

# Promoting safe trade, protecting the environment



## The safe trade opportunity

Building capacity on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures is vital for developing countries to benefit from international trade. Small farmers and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) face being excluded from regional and international markets when they cannot meet international SPS requirements. The increasing number of private standards, including those on environmental protection, add to the challenge.

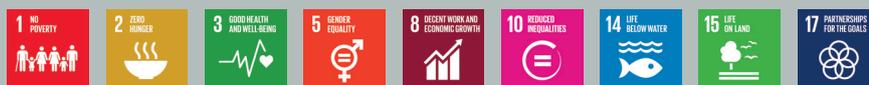
Effective SPS measures are proven to have positive long-term development impacts, including protecting the environment in areas linked to agricultural production. For example, SPS measures can prevent drinking water, farm soils or fish stocks from being contaminated by heavy metals, and help protect biodiversity. They can also help to develop agricultural systems that are more resilient to climate change, minimizing the negative effects on food security. At the same time, building SPS capacity supports small-scale farmers and MSMEs to reduce costs associated with the use of chemicals, to increase their productivity, improve product quality and safety, and gain market access.

## STDF's environmental link

STDF's 88+ projects since 2004 have supported developing and least developed countries to meet international standards on food safety, animal and plant health, and facilitate safe trade, many with positive spillover effects on the environment. STDF's project cycle looks at environmental impact from application to project review and evaluation. Across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, STDF projects have helped to control the entry and spread of plant pests and animal diseases by building knowledge and skills to improve SPS border controls, as well as reducing the use and misuse of pesticides, agricultural chemicals and veterinary drugs. Environmental benefits include use of less toxic pesticides, integrated pest management systems and better farming practices that reduce the burden on land.

## The STDF vision

The STDF is working to advance the Sustainable Development Goals through its vision: Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries.



## STDF projects support small-scale farmers to use non-toxic inputs for safe trade

STDF projects with a focus on agricultural value chains have helped to protect the rural environment by supporting small-holder farmers to use non-toxic inputs. As a result, cabbage productivity in Senegal<sup>1</sup> doubled, while pesticide residues dropped and producers gained market share in the region. In Bangladesh<sup>2</sup>, shrimp farmers saw harvest yields and incomes rise by up to 70% following the introduction of environmentally sound processes. In turn, this is helping to protect the coastal ecosystem as well as livelihoods.

“In the past, I needed 500kg of ice every 2-3 days to cool and conserve my fish. With the improved insulated box, I reduced this amount to 300kg. Also, with this box, we experienced much less damage in fish, reduced from 24 to 12kg for every 300kg.

**Adou Mambo Richard, Copasp Scoop cooperative, Côte d'Ivoire**



## Protecting natural resources in West Africa

Fish production and trade is critical for food security and poverty reduction, with more than three million women and men in West Africa depending on the fisheries sector – especially artisanal fisheries – for their livelihoods. STDF's project<sup>3</sup> in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal helped stakeholders in artisanal fish value chains to improve hygiene and food safety, expanding exports to regional markets. More than 400 small businesses learned about food safety requirements in high-end markets. Following training, over 1,000 people are using better practices to dry, smoke and store their fish.

The project had important environmental benefits. Improved food safety management systems use less energy, which means less reliance on scarce wood resources, and reduced air pollution. In Guinea, small producers benefitted from an improved smoking centre with more efficient ovens and better working conditions. In Côte d'Ivoire, producers need less ice to conserve fish with the introduction of insulation boxes, and there is less waste.

<sup>1</sup> [www.standardsfacility.org/PG-302](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-302)

<sup>2</sup> [www.standardsfacility.org/PG-321](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-321)

<sup>3</sup> [www.standardsfacility.org/PG-489](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-489)

## STDF projects develop knowledge solutions, and connect SPS and environmental agencies

Traders worldwide rely on wood pallets and wood packaging material. There is a risk that wood packaging, if not properly treated, could facilitate the movement of plant pests, such as wood-boring insects, across borders and introduce alien invasive species. An STDF project<sup>4</sup> in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique evaluated the economic, ecological and logistical feasibility of adopting ISPM 15 – the IPPC's international wood packaging standard. The project identified good practice solutions for governments on how to lower the risk of pests in wood packaging and highlighted options to recycle or repair wood packaging material, which will help to protect forest resources.

“Developing capacity to meet pesticide-related export requirements had benefits for the environment in Ghana. The use of lower-risk pesticides was beneficial for wildlife, including insects that perform valued services like pollination and pest control, and also protected water bodies in farming areas.”

**John A. Pwamang, Acting Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana**



## Managing environmental impact worldwide

Pesticide residues often cause trade issues for fruit and vegetable exports from developing countries. Producers sometimes only have access to older, more toxic pesticides that can be harmful to the environment. Knowledge on good practices in pesticide management is often limited. Other challenges include the lack of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for tropical crops, and differences in national and international food safety standards or across trading partners. This is the result of big gaps in residue data in developing countries, and the high costs of generating data and registering new pesticides.

Across Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia, STDF<sup>5</sup> projects helped agriculture, trade and environment authorities to team up with multinational pesticide manufacturers, industry associations, farmers and

international partners to carry out coordinated pesticide residue studies. By the end of the projects, data was generated for over 10 new Codex MRLs, and pooling of this data led to cost savings of over 25%. The private sector has since registered new, improved lower risk pesticides for farmers in 18 countries.

With these new crop protection tools, farmers can control pests and diseases more effectively, while promoting environmental health, and meeting international food safety standards for safe trade. Thanks to STDF support, a sustainable model to expand low-risk pesticides for tropical produce is up and running worldwide.

<sup>4</sup> [www.standardsfacility.org/PG-460](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-460)

<sup>5</sup> [www.standardsfacility.org/local\\_problems\\_global\\_solutions](http://www.standardsfacility.org/local_problems_global_solutions)

## STDF's knowledge hub

STDF's knowledge hub shares good practices and knowledge products on SPS capacity building, which helps to address problems related to invasive alien species, protect biodiversity and mitigate climate change risks. By linking up organizations involved in agriculture, trade and the environment, STDF's partnership promotes a coordinated and collaborative approach to SPS capacity building, with wider benefits for the environment. STDF's P-IMA framework<sup>6</sup> can be used to link SPS investments into planning and financial frameworks for climate change and the environment, alongside agriculture and trade.

*“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. Now traders have more appreciation of the risks associated with invasive species. Likewise, environmental agencies are able to cooperate more effectively with border agencies facilitating trade to minimize the risk of entry of invasive species.”*

**Sidney Suma, former STDF developing country expert**



### Tackling invasive alien species

Invasive alien species threaten agricultural and domestic species as well as wildlife, with negative impacts on land and water ecosystems. While trade is sometimes a pathway for the entry of invasive species, building SPS capacity is an important part of the solution.

The STDF good practice work on trade and invasive alien species – including an international seminar and publication<sup>7</sup> – showed how improving SPS capacity helps countries to better meet international standards and prevent trade from spreading harmful alien species, including plant pests and animal diseases. This work set the stage for better collaboration between stakeholders working on SPS issues and environmental protection, at the global, regional and national level, helping to promote wider results.

### Meeting the climate change challenge

Developing countries with weak SPS capacity may face challenges around emerging SPS risks linked to rising temperatures and extreme weather events. Building SPS capacity helps to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change on agricultural production, which is vital for food safety, disease and pest control, alongside trade and food security.

STDF's good practice work on trade, SPS risks and climate change – including an international seminar, briefing note and publication<sup>8</sup> – has raised awareness of how investments in SPS systems increase developing countries' resilience to climate change.

<sup>6</sup> [www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima](http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima)

<sup>7</sup> [www.standardsfacility.org/invasive-alien-species](http://www.standardsfacility.org/invasive-alien-species)

<sup>8</sup> [www.standardsfacility.org/climate-change](http://www.standardsfacility.org/climate-change)