

**PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)****APPLICATION FORM**

1. PPG title	Institutionalising SPS for agricultural health and food safety systems in Africa
2. Theme 1, 2 and/or 3	The PPG will notably address STDF theme 1: SPS capacity evaluation and planning tools, including the need for and implications of international standards and their application
3. Starting date	July / August 2009
4. Completion date	October / November 2009
5. Requesting organization(s)	<p>African Union Commission (AUC)</p> <p><u>Contact person:</u>  Dr. Sarah A.H. Olembo  Senior Policy Officer,  Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture,  African Union Commission, Box 3243,  Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  Email:ahono_olemboh@ymail.com</p> <p>Letters of support for the PPG from:</p> <p>1) the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace;  2) the AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry, H.E. Elisabeth Tankeu, and  3) the Director of AU/IBAR,</p> <p>will follow <u>before Friday 15 May 2009</u>.</p>
6. Proposed consultant(s)	The AUC requests the STDF Secretariat to provide a shortlist of appropriate consultants to work with Dr Olembo in the implementation of the PPG. The STDF is also requested to assist in drafting the terms of reference for the scoping study.
7. PPG background and rationale	<p>Agriculture is a dominant economic sector in Africa, and SPS issues are central to trade and regional integration in Africa. However, in each African country today, there are still several fragmented basic SPS rules, in addition to more specific laws covering different sectors leading to varying enforcement, monitoring and verification of compliance. More so, SPS measures are today seen by African trading partners as a key barrier to trade. For this reason, it is of utmost importance that African producers are able to produce food products, which will meet the standards necessary to have access to international markets</p> <p>At the Lisbon Summit of 9 December 2007, EU and AU Heads of State and Government adopted the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and its</p>

	<p>first Action Plan 2008-2010. Part of this Action Plan is to strengthen African capacities in the area of rules, standards and quality control. The objectives are to 1) enhance the capacity of administrations, producers and exporters at all levels to meet the regulatory requirements of export markets within Africa and the EU (thus allowing diversification away from simple processed products) and 2) enhance the competitiveness of African agriculture and agri-food industry through particular attention to SPS issues.</p> <p>To this end, the Action Plan envisages several activities up to the end of 2010 including: the provision of training; rehabilitation and modernization of African testing and certification laboratories; negotiation of mutual recognition agreements (equivalence) on certain standards; creation of an information dissemination platform; improvement of technical knowledge; strengthen risk-based animal health, plant health and food safety systems; and support the participation of African countries in SPS standard setting organizations.</p> <p>Regional integration and trade are essential building blocks for development, growth, employment and poverty reduction in Africa. Hence, there is a need for common principles for official checks, controls and surveillance, which are essential to abolish internal border checks in Africa. Regional integration would reinforce common internal markets and reduce undue customs formalities and control restrictions. No doubt, as the integration process unfolds, the need will arise to strengthen capacity to face up to the challenges.</p> <p>To foster regional integration and trade in food and agricultural products, regional SPS frameworks have been adopted by Regional Economic Communities (RECs), i.e. the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA) amongst others.</p> <p>The purpose and value added of these frameworks, however, should be carefully analyzed on a case-by-case basis – given the central role of the WTO SPS Agreement (which is binding upon all WTO Members) and of the standard-setting activities of Codex, OIE and IPPC. Apart from a potential risk that these regional SPS frameworks may contradict the SPS Agreement, they may also be contradictory among themselves (notably in light of overlapping membership in the RECs). Regional SPS frameworks can result in unjustified SPS barriers on products from outside of the region, and lead to unnecessary use of scarce resources duplicating work already undertaken at the international level.</p> <p>At a High Level Conference entitled "Institutionalising SPS in Africa: promoting Regional Integration in rules, standards, controls and procedures", organized jointly by the EC and the AUC in the context of the EC-funded programme "Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) in Africa, suggestions were made on how to move this agenda forward through a step-wise approach:</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scope the current SPS policy framework in the RECs within the context of the international standards and the SPS Agreement;</li> <li>2. Present the outputs of this study at a consultative workshop for discussion and feedback. This workshop should include representatives of the RECs and concerned technical bodies and provide technical guidance for the development of Africa's SPS policy framework.</li> <li>3. Establish a consultative process to develop a draft legal framework to be validated at a workshop. That draft should be general enough to allow RECs to develop detailed frameworks;</li> <li>4. Adopt the draft framework by the AU policy organs;</li> <li>5. Follow up on implementation by the RECs.</li> </ol> <p>Some participants to the High level Conference viewed that in this context the establishment of a Steering Group consisting of AUC and RECs officials would be useful.</p> <p>Against this background, the AUC would like to request funding from the STDF to assist the organization in implementing steps 1 and 2 above, i.e. a scoping study and consultation workshop.</p> <p>Involvement of the STDF would be particularly useful given the technical expertise available at its partner organizations and its ability to play a role in mobilizing further resources, if needed, through its collaboration with the Aid for Trade initiative, the African Development Bank and through its contacts with the wider donor community.</p> <p>Based on the scoping study and a subsequent analysis and discussion among AUC and RECs officials, further decisions on steps 3 to 5 will be taken.</p>
8. Resultant project objectives	<p>The overall objective of the PPG would be to conduct a scoping study as a first step to inform and assess the necessity of further action needed in the SPS area at AUC and RECs level. Specifically, the study should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) assess existing SPS frameworks/strategies/action plans at RECs level (in terms of their value added over and above the SPS Agreement, contradictory provisions, etc.);</li> <li>2) assess current tasks and responsibilities of the AUC and the RECs in the SPS area;</li> <li>3) provide recommendations on the future role of the AUC and RECs in the SPS area - including a description of follow-up actions to be taken at RECs and AUC level in light of steps 3-5 above (steering group, platform to exchange and disseminate information,</li> </ol>

	necessity of developing an overarching SPS policy framework for Africa, etc.).
9. PPG outputs	<p>PPG outputs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) scoping study with concise recommendations on follow-up actions;</li> <li>2) consultative workshop including a workshop report</li> </ol>
10. PPG activities	<p>The following activities are envisaged:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) drafting terms of reference by the AUC/STDF, selection of consultant by the AUC (upon submission of shortlist by STDF) and contracting of consultant through STDF</li> <li>2) undertaking scoping study (combination of desk study and targeted missions to selected RECs and the AUC to interview key stakeholders)</li> <li>3) organization of a <u>two-day</u> consultative workshop (in September 2009 back-to-back with the second Steering Committee meeting of the EC-funded PAN SPSO programme to be hosted by AU/IBAR in Nairobi); This would save a significant amount of time and resources – as all the key stakeholders (AUC, RECs, ISSBs, WTO/STDF will be present at that meeting). Hence, no additional travel expenses would be involved. The AUC (Dr Sarah Olemba) would be responsible for organizing this event - in close consultation with AU/IBAR.</li> <li>4) presentation of the study and its conclusions and recommendations to the STDF Working Group in December 2009 for further consideration and action. Further dissemination could also take place through the WTO SPS Committee, the STDF website, STDF partners and donors, etc.</li> </ol>
11. Timetable	The PPG should be implemented during the second half of 2009. The precise timetable of activities will depend on the availability of the selected consultant. The scoping study should be done in the months of July and August.
12. Private/public sector co-operation	<p>There is no concrete private sector involvement expected in the implementation of the PPG, i.e. the scoping study and the consultative workshop.</p> <p>The private should be actively involved in follow-up actions, if any, such as the possible development of an overarching African SPS strategy.</p>
13. Budget	<p>The AUC requests the STDF Working Group to approve up to <u>US\$ 30,000</u> to implement the aforementioned activities.</p> <p>The bulk of this amount will be allocated to pay the consultant (fee, travel expenses, etc.). A further breakdown should be available</p>

	upon determination of the terms of reference. An additional amount may have to be used to pay for additional subsistence allowance not covered by the PAN SPSO programme. This should be discussed by the AUC directly with AU/IBAR.
14. Non STDF contributions	AU/IBAR will contribute in-kind to the implementation of the PPG by providing meeting room facilities, coffee/lunch and transport facilities for the consultant and for participants in the workshop. Overall responsibility for the organization of the workshop will be of Dr Sarah Olembo from the AUC.

**Appendix 1: Supporting letters**

By Friday 15 May

AFRICAN UNION



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 Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA  
 517844

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700 Fax:

Reference :

COM/REA/

Date :

22 April , 2009

To: Secretary of the STDF

The African Union sends its compliments to the STDF and has the pleasure to thank your Excellency for the contributions your participation brought both to the training program and to the just concluded (3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009) High level Conference on SPS jointly convened by the African Union and the EU on institutionalizing SPS for agricultural health and food safety.

SPS issues in the African Union are covered under the department of trade and industry (for trade related concerns) and the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (for agricultural health and food safety). During the training that was held from the 28<sup>th</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April and which concluded with the High level Conference in which both the EU Commissioner for health, and African Union Commissioner from Trade and Industry, Agriculture and Social Affairs; several proposals were tabled with the initial one to the AUC to create a regional Task force comprising all stakeholders. Subsequently, and given the relevance as well as the efforts for cost effectiveness, a task force has been constituted to overlap with the Steering Committee on the PANSPO- an EU program for facilitating REC participation in standards setting activities. The task force comprises of RECs, the African Union Commission, EU and the STDF.

The terms of reference for the Task Force have been derived to:

- Scope the current SPS policy framework in the RECs within the context of the International standards and SPS Agreement.
- Present the outputs of this study at a consultative workshop for discussion and feedback. This workshop should include representatives of the RECs and concerned Technical bodies and provide technical guidance for the development of Africa's SPS policy framework.
- Establish consultative processes to develop a draft legal framework to be validated at a workshop. That draft should be general enough to allow RECs to develop detailed frameworks
- Adopt the draft frameworks by the AU policy organs
- Follow up the adaptation and implementation by the AUC.

We shall be grateful if the STDF could support this scoping study to be undertaken as a matter of urgency. In this connection, the AUC requests the STDF Working Group to approve up to **US\$ 30,000** to implement the aforementioned activities.

Signed:

1. H.E Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner,  
Rural Economy and Agriculture,  
African Union Commission

2. H.E Elizabeth Tankeau, Commissioner,  
Trade and Industry,  
African Union Commission

Attachments.

AFRICAN UNION

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(a) INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To : H.E E.Tankeau,  
Commissioner, trade and Industry

Ref.COM/REA/

Date : 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

From : **H.E Tumussime Rhoda peace,**  
**Commissioner,**  
**Rural Economy and Agriculture**

Tel. Ext.

Subject **1<sup>st</sup> Africa- EU High Level Conference on SPS in Agricultural Health and Food Safety of the EU Better Training For Safer Foods ,Addis Ababa, and subsequent follow up**

You may recall that the African Union Commission in collaboration with the EU has recently launched the above activities until 2010. The objective of the activities is to implement SPS Program Plan contained in the Africa-EU Joint Strategy which was adopted in Lisbon. Within this framework, several meetings and consultations have been held between EU and AUC in addition to the internal consultations among the concerned AUC Commissioners. However, coordination falls within our two departments: - Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) as the focal Department in collaboration with Department of Trade and Industry.

One of the recommendations emanating both from the African Union Commission and the EU Commission was the setting up of a task force to spearhead and fast track the implementation of these activities. The task force has been compiled and involves the Department of Trade and Industry the Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture, as well as RECs, AUC Technical Offices, EU and the STDF.

During these meetings STDF pledged an immediate sum of \$30,000 to assist with a scoping study of the SPS programs in the RECS wherein the gaps will require to be filled. The proposal and request for this grants has been developed jointly by the African Union and the STDF.

It's in this connection that I send the letter of request jointly to be signed by you and me for your endorsement. STDF requires the letter and the grants request to be sent back to them today. I will be very grateful if you could oblige and send the letter back to me to fax it to STDF.

I thank you.

cc : - Acting Director, DREA  
- Director, Trade and Industry  
- Acting Director, Social Affairs  
Mr. Nadir Merah, Trade and Industry  
Dr. Janet Byaruhanga, Social Affairs  
Mr. Ayub, Trade and Industry

Dr. Sarah Olembo

II.

(a) AFRICAN UNION

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III.

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(i) *Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: 517 700 Fax: 517844*

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**IBAR/***Reference :**Date :*

22 April , 2009

To: Secretary of the STDF

The African Union/ Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) sends its compliments to the STDF and has the pleasure to thank your Excellency for the contributions your participation brought both to the training program and to the just concluded (3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009) High level Conference on SPS jointly convened by the African Union and the EU on institutionalizing SPS for agricultural health and food safety.

SPS issues have become major constraints of Agricultural exports from Africa. AU/IBAR as a major recipient of donor funding to address SPS issues related to Animal health is also hosting the PAN SPSO program which address both Animal Health and Plant Health in 47 ACP countries and in partnership with RECs. The Initiative of the better training for safer food has been received by IAU-BAR with much enthusiasm. In this regards, AU-IBAR highly endorses the request by the African Union Commission for A grant for \$30 000 USD from STDF to carry out a scoping study to indentify the gaps within the RECs in their efforts to implement SPS programs in their regions

We shall be grateful if the STDF could support this scoping study to be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

Ahmed El Sawalhy

cc

1. H.E Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner,  
Rural Economy and Agriculture,  
African Union Commission

2. H.E Elizabeth Tankeau, Commissioner,  
Trade and Industry,  
African Union Commission

3 Acting Director of DREA

4- Acting Director of Trade and Industry

5. Dr.Sarah A.H. Olembo- Acting head, Food Security