

# STDF Newsletter

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STDF team

Dear readers,

How to enhance the impact and sustainability of SPS capacity building efforts? Three ongoing STDF initiatives seek to find answers to this question in different ways.

In July this year, the STDF facilitated an in-depth discussion among technical experts about the use of a results-based management approach to measure the performance of national SPS systems. Participants agreed to pilot-test a preliminary set of SPS indicators in selected countries to better reflect country-level processes, practicalities and experiences. This work will be linked to a parallel STDF initiative on the use of economic analysis to enable SPS experts in developing countries to make informed decisions about SPS capacity building and resource allocation. Finally, an STDF workshop in October presented examples of public-private partnerships in the SPS area and fostered 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.

I kindly invite the SPS community to visit the new STDF website and register for STDF's electronic distribution service. Both tools enable you to keep informed about the STDF, its activities and projects.

Melvin Spreij, STDF Secretary

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

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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

## STDF/OECD Technical working meeting on SPS indicators

Over 80 participants attended the STDF/OECD technical working meeting on SPS indicators on 1 July 2010 in Geneva, including 16 experts from developing countries and regional economic communities in Africa, whose participation was funded by the STDF.

The focus of the meeting was a draft STDF/OECD working paper on SPS indicators and, in particular, a preliminary set of outcome indicators in a logical framework. Participants at the meeting agreed on the value of a results-based management approach to identify indicators to measure the performance of a national SPS system, and the use of the logical framework approach for that purpose. There was consensus at the meeting that one size does not fit all and that indicators should be adapted by countries depending on their particular circumstances. The importance of ensuring synergies with FAO, OIE, IICA and other organizations that are applying capacity evaluation tools – which provide useful baseline data – was underlined.

Visit the STDF website to read the latest version of the draft working paper on SPS indicators and presentations delivered at the workshop: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/TASPSindicators.htm>.



"Results Based Management and use of the logical framework as a tool for monitoring and evaluation is not about compliance and control. It is good management practice."

Sheelagh O'Reilly,  
IOD-PARC



"A particular benefit of country-level indicators, such as in cost of doing business, investment climate, governance, human health, is international comparison. It helps policy makers understand their relative position and gaps in performance. Such use could also be a main benefit of SPS indicators."

Kees van der Meer, SPS Consultant

**Pilot testing work** at the country level is planned for 2011 to advance the STDF/OECD work on SPS indicators. SPS agencies in developing countries that might be interested to participate in the pilot testing exercise should contact the STDF Secretariat ([STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)).

## STDF outreach and communication efforts



The STDF website (<http://www.standardsfacility.org>) has been redesigned with a more contemporary look and is now more user-friendly. New features have been added, either by improving existing functions or by adding new ones, and additional enhancements are underway.

More than 3,000 people now receive e-mail updates with information about current STDF activities and new publications. If you are interested to register for the STDF electronic distribution service, please visit the following link: <http://icd.wto.org/member/register.aspx?l=e> and follow the instructions.

# STDF ACTIVITIES

## Public-Private Partnerships in support of SPS capacity

The private sector is increasingly viewed as a great untapped resource for investment and innovation to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Development agencies and governments are seeking more ways to work with private sector partners in an attempt to find innovative solutions to problems, attract additional resources and enhance impact and sustainability. A number of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged in response to this trend.

The role of PPPs in enhancing agricultural development, market access and SPS capacity was the focus of an STDF workshop held in The Hague, The Netherlands, from 4-6 October 2010. Organized in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and the World Bank, the event brought together representatives of private companies and government agencies from around the world. Participants engaged in a lively discussion on the policy considerations and implementation issues related to PPPs, considering their drivers and working modalities, challenges, innovations and good practices.

The workshop was followed by an excursion to the Port of Rotterdam on 6 October. During a boat trip around the harbour, representatives from the Port Authority and Dutch government inspectors made short presentations about their work, highlighting cooperation with the private sector.

For more information on the workshop, as well as background documents and presentations, visit the STDF website: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/TAPPP.htm>.

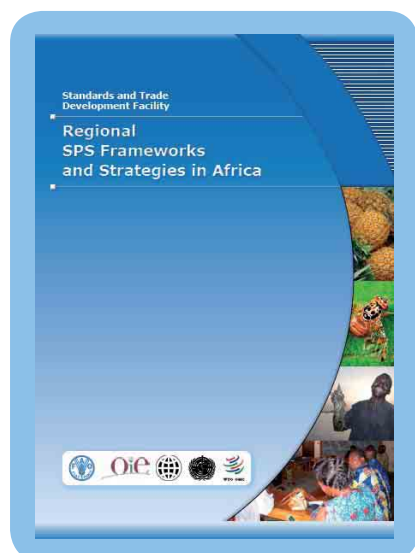


Port of Rotterdam



Workshop participants

## STDF Scoping study – Regional SPS frameworks and strategies in Africa



The STDF recently funded the preparation of a scoping study, conducted at the request of the African Union Commission (AUC), in a first attempt to identify and assess the myriad of regional SPS policy frameworks and strategies in Africa and guide future work in this area. The study recommends the AUC as well as regional economic communities (RECs) to: (i) ensure that regional policy frameworks focus on the most effective use of resources to enhance member states' benefits; (ii) participate actively in the work of the international standard-setting bodies (Codex, OIE, IPPC) as well as the WTO SPS Committee, and develop the capacity for African countries to participate effectively in these mechanisms; (iii) assist in strengthening and training of national SPS coordination bodies; (iv) increase awareness of SPS matters at the political and general public level; (v) focus capacity-building efforts on demand-driven activities, identified through SPS capacity evaluations, and involve all relevant stakeholders; and (vi) avoid multiplication of transparency requirements and use existing tools developed by the SPS Committee. The [scoping study \(STDF/PPG/305\)](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PGPPGsByStatus.htm) is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PGPPGsByStatus.htm>.



# STDF ACTIVITIES

## Capacity building in the use of the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation Tool in the Pacific

Recently, fourteen states in the Pacific Island Community completed national phytosanitary capacity evaluations through an STDF funded project (STDF/PG/133). Support was provided by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the IPPC Secretariat to apply the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool.

Results show that NPPOs in the region have relatively strong import control, inspection and clearance procedures and are in a good position to take advantage of their geographic location to declare areas free of specific plant pests. However, weaknesses with respect to legislative frameworks, limited export facilitation procedures and insufficient documentation of processes, were identified. Based on these results, the region formulated priority actions and recommendations for next steps. The SPC and development partners in the region are encouraged to use the baseline data generated by this project to assess progress and ensure targeted capacity development in the region. For more information, see: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PGProjectsByStatus.htm>.



## Developing institutional capacity of countries in the Americas



Project STDF/PG/108, implemented by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), is part of a long effort to support the development of institutional capacity in 28 countries in the Americas to participate in the WTO SPS Committee and the relevant standard-setting bodies.

The main achievements of the project were: (i) application of the [IICA SPS Capacity Evaluation Tool](#) (PVS) in 24 countries and elaboration of 26 national SPS agendas; (ii) a Handbook for participation in

Codex Alimentarius meetings; (iii) training on how to participate in international forums and respective manuals; (iv) a technical workshop on private standards; (v) development of information systems; (vi) phytosanitary risks, risk communication and risk assessment profiles for microbiological and chemical hazards in food; and (vii) awareness raising about the importance of SPS issues.

We would like to encourage development partners in the region and worldwide to use the baseline data generated and materials developed by this project for future activities. For more information, see: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PGProjectsByStatus.htm> or contact Mr Ricardo Molins: [ricardo.molins@iica.int](mailto:ricardo.molins@iica.int).

## New STDF PPGs and Projects

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

- STDF/PG/298: SPS Capacity Building in Africa to mitigate the Harmful Effects of Pesticide Residues in Cocoa and maintain Market Access
- STDF/PG/319: Strengthening the Food Safety Risk Assessment Unit in Colombia
- STDF/PG/326: A Southeast Asian Partnership to Build Trade Capacity for Fresh and Processed Fruit and Vegetable Products
- STDF/PPG/323: Enhancing the Safety and Quality of Agricultural Products in Senegal
- STDF/PPG/328: Developing Trade Opportunities: An Integrated Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management

## Next deadline for STDF funding applications

- Friday 7 January 2011

If you are interested in applying for STDF funding please read the Guidance Note for Applicants and complete the Application forms available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/FDAppForms.htm>



# ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

## 78<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the OIE

The OIE held its 78th General Assembly on 23-28 May 2010. More than 600 participants representing the 176 OIE members and intergovernmental, regional and national organizations attended the meeting. Members adopted a number of resolutions potentially relevant to international trade, including, *inter alia*, lists of countries and zones free of certain animal diseases (foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy) as well as resolutions on "Animal Production Food Safety" and "Animal Welfare". Dr. Bernard Vallat was re-elected as OIE Director General for his third mandate. He committed to continue to work closely with OIE members to implement the 5th Strategic Plan (2011-2015), adopted by the Assembly. In the context of the Global "One Health" Initiative, he noted the very active collaboration between the FAO, OIE and WHO. For more information, see: <http://www.oie.int/eng/session2010/presse.htm>.



## 63<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly

The 63rd session of the World Health Assembly took place in Geneva on 17-21 May 2010 and brought together Health Ministers and senior health officials from WHO Member States. At this session, the Assembly discussed a number of public health issues such as the implementation of the International Health Regulations and monitoring the achievement of health-related Millennium Development Goals. A large number of countries noted that many diseases can be caused by unsafe food, that national food production systems are susceptible to food safety problems and that more food is traded across borders than ever before. Members adopted a resolution to support improving the evidence base for estimating the burden of foodborne diseases, the strengthening of global networks and to improve the assessment, management and communications of foodborne and zoonotic risks in a timely manner. For more information, see: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2010/wha63/en/>.



## The 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission



The Codex Alimentarius Commission held its 33rd Session in Geneva on 5-9 July 2010. The Session was attended by over 500 delegates from member countries and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Commission adopted several amendments to the Procedural Manual as well as 25 new or revised Codex standards, related texts or amendments to these texts. It also adopted many new or revised provisions for additives and MRLs for pesticides. The Commission agreed to establish a new Task Force on Animal Feeding and considered the impact of private standards on market access and public health, particularly in developing countries. Discussions occurred

on strategic issues including the participation of developing countries in the work of Codex and the future of the Codex Trust Fund. For more information, see: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index\\_en.jsp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp).

# ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

## Side event on SPS capacity building on the margins of the 5th Agriculture Science Week

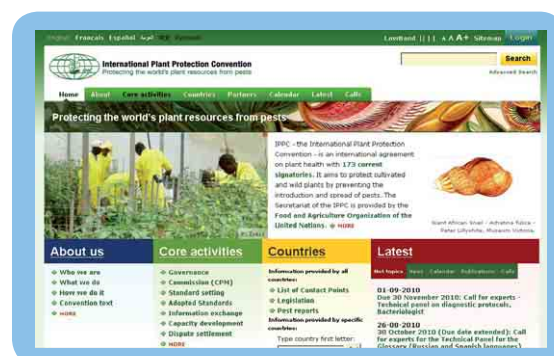


The 2010 African Agriculture Science Week (FARA) was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 19-24 July 2010 on the theme "African Agricultural Innovation in a Changing Global Environment". On the margins of the meeting, a side event on SPS capacity building was co-organized by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI). The objectives were to create awareness on SPS capacity development initiatives in Africa and to discuss these in the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The side

event provided an opportunity to bring SPS issues to the attention of the FARA General Assembly, in order to raise their profile in the agriculture development area. Interventions were made by various participants including CABI, FAO, Kenya Plant Health Inspection Services and the STDF. For more information, see: <http://www.faraweek.org>.

## New International Phytosanitary Portal – A resource for information on IPPC issues and activities

The IPPC Secretariat has released a new and improved version of the International Phytosanitary Portal (<https://www.ippc.int>) with enhanced functionality and content. Visitors will note an increase in [news regarding IPPC activities](#) and an easily accessible list of [calls for member input](#), such as calls for experts or member comments. Compiled lists of official country reports are also available covering [pest reports](#), [contact information](#), [national implementation of ISPM 15](#), and [pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence](#). Additional features are being introduced to improve communication and collaboration within the phytosanitary community. Beginning with the development of a standard on "Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances in international trade", a discussion forum will be introduced to enable stakeholders to provide input on key standards as they are being developed.



## ITC Programme on Non-Tariff Measures



Within the framework of a multi-agency initiative on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) – initiated by UNCTAD in September 2007 – ITC is implementing a representative company survey in ten developing countries throughout 2010. The objective of this survey is to identify and understand the obstacles to trade that exporters and importers face when complying with NTMs, including SPS and TBT. The survey has been initiated in several countries, in collaboration with local partners and national stakeholders. In coordination with local research institutions, the survey data by product and sector will be analyzed and different types of measures, perceived by the private sector as potential barriers to trade, will be identified. This will contribute to a better understanding of the specific needs of the business sector, enabling targeted capacity building and better formulation of national strategies and policies. For more information, contact Ms Poonam Mohun: [mohun@intracen.org](mailto:mohun@intracen.org).



# ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

## Call for Aid-for-Trade case stories



The OECD and WTO Secretariats have issued a [Joint Communication](#) calling for Aid-for-Trade case stories. Stories submitted will provide an important source of information for the next Aid-for-Trade at a Glance publication and the Third Global Review of Aid-for-Trade.

We encourage the SPS community to respond to this call, which provides an opportunity to showcase their work to a much broader trade audience, to share experiences about what works (or not) at the national and regional level, why it works (or not) and what improvements are needed. A good response may further increase the visibility of particular SPS-related problems and challenges and may generate additional resources for SPS-related capacity building projects and programmes. For more information please see: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/devel\\_e/a4t\\_e/aid4trade\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/aid4trade_e.htm).

## New Partnership for Aflatoxin Control

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation

The main outcome of a workshop, convened by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on 17-18 June 2010 in Washington D.C., was the proposed creation of a Partnership for Aflatoxin Control (PAC), gathering experts around the world to develop an integrated and holistic strategy to abate and control aflatoxin. Focusing

initially on Sub-Saharan Africa, the strategy would build on current efforts within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and work in collaboration with regional bodies such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The Foundation addressed letters to key partners and organizations to encourage them to participate in this initiative. For more information, please contact Ms. Alex Kardasheva ([alex.kardasheva@ciatesfoundation.org](mailto:alex.kardasheva@ciatesfoundation.org)).

## First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation

OIE GLOBAL CONFERENCE  
ON VETERINARY LEGISLATION  
Djerba, Tunisia 7-9 December 2010

The First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation: "Modernising Veterinary Legislation for Good Governance", will be held in Djerba, Tunisia, on 7-9 December 2010. The Conference will facilitate a global discussion on the importance of veterinary legislation to enable veterinary services to efficiently carry out

their key functions. During interactive sessions, participants will be invited to share their experiences, identify future needs and priorities, and provide advice on good governance of veterinary services based on modern and efficient legislation. For more information, see: [http://www.oie.int/eng/A\\_LEG\\_VET2010/Home\\_eng.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/A_LEG_VET2010/Home_eng.htm).

## International Conference: Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health



The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) will undertake a global policy consultation to explore linkages among agriculture, nutrition and health. A conference to be held on 10-12 February 2011, in New Delhi, India, will take stock of current knowledge, share ideas and innovations, identify cross-sectoral synergies and best practices. Its objectives will be to inform, influence, and catalyze

action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and improve health of most vulnerable people. For more information, see: <http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>.

# FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

## November 2010

1-5 November, Ottawa, Canada: Joint FAO/WHO Expert meeting to review toxicological and health aspects of Bisphenol A

1-5 November, Santiago, Chile: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

2-5 November, Lima, Peru: WTO Regional SPS Workshop for Latin America (co-organized with the Inter-American Development Bank)

8-12 November, Acapulco, Mexico: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

10-11 November, Shanghai, China: 4th China International Food Safety & Quality Conference

11 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WHO Foodborne Diseases Stakeholder Meeting

16-19 November, Montevideo, Uruguay: 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

17 November, Brussels, Belgium: International Symposium – Measuring Food Safety and comparing self checking systems

18-19 November, Brussels, Belgium: Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Africa - High Level Conference

22-26 November, Yogyakarta, Indonesia: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia

23-26 November, Colombo, Sri Lanka: WTO Regional SPS Workshop for Asia and Pacific

## December 2010

29 November - 3 December, Kampala, Uganda: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

7-9 December, Djerba, Tunisia: OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation

## January 2011

25-29 January, Tunis, Tunisia: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East

## February 2011

1-4 February, Accra, Ghana: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa

10-12 February, New Delhi, India: High-level International Conference on Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

16-18 February, London, UK: GFSI Global Food Safety Conference – Creating a Global Food Safety Culture

21-25 February, Malaysia: Codex Committee on Fats and Oils

## March 2011

7-11 March, Budapest, Hungary: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

14-18 March, China: Codex Committee on Food Additives

23-24 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPS Committee meeting

24-28 March, The Hague, Netherlands: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

25 March, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group

**For further information, contact the STDF at:**

Fax: +41 22 739 57 60

e-mail: [STDFSecretariat@wto.org](mailto:STDFSecretariat@wto.org)

## If you like this newsletter, you may also want to subscribe to:

### 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/sps/newsletter.htm](http://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](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)



## Farewell to Panos

After six years with the STDF team, Panos Antonakakis has left us to join the private sector. We would like to thank Panos for his hard work, humour and friendship and wish him all the best for the future.