



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations





RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION, AND INNOVATION: STRENGTHENING GLOBAL SPS CAPACITY











# letter from the STDF team

2020 will be remembered as a year of adaptation and resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic had an immense impact on our health systems and caused enormous disruption to the global economy. Governments took measures to contain the spread of the virus, including travel restrictions, lockdowns, social distancing, and other safety protocols. Production and trade in agri-food products was scaled back, resulting in incalculable economic losses around the world that continue to be felt today.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the STDF adapted quickly across all its workstreams and kept delivering strong results. We made a big effort to understand the new realities on the ground and continued to provide vital assistance to strengthen food safety, animal and plant health systems in developing countries. Digital opportunities and solutions to support economic recovery and longer-term resilience against future shocks featured strongly in STDF's project work.

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



Last year also showed us the importance of working together. Partners, donors, and beneficiaries stayed connected in a virtual environment, shared information, learned through webinars and new practitioner groups, and continued to convene in the STDF Working Group. The results achieved in 2020 are a testament to the resilience and strength of STDF's global partnership and wider network. Further increasing collaboration across sectors, at global, regional and local level, will be key in achieving STDF's vision of safe trade for the future.





# lessons learned



#### **THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** HAS CHANGED THE WAY WE WORK

COVID-19 abruptly affected the status-quo of how we work. It forced governments, organizations, and businesses to fundamentally adapt to a new, fast-changing, digital world. Meetings, conferences and one-to-one interaction moved to a virtual realm. The STDF managed to successfully engage its members in new meaningful, and catalytic ways.

The new methods used provided opportunities for greater inclusivity, increased inter-sessional communication and more diverse participation, as well as improved efficiency and coordination. These lessons, tools and methods will provide valuable insight and experiences for the future work of the STDF partnership.



#### COVID-19 REAFFIRMED THE NEED FOR SPS **INVESTMENTS AS A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD**

COVID-19 offered a tragic but powerful reminder of the ease and speed with which pests and diseases can cross borders and the critical role of global supply chains. The pandemic illustrated not only the need to reduce trade costs, but also the interconnections among food, agriculture and the environment. Strengthening food safety, animal and plant health systems through a One Health approach is a clear priority for the future.

Though the world seemed to stop, trade in food clearly could not. Reflecting on this key lesson, the STDF strengthened its position as a thought leader in promoting the use of international standards as well as a provider of partnershipfocused interventions to strengthen SPS capacity as a global public good.





#### **GREATER ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS**

The global pandemic cleared the way for new and cutting-edge technologies to be implemented in every sector around the world. Whether it was small software innovation or bold ideas on automation, blockchain and robotics, there was a strong boost in the promotion and adoption of technologies.

Innovative technologies developed through the STDF were remarkable and set a precedent for effective innovation in the SPS area. Projects such as ePhyto and eVet advanced the acceptance and implementation of electronic SPS certification. Around the world, other new technologies are being tested to streamline inspection, control and surveillance of pests and diseases.



#### **INCREASED VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE PARTNERSHIP MOVING** FORWARD

2020 has shown us first-hand the power that international cooperation and effective partnerships have in aiding global recovery from devastating shocks. The crisis pointed to the continued interest in and value of STDF's global multi-stakeholder approach in improving food safety, animal and plant health capacity.

Going forward, the STDF will continue convening global experts from across agriculture, health, trade and development, drawing on their technical expertise to drive catalytic SPS improvements in developing and least developed countries, and influencing SPS capacity development more broadly.





# 2020 highlights







**Developing Country Experts** 



Projects and 11 PPGs ongoing



**Project and PPG applications** received



**PPGs approved** 



Knowledge topics covered: • Electronic Certification

- Using evidence to prioritize SPS investments (P-IMA)
- Public-private partnerships
- Good regulatory practice



SPS stakeholders reached at 40 events



e-news subscribers









**ANNUAL REPORT 2020** 



# Table of content Theory of change



Please click on the buttons above to navigate and discover the interactive STDF Annual report.

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# Project Grants and Project Preparation Grants The STDF provides funding to develop and deliver innovative, cross-cutting

SPS projects. STDF projects help public and private sector stakeholders in developing countries improve food safety, animal and plant health to facilitate safe trade. Projects often work as catalysts onboarding diverse partners and funding to support longer-term impact.









# STDF PROJECTS and PPGs in 2020

This is an interactive map. For more information on Projects and PPGs, please click on the dots.







Projects & PPGs by sector



30

Projects & PPGs values (US\$ M)



#### **AFRICA**

- STRENGTHENING TOGO'S SPS SYSTEM IN TOGO
- **2** UPGRADING THE SUDANESE SESAME SEED VALUE CHAIN IN SUDAN
- **3** FACILITATING LIVESTOCK EXPORTS IN ETHIOPIA
- **4** STRENGTHENING ZAMBIA'S PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY FOR PLANT EXPORTS
- 5 STRENGTHENING GUINEA'S PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEM
- **6 ENHANCING UGANDA** PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY
- REDUCING AFLATOXIN **CONTAMINATION IN BURIKA FASO** MAIZE
- 8 ESTABLISHING FRUIT FLY FREE AREAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
- IMPROVING SPS CAPACITY IN THE PENJA PEPPER VALUE CHAIN IN CAMEROON
- **10 MAINSTREAMING SPS INVESTMENTS** INTO CAADP AND OTHER FRAMEWORKS IN COMESA
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- **18 ESTABLISHING AN AVIAN** INFLUENZA FREE COMPARTMENT IN EGYPT

9 MOBILIZING FOOD SAFETY LABORATORIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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COORDINATING MANAGEMENT OF

P-IMA TOOL IN THE CARIBBEAN

IN PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS

The COVID-19 pandemic caused disruptions to the implementation and delivery of STDF's projects and PPGs in several ways. While individual projects have had to manage diverse risks in the past, from natural disasters to political strife, COVID-19 was exceptional in that it affected all STDF's project operations simultaneously. In addition to the impact on project delivery, the pandemic also caused wide-ranging challenges to the overall context in which STDF projects operate in countries and regions, provoking substantial shocks to agricultural production, distribution and trade, as well as SPS management functions such as inspection and surveillance.

From the start, the Secretariat maintained close contact with the organizations and consultants implementing STDF projects and PPGs on the implications of the crisis and proactively provided advice and guidance. Decisions were taken on an ongoing basis on how best to adapt and ensure continuity on planning, delivery and spending. Project work plans and budgets were revised. Specific adaptation measures included: training on the use of internet and video conferencing, adapting field activities to social distancing, advancing on desk-based activities and studies, increased use of national consultants and hybrid arrangements, and ensure

**PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020** 



# RSK MITIGATION and ADAPTION ACROSS **STDF's PROJECTS** and PPGs

frequent and targeted communications with key stakeholders to maintain trust and commitment.

In general, earlier stage grants, which had less time to put in place effective working relationships and processes before March 2020, faced greater challenges. Projects that relied on international experts, such as laboratory staff, to deliver specialized training took time to adapt. Similarly, projects that were built on regional approaches and cooperation required more time to accommodate new needs and demands.

Women generally shoulder most caring responsibilities and are already less able to access agricultural inputs, services, and markets. Because of this, it is likely that the pandemic even more greatly affected the ability of women to benefit from project activities. Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions on cross-border movements may also have pushed traders, including women, into informal trade. More evidence is needed to better understand these effects.

This report provides a snapshot of four ongoing projects and how they navigated the complexities of COVID-19 in 2020. It also includes detailed information about 3 projects completed in 2020 as well as 5 projects and 7 PPGs approved.

#### **PROJECTS AND PPGs APPROVED IN 2020**

# Enhancing trade for cocoa farmers in Papua New Guinea

#### **OUICK PITCH**

Papua New Guinea has rich cocoa resources and the crop plays a significant role in the country's economy. Importantly, it provides a critical source of income for smallholder farmers who make up 11% of the population. However, challenges persist and steps need to be taken across the full value chain to improve the production and processing of cocoa.

#### THE CHALLENGE

The majority of coastal provinces in Papua New Guinea can grow cocoa. This offers a livelihood for over 151,000 households and more than one million people. Papua New Guinea's cocoa, however, suffers from inconsistent quality as well as certain SPS risks such as the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). This is often due to contamination as a result of defective cocoa dryers that can allow smoke to come into contact with cocoa beans. In 2019, the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) downgraded PNG's fine-flavour status from 90% to 70% due to smoke-taint in its cocoa beans which affects the market value of PNG's cocoa. These challenges associated with the drying processes as well as the potential presence of other elements such as cadmium, pesticide residues and ochratoxin A require a tailored approach to ensure that the smallholder driven value-chain can improve yield and quality and manage critical SPS risks.

#### THE PROJECT

The project is based on the Papua New Guinea Cocoa Industry Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and supports improvements to food safety and quality management in the cocoa value chain. Through this, it will aim to promote cocoa exports that benefit farmers in rural communities and reduce poverty. Importantly, it will be structured around collaborative public-private partnerships and looks to work closely with key exporters like NGIP-Agmark and Outspan PNG Ltd, the two largest cocoa exporters in Papua New Guinea.

COVID-19 posed significant challenges to project implementation. Lockdowns over the course of 2020 strongly impacted the work plan and impediments to mobility hindered the procurement of materials, the supervision of the construction of driers and the execution of training. Turnouts for the training sessions varied given the difficulty during the pandemic in meeting with group leaders who could encourage smallholder farmers to attend. Adaptations are being made to accommodate the new challenges presented by COVID-19.

Progress was made, however, including the production of new training modules on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and post-harvest management, as well as the construction of three new cocoa dryers that use stainless steel kiln pipes instead of traditional mild steel pipes. Stainless steel kiln pipes produce excellent cocoa quality, use less firewood and are very robust. These new dryers will likely produce quality smokeless cocoa for several decades. Farmers and exporters are pleased with them and the hope is that they will become an industry standard.

#### **FAST FACTS**

#### new training modules

on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

#### new stainless-steel

cocoa dryers constructed





US\$ 859,234







Papua New Guinea





Cocoa Board of Papua New Guinea

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

developed

3

MORE INFO STDF/PG/553

The training sessions carried out under the project have equipped farmers to manage and focus more on their cocoa blocks in terms of quality block management and time management. The fermentary has been producing quality cocoa under the project. Farmers have been benefiting from the project because cash flow has been boosted in the community, and law and order problems have been minimized.

Joshua Pitmak Farmer, Makurapau Farmers Group, ENBP, PNG







## Strengthening Zambia's phytosanitary capacity for plant exports

#### **OUICK PITCH**

Zambia relies heavily on agriculture to support the livelihoods of a large swath of its population. However, agriculture represents a relatively low percentage of national exports and GDP. This is partly due to a lack of regulatory coherence and inefficiencies within the phytosanitary system. The project aims to bring together better information, clearer regulation and a coherent long-term strategy for Zambia's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO).

#### THE CHALLENGE

Zambia is blessed with strong plant, agricultural and floricultural resources which support the livelihoods of more than 70% of the population. However, these sectors play relatively modest roles in the overall GDP. In recent years, the country has faced significant challenges with important facets of its export infrastructure and has not met its potential for growth in agriculture exports. Several of these challenges have centered on the need to strengthen its phytosanitary control system. Specific challenges include border control inefficiency, difficulty in accessing up-to-date information on import/export phytosanitary requirements, and the lack of coherent regulations and policies.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The project strengthens the country's institutional and operational phytosanitary capacity for plant exports. Specifically, it is facilitating better access to trade information, greater regulatory coherence, and ensuring that export products meet SPS requirements of import markets, particularly at the regional level. Though the project is focused primarily on Zambia's phytosanitary system, it is also examining how pest management and surveillance can be done more efficiently within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), resulting in a regional plant guarantine pest surveillance programme for the SADC region.

In 2020, the project focused heavily on training and regional workshops, which were all held virtually due to COVID-19. As a result, the planned in-person formats were forced to transition to virtual online meetings. Through consultant-facilitated virtual interactions over the course of the year, SADC Member States made presentations on their quarantine pests and developed a regional quarantine pest list to be considered by the SADC Plant Protection Committee in 2021. Other discussions in 2020 focused on developing a roadmap for operational pest surveillance.

The project is a good example of how adaptation and collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic can continue to advance national and regional objectives.

#### **FAST FACTS**

several regional workshops with SADC member countries conducted

regional pest quarantine list for SADC members developed





US\$629,697



**STDF CONTRIBUTION** US\$254,675







EIF National Implementation Unit (NIU), Zambia



#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

# STD

MORE INFO STDF/PG/481

COVID-19 brought about a series of challenges such as restrictions to international and local travel. Zambia was determined to remain on track with the implementation of the project. Coupled with the determination of the SADC NPPOs, other means to implement activities that involve countries in the region were explored. In the absence of physical meetings, Virtual Zoom meetings have been carried out and attendance by regional countries has been encouraging.

Kenn M'SISKA, Head of Zambia NPPO





# Improving SPS capacity in the Penja pepper value chain in Cameroon

#### **OUICK PITCH**

The Penja pepper is a unique agricultural product originating from Cameroon. In recent years, it has established a niche position in the European culinary market. Stricter European regulations in 2016, however, threatened to limit its export potential. The project centers on improving understanding of the SPS risks, strengthening the capacity for Penja pepper producers, improving installations that process the pepper and strengthening awareness and exchanges of information among stakeholders. Given the importance of the Penja pepper to rural employment and poorer farmers, the project can play a distinctive role in the Cameroonian economy.

#### THE CHALLENGE

Recognized for its smoky flavour due to the local volcanic soil and microclimate, the Penja pepper received a Geographical Indication label from the European Union. As a result, it is now highly sought after, and the price has risen dramatically in recent years. However, quality and safety challenges have arisen that prevent farmers in Cameroon from benefiting from high global demand. Currently, only 20% of the pepper produced in the Penja region of Cameroon is delivered outside of the country, far below potential contributions to the local, regional and national economies. As a major source of rural employment, the Penja pepper is highly dependent on a segment of small farmers who hold less than three hectares of land. Increasing Penja pepper exports are essential in accelerating progress towards poverty eradication in the region.

#### **THE PROJECT**

Emphasis is placed on the multiple levels of training and engagement across all sectors of the Penja pepper value chain. This includes nursery workers, small producers, large producers, agricultural input distributors, processors, and exporters. It also includes the national and regional authorities responsible for issuing phytosanitary certificates and research. Ongoing work is seeking to create a better understanding of the SPS risks, good practices and market access requirements. Improvements in the quality and safety of the Penja pepper are helping to provide a safer, more suitable environment to implement good practices in production and processing. Awareness raising and the creation of public-private dialogue among stakeholders will serve to exchange information between actors in the Penja pepper market.

Over the course of 2020, adaptations were made to accommodate the unique challenges of COVID-19. Multiple digital meetings and training sessions were held to help stakeholders adjust to the scenarios presented by the pandemic. Despite the challenges, the project team was able to keep the project on track.

Results achieved in 2020 include the creation of a 172-page best practice guide for stakeholders and actors across the entire Penja pepper value chain. A Penja database with census and geolocation data for three out of the five production basins was developed and launched. The training-of-trainers component also took an important step with the recruitment of participants and development of pedagogical materials and tools. A first face-to-face training session was held in December 2020. In line with safety regulations, plans were made for in-person awareness meetings in the different production basins during the first half of 2021.

#### **FAST FACTS**



page best practice

with census and geolocation data launched

> several face-to-face training sessions held









STDF CONTRIBUTION US\$562,321



Cameroon





#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



172 guide developed

database

MORE INFO STDF/PG/593

The Good SPS Practices Guide that was developed in 2020 is becoming a national and international reference for the Penja Pepper Sector. Overall, this project remains a model and an example for the emergence and professionalization of the Penja pepper sector.

Penja Pepper Geographical Indication Group (IGPP)





# Launching Asia pesticide residue mitigation during COVID-19

#### **OUICK PITCH**

The use of pesticides in many developing Asian countries presents complex challenges and can impact the potential export of valuable crops and economic development of the region. The strategic use of biopesticides, together with conventional pesticides, can be an effective method for mitigating this challenge. This project was launched in 2020 to help strengthen knowledge and capacity in this area. COVID-19 proved to be an immediate hurdle and efforts have been made to adapt and reconfigure the planned actions.

#### **THE CHALLENGE**

The use of pesticides in many less developed Asian countries presents ongoing challenges in conforming to widely accepted international food safety standards. Rejections of crops due to the exceeding of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides as well as quarantine plant pests and food-borne pathogens have a significant negative economic impact in those countries. Subsistence farmers, for example, who rely on the sale and export of tropical specialty crops unique to their regions have been particularly hard hit. Key challenges are the exceeding of existing standardized pesticide MRLs and the lack of MRLs for certain crops.

#### **THE PROJECT**

Developing new MRLs requires specific lab technology and is often not possible in many developing countries. Also, the economic incentive to do so is not always present due to the relatively small market and specialty nature of the crops. Taking this into account, the project applies an innovative residue mitigation technique that strategically integrates the use of nonresidue producing biopesticides during the last phase of the growing cycle. This helps reduce residues of

many conventional pesticides and allows farmers to meet the MRLs export requirements. The application of these new techniques relies on capacity and knowledge building, training and skills development as well as field and lab preparations. In addition, analysis, efficacy and residue mitigation studies and trials will be carried out.

Having launched the project in February 2020, the challenges presented by COVID-19 were immediate. The project's format, which had been structured heavily around in-person interaction and coordination, was forced to switch to a fully virtual structure. These adjusted activities included a kick-off meeting in March to bring together representatives from all beneficiary countries.

In August, the first Good Laboratory Practices training course was held. It brought together 70 chemists and scientists and was delivered by experts from Rutgers University IR4. Though this initial five-day training was considered a very positive experience overall, challenges were apparent. The intersection of technological demands and cultural norms stood out as a key constraint inherent in the online interaction. Participants were hesitant to engage to the desired extent including speaking up and switching on their video/audio during the online training. Adjustments in the platforms used are planned to help create a more comfortable environment. Given the dynamic nature of challenges faced in the midst of COVID-19, it proved to be a valuable testing ground and basis for refining project delivery methods in the future.

#### **FAST FACTS**

good laboratory practices training course held

70+

chemists and scientists trained







STDF CONTRIBUTION US\$899,586



**BENEFICIARIES** Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam



Asia-Pacific Association

of Agricultural Research

Institutions (APAARI)



KNOWLEDGE WORK LINK GRP PPP

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



MORE INFO STDF/PG/634 Despite the training taking place online due to the challenges presented by COVID-19,

we were able to learn new methods and strategies that will help advance our analytical laboratory practices. Without a doubt this added value to our institution and we look forward to future applications of these techniques.

Dr. Ferdouse, Bangladesh

The Good Laboratory Practices training will have given us the tools to integrate the input, lessons and suggestions into the broader management structure within our institution.

Dr. Sunil Aryal, Nepal





# ePhyto: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products

#### **OUICK PITCH**

Trade in plants and plant products traditionally relies on paper phytosanitary certificates for exports. Electronic phytosanitary certificates (known as "ePhytos") have been used for some years but developing countries are not able to access the necessary technology due to financial, technical, administrative and policy reasons. The project built and operationalized technical solutions allowing developing countries to access the global ePhyto exchange.

#### THE CHALLENGE

Since the late 1970s, exporting countries have relied on paper phytosanitary certificates to provide assurances that plants and plant products meet the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country. In the mid 2000's some countries began to take advantage of technological developments and issue and receive certificates in electronic formats. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) recognized the challenges early on. First, complex bilateral agreements needed to be negotiated to establish point to point systems for the exchange of electronic certificates. The costs could reach US\$50,000 per negotiation. Public and private sector stakeholders needed to navigate multiple systems across many markets creating administrative and policy barriers. Second, the costs were high and could reach up to US\$10 million for the development of a national system. The absence, or very low levels, of both technical and financial capacity among developing countries created hurdles for developing adequate systems to automate the production and exchange of electronic certificates.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The project developed a central server (referred to as the "Hub") to facilitate the exchange of ePhytos between National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). This helped address the first challenges identified by the IPPC related to the difficulty for many countries to negotiate bilateral agreements and access multiple existing national systems operated by developed countries.

The project also developed and tested a Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) in Ghana, Sri Lanka and Samoa. GeNS is a simple web application for the production, submission and receipt of ePhytos. It provides a cost-effective system that can be implemented across a wide range of countries with limited capacities. The three pilot countries began exchanging ePhytos with their trading partners at the end of the project.

Together, these two main components are referred to as the "ePhyto Solution" and serve as a harmonized method for the exchange of ePhytos. The Solution is structured in line with Appendix 1 of ISPM-12 pertaining to Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates.

The benefits of the ePhyto Solution are apparent. These include:

- **Improvements** in security including the reduction of fraudulent certificates
- Increases in trade flows through border access for plants and plant products
- **Reduction** in costs and complexity
- Reduction in the use of paper resulting in a positive environmental impact
- Elimination of the need to engage in costly bilateral negotiations

#### **THE IMPACT**

The reception and impact of the ePhyto Solution are promising. Becoming fully operational in July 2019, 92 countries were connected to the Hub in April 2021. Of these, 50 were regularly exchanging ePhytos. The GeNS system was tested in 30 countries and moved into full operation in eight countries. In 2020, a connection was established between the ePhyto system and the EU Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), which allows exporting countries to send their phytosanitary certificates to the EU electronically using the ePhyto Solution.

A Project Advisory Committee (PAC), composed of international organizations and eCert experts, guided the development and design of the ePhyto Solution and examined linkages and synergies with other initiatives on paperless trade, customs automation and Single Window systems. After the project, this group remained active and was re-established as the STDF Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (ECAC). An independent Industry Advisory Group (IAG) that provided practical insights into industry practices, needs and requirements also remained active after completion of the project.

The World Bank Group and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation are now partnering with the IPPC to scale up the ePhyto Solution in developing countries. Thanks 54 to the Global Alliance, for example, Morocco achieved a historic milestone in 2020 to become one of the first African countries to fully integrate and use electronic developing and 38 phytosanitary certificates within their national trade developed countries exchanging ePhytos in system. connected to the Hub real-time production





US\$1,728,000





**BENEFICIARIES** All developing countries





#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



U

developing countries fully operationalized the GeNS

The OECD estimated the positive effects of digital SPS technologies, including the use of the ePhyto Solution on trade volumes for vegetables and other plant-based and processed food products. According to the OECD study, published in 2021, the total value of exports for selected agri-food product groups (except for animal or vegetable fats and oils) could increase over a 2-year period by between 17% and 32% through implementation of SPS e-Certificates.

The challenges posed by COVID-19 in 2020 reinforced the need for the ePhyto Solution. Trade facilitating measures notified by WTO Members under the SPS Agreement focused on a temporary easing of product certification requirements and a move towards electronic and digital procedures. The ePhyto project also guided early reflections through an STDF-funded feasibility study on options for electronic veterinary certification.

### **FAST FACTS**

# 50

countries

connection with the EU TRACES established





# eVet: Modernizing veterinary services through electronic certification

#### **OUICK PITCH**

Veterinary certification validating the origin and safety of animals and animal products is essential in facilitating imports and exports. The livestock sector plays an important role in the economies of many developing countries where paper based veterinary certificates are still prevalent. The project gathered important information about what is needed to build an affordable and easy to access e-Veterinary Certification system.

#### THE CHALLENGE

Paper based veterinary certification systems raise issues of authenticity, traceability, efficiency and higher costs and prevent developing countries from maximizing the potential of export markets for animals and animal products. To develop an effective system for e-Veterinary certification, more understanding is needed regarding the status of electronic certification among veterinary services worldwide and particularly in developing countries.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The project, implemented by the OIE, focused on two tracks. First, in cooperation with 11 developed and developing countries, surveys were carried out to better understand the status and specific needs of e-Veterinary certification and Single Window (SW) systems in each country. Experts also visited Eswatini, Malaysia, Nigeria, Paraguay and Zimbabwe to interview

key stakeholders and obtain a clearer picture of the situation. Second, the OIE facilitated research and analysis examining the practices and solutions in Codex, IPPC, CITES and the WCO to identify commonalities and differences between e-Veterinary certification and other eCert experiences.

The project resulted in the following recommendations for consideration by the OIE:

- Harmonization: Given the wide variety of veterinary certificates, the World Customs Organization (WCO) Data Model Derived Information Packages and UN/CEFACT-compliant data models can assist with the development of e-Veterinary Certification.
- Adaptation: Considering the need for costefficient technical solutions, UNCTAD can provide an off-the-shelf software solution for e-Veterinary certification that can be configured to the specific requirements and needs of veterinary authorities.
- **Coordination:** The use of the WCO Data Model Codex Derived Information Package, in collaboration with Codex, can deliver a multidisciplinary software solution for eCert of food and veterinary commodities and configured to the specific requirements and needs of food and veterinary authorities.

- **Expansion:** Explore with the IPPC, use of the Hub for the exchange of e-Veterinary certificates and build on the Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS) to include veterinary certificates.
- **Partnership:** Collaborate with the World Bank Group to support countries lacking the resources to strengthen their veterinary certification capacities and implement the technical solution required.

#### **THE IMPACT**

Through a combination of engagement and research, the project set a strong foundation for the modernization of veterinary services through e-Certification. It identified the core components of an e-Veterinary certification system and emphasized the need for cooperation and potential collaboration with other organizations to learn from and build on their areas of expertise. eVet is multi-disciplinary and should not be viewed in isolation. The project also highlighted the need for additional guidance in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the Aquatic Animal Health Code to assist OIE members in transitioning from paper to electronic certificates. The OIE will further reflect on the recommendations of the project in 2021.





US\$200,748



STDF CONTRIBUTION US\$146,048



BENEFICIARIES All developing countries





**KNOWLEDGE WORK LINK** eCert

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**





5 in-country visits conducted

completed

questionnaires

country

by experts on eCert and SW

report with 8 specific considerations for the OIE









# Streamlining inspection, control and surveillance of food of animal origin in Costa Rica

#### **OUICK PITCH**

Accurate, up-to-date and accessible data is critical for the inspection and monitoring of food safety standards. In Costa Rica, an online tool was developed for public inspectors to interact and report on entities that produce food of animal origin for human consumption. The tool streamlines and centralizes data in a way that is fully accessible to domestic and international trade stakeholders and facilitates continued growth of an important sector in Costa Rica's economy.

#### THE CHALLENGE

Costa Rica needed a better way to demonstrate to trading partners the levels of SPS compliance by establishments that produce food of animal origin. An evaluation by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in 2015 found that Costa Rica's National Animal Health Service (SENASA) would benefit from an improved information management system to better aggregate and synthesize real time data from establishments that produce animal products for human consumption. This, in turn, would facilitate the inspection by SENASA of a diverse network of over 14,000 manufacturing facilities in the country that oversee food products ranging from bees, seafood and aquaculture to dairy, beef, pork and chicken. In view of the high inspection demands and regular audits, including those carried out by international trading partners, a new system to upgrade and digitize SENASA's inspections and optimize its limited resources was needed.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), together with SENASA, developed an online system called SICE (System for the Inspection and Control of Establishments) that:

- Provides access to the registration, control and monitoring of inspections
- Notes the causes of animal seizures in slaughterhouses
- **Records** official samples from the national residue programme in establishments that produce food of animal origin for human consumption
- Allows timely access to information related to controls health services exercised by SENASA
- **Displays** the monitoring and supervision activities for business partners
- **Highlights** the fulfillment of the corrective actions reported in establishments which process food of animal origin.

The project applied a risk-based inspection model for the dairy, processed meat, fish and aquaculture processing plants. This made it possible to determine the frequency of inspection in establishments through a multi-criteria analysis model that correlates the risk of the establishment and the risk by type of food category.

This combination of tailored, transparent, accessible and up-to-date information across markets and submarkets delivered a solution that was well suited to addressing the information management challenges SENASA previously faced.

From a technical standpoint, the new user-friendly system is modular and allows more features to be smoothly integrated later depending on the needs.

The online system was launched in 2020 for internal SENASA users as well as external users. The project trained more than 400 public and private sector individuals on how to use the system.

#### **THE IMPACT**

The system is in its early stages of rollout. Over 100 private and public sector stakeholders registered and tested the system during the pilot phase. It was well received and users requested that modules on veterinary drugs, animal feed and epidemiological programmes be digitized and added to the system. These new areas are currently being designed by SENASA. The SICE system was also presented to other ministries at national events as an exemplary case story on how to digitize registration processes.

SENASA has begun registering users from more than 80 establishments that are authorized to export food of animal origin representing around 80% of national production. This process is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. Once these establishments are fully registered, smaller establishments will also be added. By early 2022, SENASA plans to transition to a fully paper-free system.





US\$242,904



**STDF CONTRIBUTIO** US\$95,421



**BENEFICIARIES** Costa Rica





#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**





#### **FAST FACTS**

# 400+

users

80

registered

and tested

the system

public and private sector individuals trained on the online system

users from 80 establishments (representing 80% of national production) will be registered



# Piloting new models for food safety standards in West Africa and Central America

#### THE CHALLENGE

In recent years, food safety authorities in developing countries have made use of data from voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes to inform risk profiling of food businesses, improve risk-based inspection and more effectively target and spend public resources. Defined as "non-governmental or autonomous schemes compromising of the ownership of a standard that utilizes national/international requirements; a governance structure for certification and enforcement, and in which food-business operator (FBO) participation is voluntary", vTPA programmes are seen as a tool to help improve the effectiveness of competent authority oversight through a co-regulatory setup.

Though there are strong potential benefits for increasing both domestic and international market potential, a wide range of practical questions remain with regard to how to structure, implement and oversee vTPA in developing countries. A clear need emerged to launch a series of pilots for potential use of vTPA programmes to strengthen the food inspection systems in developing countries and to optimize resources while focusing efforts in areas of higher risk along the food chain.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The vTPA approach piloted through the projects offers an innovative way to improve food safety results linked to forthcoming Codex guidelines. By promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors, it enables government authorities to access and use reliable data generated by food business operators. This aims to inform risk profiling, improve risk-based inspection and more effectively target and spend public resources.

Building on two STDF-funded Project Preparation Grants completed in 2020, these two pilot projects will work collaboratively with one another. A range of value chains will be used to apply a vTPA model and both methods and findings will be compared across each country and region. The Central America project, working particularly in Belize and Honduras, will focus on the following areas:

- Belize: poultry, beans and coconuts
- Honduras: aquaculture shrimp and fresh produce

The project based in West Africa will focus efforts in Senegal and Mali. It will address:

- Senegal: horticulture with emphasis on major crops including green beans, cherry tomatoes, mangoes, sweet corn and melons.
- Mali: cereals and horticulture

The projects ultimately aim to increase the volume of traded goods, reduce costs for the implementation of standards and reduce delays in SPS control and approval.

Both projects will follow similar tracks. First, they will aim to build knowledge, generate awareness and better understand ways to integrate vTPA programmes. Second, efforts will focus on FBOs to ensure compliance with government authorities responsible for food safety. Third, based on the outcomes and lessons, the results will be shared with food safety regulators. In doing so, the pilot projects will play an important role to help strengthen institutional capacities both in West Africa and Central America through cooperation with the private sector.

	PROJECT VALUE	STDF CONTRIBUTION	BENEFICIARIES	LED BY	کے KNOWLEDGE WORK LINK
STDF/PG/682	Central America US\$942,612	Central America US\$619,916	Belize and Honduras	IICA	РРР
STDF/PG/665	West Africa US\$858,065	West Africa US\$779,397	Senegal and Mali	UNIDO	РРР

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**







vTPA programmes are essential elements for food businesses to enhance their compliance. As African countries aim to advance their food safety capacities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the vTPA approach offers great potential. The STDF pilot in West Africa will generate new knowledge and lessons for a potential wider application in the future.

#### Ali Badarneh, UNIDO

The STDF pilot project will allow Belize and other developing countries to test the vTPA approach outlined in the draft Codex guidance document. In Belize, we expect it to help us identify the framework to use this approach to strengthen our national food control system.

Delilah Cabb Ayala, BAHA







# Improving the safety of smoked fish in Mali

#### THE CHALLENGE

The fisheries sector in Mali plays an important role in its economy, representing 4.2% of GDP and employing roughly 7% of the workforce. However, this LDC faces a range of challenges to ensure the implementation of food safety standards and codes of practice. The smoked fish sub-sector was identified by the STDF regional "Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa" project (STDF/PG/303) as having high levels of pesticide residues which posed difficulties for both domestic consumption and the ability to export.

Techniques and methods for smoking fish can often lead to high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and pesticide residue which directly impact abilities to meet Codex standards and Codes of Practice.

#### **THE PROJECT**

Building on an STDF-funded Project Preparation Grant completed in 2020, this project is designed to raise awareness, provide training and introduce appropriate drying/smoking technologies. More specifically, it will provide methodological support and develop capacity to monitor contamination levels of PAHs and pesticides by the competent authorities and promote good practices. Project components include risk assessments and development of risk management strategies and effective business plans.

These efforts will help ensure the availability of smoked fish for regional trade and domestic consumption that meets relevant Codex standards and Codes of Practice.

PROJECT VALUE US\$855,825

Ð STDF CONTRIBUTION US\$765,825

mam **BENEFICIARIES** 

Mali















# Coordinating management of cadmium levels in cocoa in Latin America and the Caribbean

#### THE CHALLENGE

Since 2019, the European Union (EU) is applying stricter regulations on the levels of cadmium allowed to be present in cocoa beans and cocoa derived products. This particularly impacts farmers and traders in Latin America and the Caribbean, given the relatively high levels of cadmium present in the cocoa harvested in this region.

Though the large majority of cocoa exported to Europe originates from Africa, Latin American cocoa represents more than 10% of Europe's cocoa imports and between 20-70% of cocoa exports for Latin America's top cocoa exporting countries. In the short, medium and long term, any level of disruption of the cocoa trade with the EU market would jeopardize the income and livelihoods of millions of cocoa farmers in the region.

#### **THE PROJECT**

Building on an STDF-funded Project Preparation Grant carried out by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), the project will share knowledge and develop new strategies to better analyze cadmium contamination in cocoa and cocoa-derived products. More specifically, it will develop and standardize mixed online and face-to-face technical capacity for countries to analyze cadmium levels, map the contamination in cocoa growing areas, and identify and train small-scale farmers on good practices for cadmium mitigation and remediation. Trinidad & Tobago (a non-eligible country) decided to join the project and finance its own participation.

Q

PROJECT VALUE

US\$551,456

**STDF CONTRIBUTION** US\$382,817

mam

BENEFICIARIES Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad & Tobago





PPP







# Harmonizing regulations and integrating pesticide strategies in Southern Africa

#### THE CHALLENGE

The agriculture sector plays a key role in the economies of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), accounting for roughly 13% of overall export earnings of these countries. Farmers and producers in this region have the highest pesticide usage per area of crop land in Africa. This is often due to efforts to combat late-season pests as well as the overuse, misuse or mismanagement of pesticides. The noncompliance with residue standards leads to export rejections and has a significant economic impact on countries in the SADC region.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The project builds on a previous STDF-funded Project Preparation Grant as well as similar regional efforts in Asia and Latin America to help mitigate conventional pesticide residues by incorporating biopesticides into national Integrated Pest Management Programs and Good Agricultural Practices.

It aims to reduce reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides, decrease chemical pesticide residue levels and increase trade, both within and outside the region. The project will focus on regional harmonization of biopesticide regulations, residue mitigation studies that examine conventional pesticides supplemented with microbial biopesticides, and the development of guidelines for Integrated Pest Management. Considering the importance of cross-regional learning and collaboration with similar STDF projects in Asia and Latin America, emphasis will be placed on developing skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors to ensure that individuals and organizations will be able to work effectively together.

PROJECT VALUE US\$1,459,278

Ð STDF CONTRIBUTION US\$798,480

mam

BENEFICIARIES Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

LED BY International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)







#### **PPGs APPROVED IN 2020**









#### Studying ways to establish an avian influenza free compartment in Egypt

Egypt suffered heavily from the 2006 Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus and has experienced a suspension of its access to markets since that time. As a result, it is estimated that the country has suffered a loss of more than US\$112 million in export value. Despite the lack of access to foreign markets the domestic poultry sector still supports nearly 2.5 million people through direct and indirect employment across a diverse industry from large scale industrial farms to informal "backyard" producers. This PPG will aim to study the potential impact and viability of compartmentalization for hatching eggs and day-old chicks in Egypt. It is hoped that this study will be a critical first step to resuming the export of live day-old chicks in Egypt beyond the domestic market.

#### **Regional application** of the P-IMA tool in the Caribbean

The PPG is based on the findings of a 2017 study funded by the European Development Fund which assessed the costs and benefits of compliance and non-compliance with SPS requirements and their impact on market access and livelihoods of stakeholders. Countries comprising the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) face many competing demands to improve their capacity to comply with SPS requirements, while resources needed to comply with these requirements are limited The PPG will support the remote/hybrid application of P-IMA in the CAHFSA region to prioritize SPS investments. It will also support the training of a group of 15 facilitators to apply the P-IMA framework either in a national or regional context and develop a scalable and collaborative project proposal to use evidence to prioritize SPS investments in the region. To support the training, the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority allocated national resources to apply the P-IMA framework, which constitutes the first application of P-IMA by a country not eligible for STDF support. This experience will feed into the work of the PPG.

MORE INFO STDF/PPG/733

Strengthening Bhutan's

As a landlocked developing country, Bhutan

modernization, trade growth and economic

challenges. New trade can cause new risks,

particularly with pests and diseases that can

impact the Bhutanese agricultural sector and

broader economy. Increased trade in food,

agriculture, and livestock products adds to

the challenge of managing biosecurity risks

export inspection and certification system.

Recognizing the critical need for an effective

steps towards improving SPS capacities. This

PPG will develop a project proposal to improve

while facilitating market access and reducing

SPS control system, Bhutan is making early

Bhutan's border risk management system,

costs for Bhutan's exports.

and the need to strengthen the country's

diversification. Though this progress is

welcome, it brings with it predictable

stands at an important moment of transition,

border inspection and

control capacities

### Mitigating chemical residues in Latin America through promotion of biopesticides

Non-compliance with pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) can play a significant role in limiting agricultural exports for a country or region. Strategic use of biopesticides towards the end of cropgrowing periods can play an important part in helping to reduce chemical residues and increase compliance with Codex and other MRLs. This PPG will prepare a project proposal to develop and implement a coordinated regional approach on biopesticides in Latin America, including through consideration of biopesticides in Integrated Pest Management.



















#### Improving Asia Pacific seed trade through compliance and partnerships

Asia plays a significant role in an everexpanding international seed trade market. Having grown to a value of US\$3.4 billion in 2019, the Asian seed for sowing purposes market represents roughly 14% of the global market. This PPG aims to address the challenge of incomplete pest lists in selected Asian countries which have not been updated for seed-transmitted pests. This impacts the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) process. The resultant project is also expected to help countries comply with ISPM-38 on International Movement of Seeds and enhance regional collaboration among National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and with the private sector.

#### Mobilizing food safety laboratories in Southern Africa

Laboratories for food safety, residue and pathogens in the food production sector are not easily accessible in many parts of Southern Africa. This results in increased expenses to deliver samples to laboratories from warehouses, ports, markets, airports and borders. This PPG aims to carry out a feasibility study to explore the potential impact and economic viability of implementing a mobile ISO 17025 accredited food safety testing laboratory among four countries in the South African Development Community (SADC) including South Africa, Namibia, Eswatini and Lesotho. Assessing this for the agro- and food sectors will help explore the potential impact and economic viability of having accredited mobile facilities along the food processing value chains.

#### Zoning to control infectious diseases in Peruvian aquaculture

Peru is one of the main aquaculture exporters in Latin America and this sector has strong potential to contribute to the country's economic growth. The PPG will carry out a feasibility study on ways to apply zoning in order to help control infectious diseases and support aquaculture development. Zoning, which constitutes a geographical delimitation of a territory containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status, would ensure better surveillance and control of aquatic diseases affecting aquaculture resources, thereby improving the detection of new and emerging diseases which are common in the aquaculture sector. Focusing on prawn, the PPG will examine the costs and benefits of zoning following OIE standards and FAO handbooks. The impact of zoning on access to international markets will also be considered. If zoning is deemed feasible, a collaborative project would be developed involving both the public and private sector.

**KNOWLEDGE WORK LINK:** GRP AND PPP



MORE INFO STDF/PPG/755

KNOWLEDGE WORK LINK: PPP

KNOWLEDGE WORK LINK: PPP

MORE INFO STDF/PPG/767





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STDF's knowledge work aims to broadly support SPS capacity development and cuts across thematic topics including food safety, animal and plant health, and trade. It identifies and promotes good practices to improve SPS capacity development outcomes, convenes members and other relevant organizations and draws on their technical expertise. Thematic work streams are supported by peer review or practitioners' groups and can be linked to STDF projects on the ground, acting as a further catalyst.









# STDF'S PRACTITIONER **GROUPS PROMOTE** KNOWLEDGE SHARING and CRITICAL DISCUSSION



The impact of COVID-19 was diverse and some areas of STDF's work were able to continue relatively unaffected. Identified as an innovative delivery mechanism for knowledge work under the STDF Strategy for 2020-2024, the value of STDF's Practitioner Groups became apparent.

Practitioner Groups met on three knowledge topics prioritized by STDF members including: Electronic SPS Certification, Public-Private Partnerships and Evidencebased Approaches to Prioritize SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA). Peer review groups met virtually to discuss and/or provide technical inputs to work on Good Regulatory Practice and the domestic impacts of export-oriented SPS capacity development. Through the Zoom platform, members and other stakeholders exchanged experiences on issues and trends, shared best practices and explored synergies.

The Practitioner Groups brought together a greater range of experts from STDF's partners and other members, many of whom had not previously participated in STDF work. They also enabled some new organizations to connect and contribute to dialogue and knowledge sharing.

The agile virtual format enabled members of STDF's network to have a deeper open exchange. Added emphasis on advanced preparation and adapted agendas for online meetings ensured efficient engagement. Practitioner Group members identified new areas for cooperation in line with STDF's role in connecting stakeholders involved in the planning and delivery of SPS capacity development, the promotion of synergies and the strengthening of collaboration. These elements are central in helping drive catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries.

Initial experiences with Practitioners Groups offered opportunities to reflect and learn about how to further innovate to strengthen these communities of practice for the benefit of STDF members and beneficiaries. This provides a strong foundation for the continued growth of the STDF Knowledge Work in 2021 and beyond.



#### **PRACTITIONERS GROUP: SPS ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ECAC)**

Paperless SPS systems can improve traceability throughout SPS supply chains, lower food waste, cut trade times and costs, reduce fraudulent certificates, and build trust among trading partners. STDF work focuses on the increasing use of electronic SPS certificates (SPS eCert) both in the context of paperless trade and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Electronic Certification (eCert) is dependent on strong multisectoral collaboration and harmonization that further streamlines technical certification systems and operational approaches. Launched in 2020, the Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (ECAC) is a platform to increase the use of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates (SPS eCert) to facilitate paperless trade.

The ECAC expanded knowledge sharing in the eCert space. Following the completion of the STDF-funded ePhyto and eVet projects, members agreed on the value of the ECAC to continue to build on the results delivered by the projects through sharing experiences and promoting the wider uptake of SPS eCert.

Three meetings of the ECAC took place in 2020. Presentations were delivered on the connection between the ePhyto system and the EU Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) (which allows exporting countries to send their phytosanitary certificates to the EU using the ePhyto solution) as well as the topic of the UN/CEFACT Implementation Guideline for e-Certificates to be published in 2021.



# 66

examples of existing partnerships to strengthen food safety, animal COVID–19 has accelerated the adoption of alternatives to paper and plant health capacity for trade in developing countries. documents including implementing electronic data exchange and automation for the issuing of certificates and permits required for border clearance. The STDF Electronic Certification Advisory The discussions led participants to think more deeply about the preconditions for PPPs, including how to foster trust between SPS Committee (ECAC) has brought together all relevant stakeholders to support the expansion and sustainability of digitization initiatives. government authorities and the private sector, as well as ways Electronic certification can provide tremendous benefits for the trade to categorize PPPs. They also identified new opportunities for of agricultural goods both in terms of efficiency, but also in terms collaboration to support SPS capacity development including work of the effectiveness of regulatory compliance. However, developing between IFC and UNIDO on food safety capacity development and countries are challenged to implement disparate uncoordinated between the TRASE project in East Africa (led by Land O'Lakes strategies and are often left behind when developed countries Venture 37 with USDA support) and GLOBAL G.A.P. Other ideas for future uptake emerged such as an STDF/WEF/GATF PPP roundtable. accept these approaches. A forum that brings together standard setting bodies and development partners to work towards a cohesive approach is therefore critically important. In November, the STDF, UNIDO and IICA finalized a data story

Shane Sela, World Bank Group

Links to Projects & PPGs: STDF/PG/504 - ePhyto STDF/PG/609 - eVet STDF/PG/481 - Strengthening Zambia's phytosanitary capacity for plant exports

More information here

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**





#### PRACTITIONERS GROUP: PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

In many countries, government authorities and the private sector are working together to address SPS challenges and improve outcomes. PPPs have been the focus of STDF Knowledge Work since 2010. The PPP Practitioner Group enabled STDF members and others to share their experiences of supporting PPPs on the ground.

In 2020, the OIE kicked off the dialogue under this Practitioner Group with insights on its approach to roll out PPP to improve veterinary services. The discussion included input regarding knowledge sharing and experiences from its PPP Handbook, e-learning modules, regional workshops and the PPP focus within the OIE PVS Pathway. The Practitioner Group discussions informed and enriched STDF's work to identify, categorize and profile

illustrating existing and/or planned regulatory frameworks and practices related to voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes (including quality management systems, assurance schemes or certification programmes) in food and feed safety, based on Codex principles and guidelines. Presented to the SPS Committee's thematic session on vTPA programmes, the data story enables users to engage with the findings of the STDF/UNIDO/IICA story in an interactive way. The data story is complemented by a longer survey report.

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A Public-Private Partnership becomes a unique model for sustainable development and trade facilitation when policy makers appreciate the mix of national priorities and business needs, and build the required linkages with a deep sense of visible commitment. This is something that I have concluded being a part of the STDF PPP Practitioner Group since its beginning. The several examples that have been presented by experts provide a clear understanding that, for a Public-Private Partnership to be successful, the stakeholders must see that the initiative will promote best practices and enhance market access and growth.

Sanjay Dave, former STDF developing country expert and Chairperson of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

#### Links to Projects & PPGs:

STDF/PG/665 - Mali, Senegal vTPA STDF/PG/682 - Belize, Honduras vTPA STDF/PPG/755 - Enhancing seed trade in the Asia Pacific region through phytosanitary compliance and public private partnerships

More information here







#### **PRACTITIONERS GROUP: P-IMA**

Developing countries face numerous demands to improve their SPS capacities, but resources are usually limited and setting priorities is key to target agri-food exports that are likely to generate the greatest impacts.

In its first year, STDF's P-IMA Practitioner Group brought shared knowledge and experiences about how diverse organizations are prioritizing SPS investments to support strategic planning and leverage resources for SPS capacity building. This included sharing the findings and lessons of completed P-IMA analysis in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda as part of the STDF project led by COMESA and carried out in partnership with the EIF with the objective of mainstreaming SPS investments within the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (STDF/PG/606). The Practitioner Group was a useful opportunity to report the findings of this analytical work and identify possibilities to support resource mobilization and leveraging.

Dialogue demonstrated how other organizations have picked up and applied the P-IMA approach to support their own work and illustrated how STDF's approaches have wider impacts. For instance, Trademark East Africa (TMEA) has used P-IMA to rank SPS investments for regional trade in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. More than 30 SPS investments across diverse value chains were ranked and efforts are underway to secure resources for follow-up.

Stakeholders from other regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia, valued the dialogue as a forum to share their own experiences on the use of P-IMA and inform future work. This includes self-funded work to apply P-IMA in the Bahamas, which aims to inform wider use in the Caribbean region, as well as the use of P-IMA in the Philippines under a project led by Winrock International with support from USDA.

The Practitioner Group has inspired others to consider using P-IMA to support strategic planning and mobilization of resources for SPS capacity development. This includes facilitating the uptake of P-IMA findings into policy making as well as resource mobilization in LDCs

through linkages with the EIF's work towards including Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies in South Sudan and Uganda.



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The Philippines' B-SAFE development project, under the USDA-FFPr program, is adapting the STDF's Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA) framework to realize its objectives of improving SPS capacity to boost agricultural productivity and trade of agrifoods. The Philippines' study thus far ranks plant pest controls for pineapple exports, pest surveillance for okra exports and modular laboratory for molecular testing of meat products as top capacity building options. Our participation in the P-IMA practitioner group session enables us to learn best practices from countries such as Belize, Vietnam, and Mozambique that have employed the P-IMA framework successfully.

Ramon Clarete, Chief of Party, Philippines B-SAFE Project

Links to STDF Projects & PPGs: STDF/PPG/733 - Piloting P-IMA in the CARICOM region

More information here



#### **GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICE**

Using Good Regulatory Practices helps to ensure that SPS measures are fit for purpose, which avoids the creation of nontariff barriers and facilitates safe trade. In 2020, work advanced on the use of Good Regulatory Practice to strengthen the design and implementation of SPS measures that meet international standards in line with the WTO SPS Agreement.

STDF members with an interest in the topic - including Codex, IPPC, FAO, OIE, IFC and the World Bank Group, WHO, WTO as well as the OECD, ISO and US FDA and USDA – came together as part of a peer review process to discuss STDF's draft GRP Guide. They offered suggestions for improvements in order that the Guide contributes to and reflects available expertise on GRP which has been developed by STDF's partners and others. Members also sought to make sure that the Guide is practical and adapted to the context facing SPS regulators in developing countries. The Guide will be released in 2021.

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Good Regulatory Practices are highly relevant to and cut across various key concepts of the WTO SPS Agreement. The forthcoming STDF Guide will help SPS regulators use good practices to develop SPS measures that ensure adequate health protection while facilitating trade, fostering compliance with the WTO SPS Agreement. It will also help improve alignment with the international (Codex, IPPC and OIE) standards, which are recognized in the WTO SPS Agreement. Good Regulatory Practices of course touch upon many different areas. The Peer Review Group has been a valuable forum to exchange among regulatory, international trade experts, international standard setting bodies, among others, and ensure that this Guide aligns with relevant work from other organizations. I see STDF work in this area as critical to raise awareness and provide support to SPS agencies tasked with developing SPS measures. I very much look forward to seeing the final version of the Guide and assist in its dissemination.

Christiane Wolff, Secretary, SPS Committee, WTO

More information here







# Goba Platform

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







# GOING VIRTUAL: the WORKING GROUP STANDS UP to the TEST of COVID

On 11 March, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Feedback from 2020 Working Group surveys showed ongoing high coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic. This forced a quick levels of satisfaction among Working Group members. Participants decision by the Secretariat and the chairperson - Julie Emond from appreciated the detailed preparation for the virtual meetings, Canada - to adapt the first STDF Working Group meeting on 7 April including the Secretariat's efforts to ensure that everyone was to a fully virtual format. The second meeting of the Working Group acquainted and comfortable with the Zoom platform. on 13-15 October was also held virtually. Both meetings engaged over 60 participants, reflecting an increased interest in STDF's work Members liked the continued interactive working environment among partners, donor members, developing country experts and and saw an increase in inter-sessional communication. They also a wide range of other relevant organizations. Tom Heilandt, Codex noted efficiency gains and improved coordination. Prior to each Secretary, acted as vice-chairperson of the Working Group in 2020. meeting, the Secretariat organized briefings with STDF developing country experts to explore ways to enhance their participation in the The Working Group included strategic oversight of and discussions Working Group.

on STDF's ongoing and planned activities. It also took the lead on reviewing and approving new applications for STDF funding. In the October meeting, members shared information and experiences on the impact of the pandemic on their operations, as well as on food safety, animal and plant health capacity development more generally.









# SUCCEEDING in COVID-19: the POWER of PROCESS, PREPARATION and POSSBLT

#### JULIE EMOND **First Secretary, Trade and Development, Permanent Mission of Canada to the WTO**

2020 was, without a doubt, a challenging year that required unprecedented forms of adaptation. At a staff meeting with the STDF Secretariat in early March, we could see that a lockdown was beginning in China and within a few weeks the world had turned a corner. Everything went into a lockdown.

For the STDF Working Group, one of the first things we needed to do was decide whether we would cancel or postpone the upcoming Working Group session, which was to take place at the FAO in Rome. It was clear that we were in the early stages of the pandemic. We recognized that we already had the online tools to adjust the format of the Working Group and didn't hesitate to continue our work in a virtual format. The STDF needed to make decisions to keep momentum, and this Working Group was critical to ensure that continuity.

Second, we quickly dove into contingency and risk management. The STDF Secretariat played an essential role and helped make quick changes and adaptations as the situation evolved daily. Given the novelty of the situation, initially the process took precedence over substance. Operational questions such as timing, login and access were at the forefront of our minds. Working Group meetings were not usually overly scripted and we had never used these platforms for meetings such as ours.

We sought to do everything possible to ensure the success of the Working Group. We invested a great deal of effort into preparing the Working Group schedule and agenda assuming that, if it was planned engagement with Working Group Members. We and predictable, we could better



structure and facilitate the discussion. Taking into account the different nature of a virtual format, we prioritized topics in a way that ensured a lean and efficient compressed Working Group session that adapted to the particularities of COVID-19. Presubmission of written comments proved to be critical as the Secretariat was better equipped to handle the comments in advance. This ensured that the discussion was focused and manageable given the limited meeting time we had.

So instead of Rome, we delivered a meeting from our kitchens and guest bedrooms. Interestingly, the STDF was one of the first initiatives to demonstrate that we could still work effectively and bring the global platform together. The virtual platform offered a democratization of discussions and greater access which will prove very valuable in the future. Between the first and second Working Groups, we improved our usage of the tools and sought to maintain the engagement with working group members between the meetings. This added significantly to the discussions and kept them alive over the course of the year, offering members a window to check-in intersessionally.

COVID-19 undoubtedly will have had lasting impacts on the way the world operates. From the standpoint of the STDF, it has provided an opportunity, in some ways, to refine and reassess elements of its work.

With regard to the Working Group, I believe it is important to maintain the intersessional nature of should connect with them on calls, engage them in a greater variety of topics, tap into the knowledge of developing country experts given the greater level of access and use the practitioner groups to dive deeper into important and relevant themes.

Equally, I saw the positive impact that advanced preparation (for example via comments regarding PGs/PPGs) can have on facilitating productive exchanges during the formal Working Group. Based on what we witnessed, I believe this promotes a more focused, streamlined, and substantive discussion regarding PGs and PPGs.

Though the world is beginning to see some light concerning the pandemic, we are not done or beyond the virus. We have used tools and adopted new ways of working together and we shouldn't discard them in the future, rather include them in our menu of possibilities for broader engagement in substantive conversations. Certainly we will start holding in person meetings, but ensuring a certain level of virtual access would have the advantage of broader participation, and this can only be beneficial given the increase in the diversity of opinion and experience that greater access allows. This was and remains invaluable.

Lastly, we should continue to stay agile and remain nimble with regard to adapting to our ever-evolving environment. This willingness and capacity to adapt will play a central role in the Working Groups ability to help effectively guide the work of the STDF.



#### **TARGETING GROWTH: REVISING THE STDF COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

The STDF's new Communications Plan was endorsed by the STDF Working Group in October 2020. The Plan aims to extend STDF's reach and impact by building greater awareness of the importance of investing in safe trade and promoting the use of STDF Knowledge Work and Project financing among the public and private sector in developing countries. It also targets STDF's wider network of partners, donors, experts and other relevant international and regional organizations participating in STDF's work and projects, including NGOs and academia.

The Communications Plan was developed through a participatory process involving members and supported by a communications consultant. Moving forward, they also proposed to establish an informal STDF Communications Group to support STDF's communications work and help leverage resources. Through its outreach, the STDF will profile interventions and solutions that support gender equality so that more women as well as men smallscale farmers, producers and traders working in agri-food supply chains can benefit. Efforts will be made to reach stakeholders via national and regional networks.

Given the Geneva-based location of the STDF Secretariat, to realize this objective in addition to connecting with stakeholders at global and regional events, trainings and missions – it will be vital to leverage STDF partnership networks at country and regional level including field offices and contact points. To support this outreach, there will need to be an expanded provision of language material, with core STDF communications products made available in French and Spanish, alongside English. The Plan also includes STDF branding guidelines for use by the partnership and communications guidelines for STDF Projects.

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**





#### **SHAPING A SAFER WORLD: INVESTING IN SAFE TRADE SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE**

STDF's latest film "Shaping a Safer World", produced in 2020, illustrates how the world can recover from devastating shocks, such as COVID-19 and other outbreaks of pests and diseases, by strengthening food safety, animal and plant health capacity across borders as a global public good. The film exposes the full range of stakeholders including workers, farmers, processors, and exporters across value chains at the

local, national, and regional level. It also explains the critical role that the STDF and its partners play in strengthening SPS capacity in developing and least developed countries that are often hit hardest in the areas of food security and livelihoods. After watching the film, audiences outside the niche community of SPS experts and stakeholders will understand why investing in national SPS systems matters more than ever. The film was released in early 2021, featured in STDF and WTO news items, and shared widely on social media and via members' networks.







#### **TRADING SAFELY: PROTECTING HEALTH, PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT** AT GLOBAL FORUM FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN BERLIN

The case for investing in safe, inclusive trade was reiterated during an STDF panel at the 12th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin on 17 January 2020. The discussion, led by the OIE and the World Bank Group, alongside SPS experts from COMESA and Sri Lanka's private sector explored the critical role of trade in maintaining sustainable food systems.

Participants emphasized the importance of international standards and SPS capacity development as a global public good. They also highlighted the need for more public private partnerships and political will to harmonize SPS policies and participate in global and regional supply chains.

#### **FUTURE-PROOFING SAFE TRADE DURING COVID-19**

The interest was clear. On 26 May, more than 250 people joined the 90-minute STDF webinar examining ways to ensure food safety, animal and plant health and facilitate safe trade during COVID-19. All STDF partners, including the Codex and IPPC Secretariats offered insights and tools for stakeholders at all levels.

The discussion covered issues ranging from the regulation of wildlife trade and guidance for business and food safety authorities, to information access, the use of electronic platforms such as ePhyto and the adoption of Codex standards. The United Kingdom joined the discussion to highlight donors' perspectives and responses to the crisis.

#### PARTNERING TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY OUTCOMES: ACCREDITATION **AND THE ROLE OF vTPA PROGRAMMES**

On 9 June 2020, experts from the food safety community came together to discuss how voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes can contribute to improved food safety outcomes for domestic public health and safe trade.

Led by UNIDO and the STDF, on the occasion of World Accreditation Day, the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, Ghana webinar welcomed over 230 participants and discussed expectations for STDF's new innovative projects to pilot the vTPA approach in Central America and West Africa. Right after Morocco's national system was connected to the ePhyto Hub, the country With speakers from the STDF, beneficiary countries and other partners, the event was able to exchange certificates with several trading partners. ePhyto brings all the benefits of paperless trade with fast and secure data exchange. highlighted the potential for learning from these vTPA projects to inform food safety capacity development work globally.

### PRODUCTS

The challenges of COVID-19 demonstrated the importance of innovative measures to facilitate trade and keep goods moving across global supply chains. On 23 September, more than 260 participants heard about lessons and experiences from the ePhyto solution.

Panelists from Ghana, Morocco, European Commission, International Seed Federation and the World Bank Group saw the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to improve business practices and increase the use of ePhyto to achieve economies of scale, cost efficiencies and safe trade. They also called for more collaboration among international standard setting bodies, harmonization of food safety and veterinary e-Certificates, and integration of SPS eCert into countries' Single Window systems.

#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



#### **EPHYTO WEBINAR: SOLUTIONS ON SAFE TRADE IN PLANTS AND PLANT**

### 66

Key lessons from Ghana include the importance of awareness-raising by bringing stakeholders together and training. Start with limited resources and then gather support from other agencies.

Gerard Asare Mantey,

Amine Belkhadir, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, GIZ, Morocco

Two months after connecting with the TRACES system, 20% of the ePhytos received by the EU were exchanged through the Hub. I highly encourage more countries to use the ePhyto Solution.

Philippe Loopuyt, European Commission





# STDF OUTREACH in 2020



Close to 44,000 sessions logged (up by over 36% from 2019)

### TOP PAGES

Homepage, Projects and PPGs, STDF Partnership COVID-19 Updates GRP page experienced a 72% jump in views SPS e-Cert page experienced a 25% jump in views



of all website visitors were new visitors (new user sessions up by nearly 38% from 2019)



### **USERS CAME FROM** 209 COUNTRIES

24%	Europe
23%	Asia-Pacific
22%	North America
18%	Africa
13%	South America

### TOP DOWNLOADS

Project guidance note, Project design manual, STDF Standard Presentation, P-IMA Guide, PPG Application Form, STDF Annual Report 2019, PG Application Form, 2018 STDF External Evaluation Report.







Over 24,000 views (up by 12% from 2019)

### **NEW VIDEOS**

Shaping a Safer World Future-proofing safe trade - Interviews series How Myanmar's oilseeds sector is succeeding in food safety



WATCH TIME 81,180

minutes (up by nearly 9% from 2019)

new subscribers (up by 9% from 2019)





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# Monitoring, Evaluation Learning (MEL)

#### **MEASURING SUCCESS: ADOPTING A NEW MEL FRAMEWORK**

The STDF's new Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Framework was approved by the Working Group in October 2020. The MEL Framework aims to ensure accountability and to increase learning about how the STDF's work drives catalytic SPS improvements and facilitates safe trade, based on the STDF Strategy for 2020-2024. It consolidates and deepens the STDF's focus on results-based management to improve operations, while building on the recommendation of the 2019 STDF external evaluation to increase learning across all areas of STDF work.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration to improve MEL, 10 representatives of STDF partners, donors and developing country experts shared their knowledge on MEL and contributed actively to the framework's development via the MEL Group. Building on nine virtual meetings between June to September, this participatory process helped to deliver a fit-for-purpose MEL Framework. STDF Working Group members were invited to share their comments on the draft MEL Framework on 24 September, further strengthening the document and paving the way to approval at the Working Group meeting in October.

In parallel with development of the MEL Framework, initial steps were taken to improve existing processes and systems for data collection and management, and to ensure continuity on MEL work. Further efforts in 2021 will strengthen reporting across all indicators in the results framework, including via the procurement and piloting of a new online MEL Tool.







# Virtual evaluation: Developing a network of PCE facilitators

#### THE CHALLENGE

The IPPC's Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool assists countries in assessing the capacity of their phytosanitary system and in preparing a national phytosanitary capacity development strategy to improve plant health and facilitate safe trade in plants and plant products. The PCE has been used for many years but completing an evaluation is dependent on the availability of knowledgeable and experienced facilitators. Trained facilitators to assist developing countries in applying the PCE are few in number.

#### **THE PROJECT**

The project built a pool of qualified experts to serve as facilitators and help developing countries in applying the PCE tool. The IPPC trained 40 phytosanitary technical professionals and 20 legal experts. Four trained experts were validated as accredited PCE facilitators. Through the project the PCE tool was successfully applied in four countries, namely Barbados, Guinea, Kenya and Madagascar. The IPPC also developed and tested a Guide "Preparing a National Phytosanitary Capacity Development Strategy" through the training program.

#### **THE EVALUATION**

An ex-post evaluation was carried out by Ms Lois Ransom in 2020 to review if the project, completed in 2017, had achieved its objectives. It also sought to examine the project's effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. Due to COVID-19, this evaluation was carried out as a desk study.

The evaluation found that the project was:

- Innovative: The project combined adult learning methods with technical skills to support increased use and availability of the PCE tool.
- Valuable: Resource materials developed under the project are extremely useful.
- Well-planned: The project was well implemented, with appropriate expertise applied to strategy, planning and implementation.
- **Recognized:** Widespread recognition and support for the PCE as a management tool within the IPPC community.

The evaluation provided valuable recommendations to the IPPC Secretariat and its members, donors and ultimately the IPPC community, based on the outcomes of the project and in the context of a new world impacted by COVID-19:

 Resource materials developed by the project should be used more widely to train IPPC Secretariat staff, delegates to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and staff from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). This can be done through consolidation of on-line training materials, publication on the IPPC website and creation of training partnerships between technical experts in the IPPC community.

- The CPM should articulate a clear commitment to the PCE as a core IPPC tool available to all contracting parties, including expectations on how and when the PCE should be used and allocation of adequate funding.
- The project provided insight into the benefits and challenges of training and deploying facilitators. The evaluation highlighted the need for ensuring adequate sustainability in terms of funding and resources, maintenance of skills and knowledge among facilitators, and providing quality updated online tools.
- The IPPC Secretariat, with input from PCE facilitators, should review and adapt the PCE tool for virtual delivery. This should lead to remote and hybrid PCE applications that are currently being trialed in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. In a post-COVID world the role of the PCE facilitator will change into becoming a mentor and trainer of in-country coordinators of plant health projects, rather than a 'fly-in' expert.

Other lessons from the project focused on the value of team building during training sessions and the establishment of professional networks. The evaluator also commended the IPPC Secretariat for selecting experienced phytosanitary experts as future facilitators, for using interactive best practice adult learning methods, and for monitoring progress in project implementation using a logical framework and risk matrix.





US\$1,194,404





**BENEFICIARIES** Developing countries











# **STDF LOGFRAME** 2020

Results on the STDF's Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Framework in 2020 are reported here





# **RESULTS TABLE** 2020

Detailed information about results on STDF Programme Level Indicators in 2020 are reported here.







# RISK MANAGEMENT *in 2020*

Risk management took on a huge importance and urgency in 2020 with the declaration of the global COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Unlike other risks faced in the past, the pandemic had a huge impact on all STDF work streams simultaneously, exacerbating the challenge.

RISK	LIKELIHOOD	MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT IN 2020	
CONTINUATION OF THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC, AND/OR EMERGENCE OF A NEW MAJOR GLOBAL CRISIS	MEDIUM	Action to mitigate the risk: With the restrictions on movement, the STDF Secretariat, in consultation with the Working Group Chair and partners, took immediate steps all meetings and delivery to a virtual format, wherever possible. In follow-up, ongoing efforts were made to: (i) regularly review, update and/or adapt the risk mitigation in put in place since March 2020; and (ii) identify and implement innovative and/or modified approaches and delivery mechanisms to ensure continuity and progress. Repo issued in April and November that analysed the impact of the pandemic on STDF's workstreams (including the project portfolio) and measures taken in response.  Experience: Frequent consultations with project implementing organizations and PPG consultants were key to adapt PPG and project delivery to the huge restrictions is by the pandemic. A flexible and adaptable approach by the Secretariat, in cooperation with the STDF Working Group Chair, partners and other members of the partners' to minimize the challenges faced. The launch of virtual STDF Practitioner Groups, as well as the MEL Group, enabled some substantive work to continue as envisaged in Strategy. While the challenges faced have been huge, the STDF partnership has been able to adapt its delivery model to a large degree, which has been recognized in por feedback received from several members.	
LIMITED INTEREST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY STAKEHOLDERS IN STDF'S WORK	LOW	<ul> <li>Action to mitigate risk: Ongoing efforts were made to ensure that STDF's work remained relevant and targeted to the SPS needs of developing countries, especially given the global pandemic. Efforts were made to share good practices, knowledge products and information on funding opportunities to promote uptake and use by developing country stakeholders, including in STDF regional outreach events. This included increased sharing of STDF's knowledge and experiences on e-Certification and digitalization, which gain increased relevance with the pandemic.</li> <li>Experience: The STDF ensured that its work remained relevant and targeted to the SPS needs of developing countries, including by highlighting the importance of facilitating set trade in response to the challenges posed by the pandemic. Through highly collaborative Working Group sessions, Practitioner Group meetings and other virtual events, the STDF continued to maintain a strong level of interest. Active engagement with STDF members, including developing country experts, was valuable.</li> </ul>	
INADEQUATE RESOURCES (INCLUDING FINANCIAL, HUMAN RESOURCES, TIME) TO DELIVER STDF'S STRATEGY	MEDIUM TO HIGH	Action to mitigate risk: Relationships with existing and new donors were cultivated via virtual meetings, which ensured ongoing contributions to the Trust Fund, despite the fi- nancial challenges generated by the pandemic. Delivery of STDF's communications plan, including virtual events and outreach, highlighted the relevance and importance of STD work to facilitate safe trade and support recovery in the face of the pandemic. Short-term staff were recruited to help address staffing gaps. Experience: While the pandemic did not reduce the overall workload, it generated some cost-savings through reduced travel for STDF Secretariat staff and developing country experts. The Secretariat adapted its delivery mode to the pandemic. The new communications plan and MEL framework were delivered on time, in spite of the challenges faced.	
LACK OF ENGAGEMENT OF MEMBERS IN STDF'S WORK		Action to mitigate risk: The STDF Secretariat continued to engage actively with members to ensure that the STDF's work remained relevant and of value, despite the pandemic. STDF members were actively invited to contribute to the STDF's work, including development of the MEL Framework and Communications Plan. Experience: Moving to virtual delivery increased the STDF Secretariat's engagement with members. For instance, through an STDF webinar where STDF partners shared their COVID-19 related resources; participation of interested members in the MEL Group, the STDF 2019 annual report webinar; and Practitioner Groups. Working Group members demonstrated their interest by inviting relevant colleagues from their organizations, enabling the partnership to benefit from new expertise and extend its knowledge. Several shared information about the STDF's work through their own organizations, networks, newsletters and diverse events.	
EXTERNAL FACTORS OF SPECIFIC RELEVANCE TO STDF PROJECTS MEDIUM		<ul> <li>Action to mitigate risk: COVID-19 was the major unforeseen risk for all STDF projects in 2020, eclipsing all other risks faced. The STDF Secretariat worked with project implementing organizations to manage the risks posed by the pandemic as far as reasonably possible. This required extensive consultations, and adaptation by all stakeholders involved. A new risk reporting matrix was developed for completion by implementing partners. Detailed risk reports were issued in April and November.</li> <li>Experience: With the support of STDF partners and other organizations involved, many STDF projects demonstrated their flexibility and creativity to adapt to the huge challenge posed by the pandemic. While delays were inevitable, and some activities could not take place as planned, in most cases projects were able to demonstrate some level of contin ty. In addition to project missions, some ex-post evaluations had to be postponed due to inability to travel. While three projects were completed in 2020, extensions were request ed for 6 projects due to close by the end of December 2021.</li> </ul>	



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In 2020, 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 47 project and PPG applications received.





#### 2020 Funding highlights

- 5 new projects and 7 new PPGs were approved by the Working Group in 2020 totalling US\$3,657,891.
- 68% of resources for newly approved projects and PPGs in 2020 will benefit LDCs, over and above the STDF target of 40%.
- 12 donors made contributions to the STDF totalling US\$5,955,479, below the target of US\$7,000,000 per year.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### 2020 Expenditures

Total STDF expenditures amounted to US\$4,368,234 in 2020, which was 35% lower than the estimated total (US\$6,746,100) in the budget estimate attached to STDF's Work Plan for 2020-21. Estimated and actual expenditures are shown in table 2.

The gap between the estimated and actual expenditures can be explained by a set of factors that all have their roots in the externalities of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

These factors were:

- Implementation of some Project and Project Preparation Grants was put on hold.
- Hiring of new staff (based on the 2019 evaluation's recommendations) was delayed.
- All STDF meetings (including the Working Group) moved to a virtual format, resulting in cost savings.
- Travel by the Secretariat in 2020 was minimal.

STDF's final balance at the end of 2020 is shown in the table below. Deducting total expenditures, contracted commitments of US\$7,348,832 for ongoing PPGs and projects, and uncontracted commitments of US\$1,730,074, the STDF showed a positive balance of US\$2,172,643 as of 31 December 2020.

#### 1. Donor contributions in 2020

DONOR
AUSTRALIA
CANADA
DENMARK
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
FRANCE
GERMANY
IRELAND
NETHERLANDS
NORWAY
SWEDEN
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES
TOTAL (US\$)

	AMOUNT (US\$)
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	300,043
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	315,790
Danish International Development Agency	586,567
European Aid Cooperation Office (EuropeAid)	661,920
Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances and Ministère de l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation	243,998
Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)	164,551
Irish Aid	165,797
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (Aid for Trade)	593,395
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	687,132
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	1,082,183
Department for International Development (DFID)	387,952
US Agency for International Development (USAID), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA)	766,151
	5,955,479

#### 2. Estimated and actual expenditures in 2020

OUTPUT	ESTIMATE(US\$)	ACTUAL (US\$)	VARIATI
KNOWLEDGE WORK	536,750	355,569	-349
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS	5,028,500	3,310,109	-349
GLOBAL PLATFORM AND OPERATIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT	293,800	135,494	-54%
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING	339,000	230,246	-32%
COMMUNICATIONS	548,050	336,818	-39%
GRAND TOTAL	6,746,100	4,368,234	-35

#### **3. STDF's financial balance at the end of 2020**

CATEGORY	AMOUNT IN US\$
OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1 JANUARY 2020	9,692,250
CONTRIBUTIONS CURRENT YEAR	5,955,479
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	-27,945
TOTAL FUNDS	15,619,783
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,368,234
CONTRACTED COMMITMENTS	7,348,832
BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF DONORS	3,902,717
UNCONTRACTED COMMITMENTS (CORRESPONDING TO 8 PPGs AND 2 PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2020 AND NOT CONTRACTED AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020)	1,730,074
FINAL BALANCE	2,172,643



ON(%)
%
%
%
%
%
%




### **STDF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP**

#### **FOUNDING PARTNERS**



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

World Health Organization

#### INCLUDING

CODEX Codex Alimentarius Commission Secretariat

IPPC International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat

#### **DONORS IN 2020**

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



#### **DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPERTS**







Private sector companies

UNIDO WCO

Paola Michelutti Simon Padilla Catalina Pulido Angelica Cottica Grisuk (short term) Purujith Gautam (intern)

#### INCLUDES

EAC ECOWAS FIA FFM FSCF GDPRD GESP GMUF ICCO IDB IFPRI COMESA PACA



PAHO PHAMA PIFS SAARC SADC UN DESA UNDP UNECE UNESCAP UNICC

WAEMU WEF

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#### ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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#STDF

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