



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

36<sup>th</sup> Session, FAO Headquarters

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### COMMUNICATION FROM STDF

## STDF OVERVIEW FOR THE 36TH CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION<sup>1</sup>

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary 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. In doing so, it contributes to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries. The STDF helps in increasing awareness, mobilizing additional resources, strengthening collaboration and identifying and disseminating good practice to enhance the effectiveness of SPS-related technical cooperation. 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 is a global partnership 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 to the STDF and developing country experts participate actively in the Facility's work. The STDF is managed and housed by the WTO.

1.3. This document provides an overview of relevant STDF activities since July 2012 (i.e. when CAC-35 was held). It also highlights activities that the STDF plans to implement in 2013, in accordance with its 2013 Work Plan, and provides an overview of on-going STDF projects and project preparation grants (PPG) in the food safety area.

1.4. Delegates are encouraged to subscribe to the STDF electronic mailing list (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/ContactUs.htm>) to receive information on SPS-related technical cooperation. The STDF regularly issues an electronic newsletter which contains an overview of major developments in SPS capacity building, including activities of the STDF and its partners.

### 2 OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

#### 2.1 Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)

2.1. Work continued on the application of Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) to inform decision-making on SPS capacity building and resource allocation. The purpose of the MCDA framework is to improve the effectiveness of decisions on where to allocate public, private and/or donor resources aimed at enhancing SPS capacity. As such, the tool can help to: (i) enhance the economic efficiency of SPS resource

<sup>1</sup> This document has been prepared by and under the responsibility of STDF.

allocation decisions so that scarce resources are allocated in a manner that best meets a country's economic development, poverty alleviation, public health and/or other objectives; (ii) promote more transparent and accountable choices between multiple investment options; and (iii) facilitate dialogue and coordination among public and private sector stakeholders with an interest in SPS and encourage more inclusive decision-making processes.

2.2. The STDF organized a successful regional MCDA training workshop for selected mid- to high-level officials in food safety, animal and plant health and trade from Asian and Pacific countries in Bangkok on 12-13 November 2012. The objectives of the workshop were to present the MCDA approach, share practical experiences from countries where it had been used, and equip SPS experts from the region with knowledge and skills to apply this approach.

2.3. Building on the STDF-facilitated MCDA work in Africa in 2011, public and private stakeholders in Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda applied MCDA in 2012 and 2013 to prioritize SPS capacity building options in collaboration with COMESA and/or USDA/USAID. In 2012, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) successfully completed an STDF project focused on the use of MCDA, and SPS stakeholders in Viet Nam initiated work to use the MCDA framework with STDF support.

2.4. The STDF will organize an MCDA workshop on 24-25 June 2013 in Geneva for its partners and participants from the countries where the tool has been applied to: (i) review work to date on the use of MCDA to prioritize SPS capacity building options; (ii) discuss options to improve the MCDA tool and its practical application; and (iii) make recommendations to guide future work on MCDA.

2.5. More information on the MCDA tool, including previous STDF events and publications, can be found on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAEcoAnalysis.htm>).

## **2.2 SPS and Trade Facilitation**

2.6. The growing spotlight on trade facilitation is focusing additional attention on SPS measures, how they are applied to imports, exports and transit goods, and the extent to which, if any, these measures unnecessarily increase the cost (including time) of doing business. Trade transactions costs are estimated to be generally higher for agricultural and food products, fish, forest and wood products linked to additional procedures related to SPS controls (OECD, 2003). While the implementation of SPS measures for imports, exports and goods in transit, both at the border and behind the border, may understandably result in some trade transaction costs, which are justified by the need to ensure health protection, the SPS Agreement requires that they should not be higher than necessary.

2.7. Based on discussions in the STDF Working Group, the work in 2013 will analyse the implementation of SPS measures in the context of trade facilitation, defined as the simplification, harmonisation, standardisation and modernisation of trade procedures (Grainger, 2008). Regional research is underway or planned in selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America as part of this work, which is being carried out in collaboration with STDF partners and other interested organizations including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and TradeMark Southern Africa. The purpose will be to: (i) identify experiences and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that ensures the appropriate level of health protection, while minimizing trade transaction costs; and (ii) develop recommendations to strengthen future work and technical cooperation focused on SPS and trade facilitation

2.8. Delegates are encouraged to share information with the STDF Secretariat on their experiences in the area of SPS and Trade Facilitation ([STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)).

## **2.3 SPS Coordination and Capacity Building in Africa**

2.9. The African Union Commission (AUC) and the STDF jointly organized a meeting on 28 September 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss issues related to regional SPS coordination and capacity building in Africa. The specific objective was to reflect and agree on how to implement the recommendations of the 2010 STDF study entitled "Regional SPS Frameworks and Strategies in Africa" and of other relevant meetings, notably in relation to the role and function of the AUC, its technical offices and Regional

Economic Communities (RECs) in adding value to SPS coordination and capacity building initiatives. This one-day meeting was held on the margins of the WTO Regional SPS Workshop for English-speaking Africa (24-27 September 2012).

2.10. The meeting was attended by approximately 25 officials from the AUC and its technical agencies, RECs and relevant international organizations (including Codex, IPPC, and OIE). Participants from the AU and RECs agreed that the AUC should take the lead in drafting preliminary terms of reference for a continental SPS working group. One main task of this group would be to mainstream SPS issues into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation and other relevant initiatives, such as in relation to Aid for Trade. The STDF will continue to monitor this process and provide advice and support to the AUC upon request and where appropriate.

#### **2.4 Public-Private Partnerships To Build SPS Capacity**

2.11. In April last year, the STDF released the joint STDF/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) publication "Public-Private Partnerships to enhance SPS capacity: What can we learn from this collaborative approach?". The paper analyses the emergence, operation and performance of selected SPS-related partnerships between government agencies responsible for food safety, animal and plant health and/or trade and the private sector. The paper raises awareness about the potential value and role of PPPs in enhancing SPS capacity and to provide practical guidance to facilitate and promote PPPs for SPS capacity development. It is available on the STDF website ([http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Publications/STDF\\_PublicPrivatePartnerships\\_EN.pdf](http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Publications/STDF_PublicPrivatePartnerships_EN.pdf)).

2.12. The STDF, in collaboration with Canada and the Netherlands, will be holding a side-event entitled "Public Private Partnerships in a Value Chain Context" at the upcoming Aid for Trade Global Review on 9 July 2013 in Geneva. The objective will be to present a report prepared by the Canadian North-South Institute entitled "Models for Trade-Related Private Sector Partnerships for Development", to disseminate the results of STDF work in the area of SPS-related PPPs and to foster dialogue among public and private sector experts on key lessons learned and recommendations. Specific experiences and case studies will be presented and discussed. For more detailed information on the side-event, please see the [STDF website](#). More information on the Aid for Trade initiative and on the next Global Review is available on the WTO website: ([http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/devel\\_e/a4t\\_e/aid4trade\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/aid4trade_e.htm)).

#### **2.5 STDF Virtual Library**

2.13. In November 2012, the STDF launched the STDF Virtual Library, a central repository of SPS capacity building documentation. The system currently contains around 800 publicly available documents, including project documents and end reports, project evaluations, SPS capacity assessments, training materials, cost benefit analysis studies, and research papers and articles, from various publishers and sources in English, French and/or Spanish, as available. The library allows the STDF Secretariat to: (i) better manage and share large amounts of documentation in its possession; (ii) inform and assist beneficiaries, international organizations and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of SPS capacity building initiatives; and (iii) further facilitate the dissemination of relevant experiences and good practices. The library is accessible from the STDF website, and at the following web address: <http://www.stdfvirtuallibrary.org>.

2.14. Delegates are encouraged to share relevant SPS technical cooperation and capacity building documents with the STDF Secretariat ([STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)) for possible inclusion in the library.

#### **2.6 International Trade and Invasive Alien Species**

2.15. On 12-13 July 2012 the STDF organized a seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Geneva, on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee meeting, in close collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat and the OIE. The seminar, attended by 110 participants from the SPS and biodiversity "communities", offered a unique opportunity to consider the mutually supportive objectives of the SPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The STDF is currently finalizing and will shortly publish a desk study that was prepared for and presented at the seminar.

The main objectives of STDF's work in this area are to: (i) provide a common understanding of the concepts and principles used in the CBD, the SPS Agreement and related instruments with regard to IAS in the context of international trade; and (ii) highlight the effective contributions that can be made by effective SPS systems in preventing the entry and control of IAS. In doing so, this work aims to foster increased and better collaboration between the SPS and the CBD "communities" at both regional and national levels. More information on the seminar, including the presentations, an STDF briefing note highlighting the main findings and conclusions of the seminar, as well as other relevant documentation, is available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIAS.htm>).

### **3 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

3.1. The STDF acts as a helpdesk on SPS project development and funds project preparation grants (PPGs) to assist beneficiaries in the articulation of their SPS needs and the development of technically sound and sustainable project proposals. Funds up to US\$50,000 are 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 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. A total of 56 PPGs have been approved and funded by the STDF since its inception.

3.2. As a result of collaboration between the STDF and the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), a practical guide on trade-related project development was produced by the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) at the University of Wolverhampton, UK. This handbook titled "Capacity Building in Project Identification, Formulation and Design" is available in English on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/TAIntegratedFramework.htm>).

### **4 PROJECT FUNDING**

4.1. Project grant financing up to a maximum of US\$1 million is available from the STDF. Favourable consideration is given by the STDF Working Group to projects that focus on one or more of the following: (i) the identification, development and dissemination of good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches; (ii) STDF work on cross-cutting topics of common interest; (iii) the use of regional approaches to address SPS constraints; and/or (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches focused on the interface / linkages between human, animal and plant health and trade, and benefiting from the involvement of two or more STDF partners or other relevant organizations.

4.2. 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.

4.3. To date, a total of 65 projects have been approved for STDF funding since its inception. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate that only 36 per cent of STDF projects and PPGs address food safety issues, corresponding to 46 per cent of the total STDF resources dedicated to project and PPG funding.

Figure 1

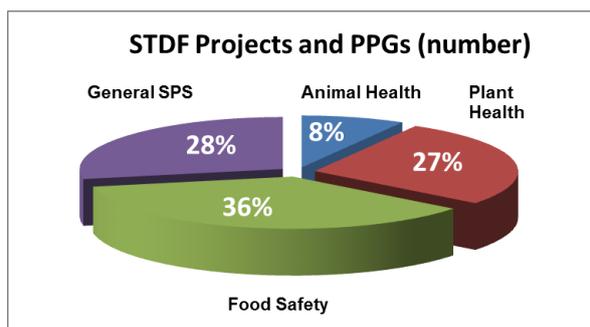
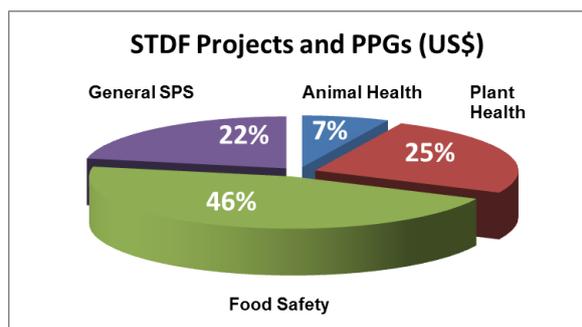


Figure 2



4.4. Proposals can be made at any time in the year. The next deadline for the receipt of applications is 19 July 2013. The Working Group will meet in October 2013 to consider these funding requests.

Recommended steps to follow when seeking PG or PPG funding opportunities with the STDF:

1. Browse our PPG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/PGPpgStat.htm> and PG <http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/PGProStat.htm> webpages for examples of previous projects.
2. Carefully read our guidance note for applicants: [http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Forms/STDFGuidanceNote\\_en.pdf](http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Forms/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](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)).
5. Fill out an application form (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/en/FDAppForms.htm>) and submit it electronically before the deadline.

4.5. Table 1 provides an overview of the STDF projects addressing food safety issues and projects of general SPS interest. Further information on the STDF, its activities, application forms, eligibility criteria and information on projects can be found on the [STDF website](#).

**Table 1: Overview of on-going relevant STDF projects**

Project Title	Objective and Status	STDF support (US\$)
<b>STDF/PG/172: Expanding exports of sesame seeds and sheanut/butter through improved SPS capacity building for private and public sector</b>	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 (NEPC) started in October 2010.	364,240
<b>STDF/PG/242: Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros</b>	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. Implementation by UNDP started in September 2012.	1,033,673
<b>STDF/PG/298: SPS capacity building in Africa to mitigate the</b>	Build SPS capacity in Africa to produce good quality cocoa that complies with the relevant international regulations and legislation on pesticide residues and	593,460

<b>harmful effects of pesticide residues in cocoa and to maintain market access</b>	other harmful substances. Implementation by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) started in January 2011.	
<b>STDF/PG/300: Combined e-learning curriculum and web-based information system for food standards</b>	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 the University of Cape Coast (UCC) in co-operation with FAO and GIZ started in December 2010.	262,246
<b>STDF/PG/302: Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal</b>	Increase the production of cabbage and hence exports from 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 by Senegal's Horticulture Union of the Niayes region (AUMN) started in February 2012.	577,142
<b>STDF/PG/303: Regional Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	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. The project will be implemented by FAO in collaboration with WHO. Start date has yet to be determined.	1,063,708
<b>STDF/PG/319: Strengthening the Food Safety Risk Assessment Unit in Colombia</b>	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.	401,500
<b>STDF/PG/321: Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh</b>	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.	568,750
<b>STDF/PG/326: A Southeast Asian partnership to build trade capacity for fresh and processed fruit and vegetable products</b>	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 by Michigan State University (MSU) started in January 2011.	581,665
<b>STDF/PG/329: Enhancing SPS capacity of Nepalese ginger exports through Public Private Partnerships</b>	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. Implementation by FAO started in June 2012.	412,629
<b>STDF/PG/337: ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project</b>	Establish 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. Implementation by the ASEAN Secretariat started in	607,000

	December 2012.	
<b>STDF/PG/343: Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in Sri Lanka</b>	Enhance the competitiveness of the cinnamon industry and the capacity of the cinnamon value added segment by improving processing and handling practices. Implementation by UNIDO started in July 2012.	630,000
<b>STDF/PG/344: Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in Central America and Dominican Republic</b>	The project aims to harmonize modern inspection procedures through a properly trained cadre of food inspectors and food safety auditors in the region. Implemented by IICA started in July 2012.	905,225
<b>STDF/PG/345: Feed and Food Security Program for Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	Contribute to the harmonization of the regulatory framework for the production and commercialization of animal feed, ensuring its safety and access to markets, based on the standards and recommendations of Codex and OIE. Project will be implemented by FEEDLATINA. Start date has yet to be determined.	1,000,000
<b>STDF/PG/359: African Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project: Strengthening regional capacity to meet pesticides export requirements based on international standards</b>	Enhance regional capacity in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring for establishing, implementing, and complying with international pesticide residue standards. Implementation by AU-IBAR started in May 2013.	446,150
<b>STDF/PG/381: CocoaSafe: SPS capacity building and knowledge sharing for the cocoa sector in South East Asia</b>	Maintain and increase market access of cocoa exports by improving practices along the supply chain to meet international standards of food safety. The project will be implemented by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO). Start date has yet to be determined.	593,204
<b>STDF/PG/436: Strengthening regional capacity in Latin America to meet pesticides export requirements based on international standards</b>	Strengthen the capacity of Latin American countries in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring, to support the establishment, implementation and compliance with international standards. The project will be implemented by IICA. Start date has yet to be determined.	373,515