

Standards and Trade Development Facility

STDF NEWSLETTER

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Trading safely: protecting health, promoting development STDF launches new film



Trade in food and agricultural products can help raise incomes and reduce poverty. But the efforts of some are constrained by the struggle to meet food safety, animal and plant health requirements. With stories from Benin, Belize, Thailand and Viet Nam, this new film from the STDF shows how some countries are rising to the challenge, with a little help. Find out more about the film inside.

Melvin Spreij, Acting Secretary, STDF

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



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

Improvements to the STDF web site

A number of improvements and updates have been made to the STDF web site (www.standardsfacility.org) and additional changes are underway. These include the addition of new pages on SPS needs of developing countries (including country briefings with information on SPS constraints and priorities for 19 countries) and sources of technical cooperation. Details about current SPS activities supported by the European Commission will be presented in June 2009. Other donors are encouraged to use the STDF web site to exchange information on their work in the SPS area. If you have comments or suggestions on the STDF web site, please email Simon Padilla: Simon.Padilla@wto.org.



Trading safely: protecting health, promoting development A new film by the STDF

Trade in food and agricultural products can generate economic growth and reduce poverty in developing countries. Farmers, processors and government agencies in some countries have been able to benefit. But for others, meeting food safety and animal and plant health requirements remains a struggle. By increasing awareness about SPS challenges and opportunities, the STDF film aims to increase high-level support and generate additional resources for SPS capacity building.

With stories from Benin, Belize, Thailand and Viet Nam, the film shows how some countries are rising to the challenge, with a little help.

- In [Belize](#), the film looks at efforts by the government, with support from international organizations and the United States Department of Agriculture, to control the Medfly, a pest of global concern. This has enabled Belize to become the only Central American country to be officially recognized as Medfly-free, opening up new export markets, generating jobs, foreign exchange earnings and increased incomes.
- In [Benin](#), the focus is on sanitary and hygiene problems in the shrimp sector, a self-imposed ban on shrimp exports to the European Union, and the effects on fishing communities and women working in processing plants. We see how the government and private sector have worked to address the problems and the difficulties to recapture the market, even after the end of the ban.
- In [Thailand](#), [Viet Nam](#) and [Geneva](#), the film addresses the impact of avian influenza on public health, livelihoods and trade, and explains how countries use the SPS Committee to share information and address their trade concerns.

The 30 minute film is available on DVD in English, French and Spanish. It will be launched in June with screenings at the SPS Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.



Filming in Thailand



Marlynne Hopper, STDF talks with shrimp fishermen during filming in Benin



Filming in Viet Nam

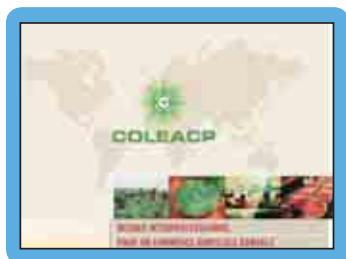


Hernan Zetina, Medfly Coordinator in Belize, with Lucas Duran and José Carlos Alexandre, commissioned to produce the STDF film

STDF ACTIVITIES

World Bank / STDF Seminar on Climate Change and Agricultural Trade: Risks and Responses

New developments in climate change and trade, and the implications for SPS risks, will be the subject of an expert seminar to be organized by the World Bank Development Research Group and the STDF in Washington D.C. on 22-23 September 2009. The event will address key issues related to climate change, including effects on agricultural trade and the regulatory reforms needed to adapt to these changes, as well as the expected SPS impacts. Presentations will consider how climate change may require countries to upgrade their SPS systems to deal with emerging challenges, and the implications for SPS technical cooperation. For more information, see www.standardsfacility.org/Climate_change.htm or contact: Marlynne.Hopper@wto.org.



STDF Initiative on Fruit Fly in West Africa

The Standards and Trade Development Facility will join forces with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to co-host a donor workshop on the implementation of a regional action plan to control fruit fly in West Africa. The meeting on 29-30 September 2009 will gather donors, regional institutions with expertise in fruit fly control, national plant protection services and other concerned stakeholders from West Africa. The purpose of the workshop will be to mobilize resources to implement a coordinated response to control fruit fly in West Africa.

As part of the preparations for the workshop, the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) has been commissioned to develop a budgeted project proposal for a regional action plan to control fruit fly in West Africa based on an EC-funded scoping study. The proposal, which is being prepared in consultation with concerned stakeholders in 8 pilot countries, will be available by the end of July 2009. For more information, see the [STDF web site](#) or contact: Panos.Antonakakis@wto.org.

"PAN-SPSO" Seminars in Africa

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in close collaboration with the STDF is organizing seminars in Nairobi (13-16 July 2009) and Bamako (20-23 July 2009) to provide in-depth training for SPS officials from the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities, and other African SPS experts. The training will be provided by representatives from WTO, Codex, OIE and IPPC under the EC-funded "PAN-SPSO" programme.

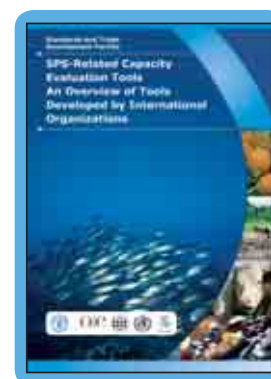
PAN-SPSO is a joint initiative of the AU/IBAR and the European Commission that aims to contribute to the reduction of poverty and enhanced food security in Africa through greater access of African countries to international markets for agricultural products, including livestock and fisheries. PAN-SPSO specifically seeks to facilitate effective involvement of African countries in the activities of the OIE, IPPC and Codex during the formulation of international standards on food safety and animal and plant health. The STDF participates in the programme as a technical and strategic partner and sits on PAN-SPSO's steering committee. To find out more, see the [AU-IBAR web site](http://www.au-ibar.org/ach_trdmkt/panspso.html): www.au-ibar.org/ach_trdmkt/panspso.html.



STDF ACTIVITIES

STDF Publication on SPS-related Capacity Evaluation Tools

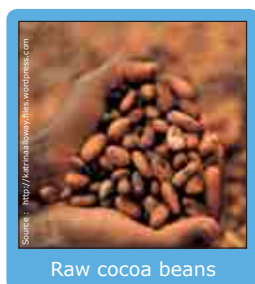
A new STDF publication on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools was published in February 2009. It provides information on sectoral tools related to food safety, animal and plant health, as well as cross-sectoral tools and related methodologies. The document is available in print and on the [STDF web site](http://www.standardsfacility.org/index.htm) (www.standardsfacility.org/index.htm).



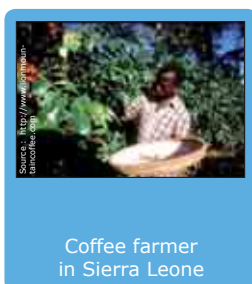
STDF Workshop on the use of Economic Analysis in SPS Decision-making

The use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision-making will be the subject of an STDF workshop in Geneva on 30 October 2009. The workshop will discuss the cost / benefit ratio of investing in SPS systems in order to prevent animal diseases, plant pests and food safety problems as opposed to the costs of control. Recent research analysing economic aspects of investments in SPS capacity building in particular areas will be presented, as well as relevant lessons and experiences from developing countries. For more information, visit: www.standardsfacility.org/Economic_analysis.htm or contact Marlynne.Hopper@wto.org.

Sierra Leone validates project proposal developed with STDF support



Raw cocoa beans



Coffee farmer in Sierra Leone

The Government of Sierra Leone validated a project proposal, developed with STDF support, at a workshop in Freetown on 14-15 May. The proposal responds to needs expressed in the country's Integrated Framework action matrix and includes a set of activities to overcome SPS challenges in the coffee and cocoa sectors. Discussions are underway to identify donors to fund and implement the project. For information, contact: Panos.Antonakakis@wto.org.

New STDF PPGs and Projects

The STDF Working Group approved two project preparation grants in February 2009:

- STDF 262: Strengthening animal health capacity and enhancing meat exports from the Sahelian countries to North Africa.
- STDF 286: Accessing new markets by reducing phytosanitary risk through participatory research and expansion – the Clean Stock Programme in ornamental plants in Costa Rica.

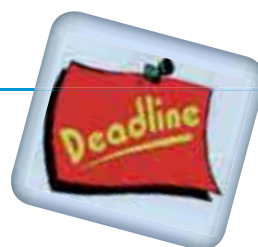
The Working Group approved a project to support COLEACP to share information on activities to control fruit flies in Sub-Saharan Africa (STDF 287). A second project to devise a national GAP programme and commercial GAP standard in the Philippines (STDF 267) was approved conditionally, subject to confirmation of funding for complementary capacity building activities.

Next deadline for STDF funding applications

- 10 September 2009

Detailed information on funding eligibility and criteria is available on the [STDF web site](http://www.standardsfacility.org):

http://www.standardsfacility.org/Funding_Opportunities.htm.



ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS



CCAFRICA Accra, Ghana

Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa Meets in Ghana

The FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) held its 18th session in Accra, Ghana from 24-27 February 2009. The Committee identified priority areas for implementation of the Strategic Plan for CCAFRICA. Key to the implementation of these priority areas was the offer of assistance from the Africa Union. The CCAFRICA also relaunched its web site to enhance information exchange in the region. Representing the STDF, Panos Antonakakis provided an update on STDF activities and recent developments in the SPS Committee, including on private standards. See the [CCAFRICA web site](http://www.codexafrica.org) for more information: www.codexafrica.org.

Codex launches videos on Youtube

Official Codex videos are now available on Youtube: www.youtube.com/CodexAlim.

OIE Technical Session on Climate Change

Climate change has a considerable impact on the emergence and re-emergence of animal diseases. This was the key message from Dr Peter Black, Rapporteur for this Technical Item at the OIE General Session in Paris on 25 May. OIE Members agreed that climate change was a priority and called on the OIE to use its scientific capabilities and networks, at global, regional and sub-regional levels, to tackle this issue. In particular, they advocated new action at the level of research, national capacity building targeted at public and private animal health systems, and communication, with the aim of preventing or reducing the effects of climate change on animal production and diseases, including those transmissible to humans. See the [OIE web site](http://www.oie.int) (www.oie.int) for more information.



Peter Black
addressing the OIE
Technical Session



Melvin Spreij chatting
with participants at
the launch of the
BTSF-Africa Initiative

EC launches "Better Training for Safer Food in Africa" Initiative in Addis Ababa

The EC launched its "Better Training for Safer Food in Africa" (BTSF-Africa) Initiative at a high-level meeting at the African Union's (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 3 April 2009. Attending on behalf of the STDF, Melvin Spreij made a statement on potential and future trends in the harmonization of SPS frameworks at the level of regional economic communities (RECs). The event was preceded by an intensive training course for officials from the AU Commission and RECs from 30 March to 2 April 2009, in which STDF also participated.

Under "BTSF-Africa," the EC and the AUC will jointly coordinate the implementation of seven capacity building activities worth around €10 million from 2009-10. The activities target the public and private sectors playing a role in the SPS systems at national, regional and continental levels. The knowledge, expertise and skills transferred will help to produce and distribute agro-food products compatible with international SPS standards, contributing towards the reduction of the likelihood of foodborne diseases, and the related health and socio-economic burden.

For more on BTSF, see the [EC's web site](http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm):
http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm.



Androulla Vassiliou,
EU Health Commissioner,
speaking at the
high-level conference
in Addis Ababa

"Due to the growing demands we have agreed to set up, jointly with the African Union Commission (AUC), a specific programme targeted at Africa, with the view to promoting compliance with international Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures as key to bilateral trade, both within Africa and with the rest of the world, and to increasing the protection of citizens."



ACTIVITIES OF STDF'S PARTNERS



Bert Koenders, Development Cooperation Minister, the Netherlands at the new PLAZA Centre in Mali

Dutch Development Cooperation Minister in Mali for opening of Mango processing centre

The Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation, Bert Koenders, attended the formal opening, by President Amadou Toumany Toure of Mali, of a new fresh fruit logistical and processing centre (PLAZA) on 3 March 2009 in Bamako. In his speech, the Dutch Minister stressed the importance of PLAZA for mango exports from Mali.

PLAZA (*Plateforme Logistique Aménagée en Zone Aéroportuaire*) is a logistical and processing centre for mangos and other fruit, financed by the Dutch Cooperation. The aim is to support rural income generation and job creation throughout the supply chain in line with the priority the Dutch development cooperation places

on private sector development. Thanks to the PLAZA centre, Mali now has the necessary infrastructure and cooling facilities to comply with European food safety regulations. This has already resulted in a 400% increase in mango exports over the last three years. In 2008, almost half of the total volume of exported mangos went to the Netherlands.

The opening of the PLAZA centre complements other projects in Mali, financed by USAID, the World Bank and STDF, to expand exports of fresh fruit and vegetables that meet international safety standards, as a means to support economic diversification and poverty reduction. It also contributes to ongoing efforts by the STDF, the European Commission, ECOWAS and others to control the spread of fruit fly in West Africa.

A short film about the mango value chain in Mali is available at: www.cbi.eu/videos/mango-value-chain.php.

Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-4) meets in Rome, 30 March-3 April 2009

CPM-4 agreed that phytosanitary capacity building is a high priority issue and requested the IPPC Secretariat to actively seek collaboration and new resources in this regard. The session provisionally approved both the concept paper on national phytosanitary capacity and the phytosanitary capacity building strategy, and endorsed the establishment of informal working "virtual" groups on advocacy, and on communication and cooperation. New and revised standards were also adopted, including amendments to the glossary of phytosanitary terms (ISPM 5), revisions to regulation of wood packaging material in international trade (ISPM 15), and categorization of commodities according to their pest risk (ISPM 32). See the IPPC web site (www.ippc.int) for more information.

National Aid for Trade Event in Peru

Outstanding SPS priorities, and the need for and provision of SPS-related technical cooperation, were discussed at a National Aid-for-Trade Dialogue event in Lima, Peru on 3 March 2009. The event was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, with the involvement of the STDF. Enhancing SPS performance was presented as an Aid-for-Trade priority area, which was well-received by donors and international organizations. Assurances were given that the issues highlighted would be further discussed as part of capacity building dialogues. The United States agreed to act as donor coordinator for trade-related assistance in Peru. For more information, read the final report on the [STDF web site](http://www.stdf.org) or contact Simon.Padilla@wto.org.



Michael Roberts, WTO; Mercedes Araoz, Minister of Trade and Tourism, Peru; Ana María Rodríguez, IADB; Peter Muller, Swiss Ambassador (left to right)

First OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability

Representatives of governments and the private sector, farmers, processors, retailers, consumers and scientific research organisations came together at the OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 23 to 25 March 2009. The meeting advanced work on global implementation of animal identification and product traceability "from the farm to the fork".

See the [OIE web site](http://www.oie.int/eng/traceability-2009/documents.html) for the conference presentations and recommendations: www.oie.int/eng/traceability-2009/documents.html.

ACTIVITIES OF STDF'S PARTNERS



New manual for SPS notification authorities and enquiry points

A new manual to help governments implement the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement was published by the WTO in February 2009. The manual, prepared by the New Zealand Enquiry Point with the assistance of officials from Australia and the WTO Secretariat, provides step-by-step guidance to support the establishment and operation of enquiry points and notification authorities. For instance, it explains how to prepare notifications, manage incoming notifications, alert stakeholders and draft standard letters, etc. The manual will be especially useful for developing and least-developed countries

and may also be of interest to acceding countries that are establishing notification authorities. It is available on the SPS gateway of the WTO web site: www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.html.

Follow-up to WTO's 4th specialized SPS course

Participants from the 4th specialized SPS course return to Geneva in June 2009 for an intensive two-day session (18-19 June) to report and exchange experiences on progress made in implementing the SPS action plans they developed during their three-week training in October 2008. They will also attend the SPS Committee meeting on 23-24 June 2009.

Climate Change, Agriculture and Trade on the Road to Copenhagen

A Copenhagen Agreement Should Consider Agriculture. This was the key message from the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) Platform meeting in Salzburg on 14 May 2009. The meeting explored areas at the nexus of climate change, agricultural and trade policy in the run-up to the meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009. Marlynne Hopper made a presentation, on behalf of the STDF, on the impact of climate change on food safety, animal and plant health and the development and implementation of standards. The complete Statement and Recommendations from the Platform meeting, as well as presentations, are available on the [IPC web site \(www.agritrade.org\)](http://www.agritrade.org).



Pascal Lamy,
WTO Director
General, at the
IPC Seminar

IPC Spring seminar on climate change

The ICTSD-IPC platform meeting was preceded by a high-level IPC seminar on climate change on 10-11 May 2009. Speaking at the opening, Pascal Lamy, WTO Director General, urged that "we have to act together and responsibly, in addressing what has become one of the world's most serious environmental challenges", whilst stating that he is "convinced that international trade will be an even greater must in the future", arguing that efforts to reduce GHG emissions from agriculture would "be easier to pursue under a shared vision of global integration".



FAO publishes training manual to help poor farmers turn into better business people

FAO in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture has launched a new course on how to run an agribusiness. It includes interactive information on agro-food systems and chains, how to organize and improve the planning process of producer associations, post harvest and marketing information and business management for small-scale agro-processors. Available now in English and Spanish on the [FAO web site](http://www.fao.org) and in CD-Rom and booklet form. A French-language version is under preparation.



The Future of Livestock in West Africa

A recent study, carried out within the ECOWAS Commission and the Sahel and West Africa Club/OECD partnership on the future of livestock in the Sahel and West Africa, considers the potential and challenges for strengthening regional livestock markets in the Sahel and West Africa.

Download the study from the OECD web site.
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/10/8/41848366.pdf>.



FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

June 2009

8-11 June, Maseru, Lesotho: Regional workshop on the WTO SPS Agreement (English-speaking Africa)

11-12 June, Maseru, Lesotho: OIE workshop "Importation of animal products: threat or opportunity?"

16-19 June, Douala, Cameroon: Regional workshop on the WTO SPS Agreement (French-speaking Africa)

17-20 June 2009, Madrid, Spain: World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Annual Conference

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

25-26 June, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group Meeting

24-26 June, Asunción, Paraguay: OIE/FAO Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease

29 June-4 July, Rome, Italy: Codex Alimentarius Commission, 32nd session

July 2009

6-7 July, Geneva, Switzerland: Second Global Review of Aid for Trade

14-17 July, Nairobi, Kenya: PAN-SPSO for African Regional Economic Communities (English)

20-24 July, Bamako, Mali: PAN-SPSO for African Regional Economic Communities (French)

30 July-2 August, Singapore: 2nd Meeting of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum

August 2009

3-7 August, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR: Regional workshop for Asia on the WTO SPS Agreement

10-14 August, Durban, South Africa: 12th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics

17-18 August, Trondheim, Norway: International Aquaculture Biosecurity Conference: Practical Approaches for the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Disease

September 2009

22-23 September, Washington D.C., United States: World Bank/STDF seminar "Climate Change and Agriculture Trade: Risks and Responses"

23-25 September, Stockholm, Sweden: SIDA food regulatory system training programme

29-30 September, venue TBC: Workshop on implementation of an action plan to control fruit fly in West Africa

October 2009

6-8 October, Jakarta, Indonesia: International symposium on WTO-SPS agreement

12-31 October, Geneva, Switzerland: 5th WTO Specialized Course on the SPS Agreement (in Spanish)

12-14 October, Paris, France: OIE Conference of Deans – Evolving veterinary education for a safer world

22-24 October, Geneva, Switzerland: SPS Committee meeting

26 October, Geneva, Switzerland: Workshop on the SPS Committee and Codex, IPPC and OIE

30 October, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF workshop on economic analysis

Farewell to Michael



After five years at the helm of the STDF, Michael Roberts became Aid for Trade coordinator in WTO's Development Division in January 2009. The STDF misses Michael's able and dynamic leadership but looks forward to working closely with the Aid for Trade unit in the future, and wishes Michael all the very best in his new role.

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

Biosafety Protocol News

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

NEW!! Codex Newsletter

www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp

EC DG Trade's SPS News

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

FAO-BiotechNews

www.fao.org/biotech/

IPC's Agritrade Forum Newsletter

www.agritrade.org/Publications/#newsletter

NEW!! ISEAL Gazette

www.isealliance.org

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=

UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Briefings

To subscribe, email: tcb@unido.org

WHO Food Safety Newsletter

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

STDF e-list

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