SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, POVERTY REDUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

STDF’s 2020-2024 Strategy supports:

STDF’s vision linked to the SDGs

In addition, the Strategy contributes to:
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Mobilizing local and global safe trade partnerships

Sustaining livelihoods through safe trade

Agricultural solutions and safe trade systems

Securing agri-food value chains and safe trade

Facilitating safe trade for developing countries
Emerging trends

- Growth in agri-food global value chains (GVCs), regional trade and South-South trade
- Jobs in micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) including for women and small businesses
- Greater focus on how to reduce trade costs linked to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Regional integration with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other regional trade agreements
- Digitalization and access to technologies transforming agricultural development and trade

The fallout from the global coronavirus pandemic, which hits out at the entire fabric of how people live, work and do business, is being felt all the more keenly in developing countries.

How the global community responds will be shaped in the coming period, but STDF’s vision of sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security is as critical as ever.

The STDF partnership in the last year has continued to bring that vision to life. We are proud of our responsive, expert-driven work to effect change and empower small-scale farmers, producers, traders and governments working in developing and least developed countries.

This 2019 Annual Report is focused on facing the future and shaping safe trade outcomes, with the development of STDF’s 2020-2024 Strategy, drawing on the latest external evaluation. Headline results and lessons from the Report connect to the UN Global Goals of no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, decent work and economic growth, and partnerships, and show how our work links to emerging trade and development trends.

In 2019, STDF’s global platform, knowledge hub and projects delivered practical solutions for the public and private sector to use tools and technologies to transform agri-food productivity, meet international standards, facilitate business at borders, access regional and global markets and trade safely. In turn, our partnership efforts have helped to generate jobs, raise incomes and secure more livelihoods including for women and small businesses.

In the current context where pests and diseases can spread worldwide, promoting plant and animal health and food safety across supply chains is a global public good. The STDF is building cross-community action in this area, investing in safe trade systems and scaling up assistance for developing countries, which in turn will help to support economic recovery.

We look forward to staying connected and realizing our collective vision.

Sustaining project impact and catalysing new resources

In 2019, strong results and evidence from STDF projects and PPGs paved the way for wider trade and development programmes to focus on safe trade priorities. In Myanmar, the oilseeds sector was included in an EU-funded project, while, in Madagascar, funding was mobilized to build plant health capacity as part of a broader COLEACP-funded project.

Expanding remit and reach of regional and global efforts

STDF’s catalytic project models influenced regional and global initiatives on safe trade in 2019. An evaluation of global MRLs projects showed the results continue to inspire follow-up, supporting Codex work, and laid the basis for the Minor Use Foundation. At the same time, a plant health and agro-export model has been successfully rolled out in Latin America.

Recognition of innovation in delivery for development

In 2019, there was global recognition of STDF’s work in empowering developing countries to trade safely showcasing solutions across its projects, knowledge hub and global platform. STDF’s role featured in a joint statement from the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade, while the ePhyto project received a trade facilitation innovation award in Asia-Pacific.

Global platform shaping dialogue and driving collaboration

STDF’s global presence at knowledge events in 2019 made the business case for continued safe trade investments in developing countries. This covered exchanging experiences with governments and business leaders at Aid for Trade, food safety and agricultural conferences, as well as sharing trade facilitation expertise. Experts from STDF’s network also voiced what more is needed to collectively facilitate safe, inclusive trade in a new film and video series.

Focusing on development priorities and dissemination

In 2019, 10 donors provided valuable contributions to the Trust Fund totaling US$5,944,873 and 71% of new project and PPG resources benefitted least developed countries and other low-income countries. In addition, more stakeholders accessed online resources with 32,000 website sessions, 13,500 publication downloads and 14 news items sent out to 5,000 subscribers.
STDF in 2019

- 71% of new project/PPG resources benefit LDCs and OLICs (above 60% target)
- 10 Donors provide contributions totaling US$5,944,673
- 2 Working Group meetings (108 participants)

5,000 E-news subscribers
7,000+ SPS stakeholders reached at 80 events

6 Developing Country Experts received
43 PG/PPG applications received
22 Projects and 12 PPGs ongoing
7 PPGs approved
6 Projects approved
2 Projects completed
3 External project evaluations
1 External Evaluation of the STDF programme
3 STDF Strategy development workshops

5 knowledge topics covered:
- Good regulatory practice
- Facilitating safe trade
- Using evidence to prioritize SPS investments (P-IMA)
- e-Certification
- Public-private partnerships

Overall, STDF in 2019

71% of new project/PPG resources benefit LDCs and OLICs (above 60% target)
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5 knowledge topics covered:
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- Facilitating safe trade
- Using evidence to prioritize SPS investments (P-IMA)
- e-Certification
- Public-private partnerships

FAO values the engagement of the STDF partnership to reinforce SPS capacities making it easier for small-scale farmers, producers and traders to connect to global, regional and local agri-food markets. FAO remains committed to further strengthen collaboration in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

QU Dongyu
Director-General, FAO

As a founding partner of the STDF, the OIE recognizes the role and value of the STDF partnership in strengthening coordination among providers of SPS capacity building to enhance developing countries’ ability to meet international standards and benefit from trade opportunities, including through development and implementation of innovative projects.

Monique Eloit
Director General, OIE

Together, the STDF and the WBG have helped countries in areas such as agribusiness, food safety, trade facilitation and improved border management, and the development of benchmarks and data for strong analytics. The WBG is confident that the STDF will continue to play an important role in improving the implementation of effective and efficient SPS measures to support safe trade and looks forward to continued collaboration.

Martien van Nieuwkoop
Global Director, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank Group

Together with our partners, WHO is committed to continuing its work within STDF to promote dialogue between key players and drive multisectoral collaboration to build developing countries’ capacities to comply with the Code Alimentarius standards, enabling international market access and ensuring safe food for all people, no matter where they live and what they eat.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, WHO

By providing a forum for coordination and dialogue across stakeholders in agriculture, health, trade and development, the STDF contributes to WTO’s Aid for Trade Initiative. Through its knowledge work and collaborative projects, the STDF promotes partnerships and delivers cross-cutting solutions across value chains in developing countries, supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Roberto Azevêdo
Director-General, WTO

STDF Strategy development workshops
STDF projects in 2019

FOOD SAFETY

AFRICA
1. Reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize
Beneficiary: Ghana
Implemented by: IITA
Partners: IAEA, IOMAOWA

2. Building SPS capacity in the Panga pepper value chain
Beneficiary: Cameroon
Implemented by: GI Group, Chamber of Commerce
Partners: Ministry of Trade, Penja Pepper

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
3. Meeting food safety standards in cocoa
Beneficiary: Colombia
Implemented by: ITC
Partners: CITE, Wageningen University, ITC/ICOPA

4. Improving food safety in honey and apricots to boost exports
Beneficiary: Chile
Implemented by: ITC
Partners: ITF, Industry associations

5. Improving compliance with SPS measures to boost shared exports
Beneficiary: Myanmar
Implemented by: ITC
Partners: Pan-Asian Pulse Board and Southeast Asian Fruits and Vegetable Association, MSTD

6. Ensuring food safety, spiking up trade
Beneficiary: Ghana
Implemented by: FAO
Partners: StopSpikes

7. Laboratory capacity to build support for fish exports
Beneficiary: Solomon Islands
Implemented by: FAO
Partners: Southern Institute

8. Expanding share trade
Beneficiary: Papua New Guinea
Implemented by: PNG Co-operative
Partners: HPC Imports Ltd, Guanipan FMN Ltd

GLOBAL
9. Strengthening veterinary and animal health services
Beneficiary: Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Congo
Implemented by: OIE
Partners: IRI, INRA, KIOST, WMO, WAO

PLANT HEALTH

AFRICA
10. Strengthening phytosanitary capacity for plant exports
Beneficiary: Zambia
Implemented by: EIF NIU Zambia
Partners: MPRD, SAEC, industry associations, Phytophylaxis Consultancy

11. Building capacity to meet phytosanitary requirements in fruit and vegetable exports
Beneficiary: Uganda
Implemented by: ITC
Partners: RPC, VTO, The Netherlands, Uganda Agriculture Board, NRNS, industry associations

12. Improving phytosanitary system
Beneficiary: Ghana
Implemented by: GPRA

13. Pest free areas to support fruit production and exports
Beneficiary: Mozambique, South Africa
Implemented by: ITC
Partners: MAPCO, NADIA, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
14. Building SPS capacity in the Penja pepper value chain
Beneficiary: Cameroon
Implemented by: EIF NIU Burkina Faso
Partners: Ministry of Trade, Penja Pepper

15. Promoting biopreservation and biobanking trade
Beneficiary: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Laos, Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam
Implemented by: ITC
Partners: BI-Plus, Rutgers University, Singapore

ANIMAL HEALTH

AFRICA
16. Improving sanitary capacity to facilitate livestock exports
Beneficiary: Ethiopia
Implemented by: FAO

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
17. Accreditation of diagnostic tests for animal diseases
Beneficiary: Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama
Implemented by: VFG
Partners: FAO, OIE, FAO4

18. Improved traceability for foods of animal origin
Beneficiary: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay
Implemented by: APAARI

CROSS-CUTTING SPS

AFRICA
19. Strengthening Togo’s SPS system
Beneficiary: Togo
Implemented by: COLEACP
Partners: Industry associations

20. Upgrading the Sudanese sesame seed value chain
Beneficiary: Sudan
Implemented by: UNIDO
Partners: FAO

21. Boosting small ruminants production and exports
Beneficiary: Mozambique, South Africa
Implemented by: ITC
Partners: MAPCO, NADIA, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa

22. Strengthening compliance with SPS requirements in the banana sector
Beneficiary: Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru
Implemented by: APAARI
Partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Ecuador, Ministry of Agriculture, Colombia, Ministry of Agriculture, Panama, Ministry of Agriculture, Costa Rica, Ministry of Agriculture, Panama, Ministry of Agriculture, Peru

LDCs benefit most from STDF project resources ($US M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>LDCs and ECLs</th>
<th>LMICs</th>
<th>UMICs</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPS projects</td>
<td>10.73</td>
<td>5.38</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>17.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projects by sector

Total: 27

Project values (US$ M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>STDF Contribution</th>
<th>Other Contributions</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPS projects</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STDF projects in 2019 ($US M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Category</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPS projects</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.30</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1.20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.85</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map markers are approximate and do not cover all global projects.
Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) support developing countries to prepare technically sound and sustainable projects in key SPS areas, apply SPS-related capacity evaluation tools or carry out feasibility studies.

PPGs promote collaboration across government agencies responsible for agriculture, health and trade, as well as with the private sector, and other partners.

PPG VALUES BY REGION, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>LDCs and OLICs</th>
<th>LMICs</th>
<th>UMICs</th>
<th>Total US$ Million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 19

PLANT HEALTH

AFRICA
1. Addressing fruit fly challenges in Southern Africa
   Beneficiary: Southern African countries

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
1. Addressing fruit fly challenges in Central America
   Beneficiary: Belize, Honduras

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
1. Addressing fruit fly challenges in the pepperance value chain
   Beneficiary: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

2. Pesticide residue mitigation through promotion of biopesticides
   Beneficiary: Bangladesh, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam

3. Strengthening the national food control system
   Beneficiary: Kiribati

FOOD SAFETY

AFRICA
1. Improving the safety and quality of Penja pepper
   Beneficiary: Cameroon

2. Improving the safety of smoked fish
   Beneficiary: Mali

3. Piloting the use of vTPA programmes to improve food safety outcomes in Africa
   Beneficiary: Malawi, Senegal, Uganda

4. Strengthening SPS capacity in the shellfish sector
   Beneficiary: Senegal

5. A regional biopesticides approach in Southern Africa
   Beneficiary: SADC member states

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
6. Piloting the use of vTPA programmes to improve food safety outcomes in Central America
   Beneficiary: Belize, Honduras

7. Food safety risk analysis in Latin America
   Beneficiary: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Guyana

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
8. Feasibility of a bee sanctuary
   Beneficiary: Nepal

9. Improving food safety in the rice sector
   Beneficiary: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

10. Pesticide residue mitigation through promotion of biopesticides
    Beneficiary: Bangladesh, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam

11. Strengthening the national food control system
    Beneficiary: Kiribati

12. Addressing fruit fly challenges in Southern Africa
    Beneficiary: Southern African countries

13. Food safety risk analysis in Latin America
    Beneficiary: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Guyana

14. Feasibility study for value addition in the fruit and vegetable sector
    Beneficiary: Sri Lanka

15. Meeting SPS requirements in food and animal feed value chains
    Beneficiary: Afghanistan

16. Food safety and quality compliance in spices
    Beneficiary: Sri Lanka

17. Piloting use of GRP in agriculture and fisheries
    Beneficiary: Philippines

CROSS-CUTTING SPS

AFRICA
14. Prioritizing SPS investments
    Beneficiary: Madagascar

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
15. Applying the P-IMA tool
    Beneficiary: Ecuador

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
16. Feasibility study for value addition in the fruit and vegetable sector
    Beneficiary: Sri Lanka

17. Meeting SPS requirements in food and animal feed value chains
    Beneficiary: Afghanistan

18. Food safety and quality compliance in spices
    Beneficiary: Sri Lanka

19. Piloting use of GRP in agriculture and fisheries
    Beneficiary: Philippines

STDF PPGs in 2019
Increasing knowledge access to influence change

The external evaluation - and reviews by select donors - confirmed that the STDF sets a high benchmark for transparency and knowledge sharing. Going further, the evaluation asked members of the partnership to consider how to make more and better use of the STDF’s knowledge bank so that it reaches more beneficiaries in developing countries. Partners and donors were encouraged to actively share and use STDF’s knowledge work. Moving forward, all members will need to step up to this challenge to help build SPS capacity in developing countries and drive sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security.

The STDF Strategy 2020-2024 puts more focus on how the global platform, knowledge and project work can influence catalytic and sustainable improvements in SPS capacity. While qualitative feedback shows this is happening, more needs to be done to translate this into uptake, and to track and measure the change. Greater communications and outreach, in particular through STDF members’ own networks, can help STDF’s knowledge work to have increased influence. Updated online platforms will support these efforts, as will empowering beneficiaries in developing countries to share knowledge and lessons with a wider audience. Working more closely with STDF’s pool of past and current developing country experts, as well as partners, donors, regional organizations and others, will reach more beneficiaries.

Making sure safe trade is also inclusive and sustainable trade

The external evaluation and Strategy development underlined the importance of making sure that STDF’s work contributes to safe and inclusive trade. Meeting food safety, animal and plant health standards is essential. Yet more should be done to show how SPS capacity development benefits women, youth and other vulnerable groups and to measure how export-oriented projects impact positively on the domestic population and the environment.

Attention to cross-cutting issues - including gender and the environment - supports inclusive SPS capacity development. Building on STDF’s efforts since 2015 to address gender in STDF’s project work, more will be done to identify, monitor and measure the gender impacts in knowledge and project work to roll out the benefits of safe trade more equitably.

In 2019, increasing global attention to climate change raised the need to reflect further on how SPS capacity building contributes to mitigating the risks in this area. Started over 10 years ago, STDF’s work on the linkages between SPS risks and climate change is more relevant than ever for developing countries that are facing the greatest risks and challenges. Moving ahead, the concept of sustainability, including a closer look at the interactions between STDF’s work and people, profit and planet, will take on even greater relevance.

Looking back, moving forward in partnership

In 2019, an independent external evaluation of the entire STDF programme confirmed that the STDF is responding to the needs of developing countries in its focus on building SPS capacities to enable and unlock trade. It highlighted that SPS capacity and application of standards continue to be a major market access constraint, reconfirming STDF’s relevance and role as a knowledge network and catalyst to foster a safe and inclusive trade.

STDF members came together in 2019 to map out a pathway for the future. The Strategy 2020-2024 builds on STDF’s track record, highlighting two key outcomes to deliver added-value for members and beneficiaries in developing and least developed countries. The focus is on driving catalytic SPS improvements that facilitate safe trade and contribute to the UNS 2030 Agenda. It emphasizes consolidating and building on STDF’s strengths and performance to improve results, and further developing the partnership to expand reach and resources.

The Strategy development process provided an important opportunity for members of the STDF partnership to deepen the links connecting them and to consider how to innovate and work together more effectively moving forward. Part of this was to clarify the STDF’s focus on trade-enabling objectives, both imports and exports, with the aim to benefit stakeholders in developing countries. The need to remain targeted, while being flexible, was highlighted to make sure that STDF stays relevant and able to respond to emerging SPS challenges.

LESSONS and OPPORTUNITIES
Focus on learning, with monitoring and evaluation

The external evaluation recognized how STDF’s monitoring and evaluation improved since the 2015 Mid-Term Review recommended strengthening results-based management systems, tools and processes. It acknowledged efforts to capture results and lessons across STDF’s global platform, knowledge and project work, including the 2018 meta-evaluation of projects. It concluded that learning has not always been as systematic or far-reaching as possible, given the Secretariat’s limited resources and the scope of the existing M&E framework. Increased attention to learning was prioritized to ensure greater global impact.

The MEL framework, to be finalized in 2020, will put a greater focus on learning, while tracking results and feedback on the Facility’s operations. More emphasis will go to measuring how results and experiences are shared across countries, regions and globally, and how STDF’s work benefits inclusive trade. At the same time, the framework will be simple, practical and cost-effective, and focused on areas within STDF influence and reach.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration to improve monitoring, evaluation and learning, and provide upwards accountability, interested STDF partners and other members will be involved in development of the MEL framework to build support and momentum for follow-up. Providing a feedback loop will make sure that future work led by STDF members takes on board this learning, alongside knowledge work and projects led by the partnership.

Innovating together with the partnership

During the development of the new STDF Strategy in 2019, some partners emphasized the need to facilitate innovation within the partnership, as well as promote innovative STDF projects. To a certain extent, innovation has already been a feature of STDF, from improving synergies across STDF’s knowledge work and project portfolios, to the use of thematic practitioners‘ groups – including on GRP, eCert and spillovers – and virtual meetings, such as those organized on voluntary third-party assurance programmes. Further opportunities exist to benefit from greater innovation, for example linked to the STDF’s new MEL framework.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the need for ongoing innovation is more crucial than ever for the STDF partnership to evolve and grow in a rapidly changing global context, where developing countries stand to be among those most affected. In the future, innovation will allow the partnership to take advantage of opportunities including to roll out new technologies to support SPS capacity and empower more actors in developing countries.
New SPS e-Cert Advisory Committee set up

In October 2019, STDF members agreed to set up an SPS e-Cert practitioners’ group, building on STDF’s electronic certification work since 2016, including ePhyto and eVet projects and facilitating safe trade knowledge events. In addition to STDF partners (FAO, OIE, World Bank Group, WTO, Codex and IPPC), the SPS e-Cert Advisory Committee brings together STDF members and other organizations including CITES, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNICC and the WCO.

By promoting dialogue and facilitating exchange of cross-sector experiences and lessons, the group will catalyse collaboration opportunities so that SPS authorities in developing countries benefit more from e-Cert.

Meeting held of African Continental SPS Committee

Following on from expert discussions with the STDF, the African Union Commission brought together members for an African Continental SPS Committee in March 2019 on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee.

At the meeting, SPS representatives, including from Regional Economic Communities, discussed strategic SPS issues affecting the continent.

The exchange spanned the need for a coordinated approach to control plant pests – such as Fall Armyworm – opportunities to improve SPS capacity and develop an SPS Policy Framework, as well as to mainstream SPS issues into CARICOM and other regional frameworks.

The exchange will improve health protection and support the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which went live in July 2019.

P-IMA tool selected to inform African initiative

In 2019, ILRI chose STDF’s P-IMA tool to set priorities for the safe, sustainable transformation of trade in livestock and livestock products in the Horn of Africa and Arab Peninsula. ILRI carried out a feasibility study to inform the design of OIE’s Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade (BESTST) initiative.

For the priority-setting exercise, ILRI selected P-IMA ahead of other multi-criteria decision analysis tools and ranking approaches, thanks to its structured approach, use of clear criteria and transparent process, and alignment to the study’s guiding principles of innovation, evidence and participation.

P-IMA’s focus on investment in capacity development for trade, and ability to recognize both private and public sector inputs, proved valuable, and ILRI was able to adapt the qualitative aspects of P-IMA to fit the needs of the BESTST study, which was completed in March 2020.

P-IMA tool selected to inform African initiative

During the 2019 SPS Advanced Course, the STDF Secretariat supported regulators and policy makers from 20 developing countries to identify practical solutions to national trade challenges.

The team acted as a mentor on SPS action plans, moderated expert-led roundtables and exchanged STDF know-how and tools. In the case of Kenya, the government is drawing on results under STDF projects and consulting the private sector to finalize an PPG request around market access. Whereas in Rwanda, thanks to experiences shared from an STDF project on fruits and vegetables in Uganda, the government is connecting to COLEACP for follow-up support.

STDF’s role in convening, connecting, influencing and catalysing

Lessons from STDF’s project on wood packaging materials in Africa led to the Board of the Bahamas Agriculture and Food Authority approving work to follow up on recommendations.

Project platform in Uganda led to joint work to drive exports

In Uganda, STDF’s ongoing project, led by CABI, provided a platform to connect government authorities with COLEACP to prepare for an EU audit focused on fruit and vegetable exports. CABI and COLEACP joined forces to run a trial audit in September 2019, with CABI facilitating meetings and farm visits, and COLEACP funding an expert to act as auditor. Thanks to the trial run, the government and private sector prepared for the real audit and identified minor gaps to be corrected.

Uganda successfully passed the audit and project partners are following up on other areas identified. The authorities, CABI and COLEACP are continuing to collaborate on plans to form an Apex body, carry out surveillance and monitoring, train trainers on GAPs, as well as to seek funds for a PCE.
An external evaluation of the STDF, carried out by Nathan Associates, was published online on 17 July 2019. The evaluation, which was started in September 2018, takes an in-depth look at the overall performance of STDF’s global partnership across all its work areas.

The evaluation focused on the impact and the results achieved during the period 2014-2018, and was based on the OECD/DAC five evaluation criteria – relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact – together with the STDF’s logical framework.

The report, which is the fourth evaluation of the Facility to date, highlighted the continued added value of the STDF and set out fresh recommendations to shape its future direction.

At STDF’s Policy Committee on 17 June 2019, members discussed the recommendations to scale and sustain the Facility, feeding into the new five-year Strategy developed in 2019.

FAST FACTS

100+
interviews including face-to-face discussions with STDF partners and donors, developing country experts, and telephone discussions with other key stakeholders

E-survey with stakeholders including beneficiaries and partners in projects/PPPs

2
country visits to Uganda and Guatemala

4
key recommendations

20
sub-recommendations

The STDF is responding to the needs of developing countries in its focus on building SPS capacities to enable and unlock trade.

External evaluation, 2019

Relevance of STDF

SPS capacity and application of standards are a major market access constraint, as both private sector and governments in developing countries struggle to adopt and implement necessary control measures acceptable to their target markets.
Key strengths

1. The STDF and the STDF Secretariat have delivered outputs and results beyond what might be expected given their budget and resources.

2. The STDF is responding to the needs of developing countries in its focus on building SPS capacities to enable and unlock trade.

3. The benefit of coordination was witnessed during the working group meeting. It is hard to imagine another forum where this exchange of vital information could have taken place.

4. The secretariat is regarded as efficient, effective, and responsive by founding partners, donors and other stakeholders.

5. The PPGs provide a unique opportunity to develop high-quality project designs, defining the needs with the beneficiary country and comments and inputs from global SPS and standards-setting bodies and their experts.

6. There has also been steady evolution and improvement in the STDF’s core operations, based on recommendations in previous evaluations, suggestions from within the working group and initiatives from the secretariat itself, such as on M&E and communications.

7. Donors reported that the STDF is aligned with their development agendas.

Selected areas for improvement

The structure for value-added and unique interventions is in place within the STDF, but there is scope for it to be more fully exploited.

The small full-time team is stretched and more staff resources are required just to continue to deliver at this level and also to respond to the need identified by this evaluation for improvements in communications, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge sharing.

Widespread use and dissemination of STDF’s knowledge is limited among both partners and beneficiaries in developing countries.

Inputs and coordination with developing countries needs to be strengthened.

There is little verifiable evidence to suggest that donors are using the PPGs to inform or design their own SPS interventions.

It is not explicit how the STDF contributes to the institutional strategies and objectives of the founding partners.

Four key recommendations

Given its relatively small budget and its global leadership position in trade and SPS, all deliverables should focus on innovation and adding value, leaving more routine SPS capacity building activities to be implemented by others. Learning should be more clearly embedded in best practice and guidance for beneficiaries and partners.

The STDF should agree ways of maximising the impact of its unique structure on innovation and global leadership, including by clarifying relationships and responsibilities, ensuring that future STDF strategies and workplans are more explicitly linked to partners’ own strategies and plans, and exploring the potential for secondments from the founding partners to the Secretariat.

The STDF should build on acknowledged improvements achieved in reporting and communications, placing increased emphasis on measuring results and impact across all STDF activities and on improving beneficiaries’ access to knowledge. This should be underpinned by updating the theory of change and the logical framework to reflect an explicit focus on innovation and lesson learning.

The resources allocated to the STDF need to reflect the ambition of its objectives. Consideration should be given to increasing the STDF Secretariat’s resources, including augmenting the staff complement. Investment is needed to make the knowledge platform more accessible, more easily searchable and more utilised by beneficiaries. To enrich the dialogue and strengthen knowledge networks, STDF should explore ways of increasing participation by developing countries at Working Group level.

Final Evaluation Report, External Evaluation of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Nathan Associates
STDF’s Strategy was developed through an open, collaborative and participatory process, allowing STDF partners and other members to provide substantive and strategic inputs, including on mechanisms of change. The process included hands-on facilitated workshops in Geneva in March, July and October 2019. It involved internal consultations with STDF members, each engaging their own networks. An electronic survey captured views on specific areas of STDF’s work and past performance, as well as opportunities to consolidate and build on these experiences moving ahead.

This approach enabled STDF members to openly discuss and assess the degree of innovation and convergence required to consolidate the STDF’s partnership and delivery model, while identifying specific areas and themes where the STDF could further evolve and develop. This has ensured that the Strategy consolidates and builds on STDF’s unique role and past performance. At the same time, it allowed the partnership itself to innovate and evolve, reflecting the current ecosystem for SPS capacity development and the range of organizations involved, as well as the key SPS needs and challenges facing developing countries.

The STDF drives safe, inclusive trade and development outcomes in support of the UN’s 2030 Agenda.

What we are aiming for

The STDF drives safe, inclusive trade and development outcomes in support of the UN’s 2030 Agenda.

VISION
Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security

GOAL
Increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries

OUTCOME 1
More synergies and collaboration driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries

OUTCOME 2
Greater access to, and use of, good practices and knowledge products at global, regional and national level

PROGRAMME GOAL
Increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries

SAFE TRADE FACILITATED
Promoting sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and trade security

MORE INFO
www.standardsfacility.org/new-stdf-strategy
The Global Goal on no poverty sets out the need to raise living standards for those on lower incomes and in vulnerable situations, while widening people’s access to economic resources.

In a world interconnected by global supply chains and vulnerable to global shocks, people’s livelihoods are linked to their ability to access markets, locally, regionally and internationally. In 2019, the STDF’s global projects continued to play an active role in supporting more jobs and higher incomes in production, processing and exports linked to trade opportunities.

In Myanmar, more oilseed farmers and processors have been certified to trade safely, with a knock-on effect on prices and incomes, including for women engaged across the sector. A project was launched in Cameroon to drive up safe production and exports of Penja pepper, securing the livelihoods of vulnerable smallholder producers and rural communities.

In Colombia and Ecuador, a new project will support cocoa growers and their families by helping them to meet international standards. Opportunities are opening up in the peppercorn value chain for small-scale farmers and seasonal women workers, as a project goes live in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. In turn, a study showed adding value will help Sri Lanka’s businesses reach new dried fish markets. A project proposal under development in Senegal will secure safe shellfish exports as well as social benefits for artisanal fishermen. At the 2019 Aid for Trade Global Review, STDF’s knowledge event showcased how investing in safe trade promoted livelihoods and exports in the cinnamon, flower and shrimp sectors.

Emerging Trend:

Jobs in micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) including for women and youth
**Myanmar: food safety promotes oilseed exports and farmers’ livelihoods**

In Myanmar, sesame, mustard and sunflower seeds account for around 20% of production in agriculture, which employs over half of the workforce. As one of the world’s largest oilseeds producers, the crop is a vital source of export revenue and income generation for farmers.

Under STDF’s project in Myanmar, finalized in 2019, actors across the oilseed value chain received targeted training to meet food safety standards. Led by ITC, with the public and private sector, the project has improved export capacity and competitiveness in the sector.

From farm to market, in-depth food safety training reached 900 farmers, collectors, and processors, alongside 20 national extension officers. The programme covered how to grow crops, use pesticides, and collect, store and process seeds safely. It shared food safety and quality manuals with over 480 farmers, and tools and guidance for collectors and processors. Close to a quarter of all project activities engaged women across the oilseeds sector, while women made up over half of trainees in technical areas from processors to the government.

To date, 150 farmers have obtained national GAP certification and seven processors received internationally recognized HACCP certification. Select local buyers have also put in place a 2-4% price premium for farmers who adopted GAP with support of the training.

The value-chain approach under the project has continued to strengthen links from farmers, collectors, processors and advisers to each other and to final buyers. After a number of companies engaged in the World Export Development Forum and business-to-business meetings in Europe and China, the sector’s profile and buyer network is expanding.

In 2019, over 90 stakeholders took part in the final project workshop in Yangon to share achievements, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations to sustain the projects’ impact. After the project, the reported increase in annual export sales in the oilseeds sector looks set to continue, with an expected impact on revenue generation to follow. The Department of Agriculture has committed to using the project materials in future training. Based on the results achieved, the oilseeds sector was included as a priority sector for the 2019-2023 €8 million EU-funded Arise Plus project in Myanmar, which is being led by ITC.

Since I began following the good storage practices, my Japanese clients are buying more and more of my product. Now that they are increasing their orders for GAP products, I can pay farmers a higher price for their seeds.

**UNyan Lwin,** Owner, Lwin Phyo Warehouse

The project provided valuable knowledge for farmers, collectors, millers and exporters along the value chain to improve significantly the quality management in Myanmar’s oilseeds industry.

**Aung Soe,** Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
Cameroon: 
trade and income opportunities along the 
Penja pepper value chain

Penja peppercorn from Cameroon is one of the world’s most coveted spices and was the first Geographical Indication (GI) registered by the African Intellectual Property Organization.

In recent years, however, trade opportunities were being lost due to pepper exports not being able to meet international SPS standards, in particular in relation to pesticides. Livelihoods in the sector, particularly for small-scale producers, were increasingly insecure.

In March 2019, a new STDF project, led by COLEACP, was approved by STDF’s Working Group to maintain and diversify exports of Penja pepper through better food safety and plant health practices. Following a recent STDF PPG, which carried out research and consultations with Cameroon’s public and private sector, the project will develop training materials and roll out technical assistance to promote good practices across the value chain.

The project will support the Penja Pepper GI Group, which represents around 450 actors along the value chain, including nurseries, producers, processors and distributors. In addition to GAPs and GHPs, there will be a focus on laboratory testing and drying methods.

On 24 October 2019, a project launch workshop was hosted by the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, with around 80 public and private sector stakeholders attending the event. Through better coordination, cross-sector dialogue and knowledge exchange, the project will improve the quality, production and export of Penja pepper, sustaining rural livelihoods.

Penja pepper is a major source of rural employment as nearly all production is carried out by small-scale producers with plots smaller than 3 hectares. Improving their economic situation is critical to accelerating progress towards the eradication of poverty and vulnerable livelihoods.

René Claude Mutombo Elogo, President, Penja Pepper GI Group
Colombia and Ecuador:
meeting safety standards to support cocoa growers and trade

Cocoa beans produced by Andean countries have a strong reputation of being of high quality, sought after by chocolate manufacturers as consumer demand rises globally. However, given the levels of cadmium contamination found in cocoa beans, Ecuador and Colombia’s cocoa and cocoa products stand to lose their access to overseas markets.

A new project in Colombia and Ecuador was approved by STDF’s Working Group in October 2019 to focus on risk management to reduce cadmium concentration in cocoa beans and products, and promote good agricultural practices in areas with high cadmium levels in soil.

With 90% of production in the region in the hands of small-scale farmers on low incomes, improving food safety under the project will help to support Ecuador’s 600,000 sector jobs and Colombia’s 54,000 cocoa-growing families. Good agricultural practice manuals will be produced under the project for extension workers, farmer associations and farmers.

The project will harmonize methods to sample and measure cadmium levels in cocoa and soil, improve baselines and mapping capacity to zone vulnerable areas. Good laboratory practice will minimize trade disruptions via a regional approach, also involving Peru. In turn, the project links to the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food, which is developing a code of practice for prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.

Through the project, Ecuador and Colombia’s cocoa sector will be able to meet international standards and remain competitive, with sector growth supporting jobs and rural livelihoods.

Cocoa farmers are the main beneficiaries of this project whose produce is at risk of losing market if not meeting food safety standards on cadmium. The production of cocoa is done mainly with family labour, and most of them have none or few technical support to enhance the quality of its products.

Professor Erik Smolders, KU Leuven

**FAST FACTS**

Project will help to support the cocoa sector’s 600,000 jobs in Ecuador and 54,000 cocoa-growing families in Colombia.

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**Beneficiaries**

cocoa farmers and other actors in the sector

**LED BY**

KU Leuven (Catholic University), Belgium

**Time-Framen**

2020 – 2023

**STDF Contribution**

US$516,989 (total project value: US$617,999)

**More Info**

www.standardsfacility.org/PG-681
Southeast Asia: small-scale producers to gain market access in peppercorn

Peppercorn sustains the livelihoods of small-scale producers across Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Lao PDR. Yet gaps in managing plant diseases and meeting pesticide limits meant growers in the region have not been fully benefited from the global demand for pepper.

Under an STDF PPG finalized in February 2019, a regional proposal was developed to address food safety and plant health challenges in peppercorn. The focus was on opening up markets and increasing producer incomes, following an assessment of the value chain priorities.

The project, which was approved by the STDF Working Group in October 2019, will reach actors along the peppercorn value chain, and secure better opportunities for the region’s vulnerable smallholder farmers and the hired, seasonal workforce, most of them women.

A low-cost quality assurance mechanism will be rolled out thanks to active participation by everyone in the value chain, securing safer produce and promoting community learning. In turn, export companies will have a large base of safe, raw material traced back to the farm.

Through the regional exchange and South-South cooperation established under the PPG, Cambodia and Lao PDR will be able to draw on Viet Nam’s peppercorn industry – already well established - as an inclusive market model to use in other priority spice value chains.

The project aims to increase financial returns, improve productivity, quality and safety and market access for smallholder pepper growers and processors, and grower and processor groups by improving compliance with international food safety requirements.

Dr. Phan Viet Ha, Deputy Director General, WASI, Viet Nam
Sri Lanka:

a study on adding value to boost business and benefits for the fruit sector

For Sri Lanka’s farmers, processors and traders of fruit and vegetables, tapping into value addition and market linkages will promote fresh business and employment opportunities.

In 2019, under a PPG, an STDF-backed study by ITC looked into the economic, technical and operational feasibility of adding value to five export-oriented value chains – from pineapple, papaya and banana to mango and passion fruit. Building on an STDF project finalized in 2016 – which addressed gaps in safety and quality in the sector – the study findings show Sri Lanka can supply a growing market for safe, natural dried fruits, such as pineapples and mangoes.

The study highlights were shared with 40 public and private sector stakeholders on 26 February 2019, alongside development partners, buyers and international experts. A five-year strategic and operations plan to support the LFVPPEA was also profiled at the event.

In 2019, building on the country’s potential to supply safe, value-added products, the LFVPPEA signed a partnership agreement with Noberasco, an Italian dried-fruit company.

Our vision is to have Sri Lankan fruit companies become the preferred supplier in the global market... We call on exporters, producers, government bodies and development partners to address challenges and tap the full potential of the partnership with Noberasco for the benefit of all, from farmers to consumers.

Zuraish Hashim, LFVPPEA President

Senegal:

a proposal to support safe exports in shellfish and secure social benefits

Against a growing global demand for seafood, Senegal’s 500km coastline offers fresh opportunities for seafood production from both wild catch and fish farming sites. Nearly 90% of Senegal’s seafood production involves artisanal fishermen, with over 70,000 fishermen and their families involved in business and support structures, and as middlemen.

However, inadequate controls in the artisanal seafood sector make traceability complex and challenges in meeting food safety requirements are putting a break on the flow of exports to markets. There are huge social benefits to be gained from securing safe seafood exports.

A new PPG was approved by the STDF Working Group in March 2019 to develop a project that addresses food safety and sanitary challenges in the shellfish value chain in Senegal. In turn, the project is expected to have important positive spillovers on domestic public health.

The resulting project will improve market access through the adoption of regulations and improved monitoring and control practices, as well as through greater knowledge shared on how to meet Codex standards. The project will focus on strengthening the capacity of small-scale operators along the value chain to meet good hygiene and manufacturing practices.
Investing in safe trade drives development:
STDF highlights at Aid for Trade Global Review

Happening now at the #STDF session at #Aid4Trade Global Review, public and private sector show how investing in food safety, animal and plant health promotes exports and sustainable development. WTO social media: 4 July 2019

At the 2019 Aid for Trade Global Review from 3-5 July at the WTO, over 1,500 attendees joined 84 sessions to debate the themes of economic diversification and empowerment. The STDF event on 4 July brought together food safety, plant and animal health experts to share experiences from STDF projects in Africa and Asia, as well as developments in Latin America.

The session showed how trading safely in agri-food products is allowing more small-scale farmers, processors and traders to secure higher incomes and drive local development.

In Sri Lanka, nationally recognized qualifications for cinnamon operators have promoted food safety standards, and supported the skills development of women processors. Whereas, in Uganda, pest surveillance and inspections led to a fall in the interceptions on roses, boosting the incomes of the majority women workers. Diagnostic tests in Guatemala meanwhile helped to meet international standards for shrimp exports, providing more jobs.

Take-away lessons on investing in safe trade from the debate included how to reach high-level decision-makers, showing the impact on the domestic agenda, and strengthening public–private partnerships.

STDF also took part in COMESA’s session at the Review on 4 July. The dialogue focused on regulatory solutions and promoting regional trade and integration. Lessons were shared from STDF and work in the region, identifying opportunities to build greater public–private sector trust, improve SPS border management and boost growth.

At the STDF stand during the Review, participants sampled Guatemalan honey and cinnamon tea from Sri Lanka, and picked up roses from Uganda on show at the exhibition.

When we think about the Sustainable Development Goals, it’s important that each country whoever attaches an importance to agriculture and agri-food production, invest in having the right standards.

Frédéric Seppey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

MORE INFO
www.standardssficiency.org/stdf-aid-trade-global-review
Under the Global Goal on zero hunger, championing agricultural productivity and good practices for small-scale producers serves to level the playing field for rural communities.

New technologies are expanding rapidly with the potential to transform how agri-food products move from farm to table, but are often out of reach for those who can benefit the most. In 2019, knowledge tools developed with STDF support led to a wider access to, and participation in, safe trade systems by the public and private sector in developing countries.

The award-winning ePhyto solution went live with more governments in developing countries able to boost transparency, reduce costs and speed up safe trade in plants and plant products. In Nigeria and Southeast Asia, mobile apps - from SeedTracker to P-tracker - are showing how to effectively monitor plant health and support access to markets. A new project in Southern Africa is going to set up pest free areas in the region and help to track fruit flies, championing local growers’ production and export opportunities.

Improved agricultural systems and practices under a new project in Guinea will help to drive competitiveness in priority value chains, including for the majority women workers. An evaluation of global plant health tools showed a positive uptake in developing countries, while a new study looked at the potential of a bee sanctuary in Niue to support productivity and livelihoods.

Emerging Trend:

Digitalization and access to technologies transforming agricultural development and trade
ePhyto: innovation solutions on safe trade in plants and plant products

Paperless trade reduces costs & increases transparency. STDF’s ePhyto project with the @ippcnews receives Trade Facilitation Innovation Award at Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2019 in New Delhi (17-18 September). WTO social media: 18 September 2019

The ePhyto project supported by STDF is delivering innovative IT solutions to improve safe trade in plants and plant products by helping to boost transparency, reduce costs and speed up trade. In addition to governments, the private sector is benefitting, including agr-food SMEs in developing countries.

In July 2019, the ePhyto solution became fully operational. The solution is made up of the Generic System (GeNS) for countries to produce, send and receive electronic phytosanitary certificates and the ePhyto Hub, which is facilitating the exchange of electronic certificates. By March 2020, 80 countries were connected to the Hub and 11,000 ePhyto certificates were exchanged each month, with capacity to handle up to 100,000 certificates each day.

Following pilots in Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka, the IPPC-led project moved into operations as Ghana exchanged ePhytos for the first time in July 2019. A live demo of an ePhyto exchange between Ghana and the United States was shown at the inaugural IPPC ePhyto and Emerging Pests workshop for African countries. The event was hosted by the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Maryland from 12-16 November.

Recognizing the progress made to pilot and roll out the generic national system in Samoa and Sri Lanka, the ePhyto project won an innovation award at the UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum on 17-18 September in New Delhi. Organizations worldwide are looking to ePhyto to better understand how to harness new technologies to facilitate trade.

In April 2019, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures approved a five-year strategic plan to continue work on ePhyto following on from the STDF project. In October, the STDF Working Group set up a practitioners group to promote synergies in the area of SPS e-Cert.

In April 2019, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures approved a five-year strategic plan to continue work on ePhyto following on from the STDF project. In October, the STDF Working Group set up a practitioners group to promote synergies in the area of SPS e-Cert.

In seeking further regional and international collaboration, we encourage members to participate in harmonized electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto) systems developed by the IPPC.

GLOBAL BENEFICIARIES
governments and private sector, including SMEs in developing countries

LED BY
IPPC

TIME-FRAME
December 2016 - March 2020

STDF CONTRIBUTION
US$1,120,000 (total project value: US$1,728,000)

MORE INFO
www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504
www.ippc.int/en/ephyto

11,000
certificates are exchanged each month (as of March 2020)

80+
countries are using the system (as of March 2020)

STDF practitioners group set up to promote synergies on SPS e-Cert

FAST FACTS

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certificates are exchanged each month (as of March 2020)

80+
countries are using the system (as of March 2020)

STDF practitioners group set up to promote synergies on SPS e-Cert
STDF ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 42

Nigeria:

digital system rolled out to monitor plant health and promote exports

The popularity of the digital SeedTracker, which was identified as part of an STDF PPG in Nigeria to improve seed production and market access, took off both nationally and globally.

In May 2018 SeedTracker was rolled out as a national seed certification platform and IITA, who led the PPG, is working to expand the digital system to cover all crops. An Android version has been developed with Google challenge funding and was released in November for download from Google Play. SeedTracker is also in use in Tanzania and has been piloted in Brazil, with plans to expand to DRC, Malawi and Ghana in 2020, and interest from Zambia and Viet Nam.

Asia-Pacific:

IT tools support pest surveillance and market access

This is the world’s first web-app for seed value chain integration for enhancing quality seed production and market access to help seed producers meet their potential. The inbuilt algorithms of this program connect all key stakeholders, from seed producers, to regulators, traders, and extension services.

Dr. Lava Kumar, Head of the Germplasm Health Unit, IITA

#STDF project supports 7 South East Asia countries with IT solutions to monitor & report agricultural pests in key economic commodities to maintain access to international markets.

Meeting in Manila to share best practices learnt under the project.

WTO social media: 4 April 2019

Under STDF’s project to detect and monitor agricultural pests in Asia-Pacific, IT solutions, such as a customizable P-tracker app, are proving a vital tool at field level. Led by the Australia’s Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, the project is supporting surveillance activities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Practitioners across the region met in Manila in April 2019 to share best practices on how to report pests in key economic commodities and support access to regional and international markets. A number of National Plant Protection Organizations plan to use the IT surveillance tools after the life-span of the project, both for existing commodities as well as new crops.

Smart technologies are assisting in the early detection of high priority quarantine pests by sharing data and alerts in real time. Using data generated on coffee and cocoa, for example, the Philippines demonstrated its pest status to trading partners, maintaining market access.

MORE INFO

www.standardfacility.org/PPG-626

MORE INFO

www.standardfacility.org/PG-432
Southern Africa: setting up pest free areas supporting fruit production and exports

High volumes of tropical and other fresh fruit are exported from South Africa, and there is a huge potential for horticultural exports from Mozambique, where 80% of the workforce are employed in agriculture. However, the presence of fruit fly pests in the region – namely oriental fruit fly, melon fly and medfly – is having a serious impact on production and trade.

Under a new STDF project, approved by the STDF Working Group in October 2019, pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence will be set up and maintained in Mozambique and South Africa, given that the two countries share large ecological regions between them.

The project is being guided by international standards on phytosanitary measures (ISPMs), and will generate scientific evidence on low fruit fly levels, as well as create a database to track fruit fly status in different regions, with a service for rapid recognition of fruit fly pests.

By addressing good SPS practices, the project aims to safeguard and improve horticultural production in Southern Africa, supporting continued and new market access opportunities linked to fruit exports free of fruit fly pests. Workshops will be run with fruit growers and associations to build local engagement, with plans to develop a sustainable business model.

In turn, assuring the producers’ position on the market stands to benefit women who make up increasing numbers of small-scale farmers, and vulnerable, casual and seasonal workers. By reducing overall use of insecticides, the project will impact positively on the environment.

The project will improve market access, revenues and employment in South Africa and Mozambique with regard to export fruit markets where targeted fruit fly pests constitute risks.

Tertia Grové, Senior Researcher, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa

FAST FACTS
Proposal was developed through an STDF PPG completed in 2018

12 pest free areas and 10 areas of low pest prevalence will be set up

Project in line with international standards: ISPM 26, ISPM 35, ISPM 29, ISPM 37

BENEFICIARIES
fruit producers, including at small-scale, in Mozambique and South Africa

LED BY
Agricultural Research Council, South Africa, with a consortium of partners

TIME-FRAME
2020 – 2023

STDF CONTRIBUTION
US$721,584 (total project value: US$2,925,941)

MORE INFO
www.standardfacility.org/PG-567
Guinea: improving systems and practices in agricultural value chains

Agriculture plays an important role in Guinea’s economic and rural development. Yet, gaps in production techniques, alongside phytosanitary challenges, have impacted production and exports in recent years, with post-harvest losses as high as 85% in the mango sector.

STDF’s Working Group approved a new STDF project in March 2019 to support Guinea’s agricultural products to access regional and international markets by improving the safety of mango and potato exports in particular. It follows up on the recommendations from the IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation carried out in 2017-18, which was funded by STDF.

The COLEACP-led project will improve the legislative and regulatory framework for phytosanitary control, build the NPPO’s capacity to roll out a risk-based inspection and certification system, and strengthen operators’ capacity to apply good practices.

At the same time as improving the competitiveness of agricultural products, the project will support food security and nutrition, as well as sustain women’s livelihoods, given that women make up 80% of the mango sector working in harvesting, processing and business.

In 2019, STDF shared updates on the project at IPPC’s Commission of Phytosanitary Measures.

FAST FACTS

Project was developed as part of the SPS Advanced Course at the WTO.

Rejections of agricultural produce to reduce by at least 70% in three years.

1,400 producers to receive training on GAPs, GHPs and other practices.

1,400 producers to receive training on GAPs, GHPs and other practices.

BENEFICIARIES
public and private sector actors involved in agricultural value chains

LED BY
COLEACP

TIME-FRAME
October 2019 - September 2022

STDF CONTRIBUTION
US$559,491 (total project value: US$847,959)

MORE INFO
www.standardfacility.org/PG-498
Evaluation of project on global tools to open up access to plant health know-how

International standards are used to protect agriculture and natural resources and facilitate safe trade. In developing countries, many government authorities lacked the know-how and procedures to meet these standards, putting plant health, as well as market access, at risk.

An STDF project led by the IPPC, which was completed in 2015, developed a set of resources to help NPPOs put in place effective systems on import verification, export certification, pest surveillance and diagnostics, pest risk analysis and other areas. The new guides were widely shared online, via global and regional meetings, including at sessions for WTO SPS delegates.

An evaluation finalized in 2019 found that the project over-achieved on its outputs, producing an electronic library of over 20 phytosanitary guides and training materials. A survey showed that 18 NPPOs from developing countries use the manuals on priority topics.

The project was found to lay the foundation for IPPC’s capacity development strategy, although findings showed that more could be done to promote and monitor use of the guides. Lessons from the evaluation highlighted that beneficiaries should have a stronger voice from the project design phase and that key resources are needed to maintain knowledge tools.

Moving forward, the IPPC Implementation Committee is following up on the evaluation’s recommendations including to improve the IPPC website to make resources more accessible to users, as well as to improve the dialogue with both the private sector and consumers. The IPPC’s global photo contest “Pests without borders” – developed under the project – continues to raise awareness, including in support of the 2020 International Year of Plant Health, which aims to show how protecting plant health boosts sustainable development.

The impact of the project included more access of NPPOs and other phytosanitary regulators to technical resources. The project led to more exchange of the IPPC Secretariat with the Capacity Development Committee members and external experts. It also facilitated a common use of specific terms used in the IPPC language.

Karsten Weitzenegger, External Evaluator
Niue: a study promoting apiculture productivity and conservation

Bee colonies worldwide have been collapsing as bees come under threat of disease, which in turn threatens agricultural production. Niue, a small island in the South Pacific, counts on a rare stock of Italian honey bees that are free from major bee diseases and parasites.

In 2019, with STDF support, a study assessed how a Pacific bee sanctuary could be set up in Niue to drive apiculture productivity at national and regional level. In turn, this would help supply healthy bee stock to other Pacific countries and support livelihoods in the region.

The study found that setting up a bee sanctuary in Niue would protect bee biodiversity and develop an alternative, sustainable source of bee imports in the region. This would also help to drive agricultural productivity, act as a platform to promote bee health and support native bush regeneration, protecting the local environment and mitigating soil degradation.

Niuean honey, which meets rigorous SPS requirements and is exported to New Zealand, also stands to gain new sales opportunities in the United States and the United Kingdom. However, the Niuean government will need to take the lead in further developing the beekeeping industry and in setting up a sanctuary to increase export values and new product lines.

Moving ahead, although the bee sanctuary is not yet a commercially viable prospect – if based solely on the export revenue of live bees – preserving Niue’s bees remains vital for conservation efforts and to support regional development projects in the apiculture sector.

#NiueHoneySanctuary feasibility study consultation on #Niue as honey bees colonies around the world collapse causing threat to our food security only Niue now have healthy pest free Italian bees thank #STDF for the support.

Niue’s Department of Economics, Planning, and Trade social media: 22 September 2019
The Global Goal on good health and well-being underscores how reducing the burden of diseases and contamination is vital for protecting public health, including for the vulnerable.

In the current context, with the rise of global agri-food value chains, making sure food is safe and meets international standards helps to secure the health of consumers worldwide. In 2019, the STDF shared expertise and lessons from its projects and knowledge hub on how to act in partnership to safeguard the future of food safety at the regional and global level.

In Burkina Faso, reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize is shoring up a safe food supply for the region, including for vulnerable groups. An evaluation highlighted how global projects have effectively helped producers to use low-risk pesticides and meet Codex standards for tropical crops, with the results widely shared and influencing other efforts. Under a new project in Asia, and a PPG in Southern Africa, the use of biopesticides alongside conventional pesticides, will be tested as an approach to reduce residue levels, as well as to promote trade flows and protect consumers.

In addition, findings from a project evaluation showed that harmonizing food inspection in Central America using online training is being adopted in more countries in the region. Project proposals are underway to support food safety risk analysis in Latin America, monitor residue levels in Afghanistan and promote food safety compliance for spices in Sri Lanka.

The value of STDF’s global partnership in supporting countries to close food safety gaps was profiled in 2019 at international events by the FAO, WHO, WTO and the African Union. In turn, STDF members looked at opportunities on how trade-focused investments can impact positively on domestic public health, with a new trade spillovers briefing published.

Securing agri-food value chains and safe trade

Emerging Trend:

Growth in agri-food global value chains (GVCs), regional trade and South-South trade
Burkina Faso: producing safe maize for domestic and regional markets

Regional trade in maize is vital for supporting food security in West Africa and for ensuring a safe food supply for vulnerable groups, including refugees and those affected by famine. The STDF-backed project helping maize producers in Burkina Faso to prevent aflatoxin contamination started up activities in 2019, with an inception workshop held on 25-27 July.

Led by the EIF’s National Implementation Unit, the project is being supported by public and private sector partners in the country, as well as the World Food Programme. In July and October 2019, two information and training workshops were run for extension agents, facilitators, inspectors, and laboratory technicians. The facilitators shared their knowledge with close to 4,500 producers, nearly a third of them women. In addition, demonstration plots were set up nationwide to test Aflasafe BF01, a new biopesticide to combat aflatoxins.

Diagnostic studies carried out by USAID and HTA on aflatoxin contamination in maize in Burkina Faso have showed high variations of between 3.4 to 636 micrograms per kg from B1 aflatoxin, the most toxic and carcinogenic, and an average of 67 micrograms per kg overall.

Issaoufou Porgo, Permanent Secretary, Farmers Confederation, Burkina Faso

After this training, we want to see improved aflatoxin testing capacities inside the laboratories, and on farms. The use of mobile testing technologies will allow us to test for aflatoxins where maize is produced, reducing the number of samples going to the lab for more sophisticated and costly tests.

Joseph Zerbo, Cabinet Director, Ministry of Commerce

**FAST FACTS**

- 3-day workshops held for 46 key actors and trained 22 inspectors and technicians
- Knowledge was shared with close to 4,500 producers
- Demonstration plots were set up on 16 sites across 6 provinces

**BENEFICIARIES**

- public and private stakeholders in the maize sector

**LED BY**

- EIF NIU Burkina Faso

**TIME-FRAME**

- April 2019 – March 2022

**STDF CONTRIBUTION**

- US$544,402 (total project value: US$845,862)

More Info

- www.standardfacility.org/PG-566
Evaluation of global projects to plug pesticide data gaps and drive regional collaboration

Pesticides often cause trade concerns for tropical fruits and vegetables from developing countries, as exports face being rejected. Few Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) exist for these crops and they can differ from Codex standards or for different trading partners. There are gaps in residue data, plus high costs in generating data and registering new pesticides.

STDF’s regional MRL projects connected public and private sector across three continents to pilot and learn from a collaborative model to expand residue programmes and help to meet Codex standards. This led to coordinated pesticide residue studies, as well as 62 field trials.

A 2019 independent evaluation found the projects achieved their objectives to a great extent, and that the STDF added value and helped to promote regional harmonization. As a result of the project, seven new Codex MRLs were developed by 2019 with three more due by 2022. 13 countries have registered low-risk pesticides, and over 160 scientists and government officers have new expertise on pesticide residue data, driving active participation in Codex and other fora.

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The country teams in all three regions said the project improved communications and joint activities among them, and contributed to regional harmonisation efforts. The STDF projects proved that the collaborative, hands-on model could deliver the desired results.

In October 2019, 34 Ministers from across the Americas endorsed a new resolution on MRLs calling for collaborative action to reduce the impact of NTBs on trade. The technical work carried out under STDF’s regional MRL projects contributed towards these global objectives.

In Africa, the STDF project encouraged and supported regional harmonization on pesticide MRLs by the EAC. ECOWAS is keen to replicate these experiences, showing the project’s catalytic effect.

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Lessons shared from the evaluation showed how the project model should be adapted to national infrastructure, conditions and resources. The report also highlighted the role of the Study Team and the value of having technical and stakeholder coordination expertise.

Moving forward, the Minor Use Foundation was set up to expand low risk pesticide options for tropical produce globally, building on the projects’ technical foundation and results. The findings, which are widely shared, support ongoing Codex work on MRLs, and will be profiled at the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and Global Minor Use Summit in 2020.

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John Oppong Otou, Food Safety Officer, AU-IBAR

Julia Doherty, Deputy Assistant, U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs

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Asia: promoting biopesticides to increase trade flows

Meeting pesticide MRLs is an ongoing trade challenge for actors along priority agri-food value chains in Asia, whether as farmers, industry associations or export businesses.

A new STDF project was approved at STDF’s Working Group in October 2019 to help Asian countries test an alternative and innovative approach to reduce pesticide MRLs, which uses biopesticides alongside conventional pesticides. Work to be carried out under the project builds on STDF members’ efforts and experiences in this area, including the FAO, GIZ, OECD and the US.

Focusing on crops that are economically important for many countries in the region, from chilli pepper and leafy greens to basil, dragon fruit and rice, the project will promote public-private cooperation among regulatory authorities, producers, industry, and traders. Domestic consumers in the region also stand to benefit from improvements in food safety.

Women, who play a key role in fruit and vegetable production, stand to benefit, including through reduced exposure to pesticides. Developing women farmers’ capacities is a priority, with a baseline study to focus on gender, and good practices on mainstreaming to follow.

By reducing the use of conventional pesticides, the project expects to lower environmental pollution, health risks, environmental exposure for bees and other sensitive species, and improve biodiversity. Data on MRLs and the environmental impact will also be gathered.

The project will help develop cross-regional networking and learning, spanning Southeast Asia to South Asia, with more advanced economies in the region delivering training and mentoring. Biopesticides are increasingly in the spotlight regionally and globally – with interest from ASEAN, Codex and the OECD – and the project is set to generate wider lessons.

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There are increased demands being placed on Latin American countries to use risk-based approaches to reduce food safety hazards. However, there are limited capacities on food safety risk analysis in the region and rolling out this approach varies widely across countries.

A new STDF PPG, which was approved by the STDF Working Group in October 2019, will bring together food safety regulators from 10 countries in the region. Alongside STDF members, including the FAO, WHO and IICA, and academia, the participating countries will discuss and agree on a collaborative, South-South approach to share food safety risk analysis knowledge and expertise in response to country needs.

The PPG will facilitate the inception meeting of the Food Safety Risk Analysis Network of government agencies, universities and international organizations. An action plan and project proposal will follow to improve risk analysis capacity to benefit public health and trade. The resulting project will transfer knowledge and expertise in food safety risk analysis among countries in the region, based on Codex, and design a hybrid learning model with online courses, training and mentoring. This is expected to lead to a harmonization of methods and a cost-effective use of resources in support of regional and international trade.

In Southern Africa, SADC member states have seen the value of their agricultural exports drop linked to SPS challenges, including pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs).

Countries in the region lack effective and operational systems for pesticide regulation and control, with gaps in support for farmers on best practices in sustainable pest management and pesticide use. Biopesticides offer a way for countries to reduce chemical residues and to meet MRLs. However, few biopesticides are registered and available for sale, with limited knowledge and agreement on how they can be used alongside conventional pesticides.

In March 2019, the STDF Working Group approved a new STDF PPG to develop a regional project in Southern Africa to pilot and roll out a collaborative approach on biopesticides. The proposal will promote the harmonization of biopesticide regulations and address trade issues linked to pesticide residues. It will support greater collaboration among regulators, biopesticide registrants, the private sector and academic partners in the region.

The PPG will connect SPS regulators in Southern Africa with STDF members – including the FAO and the US – and, at the same time, exchange experiences with STDF work in East Africa and Asia. In turn, the PPG will promote linkages with other areas of work in Codex and IPPC.

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www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-694

www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-716
Sri Lanka exports a wide range of spice products, yet significant challenges remain in the spices value chain, while exports face rejections due to contamination and residue levels.

A new PPG was approved at the STDF Working Group in October 2019 to develop a project proposal to strengthen food safety in line with international standards along the spices supply chain, including using ICT based traceability solutions. A value chain analysis will identify gaps and market development and export promotion opportunities for key spices.

The PPG will facilitate nationwide consultations with technical agencies, industry associations, the Chamber of Commerce, extension service agencies and academia. The private sector is keen to explore the potential for value addition to gain market access, and the PPG is expected to catalyse capacity building in the sector linked to Codex standards.

In October 2019, the STDF Working Group approved a new STDF PPG to develop a project to monitor levels of residues and contaminants in food of animal origin and feed in Afghanistan. The resulting project would then roll out a national residues and contaminants monitoring plan. This is the first time an STDF grant has been awarded to the country.

Work under the PPG will explore the potential for strengthening existing value chains linked to food producing animals, such as carpets and leather – areas which were identified as having export growth potential in the 2012 DTIS study. The PPG will also look at awareness raising and training for the project, covering areas such as antimicrobial agents and Codes of Practice, including good animal husbandry, good veterinary and good hygiene practices.

The PPG will build synergies with STDF members’ work in Afghanistan, with ITC in the area of food testing capacities and with the World Bank Group’s agriculture operations.

**Afghanistan:**
how to monitor residue levels and support food and animal feed value chains

**Sri Lanka:**
an approach to drive food safety compliance along the spices value chain

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Central America: Evaluation of project in Central America to harmonize food inspection to boost regional trade

Working together on food inspection is improving the safety of fresh and processed food across Central America, while facilitating regional trade and protecting consumer health.

In 2019, an independent evaluation was carried out of an STDF-funded project to set up a virtual food inspection school, which supported eight countries in the region. The school trained a pool of food inspectors in the latest techniques that can help to guarantee safety throughout the food chain and build the confidence of the region's trading partners.

Findings show that the IICA-led project was successful in helping officials in the region understand the importance of having harmonized food inspection tools, and in consolidating auditing and inspection know-how in the region, training food inspectors to a high standard. Under the project, around 480 officials from the region completed and passed the online course, with over 40 university staff trained as virtual teachers and academic assistants.

However, the evaluation report flagged a number of sustainability challenges, given the lack of a functioning structure at the close of the project, with gaps in mobilizing steady political support. Lessons from the project highlighted the need to bring on board the private sector and to build high-level support for food safety to address the supply chain as a whole.

Moving forward, universities from Costa Rica and Nicaragua plan to host the inspector course. Since the project, modules have been used in a pilot with the Ministries of Agriculture and Health in El Salvador, with 50 food safety inspectors having completed the course in 2019.

Following the virtual school, a USDA-funded project is helping food safety inspection directors in the region develop risk-based inspection protocols for specific value chains. Based on the project model, IICA supported OIRSA to set up a training platform on animal and plant health, and food safety. More than 4,000 technicians are enrolled, and OIRSA held its first virtual course for food safety auditors in 2019. In 2020, IICA plans to create a new three-tier food safety course for Latin America.

This project has been an example on how to bring together Inspection and Auditing knowledge and experience across the region... and was successful in delivering high quality training to a sub-set of public sector food inspectors.

Hugo Hays, External Evaluator
Investing in food safety for the future:
STDF partnership and know-how at global events

How to collectively tackle food safety challenges and deliver policies that improve lives and livelihoods was the focus of global food safety events in 2019 run by STDF partners, the FAO, WHO, WTO, and the African Union on 12-13 February in Addis and 23-24 April in Geneva.

Over 630 participants from 125 countries took part in the conference in Ethiopia, where STDF was showcased at an exhibition, alongside the STDF project film on safe food in Africa. At the forum in Geneva, the STDF global partnership was highlighted for supporting actors in agri-food supply chains in developing countries to meet international food safety standards. STDF’s knowledge and project work also underpinned papers presented at the two events, which called for resources to improve capacity to promote public health and facilitate trade.

In line with STDF’s 2020-2024 Strategy, the global events emphasized the scale of the future challenges and the need for knowledge-based actions on food safety, as well as underlining the role of increased investment in effective systems, and the importance of partnerships.

FAO, WHO and the WTO should continue their coordinated work, together with the World Bank Group and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), at the Standards and Trade Development Facility.

Joint Statement, International Forum on Food Safety and Trade

The FAO and the WHO help provide a framework to facilitate trade on the basis of internationally agreed food standards. And our organizations also collaborate to help build the necessary capacity and skills to that end. This includes the Standards and Trade Development Facility. So there is already very good work under way.

Roberto Azevêdo, WTO Director-General, International Forum on Food Safety and Trade

We think that by increasing the capacity of developing members and LDCs to comply with SPS measures, to participate in the elaboration of these measures that would create better opportunities for these countries to participate in international trade, to protect their people and their consumers.

Paolo Garzotti, Deputy Head of the EU Mission to the WTO

Trade spillover effects and the impact on domestic food safety:
STDF knowledge sharing

At the international Forum on Food Safety and Trade in April 2019, the STDF published a new briefing on trade spillovers, with findings from a recent study on how to maximize the benefits of trade-related food safety capacity building. The recommendations point to making sure future programmes benefit stakeholders in the domestic food safety context.

Building on the briefing, in 2019, STDF members discussed how to drive knowledge work so that trade-focused investments impact positively on domestic public health. Following ideas shared at the October Working Group, virtual discussions on spillovers in November looked at opportunities within STDF projects and knowledge work, with updates planned in 2020.

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Briefing note snapshot:
How to promote positive spillovers in trade-related projects?

Identifying, targeting and measuring spillovers throughout the project cycle can help to:

- highlight potential synergies and any conflicts between trade-related measures and domestic food safety.
- engage a broad range of national stakeholders to better understand potential direct or indirect impacts.
- build robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to measure potential domestic co-benefits.

MORE INFO
www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-535
and www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_Note_Trade_Spillovers_En.pdf
Under the Global Goal on decent work and economic growth, priority focus goes to driving productivity in low-income countries, enabling jobs, entrepreneurship and MSMEs to flourish.

Sustainable growth comes under pressure as crises strike, making it vital to build countries’ resilience, promote access to markets and reduce costs in line with the Trade Facilitation Agreement. In 2019, STDF’s global platform, projects and knowledge work influenced efforts for developing countries to be more competitive, facilitate trade and adopt good practices.

In Latin America, seven countries successfully closed critical plant health gaps, improving conditions for agricultural production and opening access to markets in the region and beyond. Across 2019, STDF’s partnership shared its trade facilitation expertise at global and regional events – including in Asia-Pacific and Latin America – outlining practical solutions for developing countries to streamline procedures.

In addition, a project proposal is being developed in the Philippines to facilitate trade in agri-fisheries by reducing the regulatory burden on the private sector. Drawing on insights and inputs by members in 2019, STDF’s Good Regulatory Practice guide to make sure that SPS measures protect health and drive trade was further developed.

In turn, STDF’s facilitating safe trade, e-certification and good regulatory practice work was identified by UN agencies as supporting effective trade and development measures.

Emerging Trend:

Greater focus on how to reduce trade costs linked to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
Latin America:
a regional plant health model supporting market access

Protecting plant resources without impacting negatively on trade flows posed a challenge for Latin American countries keen to facilitate trade in agricultural goods in the region. At the same time there was a need to maintain and improve export access to wider markets.

An STDF project, finalized in 2019, strengthened the capacity of member countries of the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE) to put in place plant health measures.

Over 90 professionals from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay improved their knowledge and skills on pest information, surveillance and pest risk analysis. As a result, countries have fresh tools relating to ISPM 6 and ISPM 11, improving their national and regional negotiating positions.

A methodology on the impact of plant health measures was developed, with over 20 NPPO professionals trained. Countries in the region are now able to assess the costs and quantify the benefits of applying measures to protect plant health and improve market access. The project also developed a regional virtual school on phytosanitary inspection. To date, 54 professionals completed the international module, with a new group due to start in 2020.

The participatory approach developed through IICA’s training and tools under the project created a network of specialists and supported processes to be harmonized at regional level. These experiences will be used in future regional projects on plant health and other areas.

Overall, the project was successful in integrating a plant health and agro-export model for the region. Going forward, it is expected to have a positive impact on market access, thanks to reduced numbers of interceptions, as well as improved agricultural production conditions.

FAST FACTS
Countries closed plant health gaps relating to ISPM 6, ISPM 11, inspection and certification.

90+
NPPO professionals trained on pest surveillance or pest risk analysis know-how.

Results shared widely, with materials produced in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

The project is improving aspects related to phytosanitary surveillance and pest risk analysis. The outstanding addition to set up a Virtual School is strengthening both public and private sector national capacities on phytosanitary inspection and certification to improve regional competitiveness.

Ernesto Galliani, Technical Secretary, COSAVE

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Ernesto Galliani, Technical Secretary, COSAVE
Facilitating safe trade:

STDF shares latest experiences and lessons at global events

Many times, policy makers need to understand in economic terms the benefits that could be derived by investing in SPS capacity at national level.

Deborah Cabb, Coordinator, Belize Agricultural Health Authority, and former STDF developing country expert.

Global, progress is being made to reduce trade transaction costs linked to SPS measures. In 2019, the STDF continued to share its trade facilitation knowledge work on how developing countries can streamline and simplify SPS procedures, adopt risk-based approaches, improve cooperation between SPS agencies and customs, and advance SPS electronic certification.

During the year, the STDF and the World Bank Group’s Trade Facilitation Support Programme built on the Border Agency Cooperation workshop piloted in Southern Africa in 2018. On 15 March 2019, the STDF hosted a workshop with the World Bank Group and other interested partners to advance work on a toolkit to measure SPS compliance at borders.

STDF exchanged key lessons and experiences on facilitating safe trade at global events in 2019, including an STDF side-event at the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in April, and during a Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility workshop held at the WTO in September. The STDF delivered presentations on trade facilitation at a World Bank Group seminar in February and learning event for SPS, customs and trade delegates for client countries in July.

Globally, STDF’s trade facilitation knowledge work was also shared at an Australia-led Regional Quarantine Regulators Meeting in Panama in April, a CAREC regional SPS Working Group in June, and a workshop for SPS and customs officials from the Pacific in December 2019.

At the same time, STDF’s facilitating safe trade expertise continues to inform other efforts, including by the United States in Azerbaijan, to improve inter-agency coordination, promote economic reform, facilitate trade, drive regional integration and support WTO accession.

Moving forward, a new STDF SPS e-cert practitioners’ group, approved in 2019, will meet to share the latest updates, while activities will continue under STDF’s e-certification projects – ePhyto and eVet – and STDF’s Working Group will discuss border risk management in 2020.

The World Bank Group’s 2018 Logistics Performance Index (LPI) shows an 8% increase from 2016 in satisfaction with SPS border agencies in countries with the lowest LPI scores. Given this includes least developed and other low-income countries, it suggests SPS border operations are improving. The LPI sets out how cooperation among border agencies is vital.


WTO social media

24 Jun 2019
#STDF encourages Central Asian countries to follow international standards, reduce trade costs and move towards STDF’s e-cert at 1st CAREC regional SPS working group in Uzbekistan today.

18 Sept 2019
#STDF participates in the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum in New Delhi on 17-18 September; using stds standards and removing NTMs procedural obstacles will greatly facilitate trade in food and agricultural products.

10 Dec 2019
#STDF and WTO take part in @UNESCAP sub-regional workshops on Non-Tariff Measures in Azerbaijan on 9-12 December; highlights show how facilitating safe, inclusive trade is helping to reduce trade costs for Central Asian countries.

The World Bank Group’s 2018 Logistics Performance Index (LPI) shows an 8% increase from 2016 in satisfaction with SPS border agencies in countries with the lowest LPI scores. Given this includes least developed and other low-income countries, it suggests SPS border operations are improving. The LPI sets out how cooperation among border agencies is vital.
In 2019, STDF’s knowledge work moved ahead on how good regulatory practice can be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures in developing countries. Throughout the year, progress was made to develop STDF’s practical guide to support SPS regulators in developing countries to make use of good regulatory practices. STDF partners and members, including the World Bank Group, OIE, WTO, OECD and the United States, took part in a peer review group, providing inputs into a draft of the guide to be finalized in 2020.

The upcoming STDF guide will identify good practices and recommendations to strengthen the effectiveness of regulatory interventions, improve compliance with international standards and the SPS Agreement, and ensure health protection while facilitating trade.

The Philippines: good regulatory practice approach to facilitate trade in agri-fisheries

Government authorities in the Philippines are keen to reduce the regulatory burden on the private sector and other actors to improve compliance and facilitate trade in agri-fisheries. Challenges span overlapping regulations, weak coordination and conflicting jurisdictions.

In October 2019 a new STDF PPG was approved by the STDF Working Group to develop a project proposal to support the Philippines to apply good regulatory practices – including Regulatory Impact Assessment – in the agri-fisheries sector. The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards developed guidance and needed practical support to put it into practice.

The PPG and resulting project will promote an evidence-based approach to policymaking, producing learning on practical experiences to apply good regulatory practices, which will improve the country’s development and application of SPS measures and regulations. Work under the PPG will connect to STDF partner and member initiatives, including by the World Bank Group and OECD, and build on good regulatory practice efforts in the region.

The PPG and project will also link to STDF’s knowledge work on good regulatory practice. Drawing on the pilot and lessons will help in the development of STDF guidance on making sure SPS measures are fit for purpose, achieve intended outcomes and reduce trade costs.

Good regulatory practice: STDF expands knowledge to protect health and facilitate trade

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The upcoming STDF guide will identify good practices and recommendations to strengthen the effectiveness of regulatory interventions, improve compliance with international standards and the SPS Agreement, and ensure health protection while facilitating trade.

At the same time, STDF’s knowledge work in 2019 drew on learning from global trends and work relevant for SPS measures, including good regulatory practice provisions in regional trade agreements, the WTO and OECD publication on facilitating trade through regulatory cooperation linked to SPS and technical barriers to trade, and the OIE’s Observatory Project.

The STDF is really having this unique catalytic role of bridging this complex world of rules and regulations at the international level to practical actions on the ground and I think that is so needed.

Marcel Vernooij,
Deputy Permanent Representative of The Netherlands to the WTO

By providing a specific application of GRPs to the SPS area, the STDF’s GRP guide will complement the OECD’s Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance and accompanying tools, including new best practices on stakeholder engagement, regulatory impact assessment and ex-post evaluation.

Céline Kaufmann,
Deputy Head, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD
Non-tariff measures and trade findings:
value of STDF work highlighted by UN agencies

At STDF’s Working Group in October 2019, UNESCAP and UNCTAD shared findings from the 2019 Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report on navigating non-tariff measures and the impact on sustainable development.

The presentation highlighted how non-tariff measures - technical regulations including SPS requirements - are increasing and are adding up to costs double those of tariffs. The discussion focused on how these measures, while protecting health or the environment, can be less transparent and more difficult to meet namely for small-scale producers and traders.

The session dialogue on recommendations from the report highlighted key areas including improving transparency, promoting digitalization, and carrying out regulatory reviews and sustainability impact assessments of SPS measures. The debate highlighted the relevance of STDF’s knowledge and project work on facilitating safe trade, e-certification and good regulatory practice as adding value in supporting trade for development.

Many producers are actually small and medium enterprises and they really need to build capacity to be able to share and the benefits from their participation in trade.

Christiane Wolff, Counsellor, WTO

Economies that report higher rates of trade facilitation implementation generally tend to report fewer burdensome non-tariff measures by traders. The trade costs of non-tariff measures can be significantly reduced by moving to paperless trade and cross-border electronic exchange of information.


Mobilizing local and global safe trade partnerships

The Global Goal on partnerships highlights how greater coordination and exchange, capacity building and resource mobilization support low-income countries to export and boost trade.

To capitalize on the potential of regional integration, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the public and private sector need to collaborate and share practical solutions. In 2019, STDF’s projects and knowledge hub helped to expand access to expertise and tools to facilitate cross-sector dialogue, leverage funding and influence safe trade outcomes.

In Madagascar, a participatory process using the P-IMA framework guided SPS investments to support agri-food exports, mobilizing resources linked to trade and agricultural outcomes. Applying P-IMA in Ecuador under a new PPG will also facilitate public-private sector dialogue, inform decision-making and coordinate SPS resources, complementing wider capacity building tools. The STDF P-IMA tool continued to be widely shared in 2019 and has been used to help unlock global and regional opportunities, including through a workshop for six countries in East Africa, catalysing solutions and mobilizing support for SPS needs in the region.

Through STDF’s dialogue at global food safety and agricultural conferences, experiences on how public-private partnerships support improved food safety and safe agri-food trade were shared with governments and business leaders. At the same time, project proposals were developed in West Africa and Central America with public and private sector actors to use voluntary third-party assurance programmes to better target limited resources. A new STDF film and interview series on investing in safe trade captured how STDF’s global platform and partnership works to effectively promote food safety, animal and plant health.

Emerging Trend:

Regional integration with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other regional trade agreements
Madagascar: a participatory process to prioritize SPS investments

Madagascar faced capacity challenges in meeting international SPS requirements, which would help its small-scale producers and exporters access external markets. In turn, the investments needed exceeded resources available and the government had to improve the economic efficiency of decisions, while promoting a transparent, comprehensive process.

An STDF PPG in 2019 supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to use the P-IMA framework, building on the National Phytosanitary Strategic Plan developed with the PCE.

The participatory P-IMA process brought together public and private sector stakeholders, consumer associations and development partners in national workshops. Using P-IMA led to a dashboard to guide SPS investments and support market access for priority value chains.

P-IMA analysis generated data and information on 16 SPS investment options. The tool delivered hard evidence on the expected impacts of investments linked to policy goals on trade, agricultural productivity and poverty reduction including for vulnerable groups.

Based on the evidence, COLEACP allocated around US$10,000 to a US$1.7 million project to strengthen the capacity of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). The project aims to control the risks of quarantine pests in priority fruit and vegetable exports to the EU.

The EIF’s National Implementation Unit committed to work with the NPPO to support capacity building on investments identified in the P-IMA analysis, including linking to an EIF project on pesticide residue limits in fresh fruit and vegetables, and dried grains exports.

Authorities in charge of plants and plant products, food of animal origin and fishery products plan to use the P-IMA results to mobilize resources from Ministries and from wider partners. The national P-IMA Working Group is continuing to operate, with stakeholders committing to review prioritization results on an ongoing basis, helping resources to be used efficiently.

False Codling Moth is a huge challenge for the horticulture sector in Madagascar. P-IMA allowed government agencies and the private sector to focus on the investments needed to address SPS challenges. This helped us to mobilize more support to resolve the problem of False Codling Moth. My company is partnering with the NPPO to help our exports get going again.

M. Solofo, Company owner, Malagasy Export
Ecuador:
applying P-IMA and facilitating public and private sector dialogue

In March 2019, a new PPG was approved by the STDF Working Group to support Ecuador to apply the STDF P-IMA framework to prioritize SPS investments to improve market access. The tool will generate information to support SPS capacity building in Ecuador, raise awareness among the public and private sector about the returns on SPS capacity building, and support fundraising. Using P-IMA will facilitate public-private sector dialogue, inform transparent decision-making, and better coordinate the resources going to SPS agencies. The results of the P-IMA tool will also be used to develop a five-year SPS strategic plan.

Work under the PPG will build on tools already applied in Ecuador, including OIE’s PVS tool and IICA’s Performance, Vision and Strategy tool. Spanish-speaking facilitators will be trained on P-IMA, supporting a wider roll out by IICA to other countries in the region.

Expanding access to STDF’s P-IMA tool to unlock global and regional opportunities

At an IPPC capacity development seminar on 8 October 2019, STDF shared experiences on the benefits of P-IMA, including in Madagascar, where donor funding was mobilized to meet phytosanitary capacity gaps. New opportunities were identified to use P-IMA to complement the use of the PCE tool and support IPPC work in Sri Lanka, Nicaragua and Sierra Leone.

The STDF shared information on P-IMA at the World Bank Group during a session on 4 June in Washington D.C. At the event, opportunities were identified to use P-IMA in World Bank Group country operations, including Colombia and India, to help promote evidence-based decision-making, boost efficiency and transparency, and support public-private dialogue.

Ecuador: applying P-IMA and facilitating public and private sector dialogue

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P-IMA catalyses solutions to SPS needs in Africa

P-IMA is a very useful tool when it comes to prioritizing finite resources to unlock SPS-related barriers to trade and increase exports. TMEA is excited to use it to unlock technical barriers to trade in the East African Community. It is also useful in supporting collaboration among donors and other partners for transparency and reduction of duplication in Aid for Trade initiatives.

Elizabeth Mokhulu, Regional Programme Manager, Standards and SPS, TMEA

A regional workshop on STDF’s P-IMA framework, organized by TradeMark East Africa from 19 – 20 November 2019 in Nairobi, brought together 30 SPS experts from the private and public sector in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The sessions identified over 30 capacity building options to unlock regional trade. TradeMark East Africa is planning to direct funding via its country programmes to address the identified priorities.

The workshop builds on STDF’s project, with the EIF, to help COMESA member states use P-IMA to mainstream SPS investments within national and regional agricultural, environment and trade investment plans. Going forward, COMESA and TradeMark East Africa’s work is driving SPS collaboration at continental, regional and sub-regional level, so that Regional Economic Communities can use harmonized approaches to identify and solve SPS needs.

The STDF’s P-IMA framework was selected for its structured approach and alignment to the guiding principles of the BESST feasibility study – innovation, evidence and participation. It proved to be a useful tool given its focus on investment in capacity development for trade, and ability to recognize both private and public sector capacities.

Katherín Minita, Senior Agricultural Economist, ILRI

In 2019, ILRI used the P-IMA approach with diverse public and private sector stakeholders from the Horn of Africa and Arabian Peninsula to compile evidence and set priorities for the safe and sustainable transformation of trade in livestock and livestock products. Commissioned by the OIE, with funding from the Gates Foundation, the feasibility study is part of the OIE’s Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade (BESST) initiative.

How public private partnerships support developing countries:

STDF dialogue at 2019 GFSI Conference

STDF co-moderated a G2B workshop on how public/private collaboration helps SMEs in developing countries enhance food safety, including options to use 3rd party assurance programmes to improve public health and trade. WTO social media post: 27 February 2019

In 2019, STDF’s knowledge work moved ahead on how good regulatory practice can be used to improve the quality and effectivenss of SPS measures in developing countries.

In 2019, STDF shared experiences on public-private partnerships at the Global Food Safety Conference from 25-28 February in Nice. Organized by the GFSI, it gathered 1,000 delegates from over 60 countries spanning food industry, government, academia, and international organizations, including the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Bank Group.

STDF’s work was shared in a panel on building capacity in developing markets, focusing on pathways to improve food safety to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the margins of the event, senior government representatives met with representatives of the world’s largest companies across the entire food chain from manufacturing to retail.

The STDF co-organized and co-moderated a workshop during the government to business meeting on the topic of small and medium-sized enterprise capacity building. This follows STDF’s longstanding collaboration with GFSI, including in past conferences and meetings.

At the workshop, Belize, Honduras, Senegal and Uganda highlighted challenges and needs in relation to using third-party assurance programmes, linked to work that started under STDF PPGs in 2019. A follow-up meeting convened on the margins deepened the dialogue between the PPG pilot countries, the private sector, as well as STDF partners and donors.

For us the STDF is a key conveyer between the public and the private sector on the ground for the SPS agreement.

Anne Gerardi, Senior Project Manager, GFSI

P-IMA catalyses solutions to SPS needs in Africa

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Public-private collaboration to support food safety:
regional STDF work to develop pilots

In 2019, the global trend continued around the need for a closer engagement between food safety regulatory authorities and the private sector to support shared food safety objectives, which had been identified in STDF’s public-private partnerships publication released in 2012.

In particular, there is increasing interest from developing countries in an approach from some developed countries where competent authorities are making use of reliable data from voluntary third-party assurance programmes. Currently, this model is helping to inform the risk profiling of food businesses, improve risk-based inspection and more effectively target scarce resources.

Given that there are few examples of how that works in a developing country context, in 2019, STDF’s PPGs in West Africa and Central America convened diverse public and private sector actors to develop pilot projects in this area to help improve food safety outcomes.

These STDF initiatives in 2019 also tied into ongoing Codex work to develop draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes.

Being part of the STDF’s work on public-private partnerships, including the workshop STDF co-lead with the GFSI and IICA in 2010, has enriched our dialogue with the private sector and other regulatory authorities. Honduras looks forward to STDF’s regional project to learn how the use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes can support our national food control system based on Codex guidance.

Nryan Bueno Almendarez, Food Safety Director, National Agency for Agri-food Health and Safety, Honduras

Influencing food safety partnerships:
STDF joins global dialogue on Africa and in Arab countries

Today at the 3rd AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference in Rome, #STDF shares evidence-based tool to help African countries prioritize investments for safe agricultural trade.

WTO social media post: 21 June 2019

In 2019, STDF took part in a high-level panel on how to overcome SPS hurdles in intra-African trade during the AU-EU Agricultural Ministerial Conference held on 21 June in Rome. The session was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland.

Sharing work on public-private partnerships, STDF’s presentation showed how P-IMA’s evidence-based approach brings together public-private sector actors in agricultural value chains and trade in Africa to set SPS priorities and leverage funding to address key needs.

Alongside the African Union and European Commission, STDF’s intervention at the event, with that of COLEACP and others is expected to help set the SPS and food safety investment priorities across the continent. Experiences from the Conference are supporting operations under the SPS Annex of the AfCFTA that went live in July 2019.

At UNIDO’s workshop for the Arab Task Force on Food Safety on 10 October 2019 in Jordan – alongside Sweden who funds the SAFE project to promote regional economic integration and cooperation – the STDF shared experiences and lessons from its knowledge and project work on public-private partnerships with a range of Arab partner organizations.

MORE INFO
www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-685
www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-682
A new STDF global partnership film and interview series was released during the WTO Public Forum “Trading Forward: Adapting to a Changing World” from 8-11 October 2019. The film and interviews feature partners, donors and developing country experts speaking on the current landscape and what more is needed to collectively facilitate safe, inclusive trade.

The film sets out how in order to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals, investing in SPS capacity in developing countries is vital for people to share in the benefits from trade. Ten experts from Belize, Canada, the European Union, GFSI, IPPC, The Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, the US and WTO voiced their views on how building SPS capacity helps producers, traders and consumers and promotes food safety, animal and plant health.

Going forward, the film sets out a call to action for policymakers worldwide to champion investments in SPS capacity that will have a vital impact on the public and private sector.

The donors, developing country representatives, partner organizations, standards-setting organizations are there, the STDF brings us together and we can talk about the issues, we can avoid duplication we can build synergies on each other’s projects.

Bent Larson,
Implementation and Facilitation Unit Leader, IPPC Secretariat

The platform that STDF provides for us to participate and articulate our needs, and are making sure that we are heard, and implementing strategies and measures that are appropriate and helpful to developing countries is quite useful.

Sidney Sama,
Biosecurity and Trade Facilitation Specialist and former STDF developing country expert
The STDF and the STDF Secretariat have delivered outputs and results beyond what might be expected given their budget and resources. The Secretariat is regarded as efficient, effective and responsive by founding partners, donors and other stakeholders.

External evaluation, 2019
In 2019, Nathan Associates completed the external evaluation of the STDF, which started in September 2018, following a procurement process based on WTO rules. STDF partners, other members and the STDF Secretariat were actively involved in contributing to the finalization of the evaluation. More than 100 interviews were conducted with partners, donors and other members to reflect the opinions of STDF’s stakeholders and network, and inform the findings. Views were sought from beneficiaries and other SPS capacity building actors during country visits to Guatemala and Uganda, with additional interviews in Nairobi.

Development of the new STDF Strategy for 2020-2024 represented a significant share of work in 2019. The Secretariat set up a participatory process to enable partners and other members to provide substantive and strategic inputs to its development, including through facilitated workshops in Geneva on 13-14 March, 18-19 June and 15 October 2019.

An electronic survey captured views from across the partnership and facilitated workshops in Geneva on 13-14 June, 16-17 October in Geneva, with over 100 participants from around the world.

The Secretariat continued to actively support the STDF’s project and knowledge work. This included work to help developing country applicants to develop and submit projects, and to contract, manage and evaluate approved projects and PPGs. A total of 27 PPGs and 16 project applications were received in 2019, with 12 PPGs and 22 projects ongoing in 2019.

The team facilitated and led STDF knowledge work on five topics covering facilitating safe trade, electronic SPS certification, good regulatory practice, public-private partnerships, and the use of an evidence-based approach to prioritize SPS investments (P-IMA).

The Secretariat continued to deliver with a relatively small core team, complemented by two interns and short-term staff. STDF’s communications consultant continued to support the Secretariat across the outreach portfolio including with publications, the investing in Safe Trade film and interview series, online platforms and media relations. An M&E expert, offered by the UK as part of its GIO-FA programme, provided advice on M&E as part of the development of the STDF 2020-2024 Strategy, as well as on delivering the M&E framework.

By pooling our resources, our expertise and our funds, the reach of what we’ve collectively been able to do to build SPS capacity has gone far beyond the sum of what we would have been able to do to build SPS capacity if we had chosen to work individually. By pooling our resources, our expertise and our funds, the reach of what we’ve collectively been able to do to build SPS capacity has gone far beyond the sum of what we would have been able to accomplish as individual countries and agencies.

STDF operations in 2019
STDF ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 91

An STDF Policy Committee took place on 17 June 2019 at the WTO in Geneva, chaired by WTO Deputy-Director General, Alan Wolff. Attended by 30 representatives from across the partnership, the agenda focused on the external evaluation report delivered by Nathan Associates. Policy Committee members reviewed the evaluation’s recommendations to scale up the STDF’s operations and impacts.

Policy Committee members approved 16 out of the 20 recommendations proposed in the evaluation. Approved recommendations included strengthening the contribution of all members to the STDF, and the role of partners in particular, improving synergies between STDF projects and PPGs and other initiatives, and paying closer attention to cross-cutting issues, namely gender and the environment, moving forward. Members agreed to strengthen the Secretariat’s operational capacity, notably with two additional staff, one co-leading Communications and the other Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.

Other recommendations to improve the STDF’s performance and reach were agreed – such as strengthening the role of developing country experts. Recommendations that implied more significant resource implications were put on hold. Following the Policy Committee, the Working Group approved an action plan to deliver on the approved recommendations, which included responsibilities for STDF partners, other members and the STDF Secretariat.

STDF POLICY COMMITTEE IN 2019
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STDF WORKING GROUP
Chair: Loraine Ronchi (World Bank Group)
Vice-chair: Julie Emond (Canada)

STDF DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPERTS
O. J. Benoit Ononkonfo, Benin
Mohammed Sadeed, Vanuatu
Samuel Wilson, Jamaica
Sanjay Dave, India
Rogério Pereira Da Silva, Brazil
Ameba Sesbie Woldemariam, Ethiopia

March 2019: Mr Wilson and Mr Da Silva were unable to attend the meeting due to personal circumstances.

STDF SECRETARIAT
Head: Melwin Spejoj
Assistant Head: Mafurline Hopper
Policy: Jenkees
Roshan Khan
Paola Michiutti
Simone Padilla
Catalina Pulido

Consultant: Elena Immambocus
Temporary staff: Naza Mohammad
Intern: Angélica Correa Gniek
Intern: Jassain Landauri Benitez
NTP intern: Brenda Kabasingu

Ms Pulido joined the Secretariat in November 2019

Risk management in 2019

General and specific risks and assumptions relevant to the Facility’s operation for the period of the current mid-term strategy (2015-2019) are identified in the STDF’s logical framework. In 2019, the Secretariat continued to take actions to mitigate and/or manage the risks faced, building on previous experiences and lessons. Organizations implementing STDF projects and PPGs continue also to play an essential role in risk management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Risk mitigation and management in 2019</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient active participation in Working Group</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>Action to mitigate risk: The Secretariat continued to encourage and facilitate participation in the Working Group. This included efforts to: prepare meeting dates in advance, discuss the meeting agenda with the Chairperson, finalize and distribute all documents for consideration at least two to four weeks prior to the meetings, organize preparatory discussions with STDF partners and other members, and identify relevant topics and presenters for the agenda. Changes continued to be introduced to meetings for example to the sharing of members experiences an an effort to improve meeting quality and outcomes. Experience: Effective and timely preparations by the Secretariat, combined with the efforts of the Working Group Chairperson and the active engagement of members, resulted in the delivery of two successful Working Group meetings in 2019, as planned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient number of high-quality PPG and project applications received by STDF</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>Action to mitigate risk: Ongoing efforts were made by the Secretariat and STDF members, via participation in external events, webinars, meetings and email communications, to share information on the STDF’s funding opportunities and solicit eligible applications. The Secretariat continued to operate as a help-desk, providing guidance to applicants (by Skype and email) and made ongoing efforts to promote linkages between PPGs and donor programmes in an attempt to mobilize funding for projects resulting from PPGs. Experience: In 2019, demand for STDF support to address SPS capacity needs and deliver safe trade solutions continued to be strong, with 43 new applications (16 projects and 27 PPGs) received in 2019. While less than the number of applications submitted the previous year, this quality of applications received was generally high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient funding available in STDF Trust Fund</td>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
<td>Action to mitigate risk: The Secretariat continued to engage actively with existing and potential donors, including through meetings in Geneva whenever possible, and face-to-face information sessions in capitals for development agencies, as well as agriculture and trade ministries. Ongoing attention to communications, outreach and reporting, combined with attention to monitor and evaluate results and performance, supported fundraising efforts. STDF partners and developing country experts helped to make the case for ongoing support to the STDF Trust Fund. Experience: Donor contributions in 2019 amounted to US$5.94 million, exceeding the annual funding target of US$5 million.</td>
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<td>STDF Secretariat not fully staffed and operational</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
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<td>Action to mitigate risk: One temporary staff supported the STDF team from January to 8 August 2019 until a Grade 6 vacancy was filled. Two interns (funded by the STDF budget) assisted the Secretariat team, each for six months plus an additional intern for 4 months through the Netherlands Traanje Programme. An external expert provided valuable support on implementation of the STDF’s communications plan, as part of the 2019 work plan. An M&amp;E expert (provided by STDF) supported M&amp;E as part of the development of the STDF’s new Strategy. Ongoing efforts were made to work innovatively and effectively, with more use of Skype for meetings and reliance on members to represent the STDF at external events wherever possible. Experience: The STDF Secretariat continued to maximize the outputs and results delivered by its relatively small team, supported by STDF partners, donors and other members. The 2019 External Evaluation reported that the STDF Secretariat is “regarded as efficient, effective and responsive by founding partners, donors and other stakeholders” and “delivered outputs and results beyond what might be expected given their budget and resources”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of STDF projects influenced by external conditions (i.e. political stability, national commitment to address SPS constraints, government support, allocation of resources, etc.)</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
<td>Action to mitigate risk: Individual risks for new projects were assessed during the review of project applications, which include a section on risk identification and mitigation. The Secretariat maintained regular communications with project implementing organizations, beneficiary governments and other stakeholders to monitor and manage risks faced in projects, as relevant. Project progress reports were carefully analysed to ensure that risks were addressed. Experience: Notable risks faced in projects in 2019 included political instability in Guinea (which delayed an inception workshop), travel bans in Australia (which led to travel delays for Australian exporters heading to a regional project) and financial difficulties to transfer cash to project accounts in countries facing cash shortages. Ongoing efforts were taken by project implementing partners to address these risks and deliver on the project results. Final project reports and external evaluations show that STDF projects are relatively successful in managing risks and achieving the expected results.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financials in 2019

Today, mobilizing resources for innovative projects, which have a big impact in the value chains, where many small-scale producers are involved, I believe is an important challenge. Given this, I would ask the donors, so that facilities such as STDF, that are working at an extremely important scale, can have even more funds.

Babacar Samb, Director, Cabinet Bioscope SARL and former STDF developing country expert

In 2019, developing countries continued to request assistance from the STDF to assist small-scale farmers, processors, traders and governments to meet international standards and facilitate safe trade. Demand remained high in terms of financing projects and PPGs, with a total of 45 applications received, including 16 project applications and 27 PPG applications.

2019 Funding highlights

- 8 new projects and 7 new PPGs were approved by the working group in 2019, above the target of 4 projects and 4 PPGs per year.
- 71% of resources for newly approved projects and PPGs in 2019 will benefit LDCs and OLCs, over and above the STDF target of 40%.
- 10 donors made contributions to the STDF totalling US$5,944,673.

The Facility welcomed donor support in 2019 to invest in safe, inclusive trade and development outcomes in support of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Contributions were received from Australia, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. All donors, except for Ireland, provided contributions as part of multi-annual agreements.

While the total value of donor contributions in 2019 was 11% lower than the amount received in 2018, it exceeded the amount estimated (US$4,895,160) for delivery of the annual work plan.

Donor contributions in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Amount (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)</td>
<td>361,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark Danish International Development Agency</td>
<td>589,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission European Aid Cooperation Office (EuropeAid)</td>
<td>666,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France Ministère de l’Économie et des Finances and Ministère de l’Agriculture et de l’Alimentation</td>
<td>163,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland Irish Aid</td>
<td>166,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (Aid for Trade)</td>
<td>377,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>706,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)</td>
<td>1,104,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)</td>
<td>802,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA)</td>
<td>802,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (US$)</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,944,673</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STDF’s annual report 2019

2019 Expenditures

Total STDF expenditures amounted to US$4,747,116 in 2019, which was 3% lower than the estimated total (US$4,895,160) in the budget estimate attached to STDF’s work plan for 2019.

Planned expenditures for 2019 were mostly exceeded in both the external project evaluations (+42%) and PPG funding (+29%) categories, with some additional spending on staffing (+10%) reflecting the increased workload in the Secretariat. Areas of higher than expected spending in 2019 included a payment of US$90,343 for the external evaluation of the STDF, which was deferred from 2018 until 2019.

Spending under Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and Good practice to support SPS capacity building was 42% and 28% less than estimated, respectively. While work advanced on Good Regulatory Practice and Public-Private-Partnerships, some activities were carried over to 2020 with expenditures lower than expected. Savings occurred on developing country experts’ travel costs, as some experts were unable to attend the Working Group for personal reasons. Spending was slightly less than planned on the Strategy development workshops, with WTO covering 50% of the facilitator’s fee and the STDF payment carried over to 2020. Other underspending occurred in the production of new STDF film material following suspension of the film company’s contract by the WTO.

Other minor changes, compared to the budget estimate, included two missions to East Africa related to STDF knowledge work on P-IMA (US$3,424), and travel and other costs related to the organization of three STDF information sessions in Geneva (US$13,132).

Efforts were made to achieve resource efficiencies, including with STDF partners and donors covering the cost of STDF Secretariat participation in selected external events.

Estimated and actual expenditures in 2019 are shown below, with detailed information in Annex 2.

Estimated and actual expenditures in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Estimate (US$)</th>
<th>Actual (US$)</th>
<th>Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and dialogue among relevant stakeholders promoted</td>
<td>67,800</td>
<td>39,058</td>
<td>-42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good practice to support SPS capacity building identified and disseminated</td>
<td>779,200</td>
<td>560,631</td>
<td>-28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals produced</td>
<td>563,073</td>
<td>306,301</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPS capacity building projects in specific areas supported</td>
<td>8,186,673</td>
<td>2,199,618</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Other operating costs (including implementation of M&amp;E framework and Communications Plan)</td>
<td>363,689</td>
<td>318,497</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>4,895,160</td>
<td>4,747,116</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STDF’s financial balance at the end of 2019

STDF’s final balance at the end of 2019 is shown in the table below. Deducting total expenditures, contracted commitments of US$3,486,754 for ongoing PPGs and projects, and uncontracted commitments of US$3,486,754, the STDF showed a negative balance of US$464,966 as of 31 December 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount in US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening balance as at 1 January 2019</td>
<td>9,423,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions in 2019</td>
<td>5,944,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on investments</td>
<td>-180,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total funds</td>
<td>14,327,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures</td>
<td>4,747,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted commitments</td>
<td>8,186,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in favour of Donors</td>
<td>3,184,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncontracted commitments (corresponding to 6 PPGs and 4 projects approved in 2019 and not contracted as of 31 December 2019)</td>
<td>3,486,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Balance</td>
<td>-464,966</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STDF outreach in 2019

WEBSITE

32,000
Close to 32,000 sessions logged (up by over 27% from 2018)

TOP PAGES
Homepage, Projects and PPGs, STDF at a glance
P-IMA page saw a 188% jump in views
GRP page saw a 28% jump in views
SPS e-Cert page saw a 19% jump in views

87% of all website visitors were new visitors (new user sessions up by nearly 38% from 2018)

TOP COUNTRIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOP DOWNLOADS

13,500 pdf publications downloaded (up by nearly 4% from 2018)

STDF EVENTS

Building capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers: How safe is Africa’s food; Investing in Safe Trade; Safe Trade Solutions.

STDF EVENTS

Strengthening the control of transboundary diseases in Cameroon
Investing in SPS capacity matters for safe trade and sustainable development
Global action on meeting pesticide standards for export

EXTERNAL EVENTS

7,000+ SPS stakeholders reached at over 80 events in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean

174 new subscribers

NEW VIDEOS

Investing in Safe Trade film and series of 10 interviews

WATCH TIME

72,000 minutes (up by nearly 79% from 2018)

NEW VIDEOS

Over 21,500 views (up by 24% from 2018)

E-NEWS

14 News items went out to 5,000 subscribers (up from 10 e-news in 2018)

E-NEWS

Investing in SPS capacity matters for safe trade and sustainable development
Global action on meeting pesticide standards for export

PUBLICATIONS

STDF Annual Report 2018
STDF Briefings - Trade spillover effects: the impact on domestic food safety.
Driving better decision-making: Prioritizing SPS investments for market access (P-IMA)

PUBLICATIONS

STDF Annual Report 2018
STDF Briefings - Trade spillover effects: the impact on domestic food safety.
Driving better decision-making: Prioritizing SPS investments for market access (P-IMA)

FIND OUT MORE AND GET INVOLVED

Access SPS information and tools at standardsfacility.org
Browse SPS resources in the online Library
View good practice films on STDF’s YouTube channel
Sign up for updates through STDF’s e-news
Share experiences and lessons at STDF’s Working Group

YOUTUBE

21,500
Over 21,500 views (up by 24% from 2018)

YOUTUBE

Over 21,500 views (up by 24% from 2018)

NEW VIDEOS

Investing in Safe Trade film and series of 10 interviews

WATCH TIME

72,000 minutes (up by nearly 79% from 2018)

174 new subscribers

MOST VIEWED PLAYLISTS
Cocoa: a sweet value chain;
Snapshot of STDF in the news

CABI
News update on STDF fruits and vegetables project in Uganda
(December 2019)

EIF
Impact story on STDF/EIF ginger project in Nepal
(August 2019)

Food Business Africa
News update on STDF P-IMA project in COMESA
(January 2019)

GIZ
Newsletter item on STDF P-IMA project in COMESA
(March 2019)
Newsletter item on STDF Investing in Safe Trade film
(November 2019)
Newsletter item on evaluation of STDF global MRLs projects
(December 2019)

ITC
Feature on STDF fruit and vegetable project in Sri Lanka
(March 2019)
Feature on STDF oilseeds project in Myanmar
(September 2019)

SIDA
Case story on STDF/EIF ginger project in Nepal
(September 2019)

WTO
News item featuring STDF’s role in food safety and trade
(February 2019)
News item on STDF external evaluation
(July 2019)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>STDF Strategy Workshop, Geneva</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO SPS Committee Session on Equivalence</td>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Information Session on Transboundary Animal Diseases in Cameroon</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AU Continental SPS Committee for Africa, Geneva</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAO World Livestock Report Launch, Geneva</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OIE Global Burden of Animal Diseases, Paris, France</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Project “Promoting IT solutions for surveillance and pest reporting” Steer</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO Trade Policy Course for LDCs</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF-SPS Seminar for journalists from Africa and Asia</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO-UNCTAD Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation, Geneva</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australia-IoD Quarantine Regulators Meeting, Panama City, Panama</td>
<td>Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Meetings with SIDA and Swedish Government, Stockholm, Sweden</td>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Meetings with Swedish Trade Academy, National Board of Trade, Stockholm, Sweden</td>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>STDF Information Session for WBG Washington, USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Meetings with USDA, US FDA, USAID, IDB, GFSF and OMA, Washington, USA</td>
<td>Washington, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Presentation to WTO NTP Seminar</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum, Viña del Mar, Chile</td>
<td>Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO Trade Policy Committee for LDCs</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAREC Regional SPS Working Group and Regional Trade Group Meeting, Tashkent, Uzbekistan</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO-UNCTAD Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation, Geneva</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO Project “Improving compliance to boost oilseeds exports” Final Workshop, Yangon, Myanmar</td>
<td>Yangon, Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO SPFs Workshop on Transparency and Coordination</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO SPFs Advanced Course Follow-up</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Project “Improving Sanitary Capacity to Facilitate Livestock and Meat Products” Steering Committee, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Meeting with FAO, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>WTO Public Forum</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PPC Strategic Planning Group Seminar, Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNIDO Arab Task Force on Food Safety Technical Workshop, Amman, Jordan</td>
<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAADP Development Partners Coordination Group, (Virtual)</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Strategy Workshop, Geneva</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility Workshop</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STDF on the ground in 2019

**November**

21 - 25 | FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile

22 - 28 | STDF Project “Improving SPS Capacity in the Perija Pepper Value Chain” Inception Workshop, Douala, Cameroon

25 | WTO Advanced Trade Policy Course

28 - 15 | WTO SPS Advanced Course

29 | WTO Informal Working Group on MSMEs

18 - 21 | IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, Rome, Italy

20 | UNECE - FAO Conference on Food (Waste) for Thought, Geneva

22 | COLEACP Consultative Committee, Brussels, Belgium

27 - 29 | STDF Meetings with Australia and New Zealand, Canberra, Australia and Wellington, New Zealand

December

2 - 6 | WBIO Workshop on Border Risk Management, Auckland, New Zealand

9 - 11 | UN ESCAP Subregional Workshop on Non-tariff Measures, Baku, Azerbaijan

**STDF meetings**

**STDF at WTO events, Geneva**
### STDF Global Partnership

**Founding Partners**

- Government agencies for agriculture, development, food, foreign affairs and trade in:
  - Australia
  - Canada
  - Denmark
  - European Commission
  - Finland
  - France
  - Germany
  - Ireland
  - Norway
  - Sweden
  - United Kingdom
  - United States

**Including**

- CODEX
  - Codex Alimentarius Commission
  - Secretariat
- IPPC
  - International Plant Protection
  - Convention Secretariat

**Donors in 2018-2019**

- AUC
- CABI
- COLEACP
- EIF
- GFSI
- IICA
- ITC
- OECD
- OIRSA
- SSafe
- UNCTAD
- UNIDO
- WCO

**Other Partners**

- ADB
- AfDB
- ATF
- ASEAN
- AU-IBAR
- BTF
- CAADP
- CAHFSA
- CARICOM
- CBD
- CITES
- COMESA
- COSAVE
- EAC
- EDF
- EEC
- EITC
- FAO
- FIA
- FMO
- PAHO
- PHAMA
- PIIFS
- PIFS
- SAARC
- SADC
- UN DESA
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- WAEMU
- WEF

### Developing Country Experts

Over 30 experts on food safety, animal and plant health, and trade from more than 30 countries in:

**Africa**
- Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

**Asia-Pacific**
- India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Vanuatu

**Latin America and the Caribbean**
- Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Uruguay

**Founding Partners**

- AUC
- CABI
- COLEACP
- EIF
- GFSI
- IICA
- ITC
- OECD
- OIRSA
- SSafe
- UNCTAD
- UNCTAD
- UNIDO
- WCO

**Donors in 2018-2019**

- ADB
- AfDB
- ATF
- ASEAN
- AU-IBAR
- BTF
- CAADP
- CAHFSA
- CARICOM
- CBD
- CITES
- COMESA
- COSAVE
- EAC
- EEC
- EITC
- FAO
- FIA
- FMO
- PAHO
- PHAMA
- PIIFS
- PIFS
- SAARC
- SADC
- UN DESA
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- WAEMU
- WEF

**Other Partners**

- ADB
- AfDB
- ATF
- ASEAN
- AU-IBAR
- BTF
- CAADP
- CAHFSA
- CARICOM
- CBD
- CITES
- COMESA
- COSAVE
- EAC
- EEC
- EITC
- FAO
- FIA
- FMO
- PAHO
- PHAMA
- PIIFS
- PIFS
- SAARC
- SADC
- UN DESA
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- WAEMU
- WEF

**Project Partners from the public and private sector**

- Developing country government agencies
- Regional and international organizations
- UN bodies
- Universities and research institutes
- Industry associations
- Private sector companies

**STDF’s wider network**

- ADB
- AfDB
- ATF
- ASEAN
- AU-IBAR
- BTF
- CAADP
- CAHFSA
- CARICOM
- CBD
- CITES
- COMESA
- COSAVE
- EAC
- EEC
- EITC
- FAO
- FIA
- FMO
- PAHO
- PHAMA
- PIIFS
- PIFS
- SAARC
- SADC
- UN DESA
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- WAEMU
- WEF
Glossary

ADB  Asian Development Bank
AFCFTA  African Continental Free Trade Area
AIDB  African Development Bank
AFVE  Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises
AGROSAVA  Cooperación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria
APIARI  Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
ARC  Agricultural Research Council (South Africa)
ASEC  Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEANET  ASEAN/Network on Taxonomy
ATF  Arab Task Force on Food Safety
AU  African Union Commission
AU-IBAR  African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
BE CST  Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade
BTF  Better Training for Safer Food
CAADP  Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programmes
CABI  Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
CAPF  Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CAREC  Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CARICOM  Caribbean Community
CBD  Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES  Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CIAT  International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
CLDLP  Commercial Law Development Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce
COLEACP  Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee
COMESA  Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COSAVE  Comité Regional de Santé Vegetal del Cono Sur
DAC  Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DAC  Democratic Republic of the Congo
DAT  Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
EAC  East African Community
ECONMIG  Economic Community of West African States
EF  Enhanced Integrated Framework
EIF  National Implementation Unit
ESIF  Escuela Politécnica del Litoral Ecuador
EU  European Union
FAO  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIA  Food Industry Asia
GAP  Good Agricultural Practice
GAPPRO  Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
GFSI  Global Food Safety Initiative
GFSP  Global Food Safety Partnership
GHG  Good Hygiene Practice
GIS  Geographical Indication
GOIZ  Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GOUF  Global Minor Use Foundation
GRP  good regulatory practices
GVCs  Value chains
HACC  Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HORTEXA  Horticulture Exporters' Association of Uganda
ICCC  International Cocoa Organization
IICL  Imperial College London
ICT  Information and communications technology
IDB  Inter-American Development Bank
IDEE  French Livestock Institute
IFPRI  International Food Policy Research Institute
IFC  Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IITA  International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
ILRI  International Livestock Research Institute
IPPC  International Plant Protection Convention
IRRI  International Research Project No 4 (IRIDEC)
IT  Information technology
ITC  International Trade Centre
JMPRI  Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues
LDCs  Least Developed Countries
LMICs  Low Middle Income Countries and Territories
LPI  Logistics Performance Index
MRLs  Maximum Residue Limits
MEPs  Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
MSTRD  Myanmar Scientific and Technological Research Department
NARO  Uganda National Agricultural Research Organization
NDEP  New Guinea Islands Produce Company Limited
NPPD  National Plant Protection Organization
NTF  The Netherlands Training Programme
OECD  Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECSA  Organismo Internacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
OLCI  Other Low Income Countries
PAFCA  Platform for African Europe Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development
PAHO  Pan American Health Organization
PCE  Phylosanitary Capacity Evaluation
PG  Project Grant
PHAMA  Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program
PFS  Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PGMS  Promoting SPS Investments for Market Access
PNG  Papua New Guinea
PPG  Project Preparation Grant
PPPs  Public-Private Partnerships
PVS  Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services
SaARC  South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC  Southern Africa Development Community
SDGs  Sustainable Development Goals
SEDA  Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMC  Small-medium-sized enterprise
SPS  Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SSAF  Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
STDF  Trade Development Facility
TMEA  TradeMark East Africa
UN  United Nations
UNCTAD  United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNICEF  United Nations Children Fund
UNDESA  United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNIDO  United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNECE  United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECAP  United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF  United Nations International Computing Centre
UMCs  Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories
US  United States
USAID  U.S. Agency for International Development
USDA  United States Department of Agriculture
US FDA  United States Food and Drug Administration
WAEMU  West African Economic and Monetary Union
WARI  Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (Viet Nam)
WB  World Bank Group
WCO  World Customs Organization
WEC  World Economic Forum
WFP  World Food Programme
WHO  World Health Organization
WTO  World Trade Organization
WCO  World Customs Organization

UN DESA  United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNIDO  United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNECE  United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECAP  United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF  United Nations International Computing Centre
UMCs  Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories
US  United States
USAID  U.S. Agency for International Development
USDA  United States Department of Agriculture
US FDA  United States Food and Drug Administration
WAEMU  West African Economic and Monetary Union
WARI  Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (Viet Nam)
WB  World Bank Group
WCO  World Customs Organization
WEC  World Economic Forum
WFP  World Food Programme
WHO  World Health Organization
WTO  World Trade Organization
WCO  World Customs Organization
## Annex 1 STDF Logical Framework

### Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2019)

**Vision:** Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries

**Programme goal:** Increased capacity of developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations and hence ability to gain and maintain market access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Progress in 2019</th>
<th>Baseline and target</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome: Enhanced effectiveness of SPS capacity building</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 1: Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and dialogue among relevant stakeholders promoted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal value of STDF partners and other WG members/observers with relevance and effectiveness of STDF activities and projects/PPGs</td>
<td>Positive feedback shared in WG meetings, as part of Strategy development process and in STDF external evaluation</td>
<td>At least 80% of respondents report a satisfaction rate corresponding to 4 or higher on a 5 grade scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documented cases of collaborative/cross-cutting/innovative/regional approaches to capacity building facilitated by STDF activities and projects/PPGs</td>
<td>5 collaborative cases identified</td>
<td>At least three new cases identified annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of participants in WG</td>
<td>57 participants at WG meeting in March and 58 in October. Summary reports and other information shared on STDF website</td>
<td>At least 30 participants attending each WG meeting, including partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of presentations made in WG (including reports by partners, donors, observer organizations and beneficiaries)</td>
<td>1 presentation in March and 3 in October with additional information on SPS capacity building work by STDF Working Group members shared on STDF website</td>
<td>Minimum of one presentation in each WG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities 2019</th>
<th>M&amp;E activities planned 2019</th>
<th>Individual assumptions and risks</th>
<th>General assumption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circulate survey as part of Strategy development process (June 2019)</td>
<td>Prepare and circulate survey (head Dec 2018) to STDF partners and other WG members/observers – to feed into 2019 Annual Report</td>
<td>Good response rate to survey</td>
<td>Ongoing interest, engagement and support of partners, other members/observers and beneficiaries to participate actively in STDF and share information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing exchange among WG members</td>
<td>Identify and maintain list of relevant cases – including in WG meetings and through external project evaluations – to feed into 2019 Annual Report</td>
<td>Capacity building providers and beneficiaries willing to consider, apply and use new approaches</td>
<td>Suffient funding available in STDF Trust Fund and STDF Secretariat fully staffed and operational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize and report on 2 WG meetings</td>
<td>Document 2 WG meetings (reports, presentations)</td>
<td>Active participation in WG</td>
<td>Other necessary conditions exist (i.e. political stability, national commitment to address SPS constraints, government support, allocation of resources, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize and share presentations</td>
<td>Facilitate information dissemination and exchange in WG meetings</td>
<td>Monitor feedback received</td>
<td>Active participation in WG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 1: STDF Logical Framework

### Indicator: STDF Logical Framework

#### Progress in 2019

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<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Progress in 2019</th>
<th>Baseline and target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output 1: Good practice to support SPS capacity building identified and disseminated</td>
<td>Ongoing work on 5 knowledge topics: Prioritizing SPS investments for Market Access (P-IMA); Facilitating safe trade; Good Regulatory Practice; Public Private Partnerships; SPS e-Cert</td>
<td>Minimum of one thematic topic addressed annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New STDF Briefing notes on: Trade Spillovers (April 2019); P-IMA (January 2019); Investing in Safe Trade and series of 10 interviews</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of thematic topics</td>
<td>Close to 32,000 website sessions logged (up by over 27% from 2018); 13,500 pdf publications downloaded (up by nearly 4% from 2018); Over 27,000 YouTube views (up by 34% from 2018); 14 News items went out to 5000+ subscribers (up from 32 in 2018)</td>
<td>Baseline to be specified. Target is to have at least a stable number of visits and recipients over longer time period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visitors to STDF website and number of STDF e-newsletter recipients</td>
<td>Close to 32,000 website sessions logged (up by over 27% from 2018); 13,500 pdf publications downloaded (up by nearly 4% from 2018); Over 27,000 YouTube views (up by 34% from 2018); 14 News items went out to 5000+ subscribers (up from 32 in 2018)</td>
<td>Baseline to be specified. Target is to have at least a stable number of visits and recipients over longer time period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of external events attended by the STDF Secretariat</td>
<td>STDF participation in 80 events</td>
<td>Minimum of ten events attended annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 2: Needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals produced</td>
<td>6 PPGs completed with satisfactory outputs; 7 PPGs approved in 2019; Support and oversee 19 ongoing PPGs in 2019; 3 external evaluations (covering 5 projects)</td>
<td>At least 70% of PPGs having satisfactory output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of project preparation grants (PPGs) completed with satisfactory outputs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approve at least 4 new PPGs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 3: SPS capacity building projects in specific areas supported</td>
<td>2 projects completed in 2019 with individual outputs achieved; 8 new projects approved in 2019; Support and oversee 28 ongoing projects in 2019; 3 external evaluations (covering 5 projects)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of projects completed with satisfactory outputs (as per individual results framework)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Activities 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities 2019</th>
<th>M&amp;E activities planned 2019</th>
<th>Individual assumptions and risks</th>
<th>General assumption</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address four topics: Evaluate and monitor use of STDF (P-IMA) guidance; Conduct work on Good Regulatory Practice; Follow-up on PPP work; Produce new STDF film material</td>
<td>1. Document thematic topics (publications, reports, film, briefing notes) 2. Discuss and agree on new thematic topics in WGs</td>
<td>Agreement in WGs on priorities for thematic work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain and enhance website &amp; Virtual Library Prepare and regularly distribute electronic news items</td>
<td>1. Use specified baseline (numbers on 31 Dec 2014) to measure number over time 2. Report on use of website, Virtual Library and E-news (statistics)</td>
<td>Website attractive and regularly updated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in selected events (including related to STDF PPGs/ projects) Report on external events (back-to-office memos)</td>
<td>STDF Secretariat receives invitations to external events, including from partners</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement ongoing PPGs Approve at least 4 new PPGs</td>
<td>1. Develop and circulate end-of PPG questionnaire to applicant/ beneficiary 2. Assess final PPG reports, studies and project proposals</td>
<td>Sufficient number of high-quality PPG applications received by STDF Specific assumptions of relevance to individual PPGs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement ongoing projects Approve at least 4 new projects</td>
<td>1. Assess final project reports, including end-of-project evaluations 2. Select, contract and implement two independent “ex post” evaluations</td>
<td>Sufficient number of high-quality project applications received by STDF Specific assumptions of relevance to individual projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Annex 2: Estimated and actual expenditures in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Estimate US$</th>
<th>Actual Expenditure US$</th>
<th>Variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Working Group meetings (travel of six developing country experts, one presenter, subsistence allowances and other costs)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>34,565</td>
<td>-44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>34,565</td>
<td>-44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good practice to support SPS capacity building identified and disseminated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>34,565</td>
<td>-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STDF Working Group meetings (travel of six developing country experts, one presenter, subsistence allowances and other costs)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>-50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>-50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|        | Needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals produced | 0 | 64,759 | 0%
|        | STDF Policy Committee Meetings (developing country expert travel) | 30,000 | 16,569 | -45% |
|        | Preparatory meeting for STDF Strategy (travel of up to ten developing country experts, subsistence allowances and other costs) | 30,000 | 16,569 | -45% |
|        | Sub-total | 60,000 | 33,138 | -45% |
|        | SPS capacity building projects in specific areas supported | 0 | 13,132 | 100% |
|        | STDF Online Meetings (travel of six developing country experts, one presenter, subsistence allowances and other costs) | 60,000 | 34,565 | -44% |
|        | Sub-total | 60,000 | 34,565 | -44% |

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|        | Communications plan | 67,000 | 64,759 | 0%
|        | Communications and outreach materials (annual report, results book, briefing notes, e-news, maintain STDF website and library etc.) | 60,000 | 34,565 | -44% |
|        | Participate in selected events, base with other relevant organizations, partnerships, programmes and initiatives | 100,000 | 90,417 | -9%
|        | STDF working group meetings (travel of six developing country experts, one presenter, subsistence allowances and other costs) | 60,000 | 30,000 | -50% |
|        | Sub-total | 60,000 | 30,000 | -50% |

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<td></td>
<td>Administration support</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16,569</td>
<td>-45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative assistant</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>142,636</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Interns</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>11,827</td>
<td>-46%</td>
</tr>
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|        | Sub-total | 152,000 | 154,463 | 1%

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Facing the future: shaping safe trade outcomes

STDF ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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