

## STDF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

### APPLICATION FORM

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) provides grants (up to a maximum of US\$30,000) to assist eligible organizations in developing countries to develop full proposals for projects seeking to: (i) enhance capacity to meet official or commercial requirements in the sanitary and phytosanitary field and so facilitate market access; and (ii) better protect human and animal health and plants against disease and pest hazards related to cross border trade.

Complete details on eligibility criteria and other requirements are available in the *Guidance Note for Applicants* on the STDF website ([www.standardsfacility.org](http://www.standardsfacility.org)). Please read the *Guidance Note* before completing this form.

This form should be completed by eligible organizations interested in applying for STDF funding to develop a project proposal. It is designed to provide the STDF Working Group, which makes decisions on STDF funding, with an overview about the project you wish to develop. This form should be completed in English, French or Spanish.

<b>PPG Title</b>	Comprehensive Assessment and Development of a Project Proposal for the Strengthening of the National Plant Protection System
<b>Budget requested from STDF</b>	US\$50,000
<b>Full name and contact details of the requesting organization(s)</b>	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, The Quadrangle, Banjul, +220 4228270, +220 4226134, Fax: +220 4201187  Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Independence Drive, Banjul, Tel: (+220) 4228868, Fax: 4227756
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## I. Background and rationale

1. Provide an overview of the SPS situation and issues in the country or region, as appropriate. This should include a description of any SPS priorities or issues identified in the Integrated Framework's Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS), SPS-related capacity evaluations, national development strategies or policies, or other relevant documents. It should also describe the institutional framework for SPS management (see Qn. 7. A-C of the *Guidance Note* for further information).

The Gambia over last few years has been making efforts to promote quality and strengthen standards compliance with a view to addressing its SPS related challenges. The Gambia's DTIS (2007) recognized the weak capacities in the Gambia for management of standards and SPS measures and thus recommends the need to raising awareness among stakeholders, and develop capacities necessary to raise quality and implement WTO SPS agreement. In recognition of this need a capacity needs pre-assessment of the food safety, plant and animal health systems was carried out in 2009 with the support of the FAO (Case Study 4: Capacity Building Needs Assessment Series, 2009). As a follow-up, in depth assessment of the national food safety system in 2009 with the support of UNIDO and that of the National Veterinary Services also carried out in 2009 by the OIE. As a result of these assessments, national action plans have been elaborated and are currently being implemented to strengthen the food safety and animal health systems. The missing gap to complete the national biosecurity system is the assessment for plant health. The need for such assessments, including that of the Plant Health Services was identified in The Gambia SPS Strategic Plan. The FAO (Case Study 4) recommends priority actions as a follow-up to strengthen the Plant Health systems in the Gambia. In addition, the SPS Strategic Plan (2009-2013) has the objective to *“develop a coherent National Food Safety and Biosecurity Policy and Programme based on the sharing of responsibilities between all levels of public authorities, industry and consumers; taking into account the entire food supply chain, including plant health and animal health.”*

SPS coordination and dialogue are ensured by the National SPS Committee, whose mandate covers food safety, animal and plant health. The Committee's membership is drawn from the public, private and civil society sectors. The Committee has an advisory and capacity building role and facilitates the country's participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and is also the designated National Focal Point of the WTO SPS Committee. The implementation of SPS measures is the responsibility of the specialized institutions as presented below.

Until recently in 2011 when the Food Safety and Quality Act was passed by Parliament providing for a unitary food control system, the responsibility for control of food safety in The Gambia between 2005-2011 was divided between Ministries of Health, Tourism, Agriculture, Local Government and the Gambia Revenue Authority and prior to this, the legislative framework for food safety was characterized by uncoordinated, piecemeal and fragmented legislation. The Gambia Food Safety and Quality Authority with core function of official control is expected to start operations in 2012.

Responsibility for animal health lies with the Veterinary Services which has operated with the Animal Disease Act of 1949 and has suffered severe manpower resource and institutional constraints since the past decade or so. With the PVS evaluation of the Veterinary Services

by the OIE in 2010 and The GoTG's current resolve to restructure the Services, it is expected that the internationally recognized legal and institutional framework for animal health will be established as a basis for an effective National Veterinary Services.

The Gambia SPS Strategic Plan 2009-2013 has highlighted the key weaknesses cited below that affect the plant protection system in terms of implementing the phytosanitary measures in accordance with The Gambia's commitment to the WTO SPS Agreement:

- The absence of a modern policy, legislative and regulatory framework
- Inadequate institutional capacities and arrangements for the effective surveillance and control of plant pests and diseases
- Absence of quarantine facilities
- Lack of accredited testing laboratory for pesticide residue monitoring
- The Gambia's non-membership of the IPPC (process for joining the IPPC has already been initiated). The instrument for membership has been prepared and is waiting signature by the Minister of Agriculture for transmission to IPPC.
- Lack of pest and disease risk assessment and management system

A draft Plant Health Bill 2011 is under development to update the legislation on Plant Importation of 1936 and the Prevention of Damage by Pest of 1962. Unlike for food safety and animal health, there has not been an up-to-date independent and comprehensive evaluation of the Plant Health Services to assess its performance in terms of its capacities to implement the SPS Agreement.

The FAO Capacity Building Needs Assessment study in 2009 was with the objective to evaluate the current situation of the Gambia's biosecurity system. The West Africa Trade Hub (WATH) also carried out an assessment of SPS Capacity in The Gambia in 2006. These two assessments were the bases of the comprehensive assessments for food safety and animal health as mentioned above. A comprehensive assessment for plant health is now the only gap for a complete biosecurity system. Besides, the IPPC recommends that a complete PCE be applied every 3 to 4 years.

2. What key SPS problems and/or opportunities would this project preparation grant address? Explain the background to these problems/opportunities, their importance for the stakeholders concerned, particularly for market access and poverty reduction, and the expected benefits of developing a project in this area. See Qn. 7. D. of the *Guidance Note*.

The Sanitary and Pyto-Sanitary Capacity Evaluation of SPS institutions in The Gambia carried out by the West Africa Trade Hub in 2006 identifies plant health needs. These are in the area of legislation and regulatory framework, institutional structure and capacity, facilities and equipment, among others. Efforts have been made to address some of these issues but there a number of outstanding issues. The WATH assessment further recommended for the development of a Strategic Plan that would detail out the specific actions that needs to be taken to address the capacity gaps of the plant health system in The Gambia.

These key SPS issues include:

- i. Policy, legal and institutional gaps of National Plant Protection Systems;
- ii. Capacity gaps of the Pesticide Residue Laboratory;
- iii. Inadequate control systems for the import and export of plant and plant products;
- iv. Lack of pest and disease risk assessment and management system; and
- v. Lack of a sustainable service delivery mechanism for plant protection such as public-private-partnership.

As a result an updated comprehensive assessment of the National Plant Protection System and prioritization of phytosanitary capacity building needs would constitute a critical step to inform the processes necessary to address the above challenges. This project preparation grant would address these challenges in two steps. First, it will conduct an up-to-date comprehensive assessment of the capacity gaps in the National Plant Protection Systems using the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Tool of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). And second, it will develop a project proposal with recommendations of implementable action points to enhance the National Plant Protection Systems to international standards, specifically IPPC standards. In turn this will provide the country the opportunity to enhanced trade in agro-products at local, regional and international levels. In addition, this will better mobilise and direct the high-level government officials, donors and international organizations (e.g. EU, FAO/IPPC, AU, ECOWAS) for strengthening plant health, and improving coordination and collaboration.

The current context of the plant health system left much to be desired. In terms of policy, legislation and regulatory dimensions the draft Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) policy 2009-2015 just provides a broad policy framework for plant health and the other legislations and regulatory instruments dates back to 1936 and 1962.

However, a draft plant bill was developed with support from the FAO TCP. It is assumed that the bill was developed following the application of PCE as one of the outputs of the FAO TCP. The bill was validated in 2011 and presented to the national technical regulations committee which recommended the Plant Protection unit to work with National SPS and Codex Committee for its finalization. It is hoped that the process would be completed by July 2012. The application and enforcement of the new plant health law will no doubt be challenging for the country. Therefore, as part of the objectives of this PPG the capacity needs for the application and enforcement of the new law that will come into effect. As alluded to above the regulations are all outdated except the recently drafted ones relating to groundnuts, oils and pesticide residue levels which are yet to be adopted and enforced.

The National Plant Protection Office which is Plant Protection Services (PPS) is under the Ministry of Agriculture and is structured as a service unit of the Department of Agriculture without a national mandate. Within the PPS there is a main laboratory building with partially installed equipment for pesticide monitoring and absence of qualified and experienced laboratory management and technical staff. Given the current policy of civil service contraction and the need to adopt best practices in the delivery of plant health services and the lack of public-private partnership is inhibiting broad-based access to these services and inputs particularly by small holder farmers.

Since there have not been any comprehensive assessment as a follow-up to the pre-assessment conducted by FAO in 2009, the plant pest and disease control strategies in use are not based on the modern concept of risk assessment.

The project when implemented will provide guidelines (project proposals) for strengthening national capacity for plant pests and diseases surveillance and control thereby reducing their negative impact and the productivity and trade in fruit and horticulture sectors. This will enhance the livelihood and incomes of the actors of the value chain including small holder farmers. It will also ensure the availability of healthy plants through a contamination preventive strategy. The WATH study states that “most horticultural exports from The Gambia go through the airport cargo section. Officials visually examine export plant materials. The section lacks the necessary equipment to examine microscopic disease-causing organisms.” It has been documented that at least 1% of vegetables exports from the country get rejected. The project will thus help to identify the capacities needs to address these challenges as well the need to put in place a proper surveillance system.

3. Which government agencies, private sector, academic or other organizations support this PPG request? Letters of support from each of these organizations must be attached (Appendix 1). See Qn. 7. E. of the *Guidance Note*.

The National Codex and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (NCSPSC) is in charge of food safety, animal and plant health in more integrated manner to meet the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary requirements. All key agencies and institutions at the national level that have their principal responsibilities for regulating food safety, animal and plant health are part of the NCSPSC including private sector and civil society. This PPG has been developed under the recommendations and guidance of the NCSPSC.

- Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
- The Association of Horticultural Producers and Exporters (GAMHOPE)
- National Codex/Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (NCSPSC)
- The West African Quality Programme in the Gambia
- The National Implementation Unit of the Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme of the Gambia

4. Are the activities to be carried out under this PPG related to any past, present or planned bilateral or multilateral donor projects and programmes? If so, identify the related activities below and explain how the PPG would complement and build on them. See Qn. 7. F. of the *Guidance Note*.

The Gambia’s Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) Action Matrix (2007) identified the priority areas that government should give attention to better mainstream trade in the national development agenda. The need to enhance quality and compliance to international standards to address SPS related problems in The Gambia are part of the priority areas the DTIS identified. In this regard, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Programme plans to implement the “sector competitiveness and export diversification project” (currently under consideration by the EIF Board). The project has an agri-sector and cross-cutting sector components. The project’s agri-sector specific support to the cashew nuts, groundnuts, and sesame sectors strives to directly benefit the livelihoods of the farmers, processors and exporters by increasing the sectors’ competitiveness through training on production

techniques, conformity with standards and other quality related training interventions while strengthening the existing quality control infrastructure as well as facilitating the development of sector strategies where necessary. While the EIF Tier II project document pointed to weaknesses in the plant health area, these are not targeted under the planned EIF sector competitiveness and export diversification project. During the Tier II formulation process, the IPPC Secretariat highlighted the need to strengthen national plant health services and undertake additional actions to ensure compliance with IPPC and its standards. This PPG and the project to be developed would address these gaps.

A capacity needs pre-assessment of the food safety, plant and animal health systems was carried out in 2009 with the support of the FAO. As a follow-up, in depth assessment of the national food safety system was undertaken in 2009 with the support of UNIDO and that of the National Veterinary Services also carried out in 2009 by the OIE. WAQP (2008-2012) a technical assistance programme is supporting the development of the legal and institutional framework for food safety, which complements the outcome of this PPG in addressing plant health issues. As a resulting of these assessments, national action plans have been elaborated and are currently being implemented to strengthen the food safety and animal health systems. For instance, laboratory equipment has been provided and a draft Plant Bill 2011 has been developed through FAO support. The need for such assessments, including that of the Plant Health Services was identified in The Gambia SPS Strategic Plan. The improvement of the plant protection system is a gap that needs to be filled to strengthen competitiveness and quality of plants and plant products. Therefore, this PPG application if approved will complement these planned activities.

5. Have you discussed this PPG request – or funding for the project proposal which would result from it – with any potential donors (bilateral, multilateral, Enhanced Integrated Framework, etc.)? If so, provide information below and indicate any potential sources of funding for the project to be developed through this PPG. See Qn. 7. G. of the *Guidance Note*.

No, the plan is to submit the PPG request and project proposal for STDF support.

## II. Implementation

6. What are the expected start and end dates for this PPG?

**Start Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013**

**End Date: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013**

7. What activities would be carried out under this PPG? Provide a description of each activity below, specifying the persons / offices responsible, as well as the completion dates and expected outputs.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Expected output</b>
Development of TOR for the consultant	<b>National Technical Committee and STDF</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> May 2012</b>	<b>Final TOR</b>
Recruitment of international consultant(s)	<b>National Technical Committee and STDF</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> May 2012</b>	<b>Consultant contracted</b>
Capacity Assessment: Desk review Field Mission (meetings)	<b>Consultant</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>	<b>Draft capacity assessment report</b>
Drafting of proposal	<b>Consultant</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b>	<b>draft proposal document</b>
Review of draft report and proposal	<b>National Technical Committee, STDF and other stakeholders</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b>	<b>Comments submitted to consultant</b>
Incorporation of stakeholder comments	<b>Consultants</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b>	<b>Revised project proposal and report</b>
Submission of final report and proposal	<b>Consultant</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b>	<b>Final project proposal and capacity assessment report</b>

8. List all the stakeholders (government, private sector, academia, etc.) that may have an interest in this PPG and the resultant project. Explain how will they be consulted and involved during the implementation of the PPG (e.g. interviews, validation workshops, etc.).

Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture (MOA),</li> <li>• Ministry of Trade, Industry,</li> <li>• Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE),</li> <li>• Plant Protection Services (PPS),</li> <li>• National Codex/ Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (NCSPSC),</li> <li>• Department of Agricultural Services (DOA),</li> <li>• Border Control (Banjul Port and Airport),</li> <li>• National Environment Agency (NEA),</li> <li>• Growth and Competitiveness Project (GCP),</li> <li>• Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Tier 1 Project,</li> <li>• The Gambia Standards Bureau,</li> <li>• West Africa Quality Programme (WAQP)</li> </ul>
Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Horticultural Producers and Exporters (GAMHOPE),</li> <li>• Gambia Horticultural Enterprise (GHE),</li> <li>• Radville Farm,</li> <li>• Bai Bamba Pest Control Services,</li> <li>• Kharafi Farms</li> </ul>
Civil Society/Non Governmental Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Women Farmers Association (NaWFA),</li> <li>• National Farmers Platform,</li> <li>• Banjulunding Gardens</li> <li>• Concern Universal,</li> </ul>
Academic/ Research Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)</li> <li>• University of The Gambia (UTG),</li> </ul>

The institutions will be involved in the implementation of the PPG through interviews, consultative meetings, and in the review of the draft report and proposal.

9. Who will take the lead in the development of the project proposal under this PPG? If you propose national experts and/or international consultants for this task, provide their full name and contact details below. A Curriculum Vitae and record of achievements for each person proposed should be included in Appendix 2. If no names are provided, the STDF will provide a shortlist of consultants if the PPG request is approved.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) through the Plant Protection Unit will take the lead in guiding and supporting and implementing this PPG. In that regard, MOA would take the lead in guiding and supporting the international consultant and working with a national consultant to help in data / information collection, organization of interviews and workshops.

International consultant (Short list of consultants to be provided by STDF). For the local consultant, a TOR will be prepared and the CVs of interested applicants will be send to STDF for selection.



### III. Budget

10. What is the total estimated budget (in US\$) required for this PPG? Specify the amount that is requested from the STDF and the in-kind contribution (if any). Complete the budget table below.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description of inputs required</b>	<b>Estimated budget (US\$)</b>
<b>Expertise</b> <i>If used, include national or international consultants</i>	<b>International consultant 20 man days @ 600/day</b>	<b>12,000</b>
	<b>National Consultant</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Travel</b> <i>If appropriate, include international flights for consultants (economy class), Daily Subsistence Allowance, etc.</i>	<b>Air ticket &amp; DSA, in country travel for 10 days</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<i>In-country travel for sites visits and consultative meetings (in kind contribution by GOTG)</i>	<b>Driver, fuel and vehicle</b>	<b>-2,000 (in kind)</b>
<b>Stakeholder meetings and workshops</b> <i>If appropriate, include travel of participants, hire of venue, facilitator, etc.</i>	<b>Inception meeting with National Technical Committee</b>	<b>500</b>
	<b>Stakeholder Consultative workshop (cost of conference room, stationery, tea and lunch break, travel cost of participants),</b>	<b>4,000</b>
	<b>Technical Review meetings (4)</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>General operating expenses</b> <i>If appropriate, include telephone calls, photocopying, etc.</i>	<b>Printing, photocopying and mail delivery, call cards</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Other costs (describe)</b>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>30,000</b>

### Appendixes

**Appendix 1:** Letters of support from each of the organizations supporting this proposal.