

Summary of first STDF PPP Practitioner Group Zoom Meeting

30 Sep. 2020, 15.00-16.00 (CET)

Participants

1. 26 STDF Working Group members and other stakeholders with an 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 promote the use of PPPs to build SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade.

The aim of this meeting was to present the concept for the PPP Practitioners Group, discuss and get views from STDF members on its organization and operation, and hear from participants on their PPP related work.

Key Points Discussed

- 1. The STDF Secretariat provided an update on previous and ongoing STDF knowledge work on PPPs, as well as STDF projects that use a PPP approach (such as the new pilot projects on the use of voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) in Central America and West Africa, as well as e-Phyto and others). On ongoing knowledge work, attention was drawn to the following:
 - An open call (LINK) for new examples of PPPs to strengthen SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade. The STDF Secretariat provided an update on examples already received, and requested members to share information on other PPP examples.
 - An STDF/UNIDO/IICA survey in 2020 on the use of voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) programmes. The report of the survey findings is under preparation and will be shared with members of the PPP Practitioners Group.
 - o A planned global/regional event on PPPs (2021), already included in the STDF work plan.
- 2. Several participants expressed their interest in the PPP Practitioner Group, and thanked the Secretariat for the initiative.
- 3. Several participants shared information on their own work on PPPs. This included:
 - Mr Sanjay Dave (developing country expert) mentioned the group is an excellent idea to
 exchange views and the work that has been done in the field. Mr Dave made reference to
 two PPP examples he already shared with the Secretariat on: i) harmonization of India's food
 safety standards with those of Codex; and ii) monitoring pesticide residues in table grapes
 in India.
 - UNIDO highlighted some initial findings from the vTPA survey and drew attention to an online data visualization/story which will present some of the key findings. Mark Burgham (GFSI)

recommended to compare responses to the STDF/IICA/UNIDO survey with the previous (similar) survey carried out by Tetty Havinga.

- Some participants, including Belize, UNIDO and IPPC, highlighted that this initiative is very timely and a great opportunity to exchange learnings and create value. The IPPC mentioned this group is a great opportunity for having participants (OIE, <u>IAG</u> <u>ePhyto Solution</u>, WEF, etc.) to share their experiences on PPPs in order to use these examples to engage with people that are initiating activities in other countries, and provide advice when necessary.
- The OIE shared information on their work on PPPs and emphasized the opportunities brought by PPPs to raise the level of veterinary services in the field. Attention was drawn to OIE Guidelines for PPPs in the veterinary domain, which may be of relevance for other SPS areas. OIE mentioned ongoing work related to PPPs for animal health and veterinary services in two areas: i) PPPs business cases, which are leveraged through workshops and virtual trainings; and ii) development of an eLearning course on PPPs and trade. The OIE has already developed eLearning modules for PPP in general (introductory course), as well as for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and other transboundary diseases. The OIE highlighted interest on exploring potential to work together with others on animal health related PPPs.
- The WEF indicated they would be happy to share their work on PPPs with the Group and suggested inclusion of an SME angle.
- Other participants also highlighted they were looking forward to sharing an overview of their work on PPPs with the group. These included Belize, UNIDO, USDA, COLEACP, and UNECE.
- WTO shared information on a thematic session on vTPA programmes, which will be organized during the upcoming SPS Committee in November 2020.

Next steps / follow-up

- The STDF Secretariat invited participants to share PPP examples through the online survey in English, French and Spanish.
- Members agreed that the Group will meet approximately every 2 months and suggested that
 one participant could share information on their PPP work at upcoming meetings, followed
 by discussion.
- The next meeting will be held by the end of November 2020.

Annex I: List of Participants

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