and testing procedures for imported wheat;
- China's concerns on Japan's positive list system for pesticides, veterinary drugs and feed additives;
- China's concerns on EC residual pesticide tolerances and inspection methods for tea;
- Sri Lanka's concerns on EC restrictions on cinnamon (G/SPS/GEN/597);
- US concerns about Panama's inspection regime for food processing establishments (notifications G/SPS/N/PAN/1, G/SPS/N/PAN/28 and G/SPS/N/PAN/37);
- US concerns regarding Thailand's Regulation 11 on food products (notification G/SPS/N/THA/116).

8. Three issues relating to food safety that had been previously raised were discussed again in 2005, including:

- Colombia's concerns about an EC regulation on Ochratoxin A in coffee;
- EC concerns about import restrictions on Spanish olive oil maintained by Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates;
- US concerns on Korea's guidelines for maximum residue level testing (notifications G/SPS/N/KOR/123, G/SPS/N/KOR/154 and 155).

9. In March 2006, one new food safety issue was raised:

- Concerns of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru about the EC novel food regulation.

### Equivalence

10. In July 2004, the SPS Committee completed its work on guidelines on the implementation of Article 4 of the SPS Agreement on equivalence in response to concerns raised by developing countries.<sup>5</sup> The Decision on Equivalence adopted by the SPS Committee notes, *inter alia*, the work on recognition of equivalence undertaken in the Codex, the OIE and the IPPC, and requests the further elaboration of specific guidance by these organizations to ensure that such recognition is maintained. In this context, the SPS

<sup>4</sup> The latest version of this summary can be found in document G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.6 and addenda. This document is a public document available from <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

<sup>5</sup> G/SPS/19/Rev.2.

Committee welcomed the adoption of "Guidelines for the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems" by the Codex Commission.

11. In March 2005, the Codex representative reported that the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems had reviewed the proposed draft appendices to the guidelines on the judgement of equivalence and prioritized three objectives: (i) the determination of the specific documentation to be submitted for the evaluation as part of the request for equivalence determination; (ii) the determination of what could be considered as an "objective basis for comparison" for sanitary measures; and (iii) the elaboration of details on the process of judging equivalence. The Codex representative subsequently reported on a working group meeting planned to discuss this subject.

#### Monitoring the Use of International Standards

12. The procedure adopted by the SPS Committee to monitor the use of international standards invites countries to identify specific trade problems they have experienced due to the use or non-use of relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations.<sup>6</sup> These problems, once considered by the SPS Committee, are drawn to the attention of the relevant standard-setting body. In 2005, no issues related to food safety were raised under this procedure. In March 2006, Sri Lanka raised its concerns regarding the need for a Codex standard for a maximum residue level of sulphur dioxide in cinnamon, an issue previously raised as a specific trade concern. The Chairman of the SPS Committee has written a letter to the Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to draw its attention to this matter.

13. In June 2005, the Committee adopted the Seventh Annual Report on the procedure to monitor the use of international standards.<sup>7</sup>

#### Technical Assistance

14. At each of its meetings, the SPS Committee has solicited information from countries regarding their technical assistance needs and activities and from observer organizations on their work in this area. The SPS Committee has been kept informed of the operation of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for enhanced participation in Codex.<sup>8</sup>

15. The WTO Secretariat has updated its background document about SPS-related technical assistance (G/SPS/GEN/521/Rev.1). Altogether, 128 SPS technical assistance and training activities have been undertaken between 1 September 1994 and 31 December 2005. In 2005, 14 activities (7 regional or sub-regional workshops, 4 national seminars, 2 "other" activities and 1 SPS specialized trade policy course) were held. Since 1994, representatives from the international standard-setting organizations have actively participated in the delivery of SPS regional workshops undertaken by the Secretariat; the Codex secretariat has participated in 56 of these regional workshops.

16. To date, the SPS Agreement has been in force for 11 years for developed country Members (as of January 1995), 9 years for developing country Members (as of January 1997), and 6 years for least-developed country Members (as of January 2000). Although some Members continue to need basic, introductory seminars and workshops on the SPS Agreement, a growing number are requesting more advanced assistance and in-depth focus on implementation problems and on how to obtain and increase market access opportunities for food and other agricultural products. To meet these demands for more advanced SPS-related technical assistance, in 2005 the WTO Secretariat organized a two week Specialized Trade Policy Course on the SPS Agreement in Spanish and a more advanced SPS (Sub) Regional Workshop in Nicaragua in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA). A

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<sup>6</sup> G/SPS/11/Rev.1.

<sup>7</sup> G/SPS/37.

<sup>8</sup> This information is available in the reports of the SPS Committee meetings (G/SPS/R/36; G/SPS/R/37/Rev.1; G/SPS/R/39 and G/SPS/R/40).

second SPS Specialized Course is scheduled to be held in English back-to-back with the SPS Committee meeting in October 2006. The WTO will invite approximately 25 officials from least-developed and developing countries who are responsible for SPS-related activities to participate in this course.

### Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement

17. At the 1991 Doha Ministerial Conference, Ministers decided that the SPS Committee should review the operation and implementation of the Agreement every four years in accordance with Article 12.4 of the SPS Agreement. In 2004, the SPS Committee began its second review of the Agreement. The Committee adopted the Report on the Review of the Operation of the SPS Agreement in June 2005.<sup>9</sup> This report recommends that the relevant international organizations keep the Committee informed of any work they undertake with regard to the recognition of equivalence, as well as of their relevant capacity building activities. The report also recommends that the SPS Committee further clarify the relationship between the Committee and the Codex, OIE and IPPC with a view to facilitating the implementation of the SPS Agreement while avoiding duplication of activities. WTO Members are invited to provide information regarding their experiences in this regard and to submit specific suggestions for consideration by the Committee. In addition, the report recommends that the Committee continue to monitor the use of international standards at each of its regular meetings. Submissions and proposals by Members on specific issues will determine the Committee's approach to addressing issues raised in the Review.

## **Other Relevant WTO Activities**

### **Dispute Settlement**

18. In 2005, a dispute settlement report was adopted in the compliance panel regarding Japan's trade restrictions on apples imported from the United States relating to fire blight (*Japan-Apples*). Panel proceedings continued on the cases regarding the European Communities' measures affecting the approval and marketing of biotech products and the United States' and Canada's continued suspension of obligations in the *EC -Hormones* dispute.

### The WTO Dispute Settlement Procedure

19. Any WTO Member may invoke the formal dispute resolution procedures of the WTO if they consider that a particular measure imposed by another WTO Member violates any of the WTO Agreements, including the SPS Agreement. If formal consultations on the problem, the first step of the WTO dispute procedure, are unsuccessful, a WTO Member may request that a panel be established to consider the complaint.<sup>10</sup> A panel of three individuals considers written and oral arguments submitted by the parties to the dispute and issues a written report of its legal findings and recommendations. The parties to the dispute may appeal a panel's decision before the WTO's Appellate Body. The Appellate Body examines the legal findings of the panel and may uphold or reverse these. As with a panel report, the Appellate Body report is adopted automatically unless there is a consensus against adoption.

20. According to the SPS Agreement, when a dispute involves scientific or technical issues, the panel should seek advice from appropriate scientific and technical experts. Scientific experts have been consulted in all SPS-related disputes. The experts are usually selected from lists provided by the standard-setting organizations referenced in the SPS Agreement, including Codex for food safety. The parties to the dispute are consulted in the selection of experts and regarding the information solicited from the experts.

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<sup>9</sup> G/SPS/36.

<sup>10</sup> A flow chart of the dispute resolution process can be consulted at ([http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/tif\\_e/disp2\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/disp2_e.htm)).

## SPS Disputes

21. As of 2006, there have been 32 formal complaints, under the WTO dispute settlement procedures, alleging violations of the SPS Agreement. Eight panels have been established to consider six SPS-related issues.. Two dispute cases have concerned food safety regulations. In 1996, two panels (with the same members) were established to consider the European Communities (EC) ban on imports of meat from cattle treated with growth-promoting hormones, challenged by both the United States and by Canada (*EC-Hormones*).<sup>11</sup> In August 2003, a single panel was established to examine the complaints by the United States, Canada and Argentina regarding the European Communities' measures affecting the approval and marketing of biotech products.<sup>12</sup>

22. On 13 February 1998, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body adopted the panel and Appellate Body reports in the *EC – Hormones* case which recommended that the European Communities bring the measures at issue into conformity with WTO obligations. When the European Communities was unable to implement by the 13 May 1999 deadline, the United States and Canada obtained authorisation from the DSB on 26 July 1999 to suspend obligations up to the level of US\$116.8 million and CDN\$11.3 million per year, respectively. On 28 October 2003, the European Communities announced that its measures were now in compliance with the rulings, and on 17 February 2005 two new panels (with the same members) were established to consider EC complaints against the continued suspension of concessions by the United States and Canada.<sup>13</sup> The hearings for this panel have been the first to be made public.

23. In the GMO case, the panel proceedings have been delayed at various stages, including when the panel, at the EC request, sought advice from scientific experts on technical issues arising in the dispute. The volume of submissions from parties also led to further delays in the completion of the panel report. The panel report is expected to be publicly circulated in the second half of 2006.

24. Two SPS cases have dealt with plant pests and quarantine requirements: the US complaint about Japan's requirement for testing each variety of fruit for efficacy of treatment against codling moth (*Japan-Agricultural Products*)<sup>14</sup>; and the US complaint about Japan's set of requirements on apples imported from the United States relating to fire blight (*Japan-Apples*).<sup>15</sup> The United States subsequently challenged the revised measures applied by Japan, and in accordance with WTO procedures, these were examined by the original panel. The panel considering Japan's compliance issued its report in April 2005.<sup>16</sup> The parties notified a mutually agreed solution in September 2005.

25. One SPS case complaint dealt with diseases of fish, brought by Canada against Australia's import restriction on fresh, chilled or frozen salmon (*Australia-Salmon*). The panel was subsequently reconvened to consider whether Australia had implemented the findings in a manner consistent with the SPS Agreement.<sup>17</sup> A US complaint on this same issue was resolved before the panel began its examination.

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<sup>11</sup> The reports of the panels are contained in documents WT/DS26/R/USA and WT/DS48/R/CAN. The Appellate Body report is in document WT/DS/26/AB/R and WT/DS48/AB/R.

<sup>12</sup> The requests for the establishment of a panel by the United States, Canada and Argentina are found in the documents WT/DS291/23, WT/DS292/17, and WT/DS293/17, respectively.

<sup>13</sup> The requests by the European Communities for the establishment of the panels are found in documents WT/DS320/6 and WT/DS/321/6..

<sup>14</sup> The report of the panel is contained in document WT/DS76/R. The Appellate Body report is contained in document WT/DS76/AB/R.

<sup>15</sup> The report of the panel is contained in document WT/DS245/R. The Appellate Body report is contained in document WT/DS254/AB/R.

<sup>16</sup> WT/DS245/RW.

<sup>17</sup> The report of the panel is contained in document WT/DS18/R. The Appellate Body report is in document WT/DS18/AB/R. The report of the implementation panel is contained in document WT/DS18/RW.

## **The Standards and Trade Development Facility**

26. The aim of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is to assist developing countries enhance their capacity to meet international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, improve the human health, animal health and phytosanitary situation, and thus gain and maintain market access. The partner agencies of the STDF are 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 is the administrator of the STDF and provides the secretariat.

27. The STDF is both a financing and a coordination mechanism. Grant financing is available for private and public organizations in developing countries seeking to comply with international SPS standards and hence gain or maintain market access. The STDF provides funds for two types of grants: project preparation grants and project grants. Project preparation grants, up to US\$20,000, aim to act as a bridge between the identification of technical assistance needs and the development of coherent project proposals. Project grants typically range between US\$300,000 and US\$600,000. Applicants must assume some of the financial cost of the projects.<sup>18</sup> A list of projects and project preparation grants with a food safety component that have been approved by the STDF is provided in an Annex to this document.

28. Applications for STDF funding may be made at any moment in the year. The STDF Working Group meets three times per year to consider funding requests. The next STDF Working Group meeting will be held back-to-back with the SPS Committee meeting during the week of 9-13 October 2006. The deadline for funding submissions to be considered at that meeting will be in mid-August, 45 days prior to the meeting. Further information on the STDF, including the exact deadlines and meeting dates, the Business Plan, application forms and information on projects approved can be found at the STDF website [www.standardsfacility.org](http://www.standardsfacility.org). The website also contains training materials collected from partner agencies and a link to the database on SPS technical activities.

## **Geographical Indications**

29. The WTO has continued its work, pursuant to its mandate under Article 23.4 of the TRIPS Agreement and paragraph 18 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, to negotiate the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits. In paragraph 29 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, Ministers agreed to intensify these negotiations in order to complete them within the overall time-frame for the conclusion of the negotiations (end 2006). Differences remain large in particular in respect of the legal effects of a registration and participation. In paragraph 39 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, Ministers requested the Director-General to intensify his consultative process on all outstanding implementation issues under paragraph 12(b) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, including on issues related to the extension of the protection of geographical indications provided for in Article 23 of the TRIPS Agreement to products other than wines and spirits. In these consultations, positions remain divided both on the merits of such extension and its relationship to the Doha Round negotiations. The Ministers agreed that the WTO General Council would take any appropriate action no later than 31 July 2006.

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<sup>18</sup> Applicants from least-developed countries and other low-income countries must meet at least 10 per cent of the cost of the project from their own resources, while other developing countries are required to fund at least 25 per cent of the project cost. Further information on eligibility criteria, the application process and governance arrangements for the STDF can be found in document G/SPS/GEN/523.

## Annex

## STDF Projects and Project Preparation Grants with a Food Safety Component

The following projects with a food safety component have been approved by the STDF:

Project Number and Title	Project Description	US dollars
STDF 48: Quality control for shea and cashew nut products in Benin.	The project (approved in February 2006) aims to reduce problems of mycotoxin contamination of shea and cashew nut production through the application of good agricultural practice and training for actors in the supply chain	\$261,000
STDF 69: SPS capacity building for the Yemen Seafood Exporters Association	The project (approved in February 2006) will work with the recently established Yemen Seafood Exporters Association to develop and apply SPS standards on an industry-wide basis with a view to securing new and existing market access for Yemen's seafood exports.	\$371,075
STDF 114: Effective aflatoxin management in Brazil nut production	The project (approved in February 2006) aims to reduce and control aflatoxin contamination in the Brazil nut production chain with a view to stimulating export and improve sanitary conditions for locally-consumed nuts. Project results will be disseminated to producers in Peru and Bolivia.	\$619,664
STDF 120: Risk assessment training in India.	The project (approved in February 2006) will provide in-depth training on risk assessment procedures to be used in food safety, animal and plant health in three different regions in India.	\$153,600
STDF 62: Strengthening food safety structures in Cameroon	The aim of the project (approved in September 2005) is to reactivate a national committee on food safety and provide training for key stakeholders in the public and private sector in Cameroon with a view to designing a national strategy on food safety.	\$295,710
STDF 65: Support compliance with official and commercial standards in the fruit and vegetable sector in Guinea	The project (approved in September 2005) is focused on assisting the public and private sector in Guinea through training to meet official and commercial standards for fruit and vegetable exports.	\$600,000
STDF 79: Quality information on SPS issues - a pre requisite for capacity building	The project (approved in September 2005) is a one-off activity to improve the sharing of information on official standards (including the supporting of scientific evaluations) developed by the three international standards-setting bodies referred to in the SPS Agreement through the medium of the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health. The project will be implemented by the FAO in collaboration with Codex, OIE and the IPPC. The project will improve the sustainability of core resources for the Portal.	\$470,000

<b>Project Number and Title</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>US dollars</b>
STDF 56: Capacity building for implementation of the Codex Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding	The aim of the project (approved in March 2005) is to provide training on the implementation of the Codex Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding through a series of regional workshops in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Two of the three workshops have been organized and the third workshop is expected to be held early 2006. The project, which is implemented by the International Feed Industry Federation, is scheduled to finish in 2006.	\$150,000
STDF 19: Model arrangements for SPS stakeholder involvement at the national level	The aim of the project (approved in September 2004) is to look at national arrangements for the circulation of SPS information at national level among relevant stakeholders and to make recommendations of general applicability on how this co-ordination may be improved. Fieldwork in Paraguay and Sri Lanka. The project is scheduled to finish in 2006.	\$291,218
STDF 9: Model Programme for Developing Food Standards within a Risk Analysis Framework	The focus of the project (approved in November 2003) is on food safety risk analysis training for policy makers in the Asia Oceania region. The project is scheduled to finish in 2006.	\$70,848
STDF 10: International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health project	The aim of the project (approved in September 2003) is the establishment of national windows to the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health. Fieldwork in Turkey and Uganda has been completed. The project is scheduled to finish in 2006.	\$59,400
STDF 20: Country-based plans for SPS-related development	The aim of the project (approved in September 2003) is to undertake baseline studies of SPS capacity and to apply cost-benefit analysis to examine potential returns on investment in terms of foreign trade and an improved SPS situation. Fieldwork in Uganda and Peru. The project is scheduled to finish in 2006.	\$170,862

The following project preparation grants have a food safety component and have been approved by the STDF:

<b>Project Number and Title</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>US dollars</b>
STDF 46: Implementation of Codex standards (WHO Africa)	The project preparation grant (approved in February 2006) will assist WHO's Africa office to develop a project proposal assisting selected African countries to implement Codex standards.	\$20,000
STDF 113: Survey of food safety needs in Burundi	The project preparation grant (approved in February 2006) will be used to apply the joint WHO/FAO evaluation tool of official food control services to survey the food safety situation and recommend a trade-related project in Burundi	\$20,000



Project Number and Title	Project Description	US dollars
STDF 88: SPS training in Nepal	The project preparation grant (approved in September 2005) focuses on evaluating the training needs of Nepal's SPS control authorities and designing a training programme which responds to those needs.	\$20,000
STDF 100: Assessment of food safety capacity building needs in Cape Verde	The project preparation grant (approved in September 2005) focuses on applying the FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" and designing a project on the basis of findings.	\$20,000
STDF 101: Assessment of food safety capacity building needs in Eritrea	The project preparation grant (approved in September 2005) focuses on applying the FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" and designing a project on the basis of findings.	\$20,000
STDF 102: Project design in Mali	The project preparation grant (approved in September 2005) focuses on project design in the fruit and vegetable sector to support current initiatives to address SPS constraints.	\$20,000
STDF 103: Project design in Rwanda	The project preparation grant (approved in September 2005) focuses on project design in the fruit and vegetable sector to support current initiatives to address SPS constraints.	\$20,000
STDF 52: Aflatoxin contamination in Malawi and Zambia	The project preparation grant (approved in March 2005) builds on needs expressed in the Integrated Framework Diagnostic Integration Study. Terms of Reference have been developed with the FAO to design a project to address post-harvest aflatoxin contamination problems in the paprika and groundnut sectors.	\$30,000
STDF 63: Assessment of food safety capacity building needs in Benin	The project preparation grant (approved in March 2005) concentrated on application of the FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" and designing a project on the basis of findings. Grant applications were presented in August 2005 and one project was accepted for funding in February 2006.	\$20,000
STDF 65: Tropical fruit sector in Guinea	The project preparation grant (approved in March 2005) concentrated on designing a project built on an UNCTAD evaluation of costs of compliance in the tropical fruit sector. A grant application was accepted for funding in September 2005.	\$20,000
STDF 66: Tropical fruit sector in Mozambique	The project preparation grant (approved in March 2005) concentrated on designing a project built on an UNCTAD evaluation of costs of compliance in the tropical fruit sector. A grant application was conditionally accepted for funding in September 2005.	\$20,000

Project Number and Title	Project Description	US dollars
STDF 68: South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) SPS co-operation	The project preparation grant (approved in March 2005) supports efforts aimed at regional co-operation on SPS among SAARC countries.	\$20,000
STDF 69: Survey of SPS issues in Yemen	The aim of the project preparation grant (approved in March 2005) was a survey of SPS issues in the fisheries sector and project design. A grant application was accepted for funding in February 2006.	\$20,000
STDF 38: Agricultural Health and Food Safety Laboratory Needs Assessment for CARICOM Countries	The aim of the project preparation grant (approved in September 2004) is a survey of laboratory capacity in CARICOM with a view to developing a project to assist development of a regional strategy on laboratory infrastructure. Preparation activities are scheduled to finish in 2006.	\$20,000
STDF 62: Assessment of food safety capacity building needs in Cameroon	The project preparation grant (approved in September 2004) focused on applying the FAO/WHO developed "Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs in Official Food Control Systems" and designing a project on the basis of findings. A grant application was accepted for funding in September 2005.	\$20,000