

Standards and Trade Development Facility

STDF NEWSLETTER

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"This triannual newsletter is aimed at anyone with an interest in trade and food safety, animal and plant health (otherwise known as sanitary and phytosanitary measures). We hope it will interest decision makers and professionals engaged in capacity building efforts to assist developing countries. We welcome your feedback and contributions for future editions." *Michael Roberts, STDF Secretary*

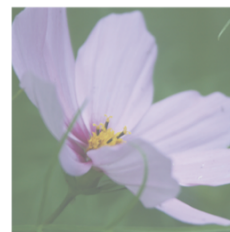


Michael Roberts,
STDF Secretary

The STDF is a multi-donor trust fund supported by: Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the United States and the World Bank



WTO OMC



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STDF ACTIVITIES

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Other participating organizations include: the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The aims of the STDF are:

- to act as a vehicle for coordination among technical cooperation providers, the mobilization of funds, the exchange of experience and the dissemination of best practice; and
- to assist developing countries enhance their expertise and capacity to analyze and to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, so improving their human, animal and plant health situation, and thus ability to gain and maintain market access.

Co-ordination

As a coordination mechanism, the STDF provides a forum for information sharing on SPS-related technical cooperation activities. The STDF coordinates its activities with other related programmes, in particular, the [Aid for Trade Initiative](#) and the [Enhanced Integrated Framework \(EIF\)](#).

KEY STDF RESOURCES

[2008-2009 Operating Plan](#)
[STDF Operational Rules](#)
[Medium Term Strategy](#)



WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy at the Aid for Trade Global Review 20 November 2007

"Completion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations will further reduce obstacles to trade. We all know, however, that the benefits of trade opening do not automatically flow to all. Various "supply-side constraints" can get in the way; compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary measures is one example. In this often scientifically complex area, the STDF is a mechanism by which the promise of trade can be turned into reality. The STDF is an example of Aid for Trade in action."

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy

Funding

Project development grants match good ideas with funding from donors interested in the SPS capacity building area.

Limited funds are available for SPS capacity building projects, in particular in low income economies or on a regional basis. Preference is given to innovative, preventative and/or pilot projects. A growing portion of the STDF's annual resources of US\$5 million is being devoted to developing projects funded outside the STDF. For more information, consult the STDF website (www.standardsfacility.org).

STDF activities January and February 2008

Lao P.D.R. (EIF workshop)
Benin (joint EIF-STDF activity)
Nepal (joint EIF-STDF activity)
Togo (joint EIF-STDF activity)
Tanzania, Uganda (STDF Fieldwork)
Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua (STDF Fieldwork with the Inter-American Development Bank)
Cambodia, Lao P.D.R. and Viet Nam (STDF Fieldwork)

BENEFICIARIES OF ON-GOING STDF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

[Madagascar](#)
[Nigeria](#)
[Sierra Leone](#)
[Cape Verde](#)
[Malawi](#)
[Zambia](#)
[Tanzania](#)
[Costa Rica](#)
[Nicaragua](#)





Global Review of Aid for Trade: Left to right, Rajat Nag, Managing Director General, ADB, Donald Kaberuka, President, AfDB, Robert Zoellick, President, World Bank, Angel Gurría, Secretary General, OECD, Pascal Lamy, Director-General, WTO, Valentine Rugwabiza, Deputy Director-General, WTO

AID FOR TRADE

Trade-related assistance is estimated to have averaged US\$21 billion per year in the period 2002-2005 – some 34% of total aid expenditure. This figure and an accompanying analysis of trends in trade-related aid flows were presented during the first **Global Review of Aid for Trade** held on 20-21 November 2007 in Geneva.

On 25 February 2008, the WTO Committee on Trade and Development approved a **road map** for 2008 Aid for Trade activities. The road

map outlines three priorities for this year - improving monitoring, moving implementation forward, and strengthening developing-country ownership. As part of the road map, a number of national and sub-regional Aid for Trade reviews will be held. WTO's own role in this initiative is that of catalyst and facilitator. Keep an eye on the **Aid for Trade webpage** for more details.

STDF and Aid for Trade

Analysis of SPS needs and the supply of related technical assistance is on-going in three pilot regions: Central America, East Africa and a sub-group of ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Lao P.D.R. and Viet Nam) ([G/SPS/GEN/812](#)). By taking stock of existing capacity evaluations and on-going assistance, balance sheets are being constructed. The need for additional assistance is being surveyed, with a focus on surmounting market access challenges. In parallel, research is being conducted on good practice in SPS-related assistance in the same three pilot regions ([G/SPS/GEN/816](#)) in collaboration with OECD. Our intention is to extend this approach to other regions in 2008 and beyond.

Forthcoming STDF/Aid for Trade activities

21-22 May, Cambodia: Mobilizing Aid for Trade for SPS-related technical cooperation in Cambodia, Lao P.D.R. and Viet Nam

28-29 May, Kampala, Uganda: Mobilizing Aid for Trade for SPS-related technical cooperation in East Africa

10-12 June, Guatemala: Mobilizing Aid for Trade for SPS-related technical cooperation in Central America



Ms Anabel González, Director, Agriculture Division, WTO, and Mr Juan Carlos Fernández, Director General for Trade Negotiations, El Salvador pictured at the STDF briefing for Central American Trade Ministers in Brussels, 27 February 2008



Mr Melvin Spreij (STDF), Mr William Mwaiko and Ms Dorah Amuli pictured at a briefing for Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security officials in Dar es Salaam, 15 February 2008

LOOKING FOR SPS INFORMATION AT WTO?

The SPS information management system: <http://spsims.wto.org> provides information on measures notified, trade concerns, Committee documents, enquiry points and notification authorities.



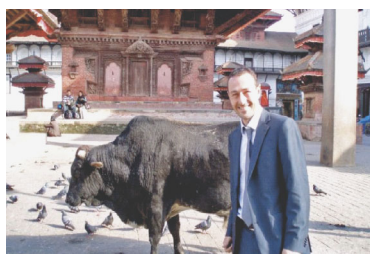
ENHANCED INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK

The **Enhanced Integrated Framework** (EIF) assists least developed countries (LDCs) improve their trade performance. It is being strengthened in three main ways:

- *Providing increased, predictable and additional funding on a multi-year basis.* On 25 September 2007, the Government of Sweden hosted a pledging conference for the EIF, which raised some US\$170 million in pledges.
- *Strengthening the IF in-country,* by mainstreaming trade into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.
- *Improving the IF decision-making and management structures.* A new interim EIF Board has begun work. An Executive Director, new EIF Secretariat and Trust Fund manager are in the process of being appointed.

STDF and the EIF

STDF has a target to devote 40% of its resources to low income countries. The Integrated Framework is a key vehicle for achieving this target. Needs identified



Mr Panos Antonakakis during a recent joint IF-STDF mission in Nepal

through the IF process have been developed into projects using project preparation grants (PPGs). 19 projects have been developed to date and we plan further activities.



Dr Gaston Funes of the OIE leading a discussion on the PVS



Participants compare notes at a recent FAO biosecurity toolkit training session

CAPACITY EVALUATION TOOLS

On 31 March 2008, the STDF will organize a workshop on SPS capacity evaluation tools ([G/SPS/GEN/821](#)). The meeting will examine the merits of specific and generic tools; the role of the beneficiary in the choice of tool, its application and end use; and public dissemination of results versus confidential usage. Scope for collaboration and cooperation between organizations in development and use of tools as well as sharing of results will also be addressed.

SPECIFIC TOOLS

IPPC
Phytosanitary
Capacity
Evaluation Tool

OIE Tool for the
Evaluation of
Performance of
Veterinary
Services

FAO Guidelines
and quick guide
to assess capacity
building needs for
national food
control systems

GENERIC TOOLS

FAO Biosecurity
Toolkit

World Bank Food
safety and
agricultural health
action plans

IICA Performance,
Vision, Strategy
(PVS) tool

STDF Cost-benefit
analysis and SPS
related
investment

OTHER RELATED TOOLS

UNIDO
Conformity
assurance
infrastructure

WHO Diagnostic
tool for analysis
of trade and
health

CBD National
capacity self
assessment

STDF TEAM

Secretary: Michael Roberts

Professionals: Melvin Spreij, Marlynn Hopper, Kenza Le Mentec, Panos Antonakakis

LABORATORY INVESTMENT

On 15-17 November 2007, UNIDO and the World Bank held a workshop on investment in SPS laboratory infrastructure, hosted by STDF.

Topics discussed included: the core functions of laboratories; the optimal balance between the public and private provision of laboratory services; the economics of building new laboratory capacity; how to ensure the sustainability; and the effect of private standards schemes. The World Bank and UNIDO used the workshop to help finalize a guide to assist making investment decisions in laboratory infrastructure in developing countries. For more information, see G/SPS/GEN/823 or contact jlamb@worldbank.org



Mr John Lamb (World Bank) and Mr Steffen Kaeser (UNIDO) during the joint World Bank/UNIDO/STDF workshop on laboratory infrastructure

FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS

MARCH

10-14 March, Budapest, Hungary: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

31 March-4 April, The Hague, Netherlands: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

31 March, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF workshop on SPS capacity evaluation tools

APRIL

1-3 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPS Committee

The next SPS Committee meeting will take place on 2-3 April, preceded by informal meetings on 1 April on transparency, special and differential treatment for developing countries and recognition of pest and disease free areas (regionalization). These informal meetings should pave the way for possible Committee decisions on:

- revision of the Committee's recommended transparency provisions (G/SPS/W/215/rev.1);
- continuation/revision of the Committee procedure for transparency in special and differential treatment (G/SPS/33);

APRIL

- possible Committee guidelines for recognition of regionalization (G/SPS/W/218)

A large part of every formal Committee is set aside for consideration of specific trade concerns. These will be identified in a proposed agenda to be circulated 10 days before the meeting.

Discussion of the Second Review of the Agreement will continue, in particular on Ad Hoc Consultations (G/SPS/GEN/781) and the Relationship between the SPS Committee and Codex, IPPC and OIE (G/SPS/GEN/775). To focus deliberations on the hot topic of private standards, the Chair has requested Members to identify specific problems with specific private schemes. An update will also be given on technical cooperation activities, including the STDF.



Ms Gretchen H. Stanton, Secretary of the SPS Committee

For more information and to download the documents listed above, go to the WTO SPS homepage

SEEKING INFORMATION ON SPS MEASURES ?

The International Portal on Food Safety Animal and Plant Health (<http://www.ipfsaph.org>) provides a single access point for authorized official SPS international and national information.



FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS

APRIL

4 April, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group meeting

7-11 April, FAO, Rome, Italy: Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

The 3rd Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) will take place at FAO in Rome, Italy, from 7 to 11 April 2008. The CPM is the governing body of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and is responsible for all issues relating to phytosanitary measures (plant quarantine) on a global scale. This annual meeting will bring together all 166 contracting parties to the IPPC, as well as many observer organizations to review last year's work programme and establish a new programme. Subjects to be discussed include new international standards on phytosanitary measures, the exchange of phytosanitary information, capacity building, climate change and pests, and cooperation and coordination with other international organizations. Documentation can be found at

<https://www.ippc.int/id/184232?language=en>



CPM in session

APRIL

8-11 April, New Delhi, India: Joint FAO/UNIDO Global Agro-Industries Forum: Improving Competitiveness and Development Impact

14-19 April, Hangzhou, China: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

20-25 April, Accra, Ghana: Twelfth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

21-25 April, Beijing, China: Codex Committee on Food Additives

25 April: Deadline for submission of funding proposals to STDF Secretariat

28 April - 2-May, Ottawa, Canada: Codex Committee on Food Labelling

MAY

12-17 May, Mexico City, Mexico: Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

21-22 May, STDF, Phnom Penh, Cambodia: Mobilizing Aid for Trade for SPS-related technical cooperation in Cambodia, Lao P.D.R and Vietnam

25-30 May, OIE, Paris, France: General Session of the OIE

28-29 May, STDF, Kampala, Uganda: Mobilizing Aid for Trade for SPS-related technical cooperation in East Africa

JUNE

10-12 June, STDF Guatemala: Mobilizing Aid for Trade for SPS-related technical cooperation in Central America

17-19 June, OIE Paris, France: Animal Welfare Working Group

17-26 June, Rome, Italy: Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

23-26 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPS Committee

27 June, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group meeting

30 June-5 July, Geneva, Switzerland: Codex Alimentarius Commission

STDF FACTS

Location: WTO, Geneva, Switzerland

Established: 2002

Budget: US\$5 million (2007)

Staff: 6

CONTACTS

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