

PREPARATION GRANT APPLICATION FORM

1. Prospective project title	Capacity Evaluation of National Food Control System in Eritrea
2. Requesting government/agency or private body	Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Eritrea, Regulatory Services Department
3. Collaborating government(s)/agency	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Eritrean Standards Institute
4. Project objectives Describe the objectives of the proposed project in general terms. <u>Attach</u> description of project background and rationale.	The objective of the proposed project is to technically and financially assist Eritrea in evaluating its capacities in its food control systems. The capacity evaluation activities will then be used to develop suitable projects which meet Eritrea's requirements. See in Attachment I description of project, background and rationale.
5. Preparation activities Describe the means by which the project proposal is to be prepared e.g. in-house activity, consultant study, etc.	It is proposed that an international consultant will be hired to be assisted by a local consultant, both of whom having competence in the area of food safety and quality. The international consultant will have two separate missions, 7 days each. During the first mission the consultants will make an in depth evaluation process of the food control system of the country. During the second mission a stakeholders' workshop will be organized to discuss the findings and recommendations prepared by the consultants. The National Codex Committee (NCC) will serve as the national steering committee to facilitate the capacity evaluation process.
6. Private/public sector co-operation Detail the role, if any, that will be played by the private sector in the preparation of the project	The project proposal has been prepared in consultation with the NCC. The private sector has not been involved at this stage but they will be heavily involved during the capacity evaluation process.
7. Partner institutions involved If appropriate, identify STDF partner institutions who will be involved and describe the nature of that involvement.	The STDF partner institutions that will be involved in the capacity evaluation process are the WHO and FAO country offices. The nature of their involvement will be mainly to assist the NCC in facilitating the capacity evaluation process and also in the provision of data and information on food safety and quality.
8. Preparation project inputs Specify total cost of preparing project proposal (maximum	A total Euro 19000.00 is requested for the project. Budget forecast is presented under Attachment II.

US\$20,000). <u>Attach</u> breakdown of proposed uses of preparation grant funds.	
9. Non-STDF contributions If appropriate specify any financial contributions expected from sources other than STDF.	There will be government in-kind contribution which will include office space for consultants, local telephone calls and expenses of government experts who will be working with the consultants in facilitating the implementation process of the project. The total cost of these expenses is estimated to be over 2000.00 Euros.
10. Timetable Show proposed commencement and conclusion dates (maximum duration of preparation phase six months?)	The duration of the project are 14 days divided into two consultant missions. The project will start beginning of November 2005 and be completed by the end of November or beginning of December 2005.

Attachment I

Project description, background and rationale

A. Country description

1. Eritrea is a young East African country, which gained its independence in May 1991 after 30-year war against Ethiopian colonial administration. In April 1993 a UN supervised referendum overwhelmingly (99.8%) voted for an independent Eritrea. Eritrean then formally joined the community of nations and immediately became a member of the UN and the OAU (now African Union). Eritrea has an estimated population of 3.5 million in 1999, growing at a rate of 3.0% per annum.
2. Eritrea has a total land area of 124,320 km², and a marine exclusive economic zone of about 120,000 km² along its 1200 km long coastline in the Red Sea, of which about 56,000 km² is territorial water over which the country exercises exclusive sovereignty. The country has more than 350 small and medium-sized islands.
3. Over 80 % of Eritrea's population depend for their livelihood on traditional agriculture, including crop production and livestock industry. Agriculture contributes about 16 % of Eritrea's GDP.
4. Eritrea's coastal waters along the Red Sea offer significant fish and marine resources. Nonetheless, it continues to be grossly underdeveloped. The total annual catch of all species ranges between 10,000 and 13,000 metric tons, well below the maximum anticipated yield of 80,000 metric tons. Reef fishes (fillets) and shrimps (frozen) have great demand in Europe. Likewise, demersals and shark fins have a potential market in the Middle East. The development of fisheries industry is believed to have potential for making a significant contribution to the overall growth of the national economy.
5. The development of industry in Eritrea, including food industry, dates back to the Italian colonial period (1890-1941), when Eritrea was one of the industrial countries in Africa. During the British (1941-1952) and Ethiopian administration that followed, however, the industrial sector was hampered due to lack of investment. Eritrea's industrial base is made up of small medium scale industries and the Eritrean government is now making all the necessary efforts to ensure its contribution to the national economy.

B. Background

6. Eritrea is a very young nation and hence national food control system is still emerging. The food industries in Eritrea which vary from small to medium scale,

- include milk and milk products processing plants and also meat and vegetable processing plants. It should be pointed out that the products coming out from these industries is limited and is consumed locally. Fishing and the processing of fish and fish products are also increasingly becoming a major economic activity. Efforts are being doubled to increase fish output in quantity and quality both for export to the EU and for local consumption.
7. Eritrea produces a variety of horticultural crops. It has the climate for the production of a wide range of fruits and vegetables with the possibility of year-round production. There are several large farms as well as small scale commercial farmers engaged in the production of horticultural crops. Quality and safety issues as well as lack of infrastructure facilities have always been the major concern in the export of horticultural crops and hence the main constraints to the export market. Market information service on which farmers could base production and harvesting decisions has also been limiting.
 8. Various institutions are now involved in the process of national food control system. The main institutions are the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) and the Eritrean Standards Institute (RSI). The major activities which these institutions undertake in this respect are indicated briefly:

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

- Through its Regulatory Services Department (RSD), the MoA, undertakes inspection activities of food quality and safety on imported /exported foods as well as on locally processed milk and milk products, meat and meat products, vegetables and vegetable products.
- The MoA, through the Central Laboratory, certifies food safety and quality control of animal and animal products (milk and milk

products, meat and meat products) before and during processing in the processing plants.

Ministry of Fisheries

- The Government has designated a “Competent Authority” (Fish Inspection and Quality Control Division) within the Ministry of Fisheries to ensure that fish and fishery products reaching the local and international markets are safe and of good quality. Every effort is being made in this respect, including the establishment of Quality Control Laboratory. Moreover, various legislations have been enacted with the aim of producing safe and quality fish and fishery products for local and international trade.

Ministry of Health (MoH)

- The MoH, through its Central Laboratory, performs analyses on food safety and quality of beverages and bottled water. The Central Laboratory also certifies food samples originating from food factories, imported food staff for human consumption.

Ministry of Trade and Industry

- The Ministry of Trade and Industry provides business license to industrial firms and also monitors the overall efficiency of industrial plants, including food processing plants.

The Eritrean Standards Institute (ESI)

- The ESI is developing and introducing various standards, including food safety and quality standards.
- ESI has officially issued some Legal Notices related to agriculture. There are also 116 COMESA harmonized standards on various food types, which are believed to be enforced by COMESA member states.

9. National food control system requires close coordination among concerned institutions and this has been quite limited in Eritrea. All these institutions have their own laboratory facilities which endeavour to ensure food safety and quality, which nonetheless require further strengthening for an effective discharge of duties of these laboratories. Although there are some sector-specific regulatory instruments (such as that of the Ministry of Fisheries, for example) on food safety and quality, there is regulatory gap at the national level to address coordinated national food control system. It is argued that national food legislative frameworks, if developed and introduced, could enhance the coordination of various institutions involved in food control systems.

10. Thanks to the Codex Trust Fund, Eritrea has started participating, since 2005, in some Codex meetings. Eritrea has now established the National Codex Committee comprising the above stated institutions and the Ministry of Agriculture, through its Regulatory Services Department has been designated as the National Contact Institutions. National Codex Committee is expected to play a crucial role not only in harmonizing national food control activities but also in facilitating national effort of strengthening technical and institutional capacities.

C. Rationale

11. Eritrea is one of the least developed countries (LCD) of the world and requires financial and technical assistance to develop the expertise and capacity to implement sanitary and phytosanitary measures, particularly for agricultural products destined for international markets. Domestic rules and standards on food have also to be harmonized with international standards set by the Codex Alimentarius. Nonetheless, as indicated earlier the institutional, technical and legal capacities of the institutions involved in food control system is quite limited. These capacities would undoubtedly limit not only the country's active

participation in the standard setting process of Codex Alimentarius but more importantly limits its capacity in food export market opportunities.

12. In trying to gradually resolve these challenges the country, as a first step, would like to undertake a capacity evaluation process regarding its institutional, technical and legal conditions. The capacity evaluation process should then clearly spell out the main gaps and constraints that the country faces, which will then be used to develop suitable projects which meets Eritrea's requirements. In this respect Eritrea would therefore like to explore the opportunities offered by the Standard and Trade Development Facility to initially undertake capacity evaluation process.

ATTACHMENT II**BUDGET FORECAST FOR THE PREPARATION OF GRANT FUNDS**

S. No.	Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit cost (Euro)	Total cost (Euro)
1	International Consultant	Person days	14	600.00	8400.00
2	International Travel	No	2	1300.00	2600.00
3	Daily subsistence allowance(DSA) for International Consultant	Person days	14	120.00	1680.00
4	Local transport, including Fuel	Days	14	60.00	840.00
5	Local consultant	Person days	14	160.00	2240.00
6	Consultation Workshop, (hall rent, refreshment, lunch and DSA for participants)	No	1	1200.00	1200.00
7	Secretarial support	Person days	14	60.00	840.00
8	Miscellaneous (stationary for workshop, printing, copying, etc)	Lump sum	-	-	1200.00
	Grand Total				19000.00