

## Guest Editorial and greetings from the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Executive Secretariat



Dear friends in the SPS community,

The EIF is now fully operational. The EIF aims at assisting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to mainstream trade into their development planning and to coordinate, together with their development partners, delivery of trade-related assistance, or Aid for Trade.

The EIF is based on the principles of country ownership and partnership. In addition to being a partnership between the LDCs, EIF donors and core agencies, the EIF programme partners with a number of key actors in Aid for Trade, including – very importantly – the STDF.

The EIF-STDF collaboration takes place at various levels. The two programmes coordinate by participating in each others' meetings, and the two Secretariats meet on a regular basis. The STDF community is requested to comment on the SPS sections of the draft Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies, and the Tier 2 of the EIF Trust Fund makes collaboration at the project level also a possibility.

At the EIF Executive Secretariat, we thank the STDF for the collaboration so far and look forward to further enabling LDCs to benefit through the cooperation between the EIF and the STDF.

Dorothy Tembo, EIF Executive Director

The STDF is supported by:  
Australia, Canada, Denmark,  
the European Commission,  
Finland, Germany, Ireland,  
Japan, the Netherlands,  
Norway, Sweden,  
Switzerland and  
the United States.



WTO OMC

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

# STDF ACTIVITIES

## Indicators to Measure SPS Performance



The STDF and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are currently engaged in efforts to support the development and application of indicators to measure SPS performance. This work aims to sensitize the SPS community at large about the importance of managing for results and, more specifically, about the usefulness of indicators as a tool to improve project design, management, monitoring and evaluation. It also contributes to the implementation of the Paris Principles in the SPS area.

The first phase of this work involved preparation of a draft working paper on SPS indicators. This paper will be the focus of discussions at a technical working meeting in Geneva on 1 July 2010, with the purpose of refining and improving the preliminary SPS indicators proposed. During the second phase, the resulting SPS indicators will be pilot tested in selected countries to validate and/or further improve them as needed. Based on these inputs and experiences, the STDF intends to develop a "Guide for the development and application of SPS indicators".

## Public-Private Partnerships to Develop SPS Capacity

The STDF, in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), will organize a workshop on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the SPS area in The Hague on 4-6 October 2010. The workshop will present examples of PPPs in which the public and private sector collaborate to reach common SPS-related objectives. It will aim to foster dialogue across the public and private sector on the policy considerations and implementation issues related to such partnerships, considering common challenges, innovations and good practices.

The two-day workshop will be followed by a site visit on 6 October 2010, when participants will have an opportunity to visit importing facilities for food and agricultural products at the Port of Rotterdam. During the visit, participants will see what happens when shipments of food and agricultural imports arrive in Europe, including inspection and quality checks.

### Do you have examples of SPS-related Public-Private Partnerships?

We are looking for examples of SPS-related partnerships, which could be presented at this workshop. These partnerships (ongoing or completed) may involve national or local government agencies and international or domestic companies in activities to strengthen SPS capacity and enhance market access. If you know of such PPPs, please send the following information to [STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org) by 16 July 2010:

- Objectives and scope of the SPS-related partnership (i.e. objectives, focus, activities, geographic area, etc.)
- Names of the public and private sector organizations, and any other stakeholders, involved
- Contact person (name, e-mail address, telephone) for follow-up

We will share information about the workshop with everyone who provides relevant information. Limited funds are available to enable a selected number of individuals from developing countries – who provide relevant information on SPS-related PPPs – to attend this workshop.

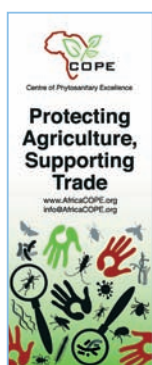
# STDF ACTIVITIES

## New STDF electronic distribution service

More than 2,500 users already subscribed to the new STDF electronic distribution service launched in March 2010. They receive by e-mail the latest STDF publications – including this newsletter – and are informed about current and planned STDF activities. By using the link below, you can also register for this service. You will be directed to the "WTO news service". Please follow the instructions and select the subject: "Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)".  
<http://icd.wto.org/member/register.aspx?l=e>



## STDF side event on the margins of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)



The STDF participated in side events and poster exhibitions organized by Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on the margins of the CPM (22-26 March 2010). Posters, publications and other promotional materials were provided to CPM delegates at the STDF booth. Delegates also attended an STDF information session where STDF initiatives, mainly in the plant health area, were presented. Participants welcomed the STDF institutional film clip, shown for the first time on this occasion. As an illustration of STDF regional activities, a presentation was made on the Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence established at the headquarters of the Kenya Plant Health Inspection Services (KEPHIS) with seed funding from the STDF (STDF/PG/171).

## Economic analysis for SPS decision making: call for interest

Following the STDF workshop on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS-related decision-making in Geneva on 30 October 2009, plans are underway to start pilot testing the use of economic analysis methodologies for SPS decision-making at the country level in the second half of 2010. If your institution / country is interested to become involved in this initiative, please send an e-mail to: [STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)

## WTO Deputy Director-General visits STDF project in Cameroon



Valentine Rugwabiza, WTO Deputy Director-General, during her visit at the FAO office in Cameroon

During her visit to Cameroon on 18-19 May 2010, Mrs Valentine Rugwabiza, WTO Deputy Director-General met at the FAO office in Yaoundé with Mr Ousmane Guindo, FAO Representative in Cameroon and representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and the Cameroon Pasteur Centre. Discussions took place on ways to better leverage Aid for Trade to address outstanding SPS needs in Cameroon. Animal health was underscored as a priority area for the country. The meeting was followed by a site visit to a subsidiary of Camlait, a leading dairy company in Cameroon, which benefits from training on food quality and

safety practices through an STDF funded project (STDF/PG/62). This subsidiary produces 90,000 litres of beverages per month and has 88 employees.

# STDF ACTIVITIES

## Improved Capacity for Ensuring the Quality and Safety of Yemeni Seafood Products



In December 2009, the Yemeni Seafood Exporters Association (YSEA) successfully concluded an STDF funded project in Yemen (STDF/PG/69). The project resulted in the development of several educational tools including a Guide on food hazards and risk assessment for fish processing to improve controls of typical food safety hazards in Yemeni fishery products. Three codes of practice (in Arabic) for fishing vessels, fish landing sites and fish processing enterprises were elaborated. A YSEA quality mark was created and guidelines were produced to inform operators how to obtain this distinction.

The project assisted YSEA to become established as a key institution in the Yemeni fisheries sector in a relatively short period of time. YSEA's new strategy for 2009-2015 will help to upgrade Yemeni seafood exports to ensure compliance with SPS standards and enhance access to international markets, especially in Europe. The association has been instrumental in bringing the seafood industry closer together and YSEA plans to seek additional financial and technical support from donors to continue its capacity building efforts.



### **NEW!** On the STDF website



A new two-page STDF Briefing is available on the STDF website. It provides an overview of the STDF regional consultation work in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) in the context of Aid for Trade. The Briefing presents key findings and messages as well as recent developments in the SPS technical assistance programmes in the GMS.

## Recently Approved STDF Projects and Project Preparation Grants

The STDF Working Group approved two projects and two project preparation grants in March 2010:

- **STDF/PG/284** – Strengthening the National SPS Committee in Honduras
- **STDF/PG/302** – Support to the cabbage sector in the Niayes Region of Senegal
- **STDF/PG/318** – National program for the monitoring and integral management of contaminants in export products in Ecuador
- **STDF/PPG/324** – Needs assessment and strategy to develop Liberia's SPS system
- **STDF/PPG/316** – Strengthening phytosanitary inspection and diagnostic services in Azerbaijan

## Next Deadline for STDF Funding Applications

**Friday 30 July 2010**

Please note that the STDF project and PPG application forms have been revised. The new forms should be used for all funding applications submitted after 9 April 2010.

A new Guidance Note for Applicants is also available. This note provides information on the types of funding available, eligibility criteria and other requirements, and the application and review process. It aims to inform and guide applicants and should be read carefully by anyone interested in submitting an application for STDF funding.

The new application forms and Guidance Note are available on the STDF website:  
[http://www.standardsfacility.org/Funding\\_Opportunities.htm](http://www.standardsfacility.org/Funding_Opportunities.htm).





# ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

## Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures held its fifth meeting in Rome on 22-26 March 2010. Two new international standards (ISPMs) were adopted: ISPM 33 on pest free potato (*Solanum* spp.) micro-propagative material and minitubers for international trade, and ISPM 34 on the design and operation of post-entry quarantine stations for plants. The CPM also agreed on a number of irradiation treatments and approved some modifications to the glossary of terms (ISPM 5). Noteworthy was the final adoption of the 2008 Recommendation on replacement or reduction of the use of methyl bromide as a phytosanitary measure. In this regard, the CPM agreed that finding alternatives to methyl bromide in wood packaging treatment is a pressing priority. It was also noted that future CPM work should focus on the need for harmonized requirements for seeds moving in international trade, as well as pests that are not relevant for exports but that have an impact on production or products made from crops. A target of developing at least five international phytosanitary standards for 2010 was set for the CPM.



## Training in Guatemala on SPS requirements of main import markets

Specific SPS requirements and useful tools aimed at helping exporters to access the United States and European Union markets were discussed at a workshop held in Guatemala City on 12-14 April 2010. The event was organized by the Inter-American Investment Corporation and the Integration and Trade Sector of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), with support of the STDF and other organizations. Addressing SPS-related challenges of Small and Medium Size Enterprises' (SMEs) to improve their access to markets has been identified as a priority in Guatemala. This training was successful in fostering the technical knowledge of SME participants on SPS import requirements. For more information contact Ms Juliana Almeida at: [JALMEIDA@iadb.org](mailto:JALMEIDA@iadb.org).



## FAO/WHO look into the impact of private standards

At the request of the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), FAO and WHO are conducting research on the consistency of private food safety standards with Codex standards and the impact of private standards on small producers, particularly in developing countries. The paper will form the basis of a one day seminar on this issue to be held in Geneva on the margins of the forthcoming session of the CAC (5-9 July 2010).

# ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

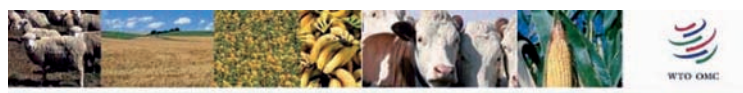
## Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD)



International  
Trade  
Centre

T4SD is a programme led by the ITC to enhance transparency on voluntary sustainability standards and to increase opportunities for sustainable trade. The programme will develop a website that centralizes information on these standards including requirements, verification and certification mechanisms, product / industry and geographical scope, market outreach as well as existing research on the various schemes. Capacity building and training activities will also be provided. By the end of 2010, T4SD will incorporate more than 10 voluntary sustainability standards covering over 20 product groups and including over 150 case studies.

## Greater focus on progressive learning in WTO SPS training



Each year WTO organizes several SPS technical assistance activities including workshops and thematic seminars. To ensure that participants in a particular

activity are able to most effectively follow and contribute to the discussions, and that they have an harmonized level of understanding of the SPS Agreement, future activities will put greater emphasis on WTO's progressive learning strategy.

Developing countries can request national seminars with a view to address specific training needs on the SPS Agreement and its implementation. The programme for a national seminar is elaborated by the beneficiary country in consultation with the WTO Secretariat after identifying specific needs. These might include a training to foster better coordination among the different stakeholders involved with SPS matters in the country, so they can further enhance their participation in WTO discussions, as well as to optimize the benefits from the technical assistance they receive in the SPS area. Further information on forthcoming activities and deadlines for application is available at [www.wto.org/spis](http://www.wto.org/spis).

## Nanotechnologies in food and agriculture

FAO, together with CAPES and EMBRAPA in Brazil, will organize a conference on nanotechnology in the food and agriculture sectors in San Carlos, Brazil on 20-25 June 2010. New and emerging applications of nanotechnologies in food and agriculture, and issues related to their use, will be the focus of this event. It will explore scientific and technological advances of particular relevance to addressing problems of sustainable and safe food production in developing countries. It will also consider global food safety governance issues. For more information, visit [www.nanoagri2010.com](http://www.nanoagri2010.com) or contact [food-quality@fao.org](mailto:food-quality@fao.org)



International Conference on Food and  
Agriculture Applications of  
Nanotechnologies

## Operations of the Pesticides Initiative Programme (PIP) Phase 2 launched in Senegal



Over 60 participants participated in a workshop in Dakar on 9 March 2010 for the launch of PIP Phase 2. The objective was to inform potential beneficiaries on support provided by the programme in response to new challenges raised by an ever more demanding EU market.

PIP is a programme funded by the European Union which aims at enabling companies from ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) countries to comply with European food safety and traceability requirements, thereby consolidating the position of small-scale producers in the ACP horticultural export sector.



# ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

## 8th Conference of Ministers responsible for Animal Resources in Africa



From left to right, Melvin Spreij, STDF Secretary, Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, AU Commissioner and Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of AU-IBAR

"We need to take measures to encourage the marketing and trade of livestock and livestock products within and between African countries."

Rhoda Peace Tumusiime,  
AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and  
Agriculture.

The STDF participated in the 8th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Animal Resources in Africa on 13-14 May 2010 in Entebbe, Uganda, organized by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR). Strategic interventions were made by the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director-General of the OIE, Dr Modibo Traoré,

Assistant Director-General at FAO, and Dr Carlos Seré, Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). The STDF Secretary, Melvin Spreij, briefly spoke about the importance of addressing SPS issues in the context of market access, food security and enhancing net welfare, and highlighted the benefits of improved coordination between different SPS stakeholders at national and regional level. Ministers approved AU/IBAR's strategic plan (2010-2014) and adopted several resolutions on enhancing investments in the livestock sector, promoting market access and the need to better control transboundary animal diseases. The Conference was preceded by an expert meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers and Directors of Animal Resources on 10-12 May. Presentations focused on specific projects implemented by AU/IBAR and other topics of interest, such as climate change and rinderpest. The OIE and FAO are preparing for the international declaration of global freedom from this disease in 2011.



## Food Safety and Quality management : Adding value, linking farmers to markets

Building capacity for improved post-harvest practices and for enhanced food safety and quality management feature prominently in the Framework for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). The GAFSP is a multilateral mechanism managed by the World Bank, which aims to scale-up support to help poor countries alleviate poverty, improve rural livelihoods, and improve food security by raising agricultural productivity, linking farmers to markets, reducing risks and vulnerability, and improving non-farm rural livelihoods. The origins of the GAFSP stem from the G8-plus meeting in L'Aquila, Italy in July 2009, in which leaders pledged more than US\$ 20 billion to boost food security and agriculture. For more information, see: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

"For development to be effective, it is crucial to have multilateral, innovative, and fast-track solutions that enable countries to manage their own food security and promote stronger links between the public and private sectors. This is exactly what the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program does"

Robert B. Zoellick President, World Bank Group



# FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

## June 2010

8-19 June, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: PAN-SPSO meeting for CEN-SAD (Training on risk analysis, cost benefit analysis and SPS negotiations)

14-18 June, Antananarivo, Madagascar: BTSF Regional workshop on food hygiene inspection

16-18 June, Swakopmund, Namibia: OIE Training on Aquatic Diseases for African countries

20-25 June, San Carlos, Brazil: FAO/ Brazil Conference on Nanotechnology in the food and agriculture sectors

21-23 June, Paris, France: Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

29-30 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPS Committee meeting

## July 2010

1 July, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Technical Working meeting on SPS indicators

2 July, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group

5-9 July, Geneva, Switzerland: 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

## September 2010

15 September-1 October, Rome, Italy: FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues

## October 2010

4-6 October, The Hague, The Netherlands: STDF/LNV Workshop on Public Private Partnerships

11-29 October, Geneva, Switzerland: Advanced SPS course (English)

18 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO Workshop on transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement

19-21 October, Cape Town, South Africa: BTSF Intensive training on regional integration (SPS)

20-21 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPS Committee meeting

22 October, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group

## November 2010

3-5 November, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: 10th International Conference on Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics of Infectious Diseases

8-12 November: WTO Regional SPS Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus

9-12 November, Lima, Peru: WTO Regional SPS Workshop for Latin America (co-organized with the Inter-American Development Bank)

22-26 November, Colombo, Sri Lanka: WTO Regional SPS Workshop for Asia and Pacific

## December 2010

7-9 December, Djerba, Tunisia: OIE Global veterinary legislation conference

14-17 December, Rome, Italy: Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

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### Codex Newsletter

[www.codexalimentarius.net/web/newsletter.jsp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/newsletter.jsp)

### EC DG Trade's SPS News

[www.ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri\\_fish/sp/newsletter.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri_fish/sp/newsletter.htm)

### FAO's Food Safety and Quality Update eNewsletter

[www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/news\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/news_en.asp)

### FAO-BiotechNews

[www.fao.org/biotech/](http://www.fao.org/biotech/)

### IPC's Agritrade Forum Newsletter

[www.agritrade.org/Publications/#newsletter](http://www.agritrade.org/Publications/#newsletter)

### ISEAL Gazette

[www.isealliance.org](http://www.isealliance.org)

### ITC Competitiveness Newsletter

[www.intracen.org/e-trade/](http://www.intracen.org/e-trade/)

### OIE bulletin

[www.oie.int/eng/publicat/en\\_bulletins.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/publicat/en_bulletins.htm)

### PiP Programme newsletter

[www.coleacp.org/fr/pip/11763-pip-magazine](http://www.coleacp.org/fr/pip/11763-pip-magazine)

### UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Briefings

To subscribe, email: [tcb@unido.org](mailto:tcb@unido.org)

### WHO Food Safety Newsletter

[www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/newsletter/en/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/newsletter/en/)

### FishFiles Lite

[www.megapesca.com/aboutfishfiles.asp](http://www.megapesca.com/aboutfishfiles.asp)

### STDF e-list

If you would like to receive information on STDF publications, activities, etc. via the new electronic mailing list, please visit:

<http://icd.wto.org/member/register.aspx?l=e>

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