

STDF WORKING GROUP PROJECT STATUS REPORT –
OCTOBER 2008 WORKING GROUP MEETING

STDF	<i>Title: STDF 173- Strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies</i>
Date of Working Group approval	March 2007 (in principle approval) Contract signed by WTO on 20 August 2007
Date of start of implementation / supervision activities	Implementation of project activities commenced in August 2007
Overall status report	<p>Describe the current status of implementation in comparison with the activities, timetable and budget set out in the project document.</p> <p>In the project plan agreed to by STDF, FSANZ and FAO, it is stated that an evaluation survey would be designed and carried out six months after the training workshop to monitor and assess progress in the assessment of capacity building needs, and development and implementation of national action plans in follow-up to the training workshop.</p> <p>In line with project documentation, FSANZ and FAO prepared a questionnaire to evaluate progress made since the workshop held in November 2007. The questionnaire was distributed to all workshop participants in July 2008. Participants were requested to complete the questionnaire, enabling FSANZ/FAO to evaluate progress against the specific deliverables of the project as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 food safety regulators and private sector representatives from developing economies in APEC have new knowledge and new skills to plan and carry out a capacity needs assessment of the national food control system using FAO tools on this subject; • Creation of a network of trainers who could facilitate and lead future training on capacity building needs assessment and follow-up activities in developing APEC Member Economies and other developing economies; • Organisation of national workshops by participating economies on assessing the need for capacity building in the national food control systems in participating APEC Economies; • Development of action plans by participating economies for strengthening the capacity in the national food control systems in participating APEC countries within six months of completion of the training workshop; • Summaries of national experiences by participating economies in applying the FAO tools to assess food safety capacity have been prepared; and • Development and testing of an approach and methodology for training in the assessment of capacity building needs, which could be further replicated in other regions in the future. <p>A copy of the evaluation questionnaire provided to workshop participants is at Attachment 1.</p> <p>Participants from eight out of the nine participating countries provided a response to the evaluation questionnaire. A report that summarises the responses to the</p>

	<p>questionnaire is at Attachment 2.</p> <p>At this stage, all project activities are in line with the timeline and budget agreed to in the contract/project proposal. The attached evaluation report is the final component of the project.</p> <p>Describe project activities in the past six months and any relevant outputs.</p> <p>As outlined above, an evaluation survey has been undertaken, as the final component of the project. The evaluation report is at Attachment 2.</p>
Achievements / Impact	<p>Outline any impact which the project may be having. Impact can be quantitatively measured or qualitatively judged</p> <p>The evaluation that has been undertaken has indicated that in many cases, there has been a very positive impact within the APEC Member Economies that participated in this project.</p> <p>Details of the activity that has resulted from this project, as well as some of the challenges and constraints that participants have experienced in advancing the work associated with project (such as organising national stakeholder workshops and developing national action plans) are outlined in the Evaluation Report at Attachment 2.</p> <p>Whilst there has been considerable success in undertaking stakeholder consultation, needs assessments and the development of national action plans, there is a strong indication that further follow-up with participants would be beneficial. This could be carried out in a workshop where each economy presents its plan and shares its experiences in: disseminating the outputs of the original workshop; stakeholder engagement/consultation; undertaking a needs assessment; the development of national action plans – including the constraints that may have hindered progress in any of these areas. This type of follow-up activity is important to support the continued development of the plans and their capacity to meet the future needs of the economies.</p> <p>A project proposal to undertake a follow-up workshop in this manner, has been submitted to the STDF (STDF 240) and as understood, will be further considered once the final STDF independent evaluation for STDF 173 has been completed.</p>
End date	September 2008