

STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY DATABASE: DRAFT TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Objective

1. The STDF is intended to facilitate collaboration in enhancing the capacity of developing countries to meet sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards. One of the key tools for assisting co-ordination between the institutions that are the partners in STDF will be a database containing information on past, current and planned technical assistance projects that are SPS-related. It is expected that the five partner institutions and other donor organizations will interrogate the database with the objectives of avoiding duplication between activities and taking advantage of opportunities to fill gaps and exploit synergies. A secondary purpose of the database will be to provide an overview of the aggregate and pattern of technical assistance flows into this area of interest.

General parameters

2. The SPS database will be a clone or mirror image of the existing WTO Trade Capacity Building Database (TCBDB) with the same functionality. This database can be consulted at <http://tcbdb.wto.org/>. At present the TCBDB contains a page which contains disaggregated data on flows of technical assistance in the TBT and SPS area. This page can currently be consulted at http://tcbdb.wto.org/category_project.asp?cat=331&subcat=12

3. For the purposes of the present exercise, the SPS data presently on this joint SPS and TBT page will be presented on a separate viewer. The data will be further broken down into four categories: food safety, plant health, animal health and a general category. This viewer and the extra storage space necessary to host this mirror or clone of the TCDBD will be stored on the existing WTO TCDBD server. An internet link in the form of a hot link from the www.standardsfacility.org website will be provided to what will become the STDF database.

4. Data will be collected from the five partner institutions for the data period covered by the existing TCDBD database: 2001-2003. Further requests for more recent data will be made on a six monthly basis to the partner institutions starting in January 2004 for the life of the database project. After 2004 data have been incorporated, each successive addition of annual data will be accompanied by deletion of the oldest year's data – that is, the database will comprise a three-year moving window.

Data collection

5. Data needs to be submitted according to the existing format developed for the collection of TCDBD data. The format will be communicated to partner institutions along with a deadline for the submission of data once final approval is received for this project.

Data uploading/downloading

6. Data will be uploaded at WTO by the STDF Database administrator on the basis of the information supplied by the partner institutions. Data on SPS technical assistance provided by donors to the OECD DAC database will appear automatically on the site as this information is regularly harvested on the existing TCBDB database.

7. Data viewing and printing will be enabled by using the existing criteria of the TCDBD database. However, instead of the existing 19 search categories under the first item listed in the

search by column on the left side of the page, only four categories would be present: food safety, plant health, animal health and general. Otherwise, the database would have all the same functions.

Internet: output of the search function

8. There will be no search function on the STDF website www.standardsfacility.org. Searches will only be possible after a user has clicked on the link from the STDF website to the separate STDF database page on the TCDBD website (hosted by the WTO).

Project costings in Swiss Francs

1.	External contractor to build STDF database on the basis of TCDBD clone	20,800
2.	Maintenance for 2004	13,000
3.	Maintenance for 2005	13,000
4.	UNICC charges for 2004 & 2005	14,000

Total: 60,800 CHF¹

An important point to underline is that should the Working Group decide at some later stage to add further functionality (e.g new search fields etc) to the database, this would have major cost implications and necessitate the revision and revision of the project for approval.

¹ Approximately \$45,100