"Strengthening phytosanitary capacity in Nigeria for facilitating market access: Developing and integrating digital systems for pest surveillance, pest reporting, seed certification and traceability" (STDF/PPG/626)

TERMS OF REFERENCE
STDF/PPG/626

A. BACKGROUND

1. In October 2017, the STDF Working Group approved a project preparation grant (PPG) entitled "Strengthening phytosanitary capacity in Nigeria for facilitating market access: Developing and integrating digital systems for pest surveillance, pest reporting, seed certification and traceability" (STDF/PPG/626). The PPG was requested by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS), and the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC). The PPG application is also supported by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria (FMARD).

2. The PPG aims to undertake consultations and develop a proposal for the development and integration of a comprehensive digital system capable of (i) pest surveillance, pest reporting, field inspection, and export certification by NAQS and (ii) seed certification and seed traceability by NASC. The envisioned digital system is expected to build on existing tools in the cassava sector.

3. The STDF Working Group recognized that the outcomes of this PPG have the potential to be scaled up, at regional and global levels. Suggestions were also made for consideration by IITA to: (i) further define the work to be undertaken, notably as it relates to commodities and border agency collaboration; (ii) coordinate closely with similar ongoing initiatives, regionally and internationally; and (iii) actively involve an ePhyto expert with experience on surveillance databases, tools and international standards.

4. This document sets out the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for implementation of this PPG by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). In particular, IITA will be responsible for sub-contracting the services of an international consultant with experience in ePhyto, surveillance databases, tools and international standards (hereinafter referred to as international expert).

B. DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

Over the course of PPG implementation, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) will be the implementing agency and undertakes to carry out the following tasks:

1. Work in close collaboration with government authorities, notably those involved in the phytosanitary area in Nigeria, and in particular, the co-applicants to this PPG i.e. the Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS), and the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC);

2. Manage coordination among all relevant stakeholders in the project (e.g. international expert, local consultants, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria, private sector etc.), and coordinate with the STDF Secretariat and provide relevant documentation if requested;

3. Implement the proposed activities in the PPG application[1], taking into account comments from the STDF Working Group, provided at its October 2017 meeting, notably to:

   ▪ further define the work to be undertaken, notably as it relates to commodities and border agency collaboration[2]

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[1] See application form STDF/PPG/626

- coordinate closely with similar ongoing initiatives, regionally and internationally

- actively involve an ePhyto expert with experience on surveillance databases, tools and international standards

4. Hold in-depth consultations with relevant national stakeholders in Nigeria (including government authorities) to understand and take account of legal frameworks for the use of digital phytosanitary systems, including Nigerian regulations and international standards (e.g. ISPMs 6, 8 and 17);

5. Take account of and draw lessons from what has been done in digital systems in the phytosanitary area by other national and/or regional projects and programmes, to build on existing systems and databases and avoid potential duplication; explore potential synergies with STDF/PG/432 "Strengthening information systems for pest surveillance and reporting in Asia-Pacific"; explore possibilities of offering a scaling-up model to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa and other countries;

6. Consult with and take account of the inputs by the international expert; facilitate the participation of the international expert in the PPG implementation including involving the international expert in consultations with key stakeholders and in the development of the project proposal;

7. Incorporate the following, in the project proposal, as appropriate: (i) institutional capacity building and personnel training for effective implementation of the digital system; (ii) the establishment of operational procedures to develop synergies between complementary regulatory organizations; (iii) communication and advocacy to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders; (iv) methods to ensure client adaptation (including relevant stakeholders) to the new system; and (v) cross-cutting issues (e.g. related to the environment, gender) as well as linkages to the SDGs;

8. Incorporate, in the project proposal, potential ways to strengthen digital systems, adopt and adapt them for defined uses in seed certification and phytosanitary surveillance as per IPPC standards; plans to use existing databases, web and smartphone applications, mobile data capture tools, seed tracker and digital surveillance programs to suit user needs; and data management plans, sustainability and uses;

9. Prepare the final project proposal for funding (to develop and integrate a comprehensive digital system capable of pest surveillance, pest reporting, field inspection, export certification, and seed certification and traceability in Nigeria) in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and in accordance with the outline established during the National Consultation and Planning Workshop. The project proposal for funding shall identify the specific objectives, expected results and activities of the resulting project, based on a coherent logical framework. The logical framework must include indicators to measure the success of the activities performed, the sources of verification as well as the main risks and assumptions;

10. Take overall responsibility to work with the co-applicants, international expert and other relevant stakeholders in developing and finalizing the project proposal;

11. Consult national authorities, bilateral donors and development partners to explore opportunities to leverage funds for the implementation of the project to be developed through this PPG.

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[2] Including the involvement of Nigerian customs in the PPG and resulting project proposal

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C. ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT

IITA will be responsible for sub-contracting the services of an international expert with experience in ePhyto, surveillance databases, tools and international standards for phytosanitary measures. The international expert will be selected by IITA, in consultation with the STDF Secretariat. The role of the international expert shall include the following:

1. Conduct in-depth consultations with IITA, NAQS and NASC and other key stakeholders on actions to be undertaken within the project; take account of existing documentation and tools;

2. During his/her two field missions (five days each), the international expert will: (i) participate in consultations and provide inputs to develop a briefing document on needs, feasibility etc. prior to the National Consultation and Planning Workshop; and (ii) participate in the four day National Consultation and Planning Workshop to consult with key stakeholders and provide inputs on the outline for the final project proposal;

3. Review and provide inputs for the final project proposal.

D. OUTPUTS

1. A detailed project proposal following the STDF format (available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/project-grants) or in the format required by a donor identified as a potential source of funding (subject to confirmation from the STDF Secretariat);

2. A brief report of the work done in the framework of the PPG, including a bibliography of the documents consulted, a list of persons consulted throughout the implementation of the PPG and their emails, the main activities carried out etc.

E. TIMEFRAME

This PPG will be implemented over a period of 6 months.