



ADAPTING AND LEARNING TO PROMOTE SAFE TRADE

# STDF ANNUAL REPORT 2022

# SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, POVERTY REDUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

STDF's vision linked to the SDGs

*STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy supports:*



*In addition, the Strategy contributes to:*



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# Acronyms

<b>AAFC</b>	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>AGRA</b>	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
<b>AIRS</b>	Animal Identification and Registration System
<b>AusAID</b>	Australian Agency for International Development
<b>BMEL</b>	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany
<b>BMZ</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
<b>CABI</b>	CAB International
<b>COLEAD</b>	Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development
<b>DG INTPA</b>	European Commission DG for International Partnerships
<b>EIF</b>	Enhanced Integrated Framework
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>ePhyto</b>	Electronic phytosanitary certificate
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GRP</b>	Good Regulatory Practice
<b>IGC</b>	International Grains Council
<b>IGTC</b>	International Grain Trade Coalition
<b>IPPC</b>	International Plant Protection Convention
<b>ISF</b>	International Seed Federation
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre

<b>LDC</b>	Least developed country
<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
<b>MRLs</b>	Maximum residue limits
<b>Norad</b>	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
<b>NPPO</b>	National Plant Protection Organization
<b>OIRSA</b>	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
<b>P-IMA</b>	Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access
<b>PPG</b>	Project preparation grant
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and phytosanitary
<b>STDF</b>	Standards and Trade Development Facility
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>US FDA</b>	United States Food and Drug Administration
<b>vTPA</b>	Voluntary third-party assurance
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WOAH</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

# Letter from the Chairperson



**Kelly McCormick**  
US Food and Drug Administration  
(US FDA)

In 2022, STDF Working Group members came together in-person for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As chairperson, I witnessed the benefits of in-person collaboration and the value of incorporating technological tools to enable a productive hybrid environment. The pandemic changed how the world operates and it was impressive to see the many ways in which the STDF Secretariat so ably adapted to the ever-evolving challenges and took advantage of emerging opportunities.

As in past years, the STDF convened partners, donors and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) experts to share both knowledge and financial resources to facilitate safe trade. By addressing this goal in a multilateral setting, whether in-person or virtually, we were able to better identify and share educational tools that will help stakeholders ascribe to science-based international standards. In addition, the STDF continued to provide a platform to create and navigate relationships, as well as to fund grants that ensure the steady flow of information, encourage innovation, and introduce or amplify the impact of digital and technological solutions.

This year saw a targeted focus on cross-cutting issues such as gender equity and climate change. Virtual Practitioner Groups enabled stakeholders to make strides in priority areas such as the further application of the STDF's evidence-based SPS prioritization tool; the incorporation of electronic SPS certification expertise in funded projects; outreach and training on the 2021 Guide to help countries use good regulatory practices; and the provision of opportunities to identify and maximize public-private partnerships (PPPs).

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the STDF as chairperson in 2022. I strongly feel that by continuing to work together, the reach of what we are collectively able to do to build SPS capacity goes far beyond the sum of what we would be able to accomplish as individual entities.

# Increasing learning to influence change for stronger, more inclusive and sustainable results

A key focus of members of the STDF global partnership in 2022 was to intensify learning about how to strengthen SPS capacity in ways that produce stronger results with more impact. This included a focus on the intersections between SPS capacity development, gender equality and climate change, while taking a more integrated One Health or food systems approach. In a post-pandemic world marked by ever-increasing and complex challenges, STDF members asked hard questions about how their work to facilitate safe trade in developing countries could leverage strategic opportunities for greater impact in support of the United Nations' (UN) Global Goals. An ongoing and iterative process, learning from STDF's work influenced members' own work on SPS capacity development in 2022. Their experiences and the lessons learned from developing countries also helped to support ongoing efforts to implement the SPS Declaration, titled [Responding to Modern SPS Challenges](#), adopted by ministers at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in June 2022.

## Ensuring safe trade is also inclusive trade

Building on the recommendations of the 2019 external evaluation, the STDF Working Group took an important step to systematically and coherently mainstream gender in the STDF's work. The gender assessment published in 2022 showed why gender equality is so important for safe trade. It also pointed to what needs to be done to ensure that STDF's work fully considers the particular needs, challenges and/or opportunities facing both women and men for more impactful results. Trade and SPS capacity development can no longer be seen as gender neutral. Ensuring gender equality is key to achieving the STDF's goal of achieving increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries. Taking practical steps to make sure that safe trade is also inclusive trade is essential to improving the results and impact of the development of SPS capacity.

## Making SPS capacity a greater part of the solution for a planet under stress

The UN's 2022 Climate Change Conference – COP27 – presented yet more evidence of how climate change is affecting agricultural productivity disrupting supply chains and threatening economic growth and prosperity, in developing countries. STDF's climate change week in May 2022 brought together STDF partners and other stakeholders to understand how they can mitigate these effects by facilitating safe trade, building on the STDF's pioneering work on SPS risks and climate change in 2011. The event highlighted that although climate change clearly increases SPS risks, food safety, animal and plant health authorities in many developing countries are not prepared to face current risks, never mind future ones. Improving SPS capacity and facilitating safe trade has the potential to leverage collaborative solutions that help address the challenges facing the environment, including climate change and biodiversity. To understand how to move forward, the STDF Working Group approved an in-depth environmental assessment as part of the 2023 work plan.

## Unpacking experiences from developing countries to increase learning

The STDF's global platform stepped up efforts in 2022 to engage and learn from government officials and private sector stakeholders in developing countries. STDF's Practitioner Group on PPPs provided a platform to profile and share success stories from Djibouti, India and Tanzania, highlighting the transformative results that can be achieved when government authorities and the private sector work together to facilitate safe trade. Efforts were made to innovate and connect learning across STDF grants and knowledge work. Ghana's experience of adopting an evidence-based approach for prioritizing SPS investments for market access (P-IMA), in this case for aflatoxin interventions, was unpacked by members of the P-IMA Practitioner Group, producing new learning. Practitioner Group meetings engaged a wider audience, enabling more government officials and other stakeholders from developing countries to join the conversation, share experiences and learn from one another.

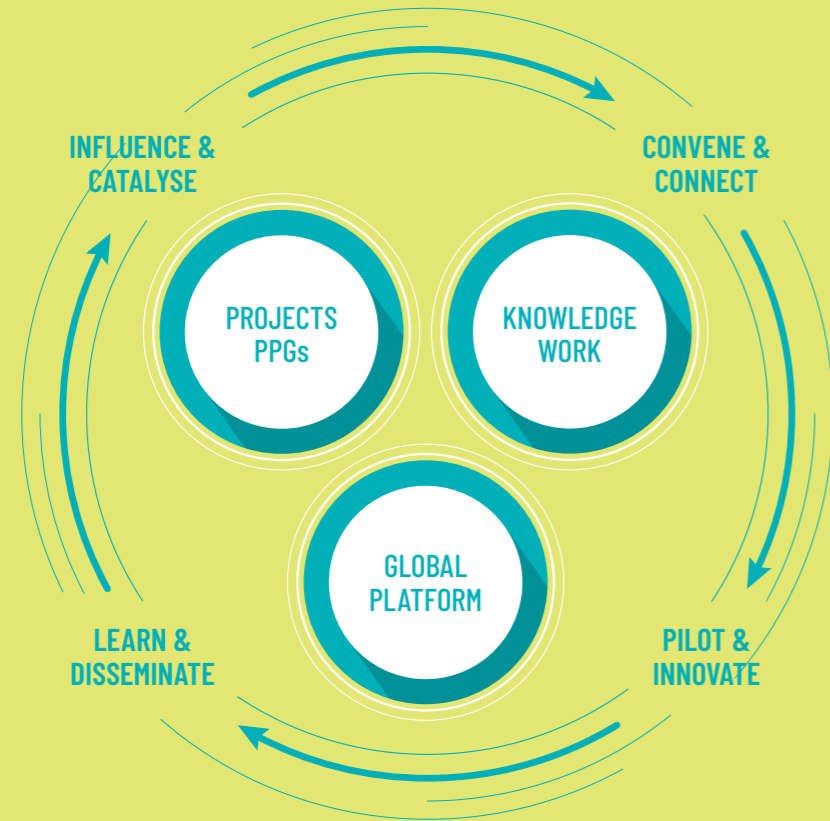
## Learning about innovation to improve SPS outcomes

Innovation continues to offer vital opportunities to link STDF projects to knowledge work. STDF members continued learning about the use of innovative data-driven approaches to facilitate safe trade and accelerate economic growth, including the electronic phytosanitary certificate, which was developed with the STDF's support. Members of the STDF's Practitioner Group on SPS e-certification continued their dialogue and learned about the potential new digital solutions, such as blockchain-driven trade corridors in Africa, can have for ongoing developments linked to e-certification. Digital solutions were high on the agenda at many regional and global events in 2022, including the Vienna Food Safety Forum organized by the STDF, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

## Leading collectively to facilitate safe trade

The importance of collaboration across government institutions in the agriculture, health, environment, trade and development sectors, as well as with diverse private sector stakeholders, academia and others, was a recurring message across all STDF workstreams in 2022. New experiences and lessons emerged of how STDF projects are facilitating action-oriented partnerships to improve compliance with international standards, within and across countries and regions, including on developing value chains and harmonizing biopesticide regulation. Coming together as part of an internal assessment, members of STDF's Practitioner Groups used the Collective Leadership Compass to reflect and learn how to build more vibrant and robust collaboration ecosystems to drive catalytic SPS improvements in support of the UN's 2030 Agenda.

# Theory of change



## OUTCOME 1

More synergies and collaboration driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries

## PROGRAMME GOAL

Increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries

## SAFE TRADE FACILITATED

Promoting sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security

## OUTCOME 2

Greater access to, and use of, good practices and knowledge products at global, regional and national level

# 2022 highlights

15

donors contributed US\$6,565,414 in funding

53%

of funds allocated to new projects and PPGs benefited least developed countries (above 40% target)

117

applications received

7

PPGs approved

8

projects approved

17

ongoing projects

15

ongoing PPGs

2

Working Group meetings

6

developing country experts

3,554

e-news subscribers

4

knowledge topics covered

5,890

stakeholders reached at 75 events

# MAINSTREAMING GENDER AT THE STDF





# STDF gender assessment

Building on the recommendations of the 2019 programme evaluation, this external assessment evaluated how and to what effect gender equality is addressed and how gender is mainstreamed in the STDF's work. The assessment asked key questions related to relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. It drew key findings, conclusions and practical recommendations to promote gender equality proactively in the future. The assessment was carried out between January and July 2022, and the final [report](#) was published on the STDF website.

More than 80 stakeholders provided inputs, including STDF partners and project implementing organizations. The STDF Working Group discussed the initial findings and recommendations in June, followed by a special meeting to consider following up.

Members agreed on the importance of improving gender mainstreaming across all STDF workstreams to strengthen the partnership's results and impact. As a first step, they agreed to develop a gender action plan. Some members highlighted the relevance and utility of the gender assessment to inform their own work.

“ *STDF's gender assessment has played a catalytic role in informing efforts to support gender mainstreaming in the IPPC Secretariat's work, including an awareness-raising session on gender to the phytosanitary capacity evaluation training course.*

**Sarah Brunel**, IPPC Secretariat

“ *France intends to use the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the STDF gender assessment to inform its bilateral SPS capacity development programmes.*

**Cassandre Nonque**, French Ministry of Economy and Finance

“ *The STDF's gender assessment has provided useful insights to inform ongoing work by WOAAH to develop organisational work on gender.*

**Gillian Mylrea**, WOAAH

## Key Conclusions

1. The level of awareness of the gendered impacts of SPS measures remains low among STDF members and partners, limiting the integration of gender mainstreaming into processes and project development.
2. STDF's leadership has not consistently supported the implementation of gender mainstreaming efforts.
3. Accountability for gender mainstreaming remains ambiguous at all levels.
4. The STDF is not sufficiently exercising its convening power to assess and exchange views on how other partners bring gender considerations into an SPS context.

## Recommendations

1. The STDF Working Group should consider developing a Gender Action Plan, based on priorities and needs, to enable a permanent support structure that embraces a vision of gender equality. It should be backed by necessary resources and accountability systems, while taking into account the size and nature of the STDF partnership.
2. The STDF Working Group should adopt a leadership role in promoting the exchange of views, practices and information through a range of platforms to build momentum on the potential gendered impact of SPS measures.
3. The STDF Partnership should consider reviewing its operational documents (including PPG and project application forms, guidelines for evaluation and report templates) to allow for a more coherent approach to gender mainstreaming. This will enable it to respond more effectively to real and specific needs of women and men.
4. The STDF Working Group should review and assess potential changes to ensure monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems and indicators account for gender equality.
5. Awareness and knowledge on gender mainstreaming should be increased among members of the STDF partnership as a way to strengthen the results of SPS capacity development.
6. Gender issues should be more visible on the STDF's website and more broadly in its communications.

## Mainstreaming gender in practice: Key achievements in 2022

- In March, UNIDO conducted a gender analysis for the STDF regional project on voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes in West Africa ([STDF/PG/665](#)). The findings are being used to address gender-related needs, challenges and opportunities of women and men linked to project activities in Mali and Senegal. This includes efforts to mainstream gender in legislative and regulatory processes, ensure the participation of women (including women-owned SMEs and women's groups) and men in project training and decision-making processes, and share learning with participants in vTPA programmes around the world.
- In September, during the inaugural International Plant Health Conference in London, organized by the IPPC Secretariat, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the STDF led a side event on mainstreaming gender in phytosanitary capacity development. Key findings from the STDF's gender assessment were shared, followed by a discussion with partners and beneficiaries on how to strengthen efforts to mainstream gender in plant health.

# KNOWLEDGE SHARING



# Practitioner groups

Launched as part of the STDF Strategy, Practitioner Groups on PPPs, e-certification and P-IMA connect STDF members and others to share information and learning and promote collaboration in support of the STDF's outcomes. Practitioner Groups engage stakeholders involved in projects supported by the STDF as well as other organizations, enabling them to contribute their on-the-ground experiences to the development of new knowledge, and to benefit from exchange with peers working on similar cross-cutting topics.

In an effort to improve Practitioner Groups and contribute more effectively to the STDF's strategy, a participatory assessment led by the STDF Secretariat encouraged Practitioner Group members to reflect on their work to date.

The [assessment](#) was carried out between February and April 2022 using the Collective Leadership Compass, a diagnostic and planning tool to assess, plan and enact collaborative changes, and build vibrant, robust collaboration for transformation that contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals. More than 30 stakeholders attended four in-depth meetings that looked at the delivery, experiences and results of each of the Groups following an online survey.

Participants taking part in the assessment recognized the strengths of the three Practitioner Groups and identified opportunities for improvement.

## Strengths:

- **Engagement:** Promote collaborative processes and activities linked to STDF's Outcomes.
- **Connecting:** Link Working Group members with other stakeholders working on knowledge topics.
- **Innovation:** Disseminate new approaches to help improve SPS capacity development.
- **Collective Intelligence:** Reflect, learn and discuss solutions to common challenges.

## Opportunities to further develop and improve Practitioner Groups:

- Clarify, create and promote linkages to larger formations and initiatives at global, regional and/or national level (such as a food systems approach).
- Innovate with alternative approaches that deepen exchange inside and outside meetings.
- Identify, analyse and learn from members to identify novel pathways for change.
- Use the collective intelligence of members to understand what works well and what does not.
- Engage members, project stakeholders and others to develop new knowledge and learning that creates value.

## Sharing knowledge and good practices to support SPS capacity development

STDF Practitioner Groups held four online events to share knowledge with stakeholders around the world:

- [PPPs to facilitate table grape exports from India and improve quarantine controls in Djibouti](#)
- [GreenCert PPP experience in Tanzania](#), jointly with Land O'Lakes Venture 37
- [Trade Logistics Information Pipeline](#) and links to SPS e-certification
- [Using P-IMA to prioritize interventions in support of Ghana's National Policy for Aflatoxin Control](#)

The STDF Secretariat continued to lead and collaborate on events to disseminate STDF good practice on knowledge topics ranging from PPPs to evidence-based approaches, SPS e-certification and good regulatory practice (GRP). These included events co-organized with the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation on electronic SPS certification, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on GRP, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa on using evidence for better investments to drive safe food trade in Africa, and the Vienna Food Safety Forum with UNIDO and Australia.





# 2022 PROJECTS AND PPGS

STDF project and project preparation grants (PPGs) convene and connect public, private and other stakeholders at global, regional and country level to pilot innovative and collaborative approaches, leverage expertise and resources, and deliver results, including in least-developed countries (LDCs), land-locked developing countries and small island developing states.

**AFRICA**

1. STRENGTHENING TOGO'S SPS SYSTEM
2. UPGRADING SUDAN'S SESAME SEED VALUE CHAIN
3. FACILITATING LIVESTOCK EXPORTS IN ETHIOPIA
4. STRENGTHENING ZAMBIA'S PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY FOR PLANT EXPORTS
5. STRENGTHENING GUINEA'S PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEM
6. ENHANCING COMPLIANCE WITH PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS IN UGANDA'S FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SECTOR
7. REDUCING AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN MAIZE IN BURKINA FASO
8. ESTABLISHING FRUIT FLY-FREE AREAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
9. IMPROVING SPS CAPACITY IN THE PENJA PEPPER VALUE CHAIN IN CAMEROON
10. MAINSTREAMING SPS INVESTMENTS INTO CAADP AND OTHER FRAMEWORKS IN COMESA
11. IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF SMOKED FISH IN MALI
12. PILOTING vTPA PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND TRADE IN WEST AFRICA
13. IMPROVING SHELLFISH SAFETY IN SENEGAL TO BOOST MARKET ACCESS
14. HARMONIZING REGULATIONS AND MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN THE SADC REGION
15. MANAGING SCALE INSECTS IN FRESH FRUITS IN EAST AFRICA
16. MANGING INVASIVE POTATO QUARANTINE PESTS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
17. PILOTING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSURANCE (vTPA) PROGRAMME IN EAST AFRICA
18. PILOTING A vTPA PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY OUTCOMES IN AFRICA
19. ESTABLISHING AN AVIAN INFLUENZA-FREE COMPARTMENT IN EGYPT
20. MOBILIZING FOOD SAFETY LABORATORIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
21. HARMONIZING THE PHYTOSANITARY LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA
22. USING DIGITAL TOOLS TO FACILITATE SAFE FOOD TRADE IN WEST AFRICA
23. ASSESSING SPS NEEDS IN THE BURUNDIAN HORTICULTURAL SECTOR
24. USING EVIDENCE FOR AFLATOXIN CONTROL IN GHANA
25. BUILDING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY OF CROSS-BORDER TRADERS IN ZAMBIA
26. ADDRESSING INVASIVE QUARANTINE PESTS OF POTATO IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

27. EVALUATING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY TO IMPROVE THE PLANT HEALTH SYSTEM IN NIGERIA
28. COMPARING POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGIES FOR UGANDA'S FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES TO REDUCE PESTS
29. USTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF AFLATOXINS IN MAIZE GRAIN USING A SYSTEMS APPROACH
30. STRENGTHENING BURKINA FASO'S SESAME AND CASHEW EXPORT CAPACITY
31. STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY CONTROL CAPACITIES IN CABO VERDE

**ASIA AND PACIFIC**

32. PROMOTING IT SOLUTIONS FOR PEST SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC
33. PROMOTING MARKET ACCESS FOR HONEY AND APRICOT PRODUCTS IN TAJIKISTAN
34. STRENGTHENING THE SPICE VALUE CHAIN IN INDIA TO IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS
35. ENHANCING LABORATORY CAPACITY TO BOOST FISH EXPORTS FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
36. PILOTING AN IMPROVED ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN MONGOLIA
37. ENHANCING TRADE FOR COCOA FARMERS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
38. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN KYRGYZSTAN
39. SAFER SPICES: FOOD SAFETY AND MARKET ACCESS FOR PEPPERCORN
40. MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUE THROUGH PROMOTION OF BIOPESTICIDES IN ASIA
41. STRENGTHENING PHYTOSANITARY COMPLIANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS TO BOOST SEED TRADE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION
42. IMPROVING BIOSECURITY AND CONTROL OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN FOUR ASEAN COUNTRIES
43. BOOSTING SPS COMPLIANCE IN FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AND FEED IN AFGHANISTAN
44. STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY COMPLIANCE IN SELECT SRI LANKAN SPICES
45. PILOTING GRPs IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN THE PHILIPPINES
46. STRENGTHENING BHUTAN'S BORDER INSPECTION AND CONTROL CAPACITIES
47. IMPROVING ASIA-PACIFIC SEED TRADE THROUGH COMPLIANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS
48. APPLYING THE P-IMA FRAMEWORK IN ARMENIA TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS
49. P-IMA FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS SPS CHALLENGES OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

50. PILOTING ONE HEALTH TO MANAGE AFLATOXIN IN ASIA
51. REDUCING HISTAMINES IN POLE AND LINE CAUGHT TUNA IN INDONESIA

**LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN**

52. ACCREDITATION OF DIAGNOSTIC TESTS FOR ANIMAL DISEASES IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
53. COORDINATING MANAGEMENT OF CADMIUM LEVELS IN COCOA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
54. MITIGATING HIGH LEVELS OF CADMIUM IN CACAO IN COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR
55. PILOTING THE USE OF vTPA IN CENTRAL AMERICA
56. IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY RISK ANALYSIS CAPACITY IN LATIN AMERICA
57. STRENGTHENING THE PHYTOSANITARY AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM IN KEY VALUE CHAINS
58. MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN LATIN AMERICA USING BIOPESTICIDE
59. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY CAPACITY OF THE PEPPER VALUE CHAIN IN JAMAICA TO INCREASE MARKET ACCESS
60. STRENGTHENING REGIONAL PEST SURVEILLANCE ON BANANA FARMS IN THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY
61. ENHANCING SPS CAPACITY AND MARKET ACCESS FOR GRENADIAN SOURSOP EXPORTS
62. PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS IN ECUADOR USING THE P-IMA TOOL
63. ANALYSING FOOD SAFETY RISK IN LATIN AMERICA
64. PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN USING THE P-IMA TOOL
65. MITIGATING CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN LATIN AMERICA THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF BIOPESTICIDES
66. ZONING TO CONTROL INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN PERUVIAN AQUACULTURE

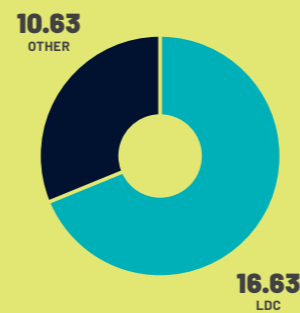
**GLOBAL**

67. APPLYING REMOTE FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION PRACTICES FOR IMPROVED TRADE

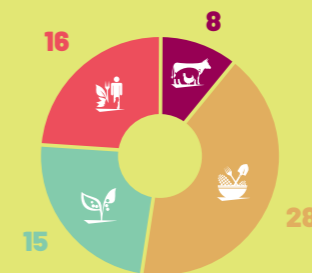


Map markers are approximate and do not cover all global projects

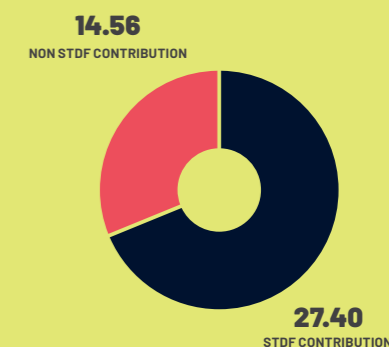
**LDCS BENEFIT MOST FROM STDF RESOURCES (US\$ M)**



**PROJECTS & PPGs BY SECTOR**



**PROJECTS & PPGs VALUES (US\$ M)**



# Implementing innovative SPS projects

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the weaknesses of the global food system and the importance of being able to adapt and be resilient during times of crisis. Despite challenges like disruptions in the food supply chain, trade restrictions on food exports, delays in training and increased production costs due to the need for additional safety equipment, STDF projects and PPGs worked to overcome these issues resulting in the successful completion of 13 projects and 10 PPGs across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

This report focuses on the results and lessons learned from selected projects that supported government agencies and the private sector to improve SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade with attention to collaboration, knowledge sharing, innovation and capacity development. Members of the STDF's global partnership are encouraged to build on these experiences and results to encourage further improvements and innovations in SPS capacity development globally.



## AFRICA

**Piloting a vTPA programme to improve food safety outcomes in Africa (STDF/PPG/665)**

Mali, Senegal, Uganda

**Harmonizing the phytosanitary legislation framework in Central Africa (STDF/PPG/768)**

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon

**Using evidence for aflatoxin control in Ghana (STDF/PPG/786)**

Ghana

**Strengthening Togo's SPS system (STDF/PG/375)**

Togo

**Upgrading Sudan's sesame seed value chain (STDF/PG/435)**

Sudan

**Facilitating livestock exports in Ethiopia (STDF/PG/477)**

Ethiopia

**Strengthening Zambia's phytosanitary capacity for plant exports (STDF/PG/481)**

Zambia

**Enhancing compliance with phytosanitary requirements in Uganda's fruit and vegetable sector (STDF/PG/543)**

Uganda

**Reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize in Burkina Faso (STDF/PG/566)**

Burkina Faso

**Improving SPS capacity in the Penja pepper value chain in Cameroon (STDF/PG/593)**

Cameroon

**Mainstreaming SPS investments into CAADP and other frameworks in COMESA (STDF/PG/606)**

COMESA members



## ASIA AND PACIFIC

**Boosting SPS compliance in food of animal origin and feed in Afghanistan (STDF/PPG/669)**

Afghanistan

**Improving Asia-Pacific seed trade through compliance and partnerships (STDF/PPG/755)**

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam

**Applying the P-IMA framework in Armenia to promote agricultural exports (STDF/PPG/761)**

Armenia

**Piloting GRPs in agriculture and fisheries in the Philippines (STDF/PPG/722)**

Philippines

**Promoting IT solutions for pest surveillance and reporting in the Asia-Pacific (STDF/PG/432)**

Cambodia, Lao, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam

**Promoting market access for honey and apricot products in Tajikistan (STDF/PG/447)**

Tajikistan

**Enhancing laboratory capacity to boost fish exports from the Solomon Islands (STDF/PG/521)**

Solomon Islands

**Piloting an improved animal identification and registration system in Mongolia (STDF/PG/534)**

Mongolia



## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

**Analysing food safety risk in Latin America (STDF/PPG/716)**

Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

**Mitigating chemical residues in Latin America through the promotion of biopesticides (STDF/PPG/753)**

Latin America

**Zoning to control infectious diseases in Peruvian aquaculture (STDF/PPG/767)**

Peru

**Accreditation of diagnostic tests for animal diseases in Central America and the Caribbean (STDF/PG/495)**

Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

General SPS



Animal Health



Plant Health



Food Safety



# Enhancing compliance with phytosanitary requirements in Uganda's fruit and vegetable sector

In 2014, the European Union (EU) intercepted more than 80% of fresh fruit and vegetable exports from Uganda because they contained harmful organisms, including the false codling moth and fruit flies in capsicum and bitter melon.

This project – financed by the STDF, the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands in Kampala and the Ugandan Government – aimed to leverage partnerships between the public and private sectors and enhance compliance with phytosanitary measures to reduce the number of interceptions.

## RESULTS

The project successfully promoted public-private collaboration by establishing an SPS multi-stakeholder platform connecting individuals from government authorities, horticulture producers and industry associations to discuss partnerships and synergies in horticulture.

The formation of HortiFresh, an apex industry association, will enable small producer and exporter groups to come together and improve collaboration and communication with the Department of Crop Inspection and Certification.

More than 1,400 stakeholders – including producers and government staff – were trained on pest and disease management, food safety, and SPS export requirements.

To speed up processes and improve accuracy and transparency, 25 plant health inspectors received tablets and computers to process electronic phytosanitary certificates (ePhytos). As a result, the percentage of incorrect or incomplete documents submitted for certification during the project decreased by 66%.

Efficiencies derived through digitization resulted in more streamlined and transparent processes, enabling an increase in the number of exporters accredited from 67 in 2017 to 150 in 2022.

After three years of implementation, the number of interceptions affecting capsicum decreased by more than

90%, from 72 in 2018 to three in 2022. These positive results catalysed an additional €8 million in EU investment to build capacity in Uganda's fruit and vegetable sector.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Strong national ownership and good collaboration across government authorities and the private sector, combined with foresight and a flexible approach, enabled the project to respond to new SPS issues affecting horticulture trade, and leverage additional resources to strengthen the sector. Learning about experiences in neighbouring countries provided inspiration for Ugandan stakeholders to innovate with new approaches. This has improved the governance and policy framework for the horticulture sector and created a more enabling trade environment for the private sector.

The development of a robust public-private partnership improved dialogue, built trust and created a shared vision for the future of the horticulture sector in Uganda, supporting increased impact and sustainability.

On the private sector side, a strong apex industry association enabled its members to benefit from economies of scale and increase their voice at the national level. On the government side, the creation of an inter-ministerial task force brought together different horticulture-focused committees, which is supporting better collaboration, negotiations, advocacy and coordination on SPS matters.



**IMPLEMENTATION**  
Started February  
2019



**PROJECT VALUE**  
US\$882,726



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$484,788



**BENEFICIARIES**  
Uganda



**LED BY**  
CAB International



**PROJECT WEBPAGE**  
[STDF/PG/543](#)

## FAST FACTS

**90%**

reduction in capsicum interceptions from 2018 to 2022

**€8 MILLION**

Catalysed in EU funding for capacity building in Uganda's fruit and vegetable sector



*As the private sector, especially as HortiFresh Association, we have been able to encourage and promote self-regulation among our members to complement the official regulatory work being done by national ministry inspectors in ensuring compliance and facilitating trade of quality products with our trading partners.*

**Baguma Joshua,**  
HortiFresh Association, Uganda

# Upgrading Sudan's sesame seed value chain

Sudan has difficulties exporting sesame seed and accessing high-value markets in the EU, Japan and South Korea due to the presence of aflatoxins, salmonella and restricted agricultural chemicals.

In response to these challenges, UNIDO and FAO partnered with Sudan's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to implement a project focused on improving exports of sesame seeds by implementing good agricultural practices to enhance farmer compliance with SPS standards.

## RESULTS

Using a farmer field school approach, the project trained more than 400 farmers (40% of whom were women) and 50 post-harvest sesame handlers in the states of Al Qadarif and North Kordofan on topics such as land preparation, the use of improved seeds, weed control, transportation and oil extraction. The project promoted continued knowledge sharing and learning through the development and distribution of eight practical guides on production, processing, storage and traceability.

To ensure the continuity of capacity building in the private sector, 30 extension workers were trained as master trainers in good agricultural and hygiene practices. Eleven regulatory officers were trained on ISO 17020, which specifies requirements for testing and safety inspections.

Working with the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), the project supported a detailed review of Sudan's plant health legislation to identify gaps and provide recommendations to improve this legislation.

A business-to-business event connected 24 Sudanese sesame companies with 27 buyers from Japan, South Korea, China, the EU and the Middle East. The producers and buyers explored opportunities to enhance market access and export revenues.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Participatory education approaches, like farmer field schools, are highly effective in building knowledge and transferring improved skills. However, farmers need access to improved agricultural inputs to use improved practices. Partnerships with local microfinance institutions and other service providers – and/or subsidized access to inputs as part of project activities – are needed to help farmers access these inputs.

In societies where it is difficult for women farmers to mix with male farmers and trainers, women-only trainings should be included when women play a key role in value chains. It is also important to understand the incentives and requirements for trained trainers to continue delivering training. Embedding trainers in existing institutions can help to encourage a more sustainable approach. Interactive online training can help to expand the reach and impact of training, while saving resources.

While stakeholders at the country level and development partners seek ambitious results, when project resources are limited, a sharp focus is critical to avoid unfulfilled expectations, low effectiveness and diluted benefits.



**IMPLEMENTATION**  
Started October  
2018



**PROJECT VALUE**  
US\$1,281,189



**STDF  
CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$904,989



**BENEFICIARIES**  
Sudan



**LED BY**  
UNIDO and FAO



**PROJECT WEBPAGE**  
[STDF/PG/435](#)

## FAST FACTS

**6**

farmer field schools  
established

**400 FARMERS**

(40% of whom were women)  
trained in good agricultural  
practices



*The farmer field schools helped farmers and post-harvesters change the way they cultivate sesame seeds by using good agricultural practices. Production has increased for most farmers in our village.*

**Mohamed Fadulallah Ibrahim and Hukmalla Ahmed Ibrahim,**  
farmer field school participants, North Kordofan, Sudan



# Enhancing laboratory capacity to boost fish exports from the Solomon Islands

Access to fish export markets depends on robust trade verification, including official sampling and testing processes. Although development partners in the Solomon Islands had provided support to improve the National Public Health Laboratory's premises and equipment, without internationally accredited microbiological testing the laboratory could not meet the private sector's needs and guarantee the safety of exported fish.

## RESULTS

The project put the National Public Health Laboratory on a pathway to international accreditation so that fish exports can continue to access major markets, including the EU. Several initiatives were undertaken to improve laboratory operations and compliance with the ISO 17025 standard as part of an ongoing effort to obtain ISO 17025 accreditation. Practical guidebooks, including the "Beginner's Guide to Microbiology", a quality manual and 25 supporting handbooks, methods and checklists were produced to guide day-to-day work in the lab.

Improving the capacity for microbiological testing of exported fish had spillover benefits for the domestic population. The new knowledge, systems and processes set up for microbiological testing are being used to test water and food products, and monitor contaminants of public health concern, such as E.coli.

Faced with the challenge of the global COVID-19 pandemic, project stakeholders innovated with online lab training and coaching sessions, one of the first of its kind in a hands-on scientific discipline such as microbiology. These experiences proved successful and offer opportunities for innovation and efficiencies in laboratory capacity development elsewhere.

The STDF project created linkages with related lab capacity development support led by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and bilateral donors, sharing experiences to better address common challenges faced and creating the basis for more sustainable results.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Developing and maintaining adequate SPS infrastructure and resources – including laboratory testing services – is an ongoing challenge for small island developing states. Sustainability cannot be taken for granted. Limited availability of qualified staff is an important risk for operations, especially when there is staff turnover, and requires ongoing attention. The relatively low volume of samples for testing, and the financing model used, influences the ability to gain and maintain ISO 17025 accreditation.

Different funding options exist – from government funded, to government funded with commercial testing services, or a completely commercial service – each of which has different opportunities and challenges. Regardless of the option selected, operational, budgeting and procurement processes must be effective and able to adapt quickly to issues faced. Fees for testing services must reflect market rates, including in neighbouring countries, to ensure use by the private sector.

Online training offers great potential to complement and expand traditional lab capacity development and could be used more extensively to improve skills and coach lab staff working towards accreditation.



**IMPLEMENTATION**  
Started June 2019



**PROJECT VALUE**  
US\$503,336



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$355,408



**BENEFICIARIES**  
Solomon Islands



**LED BY**  
FAO



**PROJECT WEBPAGE**  
[STDF/PG/521](#)

## FAST FACTS

4

National Public Health Laboratory technicians trained on microbiological testing methods and quality management systems



Strengthening microbiological testing for exports has improved capacity to ensure safe food and water for the domestic population



*Strengthening the National Public Health Laboratory is an integral component of our efforts to achieve economic development and employment through increased trade opportunities.*

**Tenneth Dalipanda**, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Solomon Islands

# Promoting market access for honey and apricot products in Tajikistan

Small and medium-sized enterprises in Tajikistan's apricot and honey value chain faced significant barriers to trade due to non-compliance with maximum residue levels (MRLs) for veterinary drugs, pesticides and other contaminants. This project aimed to regain and access new markets for apricot and honey by incorporating regional and international best practices in using pesticides and veterinary drugs and by improving the monitoring of MRLs.

## RESULTS

Tajikistan developed its first National Residue Monitoring Plan for honey and apricots to monitor residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides and other contaminants. In follow-up, national authorities are taking steps to monitor the presence of residues, which will improve food safety for the domestic market and trade.

An up-to-date database was created and includes information on all registered veterinary drugs and pesticides in Tajikistan, as well as substances currently used by producers. This database underpins the new monitoring plan, providing the necessary information to expand the use of authorized products by farmers. Tajik officials also proposed 11 new MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs for honey production through an amendment of the relevant legislation.

Laboratory testing activities carried out under the project highlighted ongoing improvements to reduce the levels of harmful substances in honey and apricots, compared to the baseline study.

More than 300 apricot farmers and beekeepers participated in trainings, which has improved their knowledge and skills on the proper use of pesticides and veterinary drugs. In addition, 30 local trainers and food safety advisers benefitted from new knowledge on risk-based food control systems and monitoring mechanisms, creating a pool of in-country experts ready to support ongoing food safety improvements in Tajikistan.

## LESSONS LEARNED

The COVID-19 pandemic severely limited opportunities to build close working relationships between organizations in Tajikistan and the implementation team. This created challenges for communication, increased the need for contingency planning and slowed delivery. While much can be achieved working remotely, travel by project implementing organizations is essential to enable project stakeholders to get to know each other and develop trust and good working relationships.

Carrying out a stakeholder analysis at the outset of the project helped to identify new opportunities to leverage partnerships for better results and ensure greater coherence with other ongoing work. Building on this analysis, the project stakeholders identified way to collaborate with other donor-supported projects, which created synergies and ensured a more effective use of resources.

Documenting knowledge transferred during training activities in user-friendly guides or handbooks ensures a helpful resource, which supports ongoing learning and knowledge transfer even after the end of project activities.



**IMPLEMENTATION**  
Started April 2018



**PROJECT VALUE**  
US\$1,053,196



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$786,121



**BENEFICIARIES**  
Tajikistan



**LED BY**  
ITC



**PROJECT WEBPAGE**  
[STDF/PG/447](https://stdf.org/pg/447)

## FAST FACTS

### OVER 300

farmers and beekeepers trained on the use of pesticides and veterinary drugs.



First National Residue Monitoring Plan for honey and apricots developed



*I participated in the projects' food safety related training courses. The activity created a group of consultants and trainers who applied the training content by coaching beekeepers in three project regions. The beekeepers increased their understanding of the correct application of veterinary drugs and documented and monitored their processes to produce honey that is compliant with export market SPS requirements.*

Shoev Talbi, Community Association Intermyod, Tajikistan

# Piloting an improved animal identification and registration system in Mongolia

Trading partners require up-to-date information on the health and origin of exported animals. An effective Animal Identification and Registration System (AIRS) is essential to deliver this data, as well as to manage animal health issues including zoonoses. Although the Mongolian government had invested significant funds in an AIRS, it was not operational or financially viable due to the absence of necessary regulations and standard operating procedures, inadequate human and financial resources, equipment and IT gaps, and coordination gaps.

## RESULTS

The project delivered an operational AIRS, based on international standards and adapted to the Mongolian context, that is ready for scaling up. It includes an online database and mobile application for scanning ear tags. At the completion of the project, 195,000 animals had been registered. Regulations required for animal identification, registration and ear-tagging were updated and approved by ministerial decree.

The AIRS was developed in close cooperation with the private sector, including private veterinarians and herders. It is designed to enable use by rural registrars who have limited Internet access. Registrars can store the collected data on their mobile phones while offline and upload it to the server when they have access to the Internet. More than 400 agricultural officers, veterinarians and herders were trained to use the new AIRS and ear-tag small ruminants such as sheep and cattle.

The new system is expected to improve disease control and export certification, while contributing to better breeding programmes, improved rangeland management and reduced animal theft.

The pilot provided a means to test and adapt the AIRS based on Mongolia's unique situation, and to understand the prerequisites for a feasible and sustainable system. This will ensure a more cost-effective use of resources from national authorities and donors for upscaling and enhance sustainability.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Implementing AIRS is a long-term investment that requires buy-in of the public and private sector. In Mongolia, good collaboration across central-level government departments, sub-national stakeholders and development partners was key to connect and learn from related work, promote coherence and link different information systems.

Enabling legislation is essential for an effective AIRS, as well as clarity on roles and effective coordination. Incentives must be in place to ensure that AIRS delivers value to herders and industry in the short-term and can be scaled up nationwide. This requires a long-term plan, backed up by a multi-year budget and sustainable funding model to encourage herder's support and facilitate roll-out. IT platforms must ensure interoperability so that databases used by different stakeholders speak the same language and can understand and exchange data. New technologies and mobile apps offer huge potential, including to enable herders in rural areas without Internet access to benefit.



**IMPLEMENTATION**  
Started May 2019



**PROJECT VALUE**  
US\$522,098



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$384,783



**BENEFICIARIES**  
Mongolia



**LED BY**  
FAO



**PROJECT WEBPAGE**  
[STDF/PG/534](#)

## FAST FACTS

**195,000**

animals registered in the new database (190,000 ear tags and 5,000 horse chips)

**2**

updated regulations for animal identification and registration approved



*The pilot is an important milestone for a fully traceable livestock value chain. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry is committed to scale up the pilot nationwide to support the government's strategic objectives to develop export markets for meat.*

**Jambaltseren Tumur-Uya**, Agriculture and Light Industry, Mongolia

# Accreditation of diagnostic tests for animal diseases in Central America and the Caribbean

Non-compliance with international standards is a major constraint for regional and international trade in animals and animal products in Central America and the Caribbean, and has the potential to introduce diseases that pose a risk to both humans and animals.

Despite efforts to improve laboratory testing capabilities and verify compliance with global animal health standards, limited financial and human resources and inadequate management systems continued to compromise the region's testing credibility.

The project aimed to build the capacities of nine laboratories in Central America and the Caribbean by accrediting laboratory diagnostic tests for priority terrestrial and aquatic transboundary animal diseases.

## RESULTS

The project established a regional network of laboratories to strengthen interpersonal and interlaboratory linkages, facilitate joint training and the exchange of knowledge and ideas. The network increased the availability of reliable, internationally recognized diagnostic tests for specific diseases, while reducing costs and time required to obtain results.

Thirty-six diagnostic tests were accredited, surpassing the original target of 22, to ISO 17025 to provide internationally recognized diagnoses and results in the aquaculture, cattle, poultry and pork sectors, facilitating trade opportunities.

Within the regional network, eight laboratories adopted a quality management system and ensured that their staff is trained in accreditation. The LARRSA laboratory in Guatemala was selected as a regional reference laboratory for classical swine fever disease, reflecting the high quality of its services.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Deepening dialogue between Chief Veterinary Officers and laboratory directors ensured that project stakeholders were kept updated on evolving animal health issues and trends of relevance for laboratory diagnostics and testing at the regional level. This enabled the project stakeholders to proactively take advantage of opportunities to build capacity for new diagnostic tests, not part of the original project document. This ongoing learning enabled the project to adapt and remain relevant in the context of evolving needs in the region.

Working collaboratively with all the key project stakeholders to develop a comprehensive roadmap for follow-up by the participating laboratories and government authorities created the foundations for improved sustainability. This process ensured that all the stakeholders understood their respective roles to maintain international accreditation. It also helped to ensure adequate resources for the participating laboratories. Assigning a regional body to supervise implementation of this roadmap supports ongoing regional exchange and learning.



**IMPLEMENTATION**  
Started March 2016



**PROJECT VALUE**  
US\$1,238,118



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$840,898



**BENEFICIARIES**  
Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama



**LED BY**  
OIRSA



**PROJECT WEBPAGE**  
[STDF/PG/495](#)

## FAST FACTS

8

laboratories adopted a quality management system

36

laboratory tests were accredited (surpassing original target of 22)



*The accreditation of the culture of *Brucella* species and their molecular typing allowed us to identify a new species: *Brucella nosferati*, which would be the first species of the genus *Brucella* endemic in Latin America. This finding opens new approaches for the control of the disease.*

**Gabriela Hernández Mora**, National Animal Health Service, Costa Rica



**CONNECTING  
TO FACILITATE  
COLLABORATION  
AMONG  
PARTNERS**

The STDF connects diverse public and private sector organizations across agriculture, health, trade and development to exchange experiences, identify opportunities for collaboration and promote a more coherent approach to SPS capacity development. As part of this Global Platform, the STDF Working Group convenes and allows members to share and learn from each other's work which helps disseminate, influence and scale up good practices more widely.

The Working Group held two meetings in [June](#) and [November](#) 2022: one in person – the first since 2019 – and one virtually. Both meetings were chaired by Kelly McCormick of the US FDA. Roughly 50 participants attended each meeting, representing the STDF's founding partners, other international and regional organizations, donors and SPS experts from developing countries. They approved funding requests for eight projects and seven PPGs that will explore a wide range of topics such as enhancing seed trade in Asia, tackling invasive scale insects in East Africa, promoting the use of biopesticides in Latin America, and more.

Members discussed new issues such as the impact of climate change on SPS risks and the results of the STDF's gender assessment. They also heard presentations on a new guide for integrated border risk management, jointly issued by ITC and the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and on UNIDO's online platform for analytics on standards compliance. The Minor Use Foundation presented its work to control pesticide residues, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat presented its new food safety risk communication framework.

Members selected three new SPS experts from developing countries to join the STDF, namely Mary Grace Mandigma from the Philippines, Martin Kimanya from Tanzania and Jaime Romero from Colombia, who will each serve a two-year term until the end of 2024. The Working Group bid farewell to three outgoing experts – Lucy Namu, Visoni Timote and Mirian Bueno – whose terms ended on 31 December 2022 and thanked them for their excellent and valuable work.

Feedback from Working Group surveys indicated that members continue to be highly satisfied with the work of the STDF and the Secretariat. Members appreciated the opportunity to meet in person again after two years of virtual meetings.

#### Working Group Quotes

“One thing we've appreciated about the Secretariat over the years is how responsive you are. Even though you're small, you're mighty. Leveraging that partnership is something we appreciate. We will continue to think about how we can do better.”  
**Jill Luxenberg**, US Department of Agriculture

“Credit should be given to the Secretariat for its catalytic role in bringing in other donors. The STDF can create incentives for other donors to intervene and take over the funding of projects.”  
**Kaviraj Appadu**, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)



# COMMUNICATING THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



In 2022, the STDF prioritized the importance of safe trade by expanding its reach and raising awareness through its [Communications Plan](#). To foster collaboration and the cross-promotion of SPS initiatives across the partnership, the Secretariat created an informal Communications Group which was joined by communication experts from the Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development (COLEAD), FAO, International Finance Cooperation, UNIDO, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), WHO, WOAHA and WTO. In 2022, this group met virtually on three occasions.

The STDF led on the organization of 13 events exploring a wide range of SPS topics. This included collaboration with new partners to maximize reach and impact such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the International Grains Council (IGC), the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and the International Seed Federation (ISF).

Experts from developing countries continued to act as ambassadors by promoting the STDF's projects and knowledge work in national and regional events.

The Secretariat initiated a website redesign and content updating process to increase engagement, improve functionality and enhance user experience. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in 2023.





# STDF Outreach in 2022



## WEBSITE

**62,368**

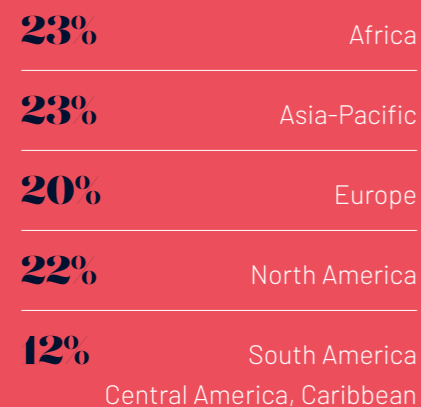
website visitors  
(up by 33% from 2021)



**88%**

of website visitors were new

## USERS CAME FROM 205 COUNTRIES



## TOP PAGES

Homepage, Funding Opportunities, Projects and PPGs, Exploring the Impact of Climate Change on the Global Food System, the Vienna Food Safety Forum, P-IMA, GRP

The Funding page experienced a 121% jump in views  
The PPG page experienced a 43% jump in views  
The GRP page experienced a 29% jump in views  
The P-IMA page experienced a 150% jump in views  
The Climate Change page experienced a 350% jump in views  
The Projects page experienced a 30% jump in views

## TOP DOWNLOADS

STDF Guidance Note 2021, STDF Annual Report 2020, STDF Standard Presentation, GRP Guide, P-IMA Guide



## STDF STORIES

[Making trade in plant products quicker and more efficient](#)

[Safer Spices: Improving quality and market access for peppercorn in Viet Nam, Lao PDR, and Cambodia](#)

[Cinnamon Training Academy in Sri Lanka](#)

[Partnering to manage fruit flies and facilitate trade in South Africa](#)

## EVENTS

**5,890**

SPS stakeholders reached at over 75 events in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean



#STDF



## YOUTUBE

**909**

subscribers

**143**

new subscribers in 2023

**14,800**

views

## WATCH TIME

**1,000**

hours

## MOST VIEWED PLAYLISTS

Cocoa: a sweet value chain; Shaping a safer world; Building capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers



## E-NEWS

**15**

news items went out to

**3,554**

subscribers

## PUBLICATIONS

STDF Good Regulatory Practice Guide (French and Spanish)  
STDF Good Regulatory Practice Briefing Note  
STDF Annual Report 2021  
STDF Gender Assessment Report  
Facilitators Handbook on P-IMA

## FIND OUT MORE AND GET INVOLVED



Access SPS information and tools at [standardsfacility.org](https://standardsfacility.org)



View good practice films on STDF's YouTube channel



Sign up for updates through STDF's e-news



Share experiences and lessons at STDF's Working Group

# STDF Events

## **WTO accession of the Union of the Comoros: Round Table on technical assistance**

The event highlighted assistance needed to comply with non-tariff measures and put a spotlight on results achieved under project STDF/PG/242.

## **Exploring SPS technical assistance in Francophone Africa**

The STDF marked International Francophone Day by exploring a range of SPS-related technical assistance initiatives in French-speaking African countries.

## **Reducing costs and building trust through electronic SPS certification**

As part of UNCTAD's e-commerce week, the STDF and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation explored the current state of SPS e-certification and its global use.

## **Virtual seminar on Good Regulatory Practices to improve sanitary and phytosanitary measures**

Hosted by the ADB and the STDF, participants shared knowledge and experiences of how GRPs can improve the development and implementation of SPS measures to facilitate safe trade in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **STDF Climate Change Week**

The STDF hosted a series of four inter-connected webinars exploring the impact of climate change on the global food system.

## **Aid for Trade Global Review 2022: Empowering Connected Sustainable Trade**

The STDF led two side events:

- Improving quality along agrifood value chains in Africa for market access, organized together with France; and
- Connecting to facilitate safe trade, hosted in collaboration with the World Bank Group and the WTO.

## **African Green Revolution Forum**

The STDF and the Food Trade Coalition for Africa, hosted by AGRA, engaged public and private stakeholders from across Africa on the use of innovative, evidence-based approaches to leverage food safety investments for regional trade.

## **International Plant Health Conference**

STDF, IGC, IGTC, and ISF collaborated on a side event exploring safe trade and investments in the seed sector to promote sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. A second event hosted by the STDF brought together representatives from the public and private sectors exploring why gender matters in safe plant trade.

## **Vienna Food Safety Forum**

The Vienna Food and Safety Forum, a three-day event hosted by UNIDO, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the STDF, brought together representatives from government and the food industry to discuss data-driven innovation in global food systems.

## **Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access**

The STDF P-IMA Practitioner Group unpacked Ghana's experience of using STDF's evidence-based approach (P-IMA) to prioritize aflatoxin investments.

## **Learning how PPPs Facilitate Safe Trade: The GreenCert Experience in Tanzania**

The STDF PPP Practitioner Group, in cooperation with Land O'Lakes Venture 37, showcased an example of an innovative and transformational partnership in Tanzania that is facilitating safe horticulture trade.



## STDF in the News : 2022 Highlights

Lancement du projet de renforcement de la filière coquillage :

[OUEST-TV](#)

Vienna Food Safety Forum to explore data-driven food safety innovation:

[Food-safety.com](#)

Aflatoxin control policy launched:

[Ghanaian times](#)

Cocoa Board, farmer groups sign STDF stakeholder agreement:

[Post-Courier](#)

Safer Spices: Improving quality and market access for peppercorn in Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia:

[CABI Blog](#)

CABI and Uganda work towards plans for greater sustainable food security:

[Krishak Jagat](#)

Efforts boost food testing ability in Asia Pacific:

[Food Safety News](#)

Uganda enjoys increased capacity to access more profitable regional and European markets:

[Agrilinks](#)

Philippines to represent the Southeast Asia region as a developing country in STDF:

[philstar.com](#)

Lutter Contre Le Mildiou de la pomme de terre dans le Fouta-Djallon grâce à un nouveau système d'avertissement

[COLEAD](#)

# MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING



# Highlights in 2022

- TWO EX-POST PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATIONS WERE INITIATED: [STDF/PG/502](#) AND [STDF/PG/504](#)
- EIGHT INDEPENDENT END-OF-PROJECT ASSESSMENTS WERE DELIVERED
- THE STDF'S MEL GROUP MET VIRTUALLY IN FEBRUARY (ENGAGING THE FAO, THE IPPC, THE WOH, FRANCE, THE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT, USDA, THE US FDA AND UNIDO)
- MORE THAN 30 TRAINING SESSIONS WERE HELD WITH PROJECT IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS ON THE STDF'S LOGALTO TOOL

## New online tool encourages innovation, improvements and dialogue on MEL

The STDF Secretariat and project implementing organizations piloted and rolled out secure, user-friendly software, LogAlto, in 2022 to strengthen MEL and results-based management. It supports MEL innovation and improvements by enabling project indicators to be mapped to STDF programme indicators so that results can be aggregated. By centralizing project data, LogAlto supports evidence-based decision-making and learning.

During the pilot stage, eight implementing organizations were trained to use [LogAlto](#) for data collection and reporting on the impacts, outcomes and outputs of projects. Online training sessions were accompanied by hands-on mentoring and feedback sessions. Based on the experiences, and further configuration and fine-tuning, the STDF's LogAlto platform was scaled up to cover 47 projects by the end of 2022. In addition to reporting, some project users rely on other features of LogAlto – such as the Activities Module, which helps to stay on track of the project workplan – to improve project management.

“ *LogAlto is an intuitive and easy to manage solution for monitoring project progress. I love the modules such as custom forms, analytics, and dashboards. It is an excellent tool to keep information organised and facilitate communication with the project team.* ”

**Natalia Fernandez-Cedi**, UNIDO Vienna

Onboarding project users to LogAlto has provided a valuable opportunity for dialogue among project partners on improvements to results-based management. Engaging users throughout the process has facilitated the transition to a digital platform, ensured the system meets user needs, and encouraged buy-in for its wider use.

# Risk management in 2022

The lifting of most COVID-19-related restrictions in 2022 made it possible to resume international travel and in-person meetings to support the delivery of the STDF's work. This included the first Working Group meeting in Geneva since 2019, as well as travel for STDF projects, PPGs and knowledge work. At the same time, virtual tools and hybrid delivery mechanisms continued to be used extensively, building on successful experiences during the pandemic. For instance, the second Working Group meeting was convened on Zoom, while the Vienna Food Safety Forum took place as a hybrid event with more than 150 participants in Vienna and 250 remote participants.

Given the evolution of the pandemic, the last time the STDF Secretariat reported on COVID-19 risk management was in February 2022. Key risks and risk management efforts are analysed below:

Risk	Likelihood	Risk mitigation and management
Continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or emergence of a new major global crisis	<b>MEDIUM</b>	Overall, risks related to COVID-19 dropped significantly in 2022, though the pandemic continued to cause challenges for some projects and PPGs, particularly where implementing organizations struggled to catch up on delays. Risk mitigation measures were regularly reviewed and updated for projects. This included seven no-cost extensions for projects and PPGs. An updated COVID-19 risk management report was issued on 28 February 2022.
Limited interest in the STDF's work among developing country stakeholders	<b>LOW</b>	Developing country stakeholders continued to express substantial interest in the STDF's work. This included good participation in STDF events and a record number of applications for STDF funding in 2022. Ongoing efforts were made to ensure that STDF's work remained relevant to the SPS needs of developing countries, including through regular engagement with Geneva-based representatives from developing countries attending WTO meetings, ongoing virtual meetings, and some travel to engage with stakeholders involved in the STDF's work in Africa, Latin America and Asia.
Inadequate resources (including financial, human and time) to deliver the STDF's Strategy	<b>MEDIUM TO HIGH</b>	Contributions from donors in 2022 amounted to US\$6,565,414. Although this was almost equal to contributions received in 2021, it was below the target of US\$7 million. Germany made a substantial additional contribution in 2022, linked to the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and in recognition of the importance of SPS capacity to facilitate safe trade.  There were some fluctuations in staffing in 2022. The communications officer who joined the Secretariat in 2021 left after 11 months. A short-term staff member supported the Secretariat on MEL and LogAlto during a recruitment process. The position was filled in November.  Staffing levels were generally insufficient to deal with a record number of funding applications received in 2022 (117 against 66 in 2021). An intern and a WTO Young Professional provided additional support.
Lack of engagement of members in STDF's work	<b>LOW</b>	STDF members continued to engage actively in the STDF Working Group and other work. More than 30 participants travelled to Geneva for the Working Group meeting in June. Several members, including partners and current/previous developing country experts shared their time, expertise and guidance to support different areas of the STDF's work. Members also continued to share STDF good practices and knowledge products through their own networks and events.

Risk	Likelihood	Risk mitigation and management
External factors of specific relevance to STDF projects	<b>MEDIUM</b>	Some projects and PPGs struggled to catch up on delays exacerbated by the pandemic. In some cases, staff turnover in project implementing organizations and beneficiary countries caused additional challenges for ownership and in-country commitment. Political instability was an issue in some parts of West Africa. Increased prices (including for flights) put a strain on project budgets, particularly as some projects that had planned mainly virtual meetings sought to find resources for on-site meetings. The Secretariat continued to engage closely with project partners to manage risks as far as possible. Five projects requested no-cost extensions in 2022 (including some that had previously received extensions).

## STDF logframe 2022

Results on the STDF's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework in 2022 are reported here



## Results table 2022

Detailed information about results on STDF Programme Level Indicators in 2022 are reported here



In 2022, demand on the STDF to help developing countries prepare and implement SPS projects was stronger than ever. The Secretariat received a record number of 117 project and PPG applications (compared to 66 in 2021).



# Funding highlights

## 8 NEW PROJECTS

and 7 new PPGs were approved by the Working Group, totalling US\$7,025,598 in STDF contributions. This was significantly higher than the estimated target at the start of the year (US\$3,900,000).

## 53% OF RESOURCES

allocated to new projects and PPGs will benefit LDCs, which is higher than the STDF target of 40%.

## 15 DONORS

made contributions to the STDF totalling US\$6,565,414. This is below the STDF's annual target of US\$7 million.<sup>1</sup>

### CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DONORS

DONOR		AMOUNT (US\$)
AUSTRALIA	Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)	722,136
CANADA	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	159,334
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	DG for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)	631,853
FINLAND	Ministry for Foreign Affairs	296,858
FRANCE	Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances and Ministère de l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation	491,008
GERMANY	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	1,530,412
IRELAND	Irish Aid	218,635
NETHERLANDS	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	622,969
NORWAY	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	520,186
SWEDEN	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	965,588
UNITED STATES	US Department of Agriculture (USDA), US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) and US Agency for International Development (USAID)	406,436
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>		<b>6,565,414</b>

# 2022 Expenditure

Total STDF expenditure in 2022 amounted to US\$6,754,957, i.e., 1% lower than the estimated total expenditure of US\$6,828,590 in STDF's 2022 work plan. Estimated and actual expenditure are shown below:

### ESTIMATED AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURE IN 2022

OUTPUT	ESTIMATE (US\$)	ACTUAL (US\$)	VARIATION
GLOBAL PLATFORM	79,100	33,474	-58%
PROJECTS AND PPGs	5,090,650	5,286,809	4%
KNOWLEDGE WORK	474,600	448,078	-6%
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING	377,420	406,596	8%
COMMUNICATIONS	344,650	179,631	-48%
OTHER OPERATIONAL COSTS	462,170	400,368	-13%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6,828,590</b>	<b>6,754,957</b>	<b>-1%</b>

Expenditure significantly increased in 2022 compared to 2021, indicating strong recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. The variation in expenditure related to the Global Platform is due to the fact that only one meeting of the Working Group was held in person, which saved resources. Expenditure on communications was less than anticipated as the development of the new STDF website, as well as two communication products, was postponed to 2023, owing to staff changes.

At the end of 2022, the STDF showed a negative balance of US\$121,695, as shown in the table below. This amount is calculated by deducting: (i) STDF's total expenditure in 2022; (ii) STDF's contracted commitments of US\$9,494,798 for ongoing PPGs and projects; and (iii) STDF's uncontracted commitments of US\$5,116,042 (corresponding to 7 PPGs and 5 projects approved by the Working Group on 1 December 2022 but not yet contracted as of 31 December 2022).

1. Although financial figures are reported in US\$, the WTO maintains the STDF account in Swiss Francs.



## STDF's financial balance by 31 December 2022

CATEGORY	AMOUNT IN US\$
OPENING BALANCE ON 1 JANUARY 2022	14,703,031
CURRENT YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS	6,565,414
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	-24,343
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>21,244,101</b>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6,754,957
CONTRACTED COMMITMENTS	9,494,798
<b>BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF DONORS</b>	<b>4,994,347</b>
UNCONTRACTED COMMITMENTS	5,116,042
<b>FINAL BALANCE</b>	<b>-121,695</b>



# STDF Global partnership

## FOUNDING PARTNERS



## INCLUDING

**CODEX**  
Codex Alimentarius Commission Secretariat

**IPPC**  
International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat

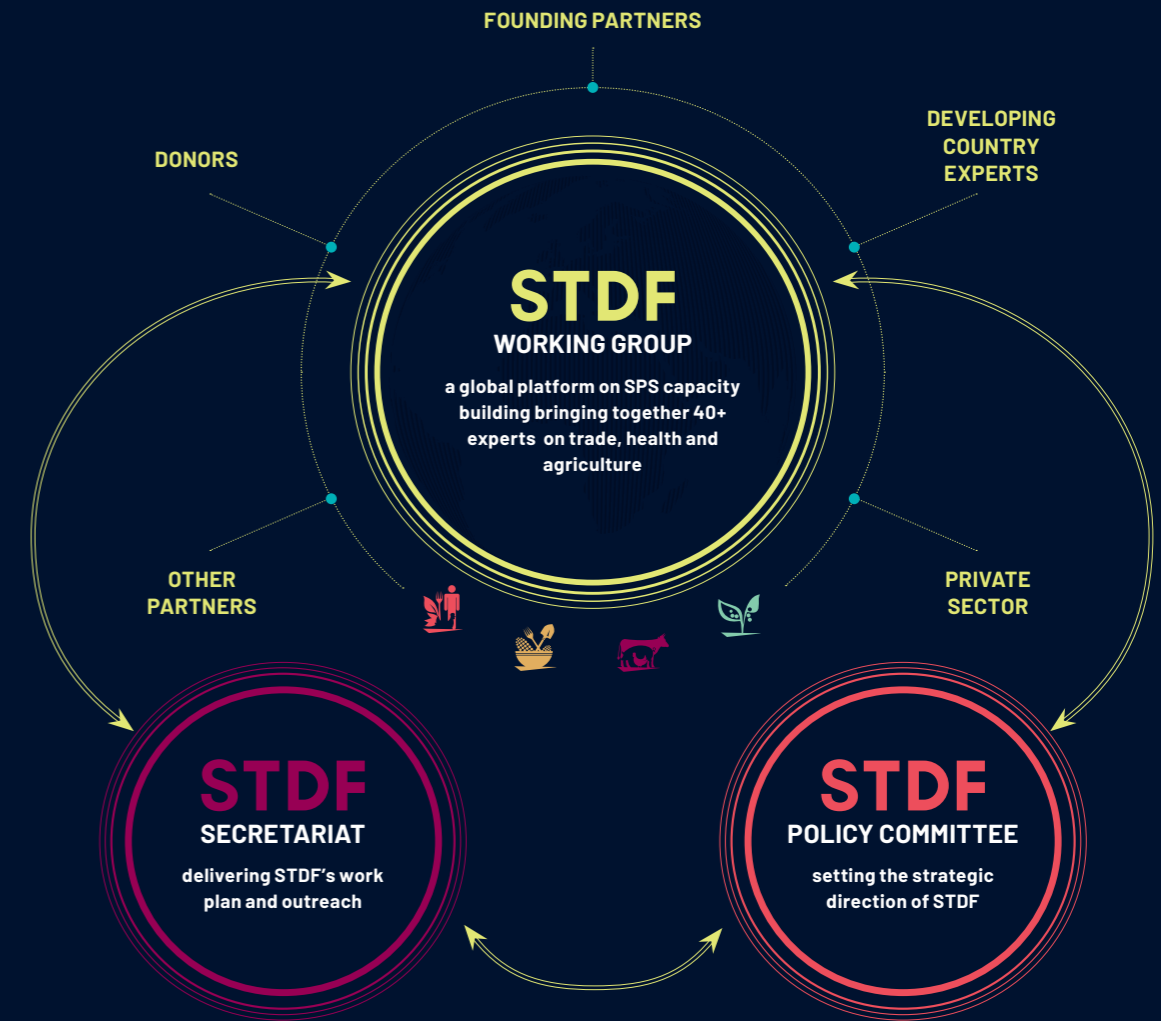
## DONORS IN 2022

Government agencies for agriculture, development, food, foreign affairs and trade:



## DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPERTS

**MIRIAN BUENO** - Honduras  
**SITHAR DORJEE** - Bhutan  
**JULIET GOLDSMITH** - Jamaica  
**LUCY NAMU** - Kenya  
**UNESU USHEWOKUNZE-OBATOLU** - Zimbabwe  
**VISIONI TIMOTE** - Fiji



### OTHER PARTNERS

AUC  
CABI  
COLEAD  
EIF  
GFSI  
IICA  
ITC  
OECD  
OIRSA  
SSAFE  
UNCTAD  
UNIDO  
WCO

### PROJECT PARTNERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Developing country government agencies

Regional and international organizations

NGOs

Universities and research institutes

Industry associations

Private sector companies

### STDF WORKING GROUP

**CHAIR**  
Kelly McCormick (US FDA)

**VICE-CHAIR**  
Gillian Mylrea (WOAH)

### STDF SECRETARIAT

**HEAD**  
Melvin Spreij

**DEPUTY HEAD**  
Marlynn Hopper

Ezinne Anyanwu (left November 2022)  
Aichetou Ba (joined November 2022)  
Myriam Hammadi (Intern)  
Pablo Jenkins  
Roshan Khan  
Paola Michelutti  
Charles Njemo (Young Professional)  
Chengetai Nyagweta (joined October 2022)  
Simon Padilla  
Susanna Pak (left October 2022)  
Catalina Pulido

### STDF'S WIDER NETWORK INCLUDES

ADB  
AfCFTA  
AfDB  
AGRA  
APEC  
ATF  
ASEAN  
AU-IAPSC  
AU-IBAR  
CAADP  
CAHFSA  
CBD  
CITES  
COMESA  
COSAVE  
EAC  
ECOWAS  
FIA  
FFM  
FSCF

GDPRD  
GMUF  
ICCO  
IDB  
IFC  
IFPRI  
IITA  
PACA  
PAHO  
PHAMA  
PIFS  
SAARC  
SADC  
UN DESA  
UNDP  
UNECE  
UNESCAP  
UNICC  
WAEMU

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Published June 2023

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