

Summary of the third STDF PPPs Practitioner Group virtual meeting

21 Jan. 2021, 15.00-16.30 (CET)

Participants

26 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 promote the use of PPPs to build SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade.

This meeting focused on UNIDO's work on PPPs, with a [presentation](#) by UNIDO.

Presentation and discussions

Ali Badarneh, Division Chief at UNIDO, explained UNIDO's mandate, especially regarding the work of the Sustainable Food Systems and the Partnership Management divisions. The presentation covered:

- An overview of the types of partnerships between UNIDO and the private sector.

Four major selected cases, including the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), National Cleaner Production Centers, Investments and Technology Promotion Offices and the Learning and Knowledge Development Facility (LKDF).
- Partnerships in SPS and Food Safety in the global, regional and country/project levels, including projects for agri-food and agro-industry development assistance, private sector-specific collaborations, PPP centers of excellence in food safety and the partnership platform under the vTPA pilots.
- Collaboration with other international organizations on food safety capacity building (notably FAO). UNIDO focuses its work on value-chains and other aspects of food safety related to private sector development given UNIDO's mandate.

Key discussion points:

- Definition of the "private sector" and the potential diversity of private sector partners. Most participants appear to take a large, inclusive view of the private sector that comprises local producers, processors, value-chain, industry and/or exporters associations, multinationals, private sector organizations, etc.
- Challenges in developing partnerships with the "private sector" in developing countries where industry associations are often un-developed.
- Importance of engaging with SMEs associations (where they exist) and ensuring they are included in the development of sustainable PPP business models.

- The need for due diligence assessment procedures that facilitate the emergence of partnerships with the private sector, as well as staff resources within international organizations (UNIDO pointed to its Partnership Division with 15-20 staff).
- Opportunities to complement existing training resources within UNIDO's LKDF with more resources and trainings on food safety (including existing training materials developed through other STDF projects and by other partners, etc.).
- Mobilizing private sector's financing for SPS capacity development remains the big question. Challenges to date in securing private sector funding for food safety capacity development, particularly given the apparent reluctance of large companies to provide funds that may not directly meet their commercial interest (including the experience of the Global Food Safety Partnership, which closed in 2020).
- Opportunities to leverage more support for food safety capacity building from large private sector players, including learning from UNIDO's experiences in leveraging funding for PCP and agro-poles.
- Participation of private sector stakeholders (including COLEACP, FIA, GFSI) in the STDF Working Group and practitioner groups, partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders in STDF projects, and previous contributions of different private sector stakeholders to STDF work.
- Opportunities for the STDF to host a round-table discussion with the private sector, possibly in collaboration with the WEF.

Next steps / follow-up

- WEF/GATF volunteered to present on their PPP work with large companies in future sessions.
- The next meeting will be held on **18 March 2021**. More information on that meeting will be shared shortly.
- 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

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