



Standards and Trade
Development Facility

STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

Enhancing SPS capacity, delivering results

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

www.standardsfacility.org

GLOSSARY

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CABI	Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICCO	International Cocoa Organization
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MCDA	Multi Criteria Decision Analysis
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OIRSA	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
OLICs	Other Low Income Countries
P-IMA	Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access
PPGs	Project Preparation Grants
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SASEC	South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
USDA	United States Department for Agriculture
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

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STDF AT A GLANCE

A global partnership of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization

Vision: Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries
Programme goal: Increased capacity of developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations and hence ability to gain and maintain market access
Outcome: Enhanced effectiveness of SPS capacity building
Outputs
Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and dialogue among relevant stakeholders promoted

STDF in numbers

From inception until the end of 2015:

US\$49,544,865 million provided by 17 donors

75 projects approved for STDF funding

74 PPGs approved for STDF funding

64% of STDF project and PPG funds benefitted LDCs and other low income countries

In 2015, STDF received contributions from Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Chinese Taipei¹ and the United States.

STDF Mid-Term Review

- "results are impressive and testament to the effective operation of the STDF"
- coordination forum role "significant value added"
- projects "highly relevant to needs of beneficiaries and to the policies of partners and donors"

See: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_MTR_Jan-14.pdf

¹ Chinese Taipei is a WTO Member in application of Article XII of the Marrakesh Agreement (1994). WTO membership has no implication regarding the sovereignty of the Member pursuant to international law.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015, the STDF's global partnership implemented a wide range of activities to deliver on its expected results. This was thanks to the strong support of the STDF partners (FAO, OIE, World Bank, WHO and WTO) as well as the IPPC and Codex Secretariats; the 11 donors who contributed US\$4.7 million in 2015; six STDF developing country experts; observer organizations (including the African Union, CABI, IICA, IDB, ITC, OECD, OIRSA, UNIDO, UNCTAD); and diverse stakeholders supporting STDF project development and implementation work globally.

Over the year, the STDF worked to enhance the effectiveness of SPS capacity building in developing countries, the key outcome defined in its logical framework, in order to increase the capacity of developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations to gain and maintain market access (STDF's programme goal). Progress towards STDF's outcome and programme goal is expected to contribute to the STDF's vision of sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries. As such, the STDF is supporting the global community's Sustainable Development Goals, which were agreed upon in 2015, in particular addressing Goals 1, 2, 8, 10, 14, 15 and 17.

The STDF implemented a range of targeted and coordinated activities, in support of its four strategic output areas. Highlights of the work programme in 2015 included:

- STDF Policy Committee approved a new Medium-Term Strategy for 2015-2019 to support the Facility in delivering results.
- Two highly-rated Working Group sessions, which again showcased STDF as a leading knowledge platform to share experiences and identify good practice with key topics such as SPS electronic certification to be developed in 2016.
- Identification of examples of collaborative approaches to SPS capacity building, illustrating how actors in the SPS arena have built on STDF's work and activities, drawing on the partnership's convening power and network of expertise as well as learning from STDF's experience as a multi-stakeholder partnership and trust fund.
- Well-received guidance, recommendations and linkages in topics such as: Prioritizing SPS investments for market access (P-IMA): an innovative decision-support tool rolled out in 10 developing countries; Implementing SPS measures to facilitate safe trade; together with a high-level panel on SPS measures and trade facilitation at the 5th Global Aid for Trade Review.
- Five Project Preparation Grants approved to support project development and five Project Grants approved to strengthen SPS capacity and enhance market access. The focus was on projects that identify and disseminate good practices, implement innovative and replicable approaches, and promote collaborative and regional approaches. Least Developed Countries and other low income countries continued to benefit the most.
- Reaching out to share information and experiences to build SPS capacity in developing countries through STDF Secretariat participation in over 18 events across all regions; the production and sharing of the new "Safe Trade Solutions" film; updates to the Virtual Library and STDF website, which received nearly 4,000 visitors from across 100 countries.

Moving forward beyond 2015, the STDF will continue to nurture and sustain its active partnership, which drives the success of the initiative including for the partnership to better support outreach efforts. Greater focus will go to measuring and communicating the STDF's results through user-friendly materials, including results stories and lessons learned, as well as raising STDF's visibility. At the same time the STDF will look at targeted assistance for applicants of STDF funding and explore how to leverage additional external funding for projects developed through STDF PPGs. Efforts will also be made to bring on more donor support to ensure implementation of the remaining years of the STDF's Medium-Term Strategy, 2015-2019.

STDF: Celebrating 10+ years of delivering results

Launched in 2003 with US\$517,000 seed-funding from the World Bank and WTO, the STDF has come a long way. *"The STDF answers an essential need. When I visit developing countries business people often tell me about the difficulties they face in meeting required standards. It is one of the most frequent issues I hear. By helping developing countries to improve their food safety, animal and plant health capacity, the STDF supports them to overcome these problems and gain market access. In this way the STDF partnership has accomplished a great deal. It has delivered 140 projects to help developing countries improve their SPS capacity and enhance trade in food and agricultural products. It has provided significant support to the most vulnerable, as 50% of project resources are dedicated to LDCs. And it promotes the exchange of information and good practice in SPS capacity building."* Roberto Azevêdo, WTO Director-General, Reception to mark 10 years of the STDF at WTO on 25 March 2015.

THE STDF IN 2015: PROGRESS UPDATE

The 2015 annual report gives an overview of STDF's results delivered against the agreed targets and indicators of the STDF Work Plan (2015-2016)², based on the STDF's Medium-Term Strategy (Box 1) and its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.³ In 2015, the STDF worked to enhance the effectiveness of SPS capacity building in developing countries, which is the key outcome set out in the logframe (Annex 1). To achieve this, the STDF carried out a range of targeted and coordinated activities, which supported STDF's four strategic output areas. The annual report also documents the findings and conclusions from a survey of STDF members and observers on the strong performance of the STDF Working Group and STDF Secretariat, as well as on the recognized achievement of STDF's outcome and outputs, in line with the Work Plan's indicators.

In December 2015, STDF members and observers shared views in a survey on the achievement of STDF's outcome and outputs, as well as on the performance of the Working Group and Secretariat.⁴ Findings showed that STDF partners and other Working Group members and observers overall appreciate STDF's work on coordination/knowledge exchange and project development/funding. Responses showed that members and observers contribute to the work of STDF, inform networks about STDF and use STDF outputs in a variety of ways. STDF's work on good practice was appreciated as relevant and useful. Overall STDF was seen to make an important contribution to SPS capacity building in developing countries. The survey provides a range of insights to inform STDF's future work plans.

Box 1: STDF Medium-Term Strategy (2015-2019)

In January 2015, the STDF Policy Committee, hosted by the OIE at its headquarters, approved a new Medium-Term Strategy for the STDF for 2015-2019 to support the Facility in delivering results.

The Medium-Term Strategy sets out the vision, goal, outcome and outputs of the STDF and serves as a framework and roadmap for STDF partners, donors, observers, the wider STDF network and developing country partners and beneficiaries. The Strategy is supported by a bi-annual work plan and budget, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and a logframe.

How STDF supported effective SPS capacity building in 2015

In 2015, the STDF continued to promote coherence and coordination in the planning and implementation of SPS capacity-building activities to enhance the results of technical cooperation. Enhancing the effectiveness of SPS capacity-building is vital to strengthen the ability of developing countries to implement international standards, meet SPS import requirements of trading partners and gain and maintain market access. By bringing together the SPS expertise and skills of its founding partners and other organizations, the STDF provides a unique forum to exchange information, encourage collaboration and synergies in SPS capacity building, enabling stakeholders involved to achieve more effective and sustainable results together than would be possible alone.

² See STDF Work Plan 2015-2016, Annex I, at:

http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/WorkPlan_2015_2016_Final.pdf

³ The STDF Medium-Term Strategy is available at:

http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/Mid_term_Strategy_2015_2019_EN.pdf. The M&E Framework is available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/ME_Framework_EN.pdf

⁴ The STDF's monitoring and evaluation framework indicates that such a survey should be sent to STDF partners and other Working Group members/observers on a bi-annual basis. The Working Group reviewed and endorsed the survey in October 2015, prior to its dissemination to 88 current and former members/observers who participated in the Working Group during the period from 2014 to 2015.

The STDF effect: Inspiring collaborative approaches on SPS capacity building

In 2015, there were a number of successful cases of collaborative approaches to SPS capacity building, which were facilitated and/or informed by the STDF's work (Box 2). These examples illustrate how actors in the SPS arena have built on STDF's work and activities, drawing on the partnership's convening power and network of expertise as well as learning from STDF's experience as a multi-stakeholder partnership and trust fund. They provide a growing body of evidence on how STDF contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of SPS capacity building in developing countries. Importantly, the case examples show the link to informing other technical cooperation activities. Building on the 2015 examples, the STDF is planning to document additional good practice of collaborative approaches with the support of the Working Group.⁵

Box 2: Collaborative approaches to SPS capacity building facilitated by the STDF

The Global Minor Use Foundation: Building on STDF projects

In September 2015, the Global Minor Use Foundation (GMUF) was established by the IR-4 Project to develop residue data required for registration of pesticides and biopesticides on fruits, vegetables, herbs and other specialty crops/minor uses in the United States. IR-4 is a research organization hosted at Rutgers University and supported by the United States Department of Agriculture. The GMUF builds upon the results and experiences of three highly-successful regional projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, which were co-funded by the STDF. The projects, developed and implemented with FAO support, aimed to generate pesticide residue data, facilitate the registration of new crop protection tools and inform the establishment of maximum residue level (MRLs). With its network of international partners, the GMUF aims to facilitate trade by addressing MRL data gaps and creating standards that are more robust and truly global. The GMUF will work to identify global pest control needs and coordinate research amongst interested countries to generate residue data for new pesticide registrations and MRLs. At the same time the GMUF will share data and provide training and guidance to partner countries to promote reduced risk pesticide options for specialty crops/minor uses. Source: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Strengthening Food Safety Management in Africa: Learning from STDF experiences

To ensure food security, the Joint Africa-EU Strategy identified the need to build SPS capacity and harmonize SPS legal frameworks within Africa. In 2015 the European Commission (EC) engaged with the African Union (notably AU-IBAR) and stakeholders, such as Codex contact points, to enhance coordination across countries and Regional Economic Communities to improve food safety on the continent. The STDF made a valuable contribution to this dialogue by sharing relevant experiences and lessons. FAO, WHO and UNIDO continue to engage with the African Union to provide technical support and inputs on shaping a mechanism to strengthen food safety in Africa. At the June meeting of the task force for the AU Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism in Burkina Faso, STDF shared its studies on national SPS coordination mechanisms in Africa and SPS-related public private partnerships. The STDF also moderated the meeting of the task force in Geneva in October 2015 on the margins of the STDF Working Group. The STDF's role as a "global observatory" has enabled it to share good practice and link to relevant work of STDF partners (such as the new FAO/WHO food control assessment tool and the Codex Trust Fund II) and other donors. These efforts have been important in ensuring that the EC's ongoing efforts to strengthen food safety in Africa build on good practices and are aligned with other work. Source: European Commission

⁵ See para. 13 of the STDF Medium Term Strategy.

STDF INFORMATION-SHARING, GOOD PRACTICE & OUTREACH IN 2015: TRANSFORMING KNOWLEDGE

Information exchanged and dialogue promoted

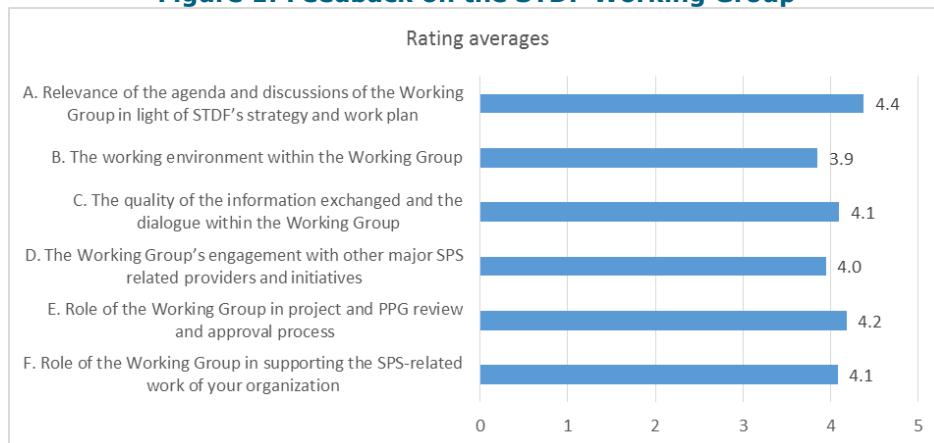
In 2015 the STDF continued its role as a leading knowledge platform and reference point for the exchange of information and experiences, as well as for identifying and disseminating good practice. This included critical topics of relevance to the partnership, such as on SPS electronic certification. The STDF Working Group was one of the main platforms to promote information exchange and dialogue among stakeholders involved in SPS capacity building activities at global, regional and national level in 2015.

STDF Working Group: SPS information exchange and dialogue

The STDF Secretariat organized two Working Group meetings in Geneva on 24-25 March and on 12-13 October 2015, back-to-back with the SPS Committee meetings. Both meetings were chaired by Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, Director, Food Safety and Zoonoses Department, World Health Organization, and attended by over 40 participants.⁶ The meetings lasted two days with active participation of all five STDF partners (including the Codex and IPPC Secretariats), donors, developing country experts and a number of interested organizations.⁷

The Working Group meetings included strategic oversight of, and discussions on, STDF's ongoing and planned activities, as well as project review and approval. During the meetings, members shared information on ongoing and planned SPS-related capacity building activities, experiences and lessons learned. Ten members used the meetings to seek constructive and technical feedback on their work, establish synergies and/or avoid duplication. There is an ongoing high level of interest of partners, donors and observers to participate in the Working Group, which shows its unique value as a forum for information exchange and dialogue on the latest, wide-ranging issues related to SPS capacity building. This high level of engagement is also seen in the feedback from the survey (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Feedback on the STDF Working Group



"STDF Working Group meetings allowed the IDB to boost synergies with other development institutions. Joint projects with FAO, IICA and USDA/APHIS, such as the Latin America Pest Risk Analysis Program and the Pesticides Residues Program, were created after discussions that took place during these meetings. Also after connecting through the Working Group, IDB and UNIDO initiated joint work to analyse data on import refusals due to non-compliance with SPS requirements." Juliana Almeida Salles, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

⁶ The Work Plan establishes a target of at least 30 participants in each meeting, including partners.

⁷ Summary reports of all Working Group meetings (including participant lists) are available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/working-group-documents>).

In 2015, seven observer organizations shared information on their specific SPS-related programmes and activities with the Working Group (Table 1).⁸ Four presentations addressed the topical issue of electronic SPS certification, in response to member requests, and were organized as a thematic session. Members discussed practical implementation of electronic certification, data exchange challenges, existing e-certification systems and their contribution to countries' trade facilitation efforts. There was recognition of the value of sharing relevant experiences and lessons of existing work on SPS electronic certification with experts from developing countries. In October 2015, the Working Group selected electronic SPS certification as a work area for 2016. An STDF seminar on this topic is scheduled for 28 June 2016.

Table 1: Presentations in the STDF Working Group in 2015

Presenter	Topic
March	
Hugo Byrnes (Ahold)	Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)
Christian Knebel (UNCTAD)	Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and ITC Market Access Map
Olga Solledder (ITC)	
October	
Frans Van Diepen (UN/CEFACT)	Electronic SPS certification for traded agricultural commodities (E-Cert)
Dmitry Godunov (UNCTAD)	The Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) and related Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (ASYCER)
Benno Slot (Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs)	The Netherlands' electronic certification system (CLIENT), experiences in dairy trade
Walter Fabián Alessandrini (SENASA - Argentina)	Phytosanitary Electronic Certification in Argentina
Steffen Kaeser (UNIDO)	UNIDO 2015 Trade Standards Compliance Report

Sharing information on STDF activities and experiences

Additional efforts by members of the STDF and the STDF Secretariat led to greater information exchange and dialogue on SPS capacity building among a wider group of stakeholders. The STDF Secretariat participated in over 18 key global events during 2015 to share information about the STDF and its activities and projects, and to foster collaboration and coherence in the development and implementation of SPS-related technical cooperation (see Table 2).⁹ Participation in external meetings was used to meet with donors and relevant organizations to build STDF's profile.

In Geneva, the STDF Secretariat reported on STDF's operations to the WTO SPS Committee in March, July and October. The Secretariat delivered a number of presentations to WTO's Advanced SPS Course (5-23 October), the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (30th dedicated session on Small Economies), the 31st WTO Geneva Week, and WTO's Advanced Trade Policy course. These meetings provided an opportunity to share information with delegates from developing countries. At three WTO regional training seminars on the SPS Agreement, the STDF Secretariat shared information on STDF work and discussed regional SPS issues with government officials and stakeholders from food safety, animal and plant health and trade.

"STDF participation in the WTO's regional seminars on the SPS Agreement has been essential. Information on STDF thematic research in areas such as facilitating safe trade, national coordination, prioritizing investments and resource mobilization is complementary to the training we provide on legal rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement. Participants have indicated that they valued the practical focus of

⁸The Work Plan establishes a target of at least one presentation in each Working Group. The presentations are available on the STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org/working-group-documents>).

⁹ The STDF Work Plan sets a target of at least ten events attended annually. Decisions to participate in external events are made in accordance with the criteria outlined in paragraph 17 of the STDF Operational Rules.

"STDF contributions, which allows them to explore concrete implementation options and learn from other countries' experiences". Christiane Wolff, Secretary, WTO SPS Committee

Important events organized by other STDF partners, and targeted at particular groups of SPS stakeholders, were also on the agenda in 2015. The STDF Secretariat informed participants at the 10th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (Rome, 16-20 March) about STDF's operations. We also participated actively in the sixth and seventh meetings of the IPPC Capacity Development Committee (CDC) in San Jose, Costa Rica (1-5 June) and in Rome, Italy (30 November - 4 December). The WTO reported on STDF's operations to the 83rd OIE General Session in Paris (24-29 May) and to the 38th Session of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission in Geneva (6-11 July). On the margins of the Codex Commission meeting, the STDF Secretariat shared the experiences of STDF's work on implementing SPS measures to facilitate safe trade at a side event organized by WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF).

During the year, the STDF Secretariat had a number of targeted meetings with STDF donors. The STDF Secretariat was also invited to share experiences and lessons of the Facility's work at two high-level panel discussions:

- Panel discussion on FAO's Strategic Objective 4: "Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems", organized on 27 March in Rome on the margins of the 151st session of the FAO Council. STDF's intervention highlighted the importance of effective and efficient food markets and highlighted the need to continue strengthening developing countries' SPS capacity. Participation in this event was funded by FAO.
- High-level panel event organized by the Saana Institute in Geneva on 2 July, during the Global Aid for Trade Review: "Reducing Trade Costs and the Aid for Trade Results Agenda". This panel offered an occasion to share lessons from STDF's mid-term review and provide inputs to enhance understanding of the role of evaluation in contributing to more effective and efficient Aid for Trade delivery.

Good practice to support SPS capacity building

In 2015, the STDF led on a number of priority activities to identify and disseminate good practice to support SPS capacity building. These included research and analysis on specific thematic topics, the production of a new film "Safe Trade Solutions," and a range of information dissemination and outreach activities. The STDF worked on key thematic topics with important results.¹⁰ Work on two topics (implementing SPS measures to facilitate safe trade and prioritizing SPS investments) was largely finalized, and the initial feedback and results are promising. SPS authorities in some countries, including Lao PDR, the Philippines and Zambia, have already implemented some of the recommendations to improve the implementation of SPS measures to facilitate safe trade. Similarly, there is growing evidence of positive, spill-over effects of the work of STDF on the development and use of a framework to prioritize SPS investments for market access.

"STDF plays a vital role in the dissemination of good practice to the wider SPS community. Its 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, Developing country expert to the STDF, 2012-13

P-IMA: A new framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes

In 2015 the STDF finalized the user guide "Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA): A framework to inform and improve SPS decision-making processes".¹¹ To date, P-IMA has been

¹⁰ The STDF Work Plan establishes a target of at least one thematic topic addressed annually.

¹¹ The P-IMA User Guide, published in 2016 together with an STDF Briefing Note, is available on the STDF website: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>

used to prioritize SPS investment options in 10 developing countries: Belize, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia. The countries differ in scale and diversity of their agri-food exports, and the range and level of SPS capacity-building needs.

The experiences highlight the P-IMA framework's added value in: facilitating public-private dialogue on SPS matters; increasing political awareness about the benefits of strengthening SPS capacity; informing and improving national SPS planning and decision-making processes; and supporting project design and leveraging funding. SPS stakeholders showed how P-IMA (previously MCDA) has been used to inform investment decisions and leverage funding from national budgets and donors. For instance, in Mozambique the initial work to prioritize SPS investment options facilitated by the STDF indicated that investing in aflatoxin mitigation was likely to make a significant and positive impact on public health, trade, smallholder incomes and food security. On this basis, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) developed a project (Aflatoxin mitigation using biocontrol and other management practices in the maize and groundnut value chain), which is currently being supported by USAID, USDA and the Government of Mozambique.

"Using P-IMA demonstrated the expected returns on different SPS investments, providing useful evidence to convince policy-makers of the need for additional investments. For instance, the use of P-IMA affirmed Government's decision and support for new investments to improve animal health controls for live cattle to facilitate exports to Mexico." Delilah Cabb, Belize Agriculture Health Authority and Developing country expert to the STDF, 2012-13

In 2015, the COMESA Secretariat continued to promote use of the P-IMA framework as a unique planning and resource mobilization tool. COMESA encouraged its Member States to use the P-IMA framework to take stock of SPS capacity needs, prioritize and cost investment options with the best returns, and integrate SPS investments into national agriculture sector investment plans under CAADP. This included work in September 2015 (with support from USDA) to train regional P-IMA resource persons and support stakeholders in Zambia to apply the framework.

"Use of P-IMA helped to raise high-level awareness about the importance of SPS capacity. It has also helped to integrate SPS priorities in agriculture sector investment plans under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme." Martha Byanyima, COMESA Secretariat and Developing country expert to the STDF, 2012-13

Based on the experiences with the use of P-IMA, some countries identified potential to use the same approach to improve decision-making in other areas. For instance, in Malawi it was used to prioritize interventions in trade facilitation. In Belize, it was used to inform priority-setting and resource allocation decisions under the Agriculture Services project (funded by the IDB). It was also used to prioritize actions to support micro and small and medium-sized enterprises, and to prioritize programmes related to food and nutrition security. The COMESA Secretariat has also identified opportunities and resources to further expand use of the P-IMA framework in its Member States in 2016. This includes areas around implementing SPS or TBT reforms adopted at a regional level, as well as to leverage national funding for SPS capacity building.

SPS stakeholders using P-IMA have indicated some reasons why this work has been successful:

- P-IMA provides a highly practical approach to address a real challenge (i.e. how to prioritize SPS investment needs)
- National SPS experts in the country are actively engaged (though this may be a challenge as well as a success factor depending on the level of commitment and buy-in for the P-IMA work)
- Charts and graphs generated help to convey key information quickly and concisely
- Most in-country applications have delivered some concrete benefits in the short term (e.g. increased appreciation of the role of the SPS competent authority, access to additional funding to address SPS challenges)

Moving forward, the STDF Secretariat will continue to disseminate information on the P-IMA framework (available on the STDF website) and encourage its use as part of ongoing work. STDF partners, donors, developing country experts and observers are urged to support this effort.

Implementing SPS measures to facilitate safe trade: opportunities and good practices

In 2015 the STDF published the findings of research in selected countries in Southern Africa (Malawi, South Africa and Zambia) on how SPS controls are implemented for selected agri-food products, based on the SPS Agreement. The report identified key needs, opportunities and good practices to improve the implementation of SPS measures in a way that facilitates safe trade and reinforces health protection. It includes country-specific recommendations and general advice for SPS authorities on facilitating safe trade. It identifies good practices in the implementation of SPS measures including: implementation of international standards developed by Codex, IPPC and OIE, online publication of application forms and fees, and online payments. It also highlights opportunities for improvement such as: greater use of risk-based approaches, improved transparency on SPS regulations, simplification and streamlining of documentary requirements and strengthened inter-agency coordination at borders.

"COMESA shared and discussed the findings of the STDF-funded trade facilitation research in Southern Africa with the EU delegation in Lusaka, which is keen to build on the lessons of this work in the development of the small-scale cross-border traders' capacity development programme under the 11th European Development Fund."

Martha Byanyima, COMESA Secretariat

In October 2015, Zambia reported to the WTO SPS Committee on how it is implementing the findings and recommendations, such as to: improve transparency (by publishing SPS regulations, forms and fees online); enhance cooperation between Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Service (PQPS) and Customs (PQPS is training customs officers to be implement phytosanitary controls at border points where PQPS is not present due to resource constraints); develop risk-based inspection; and link phytosanitary inspectors to ASYCUDA world.

"Zambia benefitted from involvement in the STDF regional research on the implementation of SPS measures to facilitate safe trade. The report came up with good recommendations, some of which are being implemented. For instance, it helped us to identify concrete ways to improve the implementation of SPS measures and also lower trade transaction costs. This will ultimately support Zambia's economic development, for instance, by facilitating the diversification of exports, increasing the participation of SMEs and small traders, and supporting integration into global agro value chains."

Kenn Msiska, PQPS / National Plant Protection Organization, Zambia

The Southern Africa report builds on and complements research from 2014 in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Thailand). In 2015 the STDF issued a Briefing Note identifying good practices to improve the implementation of SPS controls in a way that facilitates safe trade, while minimizing transaction costs, based on the SPS Agreement.¹² The STDF Secretariat continues to disseminate the findings, conclusions and good practices of this regional research work through other activities (e.g. e-mail communications with stakeholders involved in SPS capacity building, relevant project work, as well as presentations to and interventions during diverse events). STDF members are encouraged to further disseminate the findings of this work.

Ongoing dialogue and cooperation between the STDF and the recently established Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF) at WTO has helped to increase understanding about the relationship between the SPS Agreement and the TFA, as well as the importance of the full participation of SPS authorities in national implementation of the TFA. The STDF's partnership model – and experiences in developing and nurturing the partnership – has further provided a source of inspiration for TFAF's development (Box 3).

¹² The Briefing Note is available on the STDF website, together with the regional reports and related information: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade>.

Box 3: Inspiration for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF)

The STDF has inspired and informed the development of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF), which was developed in 2014 to assist developing and least-developed WTO Members to implement the new Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The design, operational guidelines and logical framework for the TFAF drew on the experiences of the STDF. The STDF provided a model for matchmaking between assistance providers and developing country and LDC Members. This has included guidance on the role of the TFAF as an information dissemination engine on the TFA. The STDF website was also used as the basis of the design of the TFAF website. Cooperation with the STDF raised awareness on the relationship between the SPS Agreement and the TFA and the importance of full participation of SPS authorities in national implementation of the TFA. This has led to information exchange, joint awareness-raising events, and helped TFAF officials to reach SPS audiences at a national and regional level. Going forward, the TFAF is looking to learn from the STDF's experiences in developing a programme offering grants for project preparation and project implementation. Source: WTO Trade Facilitation Unit

Bringing together leading voices at the Global Aid for Trade Review

The STDF strengthened its voice in the global Aid for Trade initiative in 2015 and advocated for greater focus on mainstreaming SPS priorities in trade-related programmes. In particular, the STDF Secretariat used the Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade, "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth," to showcase how to facilitate trade while ensuring health protection.

A high-level plenary session, coordinated by the STDF on 30 June 2015, brought together panellists including José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the FAO; Monique Eloit, Director-General of the OIE; Anabel González, Senior Director of the Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness in the World Bank Group. Representatives from governments, regional organizations and the private sector also participated. The panellists shared their views and perspectives on how trade facilitation can be married with robust, science and risk-based SPS controls (Box 4). Key messages from the session were shared with the STDF's electronic mailing list, and the Secretariat shared related information (including a full podcast and the STDF film "Safe Trade Solutions") with other SPS stakeholders.¹³

Box 4: Soundbites from the High-level Session on Implementing SPS Measures for Safe Trade

- "*SPS and SPS capacity development are important for safe trade. This is based on our long experience and work with our member countries. SPS should not be seen as a challenge but as an opportunity for developing countries to increase their exports.*" José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO
- "*Cette coopération inter-service, elle est essentielle de façon à ce que les informations des uns servent au travail des autres, de façon à ce qu'on évite de multiplier les bases de données, de façon à ce qu'on évite de multiplier les contrôles sur un même produit, et de façon à ce que là aussi il y ait une mise en commun de l'évaluation du risque qui est faite suivant les produits et suivant les origines de ces produits.*" Monique Eloit, Director-General, OIE
- "*Improved movement of food and lower regulatory costs allows traders to access regional and global markets. And easing food trade is very important for poverty reduction... The Work of the STDF, and indeed our own work in the area of trade facilitation, is designed to strengthen SPS systems. And it is also designed to streamline them and lower the cost of compliance.*" Anabel González, Senior Director, Global Practice on Trade and Competitiveness, World Bank Group

¹³ A WTO video includes soundbites from the session (<https://youtu.be/YvqbDnzjr20>) and a full podcast is available at: http://www.wto.org/audio/2015_06_30_session3_qr5_panel_discussion.mp3

Focusing attention on SPS capacity needs in LDCs: Partnering with the EIF

STDF's focus on supporting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through its work continued in 2015. Building on collaboration with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), which aims to mainstream trade in LDCs, the STDF worked jointly to support the preparation, validation and update of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS). The Secretariat and STDF partners commented on SPS-related elements of the DTIS for Benin, Comoros, Guinea, Mali and Niger.

In 2015, the STDF continued its work with the EIF to identify and analyse opportunities to better address SPS issues within DTIS and EIF processes. This was based on the fact that SPS requirements are a major impediment to export expansion and diversification in many LDCs, and that options exist to address SPS capacity constraints and to implement SPS-related recommendations.

Under the guidance of the STDF and EIF Secretariats, with substantive inputs from STDF partners and stakeholders, work started to review and analyse SPS issues within DTIS reports and identify good practice for future studies and implementation. Preliminary findings were shared with the STDF Working Group in October 2015, which provided additional inputs and comments. The final study, and joint EIF/STDF Briefing Note summarizing the conclusions and recommendations, will be published and disseminated in 2016.

Box 5: STDF outreach highlights in 2015

- STDF website had nearly 4,000 visitors from 100+ countries; traffic was busiest May/July
- 165 new documents were uploaded to the Virtual Library, which holds 429 documents
- 4 STDF news items went out to nearly 1,200 subscribers from over 140 countries with a 15% higher open rate than the industry average
- 4,300+ copies of various STDF Publications, Briefing Notes and Flyers were distributed
- Close to 1,000 copies of the "Trading Safely" film (in various languages) were distributed
- STDF's "Safe Trade Solutions" film has been viewed nearly 1,400 times in three languages on STDF's You Tube channel and shown at several global, regional and national events
- Around 150 people attended STDF's high-level event at the Global Aid for Trade Review

Outreach in support of the global partnership

Promoting good practice on facilitating safe trade through film

In June 2015, the Secretariat produced a new eight-minute film, "Safe Trade Solutions," the first in a series of three short films. Linked to the STDF's work on implementing safe trade, the film provides compelling stories of what Chile, Colombia and Peru have done to make goods flow faster across their borders, while also preventing the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants, and ensuring that food is safe for consumers. It showcases how authorities involved in SPS measures are working better together, and with other border management agencies such as customs, to deliver benefits for traders and government.

The film was launched at the STDF high-level plenary session during the Fifth Global Review of Aid for Trade and shown at the SPS Committee meeting in July. In the second half of 2015, it was used by STDF partners and stakeholders for training activities targeted at SPS authorities and other border agencies. It has been used to stimulate discussions during WTO SPS training events and at the Regional Trade Facilitation Workshop for Latin America (Bogotá, Colombia, 22-24 October) organized by the World Customs Organization. The film has been very well-received by a range of audiences, and shows the value of using film to profile messages around SPS capacity

building. It is being shared widely by the STDF Secretariat as well as available online at <http://www.standardsfacility.org/video-gallery>) and on YouTube.

Using digital media to share knowledge: STDF website and Virtual Library

Ongoing and extensive use was made of the new STDF website (launched in 2014) as one of the key communication tools of the Facility. The Secretariat continued its efforts to create and maintain web pages for individual STDF projects to provide easy access to key information about the activities, results, experiences and recommendations of STDF-funded projects. The website was used to share a wide range of updated information on several other areas of STDF work (e.g. P-IMA, implementing SPS measures to facilitate safe trade, "Safe Trade Solutions" film).

The STDF Secretariat directs visitors to the website as part of its regular work (through STDF e-newsletters, presentations at external events, email communications). STDF partners, donors and other stakeholders can support these efforts through their own platforms and networks, directing users to the website and providing documents for the Virtual Library (Box 6).

The Secretariat continued its work to promote the Virtual Library (for instance, through linkages with other STDF activities, including PPGs and projects, and presentations to external audiences). Ongoing efforts were made to include additional relevant documents. Over the course of the year, a backlog of 165 documents was uploaded to the Virtual Library, which led to a total of 429 documents available at the end of 2015. The Secretariat is looking for new material for the Virtual Library, from project evaluation reports to SPS assessments and project reports.

Box 6: STDF Virtual Library

The STDF Virtual Library (<http://standardsfacility.org/library>) is an open access digital library focused on SPS capacity building. The Library, maintained by the STDF Secretariat, contains a broad spectrum of information materials, such as SPS training materials, guidelines on SPS capacity building, SPS capacity assessments, reports and evaluations of donor-funded SPS projects.

Intuitive and user-friendly to navigate, the Library incorporates "simple" and "advanced" search functions. The STDF Secretariat is continuously striving to enrich the Library and enhance access to SPS-related information resources. Relevant documents for inclusion are welcome and may be sent to STDFSecretariat@wto.org.

STDF PPGs AND PROJECTS IN 2015: DELIVERING RESULTS

Support for Project Development

In 2015, the STDF continued to build on its role as a helpdesk that provides support to developing countries to prepare technically sound and sustainable projects. Depending on the scope of the particular Project Preparation Grant (PPG), this work encompassed the application of SPS-related capacity evaluation tools, preparation of feasibility studies and/or formulation of project proposals to address specific SPS capacity building needs linked to trade.

Box 7: STDF PPGs in 2015

- 18 PPG applications received
- 5 PPGs considered and approved by the Working Group (worth US\$258,222)
- 14 PPGs under implementation

The STDF Secretariat invested a significant amount of time (particularly to support LDCs) by providing advice and targeted assistance to applicants interested in submitting PPGs. Throughout the year, the Secretariat offered feedback on several concept papers and draft applications, responded to questions around eligibility criteria and encouraged linking up to related activities and networks.

In 2015, five PPGs – for a total STDF contribution of US\$258,222 – were approved by the Working Group (Table 2). This is higher than the 2015 Work Plan target of four PPGs contracted totalling US\$200,000.¹⁴ In 2015, six PPGs (five of which were approved prior to 2015) were contracted and implementation started.

Table 2: PPGs approved in 2015

PPG	Beneficiary	STDF Funding (US\$)
Development of a project for the establishment of a National SPS Strategy in Togo (STDF/PPG/375)	Togo (LDC)	38,000
Development of a project proposal to address SPS capacity needs focusing on the national food safety system in Tajikistan (STDF/PPG/447)	Tajikistan (OLIC)	45,472
Cost-Benefit Analysis for Establishing a Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone or Compartment in Tanzania (STDF/PPG/516)	Tanzania (LDC)	50,000
Preparation for a project proposal to develop traceability and identification of livestock in Mongolia (STDF/PPG/534)	Mongolia (LMIC)	49,750
Spill-over Effects of Export-Oriented SPS Technical Assistance on the Domestic Food Safety Situation (STDF/PPG/535)	Global (including LMICs, OLICs and LDCs)	75,000
TOTAL		258,222

Between 2005 and 2015, nearly three quarters of STDF PPG resources went to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other Low Income Countries (OLICs). To date, two thirds of PPGs have been implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015, over three quarters of PPG resources went to LDCs and OLICs, going beyond the STDF target of 40%.

¹⁴ The STDF Work Plan target is for a total of eight PPGs to be approved during the 2015-16 period.

Figure 2: Number of PPGs by region, 2005-2015

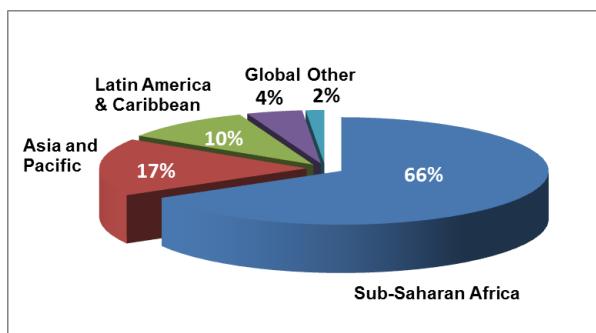


Figure 3: PPGs benefitting LDCs and OLICs (by US\$ value), 2005-2015

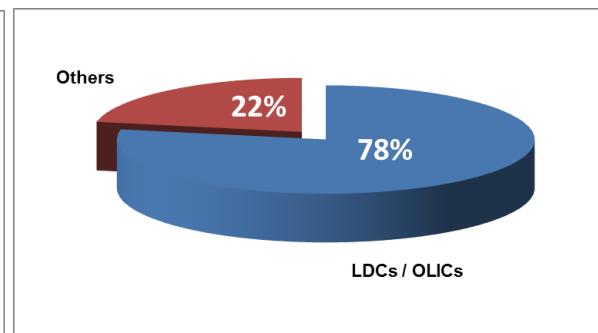
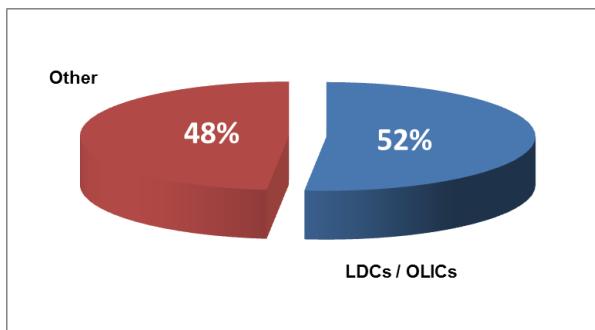


Figure 4: PPGs approved in 2015 benefitting LDCs and OLICs (by US\$ value)



Results of selected PPGs¹⁵

Fourteen PPGs were considered as "ongoing" in 2015 (Annex 3). Work under some of these PPGs was largely completed in 2015, though some are still considered "ongoing" because the activities have not been closed financially or the project proposal produced has not yet been submitted to the Working Group. In cases where a PPG is contracted in two parts (i.e. feasibility study to be followed by project development subject to the recommendations of the feasibility study), additional time is required to satisfactorily implement and finalize the work.

Advice on supporting food safety capacity in The Gambia (STDF/PPG/462)

The PPG provided advice on strengthening the recently established Food Safety and Quality Authority (FSQA) in The Gambia. The FAO's Food Safety and Quality Unit leveraged additional resources from its own budget to add to STDF funds and implemented the PPG in 2014-2015. The PPG was used to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the national food control system using the new FAO/WHO Food Control Assessment Tool. This assessment was endorsed by the FSQA as a basis on which to develop food safety capacity in The Gambia. Based on the finding and recommendations of this assessment, FAO and the FSQA developed an action plan to strengthen the FSQA's directorates dealing with Scientific Affairs and Food Control. Initial training on the use of scientific risk assessment and risk management in food safety was delivered for government officers. The PPG was also used to develop a project proposal to address the gaps and recommendations identified through the needs assessment and strengthen the technical capacity of the FSQA. The proposal was finalized and submitted to the STDF Working Group in March 2015, which recommended seeking an alternative source of funding given the project's focus on domestic food safety. The proposal is currently being used to explore how to secure external resources to enhance national food safety capacity.¹⁶

¹⁵ According to an assessment by the STDF Secretariat, based on available reports and feedback from concerned stakeholders.

¹⁶ Information on this PPG, including available documents, is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-462>

Development of a proposal for a Regional Total Diet Study in Latin American and the Caribbean (STDF/PPG/487)

Total Diet Studies (TDS) determine population dietary exposure to chemical substances by analysing the main foods prepared and consumed as part of representative food groups. TDS enable risk managers to assess risks associated with food contamination and to implement risk-based inspection and surveillance. Risk-based food safety systems, recommended by Codex, lead to better food safety and quality, promoting domestic food safety and creating market access for agri-food products. The PPG was implemented by the Pan American Center for Foot and Mouth Disease (Panaftosa), a scientific centre of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), with the support of Health Canada, a WHO Collaborating Centre for Monitoring Chemical Contaminants in Food (CAN-86). The PPG brought together stakeholders from across the Americas through a workshop in November 2015, to discuss requirements, capacity-building needs and other issues related to the development of a regional Total Diet Study. The workshop confirmed the potential benefits of a Total Diet Study for the region, and the need for strong collaboration and cooperation among participating countries. The participants agreed on the requirements to carry out a series of targeted diet studies, as well as on the priority contaminants (pesticides, heavy metals and mycotoxins). A project proposal to develop targeted and total diet studies was submitted to the STDF Working Group in March 2016.¹⁷

Support to SPS Capacity Building Projects

STDF project grants aim to strengthen SPS capacity in developing countries, in line with beneficiary's priorities. Projects address key food safety, animal and/or plant health issues that affect the ability to gain and/or maintain market access. Both public and private sector stakeholders benefit. In 2015, a continued focus was given to projects that were able to:

- identify, develop and disseminate good practice in SPS-related technical cooperation, including the development and application of innovative and replicable approaches;
- apply regional approaches to address SPS constraints;
- implement collaborative approaches across food safety, animal and plant health and trade, and benefit from the involvement of two or more STDF partners or relevant organizations.

Box 8: STDF Projects in 2015

- 21 project applications received (up from 9 in 2014)
- 12 projects considered by the Working Group
- 5 applications approved for STDF funding (worth US\$3,968,163)
- 22 projects under implementation
- 4 projects completed

In 2015, the Working Group approved five projects for funding, with a total STDF contribution of US\$3,968,163 (Table 3).¹⁸ This compares to four approved project applications in 2014 for a total STDF budget of US\$2,905,777.

¹⁷ Information on this PPG, including available documents, is available at:

<http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-487>

¹⁸ The STDF Work Plan sets a target of eight new projects approved in 2015 and 2016.

Table 3: Projects approved for STDF funding in 2015

Project	Beneficiary	STDF funding (US\$)
Strengthening information systems for pest surveillance and reporting in Asia Pacific (STDF/PG/432)	Asia Pacific countries (including LDCs and OLICs)	997,595
Accreditation of laboratory diagnostic tests for animal diseases in OIRSA member countries (STDF/PG/495)	Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama (including LMICs)	840,898
Regional Strengthening for the Implementation of Phytosanitary Measures and Market Access in COSAVE member countries (STDF/PG/502)	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay (including LMICs)	1,084,270
Global electronic trade facilitation: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products through innovation (e-phyto) (STDF/PG/504)	Global (including LMICs, LDCs and OLICs)	1,000,000
Honey Chain Traceability in Guatemala (STDF/PG/515)	Guatemala (LMIC)	45,400
TOTAL		US\$3,968,163

In 2015, five projects were contracted and implementation started. This is slightly higher than the estimate (four projects contracted) in the 2015 Work Plan. Twenty-two STDF projects were under implementation in 2015 (Annex 4).

"The STDF makes an excellent contribution to enhancing the effectiveness of SPS capacity building in developing countries. Its projects help countries to reinforce their capacities in animal health, plant health and food safety in order to help them trade their agricultural products. One of the most valuable aspects in the STDF is the coordination among key stakeholders (such as the OIE, FAO, World Bank and European Union) to avoid duplication in projects focused on SPS capacity building". OIRSA

The STDF continues to exceed its target to have at least 40% of resources for PPGs and projects go to LDCs and OLICs. From its start until the end of 2015, the STDF approved 75 projects for funding. These projects benefit a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders worldwide (Figure 5). Least developed countries (LDCs) and other low income countries (OLICs) benefit the most (Figures 6 and 7).

Figure 5: Number of projects by region

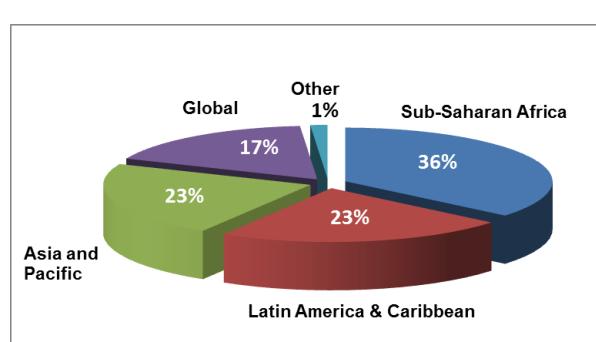


Figure 6: Projects benefitting LDCs and OLICs (by value, US\$)

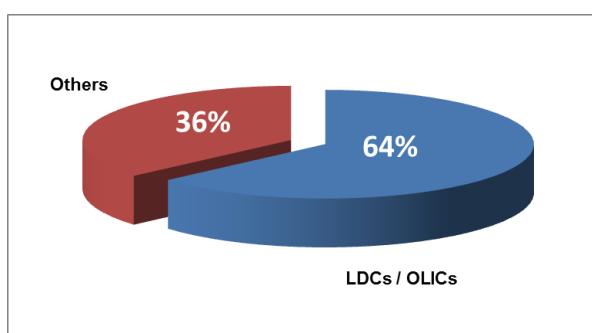
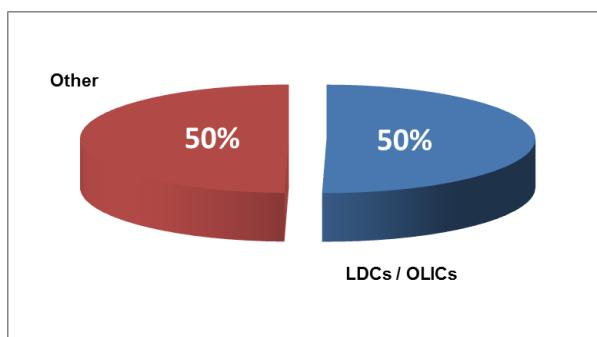


Figure 7: 2015 approved projects benefitting LDCs and O LICs (by US\$ value)



Projects to strengthen SPS capacity building can affect cross-cutting issues such as gender and the environment. For instance, agricultural value chains and agri-food export sectors often rely to a large extent on female producers and workers, which makes it critical to understand gender-specific needs and opportunities. SPS capacity building also contributes towards environmental protection in developing countries by reducing negative consequences associated with the entry and spread of plant pests or animal diseases, including invasive alien species (IAS). In 2015, the STDF Working Group agreed that such issues should be addressed more systematically in STDF projects, wherever possible and relevant.

Following discussions in the Working Group, the STDF project and PPG application forms, and the Guidance Note for Applicants, were revised to encourage applicants to consider and address pertinent cross-cutting issues. These include: (i) gender-specific needs and opportunities, equality effects of proposed interventions and gender-disaggregated impacts; and (ii) positive/negative environmental consequences and/or expected higher-level environmental impacts. Some examples of the gender and environmental benefits of selected STDF projects are illustrated in Box 9.

Box 9: Attention to cross-cutting issues in STDF projects

STDF projects are making a difference to cross-cutting issues such as gender and the environment. The gender impacts of projects are particularly noticeable across agricultural value chains, for instance:

- The ginger value chain in Nepal involves a large number of poor, women-headed households with limited income opportunities. The STDF project, co-financed by the EIF and implemented by FAO, aims to reach 60% women from the 2,000 farmers trained in farmer field schools. Priority goes to women cooperatives and women trainees to encourage participation. As such, the project is helping to empower women ginger producers, which will raise household incomes and tackle poverty. See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-329>
- In Uganda, an STDF project generated benefits for households that rely for their living on the cut flower sector. The project enhanced access of Ugandan flowers to the EU market, helping thousands of people who depend on this industry for their living (women account for about 80% of the 8,500 workers in the flower sector in Uganda). The project also fostered improvements in the environmental health of workers involved in the flower industry. More farms are implementing alternatives biological agents, which reduces exposure to pesticides and generate health benefits for women working in greenhouses. See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-335>
- In Vietnam, women farmers from the onion cooperative in Vinh Chau District saw fewer product rejections and increased incomes as a result of implementing good agricultural practices, following training delivered under an STDF project. The farmers reported that the training delivered was the first to include women in sharing knowledge. As a result, women have been empowered throughout the decision-making process within the cooperative. See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-326>

STDF projects have direct and indirect environmental impacts, for instance:

- Under ongoing STDF projects in the ASEAN region, Africa and Latin America, public and private sector are working together on registering new crop protection tools and establishing Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for minor use crops based on Codex standards. The projects will help to reduce the use of older generations of pesticides and chemicals, benefitting the environment. They will also promote environmental health and safety of farmers producing minor use crops. See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-337>, <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-436> and <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-359>
- The "Beyond Compliance" project supported National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in Asia to implement ISPM No. 14 "Use of integrated measures in a Systems Approach for pest risk management." New decision-support tools were developed and tested. These tools are enabling NPPOs in exporting countries to justify the use of a combination of phytosanitary measures, rather than one single end-point treatment (normally based on pesticides or fumigants). Linked to the project's activities, the NPPO and Standards Institute in Thailand have been exploring a Systems Approach to introduce better practices for thrips control in the orchid cut flower industry and minimize problems due to methyl bromide use. In Malaysia, based on new capacities and increased confidence, the NPPO is exploring how to accredit the Systems Approach to support Good Agricultural Practices. See: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-328>

Some results of completed projects

Four projects were completed in 2015, and one project completed in December 2013 was evaluated externally. Results, highlights and lessons learned – based on an assessment by the STDF Secretariat of final project reports and communications with project stakeholders – are set out below.¹⁹

Strengthening Phytosanitary Controls to Increase Flower Exports from Uganda

The project strengthened the capacity of the Ugandan authorities to implement phytosanitary inspections and certification of flower export consignments, based on international standards and EU requirements. A streamlined inspection and export certification system was designed and adopted. The project resulted in improved compliance with international phytosanitary standards for production and export of flowers. The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and the flower industry attribute the reduction in interceptions related to plant pests (*Spodoptera* moth) – which went down from 34 in 2013 to 20 in 2014 and just 4 in 2015 – to the project's activities.

Objective: Improve market access of Ugandan flowers to the EU

Beneficiaries: Government and flower industry in Uganda (growers, workers)

Implementation: CABI in collaboration with the Department of Crop Protection (DCP), Uganda

Dates: September 2012 to June 2015

STDF contribution: US\$348,632

Developing a strong public-private partnership was central to the project's success. Throughout the project, the Department of Crop Protection and the Uganda Flower Exporters Association (UFEA) met regularly to discuss and agree on the measures they needed to take as a team to meet EC requirements under Council Directive 2000/29/EC. Through this dialogue, the public and private sector gained a common understanding of the challenges facing the industry, what needed to be done to address them, how this could be done and by whom, as well as opportunities for co-funding.

"Strong cooperation between the public and private sector was necessary to achieve the best results. At the end of the project, the Department of Crop Protection and the flower industry signed a partnership agreement demonstrating their commitment to work together to grow flower production and exports. This agreement defined their respective roles and responsibilities, and how they would communicate and sustain collaboration. It included the establishment of a partnership fund, maintained by the flower industry, to support the public and private sector to carry out joint surveillance. This team undertook regular audits for compliance at the farms which generated a process for monitoring and learning. Industry and government also agreed to have review meetings, share relevant information and issue penalties for non-compliance. Through this project, government and industry came to the table as equal partners, recognizing how each needed the other." Florence Chege, CABI

Approximately 8,500 workers, 80% of whom are women, are involved in the flower sector in Uganda. By supporting access to the EU market, the project benefitted thousands of people who depend on this industry for their living. The project fostered improvements in the environmental health of workers involved in the flower industry. Building on collaboration between government and industry, trials on biological agents (as a substitute to pesticides) were carried out successfully in 2015 on one farm with public and private sector involvement. By April 2016, four biological agents were registered for use in Uganda. More farms are now implementing these alternatives, which reduce exposure to pesticides and generate health benefits for women working in the greenhouses.²⁰

¹⁹ In March 2015, the Working Group decided not to develop an end-of-project survey, as indicated in the STDF Work Plan.

²⁰ More information on this project, including the final project report and a project evaluation carried out by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service, is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-335>

Strengthening controls around transboundary animal diseases in Cameroon

The project developed and implemented strategies to reduce the impact of transboundary animal diseases on the livestock sector in Cameroon and promote trade. The status of four animal diseases (African swine fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, Newcastle disease and Peste des Petits Ruminants) was assessed through epidemiological surveys to determine prevalence, incidence and associated risk factors. Plans to combat and control the diseases were developed, with producer associations actively involved in the implementation of participatory disease control strategies.

Veterinary officials and animal producers were trained on OIE standards, the SPS Agreement, and animal disease monitoring and management techniques. This included Geographic Information System tools, TAD Info software package, epidemiological surveillance, and organization of stock breeders' techniques. Four manuals covering veterinary health inspection procedures for fishery products, and two manuals for veterinary inspectors were produced as part of the project.²¹

Objective: Reduce impact of transboundary animal diseases on the livestock sector

Beneficiaries: Veterinary authority and livestock producers in Cameroon

Implementation: FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, Cameroon

Dates: June 2012 to February 2015

STDF contribution: US\$510,788

organization of stock breeders' techniques. Four manuals covering veterinary health inspection procedures for fishery products, and two manuals for veterinary inspectors were produced as part of the project.²¹

Plugging a Gap: Developing Global Phytosanitary Resources and Tools

This project addressed a critical need in many developing countries around the absence of standard operating procedures (SOPs), manuals and resources for National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to implement International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and ensure an operational national phytosanitary system. The project helped to capture, validate and disseminate existing materials. Following a call to NPPOs worldwide, over 300 different resources (from e-learning modules, diagnostic protocols and advocacy materials) were shared, validated and posted on the IPPC website (<http://www.phytosanitary.info/>) as part of the project.

Objective: Document and increase access to technical resources to build capacity to understand and implement International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs)

Beneficiaries: National Plant Protection Organizations worldwide

Implementation: FAO/IPPc

Dates: February 2012 to July 2015

STDF contribution: US\$600,000

Gaps in SOPs and other materials were identified and a number of new products were developed. These materials strengthened the management and day-to-day operations of NPPOs (including engagement with stakeholders and participation in the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures). Key topics such as import verification, export certification, pest surveillance, pest diagnostics and pest risk analysis (PRA) were also covered. All the products developed are available on the IPPC website and have been widely disseminated to NPPOs. By building on existing materials, and engaging NPPOs from developed and developing countries in the validation of existing materials and development of new tools, the project has ensured a collaborative and cost-effective approach. Based on reports from FAO and users, the manuals are being used to shape policy, as well as the implementation of ISPMs.²²

In Suriname, the manuals produced under the STDF project were used as a basis to support preparation of national policy papers, a prerequisite for funding to improve the agricultural services by a major lending institution. In Libya, work to implement a US\$3m phytosanitary project, developed by FAO and funded by the national government, drew extensively on the manuals to establish and operate a NPPO (which did not exist prior to the project), as well as the pest surveillance and import regulation resource materials. Jeffrey Jones, Consultant

²¹ More information on this project, including the final project report, is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-336>

²² More information on this project, including available reports, is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-350>

Getting the right legislation in place to tackle animal health in Central America

Exports of animals and animal products from Central America faced difficulties to have the relevant health certificates recognized by authorities in importing countries. This was due to a lack of regulation and the absence of specific health programmes for disease control. The project worked to address these challenges. It focused on diseases, which are significant in terms of public health, animal health and international trade and were priorities for the countries, namely: bovine brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis and Newcastle disease.²³

Expert regional and national training seminars have since helped hundreds of public sector officials to map out existing measures and draft legislation proposals. The proposals have been submitted to the Council of Ministers of Economy and Trade of Central America (COMIECO) to be taken forward. Consultations with private sector associations have supported a joined-up approach to animal health across the region. Updated technical manuals on the diseases have also been developed and shared widely. As a result, the project has helped to establish targeted health procedures, based on proper legislation, which can be rolled out to support disease control and eradication programmes.

Objective: Support OIRSA countries to establish animal disease programmes by improving legislation

Beneficiaries: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

Implementation: OIRSA, partnering with Government Ministries and Departments of Agriculture and Livestock, FAO and OIE

Dates: May 2013 to October 2015

STDF contribution: US\$488,330

Updated technical manuals on the diseases have also been developed and shared widely. As a result, the project has helped to establish targeted health procedures, based on proper legislation, which can be rolled out to support disease control and eradication programmes.

External project evaluations

External evaluations are carried out to assess the impacts achieved under STDF projects, for example, in terms of improvements in market access, reductions in rejections due to SPS issues, or improvements in national food safety, plant or animal health.²⁴ One external project evaluation was carried out in 2015.²⁵ Planning was initiated for five external evaluations to be finalized in 2016 (Table 4).

Improving the safety and quality of fruit and vegetable exports from Thailand and Vietnam

An independent evaluation from 2015 concluded that the project's food safety training programme for value chains improved the management of food safety, enhanced access to higher-value markets (domestic and export) and increased sales (volume and value).²⁶ According to the report, beneficiaries reported improved market access, higher incomes and lower levels of product rejections after being involved in the project.

In Vietnam one fruit and vegetable exporter identified the project as a springboard to obtain ISO22000:2005 certification, which opened up access to higher value markets in the EU, Japan and US. Also in Vietnam, farmers (predominantly women) from the Vinh Chau

Objective: Improve market access of fruits and vegetables from Thailand and Vietnam to high-value domestic/export markets

Beneficiaries: Fruit/vegetable producers, exporters/retailers in Thailand and Vietnam

Implementation: Michigan State University, with Kasetsart University and Can Tho University

Dates: January 2011 to June 2013

STDF contribution: US\$581,665

²³ More information on this project, including the final project report, is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-358>

²⁴ At least two projects are selected each year for an independent ex-post impact evaluation. Ex-post evaluations are normally carried out two to three years after the project. Unless the Working Group decides otherwise, they are selected randomly by the Chairperson during the Working Group meeting. See the STDF Operational Rules (para 103-107) for additional information:

http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_139rev4_EN_0516.pdf

²⁵ The STDF Work Plan sets a target of selecting, contracting and implementing four independent evaluations in 2015-2016

²⁶ More information on this project, including the evaluation report and other documents, is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-326>

District onion cooperative linked implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (following project training) to fewer product rejections and increased incomes. The onion farmers noted that training delivered under the project was the first to include women in sharing knowledge and, as a result, the women had more power in the decision-making process within their cooperative. In Thailand one large retailer (SIAM-MAKRO) highlighted how the project resulted in increased procurement from small-scale farmers and processors, reduced detection of contaminants and fewer rejections. The project was seen as highly relevant for beneficiaries and that outputs are being sustained through integration into government extension services, private sector training and academic programmes of the two local universities.

One of the major challenges faced was limited internet access in rural areas, which meant the project had to focus on a face-to-face training approach, supplemented by e-resources in local languages. The evaluation identified recommendations to use the project's outputs to support the development and adoption of harmonized training systems within ASEAN, as well as future activities under the Global Food Safety Partnership. It identified experiences and lessons for other activities. This included tailoring food safety training to value chains to improve uptake and encouraging PPPs to strengthen food safety management and address training needs on a cost-sharing basis. The STDF Secretariat has shared project information with partners to follow-up on the key recommendations.

Table 4: Planned external project evaluations

Project	
Market-oriented training service on standards application (MOTSSA) in Nicaragua (http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-155)	STDF/PG/155
Strengthening the national SPS committee of Honduras (http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-284)	STDF/PG/284
Beyond compliance: Integrated systems approach for pest risk management in Southeast Asia (http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-328)	STDF/PG/328
Mitigating the harmful effects of pesticides residues in cocoa in Africa (http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-298)	STDF/PG/298
The following four projects are being appraised under one evaluation:	
(i) Support for SPS risk assessment in the mango export sector in Mali (http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-283)	STDF/PG/283
(ii) Regional initiative on the fight against fruit flies in West Africa (http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-255)	STDF/PG/255
(iii) Continuation of the West African Fruit Fly Initiative (http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-313)	STDF/PG/313
(iv) Information-sharing initiative on fruit fly control in Sub-Saharan Africa (http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-287)	STDF/PG/287

STDF OPERATIONS AND RESOURCES IN 2015: ENSURING VALUE FOR MONEY

The operations of the STDF depends on, and benefits from, the active participation of the STDF five founding partners, 11 donors, six developing country experts (Box 11) and several observer organizations. Despite the relatively modest size of the STDF Trust Fund (compared to resources allocated bilaterally and multilaterally to SPS capacity-building) and the small size of the STDF Secretariat, the Facility continued to have a wide reach. This was in large part also due to the resources contributed by STDF partners and others to the Facility, which are not accounted for in the STDF budget and operating expenses.

In 2015, the STDF Secretariat worked closely with STDF partners and other organizations to deliver the STDF bi-annual work plan. This focused on facilitating a range of coordination activities, organizing Policy Committee and Working Group meetings, outreach and participation in selected events and training workshops, project preparation, review, implementation and evaluation and website and film development. STDF partners and donors also discussed how to refine, streamline and further improve the STDF Operational Rules. This work is ongoing and will be pursued in 2016.

In the first quarter of 2015, the WTO finalized recruitment for an additional post at grade 6 (entry level). The Secretariat also contracted the services of an expert to support implementation of the M&E Framework in 2015-16.

STDF members continue to be very satisfied with the performance of the STDF Secretariat, as illustrated by the findings of the survey of STDF members carried out in December 2015 (Figure 8). Respondents were particularly satisfied with the responsiveness and efficiency of the STDF Secretariat in servicing the Working Group, and its role in supporting the review of funding applications.

Box 11: STDF developing country experts in 2015

Talei Fidow-Moors, Plant biosecurity officer, Quarantine Service, Samoa

Nimia Lissette Gómez, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Dominican Republic

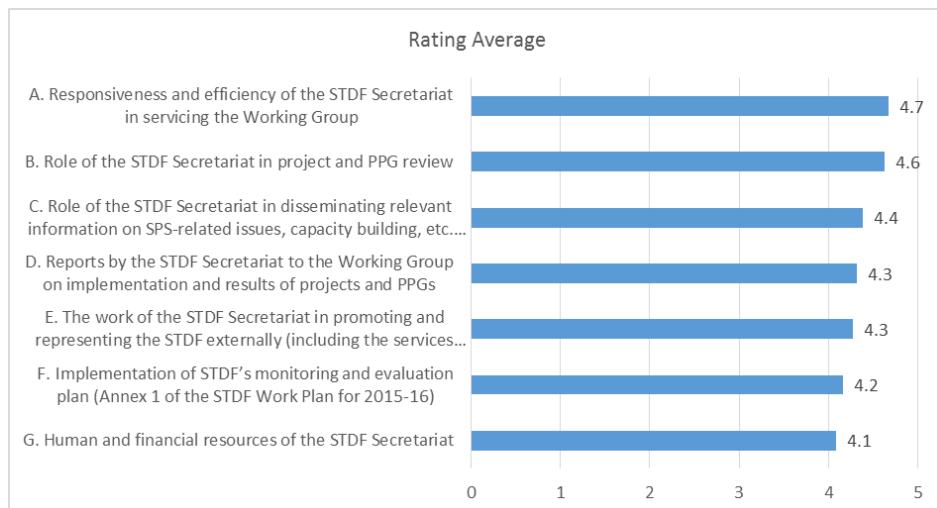
Maputa A. Kamulete, Senior Veterinary Officer, Department of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Lusaka, Zambia

Carmela Castillo, Executive Director, National Authority of Public Services, Panama

Stella Oraka, Regional quarantine officer, Nigeria

Batsukh Zayat, leading veterinary scientist, Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Mongolia

Figure 8. Feedback on the STDF Secretariat



In 2015, the STDF came close to its resource target of US\$5,101,950 needed to implement the Work Plan (Table 5). Eleven donors made contributions totalling US\$4,689,792.²⁷ Denmark, European Commission, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Chinese Taipei and the United States provided support under multi-annual agreements. Finland, France, Germany and Ireland also contributed.

Table 5: Contributions received in 2015

Donor		Amount in CHF
Sweden	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	1,128,640
The Netherlands	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation	875,000
Finland	Ministry for Foreign Affairs	568,700
Norway	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	464,549
Denmark	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	400,028
European Commission	European Aid Cooperation Office (EuropeAid)	385,840
United States	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)	285,575
Germany	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	162,900
Ireland	Irish Aid	156,600
Chinese Taipei	Permanent Mission of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	78,945
France	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt	51,700
Total (CHF)		4,558,478
Total (US\$)		4,689,792

As illustrated in Table 6, total expenditures by the STDF in 2015 amounted to US\$4,664,211 (CHF 4,533,612). This compared to an expected expenditure of US\$5,101,950, as per the 2015 budget estimate attached to the 2015-2016 Work Plan, corresponded to a deviation of -9%.

In most cases, actual expenditures did not differ significantly from the planned expenditures. One exception was the implementation of the STDF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, which was over-spent by 160% according to Table 6. This is because part of the amount allocated in 2015 will cover work to be carried out in 2016. Similarly, part of the over-spending on the Working Group in 2015 was used to cover costs associated with the organization of a Policy Committee meeting (which was not budgeted in the 2015 Work Plan and Budget).

²⁷ STDF accounts are kept in Swiss Francs (CHF). The conversion rate used for this report is the one as at 31 December 2015 corresponding to CHF 0.972 per US\$1.

Table 6: Actual and Expected Expenditures in 2015

Output	Activity	Expected expenditure USD	Actual expenditure USD	Variation
Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and dialogue among relevant stakeholders promoted	STDF Working Group meetings (travel of six developing country experts, one presenter, subsistence allowances and other costs)	80,000	102,280	28%
	Sub-total	80,000	102,280	28%
Good practice to support SPS capacity building identified and disseminated	Finalize P-IMA User Guide	0	3,457	-
	Finalize research on implementation of SPS measures to facilitate safe trade + prepare a Briefing Note	0	8,333	-
	Finalize joint EIF/STDF study on coverage of SPS issues in DTIS	35,000	12,860	-63%
	Develop new STDF film material	100,000	77,094	-23%
	Update publication on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools (possibly on-line)	0	0	-
	Initiate new activity on thematic topic (to be agreed in 2015)	0	0	-
	Maintain and enhance STDF website and Virtual Library	10,000	10,679	7%
	Prepare and regularly distribute electronic news items	0	0	-
	Liaise with other relevant organizations, partnerships, programmes and initiatives (including the Aid for Trade and the EIF)	20,000	12,105	-39%
	Participate in selected events	100,000	65,415	-35%
	Staffing to support thematic activities (one Grade 8, one Grade 7)	350,000	388,119	11%
	Sub-total	615,000	578,061	-6%
Needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals produced	Advice and support to applicants and review of project and PPG applications	0	0	-
	PPGs contracted (average US\$50,000)	200,000	223,100	12%
	Staffing to support project development (50% of one Grade 8, 50% of one Grade 7 and 50% of one Grade 6)	235,000	260,594	11%
	Sub-total	435,000	483,694	11%

SPS capacity building projects in specific areas supported	Projects contracted (average US\$750,000)	3,000,000	2,530,957	-16%
	Independent evaluations of completed projects	40,000	22,062	-45%
	Staffing to support project implementation (50% of one Grade 8 , 50% of one Grade 7 and 50% of one Grade 6)	235,000	260,594	11%
	Sub-total	3,275,000	2,813,613	-14%
Other operating expenses	Administrative assistant	100,000	110,891	11%
	Implementation of M&E framework	10,000	25,972	160%
	STDF Policy Committee meeting (travel of three developing country experts)	0	0	-
	Miscellaneous	0	13,108	-
	Sub-total	110,000	149,971	36%
Total		4,515,000	4,127,620	-9%
Administrative overhead	Overhead costs (13%) ²⁸	586,950	536,591	-9%
Grand Total		5,101,950	4,664,211	-9%

Table 7 shows uncontracted commitments, corresponding to four PPGs and three projects approved by the Working Group but not contracted yet, as of 31 December 2015.

Table 7: Uncontracted Commitments

Description		Approval Date	Value (US\$)
Project Preparation Grants			
STDF/PPG/375	Togo	Oct-15	38,000
STDF/PPG/516	Tanzania	Oct-15	50,000
STDF/PPG/534	Mongolia	Oct-15	49,750
STDF/PPG/535	Spillover effects	Oct-15	75,000
Project Grants			
STDF/PG/432	Pest surveillance	Oct-15	997,595
STDF/PG/495	OIRSA labs	Oct-15	793,300
STDF/PG/504	E-phyto	Oct-15	1,000,000
Total			3,003,645
Overhead fees (13%)			390,474
Grand Total			3,394,119
Grand Total (CHF)			3,299,084

Table 8 outlines the STDF's final balance of 2015. Deducting contracted commitments (for ongoing STDF PPGs and projects) amounted to CHF 6,506,205 at the end of 2015, as well as uncontracted commitments (Table7), the STDF showed a negative balance of US\$ 1,206,794.

²⁸ Overhead costs on project implementation are normally shared between the WTO (1%) and the organization implementing the project or providing oversight services (12%).

Table 8: Final Balance of 2015

	Amount in CHF
Opening Balance as at 1 January 2015	8,607,419
Contributions Current Year	4,558,478
Total Funds	13,165,896
Total Expenditures	4,533,612
Contracted Commitments	6,506,205
Balance in favour of donors	2,126,079
Uncontracted Commitments	3,299,084
Final Balance (CHF)	-1,173,004
Final Balance (US\$)	-1,206,794

Demand on the STDF in terms of financing projects and PPGs remains high. While pledges of up to US\$2.9 million have been made for 2016, additional contributions will be needed to implement STDF's work programme in 2016 and beyond.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS BEYOND 2015: LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Nurturing and sustaining an active partnership

The STDF provides a unique platform to enhance the effectiveness of SPS capacity building in developing countries. The success of the partnership depends on the active participation and contribution of STDF partners, donors, developing country experts and observers. Nurturing and sustaining active engagement in the partnership among competing pressures remains a challenge and important opportunity.

STDF members reported on their contributions to the STDF through a survey carried out in December 2015. Several members referred to their active participation in the Working Group, including their contribution to discussions and technical expertise in reviewing funding applications. Other members indicated their awareness raising on the STDF and disseminating STDF-related information to their own stakeholder networks. The survey highlighted that many members see the STDF as an essential platform for increased coordination and collaboration on SPS capacity building.

Box 12: How the STDF platform enhances the effectiveness of SPS capacity building

- Facilitating dialogue among STDF partners, donors, observers and others
- Combining and leveraging members' complementary roles and capabilities
- Identifying and opening up new opportunities for collaboration
- Promoting learning and knowledge transfer
- Identifying and disseminating good practice to support SPS capacity building

While the STDF Working Group is an essential forum, more could be done to capitalize on the STDF's potential to facilitate collaboration on SPS capacity building. For instance, how STDF members could make greater use of the Working Group and STDF platform to disseminate experiences and good practice identified through their SPS capacity building activities at country and regional level. Moving forward, efforts will be made to explore how STDF members can play a greater role – outside of the Working Group – in energizing the partnership. This includes sharing project documents, evaluations, needs assessments or relevant reports for the Virtual Library, disseminating information on STDF's work, sharing information on upcoming events to promote STDF's work and the recommendations of ongoing or planned SPS capacity building work with other members.

Measuring and communicating the STDF's results

Significant attention and resources went to strengthening the STDF's monitoring and evaluation framework in 2015. Measuring and also effectively communicating the results of the STDF is crucial to learn how STDF can improve, keep members engaged and ensure adequate resources in the STDF Trust Fund. An external expert provided guidance and practical support to monitor and report on implementation of the STDF Medium-Term Strategy (2015-2019), based on the biannual STDF work plan and the STDF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Multiple factors affect the SPS capacities of institutions or the livelihoods of individuals involved in agriculture and trade. While estimating the added value of STDF project interventions is extremely important, it is also challenging. To what extent can increased trade, higher incomes or other particular outcomes and impacts expected through projects be attributed to particular STDF-supported interventions? In general, trade-related assistance tends to assume that export growth will have a positive impact on poverty reduction. However, it is more difficult to come up with hard numbers. An important part of the STDF's future work on measuring and communicating results will focus on better identifying and communicating how STDF work contributes towards higher-level impacts and addresses cross-cutting issues such as gender or environment.

An external communications expert will be contracted in 2016 to improve the STDF Secretariat's capacity to effectively communicate and disseminate the outcomes of STDF's work to ensure that key messages reach relevant stakeholders. This will include developing a targeted and resource-efficient communications action plan and engage the STDF Secretariat, partners, donors and others stakeholders, exploring how STDF members can effectively support the STDF's outreach efforts.

Supporting applicants with STDF funding and leveraging external funding

Getting a PPG or project application to the point where it can be considered by the STDF Working Group for support often takes a considerable amount of time. Applications are submitted by SPS stakeholders in developing or Least Developed Countries where capacity may be limited. The STDF Secretariat provides advice to help applicants to improve the design and quality of proposals and STDF partners are often also involved in providing technical advice and guidance.

Additional efforts could go to further disseminating the STDF/EIF Guide on Trade-related Project Identification, Formulation and Design, and to provide training on project development skills in order to enhance the quality of funding applications. Further thought could go into how to communicate project criteria and expectations in a user-friendly format, such as through a short step-by-step video. Given the relatively modest size of the STDF Trust Fund, much more can be done to explore how to leverage external financing for the projects emerging from STDF PPGs. Important opportunities exist to make more use of the STDF platform to identify and leverage additional external resources for projects developed through PPGs.

ANNEX 1: STDF LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Vision Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries						
Programme goal Increased capacity of developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations and hence ability to gain and maintain market access						
Intervention logic	Indicator	Baseline and target	Activities	M&E activities planned 2015-2016	Individual assumptions and risks	General assumptions
Outcome						
Enhanced effectiveness of SPS capacity building	Perceived value of STDF partners and other WG members/observers with relevance and effectiveness of STDF activities and projects/PPGs	At least 80% of respondents report a satisfaction rate corresponding to 4 or higher on a 5 grade scale		Prepare and circulate survey (Nov/Dec 2015) to STDF partners and other WG members/observers – to feed in 2015 Annual Report	Good response rate to survey	<p>Ongoing interest, engagement and support of partners, other members/observers and beneficiaries to participate actively in STDF and share information.</p> <p>Sufficient funding available in STDF Trust Fund and STDF Secretariat fully staffed and operational</p> <p>Other necessary conditions exist (i.e. political stability, national commitment to address SPS constraints, government support, allocation of resources, etc.)</p>
	Documented cases of collaborative/cross-cutting/innovative/regional approaches to capacity building facilitated by STDF activities and projects/PPGs	At least three new cases identified annually		Identify and maintain list of relevant cases – including in WG meetings and through external project evaluations – to feed into 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports	Capacity building providers and beneficiaries willing to consider, apply and use new approaches	
Output 1						
Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and dialogue among relevant stakeholders promoted	Number and type of participants in WG	At least 30 participants attending each WG meeting, including partners	Organize 4 WG meetings	Document 4 WG meetings (reports, presentations)	Active participation in WG	<p>Ongoing interest, engagement and support of partners, other members/observers and beneficiaries to participate actively in STDF and share information.</p> <p>Sufficient funding available in STDF Trust Fund and STDF Secretariat fully staffed and operational</p> <p>Other necessary conditions exist (i.e. political stability, national commitment to address SPS constraints, government support, allocation of resources, etc.)</p>
	Number and type of presentations made in WG (including reports by partners, donors, observer organizations and beneficiaries)	Minimum of one presentation in each WG	Organize 4 presentations	Upload presentations on website	Active participation in WG	

Output 2					
Good practice to support SPS capacity building identified and disseminated	Number of thematic topics	Minimum of one thematic topic addressed annually	Address five topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize SPS Market Access Prioritization (SPS-MAP) guide (2015) and monitor its use (2015-16)• Finalize research on implementation of SPS measures to facilitate safe trade, including STDF Briefing Note (2015)• Finalize joint EIF/STDF study on coverage of SPS issues in DTIS (2015)• Develop new film material (2015-16)• Update (on-line) publication on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools (2015-16) Initiate activity on new topic in 2016	1. Document thematic topics (publications, reports, film, briefing notes) 2. Discuss and agree on new thematic topic in WG (2015-16)	Agreement in WG on priorities for thematic work
	Number of visitors to STDF website and number of STDF e-newsletter recipients	Baseline to be specified. Target is to have at least a stable number of visits and recipients over longer time-period.	Maintain and enhance website & Virtual Library Prepare and regularly distribute e-news	1. Establish baseline (using numbers on 31 Dec 2014) 2. Report on use of website, Virtual Library and E-news (statistics)	Website attractive and regularly updated
	Number of external events attended by the STDF Secretariat	Minimum of ten events attended annually	Participate in selected events (including related to STDF PPGs/projects)	Report on external events (back-to-office memos)	STDF Secretariat receives invitations to external events, including from partners
Output 3					
Needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals produced	Number of project preparation grants (PPGs) completed with satisfactory outputs	At least 70% of PPGs having satisfactory output	Implement ongoing PPGs Approve at least 8 new PPGs	1. Develop and circulate end-of PPG questionnaire to applicant/beneficiary 2. Assess final PPG reports, studies and project proposals	Sufficient number of high-quality PPG applications received by STDF. Specific assumptions of relevance to individual PPGs
Output 4					
SPS capacity building projects in specific areas supported	Number of projects completed with satisfactory outputs (as per individual results framework)	At least 70% of specific outputs achieved for each individual project	Implement ongoing projects Approve at least 8 new projects	1. Develop and circulate end-of project questionnaire to applicant/beneficiary 2. Assess final project reports 3. Select, contract and implement 4 independent evaluations	Sufficient number of high-quality project applications received by STDF. Specific assumptions of relevance to individual projects

ANNEX 2: STDF PRESENCE AT SELECTED EVENTS IN 2015

Date & Location	Event & Outcomes
2-5 March Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	9th Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Conference Knowledge exchanged on key issues in the management of the food supply chain. Participation financed by GFSI.
5-8 May Nairobi, Kenya	WTO/IGAD regional seminar for member states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa Shared experiences from STDF work (on facilitating safe trade, regional coordination, mobilizing resources, etc.), and discussed regional SPS issues with IGAD member states and STDF partners (FAO, IPPC, OIE). IGAD is preparing a regional project for submission to STDF. Participation partly financed by WTO.
18-19 June Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	EC Regional "Better Training for Safe Food" Workshop and AU Task Force for Food Safety Coordination mechanism Shared information on STDF work (e.g. on safe trade, tools developed by STDF partners to assess SPS capacity building needs) with 80+ food safety experts from across Africa. STDF invited to be part of taskforce for a pan-African food safety body.
29-30 June Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	ADB Workshop on Revising Turkmenistan's SPS Legislation and Identifying Needs to Support its Implementation Shared good practices in development and implementation of SPS measures, including findings and recommendations of STDF/UNIDO research on SPS capacity building in Central Asia. Participation financed by ADB.
16-17 July London, UK	Codex Committee on Food Import & Export Inspection & Certification Systems Learned about ongoing Codex work on guidance to facilitate the use of secured electronic certificates for food trade. STDF followed developments to anticipate developing countries' needs and promote synergies and collaboration.
31 August - 2 September Geneva, Switzerland	UNECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (Ctrade) Disseminated information on STDF to a new audience (including Central Asian countries) and discuss opportunities for collaboration with Ctrade (e.g. on electronic certification) and UNECE units.
3-4 September Brasilia, Brazil	IICA / Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture Regional meeting of national SPS services of the Americas Disseminated STDF experiences (including on facilitating safe trade, and electronic certification) and discussed SPS technical assistance with heads of animal health, plant health and food safety services from 36 countries. Participation partly financed by WTO.
20-23 October Wuhan, China	UNESCAP 7th Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum and workshop on Electronic Exchange of SPS Certificates Disseminated relevant information on SPS-related aspects of trade facilitation, to keep ahead of developments in the area of electronic certification, and encourage cooperation with ADB and UNESCAP.

Date & Location	Event & Outcomes
27-30 October Belize City, Belize	<p>WTO/ CARICOM Regional SPS Seminar for Caribbean countries</p> <p>Shared experiences from STDF work, including on prioritizing SPS investments for market access and facilitating safe trade, and to discuss ongoing and emerging SPS issues in the region with officials from CARICOM member states and STDF members (IPPC, OIE, IICA) active in the region.</p>
3 November Geneva, Switzerland	<p>UNECE Conference on Traceability of Agricultural Produce</p> <p>Shared STDF experiences and linked into UNECE electronic discussion group on agricultural traceability. On STDF's suggestion, this Group is exploring good practices to facilitate smallholder's involvement in traceability systems to promote their inclusion in global supply chains.</p>
9-14 November Incheon, Korea	<p>2nd IPPC Global Symposium and e-Phyto Steering Group meeting</p> <p>Learned about use, experiences and challenges of electronic phytosanitary certificates in trade to inform STDF work. Engagement with 80 participants representing NPPOs, industry, regional/global bodies.</p>
10-13 November Bangkok, Thailand	<p>WTO/UNESCAP Regional SPS/TBT Seminar for Asian countries</p> <p>Disseminated experiences and recommendations of STDF work (including on facilitating safe trade, prioritizing SPS investments for market access) with 50 experts from 18 countries. STDF's inputs complemented the contributions provided by WTO, UNESCAP, Codex, FAO, OIE, IPPC, ISO, IEC and UNIDO.</p>

ANNEX 3: STDF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS CONSIDERED ONGOING IN 2015²⁹

Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
Strengthening the National Protection System in The Gambia Plant http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-377	Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the phytosanitary capacity gaps using the IPPC-PCE Tool and develop a project to implement action points to enhance the national plant protection system.	The Gambia	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	30-Mar-12	01-Feb-13	31-Jan-16	50,000
Promoting the effective participation of SADC member states in the WTO SPS Committee http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-379	Strengthen the capacity of SPS authorities in SADC member states to be able to effectively implement their SPS obligations and assert their rights as WTO Members.	SADC member states	Kevin Walker	22-Mar-13	15-Jul-13	Upon approval	25,000
Integrating SPS in Sierra Leone: A whole chain approach to developing the national food safety management system http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-392	Assess the national food safety management system and develop plans for institutional capacity building and determine priorities in order to achieve compliance with SPS requirements.	Sierra Leone	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	19-Mar-13	01-Nov-13	Upon approval	39,000
Developing virus indexing capacity for planting materials in Malawi http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-404	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the viability of building capacity for indexing and production of virus-free planting materials for bananas in Malawi.	Malawi	Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS), Malawi	19-Mar-13	01-Nov-13	Upon approval	18,701
Trade and Improved Livelihoods in Aquatic Production in Africa (TILAPIA) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-428	Assist in consolidating a concept note for a regional project to build capacity on fish health and aquatic biosecurity to develop and sustain aquaculture and fisheries.	African countries	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)	15-Oct-13	15-Apr-14	Upon approval	50,000

²⁹ Project preparation grants that have a start and end date to be determined (TBD) have not yet been contracted.

Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
Aflatoxin management in chillies in Pakistan (STDF/PPG/431) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-431	Establish quality systems to address mycotoxin contamination of agri-food commodities and resulting international trade barriers	Pakistan	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)	27-Mar-14	01-May-15	30-Apr-16	34,000
Information systems for surveillance and pest reporting in Asia Pacific countries (STDF/PPG/432) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-432	Enable countries to implement international phytosanitary standards and to fulfil their SPS obligations mainly related to transparency and risk assessment.	Asia Pacific countries	Australia's Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)	19-Mar-13	15-Mar-14	31-Oct-15	49,990
Strengthening SPS compliance of sesame production in Sudan for enhanced access to international markets (STDF/PPG/435) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-435	Carry out an assessment of compliance challenges of sesame production for exports and elaborate a project proposal aiming to strengthen SPS compliance to enhance access to international markets.	Sudan	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	15-Oct-13	01-Jun-15	31-Mar-16	50,000
Development of a project proposal to address SPS capacity needs focusing on the national food safety system in Tajikistan (STDF/PPG/447) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-447	Assist Tajikistan in implementing the National Food Safety Strategy and Food Law.	Tajikistan	International Trade Centre (ITC)	24-Mar-15	01-Oct-15	30-Sep-16	40,600
Building capacity and facilitating enabling mechanisms for harmonizing Aquaculture Certification (STDF/PPG/453) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-453	Pilot test the conformity evaluation framework being developed by FAO and develop a project proposal to support the development and implementation of public aquaculture certification systems to contribute to intra-regional free trade.	ASEAN member states	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific (NACA)	15-Oct-13	01-Jun-14	Upon approval	48,000
Global Veterinary Drug Database (GVDD) (STDF/PPG/457) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-457	Develop information resource on veterinary drug residues to support trade in safe products	Global	Centre for Agricultural Bioscience	27-Mar-14	24-May-14	28-Feb-16	76,250

Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
Improving sanitary capacity and facilitating export of livestock and livestock products in Ethiopia (STDF/PPG/477) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-477	of animal origin. Identify gaps and challenges in improving veterinary capacity and export of livestock and livestock products, and develop a project proposal based on the weaknesses identified.	Ethiopia	International (CABI) Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development Sector, Veterinary Service Directorate	20-Oct-14	11-May-15	Upon approval	37,500
Strengthening the phytosanitary capacity of the horticulture sector in Zambia (STDF/PPG/481) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-481	Develop a project proposal to address the weaknesses of the national phytosanitary system identified as result of the application of the IPPC PCE tool.	Zambia	Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Service (PQPS)/ Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI)/ Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	20-Oct-14	01-Nov-15	30-Apr-16	31,380
Development of a proposal for a Regional Total Diet Study (TDS) in Latin American and Caribbean Countries (STDF/PPG/487) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-487	Develop a feasibility study to identify the main capacity gaps in chemical risk assessment in select countries and prepare a project proposal to fund a regional TDS.	Latin America and Caribbean	Pan American Center for Foot and Mouth Disease (Panafcosa) / The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO)	20-Oct-14	10-Aug-15	31-Dec-15	50,000

ANNEX 4: STDF PROJECTS CONSIDERED ONGOING IN 2015

Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
Strategy to strengthen the SPS system in Comoros (STDF/PG/242) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-242	Build SPS capacity in the country in a comprehensive and systematic manner in order to increase its market access for potential agricultural products and fisheries.	Comoros	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	30-Mar-12	17-Sep-12	16-Sep-16	1,033,673
Regional Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa (STDF/PG/303) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-303	Contribute to strengthen capacity of risk managers to implement international standards based on a good knowledge of hazards, risks and exposure levels to harmful substances in commonly produced and consumed food.	Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, Mali	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	19-Mar-13	01-Apr-14	31-Mar-17	1,063,708
Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan (STDF/PG/316) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-316	Improve provision of inspection and diagnostic services by the Phytosanitary Control Service and Customs for maintaining the necessary level of phytosanitary protection for agricultural production.	Azerbaijan	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	15-Oct-13	01-Sep-14	28-Feb-17	1,000,000
Building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh (STDF/PG/321) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-321	Organize small-scale farmers in manageable clusters and assist them in developing and adopting Better Management Practices (BMPs) to address the contamination problem at grass-roots level.	Bangladesh	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	27-Jun-11	01-Apr-12	30-Sep-15	568,750

Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
Enhancing SPS capacity of ginger exports through a Public-Private Partnership in Nepal (STDF/PG/329) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-329	Increase incomes of Nepalese stakeholders in the ginger value chain by adding value to the product exported to India and increase capacity to access new markets.	Nepal	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	27-Jun-11	07-Jun-12	06-Sep-15 ³⁰	412,629
ASEAN Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/337) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-337	Establish a regional process to generate reliable data for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for selected "minor-use" crops, as a means to promote harmonization with international standards and enhance market access.	ASEAN member states	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	21-Oct-11	01-Dec-12	30-Nov-16	607,000
Competency development scheme for the cinnamon sector in Sri Lanka (STDF/PG/343) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-343	Enhance the competitiveness of the cinnamon industry and the capacity of the cinnamon value added segment by improving processing and handling practices.	Sri Lanka	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	21-Oct-11	01-Jul-12	30-Apr-16	630,000
Establishment of a Regional Virtual Food Inspection School in Central America and Dominican Republic (STDF/PG/344) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-344	Harmonize modern inspection procedures conducted by a properly trained cadre of food inspectors and food safety auditors in the region to contribute to facilitating trade and improving public health.	Central America, Dominican Republic	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	30-Mar-12	01-Jul-12	30-Jun-16	905,225
Feed and Food Security Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (STDF/PG/345) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-345	Contribute to the harmonization of the regulatory framework for the production and commercialization of animal feed, ensuring its safety and access to markets, based on Codex and OIE standards.	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	Asociación de las Industrias de Alimentación Animal de América Latina y Caribe (FEEDLATINA)	19-Mar-13	15-Feb-14	14-Feb-17	991,100

³⁰ While the STDF component of this joint STDF/EIF project was completed in 2015, the project will be considered closed in 2016 when all activities under the EIF component have been completed.

Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
Breaking barriers, facilitating trade in COMESA member states (STDF/PG/346) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-346	Increase intra-COMESA trade in agri-food products by reducing trading costs associated with SPS measures for selected commodities on selected trade routes.	COMESA members	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	27-Mar-14	01-Nov-14	31-Oct-17	902,690
Global Phytosanitary Manuals, Standard Operating Procedures and Training Kits (STDF/PG/350) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-350	Address the need in developing countries for documented technical resources to enhance their capacity to understand and implement International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).	Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Malaysia, Sudan	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	28-Mar-11	01-Feb-12	31-Jul-15	600,000
Improving Safety and Quality of Fruits and Vegetables in Sri Lanka (STDF/PG/354) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-354	Analyse SPS constraints along the value chains, enhance public and private sector stakeholders capacity to meet international SPS requirements and improve public-private cooperation and networking.	Sri Lanka	International Trade Centre (ITC)	30-Mar-12	01-Mar-13	28-Feb-16	562,484
Improving veterinary legislation in OIRSA member countries (STDF/PG/358) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-358	Strengthen the veterinary services in the region by harmonizing the legal framework in accordance with OIE standards for the control and eradication of animal diseases.	Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)	30-Mar-12	01-May-13	31-Jul-15	488,330
African Pesticide Residue Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/359) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-359	Enhance regional capacity in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring for establishing, implementing, and complying with international pesticide residue standards.	Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)	11-Oct-12	01-May-13	30-Apr-16	446,150

Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
CocoaSafe: SPS capacity building and knowledge sharing for the cocoa sector in South East Asia (STDF/PG/381) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-381	Maintain and increase market access of cocoa exports by improving practices along the supply chain to meet international food safety standards.	Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea	International Cocoa Organization (ICCO)	11-Oct-12	01-Nov-13	30-Apr-16	604,491
Training of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Facilitators (STDF/PG/401) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-401	Improve the capability of developing countries to use the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool to evaluate their capacities, identify gaps and plan their national phytosanitary and development programmes.	Developing countries	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	11-Oct-12	01-Apr-14	30-Sep-16	655,436
Strengthening regional capacity in Latin America to meet pesticides export requirements (STDF/PG/436) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-436	Strengthen the capacity of Latin American countries in pesticide residues data generation and monitoring, to support the establishment and implementation of international standards.	Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama; Peru	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	19-Mar-13	01-Oct-13	30-Sep-16	346,450
Implementation of ISPM 15 (STDF/PG/460) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-460	Conduct an empirical analysis of how the regulation affects the economic growth of a group of countries in Africa	Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique	International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) - Erasmus University of Rotterdam	27-Mar-14	01-Feb-15	31-Jan-17	285,159

Title	Objective	Beneficiary	Implementing entity/ person	Approval date	Start Date	End Date	Budget (US\$)
Improving food safety and compliance with SPS measures to increase export revenues in the oilseeds value chain in Myanmar (STDF/PG/486) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-486	Strengthen food safety and compliance with international SPS standards related to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems in the oilseeds value chain.	Myanmar	International Trade Centre (ITC)	20-Oct-14	17-Aug-15	16-Aug-18	825,071
Technical assistance on SPS and the value-chain, to improve market access for small-scale / artisanal fisheries in West Africa (STDF/PG/489) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-489	Provide coordinated technical assistance in the dissemination of information about sanitary standards and develop technical capacity in the handling and processing of fisheries products.	Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	20-Oct-14	01-Sep-15	31-Aug-17	910,714
Regional Strengthening for the Implementation of Phytosanitary Measures and Market Access (STDF/PG/502) http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-502	Strengthen the capacity to implement phytosanitary measures in order to maintain and improve the phytosanitary status of the applicant countries.	Argentina; Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Brazil; Chile; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	24-Mar-15	01-Nov-15	31-Oct-18	985,000
Honey Chain Traceability in Guatemala (STDF/PG/515)	Maintain market access and increase the volume of honey exports from Guatemala through the implementation of an electronic traceability system.	Guatemala	Directorate for Food Safety - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala	24-Mar-15	15-Dec-15	14-Dec-17	45,400