STDF | STANDARDS and TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

**STDF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)**

**APPLICATION FORM**

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) provides Project Preparation Grants (PPGs), up to a maximum of US$50,000, for the following purposes (or a combination thereof):

- application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools;
- preparation of feasibility studies that may precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or
- preparation of projects proposals that promote compliance with international SPS requirements, for funding by the STDF or other donors.

Applications that meet the STDF's eligibility criteria are considered by the STDF Working Group, which makes the final decision on funding requests. Complete details on eligibility criteria and other requirements are available in the *Guidance Note for Applicants*. The completed application should be submitted though the STDF online application system.

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| **PPG Title** | **Scaling up of P-IMA tool in selected West Africa countries** |
| **Budget requested from STDF** | 47,550.00 USD |
| **Full name and contact details of the requesting organization(s)** | Food Safety and Quality Authority, Gambia<br>103 Kairaba Avenue<br>Serrekunda, The Gambia<br>info@fsqa.gm<br>Phone:+220 4399310/ 4399311 |
| **Full name and contact details of contact person for follow-up** | Mamodou Bah<br>mbah@fsqa.gm |

## I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

**1. What is the purpose of this PPG? Explain whether it is requested to: (i) apply an SPS-related capacity evaluation or prioritization tool; (ii) prepare a feasibility study (prior to project development) to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or (iii) prepare a project proposal for consideration by the STDF or other donors?**

This application is to apply STDF's P-IMA (Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access) framework tool to conduct an SPS capacity assessment of the Gambian agricultural sector; and to prepare a project proposal to address and mitigate the key SPS issues affecting the export potential of selected products. The PPG will allow the Gambian Food Safety and Quality Authority to build on its work as the sole National Competent Authority with powers of delegation mandated to officially control the safety and quality of food and animal feed whether locally produced, imported or destined for export. Additionally, this PPG will allow us to develop a consensus among stakeholders and value chain actors on the crucial SPS issues and systemic challenges affecting Gambia's export performance regionally and internationally. Thus, enabling us to design and implement appropriate solutions.

The appropriate legal and institutional frameworks to address these challenges have been put in place by the enactment of the Food Safety and Quality Act of 2011 and the establishment of the Food Safety and Quality Authority in 2013. The usage of the P-IMA tool will therefore enhance our ability to prioritise SPS related needs, especially in these COVID times where there are limited funds

available to governments. The results of the assessment will feed into the development of a project proposal that will mitigate and/or eliminate challenges hampering regional and international export of agricultural products.

The Food Safety and Quality Authority of the Gambia, has recently launched The National Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee comprised of twenty-two members from different stakeholder agencies within the government, private and consumer sectors to identify and propose solutions for key SPS constraints. To facilitate the work of the committee, the P-IMA tool will be very beneficial to ensure adequate use of scarce resources. This PPG will also ensure that relevant stakeholders will be involved in the identification of the key SPS challenges and that proposed mitigation strategies are adopted easily. These stakeholders include:

- Government ministries and Agencies such as the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE), the Plant Protection Services (PPS), Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and Department of Fisheries (DoF), National Environment Agency (NEA)
- Private Exporters Associations such as Cashew Alliance of The Gambia, Agri-business Producers Association (ASPA)
- Non-Governmental Organisations such as Gambia Chamber of Commerce Industry
- Non-Profit research and advocacy partners such as Consumer Association of The Gambia

P-IMA is potentially, a very important tool for Gambia, as it allows decision makers and institutions involved in food safety and agricultural policy development to analyse and identify possible SPS investment needs, through stakeholder engagement and using a risk-based approach. It is on this basis that the Food Safety and Quality Authority has identified Farrelly & Mitchell as the key implementing partner and other partners with relevant and concerned public and private sector stakeholders including the MOTIE, PPS, DLS, DoF and NEA to identify and prioritize SPS investments. The purpose of this PPG is to achieve the following objectives:

a. Identify and prioritise key SPS issues in the agricultural sector in Gambia.
b. Assess major agricultural products with high export potential and select at least 5 for further analysis.
c. Identify specific SPS issues affecting the export potential and performance of the selected agricultural products.
d. Design potential solutions and recommendations to address the key SPS constraints for each selected agricultural product.
e. Assess the gender and environmental issues relevant to the value chains of the selected products, propose solutions; and develop a strategy and actionable implementation plan.

**2. Explain the key SPS problems and/or opportunities to be addressed. Clarify why these issues are important, with attention to market access and poverty reduction. Describe, if relevant, how these issues relate to SPS priorities in the Enhanced Integrated Framework's Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS), the findings of SPS-related capacity evaluations, national poverty reduction strategies, sector development strategies or policies, etc. See Qn. 7. (b) – (d) of the Guidance Note.**

**2.1 Background**

The Gambia, like other agri-based developing countries faces significant trade challenges in SPS-related matters such as non-compliance with food safety, animal and plant health international regulations and standards. Through studies and assessments conducted by USAID (2006), FAO (2008), UNIDO (2009), OIE (2009 and 2012), EIF (2013), DTIS (2007), Updated DTIS (2013), the EU STABEX (2006 and 2009) and The Government of The Gambia Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE 2011), National Export Strategy (NES 2012),National Trade Policy (2010) and the most recent published report titled "Diagnostic of Gambian Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary System and Proposal for Improvement Including Upgrading Laboratories and Quality Management", some of the key SPS challenges identified in the past include:

- Inadequate food safety control systems for food and feed produced in or imported into The Gambia

- Absence of control systems for feed as a source of human and animal health hazard.
- Inadequate expertise in the area of conducting risk assessment and risk management.
- Non recognition of test results conducted by food testing labs in The Gambia due to their non accreditation status.
- Lack of national food standards and modern regulations

Food and agricultural exports, especially of unprocessed products, trigger SPS compliance challenges. Therefore, it is important that Gambia acquires adequate capacity to control SPS risks necessary for achieving and retaining access to foreign markets and reduce poverty. Continual rejections of shipments for non-compliance with SPS requirements result in stricter scrutiny by importing countries, increased transaction costs, damaged reputation and a loss of confidence in the exporting country's competent authority. A strong SPS control system is therefore important in protecting a nation's productive capacity, biodiversity and ecosystem services from the entry, spread and establishment of invasive alien species and increased incidences of pests and diseases, and most importantly a strong factor in improving livelihoods as well as reducing poverty.

**2.2 Problems and Opportunities**

The underperformance of the agricultural sector, as shown by the negative trade balance, persistence of malnutrition, and food and nutrition insecurity, is due to numerous challenges that are interrelated in a vicious cycle. These include poor market access; tariff and nontariff barriers (NTBs) to trade; poor productivity; lack of research and innovation; low investments; small farm sizes and unfavourable land policies; poor agricultural and trade policies; lack of information and access to data; climate change and unsustainable use of natural resources; and challenges regarding gender equality and youth inclusion.

Market access and trade within and outside the region are greatly impeded by a number of policy-induced barriers. Among the problems documented in a recent study (World Bank 2014 are lack of harmonization of standards and erratic ad hoc government trade policies and interventions. For exports to high-income markets, an additional problem is meeting advanced standards of non-tariff barriers such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures quality and certification requirements.

In Gambia SPS matters have not been given the adequate attention needed, although it is widely recognized that SPS measures are important to guarantee safe foods are available and traded; safeguard consumers and animal health; access markets; and improve producers and private sector income. To further exacerbate this issue, there is a very limited budget allocated for SPS activities, even though recently the National SPS committee has been formed. Additionally, communication, collaboration and coordination issues and inadequate technical expertise availability hamper the mitigation of SPS challenges. Furthermore, insufficient risk assessment infrastructure and laboratory capacity, low level of understanding of SPS agreements by policymakers, and lack of ownership by the private sector have contributed to the insufficient enforcement of SPS regulations.

There has been a persistent inability of producers and processors to meet import requirements. This is despite investments by governments and implementation of projects focused on increasing imports to Europe by multilateral agencies and donors. The implementation of The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement to boost trade in Africa, also introduces another level of complexity due to the lack of a regionally accepted standards with regards to SPS. The situation has been further worsened by the COVID 19 pandemic where grounds that were gained with regards to some SPS issues have been lost; in some cases, the issues have not only remained unresolved but rather worsened. These issues relate mainly to food safety contaminants including aflatoxins, mycotoxins and pesticide residues; food additives, colorants and emulsifiers; veterinary drug residues; microbiological and food hygiene issues in abattoirs and street foods/markets; plant pests such as the fall army worm; and biotoxin contaminants in fish farming and processing.

There is the need therefore to address SPS matters and harmonize regulations at national, regional and international levels; and to implement and enforce those regulations. ECOWAS has a goal of achieving access to developed markets, and to increase intraregional trade among member states. Thus, it is imperative to streamline and harmonize activities of its members and integrate SPS requirements more effectively.

The specific SPS constraint affecting market access issues is the mobilisation of relevant stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive solution for emerging and re-emerging SPS issues most importantly, after the COVID-19 pandemic. The problem exists because there has not been a coherent and cohesive effort from all relevant stakeholders to address the issue. ECOWAS have identified some priority interventions for its member countries to address these concerns. They include:

- Prioritization of current SPS matters relevant for the nation;
- Organization awareness campaign on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in food and feed;
- Organization meetings to develop actions plan for anti-microbial resistance (AMR) management;
- Harmonization of SPS standards/food safety standards and implementation by member states in the AU.
- Awareness-raising workshop on the new EU plant health regulation "Regulation EU2016/2031" and its impact on priority export products;
- Support the physical participation in international standards setting bodies' meetings;
- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of diagnostic tool for assessing the status of national SPS and codex programmes;
- Assessment of national laboratories, their specialization and networking labs in the region;
- Establishment of national experts groups in the priority matters (Contaminants, Pesticides Residues, Food hygiene, Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, Food Additives, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables);
- Development of a national SPS Strategy

### 2.3 Prioritisation of SPS Issues and Opportunities

Based on our preparatory research, secondary literature review and guidance from the ECOWAS, we have identified major areas of focus for the detailed assessments to be conducted under this PPG. We will therefore focus on particular SPS challenges related to:

- Consensus building among stakeholders and value chain actors.
- Product specific SPS action plans
- Knowledge gaps among government officials, private sector operators, farmers and other relevant value chain actors.
- Diagnoses, testing and certification.
- Implementing GAP and GMP related measures for selected products.

*Table 1: Initial Priority Mapping of SPS Capacity Needs*

| | STDF Priority List | Government of Gambia Priority | Feasibility | Impact (Poverty Reduction Potential) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The legal and regulatory framework for SPS management | High | High | Medium |
| **2** | **SPS policy and strategy development (Actionable SPS Implementation Plans)** | **High** | **High** | **High** |
| 3 | The implementation of SPS standards and requirements (i.e., Codex /IPPC/OIE standards, official requirements of trading partners, etc.) including risk analysis capacity. | Medium | Medium | Medium |
| **4** | **Knowledge among government officials, private sector operators, farmers, etc. about SPS requirements in export markets.** | **High** | **High** | **High** |
| **5** | **Information exchange and cooperation among stakeholders (i.e., government agencies, private sector producers/exporters, chambers of commerce, etc.) involved in food and agricultural trade and SPS issues.** | **High** | **High** | **Medium** |

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| **6** | **Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary inspection, enforcement, diagnostics, and certification.** | **High** | **Medium** | **High** |
| 7 | Monitoring, Surveillance, eradication, zoning, establishment of disease/pest free areas | High | Low | High |
| **8** | **The application of good agricultural and manufacturing practices including HACCP.** | **High** | **High** | **High** |

**3. Which government agencies, private sector, academic or other organizations support this PPG request? Letters of support from each of these organizations would be advantageous (Appendix 1). See Qn. 7. (e) of the Guidance Note.**

This PPG request is supported by key national and local stakeholders in the public and private sectors including:

- Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency
- Plant Protection Services
- Department of Livestock Services
- Department of Fisheries
- National Environment Agency
- National SPS Committee
- National Nutrition Agency
- Cashew Alliance of The Gambia
- Agri-business Producers Association
- National Women Farmers Association

**4. How does this PPG complement and/or build on past, ongoing and/or planned national programmes and/or donor-supported projects? See Qn. 7. (f) of the Guidance Note.**

This PPG is intended to build on the findings of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) and other capacity assessment tools applied in The Gambia including the "Comprehensive Assessment and Development of a Project Proposal for the Strengthening of the National Plant Protection System" funded by STDF and whose aim was to provide assistance and support to enact the necessary national requirements to adhere to the Convention of the IPPC Secretariat. At the end of the PPG, Gambia was added as the 183rd Contracting Party. This project would therefore follow up on the recommendations made after implementation of this PPG, review the targets set and update all outstanding tasks as part of the activities of this PPG. On that same note, learnings and recommendations from other relevant projects will be reviewed and considered including :

- Mission of Diagnostic of Gambian Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary System and Proposal for Improvement Including Upgrading Laboratories and Quality Management carried out in 2021 by GIRAV-World Bank for the rice, vegetables, mango, cashew and poultry value chains.
- West Africa Competitiveness Program "WACOMP" (Increasing competitiveness through enhanced quality compliance along the onion value chain in The Gambia (2020-2025) carried out in 2020 by UNIDO. This intervention focused on quality compliance along the union value chain.
- Diagnostic Trade Integration Study Update for The Gambia: Harnessing Trade for Growth and Employment carried out in 2013 by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)/ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNICAD)
- Fit for market strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems of the ACP horticultural sector carried out in 2005 by COLEACP.

A summary of key findings, actions and recommendations from the above projects include the following:

- Institutional and Administrative Structure:
    - A weak Plant protection agency with deficient capacity to conduct pest risk
    - Weak National Plant Protection Organizations in terms of SPS matters

- Deficient monitoring of the quality infrastructure and system within the country trading system despite having a quality policy that aligns with the ECOWAS's quality
- Limited to inexistent laboratory capacity. Where they exist, laboratories are not accredited for the needed tests.
- Lack of laboratory infrastructure for the detection of pesticide residues in food products
- Inadequate operational capacity among institutions mandated to development and enforce mandatory and voluntary quality systems along the onion value chain

- Legal Framework and Implementation Mechanism:
  - Deficient and obsolete plant protection legislation (new bill is with the Ministry of Justice)
  - Unimplemented MoUs between key organizations with the SPS architecture

- Operating Procedures
  - Lack of Standardized Operational Procedures and control traceability system

- Adequate Resources and Capacities:
  - Inadequate institutional capacity to monitor safety and quality of products for national and international markets. Mandated authorities lack the human and material resources to properly assess and certify export products
  - Recurrent food safety and pest-related notification for Gambian products in international markets due to aflatoxin and the presence of pests
  - Private sector incapable of implementing quality control systems within their production processes.
  - Limited extension service to supervise and oversee the implementation of GAP practices at pre-and post-harvest levels.
  - Limited quality-related knowledge among value-chain actors
  - Lack of a Gambia diplomatic representation at the WTO limiting the country's ability to participate in SPS-related negotiations
  - Scattered food control system
  - Limited SPS and standard-related awareness
  - Lack of quality assurance and regulatory tools for export crops (groundnut, cashew)
  - Limited inspection technical know-how among official control agencies
  - Limited capacity to implement food safety management systems among private producers

We will undertake stakeholder consultation and review the findings above as well as provide updates on the status and the way forward.

Furthermore, we will incorporate the one health approach into the implementation of this PPG since it has been proven to be the effective way to fight health issues at the human-animal-environment interface, including zoonotic diseases as well as monitoring and controlling public health threats and to learn about how diseases spread among people, animals, plants, and the environment. Thus we will examine its relevance to food safety, animal and plant health and meeting international standards in this regard.

Additionally, we have identified clear linkages to ECOWAS' larger goals and AU's Africa SPS Policy Framework and Food Safety Strategy. At the 1st Regional meeting for the establishment of an ECOWAS regulatory convergence forum on food safety held from July 18 to 22, 2022 in Abidjan – Cote D' Ivoire. At the meeting they reviewed and validated the statutes of the forum/network of food safety stakeholders in West Africa, the mechanism for the convergence of food safety regulatory measures among ECOWAS countries, the scope of the food safety coordination mechanism, established common food safety priorities for the region and agreed on a roadmap for actions related to Codex and SPS work in the region. The recommendations from the meeting were to:

- Ensure effective coordination and facilitate the operationalization of the West African Food Safety Network and the Food Regulatory Harmonization Committee (FoRHC)
- Mobilize resources to ensure the effective implementation of the agreed action plan using a phased approach
- Facilitate and ensure the effective participation of relevant technical experts and resources in the work of the West African Food Safety Network and the Food Regulatory Harmonization Committee (FoRHC)

We will study the roadmap for the implementation of priority activities to ensure that the implementation of the PPG aligns and that efforts are not duplicated.

*Final communiqué (1st Regional meeting for the establishment of an ECOWAS regulatory convergence forum on food safety)*

The Food Safety Strategy of Africa (FSSA) aim is to provide a harmonized framework to implement activities that mitigate various food safety threats that negatively impact consumers' health. The strategy will help to address non-tariff barriers, particularly those related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures or standards that have the potential of slowing down the attainment of the Malabo Declaration aspirations and ultimately the African Union Agenda 2063 and related flagship programmes impacted by food safety. This will lead to reduction of duplication of efforts, facilitating synergy, leveraging on resources and capabilities, and enhancing lesson learning and best practices. This strategy was developed as a tool for the implementation of the Continental SPS Policy Framework for Africa and endorsed by AU policy organs in 2020. The Strategic Objectives of the FSSA are to:

- Strengthen food policy, legal and institutional frameworks
- Strengthen the human and infrastructure capacity of food control systems
- Promote food safety culture, evidence-based advocacy, communication, information sharing to raise consumer awareness and empowerment
- Improve trade and market access at national, regional, continental and global levels
- Strengthen research, innovation, technology development and transfer
- Establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms and enhance cooperation at national, regional, continental and global levels.

In the implementation of this PPG, we will take into account these strategic objectives to ensure that we are in line with the policy objectives of the FSSA.

*(Food Safety Strategy for Africa 2022 - 2036)*

To address some of the health and trade challenges faced by Africa, particularly the negative effects that mycotoxins, metals and other contaminants pose on human and animal health, a proposal was constituted to establish a Continental Food Safety Reference Laboratory. A continental Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy and framework was developed to facilitate harmonization of AU Member States' SPS policy. The AU SPS Policy Framework's four objectives address the diverse and intersecting needs and priorities of SPS systems in Africa, as follows:

- Objective 1. ESTABLISH HARMONIZED SCIENCE-BASED SPS SYSTEMS: Support Member State efforts to establish harmonized science-based SPS systems, taking into account both the international standards and regional conditions.
- Objective 2. STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AND TRADE FACILITATION: Increase efficiencies and reduce trading costs by working towards a cohesive continental SPS system.
- Objective 3. BUILD TECHNICAL CAPACITY: Maximize technical capacity in RECs, Member States, and stakeholders through cooperation and sharing of resources.
- Objective 4. INCREASE POLITICAL SUPPORT AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN SPS SYSTEMS: Enhance opportunities to expand intra-African trade of plants, animals, and food through strengthened public-private cooperation, awareness raising, and resource mobilization.

It is important for our work and the application of the P-IMA tool to address the issues raised in the AU SPS Policy Framework for Africa document.

*AU SPS Policy Framework for Africa*

In order to ensure successful implementation and buy-in of the relevant stakeholders, we will consult with USAID Senegal's Sahel Regional Office and FAS/Dakar to identify potential intersections between the work of P-IMA in The Gambia and USDA's initiatives in the ECOWAS region to ensure sustainability. We will also consult and work with other STDF partners, other donors and international organisations involved and working on similar issues in the country and in the region to ensure synergies, collaboration and avoid replication

Most importantly, the P-IMA will contribute to achieving the strategic agricultural goals of Gambia and ECOWAS, through the identification and development of a detailed SPS capacity building plan

with defined priorities. It will ensure that governments, in collaboration with the private sector and subject matter experts, are equipped to use the identified data for informed decision-making, specifically with regard to the allocation of resources in future programmes and projects. Finally, it will contribute to the work of donor organisations and any multilateral agencies in the development and implementation of support and investment programmes.

**5. Have you discussed this PPG request – or funding for the project proposal which would result from it – with any potential donors (bilateral, multilateral, Enhanced Integrated Framework, etc.)? If so, provide details below and indicate potential sources of funding for the resulting project. See Qn. 7. (g) of the Guidance Note.**

This proposal has not been discussed with any other donor. The aim is for the Gambia to use the project proposal from this PPG to request for a Project Grant from STDF to implement the strategies and mitigation measures identified.

**6. Briefly explain how gender and environmental issues are relevant for this PPG and, if appropriate, how they will be addressed.**

Gender and environmental issues are particularly important. This is because women play a crucial role as farmers and businesswomen. Women in some countries spend up to 60 percent of their time on agricultural activities and contribute up to 50 percent of labour on farms in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, agriculture employs more than 60 percent of women.

The proposed project to be developed will have a positive impact on the environment. Especially, if this PPG is approved and followed by a successful project. It is the expectation that the producers, processors and other value chain actors will introduce climate smart agricultural practices, integrated disease and pest management systems, and food safety management systems in their production processes (based on outcome of the P-IMA framework). This will have a decisive impact on the environment contributing to lower emissions, reduction in pesticide contamination, enhanced food safety measures, cleaner production strategies and comprehensive waste management.

We will strive for equal representation of men, women and youth when selecting representatives of stakeholders for involvement in the project activities, discussions, and meetings.

## II. IMPLEMENTATION & BUDGET

**7. Who will take the lead in implementing this PPG? If particular national experts and/or international consultants are proposed, attach a copy of their Curriculum Vitae and record of achievements (Appendix 2). If no names are provided, the STDF will provide a shortlist of consultants if the PPG request is approved.**

The project will be implemented by Farrelly & Mitchell with the support of the Gambian Food Safety and Quality Authority. Farrelly and Mitchell is an independent international specialist food and agribusiness management consulting firm. The project will engage the following short-term consultants in the executing activities.

**Dr Gbemenou Joselin Benoit Gnonlonfin, PhD Food safety, MSc Applied Microbiology, BSc Engineering, Food Science and Technology**
Benoit has a career spanning over 20 years in food safety and quality and is currently ECOWAS-USAID-FAO Senior Agricultural, Sanitary and Phytosanitary standards advisor and international consultant. Previously, Dr Benoit Gnonlonfin worked as an agricultural research scientist at Benin's National Agricultural Research Institute for 10 years. Dr Gnonlonfin has been a consultant/expert in the African Union Inter-Bureau on Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and on African Union food safety and Codex projects. This mean Dr Gnonlonfin is very familiar with the African Union system and mode of work. Regarding African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Dr Gnonlonfin is knowledgeable of the framework and has been involved in the development of the SPS framework in relation to Appendix 7 of the AfCFTA agreement. Also, Dr Gnonlonfin is conversant with international standards setting bodies and their subsidiaries bodies including IPPC, Codex Alimentarius, OIE, WTO. As such, Dr Gnonlonfin is conversant with multilateral, regional, bilateral

trade agreements; knowledgeable of WTO dispute settlement mechanisms and trade defence instruments. Furthermore, he has been involved with FAO and WHO in the area of food safety as an international expert. Dr Gnonlonfin's experience cuts across agriculture and agro ecology sectors, trade and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) matters, capacity building, risk reduction assessment, risk and hazard management, projects/programmes design, stakeholders' consultation and advice, management and implementation, monitoring and evaluation (technical evaluation) and science trainer, coordination and leadership. Dr Gnonlonfin has a strong regional and international experiences with well-established networks. Dr Gnonlonfin is a member of the Joint FAO/WHO Experts on Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) as well as a former Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Expert for developing countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Dr Gnonlonfin has a master's in microbiology from the University of Botswana, and a PhD in food safety from the University of Copenhagen and completed a postdoctoral period at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in the field of food and feed safety and capacity building as well as project management. He has a strong record of peer-reviewed publications, projects, and scientific reports as well as policy briefs. Additionally, he has also a strong skill in resource mobilization and regional and international negotiations.

**Dr. Michelle Riblet, PhD (Biosystems Engineering), M.Sc. (Agricultural Science)**

Michelle is a director with Farrelly & Mitchell and is a globally experienced food systems, policy, and safety professional with over 20 years' experience in the industrial, research and regulatory environments of the agri-food sector. Michelle possesses wide international experience in the development and implementation of food safety policy and legislation and regulatory control programmes in the EU, Middle East, and Asia. Michelle has previously worked for 10 years within the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and as policy specialist with the government of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and led the EU Commission, Better Training for Safer Foods (BTSF), a training project for EU and third country official regulators on auditing the effectiveness of official controls in food, feed, plant health and animal health and welfare. Dr. Riblet and her team of food safety experts support industry, the regulator and international organisations on agri-food policy and law.

Michelle's in-depth regulatory knowledge allows her to provide tailored support services to the industry sector, specifically assessments of the effectiveness of their food safety management systems. She is highly experienced in standards development aligned with agri-food legislation and the development of guidance and training material against new legislation and standards. Recently, Michelle supported Bord Bia in the revision of their Bord Bia Origin Green Standards, focusing on their 'Food Processor Standard' under the Sustainability and Quality Assurance Scheme. She was also one of the tutors of the EU training course covering 'Preparedness and Management of Food-Borne Outbreaks'.

Michelle is currently the Farrelly and Mitchell lead on the following EU Projects:

- UNLOCK- a Horizon Europe Bioeconomy project: Leading the feasibility analysis for recycling of poultry feathers. The objective of the project is to design and demonstrate economically and environmentally sustainable value chains to generate innovative bio-based functional products for agricultural applications.
- EU Commission DG Reform Project: Supporting on Implementation and Embedding a Reform Programme for the Better Regulation of Food in Ireland (DG REFORM/2018/01/FWC/002)
- EU Aid Projects: Organisation Development Expert to support EU-funded grant project to strengthen food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary capacity in Albania.

**Dr. Mary Friel, PhD (Industrial Microbiology), B.Sc. (Industrial Microbiology)**

Mary is a consultant in food policy and legislation. She works with stakeholders throughout the food sector including governments, state bodies, industry and non-profit organisations. Her experience spans the private and public sectors where she has monitored, influenced, and shaped the external regulatory environment. Her experience includes the development/revision of industry standards at national and international (Codex Alimentarius) levels and the development of guidance notes for industry to enable compliance with food legislation. Mary was the representative of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) in the development of Bord Bia's Horticulture Standards. She engaged with the relevant Technical Advisory Committee in the drafting and development of each standard. Her key role was to ensure each standard incorporated relevant food safety legislative requirements and were based on the principles of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), Good Hygiene Practice (GHP) and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

As an Abbott Nutrition representative on European (SNE) and international (ISDI) trade associations Mary engaged in the revision of the Codex Alimentarius Standard for Follow-up Formula (CODEX STAN 156-1987). The development or revision of a Codex Alimentarius Standard is highly significant considering it may be reflected wholly or partially in regional or national legislation across the globe. Moreover, Mary's previous roles included Director of Regulatory Affairs with Abbott Nutrition, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs Senior Manager at PepsiCo and the Food Safety & Risk Communication Manager at the European Food Information Council (EUFIC) in Brussels.

**Dr. Karen McGillicuddy, PhD (Industrial Microbiology), BSc (Industrial Microbiology)**
Karen is a policy & regulatory frameworks expert. Karen is also a Senior Researcher at
Farrelly & Mitchell. She has over 12 years' experience in food safety regulatory affairs. Karen is dedicated to improving quality and reliability through review, analysis and reform. She possesses extensive experience in the development and implementation of legislation and policy in the food industry. As part of her work for the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, she developed and revised standard operating procedures and reporting mechanisms to fulfil new legislative requirements, ensure best practice and to enhance production efficiency.

Karen coordinated national and European surveillance programmes, including the development of guidance documents for sampling and feedback of results to the stakeholders. Her experience includes internal audits for accreditation to FSAI ISO 9001 accreditation, audits of official agencies by FSAI and audits of the European food safety control system by the Food and Veterinary Office of the European Commission. Karen is dedicated to improving quality and reliability through review, analysis and reform. She possesses an extensive experience in the development and implementation of policy & legislation.

**Isaac Briandt Gokah, Masters (International Law and Economics), Bachelor of Arts (Economics with Political Science)**
Isaac is a Senior Program Officer with a great knowledge of the multilateral/WTO and regional trading system. He is experienced in Project Planning, Budgeting & Management; Financial Management & Good Governance; Monitoring and Evaluation; and Trade Facilitation. He has over nineteen (19) years of extensive expertise and experience in economic policy formulation, implementation, evaluation, research, and analysis, including trade and agricultural policies, climate resilience and inclusivity. He has expertise in partnership building, networking, collaborating, and resource mobilization involving development partners such as USAID, DFID/FCDO, EU, UNDP, WTO/STDF, AUC/PACA, COMESA, SADC, DANIDA, Spain, and Norway. He has a proven track record of ability to engage governments, donors, private sector, farmers, and other stakeholders. Additionally, he has over sixteen (16) years of developing, organizing, facilitating meetings, capacity building/training and sensitization programmes.

**Stephen Kwasi Awuah, BSc. (Natural Resources), Mgt Dip. (Crop Production Management) MBA (Project Management) & MPhil (Postharvest Technology)**
Stephen is a Regional Director with Farrelly & Mitchell and leads the firm's Ghana.
(SS Africa) office, located in Accra. He is a seasoned and highly experienced food and agribusiness professional having consulted and project managed extensively across a wide range of agribusiness and food processing assignments in Ghana and West Africa. His deep experience includes managing large-scale farming and agribusiness projects including livestock, poultry, crops, agro-processing etc. His work included the provision of practical and actionable advice and support to clients and directing investments across each link of the food and agribusiness value chain in Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

He played a central role facilitating the disbursement of $168 million, funded by debt and private equity, to finance approximately 3,000 agri-food enterprises over a period of 4 years in Ghana, under the USAID-funded Financing Ghanaian Agriculture Project. His vast experience in promoting public and private partnerships led him to design a strategy to implement the Ghana National Mango Plantation Project, targeting private sector-led development of 10,000 hectares over a 10-year period at a cost of $40 million, funded by the Ghana government, through the Export Development and Investment Fund (EDIF).

Stephen has also provided corporate coaching and mentoring to over 20 export SME agri-food businesses to enhance and grow the value and volume of their agricultural products exported from

Ghana to EU markets. His considerable consulting experience includes working with global multilateral and donor agencies such as USAID, DFID, CIDA, GIZ/BMZ, IFDC and IFC and agribusiness and agtech companies such as SAMAK AGRIBUSINESS LTD, ESOKO, and IGNITIA.

CVs of Key Experts are attached (See Appendix 2).

We are also open to the STDF secretariat to provide suggestions of international experts to support in the implementation of the PPG.

**8. In the table below, briefly describe the main activities to be carried out under this PPG and specify who would be responsible. Provide an estimate of the budget required (e.g., for national/international expertise, travel and DSA of consultants, stakeholder meetings or workshops, general operating expenses, etc.).**

| **Activity** | **Responsible** | **Estimated Budget (US$)** |
|---|---|---|
| **Project Team**: implementation and management of the PPG activities, delivery of outputs (i.e., P-IMA report, Project proposal and implementation report) strategic and operational quality control, financial and administrative coordination<br><br>No. of Days: 18 days | Farrelly & Mitchell | **9,640** |
| **SPS Expert**: coordinate data and information gathering on SPS needs, identify and mobilize relevant stakeholders for P-IMA workshop and KIIs, moderate the workshops, participate to meetings with donors and government officials and provide support on PPG deliverables (including project proposal) No. of Days: 24 days | SPS Expert | **9600** |
| **International P-IMA Expert:** Train a core group of government officials and other relevant stakeholders on the use of the P-IMA framework and D-Sight computer software, support project team and national expert on the steps involved in the application of the P-IMA framework in The Gambia and review the resulting drafts (i.e., P-IMA report/action plan and project proposal) | P-IMA Expert | **7,200** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No. of Days: 12 days | | |
| **National Experts:** Support the secondary literature review, identify and engage with stakeholders, lead the stakeholder consultation workshops, support in applying the P-IMA framework, support in proposal development, and provide necessary technical input during the PPG implementation on /agriculture/trade.<br><br>No. of experts: 3<br><br>No. of total days: 10 | National Experts | **7,500** |
| 1 Stakeholder consultation workshop* | Project team, SPS and P-IMA Experts, and National Experts | **3,000** |
| 1 Stakeholder validation Workshop* | Project team, SPS and P-IMA Experts, and National Expert | **3,000** |
| **Travel and DSA:** Domestic airfare, domestic ground transport, hotel, and DSA* | Project team member, P-IMA expert and SPS expert | **4,000** |
| **Operations Cost**: Printing, D-sight software license, consumables, etc. | Farrelly & Mitchell | **3,610** |
| **Total** | | **47,550** |

*****Reimbursement based on receipts and actual expenses

**Appendix 3: References**


a. AfDB, FAO and ECOWAS (African Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Economic Community of West African States) (2015), "Trade Policy" in Agricultural Growth in West Africa: Market and policy drivers, Food and Agriculture Organization Publications, Rome, www.fao.org/3/a-i4337e.pdf.
b. Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) (2014), Africa Agriculture Status Report 2014: Climate Change and Smallholder Agriculture in Sub Saharan Africa, http://hdl.handle.net/10568/42343.
c. Filmer, D., and L. Fox (2014), Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa, Africa Development Series, World Bank, Washington, DC. Doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-0107-5.
d. IMF (International Monetary Fund) (2012), International Jobs Report, Economist Intelligence Unit, Washington, DC.
e. The Sub-Saharan African region is defined by the United Nations Statistical Division and is used to indicate all of Africa, except Northern Africa, with Sudan included in Sub-Saharan Africa. Regional aggregations are available at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm.