

Building resilience through safe trade

STDF ANNUAL

REPORT 2021



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:



DELIVERING ON THE GROUND

10

CONNECTING STAKEHOLDERS TO
INNOVATE, LEARN, CATALYSE SPS
IMPROVEMENTS

14

COMMUNICATING TO ENGAGE,
BUILD AWARENESS

44

50

MONITORING, EVALUATION
AND LEARNING

FINANCIALS

62

2021 MEL TODAY

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Letter from the STDF team

In 2021, the STDF continued to work closely with partners, donors and beneficiary countries to strengthen the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity of developing countries, building their resilience against the ongoing pandemic, to keep safe trade flowing.

This report shows how the STDF facilitated SPS-related knowledge sharing and partnerships at all levels, in delivering on the [2020-2024 Strategy](#). The STDF stepped up its efforts to promote international, regional and national dialogue and cooperation, underscoring its critical role as the global platform to drive catalytic SPS improvements for safe trade. This included greater access to and use of good practices and knowledge products, supporting synergies and collaboration across the areas of food safety, animal and plant health, and trade. The STDF also continued to deliver and learn from a range of innovative projects to drive sustainable SPS improvements in developing and least developed countries.

The STDF strengthened its mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and learning. It expanded outreach and introduced agile ways of working, using digital tools to enable developing countries to meet international standards. It promoted good regulatory practices to make SPS measures simpler and smarter, worked to reduce trade costs and equipped countries to prioritize investments.

Looking ahead, the focus will be on strengthening partnerships at global, regional and local levels to build SPS capacity and support longer-term resilience against future shocks. Sustainable and inclusive trade and development, aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals, will guide these efforts. Climate change and gender equity are priority topics for the years to come.

Last year saw a record amount of donor contributions to the STDF trust fund and increasing participation in events and activities. To all partners, donors and beneficiaries, thank you for your commitment, trust and support.

67%

of project/PPG funds benefitted least developed countries (above 40% target)

10

donors contributed US\$6,769,106

2

Working Group meetings
(122 participants)

6

developing country experts

32

projects and 23 PPGs ongoing

66

project and PPG applications received

9

PPGs approved

4

projects approved

2

external project evaluations

4

knowledge topics covered

4,086

stakeholders reached at 68 events

3,401

e-news subscribers

2021

highlights

2020-2024 Strategy development

STDF's Strategy was developed through an open, collaborative and participatory process, allowing STDF partners and other members to provide substantive and strategic inputs, including on mechanisms of change. The process included hands-on, facilitated workshops in Geneva in March, July and October 2019. It involved internal consultations with STDF members, each engaging their own networks. An electronic survey captured views on specific areas of STDF's work and past performance, as well as opportunities to consolidate and build on these experiences moving ahead.

This approach enabled STDF members to openly discuss and assess the degree of innovation and convergence required to consolidate the STDF's partnership and delivery model, while identifying specific areas and themes where the STDF could further evolve and develop. This has ensured that the Strategy consolidates and builds on STDF's unique role and past performance. At the same time, it allowed the partnership itself to innovate and evolve, reflecting the current ecosystem for SPS capacity development and the range of organizations involved, as well as the key SPS needs and challenges facing developing countries.

What we are aiming for

The STDF drives safe, inclusive trade and development outcomes in support of the UN's 2030 Agenda.



VISION

Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security



GOAL

Increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries



OUTCOME 1

More synergies and collaboration driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries

Working at a global, regional and national level, the STDF will Convene and Connect diverse stakeholders with a role in SPS capacity development.

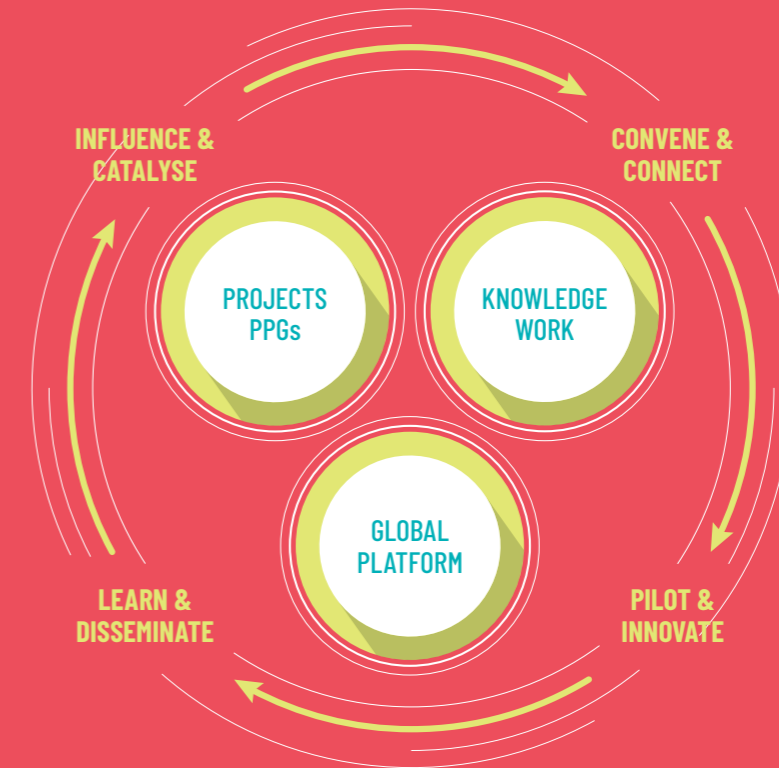


OUTCOME 2

Greater access to, and use of, good practices and knowledge products at global, regional and national level

STDF will deliver demand-driven activities to Pilot and Learn from collaborative and innovative approaches in developing SPS capacity.

Theory of change



OUTCOME 1

More synergies and collaboration driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries



PROGRAMME GOAL
Increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries



SAFE TRADE FACILITATED



Promoting sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security



OUTCOME 2

Greater access to, and use of, good practices and knowledge products at global, regional and national level



MORE INFO

www.standardsfacility.org/new-stdf-strategy

Delivering on the ground

The STDF provides funding to develop and deliver innovative, cross-cutting SPS projects and project preparation grants (PPGs) across the world. STDF projects help public and private sector stakeholders in developing countries to improve food safety, animal and plant health to facilitate safe trade. Projects often work as catalysts, onboarding diverse partners and funding to support longer-term impact.



STDF projects and PPGs in 2021

AFRICA

1. STRENGTHENING TOGO'S SPS SYSTEM
2. UPGRADING THE SESAME SEED VALUE CHAIN IN SUDAN
3. FACILITATING LIVESTOCK EXPORTS IN ETHIOPIA
4. STRENGTHENING ZAMBIA'S PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY FOR PLANT EXPORTS
5. STRENGTHENING GUINEA'S PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEM
6. ENHANCING UGANDA'S PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY
7. REDUCING AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN MAIZE IN BURKINA FASO
8. ESTABLISHING FRUIT FLY-FREE AREAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
9. IMPROVING SPS CAPACITY IN THE PENJA PEPPER VALUE CHAIN IN CAMEROON
10. MAINSTREAMING SPS INVESTMENTS INTO CAADP AND OTHER FRAMEWORKS IN COMESA
11. IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF SMOKED FISH IN MALI
12. PILOTING VTPA PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND TRADE IN AFRICA
13. IMPROVING SHELLFISH SAFETY IN SENEGAL TO BOOST MARKET ACCESS
14. HARMONIZING REGULATIONS AND MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN THE SADC REGION
15. DEVELOPING A VTPA PROJECT IN AFRICA
16. ESTABLISHING AN AVIAN INFLUENZA-FREE COMPARTMENT IN EGYPT
17. MOBILIZING FOOD SAFETY LABORATORIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
18. HARMONIZING THE PHYTOSANITARY LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA
19. USING DIGITAL TOOLS TO FACILITATE SAFE FOOD TRADE IN WEST AFRICA
20. ASSESSING SPS NEEDS IN THE BURUNDIAN HORTICULTURAL SECTOR

21. SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR AFLATOXIN CONTROL IN FOOD AND FEED IN GHANA USING THE P-IMA FRAMEWORK
22. BUILDING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY OF CROSS-BORDER TRADERS IN ZAMBIA
23. ADDRESSING INVASIVE QUARANTINE PESTS OF POTATO IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
24. EVALUATING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY TO IMPROVE THE PLANT HEALTH SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

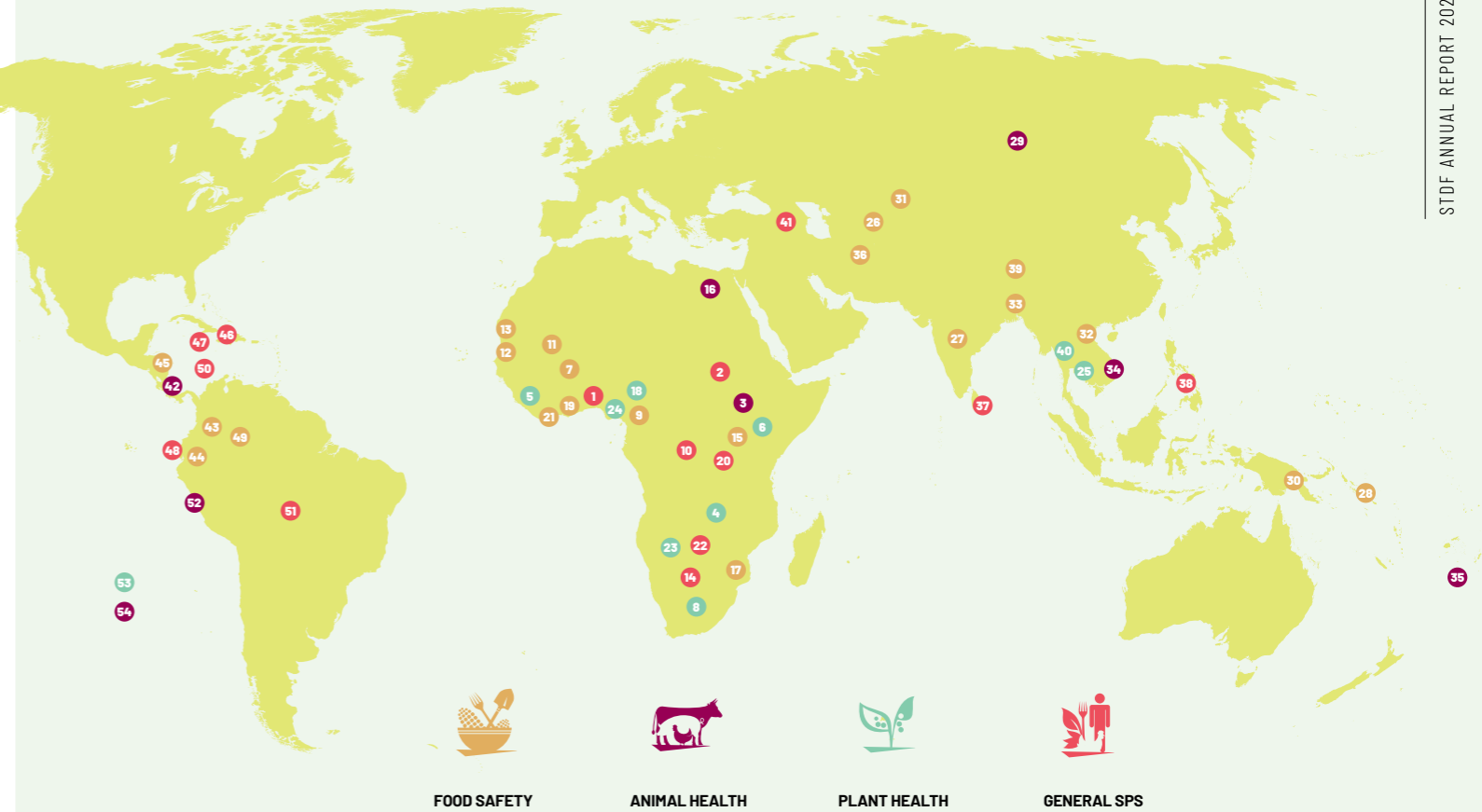
ASIA AND PACIFIC

25. PROMOTING IT SOLUTIONS FOR PEST SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC
26. IMPROVING HONEY AND APRICOT FOOD SAFETY TO INCREASE EXPORTS FROM TAJIKISTAN
27. STRENGTHENING THE SPICE VALUE CHAIN IN INDIA TO IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS
28. LABORATORY CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT FISH EXPORTS FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
29. IMPROVING ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION IN MONGOLIA
30. ENHANCING TRADE FOR COCOA FARMERS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
31. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN KYRGYZSTAN
32. BOOSTING FOOD SAFETY AND MARKET ACCESS FOR PEPPERCORN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
33. MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUE THROUGH PROMOTION OF BIOPESTICIDES IN ASIA
34. IMPROVING BIOSECURITY AND CONTROL OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN FOUR ASEAN COUNTRIES
35. SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BEE SANCTUARY IN NIUE
36. BOOSTING SPS COMPLIANCE IN FOOD OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AND FEED IN AFGHANISTAN
37. STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY COMPLIANCE IN SELECT SRI LANKAN SPICES

38. PILOTING USE OF GRPS IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN THE PHILIPPINES
39. STRENGTHENING BHUTAN'S BORDER INSPECTION AND CONTROL CAPACITIES
40. IMPROVING ASIA-PACIFIC SEED TRADE THROUGH COMPLIANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS
41. APPLYING THE P-IMA FRAMEWORK IN ARMENIA TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

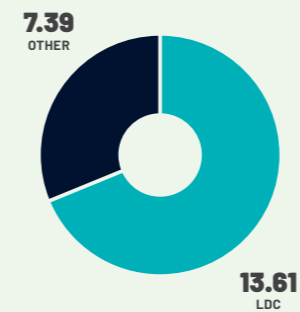
LATIN AMERICA

42. ACCREDITING DIAGNOSTIC TESTS FOR ANIMAL DISEASES IN CENTRAL AMERICA
43. COORDINATING MANAGEMENT OF CADMIUM LEVELS IN COCOA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
44. MITIGATING HIGH LEVELS OF CADMIUM IN CACAO IN COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR
45. PILOTING THE USE OF VTPA IN CENTRAL AMERICA
46. STRENGTHENING THE PHYTOSANITARY AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS IN KEY VALUE CHAINS IN HAITI AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
47. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY CAPACITY OF THE PEPPER VALUE CHAIN IN JAMAICA TO INCREASE MARKET ACCESS
48. PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS IN ECUADOR USING THE P-IMA TOOL
49. ANALYSING FOOD SAFETY RISK IN LATIN AMERICA
50. PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN USING THE P-IMA TOOL
51. MITIGATING CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN LATIN AMERICA THROUGH PROMOTION OF BIOPESTICIDES
52. ZONING TO CONTROL INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN PERUVIAN AQUACULTURE
53. ROLLING OUT A SYSTEMS APPROACH GLOBALLY
54. APPLYING REMOTE FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION PRACTICES FOR IMPROVED TRADE

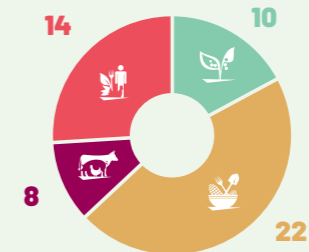


Map markers are approximate and do not cover all global projects

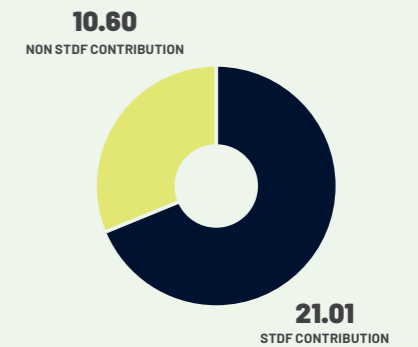
LDCs BENEFIT MOST FROM STDF RESOURCES (US\$ M)



PROJECTS & PPGs BY SECTOR



PROJECTS & PPGs VALUES (US\$ M)



Connecting stakeholders to innovate, learn, catalyse SPS improvements

The STDF works towards increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries. To achieve this programme goal, the STDF focuses on two outcomes, at the global, regional and national levels:

1. More synergies and collaboration driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries, by convening and connecting diverse stakeholders with a role in SPS capacity development
2. Greater access to, and use of, good practices and knowledge products through delivery of demand-driven activities enabling partners to pilot and learn from collaborative and innovative approaches to develop SPS capacity



Adapting to deliver on projects and PPGs

The STDF continued to achieve SPS capacity building results in 2021, on a wide range of projects and PPGs, from [improving animal identification and registration in Mongolia](#) to [strengthening the quality of honey and apricot exports from Tajikistan](#) to [enhancing trade for cocoa farmers in Papua New Guinea](#), and more.

Knowledge work played an increasingly integral role in the planning and implementation of STDF projects and PPGs, strengthening the SPS capacities of developing countries for the long run.

Partners adapted to make progress despite the effects of COVID-19 on project operations and delivery, impacting agricultural production, distribution and trade, as well as SPS management functions, such as inspection and surveillance.

The STDF Secretariat kept close contact with the organizations and consultants implementing projects and PPGs on the implications of the crisis and proactively provided guidance. Project work plans and budgets were revised, trainings continued online or in hybrid arrangements, and frequent communications with key stakeholders helped maintain trust and commitment.

This report spotlights a selection of projects and PPGs active in 2021 – of sectoral, thematic and geographic diversity – on how strong [public-private partnerships](#) enabled stakeholders to pivot and find solutions to keep on delivering.

Reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize in Burkina Faso

QUICK PITCH

Every year, aflatoxins destroy one-fourth of the world's food crops, according to the **WHO**. These poisonous substances, produced by certain types of mould, pose a serious health threat to livestock and humans, as well as a significant economic burden.

Aflatoxin contamination is a challenge in Burkina Faso, where a majority of the population works in agriculture, and priority crops such as maize are affected.

To reduce aflatoxin levels in maize and its by-products in an integrated way, the STDF coordinated with public and private stakeholders on a **project** combining the use of the biopesticide **Aflasafe** and good practices to mitigate and control aflatoxins, implemented by the EIF National Implementation Unit (NIU), housed in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts.

Addressing this issue is expected to improve the safety and quality of maize, supporting food security, improving consumer health, increasing producer incomes and opening up market access.

RESULTS

Reduced aflatoxin levels in maize increased exports and opened up new markets for producers in Burkina Faso in 2021.

The maize produced in winter 2020, protected with Aflasafe and managed with good harvesting and post-harvest practices, resulted in zero rejections

registered at the border, a direct result of the project training provided to producers, collectors, wholesalers and traders.

This is a significant change from the previous year, when a private processing company rejected 40 tons of maize produced by a farmer organization in winter 2019, due to high levels of aflatoxin, exceeding international standards. This maize was produced without Aflasafe and good harvesting and post-harvest practices.

Project partners included researchers, health officials and standards authorities. The Applied Sciences and Technologies Research Institute developed biological solutions to reduce aflatoxin contamination in maize and maize by-products. The national public health laboratory and the national standardization agency worked together to develop rapid tests to measure aflatoxin levels in maize. The strengthened technical capacities of laboratory agents and government officials helps ensure sustainability of results.

At the regional level, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture shared the integrated approach to reducing aflatoxins in maize throughout the region.

This project also had an indirect, positive impact on the local market, raising the quality and safety of maize, improving public health in the country.

FAST FACTS

0

aflatoxin-related maize rejections registered by the processing company SIMAO in 2021, down from 40 tons in 2020

2,500

copies of training materials published and distributed in 125 villages

5

production tests with Aflasafe carried out across the country



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 are able to sell more and get more income.

Issoufou Porgo, Farmer Confederation of Burkina Faso



IMPLEMENTATION
Started in May 2019



PROJECT VALUE
US\$845,862



STDF CONTRIBUTION
US\$544,402



BENEFICIARIES
Burkina Faso



LED BY
EIF NIU, Ministry of Industry,
Trade and Handicrafts



PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PG/566

Improving phytosanitary controls to boost Ugandan flower exports

QUICK PITCH

The global flower industry is set to grow to US\$49.1 billion by 2028 – rebounding from pandemic-related challenges – and exceed 2019 levels by 43%, according to a [market study](#). The Ugandan flower industry is taking part, as the sector is a top 10 export earner in the country, with export values climbing 50% from 2012 to 2018. The industry also employs around 8,700 people, as of 2018, most of whom are vulnerable, younger women.

A key obstacle to export growth: the African cotton leafworm. Producers began facing heavy losses in 2009, due to an increasing number of interceptions of cut flower exports to the European Union. This trend led to an STDF PPG in 2010, followed by an STDF project from 2012 to 2015, to cut down on pest interceptions.

Now six years after the end of the project, [CABI](#), the implementing partner, funded a [qualitative study](#) to assess the sustainability of project outcomes, extract lessons learned and propose future recommendations.

RESULTS

The 2021 study found that the number of interceptions of rose exports due to the African cotton leafworm “had drastically reduced during and after the project and was directly attributed to the continued outcomes from the project’s interventions”.

During the life of the project, there were 78 interceptions of cut flowers due to this pest. That figure dropped to six in the years immediately following the end of the project, from 2016 to 2018. The study found that the sharing of best practices played a key role in these lasting results: “Knowledge imparted to staff in the flower farms on how to manage and eliminate the pest in production sites continued to be applied, leading to a near total elimination of the pest.”

The study attributed the reduction of interceptions to three key areas: Pest management capacity at the farm level, including inspections and certification; self-regulation measures in the private sector; and a strong, ongoing public-private partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries’ Department of Crop Protection and the Uganda Flower Exporters Association.

Many of the public-private partnership mechanisms were learned from the Kenyan floriculture sector during a 2013 study tour supported by the project and coordinated by the Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence. The Centre was established through seed funding from the STDF ([STDF/PG/171](#)).

The success of this floriculture project contributed to Uganda securing STDF funding for a similar ongoing project targeting the fresh fruits and vegetables sector ([STDF/PG/543](#)). The project is also co-funded by the Netherlands government.

FAST FACTS

6

African cotton leafworm-related interceptions between 2016 and 2018, down from 78 during the project

14

flower growers on 170 hectares make up the floriculture industry

US\$30 M

in export value of flowers per year, supporting an estimated 40,000+ livelihoods in 2017



The project positively impacted the floriculture sector by reducing interceptions and incidence of the African cotton leafworm in rose export consignments, and by strengthening government collaboration with flower farm owners. The partnership facilitated peer accountability amongst farmers and increased appreciation of official phytosanitary inspections to facilitate trade.

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



IMPLEMENTATION
From October 2012
to March 2015



PROJECT VALUE
US\$427,017



STDF CONTRIBUTION
US\$383,495



BENEFICIARIES
Uganda



LED BY
CABI, Uganda’s Department
of Crop Protection



PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PG/335

Promoting IT solutions for pest surveillance and reporting in the Asia-Pacific

QUICK PITCH

Tracking plant pests and diseases is key to increasing crop yield and quality. Early detection through surveillance programmes, aligned with the [IPPC's](#) International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), enables government officials, extension workers and farmers to tackle pests in a strategic, cost-effective way. Yet many developing countries are unable to do this consistently.

In response, representatives of NPPOs in the Asia-Pacific came together on a regional project ([STDF/PG/432](#)), led by the [Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#), to align approaches to pest surveillance and reporting, which are among the core responsibilities of NPPOs. The goal: Strengthen the credibility of pest status claimed to prospective trading partners, to increase market access and boost exports.

RESULTS

Innovative information technology (IT) tools played a central role in supporting pest surveillance and data tracking in this project, for the partner countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. NPPO staff received training to use a customized "Pest-tracker" or "P-tracker" app installed on an iPad to collect geocoded pest data in the field, and to import that data into a simple, low-cost, in-house information system for analysis.

Using the P-tracker app reduced human error in collecting, mapping and transferring data, and it also assisted in the early detection of high-priority quarantine pests thanks to real-time data sharing and alerts. For instance, in the Philippines, early detection of the coffee berry borer and coffee leaf rust, as well as the cocoa pod borer and cocoa pod rot, enabled the country to demonstrate its coffee and cocoa pest status to trading partners and maintain access to lucrative regional and international markets during the pandemic.

Through trainings, delivered mostly online due to pandemic restrictions, NPPO staff in the partner countries learned best practices in surveillance planning, data collection and management, and evidence-based reporting on pest status. These trainings enabled countries to compile credible pest lists; demonstrate pest status to maintain market access; and meet the reporting obligations of IPPC signatories.

This project made pest mapping and data sharing among [ASEAN](#) countries a transparent and collaborative process. Several NPPOs indicated that they will continue using IT tools for pest surveillance after the end of the project. For example, the NPPO in the Philippines developed its own 2.0 version of the app, covering two commodities, a sign of sustainable results.

FAST FACTS

20,000+

ashew trees surveyed for cashew stem borer, 130,000+ soybean plants surveyed for soybean rust in Cambodia

26,000+

coffee and cocoa crops surveyed for pests and diseases in the Philippines

2

Android apps developed for pest and disease surveillance in the Philippines, inspired by the project



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 diseases of quarantine concern for these fruits.

NPPO Surveillance Team, Viet Nam



IMPLEMENTATION
Started in December 2016



PROJECT VALUE
US\$1,705,455



STDF CONTRIBUTION
US\$997,595



BENEFICIARIES
Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam



LED BY
Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment



PROJECT WEBPAGE
[STDF/PG/432](#)

Promoting biopesticide use in Asia, Africa and Latin America

QUICK PITCH

The world population is set to increase by two billion in the next 30 years, according to the **United Nations**, driving food demand and increased pesticide use to protect crops.

While the proper use of pesticides enables farmers to fight pests and plant diseases, scale up production and reduce losses, especially in developing countries, the misuse or overuse of pesticides is sparking trade, health and environmental concerns. High pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables raises food safety concerns and leads to shipments getting stuck at borders.

To tackle this challenge, stakeholders in Asia, Africa and Latin America are partnering to promote an innovative solution: the strategic use of non-residue-producing biopesticides at the end of the growing season, following conventional pesticide use, to reduce violations of maximum residue limits (MRLs). This approach combines the advantages of using conventional pesticides, such as lower costs and overall efficacy, with the environmentally friendly benefits of using biopesticides, to reduce residue levels. Policymakers are also starting to standardize regulations on biopesticides at the country and regional levels.

RESULTS

Partners prioritized knowledge sharing and the use of digital tools to keep work on biopesticides going despite pandemic-related challenges.

The Asia project (**STDF/PG/634**), which piloted this work in nine countries, informed the Africa project (**STDF/PG/694**), involving seven countries. Implementing partners of both projects remained in regular contact, participating in each other's steering committees, comparing baselines, sharing project reports and findings, using good regulatory practices to eliminate any unnecessary trade burdens, and conducting joint trainings. Partners pivoted online to train farmers and businesses to manufacture and use biopesticides, and to equip laboratory technicians to conduct residue decline studies, whose outputs would help curb violations of MRLs, to facilitate safe trade. These cross-regional exchanges are also supporting implementation of the PPG in Latin America (**STDF/PPG/753**).

Earlier pesticides projects inspired this work on biopesticides promotion, also focusing on knowledge sharing. From 2012-2017, regional projects in Africa (**STDF/PG/359**), Asia (**STDF/PG/337**) and Latin America (**STDF/PG/436**) worked to close pesticide residue data gaps and boost developing country exports.

FAST FACTS

8

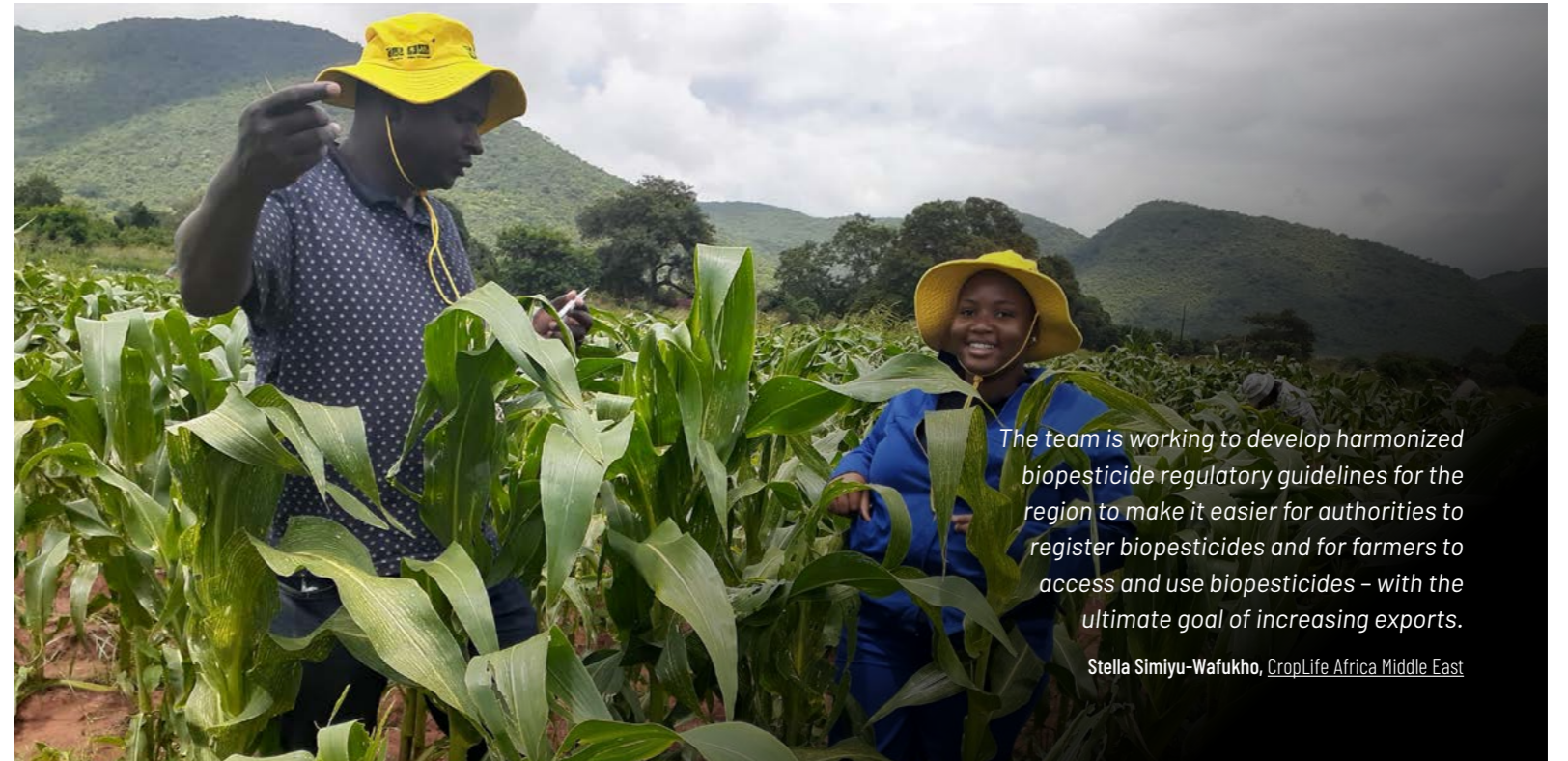
memoranda of understanding signed between the **APAARI** and NPPOs/a research institute

US\$50,000

(estimated) leveraged from USDA for residue decline studies and SPS capacity development in Bangladesh and Pakistan

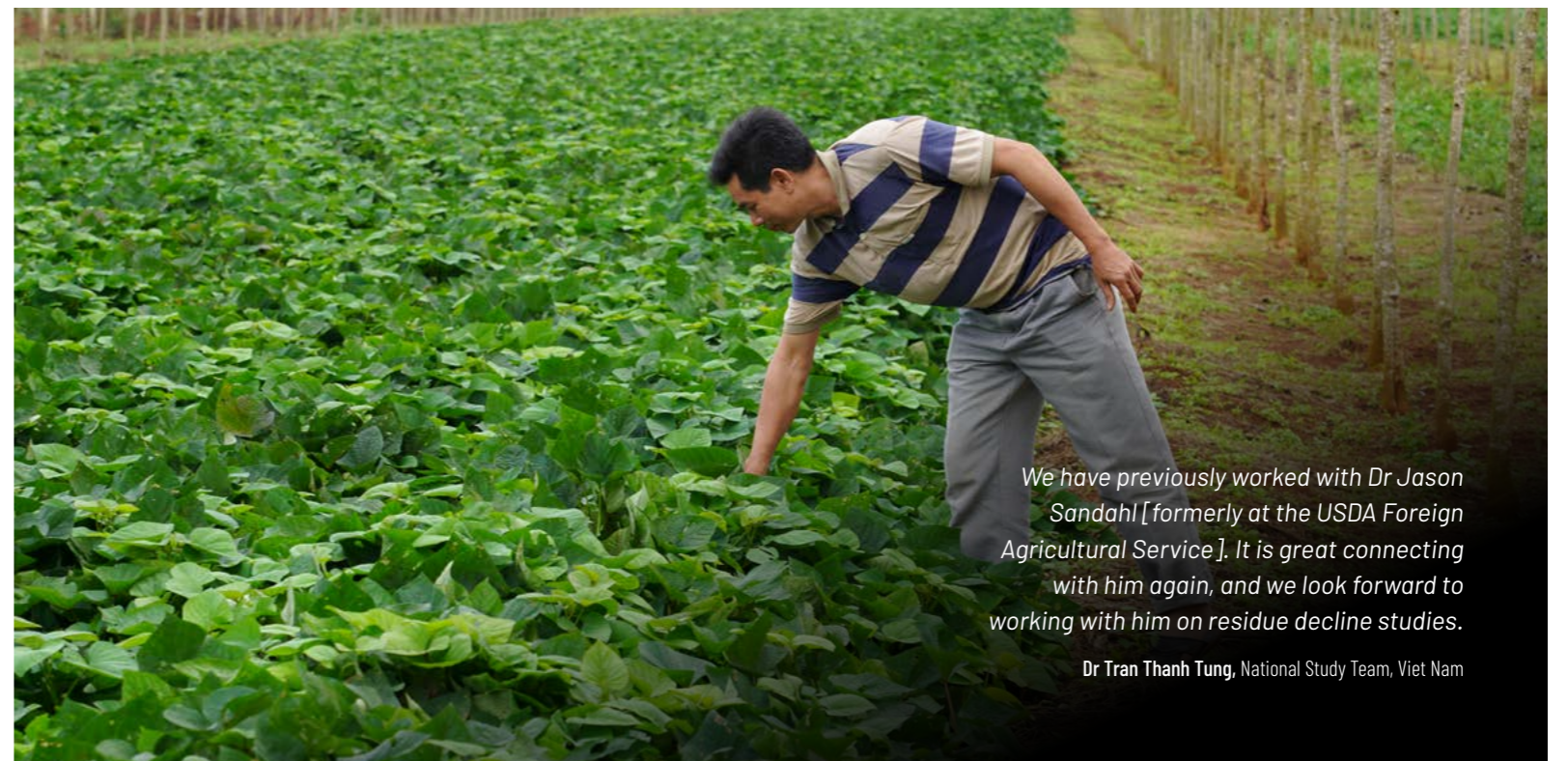
7

African countries had pesticide/biopesticide legislation assessed



The team is working to develop harmonized biopesticide regulatory guidelines for the region to make it easier for authorities to register biopesticides and for farmers to access and use biopesticides – with the ultimate goal of increasing exports.

Stella Simiyu-Wafukho, *CropLife Africa Middle East*



We have previously worked with Dr Jason Sandahl [formerly at the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service]. It is great connecting with him again, and we look forward to working with him on residue decline studies.

Dr Tran Thanh Tung, *National Study Team, Viet Nam*



ASIA

Countries:

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam

Priority sectors:

Basil, cabbage, rice, chili pepper and dragon fruit, among others

Main focus:

Residue mitigation followed by regulatory harmonization of biopesticides

Highlight:

Developed a regional knowledge-sharing network with national plant protection organizations and mobilized complementary resources from the **USDA** to back residue decline studies in Bangladesh and Pakistan (not a beneficiary country initially)



AFRICA

Countries:

Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Priority sectors:

Avocado and mango

Main focus:

Regulatory harmonization of biopesticides followed by residue mitigation

Highlight:

Engaged institutions with complementary mandates, such as the **European Phytosanitary Research Coordination Network** and CABI, to ensure project replicability



LATIN AMERICA

Countries:

Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru

Priority sectors:

Specialty crops (fruits and vegetables) and other tropical crops

Main focus:

Residue mitigation

Highlight:

Expected work with universities in the region to promote knowledge and skill sharing among public and private sector participants, ensuring continuous results



IMPLEMENTATION
Started in February 2020



PROJECT VALUE
US\$1,269,603



STDF CONTRIBUTION
US\$899,586



BENEFICIARIES
Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam



LED BY
APAARI



PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PG/634



IMPLEMENTATION
Started in March 2021



PROJECT VALUE
US\$1,193,219



STDF CONTRIBUTION
US\$798,493



BENEFICIARIES
Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe



LED BY
ICGEB



PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PG/694



IMPLEMENTATION
Started in April 2021



PROJECT VALUE
US\$32,928



STDF CONTRIBUTION
US\$32,928



BENEFICIARIES
Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru



LED BY
IICA



PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PPG/753

Prioritizing SPS investments in the Caribbean and Ecuador using the P-IMA tool

QUICK PITCH

The Caribbean faced this challenge. So the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) convened CARICOM stakeholders, representing 15 member states, to apply STDF's framework on Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA).

P-IMA provides a structured and transparent approach to rank investments in trade-related SPS capacity building, based on multiple factors. This framework can inform decision-making, improve coordination among stakeholders, support resource allocation and fundraising, and guide investments for market access.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Through a PPG (STDF/PPG/733), 10 facilitators from the Caribbean received virtual training to apply P-IMA and to develop collaborative project proposals to prioritize SPS investments in the region.

This pilot PPG tested the approach that was used to train facilitators for a PPG in Ecuador (STDF/PPG/709), which resulted in 10 facilitators trained on applying the P-IMA framework, including 6 IICA representatives from Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and the United States, and four representatives from the Ecuadorian government. IICA plans to apply P-IMA in Ecuador in 2022. This PPG resulted in increased awareness of the importance of SPS issues among public and private stakeholders, and support for the funding of SPS priorities.

FAST FACTS

10

facilitators trained to apply P-IMA in the Caribbean

10

facilitators trained to apply P-IMA in Ecuador



IMPLEMENTATION
Started in May 2021
(Caribbean)



PROJECT VALUE
US\$28,000



BENEFICIARIES
CAHFSA Member States



LED BY
CAHFSA



PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PPG/733



IMPLEMENTATION
From March 2020
to October 2021
(Ecuador)



PROJECT VALUE
US\$48,591



BENEFICIARIES
Ecuador



LED BY
IICA



PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PPG/709

Strengthening food safety and quality of Sri Lankan spices

QUICK PITCH

Sri Lanka is improving the quality of its spices, setting the scene for increased exports. Except for its world-renown Ceylon cinnamon, the South Asian country exports spices in limited quantities, as most small-scale producers are unable to meet international food safety standards. The goal of this PPG is to strengthen their ability to produce safe, quality spices – namely pepper, clove and nutmeg – by making improvements at every step along the value chain.

EXPECTED RESULTS

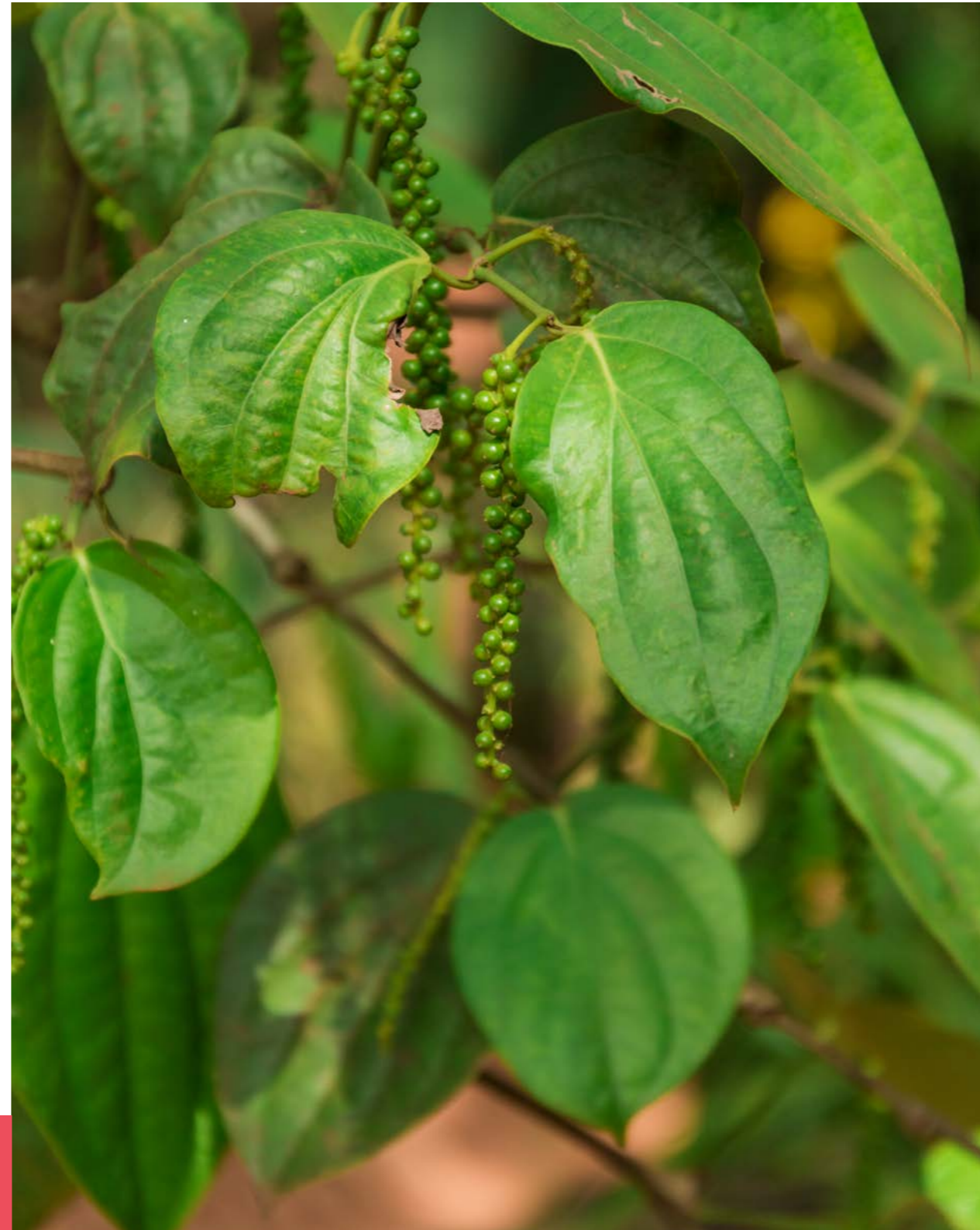
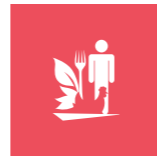
The resulting PPG proposal, led by the **UNIDO**, is designed to build the capacity of stakeholders to meet **Codex** standards of spices to increase exports to international markets.

This PPG built on best practices of past STDF projects: It was inspired by a project that strengthened SPS capacities along the cinnamon value chain (**STDF/PG/343**), led by The Spice Council of Sri Lanka and UNIDO, which laid the groundwork for the country to obtain its first-ever Protected Geographical Indication certification for Ceylon Cinnamon in the European Union, in early 2022.

FAST FACTS

3

spices considered for value-chain analysis, namely pepper, cloves and nutmeg



IMPLEMENTATION
From December 2020 to
November 2021



PROJECT VALUE
US\$45,836



BENEFICIARIES
Sri Lanka



LED BY
UNIDO



PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PPG/721

Knowledge sharing

Creating and sharing knowledge to drive catalytic SPS improvements is key to increased and sustainable capacity in developing countries. Knowledge creation and dissemination takes place via STDF projects and PPGs. It also happens through STDF knowledge work and Practitioner Groups.

In 2021, the STDF launched a new practical guide on the use of Good Regulatory Practices (**GRPs**) to promote SPS measures in developing countries that are fit for purpose. A new **film**, “Shaping a safer world”, illustrated why trading safely matters for development and growth across communities faced with the fallout of the global pandemic and increasingly threatened by climate change. Knowledge on other topics – from electronic SPS certification (**SPS eCert**) to public-private partnerships and the use of P-IMA’s evidence-based approaches – facilitated dialogue about new approaches to SPS capacity development. Knowledge products drew on and linked to tools and guidance produced by STDF partners, and profiled practical experiences and lessons from STDF projects. Knowledge events took place in cooperation with STDF partners and others supporting SPS capacity development globally, resulting in synergies and new collaborations that continue to enrich SPS capacity development globally.

Championing GRPs for safe trade

GRPs are tools to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures so that they are fit for purpose, resulting in a win-win for governments and traders, especially when resources are limited. Benefits include improved compliance with the **WTO SPS Agreement** and greater alignment with international standards – those of Codex, IPPC and **OIE** – as well as a reduced regulatory burden, and increased trust in SPS regulatory processes.

While SPS regulators are already using GRPs – from transparency to stakeholder engagement, stocktaking and regulatory impact assessments – greater use can facilitate safe trade.

Responding to demand, the STDF made available the GRP Guide in **English** as a knowledge product for SPS authorities to use to strengthen SPS measures in their countries. The practical guide features step-by-step guidance, replicable success stories and links to global resources to help make SPS regulations as effective and unburdensome to comply with as possible, opening the door for developing countries to more actively participate in safe trade. The guide was launched at a virtual event attended by over 160 participants on 3 November, during the WTO SPS Committee week. **French** and **Spanish** versions, as well as a **briefing note**, were made available later.

The Guide was peer-reviewed by STDF partners and other organizations, as well as SPS officials from the CAHFSA, **ECOWAS**, Chile, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and the Philippines.

SPS regulators in developing countries have highlighted the value of the Guide, calling for communications and capacity development to support its use at the country level. STDF partners have plans to disseminate the Guide as part of their SPS training.

In the Philippines, a diverse group of stakeholders – including experts from within the **Department of Agriculture** as well as those working in economic development and planning, standards and anti-red tape – are implementing a PPG to develop a project proposal on the adoption of GRPs in agencies regulating agriculture and fisheries, to craft better regulations to reduce trade costs and facilitate safe trade and market access.

With the STDF PPG and this Guide, we are becoming more aware of our regulatory actions. We better understand the impacts of regulations, not only on traders and others who are regulated, but also on the public sector.

Mary Grace Mandigma, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards, the Philippines

Good regulatory practices are not well understood in terms of how they are implemented, so having champions who understand this Guide is going to be a very, very catalytic effort.

Martha Byanyima, Land O'Lakes Venture 37, Kenya



Related projects and PPGs

STDF/PPG/722

Piloting use of GRPs in agriculture and fisheries in the Philippines

More information [here](#)

Accelerating trade with electronic certifications

In 2021, in response to the pandemic, countries increasingly turned to SPS eCert to improve – and accelerate – cross-border trade in food and agricultural products.

For example, the **Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific**, developed by the **UNESCAP**, entered into force in February 2021.

Paperless SPS systems can improve traceability along supply chains, cut trade times and costs, lower food waste, reduce fraudulent certificates and build trust among trading partners.

STDF supports the use of SPS eCert – including electronic veterinary certificates and electronic phytosanitary certificates (**ePhytos**) – in the context of paperless trade and the **WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**.

By the end of 2021, 104 countries were registered with the **IPPC ePhyto Solutions tool**, with more than half using ePhytos in a business-as-usual context. About 100,000 ePhytos were exchanged per month in 2021, according to the IPPC, double the average in 2020.

The STDF organized meetings in April and November of the Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (**ECAC**), during which partners and practitioners exchanged experiences, explored collaborations and promoted synergies to facilitate electronic certification. Participants learned about **OECD** quantitative-qualitative project

research on digital opportunities for SPS systems and the use of SPS eCert, as well as the new Codex Guidelines on the use of paperless electronic certificates, adopted in November.

In February, the STDF contributed to a knowledge-sharing module on **“Facilitating trade through digital SPS certification”**, led by **ADB**, under **CAREC**.

The STDF also organized with UNESCAP, the ADB and the International Chamber of Commerce a webinar on **“SPS eCert: Accelerating cross-border paperless trade”** in September, attended by over 200 participants. It covered the state of play of SPS eCert, case studies from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as lessons learned, challenges and developments in scaling up SPS eCert.

The ePhyto system for Fiji proved to be very economical and brings a lot of border-process efficiencies, and there was a quick turnaround of implementation in the country.

Nilesh A. Chand, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji



Related projects and PPGs

STDF/PG/481

Strengthening Zambia's phytosanitary capacity for plant exports

STDF/PG/504

Enhancing safe trade in plant products: an ePhyto solution

STDF/PG/609

Facilitating e-veterinary certification based on single-window system

More information [here](#)

Training experts to prioritize SPS investments using the P-IMA framework

Developing countries face many demands to improve SPS capacity to boost agri-food exports. Because resources from government and donors are insufficient to meet all needs, regulators have to make hard choices between competing SPS investments.

The **P-IMA framework** developed by the STDF offers a solution: An evidence-based approach to inform and improve SPS planning and decision-making processes, which links SPS investments to public policy goals including export growth, agricultural productivity and poverty reduction. The STDF works with partners to train facilitators on the ground to implement the P-IMA framework.

The P-IMA Practitioner Group met in February for a masterclass on the P-IMA framework, and in December to discuss main learnings, opportunities and next steps on P-IMA application in East Africa.

The pandemic highlighted the need to shift to remote training and application of the P-IMA framework, and to provide additional guidance to facilitators. In 2021, the STDF completed work on online modules, which were piloted in select regions and will continue to be used to train facilitators.

Through a PPG requested by CAHFSA, SPS practitioners in the Caribbean completed in-depth training on P-IMA. These facilitators will support the remote/hybrid application of P-IMA and develop scalable, collaborative project

proposals to prioritize SPS investments in the region.

A virtual training was run in partnership with IICA and Ecuador as part of a PPG to train facilitators to apply the P-IMA framework in the country.

The Economic Research and Development Support Centre of Armenia requested a PPG to apply P-IMA, to enable public and private sector stakeholders to prioritize SPS investments in export-oriented value chains. Based on consultations and findings, work is underway to develop an SPS action plan and a focused project proposal to improve market access for Armenian agri-food products. The PPG is building on learnings from past activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including the Agribusiness Standards Advisory Programme, funded by the IFC, to assist local companies in applying food safety standards throughout the agribusiness value chain.

The project 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



Related projects and PPGs

[STDF/PPG/733](#)

Prioritizing SPS investments in the Caribbean using the P-IMA tool

[STDF/PPG/709](#)

Prioritizing SPS investments in Ecuador using the P-IMA tool

[STDF/PPG/761](#)

Applying the P-IMA framework in Armenia to promote agricultural exports

[STDF/PPG/786](#)

Supporting implementation of the National Policy for Aflatoxin Control in Food and Feed in Ghana using the P-IMA framework

More information [here](#)

Fostering public-private partnerships for safe trade

Regulatory authorities and private sector stakeholders should join forces to roll out innovative and sustainable approaches to facilitate safe trade – an approach frequently adopted in STDF projects.

In 2021, the STDF compiled and published 10 **case stories** from around the world on public-private partnerships (PPPs) strengthening food safety, animal and plant health capacity, tackling SPS challenges to facilitate safe trade by developing countries. These stories share experiences and lessons learned from action-oriented PPPs, to promote greater access to and use of good practices at the global, regional and national levels. Stories cover boosting table grape exports from India, upgrading quarantine control in Djibouti, eradicating foot and mouth disease in Colombia, and more.

STDF members also shared knowledge through the PPP Practitioner Group, which met virtually in **January, April** and **September**. Members shared experiences and learnings on PPPs as a tool to drive improvements in food safety, animal and plant health and to facilitate safe trade. Participants also identified new opportunities for synergies and collaboration. A joint food safety training seminar by the IFC and UNIDO in Bangladesh is an example of this collaboration.

Another example of an STDF collaboration: UNIDO and IICA set up a virtual public-private platform to support STDF's regional projects in

West Africa ([STDF/PG/665](#)) and Central America ([STDF/PG/682](#)) to pilot the voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) approach set out in Codex Guidelines adopted in November. Engaging diverse stakeholders from the food industry and governments, the platform has increased learning on how to implement the vTPA approach in practice. It has also resulted in online coaching sessions that allowed project beneficiaries to learn first-hand from regulators in developed countries.

The IFC/UNIDO event was really a great experience of collaboration. The agenda was demand driven, and this is important, as we managed to address issues that are of concern for the Bangladesh Food Safety Agency.

Katia Onul, IFC

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

Isabelle Dieuzy-Labaye, OIE



Related projects and PPGs

[STDF/PPG/566](#)

Reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize in Burkina Faso

[STDF/PG/567](#)

Reducing fruit flies from production areas in Mozambique, South Africa

[STDF/PG/634](#), [STDF/PG/694](#), [STDF/PPG/753](#)

Promoting innovative biopesticide use in Asia, Africa and Latin America

More information [here](#)

Strengthening collaboration

The STDF, through its global platform, convenes and connects diverse public and private sector organizations across agriculture, health, trade and development to exchange experiences, identify opportunities for collaboration, and promote a more coherent approach to SPS capacity development. As part of this collaborative approach, the Working Group enables members to share and learn from each other's work, helping to disseminate, influence and scale up good practices more widely.

Voices of STDF partners

It's time to scale up and sustain the impressive results achieved by the STDF to date.

Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy-Director General, WTO

The STDF's work is contributing fully to the new FAO strategy to support the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO

Trade is a strategic priority in WHO's new Global Food Safety Strategy, and there are opportunities to further deepen the collaboration with the STDF in adopting Codex standards and strengthening national food control systems.

Francesco Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, WHO

The World Bank will explore how it can become more involved in delivering STDF projects on the ground.

Bill Gain, Head of the Trade Facilitation Support Programme, World Bank

A very comprehensive and inclusive process led up to the STDF's current strategy, and OIE fully supports the STDF's mission and vision.

Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General, OIE

Germany recognizes the need to support developing and least developed countries that have been and still are particularly affected by the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The STDF is a very useful tool to facilitate the integration of such countries into international trade.

Bettina Waldmann, Germany's Ambassador to the WTO

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, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)

By confirming its contribution to the STDF in 2021, Canada continues to support inclusive trade through good governance, SPS compliance and capacity building in developing countries and LDCs.

Stephen de Boer, Canada'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, Ireland's Ambassador 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, Finland's Ambassador to the WTO

Working Group activities

The STDF **Working Group** continued its work in 2021 by meeting twice – both times virtually – to review STDF's work programme and approve new funding requests and oversee the work of the Secretariat.

The Group, chaired by Tom Heilandt, Codex Secretary, met in March and October. Each meeting engaged over 50 participants, including representatives of STDF founding partners, donor members, SPS experts from Bhutan, Fiji, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya and Zimbabwe, as well as representatives of other international and regional organizations. Kelly McCormick from the **US FDA** acted as vice-chairperson of the Working Group in 2021.

Members discussed a range of ongoing and planned STDF activities and approved four new projects and nine PPGs for funding. They considered the ongoing impact of the pandemic on operations and reviewed efforts to implement STDF's new Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (**MEL**) Framework. Participants also shared information and experiences on food safety, animal and plant health capacity trends and developments. They reflected on topics relevant for future STDF work, with climate change and One Health scoring high.

Feedback from Working Group surveys showed ongoing, high satisfaction among members. They appreciated the Secretariat's preparation for virtual meetings and the chairperson's efforts to keep the meetings interactive. While virtual meetings may reduce costs and increase inclusiveness, several members felt that discussions would benefit from renewed face-to-face interaction. Members tasked the Secretariat to organize at least one in-person Working Group meeting in 2022, as soon as the situation permits.

Letter from Working Group Chair Tom Heilandt, Codex Secretary

In 2019, when accepting to serve as vice-chairperson of the STDF Working Group in 2020 and then as chairperson in 2021, I thought this might involve some travel to Geneva and sitting on a podium, such as I am used to in Codex meetings.

Reality turned out to be very different: 2020 and 2021 were fully virtual years and all of us were sitting in different locations and learning how to work together this way. By 2021, with the experience of one virtual Codex Alimentarius Commission behind me, I knew that preparation was key. The excellent materials prepared by the STDF Secretariat gave me the opportunity to learn a lot about the way project proposals are looked at by the Working Group and how the overall STDF approach of serving as a global coordination and knowledge hub and developing and delivering SPS projects fits together.

All went very well for this first online chairing. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Group, and I will make sure that Codex will continue to be actively participating in it.

The actual work in the Working Group is extremely collaborative and shows that the STDF is a real partnership, with different organizations and stakeholders coming together to work on solutions for the good of all, and making trade possible while keeping it safe and in line with international standards. 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.



Policy Committee activities

The highest body of the STDF – the **Policy Committee** – continued to guide the strategic direction of the partnership in 2021. The Committee **met virtually** in October, chaired by Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General of the WTO, convening representatives of STDF's founding partners and donors (France, Germany and The Netherlands), as well as three developing country experts, from Bhutan, Jamaica and Kenya.

Members expressed strong support for the STDF partnership, including in adapting to the reality of COVID-19 across all its workstreams, and welcomed the progress made in delivering the **Strategy**, which members considered to be robust and realistic, allowing partners to adapt. They also highlighted the STDF's role in convening and connecting a wide range of SPS stakeholders through virtual meetings, practitioner groups, webinars and other events.

At the meeting, **climate change** and its implications for SPS capacity emerged as a clear topic for future thematic work. Members also agreed to revisions to the **STDF Operational Rules**, bringing them up to date and in line with the Strategy. Developing country experts proposed a transition mechanism for countries that have graduated from LDC status. Following further consultation, the Policy Committee, in early 2022, agreed on a mechanism whereby graduated countries continue to benefit from the favourable LDC eligibility criteria when applying for STDF projects, for a period of three years following graduation.

The COVID-19 pandemic serves as a wake-up call that we need partnerships like the STDF more than ever to work together and find solutions.

Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General, WTO

FAO is committed to work with the STDF's other founding partners to transform our food systems and achieve better production, better nutrition, a better environment and ultimately better lives for everyone.

Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO

OIE supports the STDF's mission and vision, and OIE plays a key role in setting international standards to support safe trade in animals and animal products and in building the capacity of veterinary services to prevent and control animal diseases worldwide.

Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General, OIE



Communicating to engage, build awareness

Targeted communications amplify the reach and results of safe trade initiatives – and can help disseminate best practices and lessons learned to SPS stakeholders worldwide.

In 2021, the STDF Secretariat started rolling out the **Communications Plan**, endorsed by the Working Group in October 2020. The aim is to raise awareness of the importance of investing in safe trade, sharing knowledge and financing SPS projects, in particular among the public and private sectors of developing countries, but also STDF's wider network of partners, donors, experts, academics, and international and regional organizations.

The STDF released the “Shaping a safer world” **video** early in the year, illustrating how the world can recover from shocks, such as COVID-19 and outbreaks of pests and diseases, by strengthening food safety, animal and plant health capacity across borders as a global public good.

The STDF Secretariat, in close collaboration with partners, organized **virtual events** on various topics throughout the year, for instance on enhancing investments in standards in East Africa, transforming food systems, exploring systems approaches in food safety and plant health, prioritizing SPS investments in COMESA, accelerating cross-border paperless trade, using GRPs to improve regulations, and initiating food safety reform.

STDF participation in events organized by partners, donors and other members supported the dissemination, exchange and scaling up of work carried out under STDF projects and knowledge work.



STDF outreach in 2021



WEBSITE

61,187

Close to 61,187 sessions logged
(up by 40% from 2020)

TOP PAGES

Homepage, Funding
Opportunities, Projects and PPGs,
Good Regulatory Practice

Funding page experienced a
160% jump in views, GRP page
experienced a 37% jump in views,
P-IMA page experienced a 32.5%
jump in views, SPS e-Cert page
experienced a 25% jump in views



85.6%

of all website visitors were
new visitors (total users up by
33.6% from 2020)

USERS CAME FROM 205 COUNTRIES

20% Europe

31% Asia-Pacific

14% North America

19% Africa

16% South America
Central America, Caribbean

TOP DOWNLOADS

STDF Guidance Note 2021,
STDF Annual Report 2020,
STDF Standard Presentation,
GRP Guide, P-IMA Guide



15,410

publications downloaded



YOUTUBE

21,400

Over 21,400 views

NEW VIDEOS

Shaping a safer world



WATCH TIME

1,300

hours

183

new subscribers (total users up by
33% from 2020)



#STDF



MOST VIEWED PLAYLISTS

Cocoa: a sweet value chain;
Shaping a safer world; Building
capacity of small-scale shrimp and
prawn farmers



E-NEWS

13

news items went out to

3,401

subscribers

PUBLICATIONS

STDF Annual Report 2020
STDF Communications Plan
STDF MEL Framework
STDF GRP Guide
PPP case stories



STDF EVENTS

STDF's global partnership:
Facilitating safe and inclusive
trade horizons in a changed
context

Aid for Trade: Investing in safe
trade systems to protect health
and market access

SPS Committee side event:
Systems approaches in food safety
and plant health

Prioritizing investments and
leveraging resources to boost
agri-food exports in the COMESA
region

EXTERNAL EVENTS

3,300

SPS stakeholders reached at over
40 events in Africa, Asia-Pacific,
Latin America and the Caribbean

FIND OUT MORE AND GET INVOLVED



Access SPS information and tools
at standardsfacility.org



Browse SPS resources in
the online Library



View good practice films on
STDF's YouTube channel



Sign up for updates through
STDF's e-news



Share experiences and lessons
at STDF's Working Group

STDF in the news: 2021 highlights



Agence News Press

Fin du premier cours régional de politique commerciale en ligne de l'OMC pour l'Afrique

Agridigitale

Rencontre annuelle des sociétés exportatrices de fruits et légumes

Breaking Belize News

Ministry of Agriculture, international partners launch food safety project to increase agricultural exports

Breaking Belize News

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture supports project to spur improved food safety in Honduras and Belize

Journal du Mali

Sécurité sanitaire des aliments : le poisson fumé au centre des préoccupations

Bamada.net

Pour réduire les risques sanitaires liés à la consommation du poisson séché : Le projet « MTF/MLI/063/STF » voit le jour

Grain Central

Faster movements cut trade-hampering concerns: AMIS

Trade for Development News

Pesticide residues: The safe trade challenge

Trade for Development News

On support for global trade in Africa, today

Food Safety News

WTO report shows food safety dominates new trade concerns

SDG Knowledge Hub

WTO Report Highlights Programmes to Strengthen Africa's Trade Capacity

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

The STDF works to ensure accountability and increase learning about how the partnership drives catalytic SPS improvements and facilitates safe trade. From the continued rollout of the MEL Framework to the tracking of results on programme indicators and regular reviews of potential and emerging risks, including pandemic-related challenges, results-based management is integral to STDF's work.

The year 2021 was key for rolling out the **MEL Framework**, approved in October 2020, to support the **Strategy**.



Innovat- ing with new MEL tools

The focus was on setting up new tools and processes to help make monitoring, evaluation and learning more consistent, transparent and efficient. This included procurement of a new collaborative online MEL Tool (**LogAlto**) to deliver innovation and improvements on how data and information on the results of STDF's work is reported and managed.

Initial work took place to set up the structure of STDF's LogAlto, to be piloted and rolled out with project implementing partners in 2022. Indicators in STDF project logframes were analysed to identify ways to better aggregate results across projects, linked to the results framework for the entire STDF programme.

Collab- orating with members on MEL

Efforts were made to further engage STDF members and project partners on MEL. Outreach sessions took place to introduce the MEL Framework and new online tool to project implementing organizations, helping to ensure their engagement. A virtual MEL Group was launched to engage interested STDF members on MEL and to benefit from their expertise and guidance. Members include **FAO**, Codex, IPPC, OIE, UNIDO, France, Germany and the United States.

The STDF guidelines for external project evaluations were updated. External ex-post evaluations of two STDF projects were delivered virtually. Existing surveys were improved, and new ones developed.

Ongoing efforts were taken to understand and analyse the risk of COVID-19 on STDF's global platform, knowledge work and project portfolio, with risk management reports produced and distributed to the Working Group and on the website.

Learnings from projects: Highlights from external evaluations

External ex-post evaluations aim to assess the overall relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of STDF projects, including their contribution to increased and sustainable SPS capacity and safe trade, in line with the STDF's Theory of Change. They are carried out based on the [MEL Framework](#) and [Guidelines for the evaluation of STDF projects](#).

Developing a network of PCE facilitators

The objective of this STDF **project**, implemented by the IPPC from 2014-2017, was to strengthen the ability of countries to evaluate their phytosanitary capacities through improved and robust needs assessment and action planning. The specific objective was to create a pool of trained Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (**PCE**) facilitators.

RESULTS

The project strengthened knowledge and skills on PCE use among more than 40 technical experts from 36 countries and created a new pool of trained PCE facilitators and PCE legal experts. The PCE facilitator training package (in English, French, Spanish and Russian) was developed and tested. Extensive resources were developed and shared via the IPPC portal, including a new **Guide to Prepare a National Phytosanitary Capacity Development Strategy**. The PCE was applied in four countries, which led to improved national phytosanitary legislation and NPPO operations.

LEARNINGS FROM THE EVALUATION: SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

Make more use of the resources developed under the project.

Develop new partnerships to expand phytosanitary training and skills development.

Promote innovation in PCE delivery, adapted to the "post-COVID" environment.

Adapt PCE facilitator training and accreditation for online platforms.

Clarify commitment for the PCE at the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (**CPM**) and ensure allocation of appropriate resources.

Explore options to share higher-level needs identified by PCEs to support regional capacity development.

Further analyse the costs, benefits and sustainability of the PCE facilitator model.

Learn from the PCE facilitator model to inform capacity development in other areas.

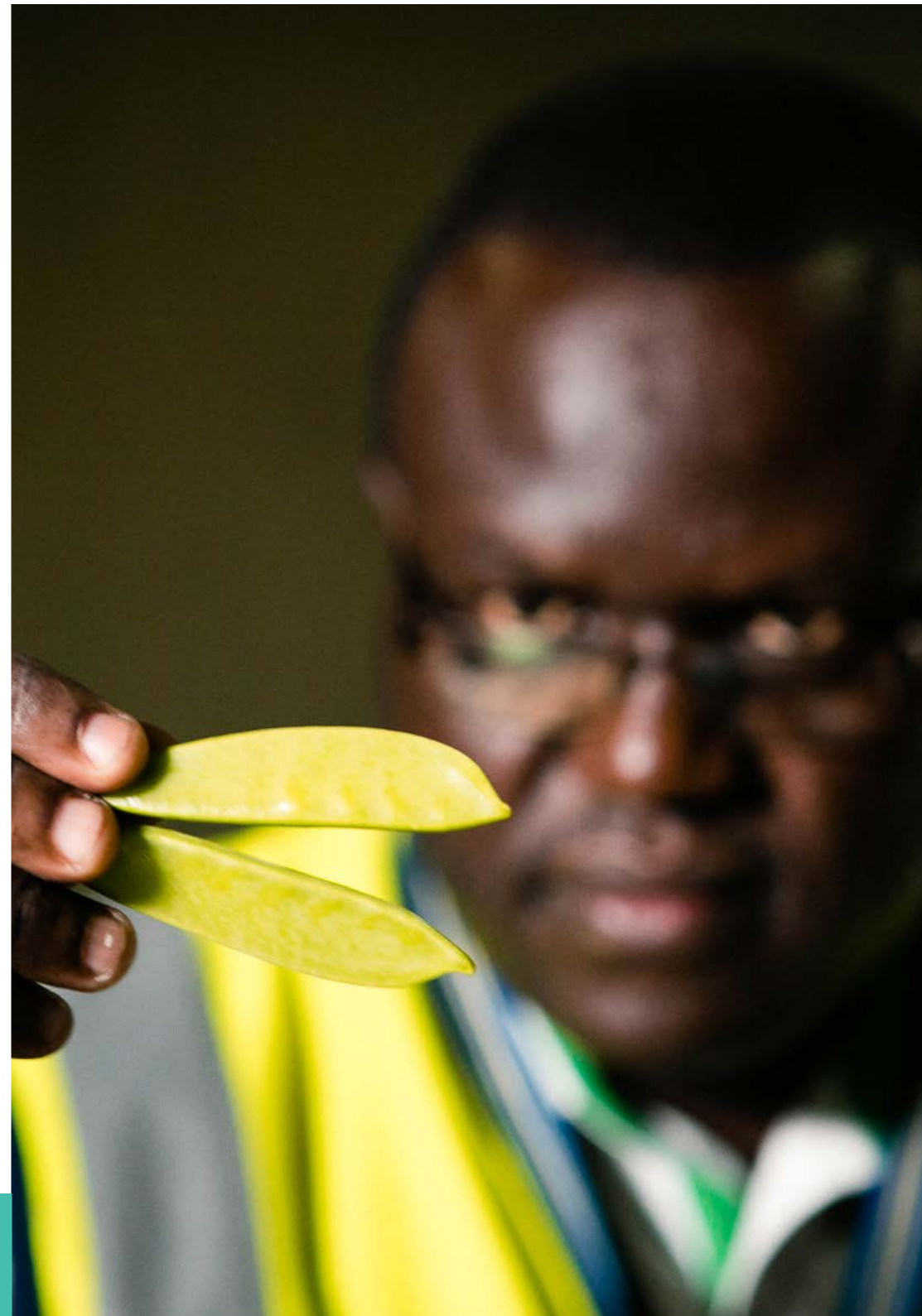
Improve risk management and set, measure and report on realistic performance indicators.

Support implementing organizations to make better use of the logframe as a tool for monitoring and reporting.

FROM LESSONS TO ACTION

The IPPC is engaging with partners to follow up on the recommendations. A virtual PCE application was launched in Nepal, together with the World Bank. A cooperation agreement was signed with **COLEACP** for joint training. A regional PCE in the Caribbean region is under consideration. The STDF Secretariat is taking on board the lessons on risk management and results-based management, as part of its ongoing work to set up the STDF's new online MEL Tool.

See the **evaluation report** by Lois Ransom.



IMPLEMENTATION

From April 2014
to December 2017



PROJECT VALUE

US\$1,194,404



STDF CONTRIBUTION

US\$734,088



BENEFICIARIES

Developing countries



LED BY

FAO



PROJECT WEBPAGE

STDF/P6/401

Improving animal feed safety in Latin America

Implemented from 2014–2018 by a private sector animal feed association (**FeedLatina**), this regional STDF **project** aimed to strengthen public-private cooperation to support regulatory harmonization in Latin America and improve the safety of animal feed.

RESULTS

The project harmonized regulations on animal feed, which reduced rejections in regional trade due to differences in procedures on sanitary certificates. The evaluation found that this cut trade costs and time, with a huge positive impact, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. However, the sustainability of the PPP approach developed under the project was only partially successful.

LEARNING FROM THE EVALUATION: SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

Projects can be implemented effectively by private sector associations with the necessary expertise, interest and capacity, and deliver high value. Private sector-led delivery models need to be based on close, strategic collaboration with relevant regional/international partners during implementation and beyond.

In the PPP model, all the relevant stakeholders need to be involved as real strategic partners in project planning and implementation, for instance through empowered project steering committees.

Take advantage of the networks developed through the project to restart regional coordination work, engaging regional or international government organizations in a leadership role.

It is good regulatory practice to periodically review how regulations are being implemented, and to make necessary adjustments to ensure regulations are fit for purpose. Continue to pursue regional harmonization, taking into account the findings of comparative regulatory studies delivered under the project.

Effectively manage risks and consider post-project sustainability from the outset. Developing effective networks across technical experts and institutions takes time and effort, and leads to more effective implementation and long-term sustainability.

FROM LESSONS TO ACTION

Stakeholders involved in the project are considering how to pick up on the recommendations. IICA has incorporated the regional training programmes on feed quality and safety delivered under the project into its online e-learning platform.

See the **evaluation report** by José Ignacio Gómez.



IMPLEMENTATION
From February 2014
to February 2018



PROJECT VALUE
US\$2,489,526



STDF CONTRIBUTION
US\$1,050,566



BENEFICIARIES
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile,
Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba,
Dominican Republic, Ecuador,
Mexico, Panama, Paraguay,
Peru, Uruguay



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PROJECT WEBPAGE
STDF/PG/345

STDF logframe 2021

Results on the STDF's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework in 2021 are reported here



Results table 2021

Detailed information about results on STDF Programme Level Indicators in 2021 are reported here



Risk management in 2021

In 2021, the Secretariat continued to work with partners to mitigate and/or manage risks affecting STDF's work, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to have a notable impact on the delivery of several projects and PPGs. Risk and risk management efforts are analysed below, based on the risk matrix in the STDF MEL Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Risk mitigation and management
Continuation of the Covid-19 global pandemic, and/or emergence of a new major global crisis	MEDIUM	While the challenges related to the pandemic remained significant in 2021, progress was made and results delivered across all STDF workstreams. Actions continued to manage the issues faced, in collaboration with STDF members and other organizations implementing projects and PPGs. As in 2020, activities under the global platform and knowledge workstreams were relatively less affected than projects and PPGs. Meetings of the Working Group, Practitioner Groups, MEL Group and other events took place online. New knowledge work on GRPs was finalized and disseminated widely. On projects and PPGs, risk mitigation measures were regularly reviewed and updated, and ongoing efforts made to promote continuity and progress. No-cost extensions were granted for projects and PPGs on request. An updated COVID-19 risk management report, analysing the impact of the pandemic on STDF's work, was issued in July.
Limited interest of developing country stakeholders in STDF's work	LOW	Efforts continued to ensure that STDF's work remained relevant and targeted to the SPS needs of developing countries. The pandemic drew attention to the importance of facilitating safe trade, as well as the role and potential of digital and IT approaches supported by the STDF. STDF members and the Secretariat shared information widely on STDF good practices, knowledge products and funding opportunities. A large number of events were held online, with the participation of large numbers of SPS stakeholders in developing countries. Yet, despite the potential and cost effectiveness of online tools, some challenges persisted (e.g. Zoom fatigue, unstable IT connections and/or limited access, differing time zones).
Inadequate resources (including financial, human resources, time) to deliver STDF's Strategy	MEDIUM TO HIGH	The pandemic highlighted the relevance and importance of STDF's work to facilitate safe trade and support recovery. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany became a new donor. In some cases, funds were linked to COVID-19 response and recovery resources. A total of US\$6,769,106 was received, close to the funding target. Short-term staff were recruited to help address staffing gaps including on communications and to support the procurement, setup and rollout of the new MEL Tool. As in 2020, spending on the global platform and knowledge workstreams was less than foreseen due to ongoing challenges to organize international travel.
Lack of engagement of members in STDF's work	LOW	Moving to virtual delivery allowed for more frequent and ongoing engagement with members on STDF work, including via online STDF events and Practitioner Groups. Several members, including partners and current/previous developing country experts, contributed their time and expertise to benefit STDF's work. Online delivery enabled new staff from STDF members to engage and contribute to various activities. Several members shared STDF information through their own networks, newsletters and events.
External factors of specific relevance to STDF projects	MEDIUM	COVID-19 remained the main challenge facing STDF projects and PPGs globally. Other risks (including political instability) affecting projects also required attention. The Secretariat and implementing organization continued to engage closely to manage all the risks faced, as far as possible. Yet, some activities could not be delivered as planned and implementation delays occurred, with some projects requesting further no-cost extensions. Despite the challenges, most projects and PPGs continued to make progress. The COVID-19 risk reports provide additional information.

Financials

In 2021, developing countries continued to request assistance from the STDF to assist small-scale farmers, processors, traders and governments to meet international standards and facilitate safe trade. Demand remained high in terms of financing projects and PPGs, with a total of 66 project and PPG applications received.



2021 Funding highlights

4 NEW PROJECTS

and **9 new PPGs** were approved by the Working Group in 2021 totalling US\$3,582,431, slightly below the target of US\$3,900,000 per year.

67% OF RESOURCES

for newly approved projects and PPGs in 2021 will benefit **LDCs**, over and above the STDF target of 40%.

10 DONORS

made contributions to the STDF totalling US\$6,769,106, slightly below the target of US\$7 million per year¹.

DONOR		AMOUNT (US\$)
CANADA	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	153,090
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	European Aid Cooperation Office (EuropeAid)	683,279
FINLAND	Ministry for Foreign Affairs	299,454
FRANCE	Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances and Ministère de l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation	479,126
GERMANY	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	944,064
IRELAND	Irish Aid	239,563
NETHERLANDS	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (Aid for Trade)	628,415
NORWAY	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	1,361,977
SWEDEN	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	1,168,773
UNITED STATES	US Agency for International Development (USAID), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA)	811,366
TOTAL (US\$)		6,769,106

Estimated and actual expenditures in 2021

OUTPUT	ESTIMATE (US\$)	ACTUAL (US\$)	VARIATION
KNOWLEDGE WORK	452,000	431,361	-5%
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS	5,028,500	2,483,736	-51%
GLOBAL PLATFORM AND OPERATIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT	237,300	163,930	-31%
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING	553,700	271,680	-51%
COMMUNICATIONS	440,700	248,991	-44%
GRAND TOTAL	6,712,200	3,599,697	-46%

Total STDF expenditures amounted to US\$3,599,697 in 2021, which was 46% lower than the estimated total (US\$6,712,200) in the budget estimate attached to STDF's Work Plan for 2021.

The gap between the estimated and actual expenditures can be explained by a set of factors that all have their roots in the externalities of the COVID-19 global pandemic that continued in 2021. These factors were:

- The implementation of many projects and PPGs was delayed or was put on hold;
- All STDF meetings moved to a virtual format;
- No travel was undertaken.

STDF's final balance at the end of 2021 is shown in the table below. Deducting total expenditures, contracted commitments of US\$7,856,788 for ongoing PPGs and projects, and uncontracted commitments of US\$4,277,240, the STDF showed a positive balance of US\$2,850,200 as of 31 December 2021.

The STDF Secretariat expects expenditures in relation to implementation of ongoing projects and PPGs to pick up again in 2022, and also expects to receive more projects, resulting from the implementation of PPGs, from 2022 onwards.

STDF's financial balance at the end of 2021

CATEGORY	AMOUNT IN US\$
OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1 JANUARY 2021	11,915,573
CONTRIBUTIONS CURRENT YEAR	6,769,106
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	-100,753
TOTAL FUNDS	18,583,926
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,599,697
CONTRACTED COMMITMENTS	7,856,788
BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF DONORS	7,127,440
UNCONTRACTED COMMITMENTS (CORRESPONDING TO 4 PPGS AND 5 PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2021 AND NOT CONTRACTED AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021)	4,277,240
FINAL BALANCE	2,850,200



STDF Global Partnership

FOUNDING PARTNERS



INCLUDING

CODEX
Codex Alimentarius Commission Secretariat

IPPC
International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat

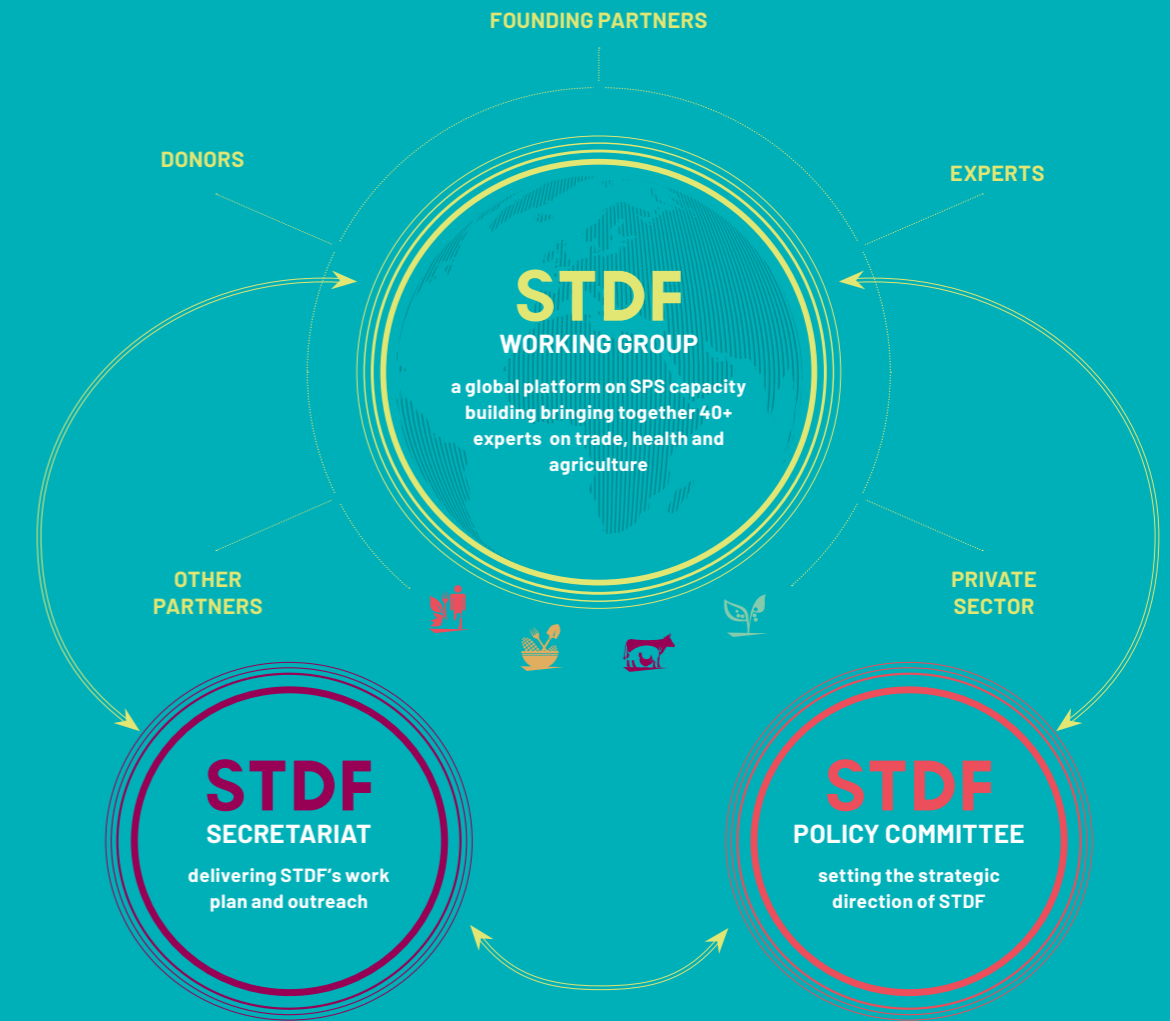
DONORS IN 2021

Government agencies for agriculture, development, food, foreign affairs and trade:



DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPERTS

- LUCY NAMU** - Kenya
- MIRIAN BUENO** - Honduras
- VISIONI TIMOTE** - Fiji
- JULIET GOLDSMITH** - Jamaica
- UNESU USHEWOKUNZE-OBATOLU** - Zimbabwe
- SITHAR DORJEE** - Bhutan



OTHER PARTNERS	PROJECT PARTNERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR	STDF WORKING GROUP	STDF SECRETARIAT	STDF'S WIDER NETWORK INCLUDES
AUC CABI COLEACP EIF GFSI IICA ITC OECD OIRSA SSAFE UNCTAD UNIDO WCO	Developing country government agencies Regional and international organizations NGOs Universities and research institutes Industry associations Private sector companies	CHAIR Tom Heilandt (Codex Secretariat) VICE-CHAIR Kelly McCormick (United States)	HEAD Melvin Spreij DEPUTY HEAD Marlynn Hopper Pablo Jenkins Roshan Khan Paola Michelutti Simon Padilla Susanna Pak Catalina Pulido Angelica Cottica Grisuk (short term) Ezinne Anyanwu (short term) Xiaoyi Wang (intern) Purujith Gautam (intern)	ADB AfDB AGRA ATF ASEAN AU-IBAR BTSF CAADP CAHNSA CARICOM CBD CITES COMESA COSAVE EAC ECOWAS FIA FFM FSCF GDPRD GFSP GMUF ICCO IDB IFPRI PACA PAHO PHAMA PIFS SAARC SADC UN DESA UNDP UNECE UNESCAP UNICC WAEMU WEF

Glossary

ADB	Asian Development Bank	P-IMA	Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions	PCE	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	PPG	Project preparation grant
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany	SIMAO	Société Industrielle Meunière de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International	SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency	SPS eCert	Electronic SPS Certification
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation	STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	UN	United Nations
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures	UNESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ECAC	Electronic Certification Advisory Committee	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	US	United States
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
EIF NIU	EIF National Implementation Unit	US FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
ePhyto	Electronic phytosanitary certificate	vTPA	Voluntary third-party assurance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	WHO	World Health Organization
GRP	Good Regulatory Practice	WTO	World Trade Organization
ICGEB	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology		
IFC	International Finance Corporation		
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture		
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention		
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures		
LDC	Least developed country		
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning		
MRLs	Maximum residue limits		
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation		
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organization		
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development		
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health		



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