

Summary of the sixth STDF PPPs Practitioner Group virtual meeting

8 March 2021, 15.30-17.00 (CET)

Participants

35 STDF Working Group members and other stakeholders with interest in PPPs (see Annex I).

Purpose

The PPP Practitioner Group aims to support and improve the planning, delivery and dissemination of [STDF's work on PPPs](#), across relevant knowledge and project work. The STDF Secretariat convenes members of this Group to benefit from their PPP technical expertise, promote innovations and synergies to expand and strengthen PPPs that facilitate safe trade, and exchange experiences and learning. This is expected to result in: i) new collaborative relationships to promote the use of PPPs to strengthen SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade for the benefit of developing countries, ii) new information and knowledge products on experiences and learning related to the use of PPPs for dissemination on the STDF website and via members, as well as iii) additional resources to promote the use of PPPs to build SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade.

This meeting focused on two PPP case stories, one on table grapes in India presented by Dr. Sanjay Dave and the other on quarantine control stations in Djibouti presented by Dr. Ahmed Issa.

Presentation

Dr. Sanjay Dave, Former Chairperson of Codex Alimentarius Commission and Advisor to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, discussed the public-private partnership to boost exports of Indian table grapes¹:

- The PPP brought together public and private actors in the table grape value chain to tackle pesticide residue violations which were major constraints in accessing export markets
- The PPP involved, amongst others, the implementation of good agricultural practices (GAP) that regulate pesticide usage, the creation of the National Referral Laboratory, the establishment of packhouses, as well as the development of a traceability software.
- Multiple parties invested in the PPP. The costs of technical assistance to farmers were covered by the State Governments while farmer associations financed GAP implementation. Part of the investments in packing facilities and laboratory was shouldered by the Ministry of Commerce, with exporters assuming the costs of testing, inspection and certification.
- Challenges related to the launch of the initiative were highlighted, including value chain actors' unwillingness to change ingrained practices and risk to invest in conforming to standards. Extensive awareness raising and initial financial support to get the system going was key.
- The PPP resulted in no rejection of Indian table grapes consignment due to pesticide usage since 2003, as well as higher quantity of Indian table grapes at higher prices, and the opportunities to diversify market.

¹ Learn more about this PPP at www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_PPP_Case_story_01_India.pdf



Dr. Ahmed Issa, Prima International Company, discussed the PPP to upgrade livestock quarantine control in Djibouti²

- The PPP was set up by the Livestock and Veterinary Services Directorate and Prima International Company to promote conformity to quarantine standards, thus facilitating safe trade of livestock from Djibouti to North African and Middle Eastern markets.
- Expertise from different international organizations in the region (e.g., OIE, FAO) was sought, which was instrumental in the upgrading of the quarantine operations.
- Efforts in engaging all parties and ensuring that they understand their roles and deliver on their responsibilities is crucial. That helps create trust and reliability.
- The PPP is a success in maintaining and opening up markets not only for pastoralists and livestock traders in Djibouti, but also for other countries in the region (Ethiopia, Somalia) who export through Djibouti. The model is being replicated for another quarantine station in Ethiopia.

Key discussion points:

- Importance of not only conforming to international SPS standards and importing markets' requirements at a certain period, but also monitoring and adapting to the evolution of standards (proactive business outlook).
- Opportunities for scaling up for both cases thanks to strong national and local ownership. Both PPPs are not donor-driven but rely on commitments from local actors. The Indian model has been scaled up beyond a commodity (table grape) to the whole sector (horticulture) while the Djibouti model has expanded nationally and attracted interests from neighbouring countries.
- Importance of identifying champions for the cause that could drive the PPP from the beginning. For each sector and type of stakeholder (e.g., government, laboratory, farmer association, exporter), it is crucial to have 1-2 committed 'spokespersons' to communicate with others about the benefits of the initiative and bring them on board.
- Interest in ways to manage reputational risks and stakes upheld by different partners under the PPP. Need to align mindsets and find common areas of interests by clearly outlining roles and mutual benefits. Need strong facilitators to lead and foster collaboration from all sides.
- Recognition of the use of written contracts/agreements to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the participating public and private entities. Contributions and investments from all parties are essential to create incentives to engage.

Updates from partners:

- OIE has released an open-access database on public—private partnerships in the veterinary domain, with over 100 case studies ³.
- GAFT shared results from a case study measuring public-private trust built through their trade facilitation project in Colombia, previously discussed in the fourth PPPs meeting ⁴.

² Learn more about this PPP at www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_PPP_QuarantineControl_Djibouti_Sep2021.pdf

³ See <https://oiebulletin.fr/?p=21708>

⁴ See more at: www.tradefacilitation.org/insights/trust-is-key-factor-to-unlocking-the-benefits-of-trade-reform-new-alliance-study-finds/

- UNIDO shared updates on the STDF-funded vTPA Pilot initiative in Central America (implemented by IICA) and West Africa (implemented by UNIDO), including the adoption of the CODEX guidance, the organization of coaching sessions for food safety regulators, and continued knowledge sharing through a partnership platform.

Next steps / follow-up

- Participants are invited to complete the online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PPP-PG> to give an internal assessment of the PPPs Practitioner Group
- A focus group to discuss the findings of the survey and share views and suggestions on ways to improve the PPPs Practitioner Group will be organized on **April 4, 2022**.
- Meeting's summaries and presentation can be accessed on the [STDF PPPs practitioner group webpage](#).
- Participants are invited to share PPP resources they may have, which will be disseminated through the STDF website.

Annex I: List of Participants

Name	Organization	Email
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