

**STDF PRACTITIONER GROUP ON PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS FOR MARKET ACCESS
(P-IMA)****CONCEPT NOTE FOR DISCUSSION BY INTERESTED MEMBERS OF
THE WORKING GROUP AND THE STDF'S GLOBAL NETWORK****1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1. Building on the recommendations of the 2019 STDF external evaluation, [STDF's Strategy for 2020-2024](#) identified Practitioner Groups on priority topics for safe trade as an opportunity to further develop the partnership and expand its reach and resources. Practitioner Groups offer a way to connect interested STDF partners and other members on specific work areas, to enable members to contribute more actively to the development, use and dissemination of STDF knowledge products and good practices, to promote dialogue, innovation and an exchange of experiences and learning, and to influence and catalyse wider change.¹

1.2. The STDF has developed an evidence-based approach – known as the "P-IMA" framework² – to help inform and improve Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) planning and decision-making processes. This Concept Note sets out a proposal for an STDF Practitioner Group to promote uptake of P-IMA and wider learning around evidence-based SPS decision-making processes.

1.3. P-IMA improves the effectiveness of decisions on where to allocate public, private and/or donor resources aimed at enhancing SPS capacity. P-IMA helps to link SPS investments to public policy goals including export growth, agricultural productivity, and poverty reduction. In the process, P-IMA encourages public-private dialogue, boosts transparency and accountability, and improves the economic efficiency of investment decisions.

2 P-IMA: GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

2.1. Application of P-IMA is underway in various countries and regions and is at different stages of implementation. The STDF is supporting five member states of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) to use the P-IMA framework to drive better SPS planning and decision-making and to mobilize more resources for SPS capacity building in agriculture, environment and trade policy frameworks. Led by the COMESA Secretariat in partnership with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)³, work is ongoing and/or planned in Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Malawi to convene public and private stakeholders and prioritize SPS investments. P-IMA is expected to help prioritize and integrate SPS investments into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and other policy and financing plans for trade, climate change and the environment. This work will provide evidence of the expected impacts of specific SPS investments on trade, agricultural productivity, poverty reduction and cross-cutting issues such as gender and the environment. Other STDF supported projects and Project Preparation Grants (PPGs), including in Madagascar⁴, Ecuador⁵, Tajikistan⁶ and the Caribbean region have been carried out or are planned.

2.2. In addition to the applications of P-IMA supported directly by the STDF, some other development partners are making use of the P-IMA framework. In East Africa, Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) is applying the P-IMA framework to identify SPS capacity building options which can boost

¹ Practitioner Groups are not entirely new. STDF members have already come together in the past to collaborate on selected STDF work areas. For instance, in 2019, the STDF Working Group approved Terms of Reference for an STDF SPS Electronic Certification Advisory Committee (ECAC). In 2019, interested STDF members contributed to the STDF's work on domestic spillover impacts as part of a PPG. Similarly, some interested members volunteered to support the STDF's knowledge work on Good Regulatory Practices.

² <https://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima>

³ www.standardsfacility.org/PG-606

⁴ <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-575>

⁵ <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-709>

⁶ <https://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-561>

intra-regional trade among six⁷ East African Countries. The process is providing a structured pathway to discuss ways to prioritize finite resources to unlock SPS-related barriers to trade and increase exports.

2.3. In 2019, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) used and adapted the P-IMA framework as part of a feasibility study (completed in March 2020⁸) to inform the design of the World Organisation for Animal Health's Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade (BESST) initiative. Under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food for Progress programme, the Philippines is implementing the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) project from October 2019 to September 2023. Implemented by Winrock International⁹, B-SAFE aims to increase trade of agri-food products by helping improve the country's SPS systems and will use the P-IMA framework to identify priorities from the SPS needs assessment. In 2019, STDF shared experiences on use of the P-IMA framework during a high-level panel on overcoming SPS hurdles in intra-African trade during the AU-EU Agricultural Ministerial Conference held in June. Previously, the AUC expressed interest in use of P-IMA to support implementation of the African Union Malabo Business Plan.

2.4. In addition, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat and Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) are exploring options to make use of the P-IMA framework, following application of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Tool. Initial discussions have also taken place with some staff of the World Bank Group (WBG) to explore options to use P-IMA to prioritize investments within agricultural commercialization projects and lending for the agricultural sector. The WBG's study "The Safe Food Imperative" refers to P-IMA as a pathway for a structured and transparent approach for setting SPS priorities.¹⁰

2.5. Restrictions on international travel due to COVID-19 have served to highlight the need for materials that can be used to undertake remote training in the P-IMA framework. In line with its [2020-2021 Work Plan](#), the STDF initiated work to develop a new P-IMA Training Facilitators Manual and related online modules. This should provide practical, easy-to-follow guidance for facilitators involved in providing training and applying the P-IMA framework. The new manual, to be completed by early 2021, will provide step-by-step guidance to facilitators for each stage of the P-IMA process, clearly explaining the related requirements, as well as possible challenges that may arise and tips to address these.

3 PURPOSE, OUTCOMES, SCOPE OF PRACTITIONERS' GROUP

3.1. The purpose of the Practitioner Group is to improve the planning, delivery and dissemination of STDF's work on P-IMA, across relevant knowledge and project work. The STDF Secretariat will convene members of this Group to:

- Identify opportunities to promote the use of P-IMA linked to other ongoing/planned work of STDF members, and to strengthen the planning, delivery and/or follow-up to P-IMA applications that are supported by the STDF.
- Exchange experiences and learning about evidence based SPS decision making and related investments.
- Identify opportunities and synergies to catalyse resources for SPS capacity building needs prioritized in various P-IMA reports.
- In addition, some members of the P-IMA Practitioner Group may be interested to peer review new P-IMA resources or training materials, including the P-IMA Training Facilitators Manual and online modules.

3.2. The Practitioners Group would be expected to contribute to the following specific outcomes:

- New collaborative relationships to promote the use of P-IMA to strengthen SPS capacity and promote evidence-based decision making for the benefit of developing countries.

⁷ Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan and Burundi.

⁸ <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/107951>

⁹ <https://www.winrock.org/project/boosting-food-safety-in-the-philippines/>

¹⁰ The World Bank Group's study "The Safe Food Imperative" (2019) refers to P-IMA in several places (in particular Box 4.3, page 133),

- New information and knowledge products (blogs, papers, etc.) on experiences and learning related to the use of P-IMA to inform SPS related decision making for dissemination on the STDF website and via members.
- Additional resources (financial and/or in-kind) to promote the use of evidence based SPS planning and decision-making processes. This may include, for instance, expertise and resources to support and application of P-IMA in STDF supported projects or programmes supported by other development partners.

4 OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

4.1. Participation will be based on a **written expression of interest by email** to the STDF Secretariat by **15 October 2020**. The Group is expected to include STDF members and other organizations with experience or interest in the area of evidence-based decision making, including:

- Interested STDF partners FAO, OIE, WHO, WBG and WTO, including Codex and IPPC; and
- Other members of the STDF Working Group and the global partnership with an interest in P-IMA, including implementing organizations for STDF projects (COMESA Secretariat, IICA), TMEA, EIF, consultants and economists with in-country experience of P-IMA, donors, private sector bodies, past and current STDF developing country experts and other relevant stakeholders.

4.2. The expected roles – outlined below – will be discussed and further clarified during the first meeting. Participants will be expected to:

- Commit time to participate in meetings.
- Share relevant information on relevant developments and work related to P-IMA during and in-between meetings.
- Provide comments on meeting agendas, summaries, and other PIMA-related documents, etc.
- Actively explore opportunities in their organizations and wider networks to leverage resources in support of the findings and results of P-IMA's application for wider scaling-up.
- Based on interest, volunteer and provide time and expertise to the development of new information / knowledge products.

4.3. The STDF Secretariat will be expected to:

- Schedule and host Zoom meetings in cooperation with key partners
 - Share draft meeting agendas with participants in advance of meetings.
 - Draft short summary reports of discussions with participants.
- Report periodically to the STDF Working Group on the work and discussions, etc. of the Group.

4.4. Meetings will generally take place using online platforms (e.g. Zoom). Face-to-face meetings may be convened on the margins of an existing global or regional meeting, wherever relevant and possible. A schedule of upcoming meetings will be discussed and agreed during the first meeting.

5 NEXT STEPS

- Working Group members who would like to participate should inform the STDF Secretariat before **15 October 2020** (only those who inform the Secretariat will be included on emails about meetings).
- The Practitioners Group will meet virtually (Zoom), approximately every 2-3 months, subject to further discussions.
- The first meeting is expected to take place around early November 2020. A Doodle poll will be used to help arrange meetings.