



STDF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

APPLICATION FORM

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) provides Project Preparation Grants (PPGs), up to a maximum of US\$50,000, for the following purposes (or a combination thereof):

- application of SPS-related capacity evaluation and prioritization tools;
- preparation of feasibility studies that may precede project development to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or
- preparation of projects proposals that promote compliance with international SPS requirements, for funding by the STDF or other donors.

Applications that meet the STDF's eligibility criteria are considered by the STDF Working Group, which makes the final decision on funding requests. Complete details on eligibility criteria and other requirements are available in the *Guidance Note for Applicants* on the STDF website (www.standardsfacility.org). Please read the *Guidance Note* before completing this form. Completed applications should be sent by email (as Word documents) to STDFSecretariat@wto.org.

PPG Title	Strengthening phytosanitary compliances and public private partnership for enhancing seed trade for the Asia Pacific region
Budget requested from STDF	USD 27,328 , meetings are held online due to Covid19
Full name and contact details of the requesting organization(s)	<p>The Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions FAO Annex Building, 202/1 Larn Luang Road, Klong Mahanak Sub-District, Pomprab Sattrupai District, Bangkok 10100, Thailand</p> <p>The Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA) Mailing address : 7th floor, IFRPD Building, Kasetsart University, Ladyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand 10903</p> <p>CropLife Asia 20 Malacca Street #06-00 Malacca Center, Singapore 048979</p> <p>International Seed Federation Chemin du Reposoir 7, 1260, Nyon, Switzerland</p> <p>American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) 1701 Duke Street, Suite 275, Alexandria, VA 22314 USA</p>
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Technical collaboration	Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission / Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific 39 Phra Athit Rd, Chana Songkhram, Phra Nakhon, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
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1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

What is the purpose of this PPG? Explain whether it is requested to: (i) apply an SPS-related capacity evaluation or prioritization tool; (ii) prepare a feasibility study (prior to project development) to assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposals in terms of their expected costs and benefits; and/or (iii) prepare a project proposal for consideration by the STDF or other donors?

The seed trade is assuming greater significance in Asia-Pacific for increasing production and economic prosperity by ensuring a smooth seed supply chain and thereby directly addressing the SDG2. More than US\$ 3.4 billion worth of seed for sowing purposes was traded in the region in 2019 (table 1), constituting about 14% of the global seed trade. The global seed market was to the tune of US\$ 69.8 billion in 2019 and is expected to rise to be US\$ 86 billion by 2023 (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/262286/global-seeds-market-value/>)

Table 1: Trend of export in APAC countries increase only in veg and ornamental seeds

Trade	Region/Country	2017 (\$ million)	2018 (\$ million)	2019 (\$ million)
Exp-sum	WTO	10,923	11,665	11,058
Imp-sum	WTO	11,702	12,008	10,948
Exp-sum	APAC	1,367	1,451	1,438
Imp-sum	APAC	1,912	2,028	2,035

Ref; UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)

There are a number of phytosanitary concerns that affect the safe seed trade of developing and least developed countries. The most prominent concerns include pest lists (that are not updated for seed-transmitted pests) affecting the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) process (ISPM 2), not having ePhyto system in place, lack of compliances to international standards i.e. ISPM 38 and also a lack of coordination or partnership of NPPOs with the private sector represented by the seed companies.

The purpose of this PPG thus is to develop a project proposal, and the scoping study (and any other analysis needed) as a part of project development. It is proposed here that a country assessment will be done on phytosanitary concerns primarily specific to vegetable seed sector before the consultative workshop. The results of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE)¹ are

¹ According to the IPPC in Asia the PCE has been conducted for Bhutan in 2004 and Nepal in 2005 (https://www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/implementation_of_pces_in_countries2020-03_12.pdf).. However, it generally does not directly cover ISPM38 which came into force recently in 2017 but the PCEs conducted in

known for two countries and based on that certain relevant capacity, needs have been identified. Further, an analysis of the feasibility of addressing them through implementation of measures and partnerships with the private sector where the bulk of seed production capacity is housed will be considered. The expected costs and benefits with the objective of preparing a project proposal for consideration by the STDF or other donors are proposed accordingly.

The pilot countries proposed for this PPG are Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar; however, the project aims to also involve Bangladesh, Philippines, Nepal and a few other NPPOs with the support of Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC). Once the PPG is approved, we will conduct an online Consultative meeting by inviting NPPOs of the region (even those who are not project partners). Those NPPOs from least developed and developing countries who shows commitment to participate in the project, apart from those who have already agreed, will be selected as preferred project partners.

2. Explain the key SPS problems and/or opportunities to be addressed. Clarify why these issues are important, with attention to market access and poverty reduction. Describe, if relevant, how these issues relate to SPS priorities in the Enhanced Integrated Framework's Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS), the findings of SPS-related capacity evaluations, national poverty reduction strategies, sector development strategies or policies, etc. See Qn. 7. (b) – (d) of the Guidance Note.

Seed is moved through many countries as early as the breeding process, for its testing and evaluation; assessing its adaptation in the intended regions of release. It is often multiplied in one country and processed in another, before it is marketed worldwide. Every country therefore implements various agricultural bio-security related policies to ensure safe movement of quality seeds for international trade in order to protect their agriculture and environment. Destination (importing) countries may have different import requirements that need to be considered at the time of seed production and prior to exporting, such as specific phytosanitary requirements and registration of the exporter's variety with the importing country's Agriculture Department. Despite the exporting country NPPO recognizing the import requirements it does not necessarily means full compliance with them. This can result on seed companies deciding on not invest further on some markets.

Seed is a globally traded agricultural product, with international seed trade having increased tenfold during the past 15-20 years with hundreds of seed species and thousands of varieties being traded internationally (Table 1). Many countries have benefitted by positioning themselves as a global or regional seed production hub while others, for various reasons, have become dependent on seed import to feed their growing demand. Therefore, a safe and predictable international movement of seed is critical to ensure food security.

these countries have highlighted various levels of gaps in capacities in terms of pest listing / database, diagnostics, and NPPOs resources and partnerships with private sectors which will be further specifically assessed country-wise for project member countries to get the latest updates relevant to the proposal. It will be kept in mind that PCE conducted is not more than five years old and also the countries themselves provide us the PCE data if available.

When new phytosanitary requirements are implemented with disregard to international standards (e.g. ISPM 38 and ISPM 7) and international agreements (SPS Agreement) will result on rejection of seed. Phytosanitary certification should be based on official information from the importing country, if the importing country fails to provide this information as required this will heavily impact on the international movement of seeds. Seed companies have started working jointly with the government specifically to discuss critical issues/concerns in improving the implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures including ISPM 38 which relates to international movement of seeds by incorporating elements of the ISPMs on pest management to facilitate the international movement of seeds. In addition, the presence of quarantine pests in seed is also found to be one of the main SPS issues highlighted by the SPS Committee and affecting seed trade apart from pesticides and other chemicals exceeding Maximum Residue Limits in food.

The South Asia and South East Asian countries continue to face numerous challenges in meeting the growing demand of food for its increasing population due to inherent challenges of the region. It is estimated that the region could lose 10-50% of crop production by the end of the century due to global warming. These countries are at various stages of compliances to SPS Agreement of WTO. The PCE tool of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has contributed significantly to identifying the areas of capacity development in the region. For example, PCE conducted recently for Bangladesh itself revealed specific areas for strengthening NPPO's structure and processes, need for capacity building in developing an updated pest list for pest risk analysis and in import and export certification. In addition, the PCE result found that various SOPs, manuals and documentations had to be developed.

Moreover, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) and Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) are supporting these countries through its programs on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), integrated pest management (IPM) as well as regional and international standards for phytosanitary measures (RSPMs and ISPMs) which all contribute towards SPS compliance.

The situation has become further complicated due to recent lockdown caused by COVID-19 and the restrictions on flights globally. APSA and World Vegetable Center have done a survey with APSA company members during April and May, 2020 in order to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the international seed movement. The results suggested that the main issues relating to the negative impact of international seed shipment are the administrative or phytosanitary issues while acquiring export and import permits, labour shortage and availability of air/ocean and land freight, respectively (<https://www.apsaseed.org/asia-pacific-seed-trade-slowly-emerges-from-covid-19-lockdowns/>).

Among the challenges to be addressed the most important is of the weak NPPO-Private Sector interactions that may affect the smoother seed trade. Furthermore, there is significant need for closer coordination among the NPPOs themselves in the region. In fact, the status of such partnership is highly variable among the countries in the region which can be explained by diversity of economies that prevail in the region. A Regional Coordination Platform between NPPOs and Private Sector is thus envisaged to better apprise the private sector of import

conditions and of importance of SPS measures in market access apart from utilising facilities and expertise of private sector laboratories by the NPPOs.

There are good practices found in the Philippines on how PPP can help to smoothen the seed movement process. The Philippines's NPPO has authorized some private seed health testing laboratories under certain conditions for incoming and outgoing seeds. However, the private sector should observe quarantine requirements. This is to ensure that the consignment of the incoming seeds has a plant quarantine clearance or Phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin, conduct inspection, seed pathological analyses, treatments if applicable, post entry monitoring/observation for quarantine pests /diseases and conduct supervise appropriate disposal measure. CropLife Philippines requested the NPPO of the Philippines to review the compiled current quarantine pests of concern on imported seeds of onion, cucumber, melon, pepper and tomato for sowing and provided justification to remove specific pests in accordance with the principles of ISPM38 and based on significant work undertaken by the International Seed Federation (ISF) on their Regulated Pest List Initiative. After the review of the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA), there were 14 pest/crop combinations where seed is not a pathway that were removed from their Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance/plant quarantine clearance (SPSICs).

As per ISPM 38, PRA for seeds should identify the regulated pests potentially associated with seeds and seeds as pests. Based on the example above, our proposal is to advocate the use of technically and scientifically justified different sources of information when drafting the PRA. This includes the use of the ISF Regulated Pest List Initiative (RPLI), as one of these sources when drafting or reassessing pest risk analysis (PRA). The ISF RPLI is a dynamic database of information on regulated pests of internationally traded seed species, based on a scientific assessment of whether they are a pest risk and the experience of the seed industry in managing this risk. In some instances, the phytosanitary measures imposed are unnecessary as seed is not a pathway for the entry, establishment or spread of the pest in question. The aim is to facilitate the harmonization of phytosanitary requirements for seed by exchanging knowledge and information between the NPPOs and the seed industry via meetings and workshops.

Based on past consultation meetings conducted in the region by regional organizations on the implementation of various relevant projects in the Asia-Pacific region, the following areas are important to be addressed during the consultative workshop and meetings. Then they should be reviewed and monitored during the PPG implementation. Based on discussions during the PPG workshop, certain concrete activities would be taken up as a part of the PPG proposal.

- **Identifying gaps regarding the infrastructure and capabilities of NPPOs of developing and least developed countries of the region.** The PCEs conducted in two countries of the region has highlighted a wide variation in infrastructure among NPPOs in terms of laboratories and quarantine facilities and so also in their technical capacities and resources to scientifically comply with ISPMs specially for export and import certifications. The focus will be on identifying and developing the best option to implement the ISPMs for a given country regardless of what other countries do.

- **Creation of a database where all information related to importing phytosanitary requirements for the countries in the region are recorded.** As stated in the ISPM 38, a pest risk analysis should consider whether the transmission of pests has been observed or confirmed to occur under natural conditions or under experimental conditions. More importantly, when the transmission of pests has been observed or confirmed under experimental conditions it is necessary to confirm that it can also occur under natural conditions. Several seed crops are overregulated because NPPOs may not perform their PRAs in accordance to international standards including ISPM38. This issue should be addressed by NPPOs to conduct PRA and review phytosanitary measures. The creation of import phytosanitary requirement database can be accessed by NPPOs. The information can help NPPOs conduct PRA more efficiently. Database shall be hosted by APSA and APPPC.
- **The portal of regulated pests and import condition from each country can be consolidated for the region** and the information should be also available in English language. APSA has already volunteered to create and maintain the portal by consolidate all links on the website to be available for private companies inside and outside the region. At the first start, the information from pilot countries will be consolidated on the APSA website. If some countries do not yet have the information available in English, the translation service can be provided. APSA can link also the information available from APPPC and share the portal with IPPC website. This database is supposed to reduce the testing lead time and improve the testing capacity of NPPO since the private sector gets an updated information. As a result, the tests can be conducted only for the quarantined pests required by the importing countries. Besides, the database developed for the region will be of global use once it is made available on the IPPC.
- **Explore synergies to the work carried out and with the pest risk surveillance database** that is being developed / used in the recently concluded Australia implemented STDF project (<https://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-432>) that aimed to develop a regionally harmonised pest information framework. Also synergies will be explored with ITC's ongoing the Arise Plus Myanmar Trade-Related Assistance Project which contributes to trade diversification and integration, regionally and internationally with a focus on market-led value chains; and also SYMST funded by the EU in Lao PDR (same project as described above with focus on rice, watermelon, Chilli, basil) where ITC provides support to improve phytosanitary compliance.
- **Advocate the adoption of international standards and initiatives such as ePhyto** Developing a recommendation of a continuous policy development and capabilities to embrace new efficiencies in the SPS methods such as ePhyto (STDF/PG/504) and ISPM38 will help in developing competitive seed market, lower barriers to seed trade and at the same time ensuring full compliance on the quarantine. We intend to support the adoption of international standards i.e. ISPM 38 and ePhyto in the region via outreach activities

which will include virtual and face-to-face meetings engaging NPPOs and seed industry. The collation of the latest best practices and recommendations such as information on ePhyto and ISPM38 in one dossier and capacity building of NPPOs of those countries for facilitating the adoption is needed.

- **Promoting the involvement and investment of the private seed sector.** The coordination platform is envisaged to be established and which may be a formal or an informal platform. This will greatly contribute in creating a better understanding and trust between the NPPO and private sector, who will be better informed of the importing conditions and on the importance of SPS issues in market access. In addition, the investment from private sector may contribute in using its accredited or recognised laboratories for seed health testing. The involvement of private sector can be mobilized through regional and national seed associations in the development of regional standards (RSPM) for facilitation of seed trade.
- **Facilitate the lab accreditation program for the independent private laboratories by NPPOs.** The accreditation of more seed health testing laboratories (private laboratories) and setting a standard procedure for lab accreditation by NPPO will make meeting of SPS requirements highly efficient and enable farmers to receive high quality seeds faster. At the same time, it will keep up the pace with the new SPS requirements and enhance seed export. This project will enable bringing together the NPPOs and established private sector together in achieving these goals. Currently, a draft ISPM “authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions” which can facilitate the accreditation of independent laboratories to perform phytosanitary actions for the NPPOs has been recommended by the CPM Bureau (on behalf of the CPM) to the Standards Committee (SC) to proceed with *recommending* the adoption of the draft ISPM at the next CPM session (March 2021). Once adopted, this international standard will be considered during the implementation of this project.
- Though the proposal refers to ISPM2, ISPM6, ISPM38, ISPM 12 (Phytosanitary certificate), and use of ePhyto, but in addition, ISPM11 (Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests), ISPM20 (Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system), ISPM29 (Guidelines on lists of regulated pests) would also be focused when setting the import requirements and discussing the imports and exports of seeds. In particular, when discussing a regulated pest list, ISPM29 will be referred to. In fact to facilitate the implementation of the ISPMs, the available IPPC Guides and e-learnings would be considered viz., Export certification, Import verification, Guide to National Reporting Obligations (NRO), Managing relationships with stakeholders and e-learnings on PRA and e-learning on NRO."

Agriculture accounts for nearly 70% of the labour force in the LDCs and as per FAO report (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-y3997e.pdf>) growth in agriculture has delivered more poverty reduction than any other sector in low income economies. Access to healthy and high

performing seed is certainly a precursor to a high yielding agricultural economy and trade and is directly related to the Enhanced Integrated Framework's Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS) and SPS related capacity evaluations in the DTIS. The least developed countries (LDCs) of the region which are covered in this framework (excepting Maldives) are also the potential partners of the PPG implementation. Among these LDCs countries, Bangladesh, Nepal and Laos are also a partners in [STDF/PG/634](#) project which deals in pesticide residue mitigation and it may be noted that experts from NPPOs involved in Codex related matters are different than those working on IPPC related matters of SPS and hence it may not interfere their capacity to contribute.

In conclusion, this PPG proposal is very relevant for the STDF because it responds to specific SPS issues affecting trade, it promotes regional collaboration and synergies across relevant government agencies and the private sector (seed companies) in ASEAN and South Asian countries, as well as with selected STDF partners and donors, and it will apply a very simple and innovative approach of consolidation of all the phytosanitary measures from the region in one database accessible to all, and develop appropriate partnerships that can have wider relevance and benefits regionally and globally.

3. Which government agencies, private sector, academic or other organizations support this PPG request? Letters of support from each of these organizations would be advantageous (Appendix 1). See Qn. 7. (e) of the Guidance Note.

APAARI will be the lead organization as coordinator of this project. The FAO regional office for the Asia Pacific (FAO-RAP) has agreed to partner through the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) which is the Regional Plant Protection Organization of FAO in Asia Pacific. APAARI and FAO (APPPC) will be ably supported by the private seed sector as seed industry represented through Asia Pacific Seed Association (APSA), the International Seed Federation (ISF), American Seed Trade Association (ASTA). The plant science industry organization representing Asia-Pacific, the CropLife Asia (CLA) has agreed to be a partner in this project.

In addition, apart from pilot countries other NPPOs which are members of APPPC will be approached after due assessment of their needs by APPPC for the feasibility study during the consultation and implementation process of PPG. Since the project objectives are in tune with the APPPC mandate it is expected to have a participation of at least ten countries which are least developed or developing from South and South East Asia.

4. How does this PPG complement and/or build on past, ongoing and/or planned national programmes and/or donor-supported projects? See Qn. 7. (f) of the Guidance Note.

This PPG proposal is intended to build upon the successes of the previous numerous FAO, STDF, World Bank, USDA, GIZ and certain national projects and activities in the Asia Pacific Region where efforts have been made to undertake various capacity building activities for compliances to International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) of International Plant protection Commission (IPPC). Most of the efforts have been country or sub-region specific. These efforts have been in line with the STDF programme goal and the STDF vision of sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental

protection in developing countries. The PPG proposal is meant to be specifically aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 12 and 17.

The APPPC is comprised of NPPOs of the region and delivers workshops, trainings and capacity building activities on monitoring and surveillance of plant pests and diseases; develops RSPMs to harmonize seed treatment; and supports the implementation of ISPMs and other measures to facilitate trade. With support from the Government of Japan, FAO -RAP has recently completed a multi-year capacity building project on SPS measures for seed in Viet Nam and Thailand² (*See Footnote). Other STDF funded projects notably on food safety are being supported in India and Solomon Islands. FAO–RAP has undertaken several related TCP projects in the region.

APSA together with ISF, CLA and ASTA have already started the initial discussion relating to seed trade policy through an organization of the phytosanitary expert consultation with NPPOs in Asia and Pacific region. The first meeting was organized in 2015. The meeting is set every year from 2015 until present. The main objective of the meeting was to build the public and private partnership to address the key concerns on phytosanitary for seed movement internationally according to ISPMs. Participating NPPOs in these meetings are from 12 countries in APAC region. Bangladesh and Nepal have also already given their consent to be a part of this endeavour. Besides the countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar have been listed under the lower Mekong initiative (LMI) project supported by USDA-FAS, ASTA and APSA.

The LMI project aims to engage and help to build and strengthen relationships and harmonize vision among LMI government officials involved in seed trade issues. The first meeting happened in November 2019. Priorities relating to seed trade policy which include capacity building of the seed health laboratory, PRA harmonization and online database were discussed. The phytosanitary expert consultation meeting organized every year by APSA and CLA have been proposed to be one of the forums for LMI to enhance the public – private partnership for seed trade policy.

This proposal will supplement the national SPS Strategy or Action plan being adopted by certain countries through donor efforts or at their own level. The PPG will eventually compliment and supplement the recent STDF funded (STDF/PPG/634) ongoing project to APAARI and Rutgers University (USA) on Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the Promotion of Biopesticides for Facilitation of Trade specially for those commodities wherein both pests and pesticide residues are issues for export. Examples are of certain vegetable crop commodities that are rejected in trade due to MRL issues also have potential to harbour

² The FAO-RAP project (GCP/RAS/297/JPN) entitled Improving Capacity of Phytosanitary Inspection and Integrated Measures for International Movement of Seeds was aimed at strengthening phytosanitary capacity for seeds for planting of NPPOs and technical supporting organizations/entities (e.g. academic institutes) in the recipient countries, through providing technical and operational manuals, field and laboratory trainings and promoting consciousness of general public and related private sectors to prevent introduction and spread of pests associated with the international movement of seeds. The strengthening of cooperative relations between the NPPO and national academic institutes such as universities and other stakeholders such as seed companies and seed producers was addressed. The findings and recommendations in the Terminal Project Report (in pipeline) will help in analysing the lessons learnt and will be discussed during the Consultation Workshop for taking up in the project proposal

serious quarantine pests that may lead to their rejection. Hence the compliance to SPS becomes more comprehensive for a given species of commodity.

The PPG is thus intended to review the activities already undertaken on phytosanitary capacity evaluation, improving capacity and integrated measures through adoption of relevant ISPMs for International Movement of Seeds, refining the regulated pest lists of the countries, strengthening of public-private partnership by promoting their involvement and investment, and exploring synergies to the work carried out and with the pest risk surveillance database. The project will thus also compliment the earlier and on-going activities taken up in the region in this endeavour. The first Consultation workshop will deal with activities mentioned in page 5-7 of item 2 of this Application.

During the PPG implementation a Briefing Paper will be prepared based on the Country Assessment which will be undertaken as the initial activity by APAARI and APSA. The scope of country assessment will include status and gaps in Plant Quarantine legislation, NPPOs' structure and processes, NPPO resources, pest diagnostic capacity, pest surveillance and reporting capacity, pest database, pest risk analysis, import and export certification requirements including issuance of ePhyto and implementation of ISPMs with special reference to ISPM 38 for international movement of seeds and so also on trained human resources and seed health laboratory infrastructure facilities. The briefing paper will be discussed in the Consultative Workshop that will be organised with all relevant multiple stakeholders. A final outline of the Project proposal will be thus developed which will be validated in a final Workshop to obtain final feedback prior to submission to STDF.

The ultimate expected benefits of the proposed project will be to the Country NPPOs, seed companies and public sector by strengthening public-private partnership in overcoming hindrances to export (and regulated domestic) markets access due to the trade standards for specialty crops for which seeds are traded from Asia and will strengthen regional cooperation and regulatory harmonization under the umbrella of APPPC of FAO-RAP on transboundary pests within and across member states of ASEAN, SAARC and SPC. Finally, the private sector partners will help to develop a long-term partnership and implementation strategy, based on the experience and lessons learned from this project.

2. Have you discussed this PPG request – or funding for the project proposal which would result from it – with any potential donors (bilateral, multilateral, Enhanced Integrated Framework, etc.)? If so, provide details below and indicate potential sources of funding for the resulting project. See Qn. 7. (g) of the Guidance Note.

The project concept was discussed with FAO-RAP (Bangkok) who agreed to be an important partner as it gives a push to the core agenda of APPPC in terms of SPS compliances by the NPPOs and expediting trade with active involvement of relevant private sectors. Discussions were duly made with APSA and CropLife Asia which primarily promote the development of the seed industry in the region by actively facilitating the international and regional movement of seeds and marketing of seeds and planting material through various actions contributing to the harmonization of regulatory procedures for seed and seed related issues toward internationally accepted standards.

FAO, APAARI, APSA and CropLife Asia are committed to act as collateral donors to invest in the project. USDA has already committed funds specific to Bangladesh through a recently granted project to APAARI on “Improving Phytosanitary Trade Compliance in Bangladesh” the PPG was also discussed with private sector seed companies and certain NPPOs all of whom agreed for the need of such a project to strengthen public-private partnership for seed trade facilitation.

3. Briefly explain how cross-cutting issues (e.g. related to gender, the environment) are relevant for this PPG and, if appropriate, how they will be addressed.

By being aligned with international standards, NPPOs will be able to better manage the entry of regulated pest into their country. It will save the environmental cost of pesticide usage and avoid the hazards of chemicals used in disinfestation and disinfection procedures. Also, it will avoid or minimize the introduction of the invasive alien species which are also considered as important transboundary pests and have devastating impact on environment etc.

Most farmers in the Asia Pacific region are women who play a key role in the global value chains for many agri-food products and face challenges in the context of compliance with international trade standards for pests and pesticides. Priority will be given to development of their capacities to use disease free seeds and increase their compliance with SPS norms. In addition to technical capacities related to the project objectives, women’s functional capacities (soft skills) will be developed (this will be integrated into technical events) to enable them to harness and manage their newly acquired knowledge, build and maintain partnerships, and navigate the political dimensions of their local and partner organizations. This is envisioned to greatly empower women farmers and producers in the ways they lead their local farms and agribusinesses, and engage with stakeholders, including other producers, regulatory authorities, associations, traders and consumers.

The PPG will identify several of the activities of workshops and capacity building which will bring in the value chain sector, such as farmers, workers in food business operations, exporters or importers, who will help to identify if there are any gender specific issues that will be considered at the inception, as well as review and dissemination of the information.

4. IMPLEMENTATION & BUDGET

5. Who will take the lead in implementing this PPG? If particular national experts and/or international consultants are proposed, attach a copy of their Curriculum Vitae and record of achievements (Appendix 2). If no names are provided, the STDF will provide a shortlist of consultants if the PPG request is approved.

APAARI will lead the implementation of the PPG with active support and participation of experts from FAO (APPPC), APSA, CLA, ASTA and NPPOs and with active involvement of some private seed companies.

Role of APAARI:

- Conceiving the various elements of PPG proposal with support of APPPC and APSA, coordination among diverse stakeholders, establish technical linkages of APSA and

private sector with APPPC, undertake country assessment and prepare briefing paper apart from taking lead in consultations and PPG work and reporting to STDF.

Role of FAO/APPPC:

- As APPPC has provision of regional events leverage every year, which can well be used in bringing all the contracting parties and NPPOs at one platform. It can be utilised for better dialogue with all stakeholders to plug the gaps by fostering public – private partnership, involving partners in APPPC meetings to identify key general and NPPO specific issues. Several issues can be consulted and rolled out in a better way.

Role of APSA:

Undertake country assessment along with APAARI together with ASTA and USDA-FAS (under LMI project). Networking with company members and national seed associations inside APAC to highlight needs of private sector and organizing the expert consultation with NPPOs by bringing an awareness from private sector and key stakeholders (ISF, CropLife Asia and ASTA) to be addressed in the consultation.

Role of CropLife Asia:

- To increase participation of public-private partnership in strengthening the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and compliance, and raise awareness among all its stakeholders about the potential value and role of PPPs in enhancing SPS capacity.

Role of NPPOs:

- To provide baseline information of the key issues, provide their key quarantine pest lists, highlight the prevailing issues with pest lists, relationship with private sector and need assessment of capacity building. (The involvement of NPPOs of developing and least developed countries will be assured by APPPC). Invitations will be sent to NPPOs of developed countries e.g Australia, New Zealand, Japan etc to participate by sharing their knowledge and best practices via webinars, meetings and workshops either virtually or face-face with the countries listed in this project.

Role of ISF:

To provide expertise on regulated pest list according to ISPM38 (seed as a pathway) and to provide update on the concept of ISF systems approach and ePhyto. ISF also help to provide an international context to issues directly related to the seed industry.

Role of ASTA:

- To bring private seed sector perspectives at global level, identifying key issues that need attention and to support the resources required to set a standard for lab accreditation (if required). ASTA can help to bring an update or practice from APHIS to share in APAC region and coordinate with USDA-FAS for LMI project in the topics relating to this PPG.

In the table below, briefly describe the main activities to be carried out under this PPG and specify who would be responsible. Provide an estimate of the budget required (e.g. for national/international expertise, travel and DSA of consultants, stakeholder meetings or workshops, general operating expenses, etc.).

Revised budget 15.03.2021

Activity	Responsible	Estimated Budget	
		In-kind (By Partners) (US\$)	By STDF (US\$)
Expertise	Technical coordination by APAARI to develop planning meeting agenda, lead discussions, identify interested participating countries, develop country team members, consult with participating experts to determine priority capacity building areas to include in the design of the project. Other partners will bring their perspectives of expertise and a logical consolidation will be done for the PPG (Role of each partner defined under item 6). APAARI and APSA will undertake Country Assessment and prepare a Briefing Paper for discussion in the Consultative Workshop.	1,500 (FAO)	16,500
	APAARI: 20 days @ \$500 per day = \$10000		
	FAO (APPPC): 3 days@500 per day= \$1500		
	APSA: 10 days@ 500 per day = = \$5000		
	Crop Life Asia 3 days@ 500 per day= \$1500		
Consultative workshop	Virtual	0	0
General operating expenses*	Stationary, telephone cards, photocopies, internet, administrative costs* APAARI = \$400*		400*
Validation workshop	Virtual	0	0
Development and finalization of the project proposal	APAARI, 10 days at \$500 per day = \$5,000	2'500 (FAO)	7'500
	APSA, 5 days at \$500 per day = \$2,500		
	FAO 3 days@ 500 per day = \$2,500		
Subtotal		8'950	<u>24,400</u>
Project Servicing Costs (12%)			2,928
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM STDF			<u>27,328</u>

* APAARI should keep copies of invoices in case they are required by the STDF Secretariat.

Reports / Deliverables

6. A brief report of work carried out under the PPG (the final PPG report), including the key activities, a bibliography of the documents consulted (with web links and/or electronic copies, where available), stakeholders met and consulted together their e-mail addresses, etc.. The PPG implementation report should be provided within one month from completion.
7. A full final Project proposal in the STDF format (available here: <https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/PGApplicationForm2020.docx>) or in the format requested by a donor identified as a source for potential funding (in this case APAARI should inform the STDF Secretariat in due course).

APPENDIXES

Appendix 1: Letters of support from each of the organizations supporting this proposal ...obtained from some and being arranged from others.

- FAO/APPPC Letter of support
- APSA Letter of Support
- CropLife Asia Letter of Support
- International Seed Federation Letter of Support
- American Seed Trade Association Letter of Support
- NPPO Bangladesh Letter of Support
- NPPO Nepal Letter of Support
- NPPO Philippines Letter of support
- NPPO Myanmar Letter of support

Appendix 2: Curriculum Vitae and record of achievements for any consultants proposed to implement this PPG (*Not needed*)

Appendix 3: Timeline

Activities	milestones	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
		Q1				Q2			
Technical coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop planning meeting agenda, lead discussions, identify interested participating countries, develop country team members, consult with participating experts to determine priority capacity building areas to include in the design of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning meeting agenda prepared country team members determined capacity building for each country determined experts consulted 								
Review the activities already undertaken in the region on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> phytosanitary capacity adoption of relevant ISPMs for International Movement of Seeds 	Preparation of two questionnaires as follow; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the status of current capacity and infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PQ facilities - PEQ, laboratory Capacity of the staff involved on PRA Accreditation process if any Digital database (in English) of import conditions Understanding and preparedness in the implementation of the ISPMs 								
Establish gaps in the region related to the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> import requirements database activities/initiatives promoting public-private partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of technical information during the process of pest risk analysis Coordination with NPPOs and APPPC to consolidate the hub to link import conditions 								

<p>Propose outreach activities that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support adoption of international standards and initiatives • strengthen the public-private partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalization channel for public and private partnership (for example ; monthly meeting) • Lab accreditation workshop (if needed) • e-Phyto information and capacity training 								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake Country Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a Briefing Paper for discussion in the Consultative Workshop 								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop with NPPOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting key outcomes of the Workshop with priorities and gaps for the full project proposal 								
<p>Preparation of the full project proposal with technical and financial details by including a budget linked Work Plan, Logical framework, Risk evaluation and management and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full project proposal prepare as per STDF's requirements 								
<p>Workshop with relevant stakeholders on draft project proposal prior to submission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement from all relevant stakeholders on the full project proposal 								
<p>Submission of the full Project Proposal to STDF</p>									
<p>Submission of PPG Implementation report to STDF</p>									