

**20 years of safe
trade for sustainable
development**



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



WORLD BANK GROUP



World Health
Organization



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

Sustainable Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction and Food Security

STDF's vision linked to the SDGs

STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy supports:



In addition, the Strategy contributes to:



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Overview



Forewords



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Maximo Torero Cullen
Chief Economist

The FAO, one of the five STDF's founding partners, has played a central role in realizing the visionary thinking for strategic partnerships and synergies essential for ensuring safe agrifood trade through the One Health approach. Recognizing the interconnectedness between food safety, animal health, plant health, and environmental health, One Health responses have at their core sanitary and phytosanitary measures which prevent dissemination of hazards and facilitate trade. Through its knowledge platform, projects and exploring innovation, supporting developing countries to adhere to international standards, STDF contributes to inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability amidst climate change, dynamic transformation, and challenges of modern agrifood systems. FAO warmly welcomes the impressive achievements of STDF's unique inter-agency and multi-sectorial partnership, expresses further support, and extends best wishes in its endeavors beyond 20+.



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



Monserrat Arroyo
*Deputy Director General,
International Standards and Science*

WOAH, as a founding partner of the STDF, recognizes the Facility's added value in strengthening collaboration in SPS capacity building to support developing countries to prevent and manage animal diseases and zoonoses, which is a global public good. WOAH congratulates the active network of partners, donors, members and Secretariat of the STDF on its 20-year anniversary. We are proud to have been part of its successful evolution during the past two decades to become a global coordination and knowledge hub to address persistent and emerging SPS challenges. In this way, the STDF provides a pathway to food security and economic development for many countries worldwide. WOAH looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the STDF partnership to facilitate safe trade into the future.



Mona Haddad
*Global Director for Trade,
Investment and Competitiveness*

The World Bank congratulates the STDF on its 20-year milestone. Established with World Bank seed funding of US\$0.9 million in 2004, the STDF has facilitated safe and inclusive trade. Trade drives economic growth, and international standards advance trade. Sustainability, quality and sanitary standards increase market access and improve product quality, while reducing environmental impacts. However, a growth in new requirements is creating challenges for small farmers and SMEs in developing countries. Capacity building for effective implementation of harmonized standards is essential for growth opportunities. STDF's projects complement the World Bank's work in agriculture, private sector development, trade facilitation, and digitalization. The World Bank looks forward to continuing its cooperation with STDF's global partnership.



Ailan Li
Assistant Director-General

As a founding partner, WHO proudly celebrates STDF's 20th anniversary, acknowledging its vital role in strengthening SPS capacity in developing countries. Through our collaboration, we've contributed to enhancing food safety systems, ensuring consumer health protection and promoting fair trade. This partnership has effectively addressed SPS challenges, reducing trade barriers and supporting economic growth. Importantly, STDF's work on integrating gender perspectives based on the Gender Action Plan is setting the path to ensure food safety systems are more inclusive, recognizing women's significant role. The development of STDF's monitoring and learning framework is also important to capture valuable insights to improve global food safety practices. WHO looks forward to advancing this collaboration, building on our shared achievements to foster sustainable development and impactful outcomes in the years ahead.



Jean-Marie Paugam
Deputy Director-General

The WTO is proud to host the STDF Secretariat and of the impressive results achieved over the last 20 years. The STDF's work in support of safe trade facilitation has helped developing country governments and the private sector, including MSMEs, to participate in, and benefit, from trade.

Through its project portfolio, knowledge work and global platform, the Facility strongly supports the WTO's Aid for Trade agenda. Crucially, it has helped small-scale producers export to regional and international markets.

The WTO looks forward to continued engagement with the STDF so that the gains from trade can be more widely shared.

Safe Trade for Sustainable Development

The STDF partnership is as relevant now as it was at its inception. In today's world, threats to food safety, animal and plant health continue to cross borders, while climate change as well as growing conflict and insecurity are making people increasingly vulnerable. This continues to present a critical challenge for developing countries to benefit from trade. The STDF has been operating for over two decades, providing a clear pathway to trading safely, sustaining development and growth across communities and countries worldwide. From a small collection of projects in the years immediately after its creation, with seed funding from the World Bank, the Facility has evolved into a global platform, knowledge hub, and innovation catalyst funding 250 projects and project preparation grants by the end of 2023. Evaluations show that generous donor support to the STDF provides a significant return on investment that is levelling the playing field, including for LDCs that receive over 40% of the support. In just the last five years, applications for funding to deliver innovative, collaborative solutions to SPS challenges increased over threefold, with a record 140 submissions received by the STDF in 2023. Against today's global backdrop, there are also opportunities. Advances in new technology are transforming agricultural development and trade, while growth in jobs in MSMEs is rising offering greater economic potential. Here, scaling up innovative SPS solutions and providing catalytic support to more countries – not able to yet reap these latest benefits – remains vital. Developing countries look to the STDF's global partnership to keep facilitating safe trade that contributes to the Global Goals and benefits people on the ground.



This statement is submitted to inform... of our commitment to enhance developing countries' capacity to participate effectively in the development and application of international standards and to take full advantage of trade opportunities.

FAO, WOA, WB, WHO, WTO – Joint Statement leading to the creation of the STDF
WTO Ministerial Conference, Doha, 2001

Partnership Growth

The STDF grew out of a joint communiqué issued by the Heads of FAO, WOA, World Bank, WHO and WTO at the Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001. Over the last 20 years, the partnership has expanded through the Working Groups, via expert-led Practitioner Groups and cooperation with new partners. Despite its relatively small financial size, the STDF has a wide reach and continues to deliver important results, thanks to its evolution into an open, collaborative platform that helps position SPS capacity development within a broader One Health approach and food systems transformation for win-win benefits.

Results Tracking

The STDF has increased its focus on results-based management over the last decade. Building on the 2015 M&E Framework, the 2020 MEL Framework deepened the focus on risk management and results reporting linked to trade and the Global Goals. Roll-out of the collaborative online MEL Tool has improved how data and information on results is reported and managed, while indicators for gender and the environment have been introduced over the last five years. STDF's network has played a key role in setting up and delivering the benefits of managing for results.

Sustainability Frontline

Inclusivity and sustainability are cornerstones of STDF work, which have risen up the agenda in recent years with a focus on extending the benefits of trade to more people in the 2020-2024 Strategy. The roll out of STDF's Gender Action Plan in 2023 represented a major milestone, which influenced the global dialogue on mainstreaming gender in safe trade facilitation. In turn, recent knowledge and learning has led to STDF advocating for stronger SPS systems to protect biodiversity and support climate change adaptation and resilience. The upcoming Strategy will recommit STDF to supporting people, prosperity and the planet.

Change Adaptation

Five years ago, as the shockwaves of Covid-19 reverberated worldwide, the STDF continued to support countries most affected, shoring up food safety, animal and plant health systems. The partnership adapted to understand the new realities, updated risk management reporting and rolled out digital solutions to deliver results across the project portfolio. In Central America and the Caribbean, a project aimed at building laboratory capacity to test for animal diseases adapted its pandemic response by shifting temporarily to test for Covid-19. Throughout, the STDF network remained connected and expanded cross-sector collaboration through hybrid Working Groups and hosting knowledge webinars. Many practices remain in place today, future-proofing safe trade for all.

STDF Timeline: 2001 - 2024



2001 - 2007

STDF - setting up the foundations



2008 - 2014

STDF - developing for success



- 2010 - Guidance note for applicants
- 2009 - Development of STDF Knowledge Work
- 2009 - Projects increasingly demand-driven
- 2008 - Second External Programme Evaluation
- 2008 - STDF Secretariat expanded
- 2007 - 2011 - STDF Medium-Term Strategy
- 2007 - STDF Operational Rules agreed
- 2007 - First STDF Website goes live
- 2006 - First 3 Developing Country Experts join
- 2005 - First External Programme Evaluation
- 2004 - 40% Funding Target for LDCs
- 2004 - Donors made first contributions to Trust Fund
- 2004 - STDF Business Plan agreed and governance structure formally established
- 2003 - First projects approved
- 2003 - First Working Group held
- 2002 - Interim Secretariat created
- 2002 - WTO allocates CHF100,000
- 2002 - World Bank approves seed funding of up to US\$900,000 over three years
- 2001 - Joint Doha Statement by FAO, WOA, WHO, WB and WTO



— 2024 - Development of STDF Strategy 2025-2030

— 2024 - Refreshed website

— 2024 - Fifth External Programme Evaluation

— 2020 - Practitioner Groups launched

— 2020 - 2021 - Covid-19 Risk Management

— 2020 - Increase in Annual Funding target to US\$7 million

— 2020 - 2024 - STDF Strategy linked to SDGs, MEL Framework and Communications Plan

— 2019 - Fourth External Programme Evaluation

— 2016 - First Communications Plan

— 2015 - First Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

— 2015 - More focus on Results Based Management

— 2015 - Increase to 6 Developing Country Experts

— 2015 - 2019 - STDF Medium-Term Strategy and Annual Funding target of US\$5 million



2015 - 2024

STDF - from strength to strength

— 2014 - New website launched

— 2014 - Third External Programme Evaluation

— 2013 - STDF Secretariat expanded

— 2012 - 2016 - STDF Medium-Term Strategy

Safe Trade @20 Headlines





Asia and Pacific

61



Latin America and Caribbean

44



Africa

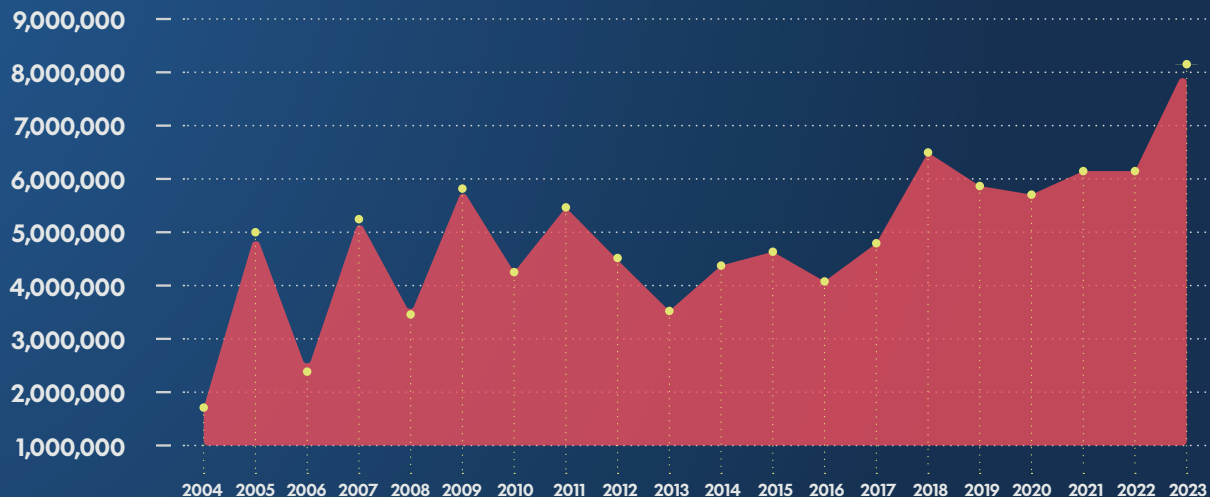
123



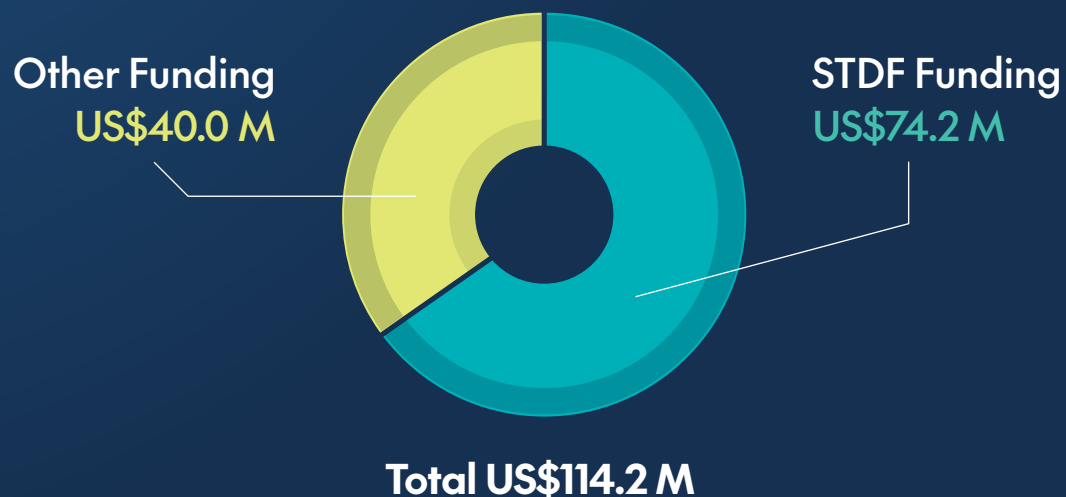
Global & Other regions

22

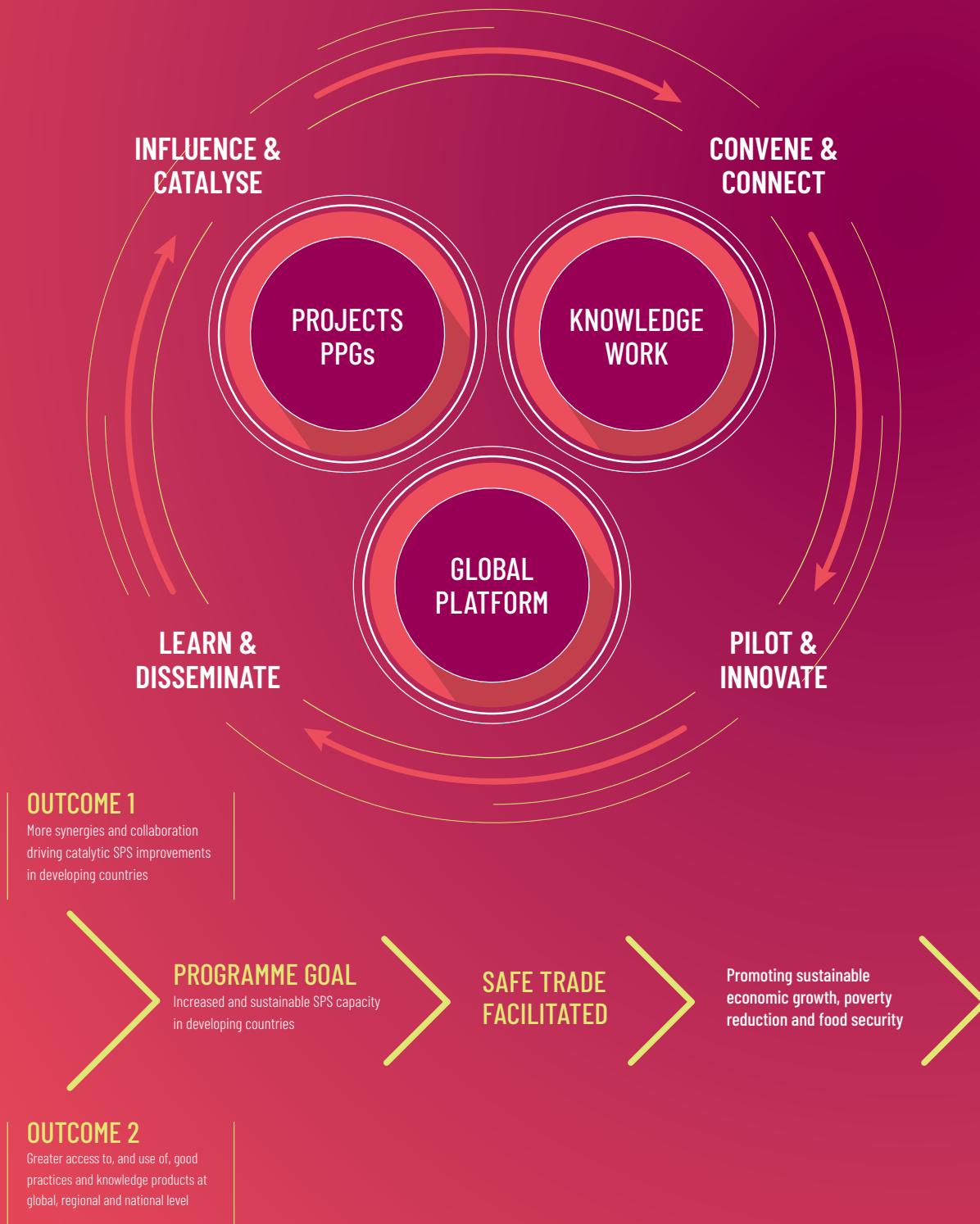
STDF Donor Contributions (CHF)



STDF role in Mobilizing Resources (US\$)



Theory of Change



Headline Results

For small-scale farmers, producers, traders and governments in developing and least developed countries (LDCs), being able to meet international food safety, animal and plant health standards and other trade requirements clears the path to global and regional markets in food and agriculture products. This creates opportunities to add value across supply chains and promote growth that is more inclusive, in turn generating employment, increasing incomes and securing people's livelihoods. In the last 20 years, five programme evaluations have assessed the STDF as fit for purpose for delivering vital results to improve SPS capacity in developing countries and to facilitate safe trade, while driving inclusive and sustainable development. Donor contributions to the Facility continued on an upwards trend, with a record US\$9.7 million received in 2023. In turn, the STDF has mobilized US\$40.0 million of public-private sector resources in support of STDF's portfolio made up of 250 projects and PPGs by the end of 2023. Since 2003, LDCs continue to benefit the most from STDF resources, above the 40% target, with US\$43.8 million in funding going to these countries worldwide. As stated in the 2024 external evaluation, centering STDF's strategy around safe trade and aligning with the Global Goals has helped put sustainability at the core of STDF's work.



Voices

Improving SPS capacity is a vital part of the solution to help us industrialize, transform and diversify our economies and benefit our populations. The STDF's global partnership helps LDCs to improve SPS capacity, and promote safer, more inclusive trade.

Talha Mahamat Alim, former Coordinator, WTO LDC Group

Norad is proud to support the STDF in its work to ensure that LDCs build capacity and can engage in safe trade, which is one of the keys to economic growth and poverty reduction.

Bård Vegar Solhjell, Director-General NORAD

The STDF is increasingly recognized as providing unique and excellent support to strengthening the food safety systems of developing countries and to enhancing cross-border trade of agricultural and food products. Especially at this current time, strengthening regional food systems is essential.

Marcel Vernooij, formerly The Netherlands' Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO

Finland believes that international trade has an essential role to play in helping to reduce poverty and promote economic growth in the post-pandemic world. Through our STDF contribution, we seek to support developing countries and LDCs in making full use of the rules-based global trading system and participate in international trade more effectively.

Kirsti Kauppi, formerly Finland's Ambassador to the WTO

Through our renewed support, we confirm Ireland's commitment to strengthening the participation of LDCs and small, vulnerable economies in the work of the WTO and in global markets.

Michael Gaffey, formerly Ireland's Ambassador to the WTO

STDF External Evaluation Headlines

Evaluation 2024

"STDF has increased SPS capacity in developing countries as measured through contributions to legislation, strategies, structures and/or processes relating to SPS, and improved implementation of trade-focused measures for enforcement of food safety, plant and animal health."

The STDF has "delivered significant and tangible results" and "the target countries and sectors that have benefitted from STDF support have seen stronger export growth in plants, animals and foods than their comparators."

Evaluation 2019

"The STDF is responding to the needs of developing countries in its focus on building SPS capacities to enable and unlock trade. The STDF and the STDF Secretariat have delivered outputs and results beyond what might be expected given their budget and resources."

Evaluation 2014

"The results are impressive and a testament to the effective operation of the STDF Working Group... as well as the support provided by the STDF Secretariat. Projects were considered highly relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries and to the policies of partners and donors."

Evaluation 2008

"The overall performance is judged to be good and in many important areas very good. The performance of the Secretariat is highly rated. The STDF makes efficient and effective use of its resources."

Evaluation 2005

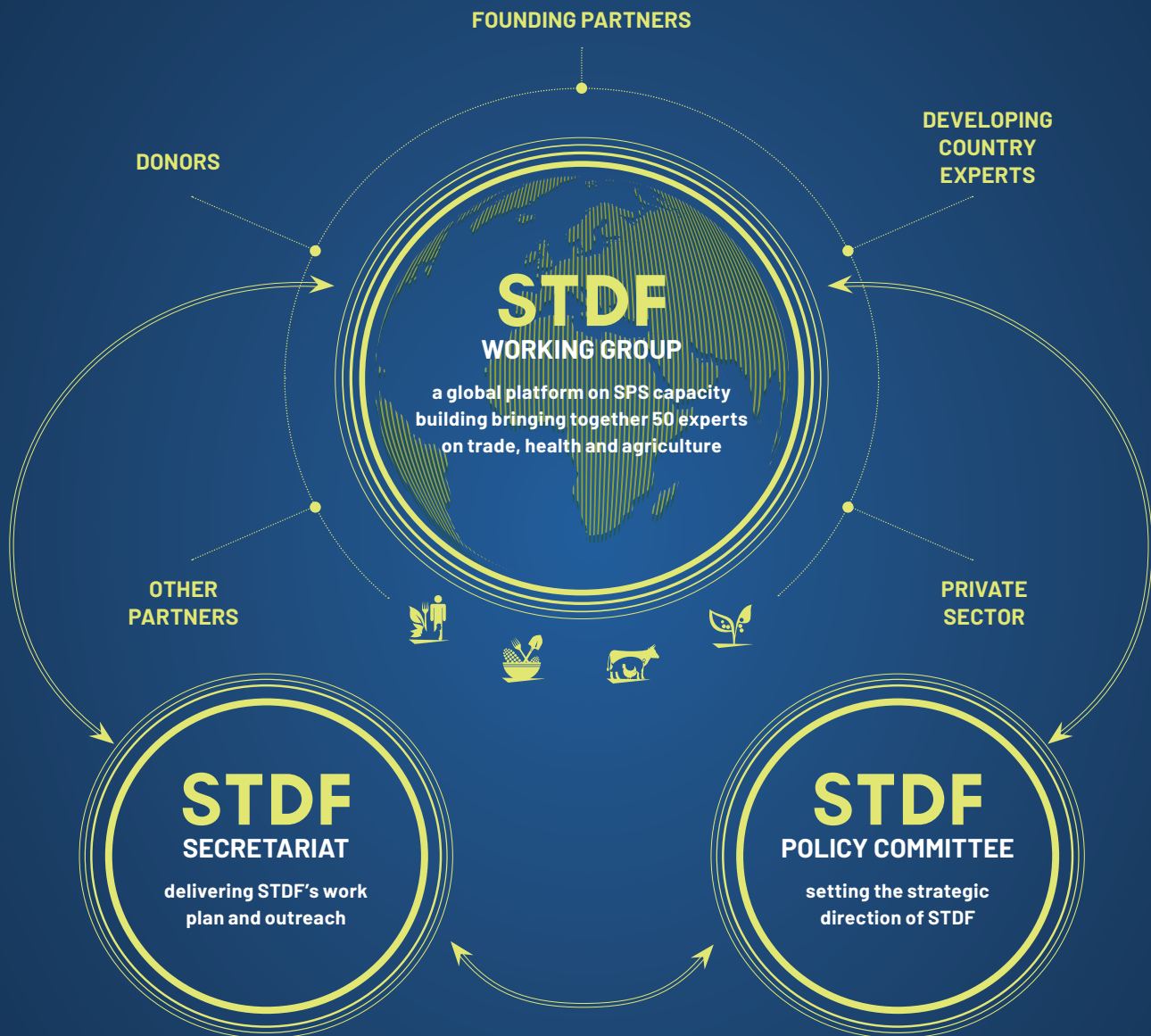
"As a clearly targeted initiative, the STDF has a number of unique selling points. The STDF has been successful, and it is now at a key turning point. It needs to define the future direction as it develops into a mature Facility."



Find out more

Partnership

The STDF global partnership brings together diverse stakeholders from across agriculture, health, trade and development. It promotes collaborative and coherent action to champion safe trade in support of the Global Goals, drawing on the wide-ranging technical expertise of its members. The STDF founding partners are the FAO, WOA, World Bank, WHO and WTO, including the Codex and IPPC Secretariats. Having steadily expanded from the five founding partners, the STDF now counts in its network: donors, developing country experts, government agencies, regional and international organizations, NGOs, universities and research institutes, and the private sector including industry associations. The Working Group convenes for two-days twice a year, led by a Chair who rotates annually. The STDF shares its knowledge and good practices with delegates through the WTO SPS Committee; the Committee on Trade and Development, Aid for Trade, the Informal Working Group on MSME and through other meetings led by other partners. Thanks to the added value of all its partners, working alongside developing countries, the STDF continues to make a positive, sustained contribution to safe, inclusive trade worldwide.



Voices

The STDF partnership represents a dynamic network, which cuts across sectors and technical areas with a common goal to facilitate safe trade that benefits the global South. This year marks 20 years of the STDF, which is a true testament to the partnership's impact and commitment.

Gillian Mylrea, WOA and former Working Group Chair

It is a continuously changing business: new foods, new crops, new pests, new practices in food safety, plant health and animal health. THE STDF is contributing to One Health and helping to develop more equal trade opportunities for all.

Tom Heilandt, Codex/FAO and former Working Group Chair

STDF's leadership role in bringing together key global players to foster multisectoral collaboration, innovation and improve SPS capacity in low and middle income countries is instrumental in realizing this priority and helping make the food supply safer.

Luz De Regil, WHO

The STDF was one of the first initiatives to demonstrate that we could still work effectively and bring the global platform together [in the wake of Covid-19]... This willingness and capacity to adapt will play a central role in the Working Group's ability to help effectively guide the work of the STDF.

Julie Emond, formerly Permanent Mission of Canada to the WTO and Working Group Chair

While we all have our own priorities and interests, the organizations involved in the STDF's partnership come together because we recognize the added-value of working together in support of our shared goals.

Nicola Bauman, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Find out more

13

Policy Committee
Meetings held from
2006-2024

50

Working Group
Working Group Meetings
held from 2003-2024

2003-4

10

participants (only
founding partners)
at each Working
Group meeting



2023-4

50

participants
(founding partners,
donors, developing
country experts and
other members)
at each meeting

Working Group Chairs: 2003-2024

2003	May / November: Ezzeddine Boutrif (co-chair FAO) and John Wilson (co-chair WB) / Ezzeddine Boutrif (co-chair FAO) and Kees van der Meer (co-chair WB)	2012	March / October: Hugo Cameron (Canada) / Lars Børresen (Norway)
2004	March / September: Kees van der Meer (WB)	2013	March / October: Lars Børresen (Norway)
2005	March / September: Kees van der Meer (WB)	2014	March / October: Craig Fedchock (IPPC)
2006	February / June / October: Ezzeddine Boutrif (FAO)	2015	March / October: Kazuaki Miyagishima (WHO)
2007	March / June / November: Jorgen Schlundt (WHO) / Margaret Miller (WHO) / Dewan Sibartie (WOAH)	2016	March / October: Sun Biney (Sweden)
2008	April / June / October: Sarah Kahn (WOAH)	2017	March / October: Renata Clarke (FAO)
2009	February / June / December: Sofie H. Flensburg (Denmark) / Rien Huige (The Netherlands)	2018	March / October: Paolo Garzotti (EU)
2010	March / July / October: Rien Huige (The Netherlands)	2019	March / October: Lorraine Ronchi (WB)
2011	March / June / October: Thomas Westcot (United States - USDA)	2020	April / October: Julie Emond (Canada)
		2021	March / October: Tom Heilandt (Codex)
		2022	June / November/December: Kelly J. McCormick (United States - FDA)
		2023	June / November: Gillian Mylrea (WOAH)
		2024	June / November: Sarah Brunel (IPPC)

Developing country experts

6 current
38 former experts
worldwide
(2006-2024)

The STDF partnership includes a dedicated group of 44 current and former developing country experts based in each region and made up of an equal gender balance across the board. Experts normally rotate every two years and play a key role in sharing SPS technical expertise, reviewing funding applications and promoting STDF work in regional and international fora. Former experts are active STDF ambassadors, spreading knowledge and learning across their networks, which encourages synergies and linkages with initiatives in their regions, further expanding reach and results.



Africa

Martin Kimanya
MaryLucy Oronje
Lucy Namu
Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu
Ameha Sebsibe Woldemariam
Martha Byanyima
Nagat El Tayeb
G. J. Benoit Gnonlonfin
Maputa Agnes Kamulete
Kenneth Msiska
Stella Oraka
Washington Otieno
Jennifer Rathebe
Babacar Samb
Herbert Schneider



Asia-Pacific

Nime Kapo
Mary Grace Mandigma
Sithar Dorjee
Visoni Timote
Sanjay Dave
Davinio Catbagan
Talei Fidow-Moors
Isa Kamarudin
Ravi Khetarpal
Larry Lacson
Chaweenwan Leowijuk
Shashi Sareen
Sidney Suma
Merriam Toalak
Batsukh Zayat



Latin America & the Caribbean

Rommel Betancourt
Jaime Romero
Mirian Bueno
Rogério Pereira da Silva
Delilah Cabb
Carmela Castillo
Carlos Correa Messuti
Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr
Lissette Gomez Rodriguez
Magda Gonzalez Arroyo
Michèle Paultre
Antonieta Urrutia-Anabalón
Maria Clara Vidal
Sanniel Wilson

Safe Trade @20 Knowledge Highlights





STDF 2004-2023
Events
70

close to 70 Events
on Knowledge
Work/Projects



STDF Knowledge
Products

40

Publications / Briefings

5

Films

125

News Items

3,775+

Subscribers

Feature on Knowledge Work

Through convening stakeholders across knowledge work and learning from innovation, the STDF has catalysed SPS capacity development work globally. Being part of STDF has allowed members to achieve more effective and sustainable results together, than would be possible alone.

In the last 20 years, the STDF has developed, disseminated and updated a wide body of well-received knowledge resources, which have influenced the collective understanding and way forward on priority SPS-related areas. This includes a collection of over 45 publications, briefings and films covering capacity evaluation tools, evidence-based approaches, public-private partnerships, reducing trade costs, eCertification, good regulatory practices, gender and the environment. Earlier knowledge work addressed topics that included SPS indicators, SPS good practices and financing gaps, climate change and Invasive Alien Species, regional SPS frameworks in Africa, and domestic spillovers of SPS capacity development.

STDF's knowledge has been enriched by lessons from STDF's more than 250 pilot projects, as well as by learning sessions, often run together with the wider partnership. At the same time, STDF's knowledge and good practices – including on PPPs, GRPs and mainstreaming cross-cutting issues – informs innovation within projects, and work by partnership members.

Thanks to stronger communications and outreach in recent years, knowledge materials are being shared with stakeholders at global and regional events and through an updated website. This has promoted a greater uptake and use of good practice in developing countries worldwide, such as with STDF's evidence-based approach framework, P-IMA, adopted by organizations including TradeMark Africa and CABI. Since 2020, the STDF has also been hosting expert Practitioner Groups – on eCertification, PPPs and P-IMA – to foster an in-depth exchange of best practice and collaboration, deepening the global dialogue for action on facilitating safe and inclusive trade.



Voices

The STDF, through its PPGs and knowledge products, serves as an incubator for innovative ideas that we can use to strengthen, scale and apply in our programmes.
Betsy Baysinger, USDA

The STDF's knowledge work is supporting efforts led by the AUC to help implement the African Continental Free Trade Area to increase intra-African trade.
Godfrey Bahiigwa, African Union Commission

We very much value the STDF's work on cross-cutting thematic topics, in convening STDF partners, in drawing on their technical expertise and enhancing SPS capacity more broadly.
Remco Vahl, Permanent Mission of the European Union to the WTO

We've been strong members of the STDF. There is a tremendous wealth of institutional experience here with STDF. We see things are scaling up as the knowledge generated aligns well with the World Bank's investment portfolio. The work that the STDF is doing is highly credible.
Chris Brett, Lead Agribusiness Specialist, World Bank

We acknowledge the productive work of STDF in building knowledge and capacity for developing countries in the area of pesticide MRLs. We will work jointly in the SPS Committee to monitor the effectiveness of the voluntary actions and the STDF work in addressing trade concerns related to food and agricultural products and to propose further collaborative, consensus actions as appropriate.
Joint Statement by 17 Ministers, WTO Ministerial Conference 2017

The STDF workshop in March 2023 shared valuable lessons from STDF work that can be used by SPS Committee members for SPS capacity development globally. It showed how STDF's practical experiences can support follow-up to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC-12) Declaration "Responding to Modern SPS Challenges", which aims to strengthen implementation of the SPS Agreement and facilitate safe trade.
Joanna Grainger, former SPS delegate from Australia and Co-Steward, SPS Thematic Group 5

STDF Films



Shaping a Safer World

(2021)

Safety is critically important, from what we eat to how we work and do business. Without a clear pathway to trading safely, sustaining development and growth across communities and countries is at risk. How can we act now to invest in recovery for a safer world? What does that world look like? And who is starting to shape the picture?



[Find out more](#)



Cocoa: a sweet value chain

(2016)

Follow the journey of the humble cocoa bean from a tropical plantation to one of the world's most loved products, chocolate. Find out how in today's global value chain, sanitary and phytosanitary capacity helps to make sure that cocoa plants are free from pests and diseases and that chocolate is safe for consumers.



[Find out more](#)



Safe Trade Solutions

(2015)

Take a look at what Chile, Peru and Colombia have done to make goods flow faster across their borders, while also preventing the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants, and ensuring that food is safe for consumers.



[Find out more](#)



Trading Safely

(2009)

Trade in food products helps raise incomes. But to enjoy the full benefit, countries have to meet food safety and health standards. Stories from Benin, Belize, Thailand and Viet Nam show how some are rising to the challenge.



[Find out more](#)

Capacity Evaluation Tools



Timeline



Story over time

Investing in global public goods around food safety, animal and plant health is crucial at a time when international crises send shockwaves that put the UN's 2030 development agenda at risk. Building up strong SPS systems allows developing countries to shore up resilience while continuing to protect public health and gain and maintain access to markets and trade. Over the last 20 years, the STDF has promoted the uptake of official SPS capacity evaluation tools by WOAHP, IPPC, FAO/WHO – to identify gaps and mobilize action to meet international standards, as well as complementary tools developed by IFC, IICA and COLEAD. In 2008, the STDF held one of its first knowledge events on capacity evaluation tools alongside the SPS Committee, with 10 tools presented to 200 participants. Recommendations from the workshop – which included championing coordination, sharing evaluation findings and monitoring impact – shaped follow-up work. Through its knowledge platform STDF disseminated information on the tools to support countries to understand and evaluate SPS challenges to trade safely.

Seed funding from the STDF in 2004 played a catalytic role in developing WOAHP's flagship PVS tool, which has since been used in over 140 countries, making a lasting impact on the quality of veterinary services. In addition, 11 STDF projects and PPGs have supported the development and use of the IPPC's PCE tool and FAO/WHO National Food Control Systems Assessment Tool in more than 38 countries from Sierra Leone and Cabo Verde to Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. The STDF also supported a project to develop a network of PCE facilitators. Evaluated in 2020, findings show the innovative project helped lead to an increased use and availability of the PCE tool. Over 20 years, the STDF has facilitated discussions on each of the tools at Working Groups.

As featured in the 2020-24 STDF Strategy, the STDF's network is continuing to promote carrying out SPS capacity checks for countries to use as a springboard for safe and inclusive trade horizons.

Voices

With the support of its partners, including the STDF, the UNDP and the IPPC, our country has updated its sanitary and phytosanitary legislation. It was important for us to support this law, which we unanimously adopted to ensure the well-being of our people.

Hadjira Oumouri, Assembly of the Union of the Comoros

The [STDF] project was innovative for its time and will address a significant barrier to countries wanting to undertake a PCE as the basis for analysing their phytosanitary system and developing a national capacity strategy to address identified needs and achieve national priority outcomes.

Lois Ransom, Evaluator, PCE Facilitator Project



Find out more

Evidence-Based Approaches



Timeline



Story over time

With limited resources available, governments need to prioritize competing policy options to leverage the greatest return on SPS investment. In response to calls from SPS Committee delegates for help to make the business case, STDF launched work to use an evidence-based approach to do just that. The Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA) framework – developed with COMESA and USDA – helps countries make hard choices about competing SPS investments, based on policy goals. For over 10 years, the STDF has encouraged the use of P-IMA, which is grounded in multi-criteria decision analysis. In the process, work on P-IMA has helped to increase understanding about the benefits of using partners' SPS capacity evaluation tools.

From 2012 to 2024, the STDF P-IMA framework was piloted and used in 20 countries, from Malawi to Belize, Madagascar to Bangladesh and across COMESA and CARICOM. This improved SPS planning and decision-making, promoted efficiency and transparency and rallied public-private sector buy-in. Supporting the roll-out of the framework, a P-IMA briefing was released in 2018, to complement the 2016 P-IMA Guide (updated in 2023). A Facilitators Handbook was developed to build skills locally to use the framework, including virtually. To share experiences and learnings around P-IMA, over 15 sessions have been run with partners on the margins of the SPS Committee, as well as online and at training events including in the last 10 years with the African Union Commission, ITC, Sweden's Trade Academy, IPPC, World Bank, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, and WTO SPS Advanced Course. Since 2020, the P-IMA Practitioner Group has built awareness and synergies for P-IMA's use, helping to catalyze resources for priority SPS needs. P-IMA has been taken up and used by, among others, TradeMark Africa, CABI, Winrock International, ILRI, WOA and USDA. An Evaluation of work on P-IMA in 2023 underscored P-IMA's high relevance and contribution to improved SPS capacity and market access, pointing to over US\$2.8 million leveraged for SPS capacity building.

To meet the high demand for evidence-based approaches, STDF's expert network continues to channel learning and influence the take-up of P-IMA to unlock more global trade opportunities.

Voices

Use of P-IMA helps to raise high-level awareness about the importance of investing in SPS capacity. It improves SPS planning and cross-sectoral coordination and helps to get SPS priorities integrated in national policy and investment frameworks for agriculture, trade and the environment.

Martha Byanyima, formerly COMESA and former developing country expert

The [P-IMA framework training] provided a tremendous boost to the region's efforts to establish an effective regime of SPS measures, and we are now much better equipped to assess and identify strategic priorities.

Juliet Goldsmith, CAHFSA and former developing country expert

P-IMA helped us engage with stakeholders involved in livestock production and trade. It allowed us to prioritize SPS investments based on criteria like resilience, productivity increases, and export growth. This is helping us to justify future programming and secure financing.

MaryLucy Oronje, CABI and STDF developing country expert

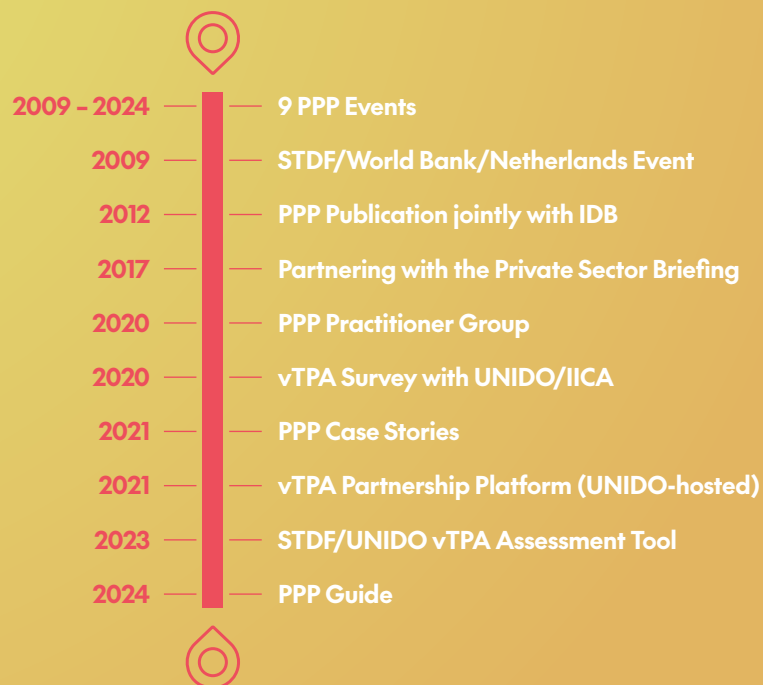


Find out more

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)



Timeline



Story over time

Partnerships between governments and the private sector to improve delivery of public goods are thriving as an instrument to drive safe trade and sustainable development outcomes worldwide. In support of UN Global Goal 17 on revitalizing global partnerships, the STDF has demonstrated the valuable catalytic role that PPPs have in building SPS capacity for over 15 years. Joint research with the IDB was published in 2012 which highlighted the private sector's vital contribution to stimulate innovation, leverage knowledge and resources and address SPS infrastructure gaps. As a leading actor in agri-food production and trade, private sector stakeholders have been involved as key partners in over 45 STDF projects, providing knowledge, expertise and resources, while MSMEs, farmers, producers and traders benefit from the majority of the Facility's projects and PPGs. Industry associations, including COLEAD, GFSI, IGTC, ISF and SSAFE, bring value to the Working Group, opening up opportunities for synergies and collaboration in support of STDF projects and knowledge work. This covers learning and insights on topics ranging from pathways to improve food safety, SME capacity building to the use of third-party assurance programmes. The STDF projects on ePhyto and eVet also involve active participation of an Industry Advisory Group.

STDF knowledge work and advocacy has showcased how PPPs strengthen SPS capacity and lead to concrete results on the ground at national and regional level as well as internationally. Over the last eight years, the STDF partnership has identified and promoted good practices on PPPs at Working Group discussions including with the AUC, the World Bank and IFC. A survey on the use of third-party assurance programmes was carried out in 2020, building on Codex work, and influenced regional pilot projects with public-private collaboration. An STDF Practitioner Group launched in 2020 to convene interested stakeholders to promote learning and synergies on PPPs, alongside a UNIDO-hosted vTPA Partnership Platform that went live in 2021.

A collection of 10 case stories spotlighting best practice on PPPs was published online in 2021, while the PPP Practitioner Group convened over 10 virtual events to share and learn about PPP approaches globally. A new STDF PPP Learning Guide – co-created by Practitioner Group members – will be released in 2024.

STDF's network continues to champion innovative partnership models between government authorities and businesses, sharing knowledge expertise to boost safe agri-food trade globally.

Voices

Experiences shared through the PPP Practitioner Group were instrumental in developing the WOA's partnership strategy and processes. The meetings were valuable to cross-pollinate experiences and ensure our activities potentially synergize.

Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, formerly WOAH

STDF's work on PPPs has helped to enrich the growing dialogue on improved food safety between governments and the private sector. The STDF's ongoing collaboration with the GFSI has contributed towards the unprecedented public-private collaboration taking shape globally.

Mike Robach, formerly GFSI Board



Find out more

Reducing Trade Costs



Timeline



Story over time

In today's interlinked world, facilitating safe trade is a win-win that allows developing countries to protect health, cut transaction costs and clearance times and get trade flowing across borders. Yet there was also a need to do this in a way that ensures health protection. For over 10 years, the STDF has increased awareness about these win-win opportunities, influenced the global dialogue and catalysed wider action for safe trade facilitation. STDF's 2015 film showcased the safe trade solutions working across Latin America. Findings from STDF action-oriented research in Southeast Asia and Southern Africa (published in 2014-2015) identified good practices from use of international standards to improved transparency, risk-based approaches and border agency cooperation. Thanks to STDF work, SPS authorities are now more involved in the discussion, alongside customs, strengthening the linkages across the trade facilitation chain.

Following ratification of the WTO TFA in 2017, STDF global events and outreach continued to share insights to support more countries worldwide to boost safe trade, including via the use of new technologies and automated SPS procedures. Global and regional events have strengthened cooperation among SPS authorities, customs and trade practitioners. Convinced by the opportunities, STDF partners and beneficiaries have developed new work on trade facilitation. The IPPC launched its International Year of Plant Health and Trade Facilitation in 2017. Other partners, including the World Bank, are scaling up support to strengthen SPS authorities, often seen as the weak link in the chain. Further collaborations were catalysed across the Working Group, including among the IPPC, GATF, the World Bank, WTO and World Customs Organization, and with the TFAF and the World Bank's Trade Facilitation Support Programme. Together, this has helped to champion border agency collaboration and reform, and increased support for SPS authorities, including in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Facilitating safe trade is at the centre of STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy and partnership efforts are ongoing to promote the latest know-how and pilot projects to drive safe, efficient agri-food trade.

Voices

STDF's work has played an important part in raising knowledge and awareness on the concrete linkages between SPS capacity building and trade facilitation, and the win-win opportunities to be gained from a more collaborative approach.

Roger Day, CABI

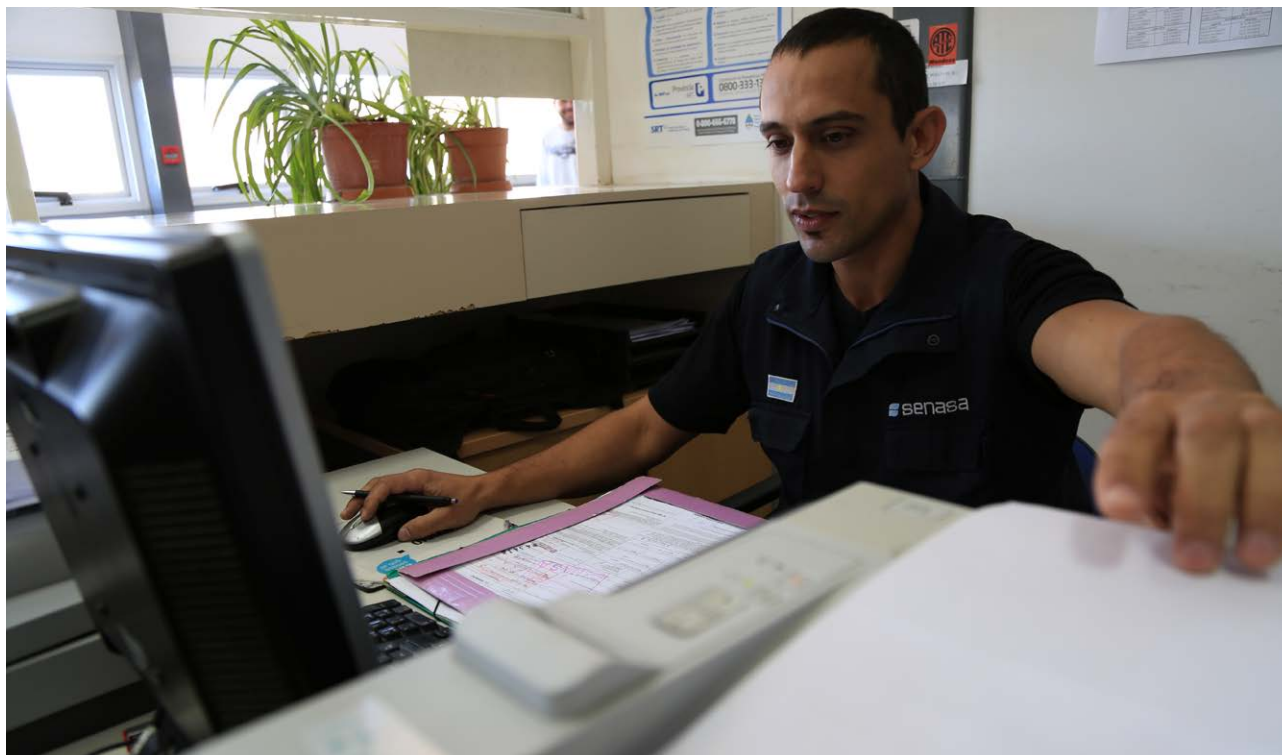
The Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) was set up at the request of developing countries to enable all WTO members to benefit from the Trade Facilitation Agreement. TFAF's structure was inspired by, and continues to draw on, the valuable experiences and work of the STDF.

Sheri Rosenow, formerly WTO



Find out more

Electronic SPS Certification



Timeline



2016 - 2024

2016

2017 - 2020

2017

2017

2019

2024

11 eCert Events

Global expert seminar

ePhyto Solution pilot-funded by STDF

Global Aft Review event

Paperless Trade Briefing

Practitioner Group (ECAC) set up

eCert Briefing and Film

Story over time

Electronic certification (eCert) has risen up the international agenda in the last decade. Against the backdrop of the WTO TFA, eCert opens pathways for developing countries to cut time and costs of trade. The STDF has been a pioneer in this area through the ePhyto Solution project, which has inspired further roll-out and through knowledge work that continues apace today. Since 2016 the STDF has been making the benefits of eCert accessible by showing how paperless SPS systems count. The ePhyto project also received a UNESCAP trade facilitation innovation award in 2019. Global and regional events – organized by the STDF in collaboration with many international, regional and industry partners – from ADB, ICC, OECD, IGTC, ISF, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, GAFT, IPPC, WCO, TMA and others – have advanced knowledge and learning on innovative approaches to SPS eCert, and helped to accelerate momentum and action, including on new work on eVet certification in Latin America. During the Covid-19 pandemic, eCert and ePhyto also gained further traction. Rooted in insights including from ePhyto and eVet initiatives, the STDF has disseminated know-how spanning a briefing on paperless trade in 2017, input into work by diverse partners (including the ADB, GATF, FAO and OECD), to a new briefing and film on eCert lessons and looking ahead in 2024.

The Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (ECAC) was set up in 2019 through the STDF. It represents a unique platform that convenes expert stakeholders to cross-fertilize experiences and good practices on SPS eCert and safe trade facilitation. Meeting regularly, ECAC has strengthened connections helping to encourage new cooperation and synergies on paperless certificates.

The eCert partnership catalysed by the STDF is now fostering collaboration for more countries to join up across the digitization space, helping to positively impact agri-food trade post-pandemic.

Voices

The STDF ECAC has brought together all relevant stakeholders to support the expansion and sustainability of digitization initiatives. A forum that brings together standard setting bodies and development partners to work towards a cohesive approach is critically important.
Shane Sela, World Bank

eCert will generate momentum for other areas of international trade to digitalize. ePhyto, which was developed by IPPC with the support of STDF has proven to be a fantastic model to follow. It is simple, robust, technology that can be applied in different parts of the world and can be replicated and upscaled to will.

Philippe Isler, GATF



Find out more

Good Regulatory Practices



Timeline



Story over time

The regulatory environment is becoming increasingly complex for traders to navigate when it comes to meeting SPS and other requirements to access markets, particularly for those in developing countries. Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) make regulations simpler and smarter, so that SPS measures can be fit for purpose to protect health but also facilitate trade in line with the WTO SPS Agreement. The STDF has worked with partners to share learning and knowledge in this priority area for the last eight years, having compiled lessons from 118 government officials across 64 countries as part of a survey on GRPs to SPS Committee delegates in 2017. Since then, it has brought together expert members – including the World Bank, WOHAI, WTO, OECD, AUC, AfCFTA and the United States – to discuss key findings and share experiences. In turn, this led to the development of STDF's GRP Guide launched during the WTO SPS Committee in 2021, and an accompanying briefing in 2022. The step-by-step Guide, with links to success stories and global resources, is being widely disseminated to SPS regulators, and has championed the use of GRPs in STDF projects, including a new STDF project to promote the use of ePing for safe trade facilitation in Africa. The Guide is also influencing wider efforts, including work in COMESA and ongoing pilots by USDA with New Market Lab in Zambia and Nigeria.

Over the period, STDF's GRP know-how has complemented partner initiatives, including work by the WTO on SPS transparency and the OECD on Regulatory Cooperation. To catalyse change on the ground, the STDF has fostered dialogue on GRPs including at a regional workshop with the WTO and IICA in Costa Rica in 2017 as well as at a 2022 virtual seminar with ADB. In 2023, a two-day learning event was held in Ghana with the AUC, AfCFTA Secretariat, USDA and USAID to deepen officials' GRP skills to support SPS measures linked to the AfCFTA and AU SPS Policy Framework. Driving synergies across WTO members on GRPs has also been a priority during information exchanges at the SPS Committee.

STDF's network champions good practice to reduce the regulatory burden, drawing on capacity development experiences, that creates concrete benefits for governments and traders worldwide.

Voices

Good Regulatory Practices are highly relevant and cut across various key concepts of the WTO SPS Agreement. I see STDF work in this area as critical to raise awareness and provide support to SPS agencies tasked with developing SPS measures.

Christiane Wolff, WTO

16 COMESA Member States endorsed a decision in December 2023 to implement GRPs in the COMESA region. This work builds on STDF's GRP Guide. It aims to help simplify and streamline SPS measures so that small-scale traders can benefit more from cross-border agri-food trade.

Mukayi Musarurwa, COMESA

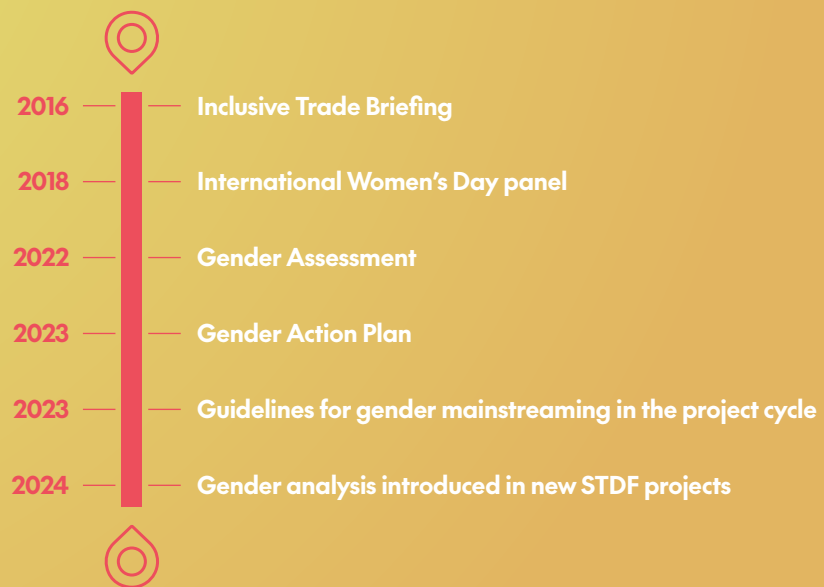


Find out more

Gender



Timeline



Story over time

Over the last 20 years, there has been a growing consensus around what safe, inclusive trade that works for all looks like. In line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, this means adopting a gender lens to address the different barriers faced by women producers, processors and traders across global agri-food value chains, all the more so post-pandemic. The STDF has supported women's economic empowerment through its projects and capacity building workshops since its inception. The Facility showcased examples in its 2018 Results Book, films and online stories from the women shrimp farmers in Bangladesh to ginger producers in Nepal, flower processors in Uganda to cinnamon factory workers in Sri Lanka. For the last 10 years the STDF has asked project applicants to share the potential impact on, and empowerment of, women, while gender indicators feature in the MEL Framework linked to STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy. In addition, a Briefing on inclusive trade was released in 2016 and STDF has promoted knowledge sessions on women's role in trade connecting diverse stakeholders, including at a WTO International Women's Day panel in 2018.

The STDF Gender Assessment published in 2022, and the Gender Action Plan launched on the margins of the SPS Committee and rolled out in 2023, represented a major milestone for the partnership and strongly influenced the collective understanding of the role gender plays in the SPS domain. Through a global dialogue on the importance of mainstreaming gender, across 2023, the STDF shared insights with WTO SPS delegates, AUC SPS Coordination Forum representatives, UNECE's Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and the audience at UNCTAD's eWeek. This built on earlier outreach sessions with public-private sector partners including at the 2022 International Plant Health Conference. Guidelines for mainstreaming gender in the project cycle were disseminated in 2023, leading to more projects carrying out gender analysis and strategy work, plus action to better target training.

In addition, gender-responsive indicators are being included in project logframes to capture results on gender mainstreaming.

The STDF partnership remains on the frontline making the case for why gender equality matters for SPS compliance driven by its Action Plan focus on knowledge, projects and capacity building.

Voices

STDF's Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan has pushed and enabled COLEAD to move forward on gender mainstreaming, helping us to promote inclusion in a tangible way.

Jeremy Knops, COLEAD

France intends to use the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the STDF gender assessment to inform its bilateral SPS capacity development programmes.

Cassandre Nonque, French Ministry of Economy and Finance

STDF's gender assessment has played a catalytic role in informing efforts to support gender mainstreaming in the IPPC Secretariat's work, including an awareness-raising session on gender to the phytosanitary capacity evaluation training course.

Sarah Brunel, IPPC Secretariat



Find out more

Environment, Climate & Biodiversity



Timeline



Story over time

The global community's focus on taking collective climate action has intensified in recent years, accompanied by the need to support partner countries to face growing environmental pressures. UN Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and 15 adopted in 2015 specifically target these areas. Over the last 15 years, the STDF has effectively opened up the policy space on how to facilitate safe trade while protecting the planet. Starting from a joint seminar with the World Bank on climate change and SPS risks in 2009, this spanned sharing expertise and lessons at CBD regional workshops in 2018 as well as hosting online events for STDF's Climate Change Week in 2022 with STDF founding partners and as a member of the IAS Liaison Group. Most recently, this involved an STDF-led partner panel at the Trade House Pavilion during COP-28 on how safe trade can foster forward-looking solutions in adapting to climate change. Through its global dialogue and outreach, the STDF has championed the need to build strong SPS systems that can protect the environment, preserve biodiversity and build climate change resilience.

All this is reinforced by a series of STDF flagship knowledge publications from work with the World Bank in 2011 and with IPPC and WOAHA on invasive alien species in 2012 to later briefings in 2018 on protecting the environment and on mitigating and adapting to climate change in 2023. Since 2015, environmental protection has been part of the STDF's strategic direction, and applications for funding have since asked for environmental information and for this to be captured in progress reporting. The STDF MEL Framework, which accompanied the 2020-2024 Strategy, includes select environmental indicators to track performance at programme level. An Environment Assessment released in 2024 shows that two-thirds of projects reviewed feature environmental aspects and puts forward key recommendations to bolster STDF's work in this area. Based on the recommendations, further work to strengthen environment mainstreaming – including better connections with environment stakeholders and environment indicators in projects – is planned linked to the next Strategy.

Today's STDF partnership of agriculture, health, trade and development experts continues to act as a catalyst championing new approaches that link food systems, biodiversity, climate and health.

Voices

Urgency is a key word as we are dealing with changes in terms of climate. We need to adapt the way we work in and across countries, [using] the agri-food system approach. We need governance innovation and the right to experiment. Thanks STDF, for the work you do on that.
David Laborde, FAO

STDF's linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) space, particularly dealing with invasive species in trade pathways, has been vital in the cross-fertilization of practices, skills and knowledge across the environmental and trade communities.
Sidney Suma, former developing country expert



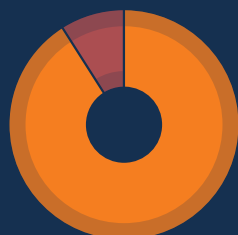
Find out more

Safe Trade @20 Project Highlights



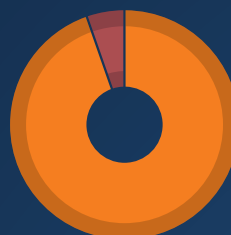
Projects and PPGs – STDF funding (US\$) / Total funding (US\$)

STDF Funding



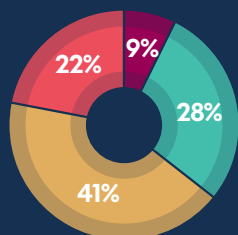
PPGs - US\$ 4.8 M
Projects - US\$ 69.4 M
Total - US\$ 74.2 M

Total Funding

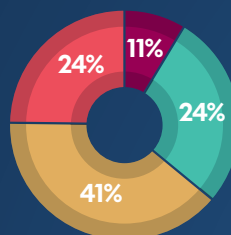


PPGs - US\$ 5.0 M
Projects - US\$ 109.2 M
Total - US\$ 114.2 M

STDF investment in food safety, animal health, plant health and cross-cutting projects/PPGs (US\$)

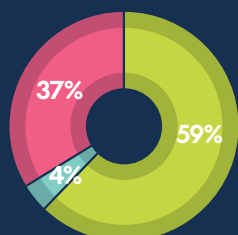


Cross cutting SPS - US\$ 16.8 M
Animal Health - US\$ 6.6 M
Plant Health - US\$ 20.5 M
Food Safety - US\$ 30.3 M
Total - US\$ 74.2 M



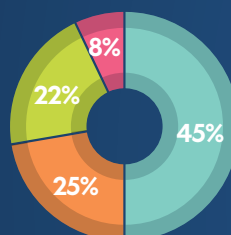
Cross cutting SPS - 59
Animal Health - 27
Plant Health - 61
Food Safety - 103
Total - 250 PGs & PPGs

STDF Support to LDCs/OLICs (US\$)



Others - US\$ 27.7 M
OLIC - US\$ 2.7 M
LDC - US\$ 43.8 M
Total - US\$ 74.2 M

STDF Regional Presence (US\$)



Global & Other regions
US\$ 5.9 M
Latin America & Caribbean
US\$ 16.7 M
Asia and Pacific - US\$ 18.4 M
Africa - US\$ 33.2 M
Total - US\$ 74.2 M

Feature on Projects Flagship Project Results: 2004-24

The STDF has influenced and driven sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries, leveraging more support and resources for SPS investments and promoting improved SPS outcomes. Public and private sector worldwide have benefitted from better and more effective SPS interventions, and the adoption and replication of good practices, including via projects and project preparation grants.

For 20 years, the STDF has provided funding to develop and implement demand-driven, collaborative and innovative SPS projects and project preparation grants in all regions worldwide.



Voices

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

Kelly J. McCormick, US FDA

Credit should be given to the Secretariat for its catalytic role in bringing in other donors. The STDF can create incentives for other donors to intervene and take over the funding of projects.

Kaviraj Appadu, formerly Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

STDF is much more than a source of funds for projects in the region. It's the STDF's rich source of knowledge and the partnership of very diverse stakeholders working together coherently that is the STDF's real value-added.

Jaime Romero, developing country expert, Colombia

By helping developing countries tackle SPS challenges, we are making a contribution to improving SPS systems and ensuring safe agricultural food trade globally. Building SPS capacity is key to raising food security levels, protecting the environment and securing people's livelihoods.

H.E Bettina Waldmann, formerly German Ambassador to the WTO

STDF projects are unique because they connect different public and private sector stakeholders and pilot new SPS approaches and innovations. This enables STDF's relatively small-budget projects to leverage synergies and catalyse changes that have much bigger impacts.

Ravi Khetarpal, APAARI

STDF Project Results: Publications

Results Book: Driving Safe Trade Solutions Worldwide (2018)

STDF's publication of 25 results stories showcases how projects in food safety, animal and plant health and cross-cutting SPS areas facilitated safe and inclusive trade on a global scale. The book highlights good practice of support to small-scale farmers, processors, traders and governments to export safe food and agricultural products to markets worldwide. As a result, rural incomes increased, including for women, securing livelihoods and driving sustainable development.

Beyond Results: Learning the Lessons from STDF projects (2018)

STDF's meta-evaluation of over 22 projects, based on an in-depth review and analysis of external evaluation reports aimed at improving the quality and performance of future projects. The publication concluded that projects score very highly on relevance, effectiveness and efficiency. It set out how sector development projects make a greater contribution to impact and sustainability, compared to technical assistance and institution building projects. A series of recommendations to strengthen the results and impacts of STDF projects were taken forward by the Working Group.

Between 2007-2024, over 40 STDF projects have had impact evaluations carried out.



Find out more

Project Preparation Grants



Voices

The project's success [following the proposal] was due to genuine collaboration between the private sector and public institutions. We joined our efforts in support of a common objective – helping small-scale producers to improve the quality and safety of cabbage, which increased their access to regional export markets.

Mamadou Ndiaye, Association of Market Gardening Unions of Niayes (AUMN) Senegal

Our women's group produces a truckload of ginger. Ginger farming has supported us to save for the future of our children. Field schools [set up following STDF's project proposal] helped us reduce losses and increase our incomes. Now with the washing plant, we are so happy.

Chandra Kala Rai, Ginger Cooperative Female Group Nepal

The STDF studies in Tanzania and Zimbabwe provided valuable experiences on the practical challenges and requirements to implement WOA's international standards. WOA will consider how it can use the insights from these studies to inform its Standards Observatory and ongoing work to monitor the implementation of WOA standards.

Ann Backhouse, formerly WOA

The STDF has been great in lifting our visibility with agencies in the Pacific. We are now preparing a regional project to develop apiculture in the Pacific. When you work with institutions like the STDF, it becomes a project that can be scaled and accelerated, which is essential in a world where diseases are spreading.

Richard Duncan, CEO Niue Honey Company

In Madagascar, STDF's framework was used to prioritize investment needs. This was a unique opportunity and the exercise brought all stakeholders together using a methodical, structured approach to identify investment needs and to prioritize them based on multi-criteria decision-making. There are many other countries that can be inspired by this.

Babacar Samb, Bioscope SARL and former developing country expert

Developing Projects: in Action



Senegal: partnerships boost safe cabbage production and regional exports

Thanks to an STDF PPG, a project proposal was developed to improve the safety and quality of cabbage in Senegal by putting in place systems, which follow GAP schemes, facilitate traceability and HACCP. Small-scale growers, traders and government agencies worked with a local industry association to revitalize production and develop the sector. As a result of the project, farmer productivity increased from 15 to 30 tonnes per hectare and processing costs fell by 42%. Producers also gained new market shares in Mauritania, Mali, The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau.



Find out more

Nepal: public-private partnerships to promote ginger exports

An STDF PPG developed a proposal to increase capacity to comply with SPS requirements along the ginger value chain. The PPG enabled government agencies responsible for agriculture and trade to work with the Nepalese Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and local public and private sector stakeholders to design an innovative project, co-funded by the STDF and EIF. The project went on to train close to 2,000 farmers (mostly women), reduce post-harvest losses by 30%, increase farmer incomes by 60% and boost ginger exports to new markets in the region and beyond.



Find out more

Guatemala: simplifying import procedures to cut transaction costs

Under an STDF PPG, a risk-based protocol and project proposal were developed to help Guatemala cut transaction costs, improve biosecurity and facilitate trade. The support looked at how to set up a risk-based protocol for importing laboratory samples so that permission is required only for those that are high-risk. Follow-up with laboratories was part of a wider EU-supported project (€26 million), of which one component was to strengthen SPS authorities, the business environment and trade facilitation.



Find out more

Bhutan: border management to facilitate safe agri-food trade

A PPG under STDF developed a project proposal in Bhutan, which enabled national stakeholders and international partners to agree on steps to build capacity for border inspection and control of plant and animal products. The project is championing border agency coordination and trade facilitation reforms all while addressing women traders' needs. In addition, the PPG analytical work also fed into the country's development plan and informed WB financing for a One Health approach to build national health system resilience.



Find out more

Feasibility Studies: in Action



Tanzania/Zimbabwe: taking forward WOH standards for commodity-based trade

Under two STDF PPGs, the UK's Royal Veterinary College carried out studies in Tanzania and Zimbabwe on the costs and requirements to meet WOH standards to control foot-and-mouth disease and the expected benefits. The studies analysed the feasibility of setting up a disease-free zone in Tanzania and developing commodity-based trade in Zimbabwe. Findings were shared with the SPS Committee to support the work of veterinary officials worldwide and highlighted how countries need to identify and develop export markets before setting up disease-free zones to capitalize on investments made. The veterinary services plan to mobilize resources for follow-up.



Find out more *and more*

Niue: partnership in the Pacific supports honey exports

In Niue a feasibility study under an STDF PPG demonstrated the value of investing in a Pacific Bee Sanctuary. This encouraged the Pacific Islands Forum to build a Pacific-wide approach for the apiculture industry and boost its export potential. As an added benefit, the PPG was pivotal in connecting Niue's honey stakeholder network to regional and global partners to support upscaling. To date, Niue Honey successfully launched in New Zealand and Australia with plans in motion to expand into more markets.



Find out more

SADC: accredited mobile laboratory for food safety testing

STDF's PPG study investigated the feasibility, potential impact and economic viability of a mobile ISO 17025 accredited food safety testing lab in SADC, with a focus on South Africa,

Namibia, Eswatini and Lesotho. Stakeholder dialogues showed the project has competitive advantages and is commercially feasible, as the lab would provide a faster turnaround in providing certification. A 3D model was designed and printed to visualize the mobile lab. Stakeholders are now seeking funds to construct the vehicle and get it on the road.



Find out more

Peru: Zoning to control infectious diseases in aquaculture

A feasibility study conducted under the STDF PPG identified zoning as a viable option to control infectious diseases in white shrimp and developed a roadmap to implement WOH and FAO zoning guidelines. This helped the Peruvian government to secure additional investments for follow-up, including under a new FAO-led project financed by Korea. This project includes the use of intelligent and digital technologies (AI) to reduce biosecurity risks that is expected to lead to more effective aquatic animal health management and sustainable production practices.



Find out more

West Africa: using digital tools to facilitate safe food trade

A feasibility study supported by STDF explored how to use digital tools to improve compliance with food safety standards in West Africa, given that countries in the region faced limited availability of, and access to, internationally recognized laboratories, certification or inspection bodies. Following the study, a proposal was developed to use IT tools to support virtual accreditation, conformity assessment and capacity development. The approved nine-country project is led by UNIDO, together with the regional accreditation body (SOAC).



Find out more

Capacity Evaluation Tools/P-IMA:

In Action



The Gambia: enhancing national plant protection system with PCE tool

The STDF PPG applied IPPC's PCE tool to enhance The Gambia's national plant protection system, conducting a comprehensive assessment of the country's phytosanitary capacity gaps, as well as developing a project to implement action points. As a result of the support, the country was able to meet the necessary requirements to become the 183rd contracting party to IPPC. Going forward the IPPC is working closely with The Gambia to implement the IPPC nationally.



Find out more

Madagascar: prioritizing SPS investments using the P-IMA framework

The STDF PPG supported Madagascar to use P-IMA to prioritize SPS investment options for market access in export-oriented value chains, building on an IPPC PCE assessment. The approach provided evidence and analysis to inform SPS project development, helped fundraising efforts and facilitated public-private sector dialogue. It built awareness of benefits of investing in SPS capacity as well as supported National SPS Committee members' decision-making and development of the National SPS Action Plan.



Find out more

Ecuador: training facilitators to apply the P-IMA framework

Under the PPG, which used an approach pilot tested in the Caribbean, 10 Spanish-speaking facilitators were trained on applying the STDF's P-IMA framework. This included Ecuadorian officials and IICA representatives that can support future roll-out in the region. The PPG resulted in increased awareness of the importance of SPS issues among the public and private sector, as well as support for funding SPS priorities. As a result, IICA now plans to apply P-IMA in Ecuador.



Find out more

Cabo Verde: strengthening food safety control capacities with WHO/FAO tool

The PPG has applied the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool in Cabo Verde to assess the performance and strengthen the national food control system, which is operating without harmonized food safety regulations and limited food safety risk analysis. Part of the resources are developing a proposal for a project to address Cabo Verde's main SPS challenges in food safety and market access identified through the assessment, all of which will help support a national roadmap to strengthen the food safety system.



Find out more

Spotlight on Projects:

Collaboration for Safe Trade Solutions

Catalyzing public-private sector cooperation to build SPS capacity

Global projects plugged pesticide data gaps, driving regional collaboration

Safe Trade Impact

By the end of the projects, data was generated for more than 10 new Codex MRLs and 13 countries registered low-risk pesticides, helping to meet international standards for trade.

Safe Trade Challenge

Pesticides often cause trade concerns for tropical fruits and vegetables from developing countries, as exports face being rejected. Few Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) exist for these crops and there are gaps in residue data, plus high costs in generating data and registering new pesticides.

Safe Trade Solution

STDF's MRL projects across Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America connected the public and private sector to pilot and learn from a collaborative model to expand residue programmes and help to meet Codex standards. This led to coordinated pesticide residue studies, as well as 62 field trials. An external evaluation found that the STDF added value and helped to promote regional harmonization. Farmers were supported to use new-generation pesticides, with added benefits for agricultural productivity, the environment and consumer safety. The project impact is being sustained at regional and global

level, with over 160 scientists and government officers having new expertise on pesticide residue data, driving active participation in Codex and other fora. The projects played a key role in bringing together government authorities from agriculture, health, environment and trade as well as in promoting public-private partnerships, linking to STDF members' work. The results influenced wider efforts on pesticides globally and was recognized at the 2017 WTO Ministerial. The Minor Use Foundation was set up to expand low risk pesticide options for tropical produce globally, building on the projects' technical foundation and results.

Voices

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

John Oppong-Otoo, AU-IBAR

STDF's regional projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America facilitated the registration of low-risk pesticides for products like avocado and mango. This led to the adoption of new plant protection tools that increased mean farm income for growers in the target countries by about 20%. As an outgrowth of these successes, the Minor Use Foundation was created in 2018.

Anna Gore, Minor Use Foundation

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

Stuart Slorach, External Evaluator



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:

5

Africa

8

Southeast Asia

5

Latin America



LED BY: AU-IBAR; ASEAN Secretariat; IICA; with diverse partners including IR-4 (Rutgers University), USDA, FAO/WHO JMPR, private sector (Dow, Syngenta, Valent/Sumitomo)



TIME FRAME: 2012-2017
(External evaluation published in 2019)



STDF FUNDING: \$1.46 million
(total projects' value: \$3.5 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
PPPs/Environment



FIND OUT MORE: PG-359, PG-436, PG-337

Regional cooperation to achieve SPS objectives for safe trade

Southern Cone region: roll-out of plant health measures expanded market access

Safe Trade Impact

Contribution of plant health measures to better regional trade performance: fruit exports from COSAVE region up 70% between 2015-2022. Cereal exports doubled over same period.

Safe Trade Challenge

Developing countries are major producers and exporters of plants and plant products yet face capacity challenges when it comes to protecting plant health while facilitating trade and access to markets. Across Latin America, countries recognized the need to come together to plug the gaps.

Safe Trade Solution

The STDF's project in the Southern Cone region of the Americas showcased significant results when it came to rolling out plant health measures to expand market access through strong regional cooperation. The project was led by IICA, together with the Plant Protection Committee of the Southern Cone (COSAVE), NPPOs and the IPPC. In total, 112 phytosanitary officers from all seven COSAVE member

states engaged in surveillance, pest risk analysis and impact of phytosanitary measures activities. Independent evaluation findings show that the project improved inspections and phytosanitary certification and increased the capability of regional actors to support better trade negotiation and market access outcomes for their agri-food products. Project networks also built greater trust among authorities leading to agile, streamlined action on plant health and solid public-private sector relationships. Going forward, COSAVE and its members are committed to consolidating the impacts, including by strengthening close private sector engagement across future plant health initiatives.

Voices

The NPPOs and IICA were strongly committed to the project. It which developed in a coordinated and participatory way, technical tools were very useful for the countries and had a positive impact on the facilitation of trade.

COSAVE Directors

The project receives high marks for achieving important regional objectives (greater competence, and confidence; more harmonization in applying specific standards; stronger surveillance, pest risk assessment inspection and impact analysis capabilities; and better regional communications, coordination and trust). All of this, combined with other factors, is contributing to better trade performance and market access, and is allowing the region to maintain its phytosanitary status.

Andrea Spear, External Evaluator



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay



LED BY: IICA with COSAVE, NPPOs and IPPC



TIME FRAME: 2015-2019
(External evaluation published in 2023)



STDF FUNDING: US\$1.08 million
(total project value: US\$1.80 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
Reducing Trade Costs



FIND OUT MORE: PG-502

A south-south PPP to tackle a shared SPS challenge

Set up of pest-free areas supported fruit production and exports in Southern Africa

Safe Trade Impact

Exponential increase in Mozambique's fruit exports following PFAs/ALPPs, with a rise in avocado exports of almost 260% from 2020-2023, and the launch of exports like papaya.

Safe Trade Challenge

Huge volumes of tropical and other fresh fruit are exported from South Africa, and there is huge potential for Mozambique's horticultural exports. However, the presence of fruit fly pests in the region – oriental fruit fly, melon fly and medfly – has a serious impact on production and trade.

Safe Trade Solution

The fruit fly-free project, funded by the STDF, showcased the value of jointly tackling invasive fruit fly species to expand Southern Africa's fruit export potential. Led by the ARC, public and private sector partners – NPPOs, research bodies and growers' associations in South Africa and Mozambique – worked on surveillance, action plans, information management, training and economic modelling. An MOU was set up between FruitFly Africa and the South African Government and public-private sector partners contributed 75% of the project budget. New technologies developed included a digital application

and smart trap. Fruit fly surveillance has helped to protect biosecurity, and, by setting trap threshold levels, regional actors minimized risk of fruit infestation. In total, six Pest-Free Areas (PFAs) and 45 Areas of Low Pest Prevalence (ALPPs) were established in Southern Africa – for melon fly, Mediterranean fruit fly, and oriental fruit fly – and reported to trading partners. The areas helped regional producers demonstrate the required plant health standards for market access. The project's economic models laid out the benefits to setting up PFAs and ALPPs, while the framework to identify and maintain these can also be scaled up in other SADC countries for greater impact.

Voices

Mozambique fruit and vegetable producers can now breathe with relief since some export markets can be recovered due to the establishment of areas where exports could continue, as a result of the Fruit Fly Free project.

**Laura Canhanga, Eduardo Mondlane University
Mozambique**

The project was highlighted as a first in terms of its approach establishing PFAs and ALPPs over such a wide region... The evidence suggests a positive correlation in terms of retained market access through defining low-risk areas for fruit trade, notably to main markets such as the EU, which have strict regulations related to the targeted pests.

Project Economics Consulting, External Evaluation



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: Mozambique, South Africa



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



TIME FRAME: 2020-2023
(External evaluation published in 2024)



STDF FUNDING: US\$721,584
(total project value: US\$2.89 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
PPPs/Environment



FIND OUT MORE: PG-567

Public-private sector dialogue and national SPS cooperation

Reduced contamination in maize in Burkina Faso promoted safe food trade

Safe Trade Impact

*75% reduction in maize contamination and 31% increase in maize exports (2018-2021).
An increase in average annual income of producers from approx. US\$600 to US\$2,600.*

Safe Trade Challenge

Maize is one of the main cereal crops grown by small-scale farmers in Burkina Faso for local consumption and export. Highly susceptible to aflatoxin contamination, meeting food safety requirements is essential to grow the maize value chain and protect domestic public health.

Safe Trade Solution

The government of Burkina Faso collaborated closely with the private sector on a joint STDF-EIF project to reduce aflatoxin contamination in maize across the value chain to meet food safety import requirements and promote public health. The multi-sectoral dialogue and cooperation under the project fostered knowledge exchange, innovation and fresh practical solutions to tackle maize contamination. Over 70 facilitators and laboratory technicians were trained as trainers on the use of biopesticide Aflasafe, aflatoxin sampling and analysis techniques in maize. Aflasafe was piloted in the field as an alternative to reduce aflatoxin contamination. The National Public

Health Laboratory and National Standardization Agency introduced the use of innovative rapid tests to measure aflatoxin levels. Maize tested in project areas showed a reduction in aflatoxin content of over 75% and the value of maize exports rose to US\$2.2 million from US\$1.6 million between 2018-2021. This was due to new agricultural practices adopted to ensure that the country's maize was export ready.

Voices

After learning to use biopesticides and good practices in growing, harvesting, drying, shelling, and storing maize, we have significantly improved our yields and the quality of our products. Now, we expect to sell more and get more income.

Issoufou Porgo, farmer and member of the Farmer's Confederation of Burkina Faso

The project has improved our supplies. Previously, we faced major issues with aflatoxins in the areas where we sourced our products. Thanks to the project's efforts, farmers have been educated and trained, resulting in significantly lower levels of aflatoxin contamination. Consequently, the rejection rate of our finished products has decreased.

Mariam Konate, Agroserv Burkina Faso



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRY: Burkina Faso



LED BY: EIF NIU in partnership with the Farmer's Confederation of Burkina Faso



TIME FRAME: 2020-2023



STDF FUNDING: US\$544,402
(total project value: US\$0.85 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
PPPs/Environment



FIND OUT MORE: PG-566

SPS Multi-stakeholder platform to drive safe trade partnerships

Enhanced market access for fruits and vegetables from Uganda

Safe Trade Impact

90% reduction in capsicum interceptions from 2018 to 2022, boosting the private sector and leading to an increase in the number of exporters to 250 in 2022, compared to 67 in 2019.

Safe Trade Challenge

Agriculture is the backbone of Uganda's economy, and the sector is central to promoting national economic growth. However, exports of fresh fruit and vegetables were in decline as farmers failed to meet international SPS standards, with exports to the EU rejected due to harmful organisms.

Safe Trade Solution

A multi-stakeholder project supported by the STDF and the Netherlands has helped Uganda improve its SPS compliance in the fruit and vegetable sector to access markets in the EU and regionally. Led by CABI, through strong public-private sector collaboration, actors along value chains were upskilled with 1,400 farmers trained to manage pest threats to top commodities. In addition, a new curriculum was developed on SPS awareness and compliance covering good agriculture practices on integrated pest management, food safety and export requirements, which continues to be distributed

to farmers, producers, and extension officers. An SPS Multi-Stakeholder Platform was set up bringing together 168 government, business and development partner representatives to drive synergies in the sector and is being managed by the Uganda Agribusiness Alliance. To speed up processes and improve accuracy and transparency, plant health inspectors were trained to process ePhytos. All this helped to reduce the number of interceptions affecting horticulture exports. The project's positive results catalysed an additional €8 million in EU investment for capacity building in the horticulture sector to further drive impact.

Voices

The Ministry of Agriculture pledges its support, together with farmers and extension officers, that we will do everything possible to make sure that Uganda is able to continue exporting quality produce

Brenda Kisingiri, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Uganda

As the private sector, especially as HortiFresh Association, we have been able to encourage and promote self-regulation among our members to complement the official regulatory work being done by national ministry inspectors in ensuring compliance and facilitating trade of quality products with our trading partners.

Baguma Joshua, HortiFresh Association Uganda



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRY: Uganda



LED BY: CABl and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in partnership with the Uganda Agribusiness Alliance and fresh fruit and vegetable exporters



TIME FRAME: 2019 – 2022



STDF FUNDING: US\$ 484,788
(total project value: US\$0.88 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
PPPs/eCert



FIND OUT MORE: PG-543

Spotlight on Projects:

Innovation for Safe Trade Solutions

Development and piloting of new solutions to build SPS capacity

ePhyto Solution: safe trade facilitated in plants and plant products

Safe Trade Impact

130+ countries are connected to the ePhyto Hub, with 90+ countries using it to exchange electronic certificates with their trading partners since it went live in 2017.

Safe Trade Challenge

Exporting countries traditionally relied on paper phytosanitary certificates to meet international SPS requirements. Advances in paperless systems streamline the certification process but also involve additional costs and complex systems that have excluded many developing countries.

Safe Trade Solution

A flagship project funded by STDF sparked the electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates, which confirm plants and plant products are free from pests and diseases. The ePhyto Solution, comprising the GeNS and a harmonized exchange server (Hub), reduced the cost and complexity of exchanging certificates, enabling countries with limited resources to facilitate safe trade. Led by the IPPC, the project was instrumental in jump-starting the use of SPS eCertification globally, with over 7 million certificates being exchanged since 2017. The project drew on the experience and knowledge of international organizations working on eCert, as well as regulators

globally. It also promoted public-private cooperation, mobilizing support from industry associations and private companies to pilot test and refine the ePhyto Solution in developing countries. An independent evaluation shows this innovative pilot is inspiring more partnerships to adopt and scale up impact. By delivering time and cost savings to trade, the project showed how digitalization can revolutionize SPS certificate exchanges and is catalysing new work to advance eCert. This also includes eVet, which is being piloted in an STDF regional project to help improve trade in animal products.

Voices

The IPPC ePhyto Solution transforms global agricultural trade by digitalizing phytosanitary certificates, enhancing security, reducing fraud, and cutting operational costs. This innovation has accelerated digital transformation in trade documentation.

Osama El-Lissy, former Secretary, IPPC Secretariat

The ePhyto Solution resulted in SPS capacity, trade facilitation and environmental benefits and is a good example of STDF's role in driving catalytic SPS improvements. The ease of movement of ePhytos facilitated trade including for NPPOs in least developed country contexts... The results achieved have been recognized globally. There has also been recognition of the role in contributing towards acceptance and implementation of electronic SPS certification more broadly.

Neil Pogorelsky, External Evaluator



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:
Developing Countries



LED BY: FAO, IPPC



PARTNERSHIPS FOR FURTHER UP-SCALING INCLUDE:

ADB, ASEAN, AU-IPSAC, CABI, FAO, GATF, IPPC, PACER PLUS, TFSP, TradeMark Africa, UNESCAP, Industry Advisory Group (ISF, IGTC and others).



TIME FRAME: 2017 – 2020
(External evaluation published in 2023)



STDF FUNDING: US\$ 1.12 million
(total project value: US\$1.72 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
eCert/PPPs



FIND OUT MORE: PG-504

Testing a new approach to tackle regional SPS challenges

Use of biopesticides reduced residues and facilitated safe trade

Safe Trade Impact

Studies from two countries in Asia showed that using biopesticides, in combination with conventional products, reduced pesticide MRLs by half, supporting export potential region wide.

Safe Trade Challenge

Meeting pesticide MRLs is an ongoing trade challenge for actors along priority agri-food value chains in Asia, whether as farmers, industry associations or export businesses. A new approach was needed to address the challenges and keep trade flowing.

Safe Trade Solution

In Asia, an STDF-funded pilot project, provided evidence of how an innovative approach that used biopesticides at the end of the crop season reduces pesticide Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and facilitates market access. Led by APAARI in eight countries, the project equipped 170 officials to evaluate pesticide residue data for crops, including cabbage, sweet basil, dragon fruit and chili pepper grown by millions of small-scale farmers for export. In turn, it helped develop protocols for farmers to meet Codex MRLs. Authorities in the region are taking steps to harmonize their national biopesticides regulations

with ASEAN Guidelines, reinforcing STDF good regulatory practices work to lower trade costs. At the grassroots, partnerships with farmers' associations raised awareness and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. South-South cooperation was ensured, with Singapore sharing its expertise, and synergies made to related work in Pakistan. An Asia-Pacific Biopesticide Community was created for regulators, industry and others to benefit from the network created, enhancing sustainability and showing how facilitating safe trade via region-wide innovation works.

Voices

This [2023 project] workshop is very useful in terms of a more effective way of reducing pesticide residues. Mitigation of pesticide residues using biopesticides is the best way to get low pesticide residue products without farmers having to pay a lot of money and also avoid worrying about crop failure.

Anik Hidayah, Indonesian Agricultural Environment Research Institute

Thanks to the STDF project, we've been able to get additional, complementary support under a new two-year project 'Risk Assessment for Pesticides and Contaminants' funded by the US Commerce Department.
Ruwanthi Mandanayake, Field Crops Research & Development Institute, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: 8 countries including 3 LDCs: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR; Sri Lanka; Viet Nam; Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand



LED BY: APAARI with AgAligned Global



TIME FRAME: 2020 – 2023



STDF FUNDING: US\$899,586
(total project value: US\$1.27 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
GRPs/PPPs



FIND OUT MORE: PG-634 and Africa Regional project; Latin America Regional project

Regional roll-out of new technology to develop SPS capacity

IT solutions for pest surveillance and reporting promoted in Asia-Pacific

Safe Trade Impact

Use of an app improved pest surveillance and supported market access for fruits and vegetables, with evidence of a reduction in non-compliance notifications in four countries.

Safe Trade Challenge

Tackling plant pests and diseases is key to increasing crop yield and quality. Early detection through surveillance programmes based on ISPMs allows officials, extension workers and farmers to tackle pests in a strategic, cost-effective way. Yet many developing countries are unable to do this consistently.

Safe Trade Solution

Innovative IT tools played a key role in pest surveillance and data tracking in STDF's regional project in Asia-Pacific led by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The project strengthened the credibility of pest status claimed to prospective trading partners, helping to increase market access and boost exports. NPPO staff across seven countries were trained to use a customized 'Pest-tracker' app to collect geocoded pest data in the field and to import the data into a simple, low-cost, in-house information system for analysis. The app reduced errors in collecting, mapping and transferring data and

assisted in the early detection of high-priority quarantine pests thanks to real-time data sharing and alerts. In the Philippines, thanks to improved surveillance, the country demonstrated its coffee and cocoa pest status to trading partners, helping to maintain access to regional and international markets during the pandemic. In Cambodia, over 1.34 million trees were surveyed to support reporting obligations including for market access of fruits to China. Several NPPOs plan to continue using the tools, while the Philippines developed a 2.0 version of the app for two commodities to sustain the results.

Voices

The project has assisted Viet Nam to export fresh longan and lychee fruit to the United States, Australia, Japan and Singapore. Thanks to the project's surveillance and reporting activities, Viet Nam's trading partners have not reported any notices of non-compliance for pests and disease of quarantine concern for these fruits.

NPPO Surveillance Team, Viet Nam

The project has helped all NPPOs to improve their surveillance capacity, systems, data collection and reporting... Overall, the project contributed to all countries gaining and/or maintaining market access. Most NPPOs used either P-Tracker or alternative apps to conduct surveillance after the project ended, expanding its use to new commodities and pests.

Project Economics Consulting, External Evaluation



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam



LED BY: Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



TIME FRAME: 2016 – 2021
(External evaluation published in 2024)



STDF FUNDING: US\$997,595
(total project value: US\$1.71 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
Reducing Trade Costs



FIND OUT MORE: PG-432

New institutional arrangements to improve market access

Public and private sector drive safe regional trade in animal feed in Latin America

Safe Trade Impact

Positive impact on market access, including improvements in trade processes, such as the registration of imported animal feed products in Bolivia, reduced from three months to three days.

Safe Trade Challenge

In Latin America animal feed plays a vital role in trade, with countries in the region responsible for over 15% of global feed production. Yet, regional trade was being held back by a lack of coordination and knowledge on good practices across industry and regulatory authorities.

Safe Trade Solution

Under STDF's project led by FEEDLATINA, the public and private sector formalized cooperation at regional and national level to harmonize regulations and improve animal feed safety. This included regional agreements on a common glossary of concepts, equivalent labelling and a harmonized Free Sale Certificate. All of which reduced trade costs and improved market access for animal feed in the region, especially benefitting SMEs that were previously blocked by complex procedures and a lack of resources. Through the project's Joint Technical Committee, a critical mass of people and institutions were brought together to build a common strategy to achieve

safe animal feed in the region, reflecting the interests, needs and priorities of private sector companies as well as public sector bodies. Technical support from the FAO, IICA and WOAH to meet SPS requirements built capacity among regulatory agencies, veterinary, agricultural and food safety services, and the private sector. Paraguay, Ecuador and Bolivia were able to enhance government authority in charge of animal feed, increase technical staff and generate regulations aligned with international standards. Following the project, networks continue to collaborate to drive intra-regional trade.

Voices

The project was highly valuable to coordinate with other official services, and to exchange scientific and technical knowledge with the private sector to establish national regulations. It has really improved the economic exchange of products for animal consumption. We will keep working to facilitate trade and regulations so that we can grow as a region.

Juan García Cáceres, SENASAG Bolivia

The impact of the project was significant in increasing the relative importance of [animal feed], in increasing the access to markets and also the design of sanitary regulations throughout the region for animal feed products... The project also raised awareness on harmonizing trade regulation in a sector where the topic was never tackled before in a regional way.

José Ignacio Gómez, External Evaluator



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay



LED BY: FEEDLATINA with partners FAO, IICA and WOA



TIME FRAME: 2014-2018
(External evaluation published in 2021)



STDF FUNDING: US\$1.05 million
(total project value: US\$2.49 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
GRPs/PPPs/Reducing Trade Costs



FIND OUT MORE: PG-345

Set up of new regional network to facilitate safe trade

Diagnostic tests in animal health accredited in Central America and the Caribbean

Safe Trade Impact

Trade data of supported commodities suggests trade increased overall since 2019 by average of 16.7% across the region, with notable increases in Honduras (61%) and Guatemala (40%).

Safe Trade Challenge

Non-compliance with international standards is a major constraint for trade in animals and animal products in Central America and the Caribbean with the potential to introduce diseases. Limited resources and inadequate management systems compromised the region's testing credibility.

Safe Trade Solution

An STDF-backed project built the capacities of laboratories in Central America and the Caribbean by accrediting laboratory diagnostic tests for priority terrestrial and aquatic transboundary animal diseases. The project established a new regional network of laboratories to strengthen linkages, facilitate joint training and exchange knowledge and ideas. The network increased the availability of reliable, internationally recognized diagnostic tests for specific diseases, while reducing

costs and time required to obtain results. Thirty-six diagnostic tests were accredited to ISO 17025 to provide internationally recognized diagnoses and results in the aquaculture, cattle, poultry and pork sectors, facilitating trade opportunities. Within the regional network, eight laboratories adopted a quality management system and ensured that staff were trained in accreditation. Deepening dialogue between Chief Veterinary Officers and laboratory directors meant that project stakeholders were updated on evolving animal health issues and trends for laboratory diagnostics and testing at the regional level. By working collaboratively to develop a roadmap for follow-up the laboratories and government authorities have created sustainable foundations.

Voices

The accreditation of the culture of Brucella species and their molecular typing allowed us to identify a new species: Brucella nosferati, which would be the first species of the genus Brucella endemic in Latin America. This finding opens new approaches for the control of the disease.

Gabriela Hernandez Mora, National Animal Health Service Costa Rica

The evidence suggests that increased diagnostic capacity of the regional laboratory network and credibility of the tests has had a positive impact on target product exports, both within the region and externally. Countries saw growth in key markets such as shrimp and cattle, with international markets opening or re-opening since project launch. Additionally, regional ability to rapidly prevent and control endemic and transboundary diseases increased.

Project Economics Consulting, External Evaluation



Snapshot



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama



LED BY: OIRSA, with partner WOA



TIME FRAME: 2016-2022
(External Evaluation published in 2024)



STDF FUNDING: US\$840,898
(total project value: US\$1.24 million)



KNOWLEDGE WORK:
Reducing Trade Costs



FIND OUT MORE: PG-495

Glossary

ADB	Asian Development Bank	EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	ePhyto	Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate
ALPP	Area of Low Pest Prevalence	EU	European Union
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions	eVet	Electronic Veterinary Certificate
ARC	Agricultural Research Council of South Africa	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	FEEDLATINA	Feed Industry Association of Latin America and the Caribbean
AUC	African Union Commission	GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
AU-IBAR	African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources	GATF	Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation
AU-IAPSC	African Union – Inter-African Phytosanitary Council	GRP	Good Regulatory Practice
AUMN	Association of Market Gardening Unions of Niayes (Senegal)	HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International	IAG	Industry Advisory Group (ePhyto)
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency	IAS	Invasive Alien Species
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
CODEX	Codex Alimentarius Commission	IFC	International Finance Corporation
COLEAD	Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development	IGTC	International Grain Trade Coalition
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
COP28	2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference	ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
COSAVE	Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur	IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ECAC	Electronic Certification Advisory Committee	IR-4	Interregional Research Project No.4 (USDA)
eCert	Electronic Certification	ISF	International Seed Federation
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	ISO	International Organization for Standardization
		ISPM	International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures
		ITC	International Trade Centre
		JMPR	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues

LDC	Least Developed Country	SOAC	West African Accreditation Body
MC12	12 th WTO Ministerial Conference	SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation	SSAFE	Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit	TFAF	Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility
MSME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprise	TFSP	Trade Facilitation Support Program (World Bank)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	TMA	TradeMark Africa
NIU	National Implementation Unit (EIF)	UK	United Kingdom
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	UN	United Nations
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organization	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
OIRSA	International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health	UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
OLIC	Other Low Income Country	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
PCE	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation	US	United States
PFA	Pest-Free Area	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
PG	Project Grant	US FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
P-IMA	Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
PPG	Project Preparation Grant	WB	World Bank
PPP	Public-Private Partnership	WCO	World Customs Organization
PVS	Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services	WHO	World Health Organization
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community	WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	WTO	World Trade Organization
SENASAG	National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (Bolivia)		
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency		

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