

# STDF ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Accelerating Safe Trade: *From Innovation to Scale*



# SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH,

poverty reduction,  
food security and  
resilience to climate  
change

## Supporting the UN Global Goals



# STDF

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# 1. Introduction

# Letter from the Working Group Chair

It was my honour to serve as Chair of the STDF Working Group in 2025, as we launched and took forward STDF's Strategy for 2025-2030. This new phase of STDF work builds on the partnership's efforts over two-decades to strengthen sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity based on international food safety and animal and plant health standards. The STDF Working Group approved 14 grants that entail innovative solutions for safe agri-food trade and empower countries to benefit more fully from trade.

Cooperation lies at the heart of the STDF and its measurable success on the ground. In 2025, the 40-plus members of the STDF Working Group – founding partners, donors, developing country experts (DCEs) and other public and private sector organizations – came together to promote SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade. I warmly thank all involved for their valuable contributions. STDF's partnership is expanding thanks to the exchange and closer engagement with regional organizations, a network of former and current DCEs as well as the first private sector roundtable – all key steps in the Strategy's implementation.

I am particularly pleased that the STDF Working Group was able to advance on important new work on scaling and financing SPS innovations. This marks another milestone in accelerating delivery and driving results under the STDF Strategy. The scaling study highlights how STDF-backed innovations are being adopted globally, pinpointing how to scale even more transformational work.

Given today's increasingly complex and challenging global trade environment, the STDF's approach stands out as a proven, effective model for practical, innovative SPS solutions. Investment in the STDF work is more critical than ever to help strengthen SPS systems, thereby also ensuring the availability of safe food.



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*I call on all partners to deepen our collective efforts to deliver STDF's safe trade impact into the future. That way, we will continue to make a lasting and meaningful difference for many more farmers, businesses and consumers worldwide.*

**Marie-Luise Rau**  
**Federal Ministry of Agriculture,**  
**Food and Regional Identity,**  
**Germany**

The STDF partnership opened a new chapter for safe trade in 2025 with the launch of the 2025-2030 Strategy on the margins of the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Committee. At the same time, delivery moved ahead with the latest Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework and Communications Plan rolled out for robust results-based management. In addition, STDF's new Environment Action Plan sets out how strengthening SPS systems can consider needs, challenges and opportunities related to the environment, building climate resilience.

This annual report showcases innovations and scaling opportunities across STDF projects and knowledge work, supported by an alumni network of DCEs and findings from a flagship scaling study. Regional linkages and private sector collaboration also moved centre-stage, including with STDF's first private sector roundtable held with the SSAFE Board. These initiatives support STDF to scale what works, delivering greater value for resources and amplifying development impacts. In 2025, STDF support contributed to a rise in exports – including to EU markets from Uganda and premium prices for producers in Mali – plus a decrease in rejections of agri-food products for access to local, regional and global markets.

## Message from the STDF Team

New knowledge products were developed and shared with over 7,900 stakeholders participating in global fora worldwide – including at side-events for the WTO SPS Committee. These included the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Guide and the latest STDF briefings on unlocking digital trade and remote audit. Highlights of the year also included global safe trade dialogues co-led with partners, including African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Australia, Canada, Codex, CropLife, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), SSAFE, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and WTO, alongside many other regional and international organizations.

STDF's work facilitates the uptake and use of international standards to deliver development results and impacts globally. This aligns closely with the World Development Report 2025, Standards for Development. Against a backdrop of Official Development Assistance (ODA) constraints, demand for support reached record highs in 2025 as stakeholders in developing and least developed countries (LDCs) submitted 380 applications to the STDF. To match the momentum, and to generate the resources needed, STDF is working with valued existing donors and invites prospective donors to join. The STDF stands ready to meet the safe trade challenges we face together.

# Shared Value, Shared Impact: The Essential Role of STDF Donors

Donors are critical to the success of STDF's mutually-beneficial partnership and to the delivery of results and long-lasting impacts that benefit people in developing countries and their own economies. Alongside financial support to the Trust Fund, donors shared vital knowledge over the year. They also identified opportunities to action synergies with their larger bilateral programmes and scale STDF work. While the ePhyto Solution, piloted by the STDF, continues to attract financing from Sweden and others, Australia, Canada, France and others also contributed resources and scaled innovations developed through STDF projects in West Africa and Asia.

With global funding constraints intensifying, new funding partners are vital to sustain momentum and mobilize the financing needed for STDF to deliver on its Strategy. Against this challenging backdrop, the STDF hosted a breakfast dialogue on 5 November 2025, chaired by WTO Deputy Director-General Jean-Marie Paugam. The high-level morning discussion brought existing and prospective donors together to exchange views on STDF's impact to facilitate safer trade and support market access. Emphasizing STDF's role in transformation on the ground, current donors highlighted the benefits they attach to their investment in STDF's safe trade results.

## Highlights from the donor dialogue:

**STDF's** triple win benefitting people in developing countries and LDCs, the private sector and consumers globally.

**STDF's** alignment to regulatory and development goals, which contributes to political priorities including economic growth and security.

**STDF's** track record of innovation, private sector engagement and measurable results, backed up by external evaluations.



Donor breakfast hosted by  
WTO Deputy Director-General  
Jean-Marie Paugam

Marie Luise Rau  
Working Group Chairperson

# Donor Voices



The STDF provides vital and trusted technical assistance and capacity-building support to developing and least-developed countries in our region and globally. I commend STDF's collaborative, science-based approach, which is helping beneficiary countries to curb the spread of pests and diseases and enhancing their access to international agricultural markets.

*Ambassador  
James Baxter,  
Australia's Permanent  
Representative  
to the WTO*



The Government of Canada will continue to support global efforts to adopt international standards for food safety and animal and plant health. Investing in larger-scale capacity building projects, like the STDF, will help improve food security, reduce poverty, and promote sustainable economic growth around the world.

*Heath MacDonald,  
Canada's Minister  
of Agriculture and  
Agri-Food*



These [STDF] projects built a solid scientific and institutional foundation to address cadmium in cocoa... they have also created long-lasting value in laboratory competence, data infrastructure, regional coordination, and cooperation that will hopefully continue to benefit the cocoa sector in Latin America and the Caribbean countries, and... not only there, but all over the world.

*Zoltan Somogyi,  
DG-SANTE,  
European Commission*



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland



Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture

**Finland is committed to inclusive trade that leaves no one, including persons with disabilities, behind. We welcome STDF's efforts to embed disability inclusion, advancing more equitable, accessible and truly inclusive trade systems for all.**

*Ambassador  
Heidi Schroderus-Fox,  
Finland*

**Recognized as pioneers, STDF work to mainstream gender into SPS capacity building projects has guided partners' initiatives in this area from IPPC, FAO, COLEAD and CABI. As a global platform of collaboration, STDF plays a catalysing role in developing good practice that is scaled by other organizations. The scaling study aims to... maximize the impact of these initiatives.**

*Stéphanie Bertrand-  
Trouillard, DG Trésor,  
France*

**Over the last 20 years, the STDF has demonstrated its ability to bring together relevant stakeholders, address urgent issues in the field of SPS and food safety, and foster innovations that are worth scaling up and disseminating... We are pleased to continue our collaboration with the STDF in the new strategy period 2025–2030 and to support our partners in creating stable and resilient agricultural trade.**

*Ariane Hildebrandt,  
Director General at BMZ,  
Germany*



Kingdom of the Netherlands



**Supporting the STDF is an investment in safer food systems, stronger economies and more inclusive trade. I am pleased that this contribution demonstrates Ireland’s long-standing commitment to prioritizing those furthest behind, as well as to building a fairer and more sustainable global trading system.**

*Neale Richmond,  
Ireland’s Minister of State for International Development and the Diaspora*

**We highly value the support that the STDF provides to fostering safe food trade in and between developing countries. For producers, this generates and stabilizes income, improves access to markets and strengthens food security, both in developing and developed countries... We are pleased to continue the outstanding cooperation with the STDF.**

*Mark Jacobs,  
Director for International Trade Policy and Market Regulation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands*

**The STDF plays an exceptional important role in improving the SPS systems and facilitating export capacities, and through that also the national import control capacities. STDF have been involved in the planning of the (WTO SPS Committee) thematic session (on science and technology) and several of the speakers are from countries or organizations that have benefited from STDF projects.**

*Knut G. Berdal,  
Specialist Director,  
Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food*



**I congratulate STDF on the MEL framework. It is among the strongest I have seen, well aligned with the theory of change, strengthening learning, risk awareness and fiduciary oversight, and enabling, over time, clearer demonstration of how STDF and SPS capacity development deliver trade and broader impacts.**

*Sven Olander,  
Senior Programme  
Manager, Unit for  
Economic Development,  
SIDA, Sweden*



**Food safety systems must harness innovation, new technologies and evidence, data-driven approaches to meet today's challenges. STDF's pilot projects, and flagship events like the Vienna Food Safety Forum, co-organized with UNIDO and other partners, are key to advance learning and improvements globally.**

*Donald Prater,  
Principal Deputy Director,  
Human Foods Program,  
U.S. Food and Drug  
Administration*



2.

# Spotlight: the Investment Case

# Investment Case in Brief

Recognized as a key catalyst of development, standards have been at the heart of STDF work for 20 years. Today, standards are firmly in the spotlight and feature as the central theme of the latest 2025 World Development Report. As noted by Indermit Gill, Chief Economist of the World Bank Group, “When countries are active in adapting, aligning, and authoring standards, they are a powerful tool for growth and poverty reduction.” World Bank data reveals non-tariff measures (NTMs) affect 90% of global trade by volume, a six-fold increase from the last three decades.

## Delivering for all

- **STDF facilitates safe agri-food trade that improves economic security, delivering a triple win for consumers, governments and the private sector, benefitting people in developing countries and LDCs while also supporting consumers and markets globally.**
- **STDF’s model achieves a triple alignment converging priorities of international development agencies, regulators and political leaders in favour of development, safety and stability.**

STDF support is as vital as ever to make sure standards, and the NTMs built around them, work for trade to deliver benefits for people and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The foundations of safe trade are being built through

strong public and private sector partnerships in developing countries and LDCs. Assistance is locally owned with innovative tools and scalable know-how shared across the regions. As a result, more women, men and young farmers, producers, traders as well as governments are gaining abilities to meet international food safety, animal and plant health standards recognized under the WTO SPS Agreement. Previously closed doors are opening up to regional and global markets, leading to improved income generation.

## Value proposition

- **STDF’s unique multi-stakeholder global partnership delivers proven, scalable interventions that achieve measurable impact efficiently. By facilitating safer trade in a cost-effective and inclusive way, it offers strong value for money.**

This is what it looks like on the ground. Djelika Traoré Coulibaly in Ségou, Mali talks about how with training, thanks to STDF support, she learnt to smoke fish using improved-oven technology, improving food safety. As a result, the price premium for smoked fish more than doubled from five years ago, and exports to five countries in West Africa have risen by over a third. Investments by Canada and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in wider FAO projects are scaling up the safe trade impact for more women’s associations to benefit.

## Track record

- STDF has a 20-year track record of delivery, backed up by 5 external programme evaluations, 4 thematic evaluations and 35+ independent project evaluations.
- STDF has funded 277 demand-driven Project Grants (PGs) and Project Preparation Grants (PPGs), representing US\$85 million. More than 100 countries have benefited, with 60% of resources going to LDCs.
- STDF mobilized US\$43.5 million of public-private sector resources in support of the portfolio.
- Demand for support from countries has increased seven-fold in the last 5 years.

The rapidly shifting ODA landscape - which declined by 23% in 2025 (OECD) - reveals a constrained fiscal environment while also presenting opportunities to seek fresh financing sources. STDF is working with existing and prospective donors to diversify its funding. At the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the Facility was seen as well positioned to cultivate solutions, promote new approaches and inspire SPS systems pathways. STDF's financing study – out in 2026 – will dive into options for alternative financing solutions.

## Evaluation findings

- The STDF has "delivered significant and tangible results" and the "target countries and sectors that have benefitted from STDF support have seen stronger export growth in plants, animals and foods than their comparators. (External Evaluation of the STDF, 2024)

Current donors to STDF have long understood the added value of their financial support and the mutually beneficial way it meets development, trade and commercial objectives. Investing in standards to boost prospects for communities in the global South isn't simply about meeting a moral imperative. Today's trade, health and food safety landscape connects us all whether as consumers for agrifood products increasingly affected by access to, and the changing prices of, goods or whether as business operators working across global supply chains. Climate change is increasing the challenges, while showing the shared interest and opportunity for SPS capacity development to leverage environmental benefits and resilience, as STDF projects actively do.

## Flagship Impact story

- **ePhyto: STDF support brought together the public-private sector in developing and developed countries to set up and pilot IPPC's digital certification system. By the end of 2025, 96 countries were exchanging ePhyto certificates. FAO and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) research show ePhyto can generate annual savings of up to US\$200,000 per exporter or company. Building on the results, an STDF project is piloting eVet certification in Latin America and the Caribbean.**
- **View more STDF safe trade results: 20 years of safe trade for sustainable development**

As geopolitical shifts continue to shake global stability, long-term proven investments in strengthening SPS capacity make us all safer and better off. Here, STDF's 2025-2030 Strategy with its emphasis on collaboration, driving innovation and scaling what works is a sound investment. During the Strategy development, STDF members highlighted these as critical priorities. In 2025, work has moved ahead for STDF to remain impactful and responsive in a rapidly evolving global context.

## Global evidence

- **Standards reduce transaction costs, diffuse know-how and enable scale. Stronger capacity to meet standards delivers inclusive trade. When countries comply with NTMs, they add value across supply chains and spur growth that is inclusive and gender-equitable. This creates jobs, raises incomes, protects the environment, and strengthens livelihoods. (World Development Report 'Standards for Development' 2025)**

Through its partnership, greater than the sum of its parts, STDF catalyses change and drives progress on SPS compliance, supporting a rules-based trading system aligned with the WTO SPS Agreement. Over the last two decades, STDF's science-based work has shown that standards are a powerful springboard for development. From improving regulatory practices to helping small-scale farmers adopt innovations for compliance, and advancing regional harmonization, this work cuts trade costs and unlocks export potential. STDF's demand-driven initiatives are nationally owned, supported by a network of DCEs. By scaling them further, many more communities can now unlock the full potential of standards for safe trade and development.

## Global call to action

- **We encourage scaling up aid for trade, especially for least developed countries, and commit to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of aid for trade provided. (Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development FFD4, July 2025)**
- **Standards are... part of the invisible infrastructure of modern economies, as vital to prosperity as roads, ports, or power grids. Treat them as a springboard, and they propel development. (World Development Report 'Standards for Development' 2025)**



# STDF Global Partnership



# Partner Voices

*Synergies have been created across African Union member countries. The great work [on food control systems assessments] was done under funding from the EU and that was all born in the margins of an STDF Working Group. There is a value in what we do – it translates into real outcomes in the field.*

**Catherine Bessy, Senior Food Safety Officer, Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division, FAO**

*Speeding up trade depends on effective collaboration with the private sector, backed by enabling policies, smart regulation and regional cooperation to encourage innovation and investment. Partnerships like the STDF help to reduce trade barriers, minimize food losses and advance sustainability.*

**Cécile Fruman, World Bank**

*Through innovative initiatives including PPGs in Timor-Leste and Cabo Verde, STDF supports Codex implementation and adds strategic value to WHO's 2030 Strategy for stronger food safety systems and global cooperation.*

**Simone Moraes Raszl, Unit Head, Standards and Scientific Advice, Nutrition and Food Safety Department, World Health Organization (WHO)**

*STDF worked very closely with WOH in terms of promoting and encouraging countries to adopt electronic certification. We're talking with STDF about additional methods to communicate the standards are available and to get people to be knowledgeable about this.*

**Joyce Bowling-Heyward, WOH Standards Department**

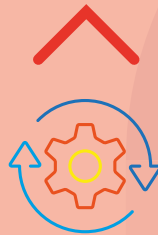
*STDF's work directly supports the SPS Committee, providing members with practical solutions to overcome compliance challenges, reduce unnecessary trade barriers, and enhance participation in international markets.*

**Cecilia Risolo, Chairperson of the WTO SPS Committee in 2025**

# STDF 2025-2030 Strategy goes live

## THEORY of CHANGE

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH,  
POVERTY REDUCTION, FOOD SECURITY AND  
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE



**SAFE TRADE FACILITATED**



**PROGRAMME GOAL**

Increased and sustained SPS capacity of public and private  
sector stakeholders in developing countries



**OUTCOME 1**

Increased uptake of SPS  
good practices and knowledge  
products at national,  
regional and global level



**OUTCOME 2**

Catalytic SPS  
improvements at national,  
regional and global level driven  
by STDF's partnership

“ *The WTO supports STDF’s Strategy for 2025-2030, which spells out its priorities for the coming years. We encourage current and prospective partners to back STDF’s efforts so that more people around the world can benefit from safe and inclusive trade, contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and climate resilience.*

**Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General**

On 20 March 2025, on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee, STDF launched its new Strategy to 2030 developed in close collaboration with its founding partners, donors and other members. Building on STDF’s 20-year record, it supports developing countries and LDCs to meet international standards (Codex, IPPC and WOHAI), referenced in the WTO SPS Agreement, to better integrate into the global trading system and unlock the economic benefits this brings.

The Strategy sets out a targeted and timely pathway to deepen public-private sector collaboration, strengthen regional links and benefit from the network of developing country experts. New work on innovation and scaling was also launched to mobilize increased investments for SPS systems.

“ *With its strong track record — and the support of WTO members and partners — I am confident that the STDF will continue to adapt, remain agile and evolve in this increasingly complex environment. The strategy provides a solid framework to tackle challenges, ensuring our collective efforts continue to facilitate safer trade.*

**Marie-Luise Rau, Chair of the STDF Working Group in 2025**

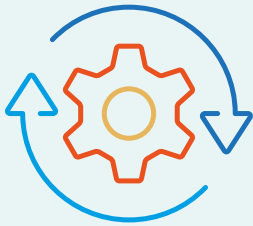


Husvarna

# 3. 2025 in Focus: STDF Results across the Theory of Change

# STDF 2025 Results Summary

**Selected results from across STDF's workstreams are summarized below based on the Theory of Change. Results are reported based on the indicators in the Results Matrix attached to the STDF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework. This includes aggregate results from ongoing and completed projects.**



**Impact:  
Safe Trade  
Facilitated**

## **STDF initiatives and PGs/PPGs contributed to:**

- Increased exports of smoked fish, hot peppers, Nile perch and cocoa across 8 countries in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean with evidence of price premiums, expanded export markets, and improved market access for producer groups, including women's associations.

Thanks to STDF's completed projects in 2025 more small-scale producers, food business operators (FBOs) and exporters benefitted from safer trade. For instance, in West Africa, producers in Mali gained a price premium for smoked fish that more than doubled in 5 years, while in Uganda, one FBO increased chilled and frozen fish exports over 3-fold to 56 tonnes per week.



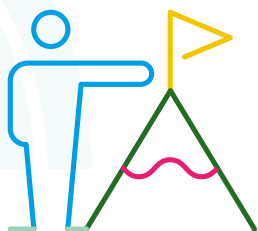
**Goal:  
Increased and  
Sustained SPS  
Capacity of Public  
and Private Sector  
Stakeholders  
in Developing  
Countries**

**STDF initiatives and PGs/PPGs contributed to:**

- Reduced SPS non-compliance notifications across 3 value chains (cocoa, aquaculture, and horticulture) in 7 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Reduced rejections and interceptions in 4 countries, with rejections ranging from 70% to 100% in some cases, while low or no rejection rates were maintained in others.
- In the Caribbean, Jamaica's hot pepper exports faced an 88% decrease in interceptions over a 3-year period. At the same time, rejections dropped for cadmium in cocoa across Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago, plus for chili peppers from Rwanda.

**STDF completed PGs show evidence of sustained SPS improvements:**

- In Africa, all 16 Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states formally adopted harmonized guidelines for biopesticide registration, developed through STDF's regional project covering 8 countries that ended in 2024.
- Post-project evidence from STDF's 2015 support on International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15 (wood packaging) shows lasting gains, with heat treatment facilities increasing from 15 to 25 in Cameroon and operators rising from 10 to 26 in Kenya, with reduced non-compliance and stronger public-private collaboration.
- More countries are using IPPC's ePhyto Solution developed via STDF's pilot project, with 96 participating countries by the end of 2025. Evidence published in 2025 by the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) shows cost savings of US\$25 per ePhyto certificate and up to US\$283 per container, plus environmental benefits with savings of approx. 8.4 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per certificate.
- According to findings by COLEAD in 2025, STDF support to the Penja pepper value chain in Cameroon shows sustained use of tailored tools and ongoing training to strengthen SPS practices three years after closure demonstrating lasting ownership, impact and contributions.



## **Outcome 1: Increased uptake of SPS Good Practices and Knowledge Products at National, Regional and Global Level**

- **53 legislations, regulations, policies, strategies, structures and/ or processes for food safety, plant health and animal health were established or revised in line with good practices across 12 projects, spanning 33 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.**
- **Evidence of delivery of 25 SPS measures for trade by the public-private sector across 15 projects in 40+ countries. This covered practices, laboratory and surveillance systems, inspections and roll-out of international standards, including inclusive and climate-resilient approaches.**
- **8 cases of uptake and application of 4 STDF good practices and knowledge products, which includes the STDF Gender Action Plan. In addition, the Environment Action Plan was developed.**

In Southeast Asia, the roll-out of national policies in Viet Nam and Lao PDR support African Swine Fever (ASF) prevention and control. Across Latin America and the Caribbean, protocols on climate resilience fed into Jamaica's agricultural plan while Andean countries developed a farm categorization system linking environmental factors to cadmium levels in cocoa beans, plus mitigation strategies offering a scalable regional model for reducing contamination. In the Pacific, an innovative Premium Cocoa Assurance Protocol is in place in Papua New Guinea. A national reference laboratory was operationalized in Mali, West Africa, and in East Africa risk-based approaches were integrated into Uganda revised fisheries act and Rwanda's draft plant health law.



## **Outcome 2: Catalytic SPS Improvements at National, Regional and Global Level driven by Stdf's Partnership**

- **Total value of new investments leveraged 2004-2025: US\$43.5M (+3% from 2004-2024).**
- **Total funds leveraged in 2025: US\$1.3M.**
- **15 collaborative networks and partnerships set-up or strengthened across 5 projects in 8 countries, supporting coordination, knowledge sharing and joint action on SPS challenges.**
- **Adaptation, replication and scaling of 12 SPS innovations through 11 projects in 18 countries including institutionalization of tools, cross-country replication and scaling to other national users.**
- **Coordination of SPS capacity development interventions by Working Group: 9 cases.**

Catalytic results were leveraged with FAO projects funded by Canada and IFAD in Mali purchasing 17 additional improved fish-smoking ovens for women's associations that reduce polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) contamination. STDF knowledge and innovations were shared globally and regionally, opening up opportunities to drive catalytic SPS improvements. Key events included the Vienna Food Safety Forum, co-led by UNIDO, Australia, the STDF and other partners, the IICA/STDF regional workshop on AI and safe trade with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, and a virtual PPP dialogue with CropLife Asia and APAARI, as well as a regional remote inspection and audit workshop with regulators from all ASEAN Member States, co-led by UNIDO with STDF and Australia. STDF lessons were shared at events organized by the GATF and Sweden, and IPPC, during the WTO Public Forum, and at the World Bank regional SAPLING event focused on South Asia. Meanwhile, STDF projects promoted North-South and South-South exchange, for instance enabling food safety regulators in East Africa to learn from Canada, the UK and others.



## Output 1:

### Increased availability and awareness of SPS good practices and knowledge products

- **7,900+** stakeholders from governments, industry, international and regional organizations and the private sector participated in global events online and in person.
- Strong digital uptake, with STDF resources downloaded **48,675+** times from the website, indicating sustained demand for knowledge products and tools.

In 2025, STDF's knowledge and outreach efforts generated outputs and engagement across the programme. STDF produced 3 knowledge products: Scaling Case Study plus Briefings on Remote Audit and Inspection and on Unlocking Digital Trade. These were complemented by 127+ knowledge and communication products developed through STDF-funded projects.



## Output 2:

### Increased skills of national, regional and global stakeholders to use SPS good practices and innovations

- **8,000+** public and private sector stakeholders were trained on SPS good practices across **40+** countries, including more than **2,377** women and **221** young people.

Linked to the cocoa value chain, 1,950+ farmers were trained in Papua New Guinea and 1,130+ actors in Latin America and the Caribbean. In turn, 52 laboratory staff in Mali gained know-how on reducing contamination in smoked fish, while 1,250 value chain actors in Jamaica were reached with good practices to improve the safety and quality of hot peppers for export.



### Output 3:

## STDF's grants foster innovative and collaborative SPS capacity development

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- 43 ongoing PGs and PPGs on food safety, animal and plant health, in 73 countries with STDF funding of over US\$23.5 million.
- 6 PGs were approved, alongside 8 PPGs.

In 2025, stakeholders from 4 PGs and 4 PPGs out of 6 completed PGs and 5 completed PPGs, responded to STDF's end survey. Feedback received demonstrated satisfactory quality of delivery, effectiveness, relevance and involvement of national and regional stakeholders.



### Output 4:

## Improved dialogue and cooperation among SPS stakeholders

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- **82+** events worldwide, including Working Group meetings and practitioner group sessions.

In 2025, STDF work was showcased at 82+ events worldwide, including practitioner groups on eCert, PPPs and Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA), as well as at workshops, webinars and side-events held alongside the WTO SPS Committee. 45+ members participated in each of the two Working Groups over the year and the November 2025 Working Group annual survey highlighted unanimous positive views of STDF's work.

# Mainstreaming Cross-Cutting Issues in Action in 2025

In 2025 STDF promoted equal opportunities for inclusive safe trade in line with the Gender Action Plan and co-developed an Environment Action Plan with the Working Group and project partners.

“*WOAH appreciates the STDF's work on mainstreaming gender, which is innovative in SPS capacity development. We are integrating equal opportunities and women's empowerment in our PPP work to strengthen veterinary services in Africa and South Asia.*

**Rahul Srivastava, Public-Private Partnership Project Manager, WOAH**



## STDF Projects: inclusive analysis, capacity building and training

- A gender analysis in 2025 under a project in Central Africa identified recommendations to promote a more inclusive and equitable phytosanitary regulatory framework.
- In addition, three other gender analyses on projects were ongoing in 2025:
  - Ghana: maize and groundnuts value chain.
  - Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia: small-scale cross-border trade.
  - Bangladesh: export-oriented vegetable sector.
- Capacity building was rolled out in STDF projects in Senegal as well as in Rwanda and Uganda, equipping actors along the horticulture and fisheries value chains with the tools and know-how to ensure equal opportunities in SPS systems and delivery.
- In Senegal, a Training of Trainers event with experts from members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) led to more inclusive project activities for more equitable results. In Rwanda and Uganda, training enabled competent authorities and FBOs to integrate inclusive approaches in policy, programming and food safety management systems.

## Contributing to partner-led inclusive capacity building

- As part of UNCTAD's Online Course on trade and gender linkages focused on NTMs the STDF delivered a session in July 2025 on transformative business models for inclusive and safe trade. Attended by a wide range of government officials, international organizations, academia, private sector and civil society, half of the participants were from Africa.
- At the WTO Trade and Gender Workshop for Women Entrepreneurs in the Philippines in September 2025, STDF shared project success stories on meeting international SPS measures to access global markets. Participants were inspired by a Nigerian woman entrepreneur's view of how STDF support and effective PPPs enabled her Shea Origin company to establish a globally recognized brand and expand safe exports of shea-based products.



## STDF's Environment Action Plan validated



### Plan Pillars

- Awareness and knowledge sharing on environment mainstreaming for safe trade facilitation.
- Environmental mainstreaming in design, implementation and monitoring of PGs/PPGs.

An STDF Environment Action Plan was finalized and validated by the Working Group in line with the new Strategy. The Plan is based on findings and recommendations from the 2024 External Learning Assessment on how environment, biodiversity and climate change have been addressed in STDF work. It reflects inputs from project stakeholders, founding partners, donors, DCEs and other members. The Plan provides practical guidance on how to consider needs, challenges and opportunities related to the environment (including climate) across STDF's workstreams, where relevant and feasible. Dialogue with partners involved in projects and SPS capacity development shared perspectives to identify synergies with relevant actors to strengthen outreach and uptake.

[Read the Plan](#)

# 2025 Projects and PPGs

\* Highlights of projects, knowledge work and the global platform are captured under a specific Strategy area for the purposes of this Annual Report, while acknowledging the crossovers between the areas.

## AFRICA

1. IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF SMOKED FISH IN MALI
2. IMPROVING SHELLFISH SAFETY IN SENEGAL TO BOOST MARKET ACCESS
3. HARMONIZING THE PHYTOSANITARY LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA
4. USING DIGITAL TOOLS TO FACILITATE SAFE FOOD TRADE IN WEST AFRICA
5. ENHANCING AFLATOXIN MANAGEMENT IN GHANA'S MAIZE AND GROUNDNUTS
6. IMPROVING SPS COMPLIANCE OF SMALL-SCALE CROSS BORDER TRADERS IN MALAWI, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA
7. MANAGING SCALE INSECTS IN FRESH FRUITS IN EAST AFRICA
8. MANAGING INVASIVE POTATO PESTS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
9. PILOTING A VTPA PROGRAMME IN EAST AFRICA TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY IN HORTICULTURE AND FISHERIES
10. IMPROVING SPS COMPLIANCE TO BOOST NIGERIA'S EXPORT CAPACITY
11. STRENGTHENING CASHEW AND SESAME EXPORT CAPACITY IN BURKINA FASO (RECEAS)
12. IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY AND MARKET ACCESS IN GHANA'S SPICE VALUE CHAIN
13. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY PRACTICES TO UNLOCK MARKET ACCESS FOR GAMBIAN CASHEW
14. PROMOTING LIVE ANIMAL TRADE AND EXPORT IN EASTERN AFRICA
15. EVALUATING ETHIOPIA'S PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY
16. STRENGTHENING ETHIOPIA'S PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEM TO PROMOTE SAFE TRADE IN PULSES AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS
17. STRENGTHENING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY TO PROMOTE EXPORTS OF HORTICULTURE PRODUCTS FROM SENEGAL
18. ASSESSING THE CENTRE OF PHYTOSANITARY EXCELLENCE (COPE) TO SCALE PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY AND INCREASE MARKET ACCESS IN AFRICA
19. IMPROVING SPS PRACTICES IN CACAO IN CAMEROON
20. ENHANCING COMPLIANCE WITH SANITARY STANDARDS TO DEVELOP THE MEAT VALUE CHAIN IN CHAD
21. A REGIONAL APPROACH TO CONTAIN BANANA BUNCHY TOP DISEASE IN AFRICA
22. IMPROVING SPS CAPACITY IN ZAMBIA TO GROW REGIONAL SEED TRADE

## 23. ACCESSING LABORATORY TESTING NEEDS AND BUSINESS CASE IN TANZANIA

## 24. WOMEN IN SAFE TRADE: BUILDING SPS COMPLIANCE AMONG WOMEN-LED COOPERATIVES IN CAMEROON AND DRC

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

25. EXPANDING COCOA TRADE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
26. STRENGTHENING REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (RIA) IMPLEMENTATION TO FACILITATE SAFE TRADE OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS IN THE PHILIPPINES
27. MODERNIZING BHUTAN'S BORDER MANAGEMENT ECOSYSTEM TO FACILITATE SAFE AGRI-FOOD TRADE
28. STRENGTHENING PHYTOSANITARY COMPLIANCE TO BOOST SEED TRADE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC
29. MORE EFFICIENT AUDIT AND VERIFICATION PRACTICES TO FACILITATE FOOD TRADE IN CAMBODIA, INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES
30. IMPROVING PIG BIOSECURITY AND AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) CONTROL IN 4 ASEAN COUNTRIES
31. IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPS BEST PRACTICES FOR EXPORT-ORIENTED VEGETABLES IN BANGLADESH
32. MANAGING AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN ASIA USING ONE HEALTH
33. REDUCING HISTAMINES IN POLE AND LINE CAUGHT TUNA IN INDONESIA
34. FACILITATING INCREASED TRADE OF ONE-BY-ONE TUNA IN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA
35. PACIFIC BEEKEEPING ENABLING ENVIRONMENT (BEE)
36. PREPARATION OF A PROJECT PROPOSAL TO FACILITATE MARKET ACCESS THROUGH ENHANCING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY IN UZBEKISTAN
37. PREPARING A PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONTROL SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN
38. PROMOTING MARKET ACCESS IN THE CASHEW NUT VALUE CHAIN IN CAMBODIA AND VIET NAM
39. MITIGATING AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN PEANUTS IN ASIA
40. MODERNIZING FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS IN TIMOR LESTE FOR SAFER TRADE
41. ENHANCING NEPAL'S PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY TO IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS FOR CITRUS, MEDICINAL HERBS, AND INDIGENOUS FOOD PRODUCTS

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

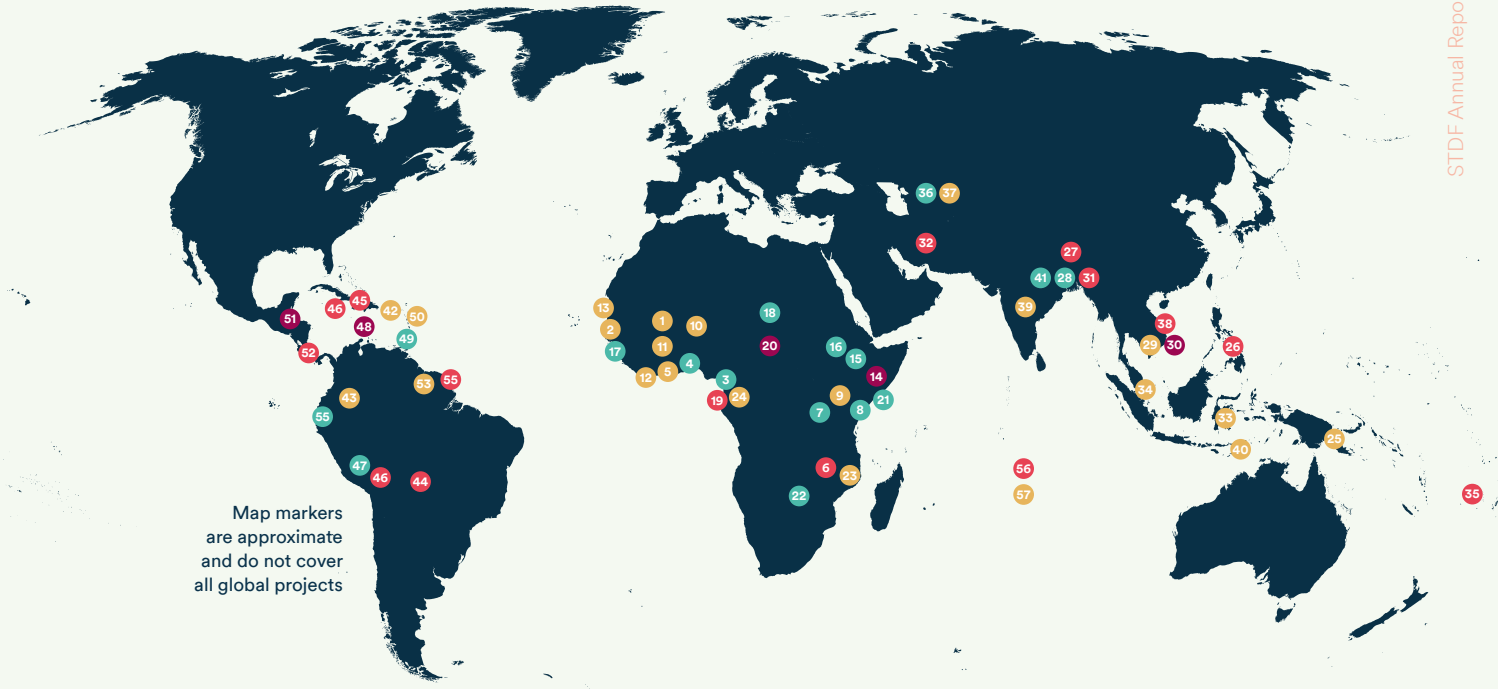
42. COORDINATING MANAGEMENT OF CADMIUM LEVELS IN COCOA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
43. IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY RISK ANALYSIS CAPACITY IN LATIN AMERICA
44. PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN USING THE P-IMA TOOL
45. STRENGTHENING THE PHYTOSANITARY AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM IN KEY VALUE CHAINS
46. MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN LATIN AMERICA USING BIOPESTICIDES
47. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY CAPACITY OF THE PEPPER VALUE CHAIN IN JAMAICA TO INCREASE MARKET ACCESS
48. REGIONAL CENTER FOR PHYTOSANITARY INTELLIGENCE OF THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY
49. ENHANCING MULTILATERAL E-VETERINARY CERTIFICATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
50. ENHANCING SPS CAPACITY AND MARKET ACCESS FOR GRENADIAN SOURSOP EXPORTS
51. IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN SAINT LUCIA
52. STRENGTHENING SURVEILLANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT OF AVIAN INFLUENZA FOR SAFE TRADE IN THE SICA REGION
53. DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR ENHANCED AGRIFOOD BORDER RISK MANAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
54. HARNESSING DATA AND AI TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY CULTURE AND BOOST TRADE IN CARICOM
55. MUSASENTINEL: SMARTER SURVEILLANCE TO MAINTAIN BANANA AND PLANTAIN TRADE IN BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND PERU

## GLOBAL

56. IMPROVING THE USE OF THE EPING SPS&TBT PLATFORM TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY FOR MARKET ACCESS
57. DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A NEW STANDARD FOR FOOD SAFE JUTE FOR USE IN THE COCOA SECTOR

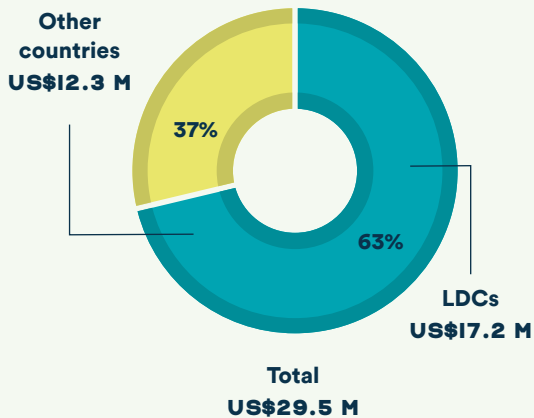
Projects

PPGs

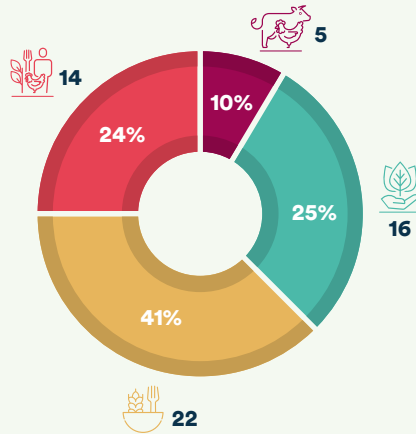


**Project & PPG Portfolio in 2025**

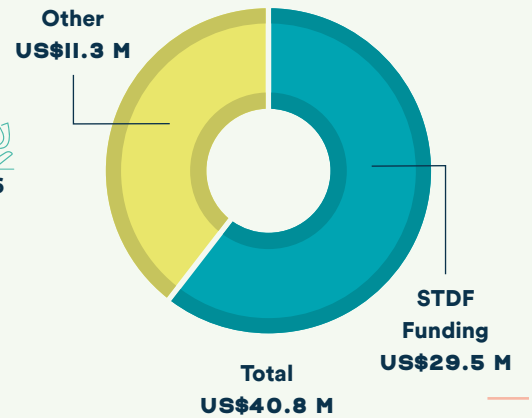
**LDCs BENEFIT MOST FROM STDF RESOURCES (US\$ M)**



**PROJECTS & PPGs BY SECTOR**



**PROJECT & PPG FUNDING (US\$ M)**



# Six STDF Projects completed in 2025: Results stories





# Mali: improved safety of smoked fish leads to a rise in exports



**TIME FRAME**  
January 2021  
January 2025




**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$765,825  
(total value: US\$855,825)



**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**  
Mali



**LED BY**  
FAO in collaboration with  
National Food Safety  
Agency and public/private  
partners

 Find out more: [PG/611](#) and [here](#)

## Voices

“ In training, we learnt how to smoke the fish with the improved oven. The oven helped our work progress from catching fish to the market; all is done following hygiene conditions.

**Djelika Traoré Coulibaly – Ségou, Mali**

The analysis allows us to really see...if the fresh and smoked fish is contaminated or not. As these are foods eaten throughout the day. It's above all to promote food safety.

**Moussa Dembélé – Head of Toxicology and Environmental Control Laboratory, LCV, Mali**

## Safe Trade Results

### RISE IN EXPORTS

- Smoked fish exports to West Africa rose from 2,268t (2021) to 3,075t (2024).
- 1 company now exports to Europe; with orders reported from France & USA.

### INCREASED SPS CAPACITY

- 539 processors trained in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and Good Hygiene Practices (GHPs).
- 15 improved smoking ovens introduced, contributing to safer products.

### INNOVATIONS

- Improved-oven technology reduced smoking time, and samples show very low and safe PAHs.
- Public and private sector coordination on scaling and sustaining safer processing methods.

### SCALING

- Two larger FAO projects (US\$5,219,655 funded by Canada; US\$7,791,800 by IFAD) purchased 17 additional improved-ovens for women associations in 6 regions of Mali.

### INCLUSION AND ENVIRONMENT

- 830 women (14 communities) adopted ovens and use safe food-grade packaging.
- Improved-ovens contribute to limiting deforestation with use of less wood than previously.

## Safe Trade Challenge and Solution

Smoked fish plays an important role in diets, livelihoods and cultural practices in Mali. Yet unsafe processing had led to high levels of harmful chemical contaminants, which posed risks to consumer health and undermined confidence in local and export markets. At the same time evolving international regulations meant production needed to align with Codex standards.

STDF's project took innovative action to manage these risks across the value chain. New improved ovens that reduced exposure to PAHs were rolled out in 14 communities, while training built up the majority women processors' know-how on good manufacturing and hygiene practices in handling, packaging and labelling. A national campaign raised demand for safer smoked fish and stronger systems were put in place to manage risks as the project supported laboratories to monitor contamination. A nationwide strategy and stakeholder framework coordinated with the public and private sector and research bodies on next steps. This includes scaling and sustaining safer processing as oven technology is widely adopted. Today, smoked fish exports from Mali to Burkina Faso, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Nigeria have risen by over a third in four years.



# Papua New Guinea: Safer, premium cocoa production expands trade horizons



**TIME FRAME**  
September 2018  
August 2025



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$638,275  
(total value (US\$874,234))



**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**  
Papua New Guinea



**LED BY**  
Department of Agriculture  
and Livestock with NGIP  
Agmark Ltd. and Outspan  
PNG Ltd.

Find out more: [PG/553](#) and [here](#)

## Voices

“ We acknowledge support from STDF... training equipped farmers with valuable skills from nursery establishment to post-harvest processes... to produce fine-flavor cocoa that can compete in the niche market.

**Albina Rarau, NGI Regional Coordinator for the Cocoa Board, Papua New Guinea**

## Safe Trade Results

### MARKET ACCESS

- Smallholder-friendly assurance systems and national quality tools supported safer, more consistent cocoa production for premium markets.

### INCREASED SPS CAPACITY

- Peer-led training for 847 farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), plus post-harvest and SPS awareness for grower groups.

### INNOVATIONS

- Cocoa Premium Assurance Protocol establishes a premium-grade classification to capture higher market prices for producers (alongside process of monitoring and protocols).
- Use of new production materials (stainless steel) for 3 existing and 15 new dryers reduces smoke taint risks.

### SCALING

- PNG Cocoa Board continues to run programmes across the country to promote quality, sustainability and greater returns for rural farmers through access to markets.
- Australia's complementary initiatives are further promoting smoke-taint free cocoa beans via installation of solar dryers plus support to boost production.

## Safe Trade Challenge and Solution

Cocoa – one of Papua New Guinea's most important cash crops – is a key source of income for smallholders who are producing almost all of the national output. However, while global cocoa prices were rising, national exporters and grower groups were facing low yields, quality and SPS risks. These included concerns of smoke taint and contamination, plus limited traceability.

STDF's project improved cocoa quality and safety in smallholder-driven supply chains. The design and roll out of farm- and group-level management systems improved consistency, traceability and record keeping, alongside guidance on GAPs and post-harvest controls. A peer group and trainer-led approach extended the reach of training while household profiles were used for monitoring, buyer engagement and long-term quality management. At the same time, upgraded and newly constructed drying infrastructure tackled the risks of smoke taint. To sustain and scale these improvements the project worked with exporters, authorities and grower groups to develop and roll out the Cocoa Premium Assurance Protocol. This innovation sets out grades for higher prices plus standard operating procedures to eliminate smoke taint nationwide. Moving ahead, a stronger foundation is now in place for the country to produce and verify premium cocoa, empowering smallholders to access higher-value exports.



# Jamaica: Food safety in hot pepper value chain opens doors to markets



**TIME FRAME**  
May 2022  
October 2025




**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$1,065,392  
(total value: US\$2,184,265)



**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**  
Jamaica



**LED BY**  
FAO with the Bureau of Standards Jamaica and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining

 Find out more: [PG/759](#) and [here](#)

## Voices

“ We’ve given farmers the tools needed to improve pest detection and crop management. This enhances the quality of Jamaican hot peppers and opens the door to new markets [including] in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Tafara Smith, Bureau of Standards Jamaica**

## Safe Trade Results

### RISE IN EXPORTS

- Exports of fresh hot peppers increased during the project period.
- Contribution to an 88% reduction in export interceptions over a 3-year period.

### INCREASED SPS CAPACITY

- 296 SPS officers trained across priority areas including on pest surveillance, access to clean planting material and adoption of food safety and plant health practices.

### INNOVATIONS

- Set up of Seed and Nursery Certification Unit with trained personnel, standardized operating procedures, digital management tools, and validated tiered fee structure.

### SCALING

- Additional US\$60,000 leveraged from the FAO to support drafting of the 10-year National Agricultural Development Plan (including areas on hot pepper and climate resilience).

## Safe Trade Challenge and Solution

Hot peppers are one of Jamaica's most iconic horticultural exports, supporting thousands of small-scale farmers. However, export rejections due to pests, inconsistent supply and gaps in food safety controls undermined confidence in key markets. With the global hot pepper market valued at US\$4.1 billion in latest figures, Jamaica's full export potential remained untapped.

STDF's project focused on fixing systemic gaps along the value chain. Cutting-edge seed certification and pest surveillance systems were put in place reinforcing the country's institutional and policy frameworks for improved SPS operations. This was alongside trained SPS officers, technical manuals and digital tools that improved inspection and monitoring at farms, nurseries and processing facilities. All this aligned national efforts with Codex, IPPC and CARICOM frameworks. At the same time, farmers and processors adopted improved GAP, GMP and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based practices, accessing clean planting material and standardized guidance. Close collaboration among regulatory authorities, research institutions, farmers and processors is sustaining results. Thanks to combined efforts interceptions dropped dramatically, paving the way for Jamaica to be at the forefront of hot pepper exports.



# Rwanda & Uganda: vTPA Pilots supported food safety systems and market access



**TIME FRAME**  
November 2022  
August 2025



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$699,012  
(total value: US\$888,456)



**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**  
Rwanda, Uganda



**LED BY**  
Land O'Lakes Venture  
37 (V37) with competent  
authorities and public-  
private sector

 Find out more: [PG/842](#) and [here](#)

## Voices

“ The project played a catalytic role in reinforcing systemic improvements for Uganda to enter the EU seafood market. Alongside other interventions, it contributed to capacity-building and regulatory alignment strengthening confidence in Uganda’s control systems.

**Paul Bwire Omanyi, Assistant Commissioner Fisheries Quality Assurance & Safety, Uganda**

[The project] strengthened the public-private dialogue. We convened with the guiding tool of Codex standards, which has made us focused and raised the level of interest – [overall] it has served as a very useful tool to help collaboration with a clear roadmap.

**Antoinette Mbabazi, Acting Head of Registration, Licensing and Enforcement Department, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority, Rwanda**

## Safe Trade Results

### MARKET ACCESS

- Ugandan FBO exports of chilled/frozen Nile perch rose from 15 to 56 tonnes per week.
- Exporter gained access to UK chain and reported 50% increase in export volumes.
- One FBO achieved Uganda's first Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification for future EU market access.

### INCREASED SPS CAPACITY

- 2,347 farmers (1,093 women) coached on GAPs and Good Aquaculture Practices, plus training for 100+ regulators and FBO quality managers on risk-based inspections.
- National roadmaps in place guiding use of vTPA data within food control systems.

### INNOVATIONS

- vTPA text incorporated into Uganda's revised Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2023 and Rwanda's draft Plant Health Protection and Phytosanitary Law.
- Digital risk-profiling systems, inspired by Canada's model, set up for targeted inspections and efficient resource allocation within both countries' national food control systems.

### SCALING

- Project contributed to mobilize larger EU funding for Uganda's fish exports.
- Exchange with other vTPA pilots strengthened cross-regional learning and visibility.

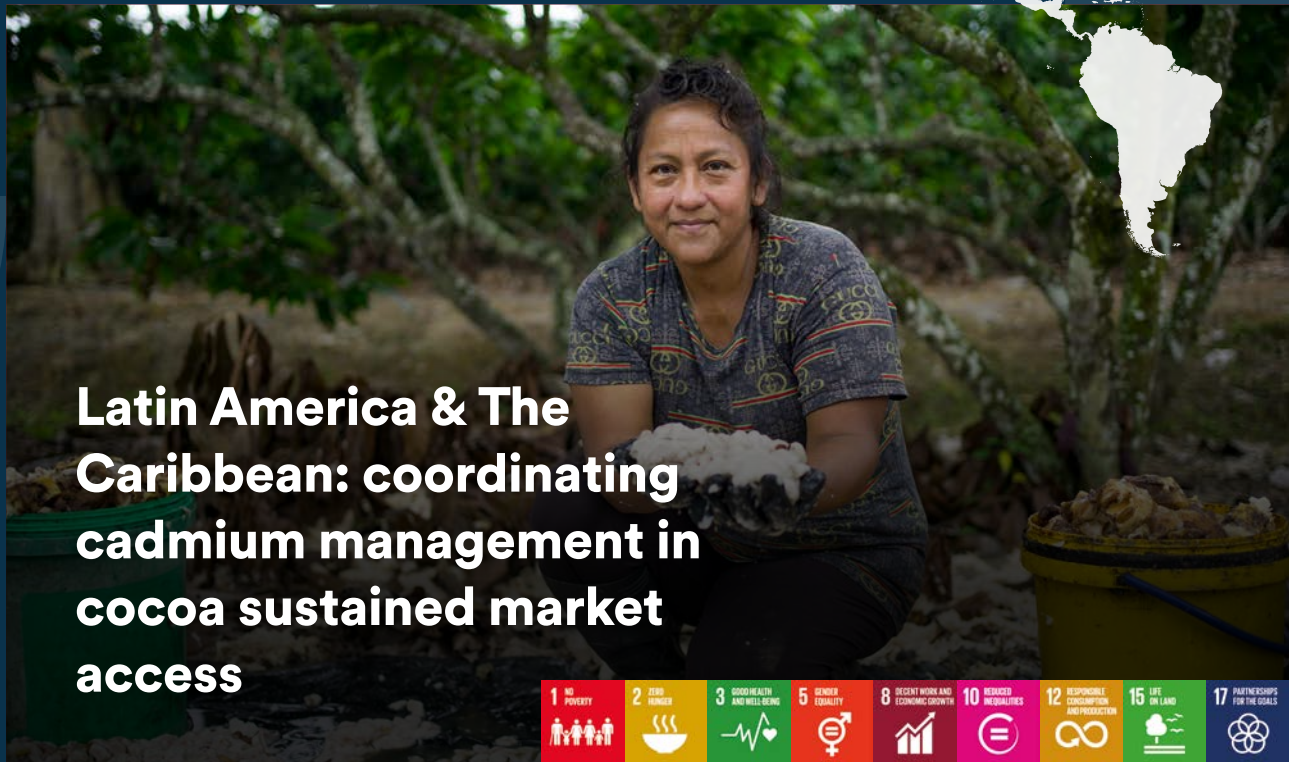
### INCLUSION

- Gender mainstreaming training for 156 public and private sector stakeholders on how dynamics affect compliance and practices for women handlers and vendors.
- Ugandan women's association of 70 members doubled its local buyers from 200/250 to 500 after training.

## Safe Trade Challenge and Solution

Food safety systems and regulatory capacity in Uganda and Rwanda faced a number of limitations, including the availability and use of data from voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes. In addition, gaps in risk-based inspection practices hindered effective oversight, public health protection and balanced food safety outcomes across export and domestic markets.

STDF's project piloted the use of Codex vTPA principles in Rwandan horticulture and Ugandan fisheries, translating the Codex guidelines into practical tools, training and roadmaps. Value chain assessments informed national decision-making and inspection procedures were updated based on risk-based approaches. User-friendly guidance helped farmers and FBOs understand and meet food safety requirements. National roadmaps strengthened the foundations for more data-driven food safety systems, enabling inspection resources to be targeted more effectively, while also promoting equitable support for women and women-owned enterprises. By improving dialogue with the private sector, as well as with regulators in Africa, North America and Europe, both countries strengthened compliance, positioning them to better support Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and scale risk-based food safety reforms.



# Latin America & The Caribbean: coordinating cadmium management in cocoa sustained market access



### TIME FRAME

February 2022  
September 2025



### STDF CONTRIBUTION

US\$381,946  
(total value: US\$550,948)



### PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Colombia, Ecuador and Peru  
(Trinidad and Tobago joined via own financing)



### LED BY

IICA in collaboration with cocoa authorities, laboratories and Cocoa Research Centre



Find out more: [PG/577](#) and [here](#)

## Voices

“Through STDF we strengthened laboratories, learned to use global data systems and built confidence in our submissions, allowing science to guide decisions and shape international standards.

**Rommel Betancourt, AGROCALIDAD, Ecuador and STDF Developing Country Expert**

Countries didn't just work in isolation. They created a community of practice, exchanging methodologies, validating laboratory results, and sharing findings openly. That's real South-South collaboration in action.

**Roxane Burstow, External Evaluator**



[Read the Project Story](#)

## Safe Trade Results

### MARKET ACCESS

- Cocoa rejections due to cadmium: Ecuador: 1 notification; Colombia: 1 rejection; Peru: 0 container rejections (from 2-3 prior to the project) and Trinidad & Tobago: 0 containers rejected during project.
- Regional collaboration on identifying and managing cadmium risks safeguarded market access for cocoa producers.

### INCREASED SPS CAPACITY

- 2,300+ cocoa farmers reached via training delivered by 173 master trainers.
- Capacity building for 80 laboratory technicians on standardized cadmium testing.

### INNOVATIONS

- Portable X-ray fluorescence (XRF) scanning devices and E-Max laboratory testing technology lowered the costs and time of cadmium tests, including in the field, reducing reliance on foreign testing.
- Regional platform facilitated dialogue and learning between public and private sector stakeholders, and integration of project recommendations into national strategies for cadmium management.

### SCALING

- Train-the-trainer approaches scaled knowledge transfer and adoption.
- IICA leveraged results to scale approach to other Caribbean countries.

### INCLUSION

- Collaboration with an EU-funded initiative that focused on the climate change impact like droughts and pests affecting cocoa.

## Safe Trade Challenge and Solution

High cadmium levels in cocoa is a challenge for Latin American and Caribbean exporters, particularly following the EU maximum levels in cocoa and chocolate products. For smallholder farmers, compliance is critical to maintain access to key markets and sustain livelihoods.

STDF's project helped countries work together to improve how cadmium is measured and compared by harmonizing sampling and testing procedures. This was supported by manuals and standard operating procedures plus training for laboratory staff. On the production side, updated cadmium hotspot maps identified priority zones and drivers of contamination to target mitigation efforts. Collaboration with the EU-funded ClimaLoca project leveraged synergies that connected scientific research to policy and practice, enabling sustainable solutions. The findings reinforced the importance of quality monitoring and clearer guidance for farmers. The regional platform developed, with the integration of the recommendations into national strategies for cadmium management, provide a strong foundation to sustain access to cocoa markets.

## Project Insights Shared at WTO SPS Committee Event

On 6 November 2025, STDF led a dialogue on two evaluated projects on reducing cadmium levels in cocoa across Latin America and the Caribbean. Colombia, Ecuador and Peru shared how the initiatives built capacities in data collection, laboratory testing and risk management, and forged stronger links across the value chain. The discussions underscored how regional cooperation and innovation are helping producers meet Codex standards and support safer, more sustainable trade. Building on this success, countries are exploring how to scale to other crops and regions. The evidence generated through STDF's evaluation will inform Codex discussions and guide future interventions on heavy metal contaminants in food.



# ASEAN: Strengthened pig biosecurity and african swine fever (ASF) Control



**TIME FRAME**  
February 2022  
March 2025



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$900,179  
(total value: US\$1,009,379)



**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**  
Cambodia, Lao PDR,  
Philippines, Viet Nam



**LED BY**  
Ecole Nationale des  
Services Vétérinaires  
- France Vétérinaire  
international (ENSV-FVI)



Find out more: [PG/798](#)

## Voices

“ The project helped control the spread of ASF... [It] helped us build capacity.. including training government officials [and] provincial officials joined training programs on leadership, veterinary skills, technical competency, and biosecurity in Viet Nam and France.

**Nou Vonika, Director, Department of Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia**

## Safe Trade Results

### MARKET ACCESS

- Number of trading partner bans affecting Lao PDR decreased from 1 in 2022 to 0 in the years up to 2025.

### INCREASED SPS CAPACITY

- 1,400+ veterinary professionals, farmers and frontline animal health workers trained across four ASEAN countries.
- Regional cooperation and national coordination frameworks reinforced to support more effective prevention, surveillance and response.

### INNOVATIONS

- Public-private collaborative model from local to regional level rolled out to control ASF.

### SCALING

- Partners including CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) and AVSF are well positioned to continue supporting Veterinary Services by applying and adapting innovative e-learning tools developed under the project.
- EUR 806,372 co-funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs to support selected project activities helped address a more significant share of the problem.

## Safe Trade Challenge and Solution

African Swine Fever (ASF) has had severe impacts on pig production, livelihoods and pork supply in Southeast Asia. As the outbreaks and spread of ASF have increased, countries faced growing pressure to strengthen biosecurity and import controls and protect food security.

The STDF regional project addressed these challenges by strengthening veterinary capacity, farmer awareness and cross-border cooperation. The project delivered national and regional training programmes, including training-of-trainers and e-learning modules for wide reach and sustainability. Community Animal Health Workers were equipped with practical tools to improve frontline detection and response, while collaboration between Veterinary Services, universities and farmer organizations supported coordinated ASF management. The project contributed to the roll-out of national policies in Viet Nam on animal disease-free zones and in Lao PDR on the national strategic plan for ASF prevention and control. Overall, the project improved biosecurity practices, reinforced preparedness for transboundary animal diseases and supported alignment with international guidance, including WOH standards. By embedding training into national institutions and fostering regional dialogue, the initiative provided a solid foundation to sustain ASF control, protect livelihoods and support resilient, safe pork value chains across the region.

# Five STDF PPGs completed in 2025: Snapshots



## Indonesia: tackling sanitary risks in pole-and-line tuna

“Due to similarities in challenges faced across Indonesia and Malaysia, the proposal includes collaboration for engaged public sector entities across both countries, with keen interest for mutual knowledge sharing and capacity building.

### International Pole and Line Foundation

STDF's PPG assessed histamine risks in Indonesia's artisanal pole-and-line and handline tuna fisheries, which are considered among the least environmentally destructive. Field testing and stakeholder consultations across key tuna hubs revealed low histamine levels overall but highlighted sanitary risks in remote supply chains linked to limited ice, long trips and poor handling practices. The findings informed interventions to strengthen cold chains and handling. A regional project proposal in Indonesia and Malaysia was approved for STDF funding in 2025.

**Innovation:** project will introduce new way to improve cold chain and reduce operating costs for fisherfolk.

**Scaling:** interest in private sector collaboration to improve SPS conditions and increase export-grade fish.

 **Find out more:** [PPG/860](#)

## Ethiopia: evaluating to build phytosanitary capacity

“It served as the foundation for drafting the Plant Protection and Quarantine Law, which will be promulgated soon. In addition, [this] enhanced knowledge and understanding helped the research and education system address phytosanitary.

**Hawassa University, Ethiopia**

STDF's PPG focused on building up Ethiopia's plant health system to improve access to global markets for agri-food and plant-based exports. Using IPPC's phytosanitary capacity evaluation (PCE) tool a comprehensive assessment mapped gaps in inspection services, border controls and regulatory frameworks. The PPG laid the foundation for the National Phytosanitary Strategy (2026-2030). A proposal based on the findings prioritized interventions including capacity development in plant protection services, regulatory reforms and coordination. The project was approved for STDF funding in 2025.

**Innovation:** rolling out the PCE tool as Ethiopia finalizes accession to the WTO ensures compliance with the WTO SPS Agreement.

**Scaling:** approach serves as a good model for other WTO acceding countries.

 **Find out more:** [PPG/945](#)

## Ghana: better food safety for market access in spices

“Considering the different roles of women and men across the chili and ginger value chains strongly influenced the project proposal, shaping both opportunities and challenges that were explicitly integrated into its design.

**Ghana Standards Authority**

STDF's PPG analysed food safety risks in Ghana's ginger and chili pepper value chains during production and handling. Consultations, field and markets visits and workshops across producing regions identified risks related to pest infestations, pesticide misuse, inconsistent quality, and limited uptake of good agricultural and manufacturing practices, plus gaps in data and testing infrastructure. The value chain analysis identified capacity constraints and findings informed the design of a project on food safety systems to improve market access for spices.

**Innovation:** project will set up an e-Portal database on SPS compliance data and act as a trade portal for producers to sell products online.

**Scaling:** the platform can be expanded to cover Ghana's other agri-food exports.

 **Find out more:** [PPG/909](#)

## Cameroon: improving SPS practices in cocoa

“By investing in research, infrastructure and farmer training, Cameroon can improve the safety and quality of its cocoa, protect health, and strengthen its position among cocoa exporters. Technical assistance for farmers remains the primary lever for action.

### CIRAD

STDF's PPG engaged local stakeholders to develop a proposal to improve SPS compliance in Cameroon's cocoa value chain. Diagnostic work identified pre- and post-harvest SPS gaps on pest and disease management, agrochemicals misuse, ageing plantations and poor fermentation and drying practices. All this is affecting cocoa quality and market access. Public-private sector stakeholders validated the findings that provide a technical foundation for a future project to boost competitiveness.

**Innovation:** a focus on young owners of cocoa plantations emerged to help improve living conditions of vulnerable populations.

**Scaling:** project will complement initiatives by Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund.

 **Find out more:** [PPG/969](#)

## Asia: managing aflatoxin contamination using one health

*The PPG highlighted the potential of a One Health-based approach for aflatoxin control to overcome sectoral silos and deliver effective, scalable solutions for health and trade.*

### APAARI

STDF's PPG brought together diverse stakeholders to advance a One Health approach to tackle aflatoxin contamination in selected value chains including rice, maize and groundnuts in Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The project proposal developed aims to reduce health risks, trade rejections and economic losses, including through a regional community of practice promoting South-South learning. APAARI is seeking financing to move ahead with the project, while leveraging opportunities for learning from the PPG to inform future work by the Mekong Institute and other partners.

**Innovation:** One Health approach to address full spectrum of disease control and contribute to global health security.

**Scaling:** connections with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mekong Institute and government authorities in Cambodia create potential for scaling.

 **Find out more:** [PPG/858](#)



# 4.

# Strategy

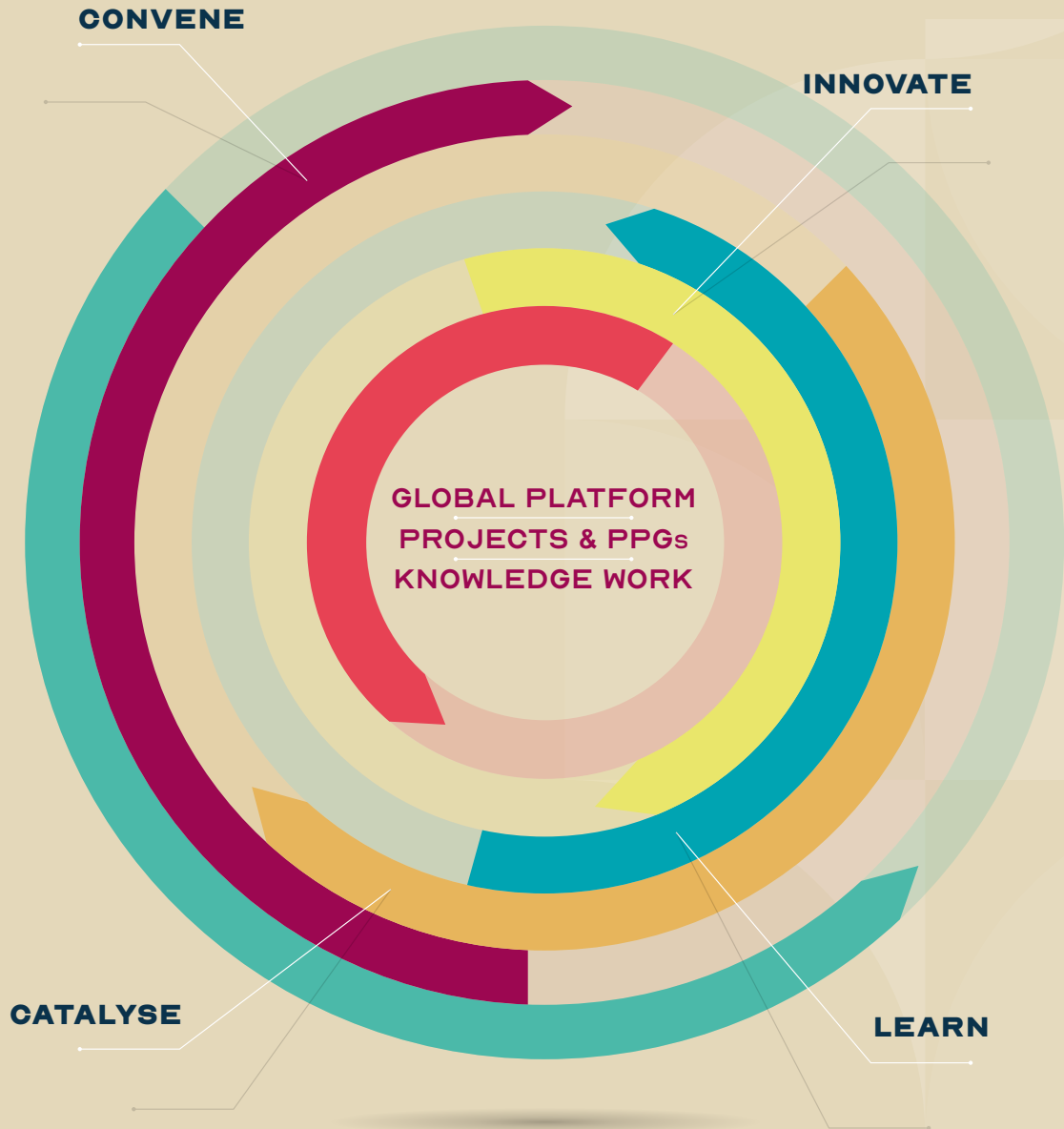
# Outcomes:

# Delivering on

# the Mechanisms

# of Change

# STDF Mechanisms of Change



The outcomes in the STDF Strategy 2025-2030 are closely inter-connected and relate to all the three workstreams – the Global Platform, knowledge work and grant mechanism. Together they support STDF’s partnership to feed results and impact upwards for safe trade facilitation and transformative change. In turn, the STDF global partnership itself is a key driver of change. Key achievements contributing to emerging results under STDF’s two outcomes are profiled below under the STDF’s mechanisms of change: Convene, Learn, Innovate and Catalyse.

# Outcome 1: Increased uptake of SPS Good Practices and Knowledge Products at National, regional and Global Level

Throughout 2025, STDF played a key role as a convener and thought leader in driving uptake of innovative SPS good practice and scalable know-how on safe trade solutions. Tapping into regional links and strengthening cooperation with the private sector and DCEs enabled the partnership to achieve wider reach. This spanned a dialogue on standards shaping agricultural trade competitiveness with the WTO to the first private sector roundtable with SSAFE, through to outreach at WOA's General Session of Delegates and at Codex on applying standards in real-world contexts. In addition, dissemination of what works was a strong feature over the year via the launch of the PPP Guide, alongside best practice events covering Canada's vTPA approach, managing pest-free areas in Southern Africa and pest control in wood packaging. WTO delegates learned about project results at a thematic session on Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT), while an ASEAN workshop gave participants hands-on experience on remote audit, which was also the focus of a new STDF briefing note.

# Convene

*STDF convenes and connects stakeholders at the global, regional and national level with a role in implementation of international (Codex, IPPC, WOAH) standards and safe trade facilitation. STDF's role helps to build dialogue, trust and understanding on good practices, drives synergies and collaboration, promotes cooperation among border agencies to streamline trade costs and creates an ecosystem that catalyses value-creation, innovation, joint action and scaling.*

**STDF Strategy 2025-2030**



## DIALOGUE ON STANDARDS SHAPING AGRICULTURAL TRADE COMPETITIVENESS

“ We must treat standards and technical measures... as strategic tools for competitiveness, value addition and market expansion. As a region... our task is to harmonize these measures, strengthen our trade capacity and ensure that our producers are equipped to meet them...This is why the work being done by the organizations represented here today is so important.

**Lee Kinyanjui, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry, Kenya**

On 10-11 December 2025, STDF partnered with the WTO, Gates Foundation and ITC on a regional dialogue around how standards and technical regulations shape agricultural trade competitiveness. The event in Kenya brought together around 100 policymakers, regulators, agribusinesses, industry associations, international organizations and development partners from across East and Southern Africa. It also launched the STDF regional ePing project for five African countries to navigate evolving standards affecting agri-food trade and enable governments and small businesses to adapt, compete and seize new market opportunities. STDF tools were shared including through an interactive marketplace, where STDF project partners discussed PPP innovations and opportunities for up-scaling, through the lens of the STDF PPP Guide.

“ For those in logistics and trade, SPS measures are more than regulations, they directly shape how we move goods across borders. Integrating tools like ePing into

compliance workflows helps us reduce risk, strengthen competitiveness, and keep trade moving.

**Anne Kemunto, Membership Development and Services Manager, Shippers Council of Eastern Africa**

 [Find out more and here](#)

## FIRST PRIVATE SECTOR ROUNDTABLE UNDER STDF 2025-2030 STRATEGY

On 2 October 2025, STDF convened its first private sector roundtable under the STDF 2025–2030 Strategy with Board members of SSAFE representing 10 of the world’s largest agri-food companies. SSAFE members and the STDF partnership discussed collaboration to expand the use of international standards and scale STDF-developed SPS innovations promoting trade and development, alongside integrating SSAFE tools and expertise into STDF projects for stronger impact. Moving forward, furthering strengthening collaboration is expected to support STDF and SSAFE shared objectives related to safe trade facilitation.

## eCERT AND DIGITALIZATION PRACTITIONER GROUP IN 2025

STDF’s Practitioner Group on eCert and digitalization (known as the Electronic Certification Advisory Committee, ECAC) of around 30 members met in March and November 2025. Presentations at the sessions included the OECD report on SPS eCertification and GATF study on impacts of digitalization on carbon emissions. Members including CITES, GATF, IICA, IPPC,

ITC, Trade and Compliance Institute for Trade Facilitation (TCI), TradeMark Africa, United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), UNIDO, World Bank Group, WOH and WTO shared the latest updates around ePhyto and eVet, data projects, links to digital platforms as well as knowledge events and products. STDF exchanged information on new briefings on remote audit and interoperability and on an eCert video featuring Morocco, which is due for release in 2026.

### **APPROACHES TO ROLL OUT CODEX STANDARDS AND UNLOCK MARKETS**

On 13 November 2025 a panel event at the 48th session of Codex Alimentarius Commission was jointly run by STDF and SSAFE on harnessing science and innovation to roll out Codex standards and unlock new markets. Drawing on experiences and lessons to address food safety challenges, the discussion highlighted practical approaches, including the use of PPPs and good regulatory practices (GRPs) to improve regulatory outcomes and transparency. Participants heard what works when it comes to applying Codex standards in real-world contexts, with initiatives that built food safety systems and reduced trade barriers. Codex delegates welcomed STDF's results that strengthened the use of Codex standards. With the imminent closure of the Codex Trust Fund, there was also renewed interest in STDF funding opportunities.

### **EXPLORING WOH'S NEW DATA MODELS FOR eCERT**

On 26 May 2025, on the margins of WOH's 92nd General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates, STDF hosted a session exploring WOH's newly developed data models and standards for health certificates, which provide the foundations for the regional STDF project, led by IICA, to pilot eVet certification in Latin America and the Caribbean. The session generated increased interest in the project, with new veterinary authorities signing up to engage in the Steering and Advisory Groups.

### **VIRTUAL ALUMNI NETWORK OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPERTS (DCEs)**

STDF's partnership benefits from a network of 45 current and former DCEs from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2025, a digital space was set up for them to connect via a closed LinkedIn group. The group will facilitate knowledge sharing on SPS gaps and opportunities among the group of experts and their networks at regional and country level, while some STDF partners have identified options to tap into the Network to support their own work.

# DCE Voices

*The new strategy aims to create value across supply chains, promoting the use of digital technologies to build SPS capacity, ensuring developing countries can leverage advancements for agricultural development and trade transformation.*

**Rommel Betancourt, STDF Developing Country Expert in Latin America**

*STDF projects have a huge potential in empowering rural livelihoods.. especially small-scale farmers who need a bit of help to access markets. STDF can identify critical gaps in SPS capacity and through the project grants' targeted support [they] gain meaningful economic gain from their agri-production.*

**Nime Kapo, STDF Developing Country Expert in the Pacific**

*Considerable achievement has been made in 20 years. We have solutions that have proven useful in supporting market access, which need to be rolled out. We expect the donor community should continue supporting STDF so that new innovations and good practice can be scaled up.*

**Martin Kimanya, STDF Developing Country Expert in Africa**

*The success stories documented from STDF projects... demonstrate that these initiatives are not only scalable but can also be replicated, offering a renewed opportunity to maximize the facility's potential.*

**Mary Grace Mandigma, STDF Developing Country Expert in Asia**

*I've enjoyed guiding countries that need technical support from STDF to draft competitive proposals looking at challenges on SPS for trade facilitation. I engaged with donors, partners, countries and region representatives, coming up with solutions to support them to trade safely and globally.*

**MaryLucy Oronje, STDF Developing Country Expert in Africa**

*Food safety is a priority in order to have food on our tables. The capacity building in SPS needs more [resources], knowledge and support [in order] to build the bridge between our countries and to close that gap, so that we can have a better future for everyone.*

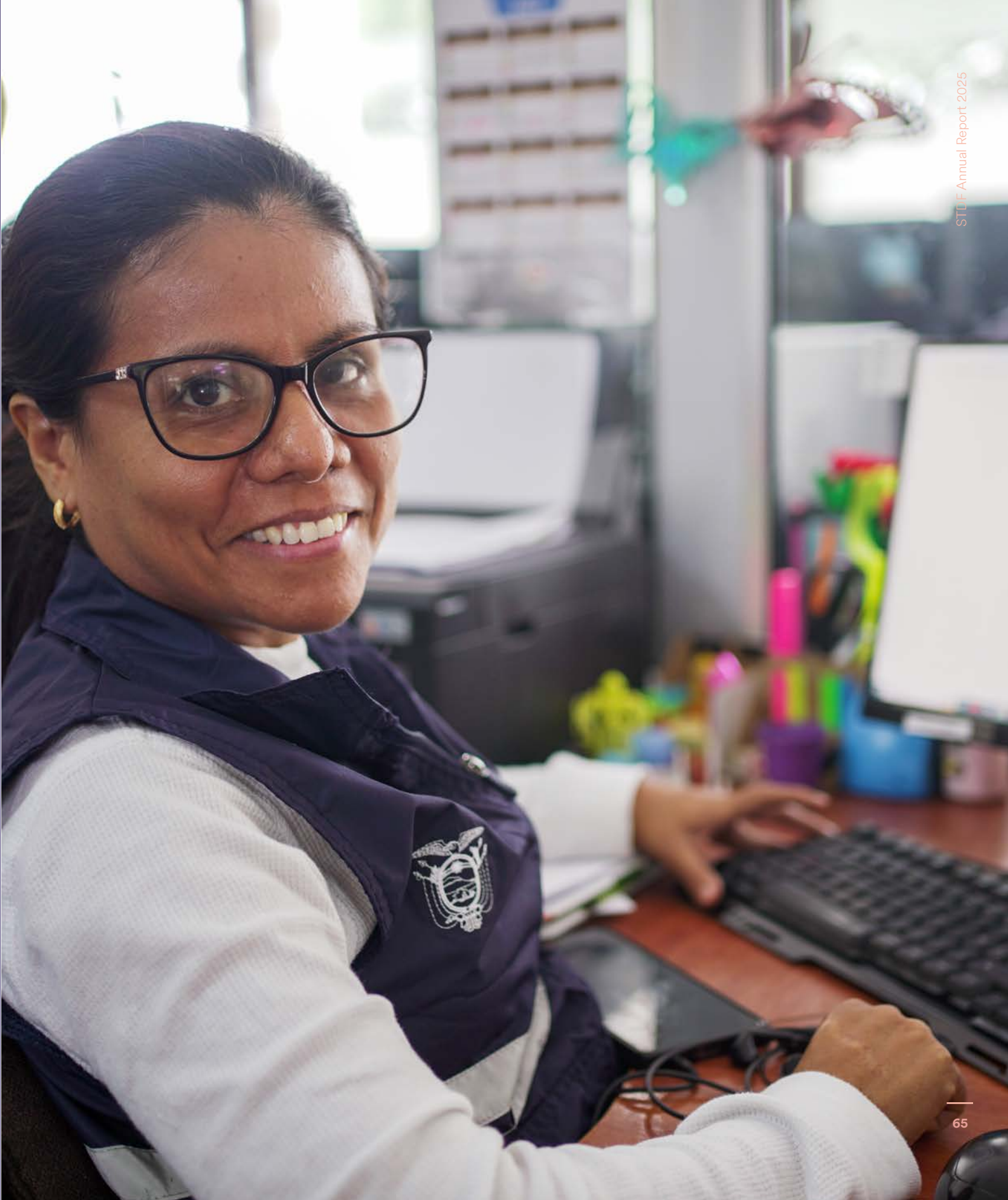
**Jaime Romero, STDF Developing Country Expert in Latin America**



# Learn

*STDF learns about what works well and disseminates lessons for wide benefit. STDF learning draws on results, experiences and expertise of the founding partners, donors, developing country experts and other partners. STDF's role helps to strengthen SPS capacity, increases access to and promotes use of good practices and knowledge products developed through the STDF and partnership, and builds connections and synergies across workstreams.*

**STDF Strategy 2025-2030**



## LAUNCH OF STDF'S PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) GUIDE

“ *This PPP Guide comes at a very opportune moment. It will guide us as we continue driving competitiveness of the agriculture sector in Tanzania.... It is through this guide that we will structure our approach and our interventions... I'm really thankful to STDF for this.*

**Eric Mwesigwa, GreenCert Limited, Tanzania Horticulture Association**

STDF held a session to launch the PPP Guide for improved SPS systems and safe trade facilitation in April 2025. Insights were shared from the Guide, which unpacks the why, the what and the how of PPPs role in facilitating safer trade. It was developed with the PPP Practitioner Group, alongside inputs from partners, donors and public and private sector stakeholders from Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. The webinar formed part of an ongoing dialogue to embed PPPs in line with the new Strategy.

 [Read the Guide](#)

## INSIGHTS FROM CANADA'S VTPA APPROACH FOR REGIONS WORLDWIDE

STDF hosted a webinar with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in March 2025, which explored Canada's vTPA approach and Establishment Risk-Based Assessment Model. The discussion looked at the benefits and what to consider when rolling out the approach, linked to the vTPA project in East Africa. Alongside pilots

in Central America and West Africa, learning showed that by working together regulators and businesses have built strong PPPs, advanced reforms and reduced costs for SMEs and governments, improving compliance to access markets.

## BEST PRACTICES ON SETTING UP PEST-FREE AREAS TO FACILITATE TRADE

*Successful partnerships enhanced capacity building [in STDF's project] ... Regional cooperation adds to that. What we learned from between what's happening in South Africa and Mozambique is that lessons can be rolled out in all Africa and other regions.*

**Jan-Hendrik Venter, Director Plant Health, Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development, South Africa**

A webinar in April 2025 delved into experiences from an STDF project to set up and maintain fruit fly-free areas in Southern Africa to boost agricultural productivity, promote safe trade and food security. The panel discussion featuring Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, FAO/IAEA and FruitFly Africa included insights on the private sector's role and most effective strategies.

## EXTENDING RESULTS AND LESSONS ON PEST CONTROL IN WOOD PACKAGING

To mark the International Day of Plant Health, on 14 May, STDF, CABI and AU-IAPSC hosted a webinar to showcase good practice from an STDF project supporting implementation of ISPM15 in Africa. The session explored

how the project continues to deliver results years after completion to prevent the spread of pests through wood packaging, recording an increase in heat treatment facilities and operators as well as fewer instances of non-compliance and stronger public-private collaboration. Cameroon, Canada, IPPC and Kenya shared updates on solutions for safer global trade that can also benefit the environment.

### STDF'S IMPACT HIGHLIGHTED AT WTO THEMATIC SESSION ON S&DT

“ *This public-private platform improved transparency and strengthened dialogue across the horticulture sector, leading to improved trade results.*

**Brenda Joyce Kadu-Kisingiri, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda**

“ *We benefited from technical assistance and capacity development from... STDF. We looked at all the national value chains... and the analysis showed that cashew was the better value chain to focus on.*

**Abdoulie Jalloh, Principal Food Inspector, Food Safety and Quality Authority, The Gambia**

At a WTO Thematic Session on S&DT on 30 September 2025, representatives from developing countries shared how STDF helped strengthen SPS systems and unlocked trade opportunities. This spanned reducing interceptions of horticultural exports by over 90% in Uganda to STDF's P-IMA framework guiding national decisions on SPS investments in Gambia. The event showcased how coordinated action is critical to deliver safe trade results.

 [Read the Story](#)

### ASEAN WORKSHOP VALIDATES REMOTE AUDIT AND INSPECTION GUIDELINES

*Leveraging remote audit and inspection technologies has the potential to significantly improve efficiency, transparency and oversight in compliance monitoring.* “

**Pham Quang Minh, ASEAN Economic Community Department**

From 8 to 12 December 2025 in the Philippines, STDF and Australia supported a UNIDO regional workshop with ASEAN bringing together 40 food safety regulators from Member States to finalize and test the ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Remote Audit and Inspection. Through hands-on mock remote and on-site audits, participants aligned regional practices with Codex standards. An STDF project is ongoing to support regulators to roll out these innovative solutions for safer, faster trade while the guidelines will help more regions to integrate technologies in operations.

### NEW BRIEFING ON REMOTE AUDIT AND INSPECTION RELEASED

STDF's briefing note published in October 2025 explores how approaches to remote audits and inspections evolved since the COVID-19 pandemic. These include cost savings, efficiency gains and reduced trade costs across countries – from opening up Cambodian fisheries exports to China to using video conferencing tools for audits in Brazil. The note looks at how remote audits facilitate safer trade in a digital world and can be scaled up and adapted for use in other sectors.

 [Read the Briefing](#)

## Outcome 2: Catalytic SPS improvements at National, Regional and Global level driven by STDF's Partnership

In 2025, STDF's partnership continued to drive SPS innovations, catalysing SPS improvements and mobilizing action and resources for more transformative change. From the Vienna Food Safety Forum to a joint workshop with IICA on harnessing AI in the Americas, eCert and digital technologies spearheaded by STDF and partners were seen to be modernizing SPS systems. This was in addition to interoperability lessons published in a joint Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) briefing and innovations in pesticide management harnessed by the PPP community. At the same time, a new scaling study put the spotlight on STDF's existing and future work to replicate successful approaches and leverage resources. The FFD4 side-event highlighted the high-impact SPS investments that are making use of scarce funds, while a dialogue on food control systems in Africa reinforced the value of aligning policy frameworks. In turn, scaling up ePhyto featured at WTO's Public Forum.



# Innovate

*STDF pilots SPS innovations and safe Trade solutions at national, regional and global level. STDF's role helps to leverage the expertise and resources of public and private sector partners, including through South-South cooperation. It also tests and develops concepts for scalable innovations that improve SPS compliance and cut trade costs and that can be rolled out more widely and makes the business case for scalable SPS innovations.*

*STDF Strategy 2025-2030*



## DATA-DRIVEN INNOVATION AT THE CENTRE OF VIENNA FOOD SAFETY FORUM

“ This year’s Forum marked a turning point in our collective understanding of how digitalization and artificial intelligence can serve as powerful enablers - not only of better food safety, but of better governance, better trade, and better trust.

**Gunther Beger, Managing Director of the SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation Directorate, UNIDO**

The Vienna Food Safety Forum, which ran from 10-12 June 2025, was organized by UNIDO with STDF, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) of Australia and other partners. It brought together over 300 participants from over 75 countries including ministers, regulators, researchers, private sector leaders and development partners to discuss data-driven solutions to facilitate trade and improve public health for a food-secure future. Flagship STDF innovations on eCert, remote audits and inspections plus use of Codex guidelines on vTPAs were seen to drive change to modernize SPS systems. There was consensus on the need to pilot and scale the approaches for global impact.

“ There were many positive outcomes from the Vienna Food Safety Forum, including a strategic agreement between CAHFSA and the IAEA to strengthen the capacity for food safety diagnostic testing in the Caribbean, with support from the Global Environment Facility. STDF’s regional linkages with CAHFSA have been instrumental in leveraging these critical opportunities.

**Janelle Yarde-Blackman, Food Safety Specialist, Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)**

## JOINT STDF-TFAF BRIEFING PUBLISHED ON INTEROPERABILITY AND DATA

Each country or regional bloc is migrating digitally to make exchange easier, but if we want to work together these platforms need to be compatible where possible.

**Jorge Salas, Director of Latin America, the Caribbean and Regional Integration, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism, Peru**

A new Briefing with TFAF was released in 2025 covering Latin American experiences in the digitalization journey covering eCert, ePhyto, eVet as well as the Digital Certificate of Origin to Single Windows. The note unpacks challenges, shares lessons and spotlights recommendations to achieve interoperability of systems building on cross-government collaboration, use of existing infrastructure, leveraging current standards and re-thinking business processes.

 [Read the joint TFAF-STDF briefing](#)

## HARNESSING AI FOR SAFE TRADE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

“ AI is already transforming our AHFS services. Our region is well positioned thanks to its dynamic agricultural trade and growing innovation ecosystems. Partnering with STDF in 2025 on the Harnessing AI for safe trade event helped amplify our reach, bring in diverse perspectives, and strengthen collaboration to accelerate impact.

**José Urdaz, Manager, Agricultural Health, Food Safety and Quality Program, IICA**

Between 24-26 November 2025, the STDF and IICA organized a technical workshop in Costa Rica with public and private sector stakeholders from 24 countries in the Americas around digitization and AI innovations transforming food safety, animal and plant health. The discussion dived into advances in smart and digital technologies to detect risks, prevent diseases, and modernize systems to streamline safe agricultural trade. The event featured initiatives in Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Uruguay and regional approaches by the Andean Community and International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA). The meeting included a financing session on how countries can access resources to scale AI technologies for accessible solutions. Follow-up actions are underway across the region with IICA's support to set up a regional AI network, develop an online innovation repository and expand capacity building.

“ The forum shared technological solutions adopted in other countries and scalable models that will contribute to strengthening the Regional Centre for Phytosanitary

Intelligence in its next phases of development. It is essential to promote the modernization of health systems, innovation and safe trade for Andean countries.

**Andean Community**

## INNOVATION SHAPING AGRICULTURE: PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT IN ASIA-PACIFIC

We have had a very close partnership with STDF in “ Asia, Africa and Latin America... Biopesticides are one promising innovation – it's not just product innovation but having an ecosystem of innovation and to integrate them to support better pest management.

**Delisa Jiang, CropLife International**

At an online dialogue on 29 October 2025, organized by STDF's PPP Practitioner Group, CropLife International and APAARI showcased innovations and partnerships on pesticide management for safe trade across Asia and the Pacific following the end of STDF's project in eight countries. The event looked at how the APAARI community of practice is continuing to scale the use of biopesticides at the end of the crop season leading to reduced pesticide residues and better market access. This has a transformative impact on small-scale farmers, public health and the environment. The session covered next steps on product innovation plus wider technologies.

 [Read the Story](#)

# Catalyse

*STDF catalyses change and helps to scale SPS improvements in developing countries worldwide. STDF's role helps to enable more stakeholders in developing countries and LDCs to access and use SPS innovations, promotes increased use and uptake of good practices and knowledge products, leverages increased financing to scale SPS capacity development, including investments from the private sector and other innovative financing sources.*

*STDF Strategy 2025-2030*



# New STDF Study released: mainstreaming scaling for greater results



***In many ways,  
the STDF is a huge  
juggernaut of scaling,  
with the partnership  
work in the different  
workstreams.***

## Scaling Study Interview

Scaling was a key focus of the 2025-2030 Strategy and work was launched in 2025 to identify how STDF can adapt for more transformative impacts working across the partnership and with the private sector. A new study conducted by the Scaling Community of Practice was published in October to continue this scaling journey, understand the state of play and how to evolve. It explores how the partnership can mainstream scaling to strengthen uptake, influence and deliver sustainable impact. The publication looks in detail at what scaling means in an SPS and safe trade context, how well-designed interventions

can influence wider systems, the role of partnerships and data and design choices in enabling uptake and practical ways to plan for scale from the start. The analysis highlights what STDF is already doing to promote increased uptake and scaling, and identifies gaps, opportunities and entry points to achieve greater impact at scale. The findings are actively informing how to mainstream scaling and strengthen STDF's contribution to safe trade.

 [Read the Study](#)



## SCALING

A process of achieving sustainable impact that meaningfully addresses a significant share of the global, regional, or national problem.



## HORIZONTAL SCALING

Scaling to new locations, places, populations, and institutions. Often referred to as replication; however, horizontal scaling can also be adaptive.



## VERTICAL SCALING

Embedding in and changing large scale (often national) systems, e.g. policy reform, changes to the policy enabling environment, or market systems. Vertical scaling can also refer to institutionalization.



## SCALING DEEPLY

Changing underlying values, behaviours, relationships, to ensure meaningful, lasting impact.

## UNLOCKING FINANCING THAT CATALYSES SAFE TRADE FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

“ Embedding scalability and sustainability into project design from the outset includes integrating SPS priorities into national investment plans, ensuring cross-ministerial coordination and implementing the frameworks needed to drive long-term, systemic impact.

**Ida McDonnell, Head of Research and Development, OECD**

On 2 July 2025, STDF’s official online event during the Fourth International Conference Financing for Development (FFD4) convened experts from International Finance Corporation (IFC), FARM Global, OECD and WOAHA in a dialogue on how to leverage financing in the context of the 2025-2030 Strategy. The session looked at the use of STDF innovative tools, particularly P-IMA to make the case for high-impact SPS investments aligned to policy goals. Speakers emphasized that SPS systems are public goods and strategic enablers of market access, agri-food transformation and One Health outcomes. A priority area that was highlighted in the event was around scalable, evidence-based solutions to attract public and private investment. Speakers emphasized the importance of reframing SPS investments as commercially viable and resilient supply chain solutions so as to mobilize non-traditional finance. The FFD4 dialogue is feeding into an STDF Financing Study initiated in 2025 to map financing sources, including blended finance, guarantees and impact investment. The study will analyse barriers, assess readiness, and propose approaches to engage with financing institutions and mobilize additional investment for safe trade. This timely work is due for completion in 2026.

## ACTION ON MOBILIZING INVESTMENT FOR STRONGER FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS

[All] this has a strong positive impact on trade in the region and globally. I believe these assessments help us position as the AfCFTA.. complementing what we have on our agenda towards ensuring we have solid food control systems in place that facilitate trade.

**Diana Akullo, Principal SPS Officer, AfCFTA Secretariat**

An online event held with partners and countries on 10 July 2025 explored findings from ten food control system assessments carried out in Africa under an EU-funded project led by FAO and WHO. The assessments identified gaps and priorities to strengthen national systems, aligned with the African Union SPS policy framework and the AfCFTA. The session looked at how to secure the investment needed to address operational gaps, further build food safety capacity and ultimately facilitate safe trade.

## UPTAKE AND SCALING OF EPHYTO SHOWCASED AT WTO PUBLIC FORUM

At the WTO Public Forum on 17-18 September 2025, the IPPC ePhyto Solution – set up from initial STDF seed funding – was showcased as leading a global charge to digitize and secure trade in plants and plant products. A session run by IPPC featured FAO, the African Union (AU-IAPSC), GATF and World Bank Group. A new ePhyto Africa Initiative was unveiled, which is due to promote further uptake across the continent.

Another session, organized by Sweden and GATF, with Guatemala, Maersk, Sida and STDF, explored scaling cross-border digitalization, and the need for regional cooperation, private sector engagement and support for developing countries to be able to benefit. International standards were seen as the common language for eCert systems to be fully interoperable.

### **SADC SCALES UP USE OF GRPS BASED ON STDF GRP GUIDE**

The SADC Secretariat has taken steps to promote GRPs and strengthen member states' compliance with the WTO SPS Agreement. Building on the 2023 STDF regional GRP workshop co-organized with the AUC, AfCFTA and the United States, the SADC Secretariat hosted a capacity building workshop on 24-25 November, ahead of its 14th SPS Coordinating Committee. The workshop – supported under an EU project – featured STDF's GRP Guide and brought together 60 representatives from 16 SADC member states, regional organizations including the AUC, AfCFTA, FAO, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as well as UNIDO, WOH and WTO.



# 5. Operations

# STDF in Action 2025

## PROJECTS/PPGs

43

PGs and PPGs ongoing on food safety, animal and plant health, with STDF funding of over US\$23.5 million in 73 countries

6

projects completed

5

PPGs completed

380

applications received for funding

US\$ 5.95  
MILLION

approved for 6 new PGs and 8 PPGs

64%

of funds allocated to new PGs/PPGs benefit LDCs (above 40% target)

## KNOWLEDGE WORK

4

knowledge topics (eCert, PPPs, P-IMA, GRPs) covered, supported by 3 Practitioner Groups (eCert, PPPs, P-IMA)

3

new publications: Scaling Study; Briefings on Unlocking Digital Trade (with TFAF) and on Remote Audit and Inspection

48,675+

STDF resources accessed 48,675+ times from the website

## GLOBAL PLATFORM

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**2**

---

Working Group meetings with 90 members in total

**6**

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Developing Country Experts (DCEs) providing regional and technical expertise

## FUNDING

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**US\$ 7.8**  
**MILLION**

---

9 donors contributed US\$7.8 million in 2025

**US\$ 1.2**  
**MILLION**

---

leveraged (in-kind and financial contributions) for new projects

## OUTREACH

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**7,900+**

---

stakeholders (including governments, industry, international/regional organizations) reached at 82+ events

**18**

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e-news sent out to 3,610+ subscribers

# Governance

## Working Group

### STDF Working Group approves 2026 Work Plan and New Grants

The STDF Working Group meetings were held on 24-25 June and 18-19 November with 90 members attending in total across the year. Demand for STDF PGs and PPGs increased seven-fold since 2020, with a record 380 applications submitted in 2025. The Working Group approved 14 new grants and dived into rolling out the 2025–2030 Strategy, finalizing the MEL Framework and Communications plan. Sessions sparked lively discussions from scaling and innovation to the latest knowledge areas and integration of cross-cutting issues in a practical-focused way. The Working Group also endorsed a virtual alumni network for DCEs, stronger private sector engagement and taking forward regional links. The STDF 2026 Work Plan was approved.



# In 2025: US\$5.95 million approved for 6 new PGs and 8 PPGs

## NEW PROJECTS

1. **Food Safety to Unlock Market Access for Gambian Cashews**
2. **Ethiopia's Phytosanitary System to Promote Safe Trade**
3. **Agrifood Border Risk Management in Latin America and the Caribbean**
4. **Cashew and Sesame Export Capacity in Burkina Faso**
5. **Facilitating Increased Trade of Tuna in Indonesia and Malaysia**
6. **Regional Approach to Contain Banana Bunchy Top Disease in Africa**

## NEW PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS

1. **Nepal's Phytosanitary Capacity to Improve Agrifood Market Access**
2. **Smarter Surveillance for Banana and Plantain Trade in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru**
3. **Building SPS among Women-Led Cooperatives in Cameroon and DRC**
4. **A New Standard for Food Safe Jute for Use in the Cocoa Sector**
5. **Modernizing Food Safety Systems in Timor Leste for Safer Trade**
6. **Building SPS Capacity in Zambia to Grow Regional Seed Trade**
7. **Harnessing Data & AI on Food Safety and Trade in CARICOM**
8. **Laboratory Testing Needs and Business Case in Tanzania**



[Find out more Working Group](#)



## STDF Working Group in 2025

**Chair:**

**Marie-Luise Rau**

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and  
Regional Identity, Germany

**Vice-Chair:**

**Eleonora Dupouy**

FAO

## STDF DCEs in 2025

**Rommel Betancourt**

**Nime Kapo**

**Martin Kimanya**

**Mary Grace Mandigma**

**MaryLucy Oronje**

**Jaime Romero**

## STDF Secretariat in 2025

**Head a.i.:**

**Marlynne Hopper**

**Aichetou Ba**

**Peter Donelan**

**Pablo Jenkins**

**Paola Michelutti**

**Simon Padilla**

**Catalina Pulido**

**Nydiane Razafindrahaingo**

**Short-term:**

**Morgane Martin**

**Anita Mwangi Moragia**

**Angela Benefo** (WTO Young Professional Programme)

**Ahamed Ashiq Shajahan**

(China WTO General Internship Programme)



# Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

## HIGHLIGHTS

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**MEL**

MEL Framework endorsed in December 2025. Strengthened risk and safeguarding measures

[Read the MEL Framework](#)

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**5+**

External End-of-Project Assessments finalized and 1 underway

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**38+**

Progress Reports submitted on LogAlto

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**1**

Gender Analysis completed in Central Africa with 3 others ongoing

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*The STDF M&E framework [was] designed through a collaborative, expert-led, process, developed through inclusive consultation and designed to propose, analyze, implement and measure the impact of projects. Australia [is] providing ongoing support because of how seriously they take M&E.*

**Shannon White, Director, Multilateral Economic Cooperation Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia**

Overall, 2025 marked a transformative year for MEL, with the set-up of an integrated, evidence-based and learning-oriented system. The revised MEL Framework positions the STDF to better demonstrate its contribution to safe trade, support adaptive management, and scale successful interventions, while ensuring robust risk management and safeguarding across its portfolio.

In 2025, the Secretariat, MEL Group and Working Group developed and finalized a revised MEL Framework and Results Matrix in line with the STDF 2025–2030 Strategy. The MEL Group – made up of 15 partners, donors and developing country experts – met three times between May and October to provide both strategic guidance and technical inputs into the process. The Framework was welcomed with members highlighting its alignment with the Theory of Change, focus on risk and safeguarding and potential to generate deeper learning and robust evidence of results. Members recommended piloting key aspects to ensure its flexibility and effectiveness.

#### **Snapshot: Revised MEL Framework**

- Reinforces use of contribution analysis to show STDF’s role in achieving results within complex development systems and places a greater emphasis on learning.
- At least 50% of completed projects will be evaluated two to three years after closure.
- Results Matrix uses indicators aligned to priorities including private sector engagement, regional approaches, scaling, gender equality, inclusion and environmental sustainability.
- MEL is integrated with communications, for clear, coherent reporting of results.

- Approach includes, and measures impact on, women, youth, marginalized and indigenous communities and persons with disabilities. Informed by Finland’s “Inclusive trade and persons with disabilities” publication, this recognizes the structural barriers different groups face in SPS systems and trade.

The MEL system is introducing processes to improve monitoring and adaptive management. These will include portfolio reviews to systematically track progress and identify risks across the projects. Digital innovations include upgrades to the LogAlto web-based platform. At the same time, the MEL Framework includes steps to enhance the Risk and Issues Management System to monitor key risks, including likelihood, impact and mitigation strategies. Work began on this in 2025 to be completed in 2026. In parallel, safeguarding measures will boost due diligence, transparency and accountability. A new implementing partner questionnaire was developed in 2025 – to be piloted in 2026 – to assess capacity across governance to financial management, procurement to safeguarding. The rollout of the WTO Integrity Line to report misconduct also reinforces ethical standards across STDF-funded activities. All this responds to recommendations from external assessments and reflects a commitment to improved safeguarding and fiduciary oversight.

# Communications

## STDF 2025 Global Outreach Highlights

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**Website**  
**55,300+**

website visitors



**Stakeholders**  
**7,900+**

stakeholders reached at  
82+ events worldwide



**YouTube**  
**1.29K**

YouTube subscribers /  
11,655+ views (in 2025)



**News**  
**18**

news items out to 3,610+ subscribers /  
8 STDF stories / 4 YouTube Shorts



**Stakeholders**  
**7,900+**

stakeholders reached at  
82+ events worldwide



*STDF helps to turn complex topics into user-friendly solutions. In addition to technical topics, Developing Country Experts learn from the STDF operations. For instance, my office has used STDF's Comms Plan to improve our strategic communications.*

**Mary Grace Mandigma, STDF Developing Country Expert in Asia**

## STDF Communications Plan 2025-2030

The STDF Communications Plan was presented to the Working Group and finalized in 2025 to support delivery of the 2025-2030 Strategy, linked closely to the MEL Framework. The Plan builds on the existing one with a strong focus on communicating STDF's work to support public and private sector stakeholders in developing countries to support SPS improvements. Alongside sustaining STDF's global outreach, it includes the development of a fresh user toolkit for the partnership, including storytelling from the ground, factsheets, presentations, increased social media presence and a new LinkedIn community for DCEs. Moving ahead, delivery will be based on closer coordination with STDF partners, donors and other members for amplified reach, as well as increased use of analytics to support monitoring and adaptation.

### Showcasing what works: 2025 Online Stories

Eight stories were profiled online in 2025 highlighting results from STDF's work:

 GLOBAL	 AFRICA	 ASIA	 LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Unlocking Financing for SPS Innovations that Catalyses Safe Trade for the Global Goals</b></li> <li>2. <b>Turning Global Commitments into Safe Trade Opportunities: STDF at the WTO Thematic Session on S&amp;DT</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>From Pallets to Progress: Safeguarding Trade and Forests Through Innovation</b></li> <li>4. <b>Strengthening Senegal's Horticulture Exports through Gender Inclusion</b></li> <li>5. <b>Regionalizing Innovation: Scaling Biopesticide Approaches to Facilitate Safe Trade</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <b>Transforming Agriculture: How Biopesticides are Reducing Trade Barriers</b></li> <li>7. <b>Safer Spices, Stronger Trade: How Grassroots Partnerships are Unlocking Trade for Pepper Farmers in SE Asia</b></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. <b>Shared Science, Shared Solutions: Regional Collaboration in Latin America &amp; the Caribbean Helps Tackle Cadmium in Cocoa and Chocolate</b></li> </ol>

 [Read the Stories](#)

## STDF Online Platforms & Multi-Media in 2025

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### New STDF LinkedIn page live in 2025

STDF's LinkedIn page launched in 2025 as a space to share insights, results and learning from across the partnership, expanding visibility to reach more SPS practitioners. Sharing 49 posts over the year increased awareness of the work of project teams on the ground, spotlighted impact using human-centred visual assets and promoted collaboration, profiling donors and partners.

[Follow STDF on LinkedIn](#)



### Developing Country Experts on camera

STDF's DCEs from Africa, Asia and the Pacific voiced their lived experience within the partnership in a series of YouTube Shorts produced in 2025. They spoke to what makes STDF a unique partner both at national and regional level, the changes expected on the ground thanks to the projects and why donors and partners should continue support. This effort will continue in 2026, with additional videos planned as part of the DCE Alumni Network to further amplify these voices.

[View YouTube Shorts](#)



Kitchen

CE

Caution  
Always use  
Avoid contact  
Clean the scale with a slightly damp cloth

Electronic Kitchen Scale

# Financials 2025

As shown in Table 1 below, 9 donors made contributions to the STDF Trust Fund in 2025 for a total amount of CHF 6,572,106 (corresponding to US\$7,842,608). These donors included Australia, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States.

**Table 1: Financial Contributions to the STDF Trust Fund in 2025\***

	<b>Development Partner</b>	<b>Amount (in CHF)</b>
<b>Australia</b>	DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (DFAT)	<b>130,168</b>
<b>Canada</b>	AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA (AAFC)	<b>152,733</b>
<b>European Union</b>	EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DG FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (DG INTPA)	<b>562,200</b>
<b>France</b>	MINISTRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE, DES FINANCES ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ INDUSTRIELLE, ÉNERGÉTIQUE ET NUMÉRIQUE, MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE L'AGRO-ALIMENTAIRE ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ ALIMENTAIRE	<b>522,700</b>
<b>Germany</b>	FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND REGIONAL IDENTITY (BMLEH), FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (BMZ)	<b>2,575,962</b>
<b>Ireland</b>	IRISH AID	<b>187,400</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	<b>650,000</b>
<b>Sweden*</b>	SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)	<b>1,700,343</b>
<b>United States</b>	US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA), US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (US FDA)	<b>90,600</b>
<b>Total (CHF)</b>		<b>6,572,106</b>
<b>Total (US\$)**</b>		<b>7,842,608</b>

\* Includes the contribution for the year 2025 (received in May 2025) under the current multi-annual agreement with SIDA, as well as the contribution for the year 2026 received in advance in November 2025.

\*\* The exchange rate used is the average for 2025.

Total STDF expenditure in 2025 amounted to CHF 5,998,534 (corresponding to US\$7,158,155), which was close to the total expected budgeted expenditure (US\$7,177,760) in the STDF 2025 work plan (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Actual and Estimated Expenditure in 2025\***

Category	Actual (CHF)	Actual (US\$)	Estimate (US\$)	Variation (%)
I. Global Platform	176,505	210,626	245,000	-16.3%
II. Projects and PPGs	3,927,590	4,686,862	4,860,000	-3.7%
III. Knowledge Work	320,121	382,005	415,000	-8.6%
IV. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	236,137	281,787	240,000	14.8%
V. Communications	213,767	255,092	273,000	-7.0%
VI. Other Operational Costs	279,284	333,275	319,000	4.3%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5,153,404</b>	<b>6,149,647</b>	<b>6,352,000</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>
Overhead (13%)	669,943	799,454	825,760	
Provision for separation**	175,187	209,054		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,998,534</b>	<b>7,158,155</b>	<b>7,177,760</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>

\* Corresponding to actual expenditures in 2025 (using the average annual exchange rate) against the estimates in the 2025 work plan.

\*\* Corresponding to financial resources available to cover any obligations arising from the early separation, non-renewal or closure of posts supported by the Trust Fund (as per WTO requirements introduced in 2025).

At the end of December 2025, the STDF showed a positive balance of CHF 1,842,196 (corresponding to US\$2,198,324), as shown in Table 3 below. This amount is calculated by deducting: (i) STDF's total expenditure in 2025; (ii) STDF's contracted commitments of CHF 9,441,312 for ongoing PPGs and projects; and (iii) STDF's uncontracted commitments of CHF 5,300,602 (corresponding to 8 PPGs and 6 projects approved by the Working Group but not yet contracted as of 31 December 2025).

**Table 3: STDF's financial balance on 31 December 2025**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount (in CHF)</b>
<b>Opening Balance as of 1 January 2025</b>	<b>15,911,915</b>
<b>Contributions Current Year</b>	<b>6,572,106</b>
<b>Interest on Investments</b>	<b>98,622</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>22,582,643</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5,998,534</b>
<b>Contracted Commitments</b>	<b>9,441,312</b>
<b>Balance in favour of donors</b>	<b>7,142,797</b>
<b>Uncontracted Commitments*</b>	<b>5,300,601</b>
<b>Final Balance (CHF)</b>	<b>1,842,196</b>
<b>Final Balance (US\$)**</b>	<b>2,198,324</b>

\* Corresponding to 8 PPGs and 6 projects approved in 2025 in US\$ and converted to CHF using the exchange rate as of 31 Dec 2025.

\*\* The exchange rate used is the average for 2025.



# Glossary

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area
<b>AHFS</b>	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence
<b>a.i.</b>	Ad Interim
<b>APAARI</b>	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
<b>ASC</b>	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>ASF</b>	African Swine Fever
<b>AU(C)</b>	African Union (Commission)
<b>AU-IAPSC</b>	African Union – Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
<b>AVSF</b>	Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders
<b>BEE</b>	Beekeeping Enabling Environment
<b>BMZ</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
<b>CABI</b>	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
<b>CAHFA</b>	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CFIA</b>	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
<b>CIRAD</b>	French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>CODEX</b>	Codex Alimentarius Commission
<b>COLEAD</b>	Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development
<b>COPE</b>	Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence
<b>DAFF</b>	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Australia)
<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>ECAC</b>	Electronic Certification Advisory Committee
<b>eCert</b>	Electronic Certification
<b>ENSV-FVI</b>	National School for Veterinary Public Health Inspectors (France)
<b>ePhyto</b>	Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>eVet</b>	Electronic Veterinary Certificate
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FBO</b>	Food Business Operator
<b>FCFA</b>	CFA franc
<b>FFD4</b>	Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development
<b>GAP</b>	Good Agricultural Practice
<b>GATF</b>	Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
<b>GHP</b>	Good Hygiene Practice
<b>GMP</b>	Good Manufacturing Practice
<b>GRP</b>	Good Regulatory Practice
<b>HACCP</b>	Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation
<b>IICA</b>	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

<b>INTPA</b>	Directorate-General for International Partnerships (European Commission)
<b>IOC</b>	Indian Ocean Commission
<b>IPPC</b>	International Plant Protection Convention
<b>ISPM</b>	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>LCV</b>	Central Veterinary Laboratory (Mali)
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
<b>MRL</b>	Maximum Residue Level
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprise
<b>NGIP Ltd</b>	Agri-business and cocoa exporter (Papua New Guinea)
<b>NTM</b>	Non-tariff measures
<b>OACPS</b>	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
<b>ODA</b>	Official development assistance
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OIRSA</b>	International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health
<b>PAH</b>	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
<b>PCE</b>	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
<b>PG</b>	Project Grant
<b>P-IMA</b>	Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access
<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>PPG</b>	Project Preparation Grant
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>S&amp;DT</b>	Special and Differential Treatment
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SAPLING</b>	South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition & Growth (World Bank)
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>Sida</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
<b>SSAFE</b>	Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
<b>STDF</b>	Standards and Trade Development Facility
<b>TCI</b>	Trade and Compliance Institute for Trade Facilitation
<b>TBT</b>	Technical Barriers to Trade
<b>TFAF</b>	Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCTAD</b>	UN Trade and Development
<b>UNICC</b>	United Nations International Computing Centre
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>US FDA</b>	United States Food and Drug Administration
<b>V37</b>	Land O'Lakes Venture 37
<b>vTPA</b>	Voluntary Third-Party Assurance
<b>WBG</b>	World Bank Group
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WOAH</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization
<b>XRF</b>	X-ray fluorescence

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