

Standards and Trade Development Facility

STDF NEWSLETTER

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STDF's Working Group Meeting, October 2008

In 2008, an independent evaluation of the STDF judged the STDF's overall performance "to be good and in many important areas very good". In 2009, we aim to improve still further. In this edition, you will find more information on the evaluation and an overview of activities we have planned for 2009.

Michael Roberts, STDF Secretary

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



The STDF is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), 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 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).



STDF ACTIVITIES

Independent evaluation praises the STDF's performance

An independent external evaluation, published in November 2008, judged the STDF's overall performance "to be good and in many important areas very good", albeit with some areas for improvement. The evaluation was carried out by Stuart Slorach, who consulted partners, donors and beneficiaries of the STDF.



The STDF "carries out an important role that no other single body would be able to accomplish". "Coordination is one of the two principal aims of the STDF and it is primarily in this area, rather than acting simply as a project funder, that its future probably lies, since here it has a comparative advantage and can play a unique role in assisting developing countries in the future", remarked Dr Slorach.

Highlights of the evaluation:

- The STDF has successfully coordinated with donors to help fund some projects that it has been unable to fund itself.
- Work on the [fruit fly problem in West Africa](#) is progressing well and shows promise for the future.
- Assistance by the STDF Secretariat to identify possible projects and prepare applications for project preparation grants is highly rated and much appreciated by developing countries.
- The STDF makes efficient and effective use of its resources by arranging many of its activities back-to-back with or together with meetings organized by other organizations.

Dr Slorach concluded that the STDF seems to be well on track to complete the activities in the [Operational Plan for 2008-2009](#), providing that the funding target of CHF 5 million per year is met. The evaluation made recommendations to further improve the Facility's performance and emphasized that the Secretariat, partners, donors, observers and recipient countries each have roles to play in this regard.

The performance of the STDF could be further improved by:

- Enhancing coordination with organizations working in the SPS area.
- Improving the STDF website.
- Broadening the donor base and increasing longer-term commitments.
- Raising the STDF's profile and increasing awareness about its activities.
- Better reporting on technical cooperation activities of bilateral and multilateral donors and developing countries.
- Improving document management.



Dr Stuart Slorach,
STDF Evaluator, former Deputy Director-General of the Swedish National Food Administration and former Chair of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The evaluation was shared with WTO Members through the SPS Committee and discussed at the STDF Policy Committee meeting in Rome in December 2008. It is available on the STDF website: www.standards-facility.org

STDF ACTIVITIES

Good Practice in SPS-related Technical Assistance

In 2008, the STDF and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) examined how the *Paris Principles on Aid Effectiveness* can be applied to food safety and animal and plant health, and identified good practices for future technical cooperation.

Key conclusions of the workshop

- Ensure national ownership
- Avoid fragmented, supply-driven assistance
- Integrate SPS capacity building into mainstream development assistance
- Take into account country context and absorptive capacity
- Carefully assess and prioritize needs
- Adopt a value chain approach
- Encourage public and private participation
- Strengthen management capacity and manage for results
- Avoid market distortions
- Rigorously evaluate impact

STDF Initiative on Fruit Fly in West Africa

A recently prepared concept paper sets out the STDF's role in facilitating a coordinated response to control fruit fly in West Africa. This role focuses on highlighting economic damages inflicted by fruit fly, mobilizing resources and promoting a coherent multi-stakeholder

approach. The coordination exercise will culminate in a meeting later in the year, bringing together key donors, regional institutions with expertise in fruit fly control and national plant protection services. For more information contact: Panos.Antonakakis@wto.org.

SPS-related Capacity Evaluation Tools

A new STDF publication on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools will be released in February 2009. Providing information on the scope and use of 12 tools developed by international organizations, this will be a useful reference for all those interested in evaluating capacity needs in the SPS area. It covers sectoral tools related to food safety, animal and plant health, as well as cross-sectoral tools and related methodologies. For more information, contact: Marlynne.Hopper@wto.org.

Paris Principles

- Ownership
- Alignment
- Harmonisation
- Managing for results
- Accountability

The research found that the Paris Principles should be applied more extensively and systematically on the ground. The findings were presented at a workshop in Geneva on 6 October 2008. More information is available on the [STDF website](#).

STDF Briefings

The STDF launched a new series of one-page **Briefings** in December 2008. The first issue focuses on good practice in SPS technical cooperation. It is available in print and on the [STDF website](#).



STDF Events in 2009 on Climate Change and Cost-Benefit Analysis



http://www.mdbc.gov.au/subs/The_River

The STDF will organize two thematic events this year. One will focus on climate change and SPS issues and present the findings of recent research by the FAO and the OIE (dates and venue to be confirmed). For information, contact: Kenza.LeMentec@wto.org



<http://www.credit-to-cash-advisor.com>

The other event to be held in Geneva on 25 June, will review the use of cost benefit analysis to measure the impact of technical assistance in the SPS area. For information, contact: Marlynne.Hopper@wto.org

STDF ACTIVITIES

Changes to the Operational Rules

The STDF Policy Committee meeting in Rome in December 2008 agreed on some important changes to the STDF's Operational Rules. From now on, funding will be dependent on the beneficiary country or countries' classification in the [OECD DAC list of ODA recipients](#).

- For applicants from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) or Other Low Income Countries (OLICs), the STDF will provide up to 90% of the project value.
- For applicants from Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs), the STDF will provide up to 80% of the project value.
- For applicants from Upper Middle Income Countries (UMICs), the STDF will provide up to 40% of the project value.
- For regional projects with at least one LDC or OLIC, the STDF will provide up to 90% of the project value.
- For regional projects without an LDC or OLIC, the STDF will provide up to 80% of the project value.

Read the revised Operational Rules on the [STDF website](#).

New PPGs and Projects

The STDF Working Group approved one new project preparation grant (PPG) and three projects in October 2008:

- PPG to harmonize the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for SPS control in Tanzania (STDF 268)
- Development and implementation of a traceability system in the livestock sector in Costa Rica (STDF 116 rev.1)
- Nicaragua market oriented training service on standards application (STDF 155)
- Regional initiative on the fight against fruit flies in West Africa (STDF 255)

Next deadlines for STDF funding applications

- 3 April 2009
- 7 August 2009



Call for evaluators!

The STDF is updating its roster of consultants to carry out independent ex-post evaluations of STDF projects. If you have expertise in implementing and evaluating food safety, animal and/or plant health activities, and would like to be included, send your CV to STDFSecretariat@wto.org.

ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

Highlights from the SPS Committee meeting, October 2008

With about 300 delegates in attendance, the committee meeting on 8-9 October 2008 was one of the largest ever. Some 60 participants from developing countries were able to attend the meeting and the preceding good practice workshop thanks to the WTO Global Trust Fund and STDF.

A number of regular issues were discussed – including trade restrictions to deal with mad cow disease and bird flu, and regulations on “novel” foods – as well as new concerns about the melamine contamination of Chinese milk products. The committee also decided to start a new phase in its examination of private sector standards, and agreed a procedure for undertaking a third review of the implementation of the SPS Agreement. See the [SPS gateway](#) on the WTO website for more details.



LDC Ministerial on Aid for Trade

Trade and industry ministers from the world’s poorest countries met in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 19-20 November 2008, alongside donors and development agencies, to seek solutions to the common problems they face in integrating their economies into the global trading system. There was awareness that “trade provides an essential channel for integration of LDCs into the global economy and that the building of internationally competitive productive capacities is a key to achieve this”. The Ministerial Declaration also expressed appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the STDF “to identify priority areas for future SPS capacity building in eight pilot LDCs”. The meeting was organized by UNIDO and the WTO. For more details on the meeting and the final declaration, see the [WTO website](#).

UNIDO and STDF strengthen cooperation

UNIDO Director-General Kandeh Yumkella and WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy signed an inter-agency framework agreement on the STDF in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 19 November 2008 during the LDC ministerial meeting. As implementor of several STDF projects related to food safety certification and testing, UNIDO is already an active partner of the STDF. According to Michael Roberts, STDF Secretary, “this agreement will further enhance and expand this cooperation in the future”. For more details, see the [UNIDO website](#).



Lalith Goonatilake, Director of UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Branch and Michael Roberts, STDF Secretary, discuss future cooperation after the signing of the UNIDO-WTO Framework Agreement.



Twenty three officials from developing and least-developed countries attended the 4th Specialized Course on the SPS Agreement (in English) from 29 September to 17 October 2008 at the WTO. During the course, participants acquired advanced knowledge about the SPS Agreement and the SPS Committee and discussed how to address specific SPS implementation challenges and opportunities. Each participant developed an action plan for implementation upon return to their country. Participants will be getting together again in June 2009 for a follow up workshop to report on progress with their action plans, exchange experiences and also attend the SPS Committee meeting. The 5th Specialized Course will be held in Spanish in October 2009.



UNIDO International Conference on Sharing Innovative Agri-business Solution

This conference held in Cairo from 26-27 November 2008, showcased innovative solutions to the constraints faced by agri-businesses in four main areas: access to finance, organization of the supply chain, compliance with standards, and improving productivity and production means. The conference was innovative in its approach and provided an opportunity for matchmaking between those seeking ways to achieve sustainable agri-business development and those with innovative solutions, as well as finance for development assistance and investment. See the [UNIDO website](#).



Opening speech by Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish, Founder of the Sekem Initiative.



ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

Open-ended Working Group on Building National Phytosanitary Capacity

This Working Group, established by the 3rd session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-3), is tasked with developing a comprehensive phytosanitary capacity building strategy. Meeting at FAO Headquarters in Dec. 2008, the Group brought together plant health experts from across the world, and representatives of international organizations including OIE and the WTO.

There was agreement on the need for urgent actions to raise the IPPC's profile and attract new sources of funding to implement the strategy and ensure sustainability. Coordination and communication, and advocacy and resource mobilization, emerged as key components of the draft strategy. Subgroups were created to take forward work on: (i) the development of principles for effective phytosanitary capacity building based on the *Paris Declaration*; and (ii) the use of mentoring in capacity building.

"The development of a capacity building strategy is the most important task still to be realized by the IPPC". Peter Kenmore, IPPC Secretary.

The meeting produced a draft concept paper on national phytosanitary capacity, a draft strategy document and an indicative operational plan. These will be further refined before being presented to the CPM-4 in April 2009 for approval. See the [IPPC website](#).



Fijians discuss implementation of SPS standards

Building local capacity to implement international SPS standards was the subject of a seminar in Suva, Fiji, organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The meeting was attended by representatives from the private and public sector involved in food safety and agricultural health and trade. Melvin Spreij, from the STDF Secretariat, made a presentation on the STDF and how to access funds for capacity building. See the SPC's [website](#) (www.spc.int) for more details.



OIE launches Africa portal in English

The OIE has launched an Africa portal in English, based on the French-language version. Targeted at African veterinary professionals, the site provides a wide range of customized information on OIE's activities in Africa. To browse the portal, visit: www.rr-africa.oie.int.

ACTIVITIES OF STDF'S PARTNERS

Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases meets in Geneva

WHO's Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) held its second meeting in Geneva on 17 -21 November 2008 and a stakeholder event on 20 November. Representatives from governments, international organizations, industry, media and consumer groups attended the stakeholder meeting, exchanging views and ideas with FERG experts and WHO. The Initiative, which already operates with several thematic task forces, will launch a new Country Studies Task Force in 2009 to support countries wishing to undertake national studies of the foodborne disease burden. For further information, see the WHO website or email foodsafety@who.int.



International Seminar on Setting Food Safety Standards, June 2008, The Hague

This seminar was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in The Netherlands, together with other national ministries, the FAO and the WHO, in June 2008 in The Hague. The final report and all the presentations delivered at the seminar are now available on the [Ministry's website](#).

Trade Standards Practitioners Network considers how to assess the costs, benefits and impacts of compliance with private standards

Representatives from international organizations, donors, NGOs, research institutes and academia met in Berlin on 9-10 December to share research and practical experiences in assessing the costs, benefits and impacts of compliance with private agriculture, forestry and food related standards. Presentations made at the event are available on the [TSPN website](#).

Better Aid: 2008 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration



This new OECD publication reviews experiences in implementing the Paris Declaration in 2008. It sheds light on the challenges in making aid more effective in advancing development through an assessment of progress in 54 developing countries. It is available from the [OECD website](#).

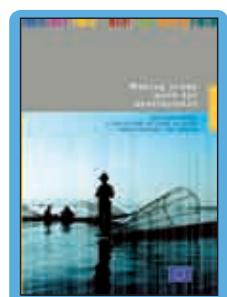


Food Quality and Safety Standards as required by EU Law and the Private Industry

This handy reference book for practitioners, written by Margret Will and Doris Guenther, provides an overview of legislative and private industry market requirements in the European Union for various products, including fresh and processed fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices, dried fruits and nuts. It is available on CD-ROM and the [GTZ website](#).

Making trade work for development

This recent publication from the European Commission presents a selection of case studies – including some on food and agricultural products and SPS issues – from around the world on how aid for trade can support development. It is available on the [EC website](#).



PAGE 8 FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

January 2009

26-29 January, Tunis, Tunisia: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East for the Codex Alimentarius Commission

February 2009

4-6 February, Barcelona, Spain: CIES International Food Safety Conference

9-13 February, Fiji: WTO Regional SPS Seminar for the Pacific

23-26 February, Accra, Ghana: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa for the Codex Alimentarius Commission

25-26 February, Geneva: WTO SPS Committee

27 February, Geneva: STDF Working Group meeting

March 2009

17-19 March, Buenos Aires, Argentina: First OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability

30 March-3 April, Rome, Italy: 4th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

30 March-3 April, Paris, France: Codex Committee on General Principles

March (tentative), Peru: National Aid for Trade Event

April 2009

3 April, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Africa-EU High-level Conference on a Joint Sanitary and Phytosanitary Strategy

May 2009

11-15 May, Rome, Italy: IPPC Standards Committee Working Group

24-29 May, Paris, France: 77th OIE General Session

June 2009

23-24 June, Geneva, Switzerland: SPS Committee meeting

25 June, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF workshop on cost-benefit analysis

26 June, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group Meeting

29 June-4 July, Rome, Italy: Codex Alimentarius Commission

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www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/bpn/bpn-02-03-en.pdf

EC DG Trade's SPS News

www.ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/sectoral/agri_fish/sps/newsletter.htm

FAO's Food Safety and Quality Update eNewsletter

www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/news_en.asp

FAO-BiotechNews

www.fao.org/biotech/

IPC's Agritrade Forum Newsletter

www.agritrade.org/Publications/#newsletter

ITC Competitiveness Newsletter

www.intracen.org/e-trade/

OIE bulletin

www.oie.int/eng/publicat/en_bulletins.htm

PiP Programme newsletter

www.coleacp.org/FO%5FInternet/Pip/Default.asp?ai_IdSection=9&ai_Language=1&as_Status=1

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WHO Food Safety Newsletter

www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/newsletter/en/

New STDF e-list

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