

December 2009

Exchange of information on SPS

This document is a compilation of SPS information received for the STDF Working Group meeting of 10 December 2009 from:

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**I. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK****ADB REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: ENHANCING TRANSPORT AND TRADE FACILITATION IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION (GMS)****DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR IMPROVED SPS HANDLING IN GMS****Summary**

This GMS SPS Action Plan proposes 11 Actions for SPS capacity building and cooperation among GMS countries. The implementation of the Plan will: (i) reduce the gap between the less and the more developed GMS countries in capacities for implementing SPS measures; and (ii) create better information and trust among GMS countries in each others SPS measures. By doing so it will (a) enhance trade in agricultural, food and forestry products in the region; and (b) better protect against risks of trade-related health hazards for consumers, livestock and crops.

**Background**

The Action Plan responds to the 2005 GMS Strategic Framework for Action on Trade Facilitation and Investment (SFA-TFI) and the call at the 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> GMS Summit of Leaders in Vientiane for accelerated implementation of trade and transport facilitation initiatives, which include strengthened SPS cooperation. The proposed actions are in synergy with the ASEAN agenda for harmonization of SPS measures and the agenda for the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and the ASEAN-China MOU on SPS.

For GMS and ASEAN countries the adoption of principles of the WTO is guiding the process of economic integration and cooperation. Sharing information with trading partners about the plant pest and animal disease situation and food safety conditions is a main obligation for countries under the WTO SPS agreement. Moreover, not only OECD trading partners, but increasingly also partners in the region require such information, based on international standards of Codex Alimentarius, ISO, IPPC and OIE. Although capacities to implement the SPS principles and to harmonize with the international standards differ much between the countries, all GMS countries still have many weaknesses to solve. Most emphasis in the Action Plan is on investment for capacity building in the weaker countries, but several of the proposed regional cooperation mechanisms will also help capacity building and international harmonization in the advanced GMS countries.

## Contents

The three main actions focus on plant health, animal health, and food safety. They include a cluster of capacity building activities for each sector: (i) programs for surveillance of plant pests, animal diseases, and food safety; (ii) selectively upgrading laboratory capacities for testing and diagnosis of pests and diseases; (iii) analysis of findings by application of risk analysis; and (iv) exchange of information.

The fourth action will improve capacities for SPS handling on the border by (i) preparing lists of low, medium and high risk products for which handling can be differentiated; (ii) improved inspection manuals; and (iii) investments in facilities at selected border crossings.

Actions 5 and 6 focus on surveillance and testing of the quality and use of pesticides and veterinary drugs, with risk analysis applied to better address risks of illegal and substandard products in GMS countries.

Action 7 aims at improving food safety in the tourist industry in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam by enhancing improvements in thousands of small and medium-sized enterprises in that sector supply chain that annually provide food to millions of tourists.

One area of economic cooperation and integration which could be very beneficial to less advanced countries is harmonization of first-time market access for new products. Action 8 will promote harmonization and transparency so that countries can recognize assessment work done in other GMS countries, and may conform with approvals in other countries.

The trade in forestry and timber products is important to GMS countries. Although there are considerable risks of the spread of forest pests, compared to agricultural products less attention has been given to surveillance and pest lists. As a result often precautionary measures are imposed on forest products. Action 9 will assess the needs of strengthening the science base for quarantine measures for products from this sector.

The main thrust in the Action Plan regarding risk analysis is to main-stream it in regular work programs. However, there is need to build generic expertise to support main-streaming activities, which is the focus of Action 10.

In Cambodia and Lao PDR limited availability of specialists in plant health, animal health and food safety hampers the build up of capacities in the main SPS agencies and the private sector. Action 11 aims to address this bottleneck by upgrading curricula and teaching facilities in university.

## Cooperative mechanisms

The way forward for individual GMS countries is to improve their capacities to manage their SPS measures and to respond effectively to measures of trading countries, and most support is needed for this. However, cooperative mechanism will play an important role in creating trust and knowledge about each others systems and can greatly improve effectiveness of efforts. Therefore the Plan also proposes support for cooperative mechanisms, which include bilateral working groups, twinning, regional meetings and a regional framework for implementation and coordination.

**Bilateral working groups** for each of the areas (food safety, plant health and animal health) will be effective tools for exchange of information, dealing with concerns about spill-over of hazards, and exploring options for cooperation – for example in surveillance and coordination of policies.

**Twinning** of institutions in China, Thailand and Vietnam on the one hand, and institutions in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar on the other, will contribute to effective networking, building trust, and cost-effective transfer of knowledge and capacities, provided language barriers can be solved. Twinning will be strengthened by bringing in institutions from developed countries (tripling) in order to enhance better application of international standards of Codex, IPPC, ISO and OIE in the

region and at the same time help institutions in China, Thailand and Vietnam in strengthening their own capacities.

**Regional meetings** will be needed for technical experts and senior officials for identifying common SPS issues, consensus building and for coordinating bilateral and regional activities.

### **Project implementation and coordination**

The draft action plan proposes each country has a project implementation unit and a National SPS Steering Committee chaired by a vice minister or senior officer. In addition it is recommended to establish a GMS SPS **Coordinating Body** to guide the implementation of the GMS Action Plan and a GMS Coordination Unit tasked to (i) prepare proposals for regional cooperation and coordination; (ii) enhance their implementation; (iii) review progress; and (iv) organize regional activities; and maintain close cooperation with development partners.

### **Justification**

Trade in agricultural, food and forestry products among GMS countries amounted in 2007 to US\$ 7 billion per year. It has been increasing more rapidly than trade to the rest of the world and world trade in these products and it has large potential to further increase. Improved SPS measures will result in substantial benefits through (i) higher income from agriculture; (ii) higher income and wellbeing for consumers; (iii) higher income through lower transaction costs; and (iv) increased economic growth, employment and income. Simulations indicate that the benefits may accrue to hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

The implementation of the action plan would significantly add value to the agenda of capacity building activities of development partners because of its specific characteristics. The Plan's main characteristics are: (i) it contains comprehensive investment packages of training, equipment and institutional development for each sub-area; (ii) it has a five-year duration and aims at a resource envelop of over US\$ 75 million; (iii) it deals with cross border issues; (iv) emphasis is on an agenda of activities on the ground, learning by doing and a "hands-on approach"; and (v) it combines in-country capacity building with regional cooperation.

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## II. WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

Information on *One World One Health*:

<http://www.oie.int/eng/publicat/BULLETIN%20PDF/Bull%202009-2-ENG.pdf>

The final report on *Cost of National Prevention Systems for Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Developing and Transition Countries*, prepared by Civic Consulting on behalf of the OIE. This report is available on the OIE website at the following address:

[http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE-WB\\_Conference\\_1007/en\\_Global\\_Animal\\_Health\\_Initiative.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE-WB_Conference_1007/en_Global_Animal_Health_Initiative.htm)

Final report of the First Donors' *External Evaluation of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (2006-2008 activities)*, prepared by Agra CEAS Consulting Ltd.

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### III. INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Activities in the area of SPS currently developed by the Integration and Trade Department of IADB:

**1) Research:** technical research on some specific SPS issues of interest for the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries i.e.

a) SPS Import Requirements to Access the EU Market (will be launched in 2010)

b) “Treatment of Agriculture in Regional Trade Agreements” (research launched last month- it has a chapter on SPS)

Info available at: <http://events.iadb.org/calendar/eventDetail.aspx?lang=en&id=1462>

**2) Capacity Building:** Capacity building activities for the LAC government officials and private sector on SPS related issues based on 2 different approaches:

*a) Supply driven approach (IDB/INTAL-WTO Capacity Building program)* The IDB jointly with the WTO has developed a Training Program for trade negotiators in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by these institutions in February 2002. These trainings aim to improve understanding of the WTO legal framework. Every year IDB delivers trainings on Agriculture Trade, SPS and/or TBT. In 2009 they implemented a regional training in Buenos Aires on Agriculture Trade. In 2010 IDB will have one technical training on SPS for Central American countries.

The presentation and agenda of the training held in Buenos Aires is available at:

[http://www.iadb.org/Intal/detalle\\_evento.asp?Origen=CA&cid=266&tipo=&idioma=ESP&id=369](http://www.iadb.org/Intal/detalle_evento.asp?Origen=CA&cid=266&tipo=&idioma=ESP&id=369)

*b) Demand-driven approach (Technical training on SPS issues):* These courses are focused on short and medium term scope amount to planned responses to client’s specific demands on SPS issues. This year IADB received requests from Peru, Guatemala and El Salvador to provide technical training on SPS related issues.

#### **3) SPS Database:**

IADB is developing an SPS Database containing information on the SPS-related commitments negotiated in regional trade agreements; notifications sent to the WTO SPS Committee; SPS related requirements to export agricultural products to some specific countries; main private standards and the import refusals due to the lack of compliance with these requirements. It is still under construction but you can access it at: <http://www.iadb.org/topics/trade/int/tools/sps/Default.aspx>

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#### **IV. INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC)**

##### **INFORMATION ON SPS-RELATED RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE (ITC) - STDF WORKING GROUP MEETING ON 10 DECEMBER 2009**

##### **INFORMATION/TRAINING PACKS:**

- The ITC Information Pack on the “*WTO Agreement on SPS: A Business Perspective*” is being revised based on the experience and customization in Bangladesh for horticulture and agro-processing and fisheries sectors under the Bangladesh Quality Support Programme<sup>1</sup>. The Pack is aimed at enhancing national capacity to strengthen skills of the business sector to take advantage of the WTO Agreement on SPS for maintaining and improving market access.

The Pack is used as background material for Train-the-trainer programme and workshops and as a basis for developing and customizing training material for sectors and taking into account national needs. The new approach to develop the capacity of the trainers applied by ITC can be replicated in other countries. The Pack will be available in Q1 2010<sup>2</sup>.

- An ITC Training Pack for Train-the-Trainer on “Food Safety Management System – ISO 22000” based on ITC previous experiences in Central Asia and Bangladesh is being developed and will be made available in Q1 2010.

##### **PUBLICATIONS:**

ITC and PTB (the German National Metrology Institute) will jointly develop the second edition of the ITC publication on “Export Quality Management Book: An answer book for small-medium sized exporters” aimed at addressing frequent questions on Technical regulations, standards, Product certification, Testing, Metrology, management systems, Accreditation. The second edition of the book will increase the number of questions and answers dealing with SPS measures, ISO 22000 and private standards. ITC and PTB have currently completed the collection of responses from national counterparts, consultants, WTO TBT and SPS/STDF Secretariats about the structure and questions to be included in the second edition.

The book is scheduled to be published next year.

##### **EXPORT QUALITY BULLETINS:**

The draft version in Arabic of the ITC bulletin EQ 84 “Exporting Seafood to EU” is available and it is under proof reading. The translation has been done under a joint publication agreement between the Yemeni Seafood Exporters Association (YSEA, the implementing agency of STDF project 69) and INFOSAMAK. The bulletin, due to be published by end of December 2009<sup>3</sup>, will be distributed to Competent Authorities and exporters in the Arab region.

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<sup>1</sup> The Bangladesh Quality Support Programme (BQSP) is funded by the EC with contributions from UNIDO and ITC and in kind contribution from the Government of Bangladesh. ITC is implementing Component 2 “Supporting Export Diversification” of the BQSP. Component 2 is due to end by end of December 2009

<sup>2</sup> The revised ITC Pack on “*WTO Agreement on TBT: A Business Perspective*” based on the experience in Bangladesh will be available by end of December 2009.

<sup>3</sup> The publication of the bulletin, previously planned by September 2009, have been postponed to enhance better review of the technical content

**PROJECTS:**➤ ***Bangladesh Quality Support Programme***

ITC is being completing its activities in Bangladesh to strengthen national capacity to design and implement sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in accordance with the relevant WTO rights and obligations.

**Workshops on “The WTO/SPS Agreement: A Business Perspective”, conducted by local trainers**

The local trainers, who have customizing the generic ITC training material on “*The WTO SPS Agreement: A Business Perspective*” to take into account the specific situation in Bangladesh and the specific needs related to fisheries and horticulture and agro-processing, have conducted the following workshops<sup>4</sup>:

- One two-day SPS workshop on Fisheries in Chittagong (8-9 October 2009)
- One two-day SPS workshop on Fisheries in Khulna (15-16 October 2009)
- One two-day SPS workshop for Horticulture/Agro Processing in Chittagong (12-13 December 2009)

**Food Safety Management System - ISO 22000**

The direct assistance to implement Food Safety Management Systems based on ISO 22000 in six agro-processed food enterprises and hands-on training of selected Trainers-cum-Counsellors (TcCs) on ISO 22000 is almost ending. The review of the ISO 22000 documentation in the six enterprises and final recommendations to improve the FSMS was provided in October 2009 together with a two-day training workshop on “Internal Audit on FSMS – ISO 22000” and one-day awareness workshop on “Implementing Food Safety Management Systems – ISO 22000” conducted by the trained local TcCs. Trained TcCs are being conducting final internal audit of the enterprises and guide them with corrective actions for closure of the non-conformities identified. The six selected enterprises, under the supervision of the IC and the appointed TcCs, are quickly implementing the project recommendations and are going beyond initial expectations; few companies may be able to reach certification in few months time. At least two TcCs are extremely committed and have significantly improved their skills in the area of ISO 22000; they may be considered as valuable local resources for any future initiatives in this area.

**Export Diversification and Strengthening the International Competitiveness of Enterprises within the Horticulture Sector**

The ITC assistance in the horticulture sector has been completed; it focused on improving the understanding of the exporters in Bangladesh of the demands of the export markets particularly the quality, packaging, certification requirements and training exporters to organise and manage an effective supply and procurement chain including post-harvest, contract farming, cold store and pack-house management.

A study tour to Thailand for twelve participants from Bangladesh, inter alia, from enterprises and exporters associations was conducted from 21 to 27 June 2009, to show the Thai model of compliance with market requirements and reduction of post-harvest losses. The Study Tour was followed by a

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<sup>4</sup> These workshops, previously planned to take place in the second quarter of 2009, have been postponed to enhance better preparation of the training material

specific training workshop and advisory services, led by experts from Thailand, (18-23 October 2009) to improve quality, food safety and packaging compliance of Bangladeshi horticulture products with market requirements along the value chain.

A match making, marketing tour to the Middle East was conducted for exporters from Bangladesh in end of October 2009 to expose them to the market requirements and establish personal contacts with major importers in the UAE. Ten exporters have formed Bangladesh Agro Produce Exporting Company, BAPEXCO Ltd in a joint venture to adopt and apply all the recommendations of BQSP programme in the area of quality, packaging, operations and marketing. Bapexco is willing to introduce IPM and GAP to their contracted growers.

➤ ***STDF 69 project: “Improved capacity for ensuring the quality and safety of Yemeni seafood products”***

ITC is almost completing its close supervisory assistance to the Yemeni Seafood Exporting Association (YSEA) (end of the project is 31 December 2009). The fourth progress report has been submitted to WTO in October 2009.

An ITC monitoring mission was conducted from 6 to 13 November 2009 on the occasion of the final workshop of the project on 9 November 2009 and the missions of the International Consultants on Quality Control and Business Management. The workshop was attended by more than 40 key representatives of private and public sectors and donors (i.e. EC, JICA) and focused on the main achievements and outputs of the project and recommendations for implementation of the SPS Strategy. The Minister of Fish Wealth gave an important speech setting out policy on landing sites and exports, which was fully coherent with the recommendations delivered by the project. A subsequent fruitful break out session was held between the consultants, YSEA, ITC, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Fish Wealth, JICA, the EC delegation with regard to SPS strategy at landing sites.

A Project Steering Committee Meeting was successfully conducted on 9 November 09; the project concept and design, implementation and results, recommendations and follow up were discussed. A need for a stronger collaboration between YSEA and the MFW was also raised.

Besides reaching the stated project outputs, STDF project 69 has supported YSEA to establish itself, in a relatively short period of time, as a key institution in the Yemeni fisheries sector. Although there is still a long way to go, the association has undoubtedly been instrumental in bringing the seafood industry closer together.

- YSEA is now recognized as an industry association in a broader context in Yemen and a key stakeholder in the development of the national sector strategy led by the EC;
- YSEA’s international cooperation has been strengthened through the development of an MoU with VASEP, the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers<sup>5</sup>;
- Yemeni fishery products have gained higher visibility in international markets through participation of YSEA and exporters to International Expositions (i.e. EU, Dubai);
- The project outputs are being made available to improve the quality and food safety of the fisheries products in Yemen and represent useful inputs for policy framework development. The outputs of the project have helped to raise the awareness of the SPS issues covered. They have also raised the profile of YSEA as an honest broker acting in the interests of all stakeholders in the Yemeni fishery sector, thus contributing to the future sustainability of the organisation.

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<sup>5</sup> The MoU is aimed at enhancing collaboration in the areas of training, technological cooperation, the development of investigations, and technological transfer, for the benefit of both institutions and of society



Most importantly, the process of developing the National SPS Strategy for the Fishery Sector has contributed to a national policy debate and subsequent amendment to the fisheries byelaws regarding introduction of market principles in the management of fish landing sites and strengthened sanitary controls to regional exports.

The YSEA strategy (2009-2015), developed under the STDF project 69, along with a number of key initiatives/work packages have been identified as crucial for the development of the association enabling it to gain further acceptance within the seafood sector in Yemen and contribute to increase the quality and safety of seafood from Yemen.

There is now a need to ensure sustainability to the results achieved under STDF 69 project by ensuring additional TA and funding support to YSEA and the private sector in the fishery sector. Failing to receive additional external support would result in a significant reduction of activities that may be carried forward by YSEA itself and would most likely jeopardise the ambitious plans for implementation of the YSEA formulated strategy under the STDF 69 project in the short to medium term. YSEA is keen to share its strategy and identified initiatives/work packages with the STDF Working Group Members and Donors for support and considerations.

YSEA has now to formally adopt all the outputs of STDF project 69. It is therefore recommended that YSEA Board formally review and adopt the documents issued and that these documents should be released and disseminated through a sequential series of launches, with associated press release, media publicity, and distribution efforts, with a view to establishing YSEA as a source of high quality and relevant technical information for the benefit of the fishery sector.

A final project report will be submitted by YSEA and ITC in January 2010.

Project STDF 69 is an example of project applying the principles of the Paris Declaration for Aid effectiveness, by bringing together components such as private sector, national ownership and implementation and supervision by international agency such as ITC. Indeed, in order to build effective local capacity to implement the project, ITC had to devote more time in supervision than initially allocated. In any future projects, implemented at national level and supervised at international level, training on management and administrative/financial skills would be useful along with higher financial support to the international agency for supervision.

➤ ***Other ITC projects of interest:***

**Regional Consultation on « Quality Management: linking TPOs and NSBs for export success», 1-3 December 2009, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

ITC and ISO have jointly organized a consultation aimed at providing a framework for National Standards Bodies (NSBs) and Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs) to find the best approach to develop and strengthen their cooperation to support the international competitiveness of SMEs, given the limited resources, and constraints in developing countries. More than 35 representatives from 16 countries<sup>6</sup> in Asia and among decision-making level practitioners and professionals in the field of standards and trade promotion actively participated to the consultation. The consultation helped clarify roles and mandates of NSBs and TPOs and related inter-linkages and identify possible areas of cooperation to help enterprises meet standards and overcome technical barriers to trade and, particularly, to influence the development of international standards for export products of interest.

Besides the important actions identified by the participants as follow up at national level, consultation is expected to produce by Q1 2010:

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<sup>6</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, China Macau SAR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam

1. A publication emphasizing linkages between NSBs and TPOs based on an expert meeting which will, *inter alia*, incorporate the key issues, solutions and “best practices” elaborated in the consultation documentation and discussions.
2. Updated export strategy formulation methodology with reinforced module on Quality Management

For more information on the consultation, please visit  
<http://www.intracen.org/eqm/events/welcome.htm>

**For more information:**

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**V. SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)**

15 December, 2009

Erik Ringborg

Regarding: **INFORMATION TO THE STDF  
SECRETARIAT ON SIDA-FUNDED  
SPS-RELATED PROJECTS**

To:  
STDF Secretariat

**Information on SPS-related projects and programmes funded by Sweden***Ongoing/already agreed projects***Macedonia:**

Project name: "Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure Development for Food Safety and Quality in South East Europe"

An institutional cooperation setup consisting of the Swedish National Food Administration (SLV) and the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC) are in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in the republic of Macedonia carrying out the project called "Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure Development for Food Safety and Quality in South East Europe".

The overall objective of the programme is:

To contribute to create conditions for economic development to enable poor men and women in the agricultural sector and food industry to improve their living situation.

The main objectives are:

To support Macedonia in adapting to the requirements of the European Union and the provisions of the WTO agreements in the area of food safety and international trade in food and foodstuffs;

To support Macedonia in harmonizing the field of food safety and trade in food and foodstuffs to further enhance the political and democratic dialogue in South East Europe.

Total Amount: SEK 15.6 million

Time Period: 2008-2011

**Bosnia-Herzegovina:**

Project name: "Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure Development for Food Safety and Quality in South East Europe" (similar set-up and objectives as in Macedonia)

An institutional cooperation setup consisting of the Swedish National Food Administration (SLV) and the Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC) are in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Trade and External relations in Bosnia-Herzegovina carrying out the project called "Quality and Regulatory Infrastructure Development for Food Safety and Quality in South East Europe".

The overall objective of the programme is:

To contribute to create conditions for economic development to enable poor men and women in the agricultural sector and food industry to improve their living situation.

The main objectives are:

To support Bosnia in adapting to the requirements of the European Union and the provisions of the WTO agreements in the area of food safety and international trade in food and foodstuffs;

To support Bosnia in harmonizing the field of food safety and trade in food and foodstuffs to further enhance the political and democratic dialogue in South East Europe.

Total Amount: SEK 15.6 million

Time Period: 2008-2011

### **Georgia:**

Project name: "Support to Milk and Dairy Sector Project (SMDSP)"

The Support to Milk and Dairy Sector Project (SMDSP) started in November 2005 and the first phase ends on 31 October 2009. The total Sida contribution for the four years amounts to SEK 50 million. The project is being implemented by GRM International AB (previously OPTO International AB), on a contract with the Georgian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

The overall objective of the SMDSP is to reduce rural poverty and facilitate sustainable economic growth among men and women producers, processors and entrepreneurs engaged in milk and dairy production and processing in Georgia. To help improve rural incomes through marketing raw milk to commercial processors at a national scale, the SMDSP intervenes in the dairy chain at three points: *production* - to improve the volume and quality of milk and cheese being produced, *marketing* – to strengthen commercial ties between farmers and processors, and *policy* by taking a leading role in the emerging food safety framework. It thus relates strongly to SPS and food safety issues.

Sida has taken a decision to extend the support with an additional contribution of SEK 30 million for the period 2009-2011.

Total Amount: SEK 80 million (SEK 50 million + SEK 30 million)

Time period: 2005-2009 (phase 1), 2009-2011 (extension phase)

### **Global:**

"Standards and Trade Development Facility "

Sida entered into agreement with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2009 on support to the Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Trust Fund. The Swedish support is a multi-year contribution for the period 2009-2013 amounting to 35 million Swedish kronor.

"FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex (Codex Trust Fund)"

Sida entered into agreement with the WHO in early December 2009 on a five year contribution in support of the Codex Trust Fund amounting to 25 million Swedish Kronor.

### **Sida's International Training Programmes (ITP)**

Sida is currently running various SPS-related training programmes on both the global level and regional MENA level. Below follows information on the new ITPs starting in 2010. These courses are already running in earlier versions.

Sida's International Training Programmes are open to candidates from most low- and middle income countries. The aim is to support and strengthen the participants own plans for change on organizational and sectoral levels and should not be regarded as individual competence training.

The methodology is based on the assumption that participating countries wish to carry out changes and are willing to invest own resources to achieve these changes. Training is focused on support to the participants own plans or projects for change. Against this background, the training programmes are designed for persons qualified to participate in reform processes and holds a position in the home organization with mandate to run processes of change.

Commissioned by Sida, the training programmes are organized by Swedish public authorities, universities, private companies and NGOs.

In most cases, the programmes start with a 3-4 weeks training in Sweden. The participants review and get started with their plans for change supervised by skilled Swedish colleagues and experts in a mixture of lectures, workshops, process oriented work and study visits. Six months later a follow-up meeting takes place in one of the participating countries. Exchange of experiences and lessons learned concerning implementation of the plans for change dominates this phase that concludes the training programme. Support from the programme organizers are given during the entire programme period.

### **Quality Infrastructure Development in Support of International Trade (Global)**

#### *Duration*

Part 1: October 3 - October 29

Part 2: April 2011

#### *Location*

Part 1: Stockholm Sweden

Part 2: In one of the participating countries To be decided

*Number of participants* 25

#### *Target Region*

Global

#### *Closing date for applications*

June 11, 2010

#### *Objectives*

The overall objectives of the programme are:

To provide information and training in establishing, maintaining and operating the national framework for international trade and quality infrastructure development, including preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, standardization, accreditation, certification, testing, inspection and quality assurance.

#### *Target Group*

The programme is intended first and foremost for those involved in the decision-making process when implementing a quality infrastructure in their country in accordance with international agreements and requirements in particular issues and matters related to the establishment and operation of accreditation activities. Participants will typically come from ministries dealing with international trade, industry and commerce, conformity assessment bodies (standardization bodies, certification bodies, testing laboratories, inspection bodies, metrology institutions or laboratories) and from accreditation bodies or national focal points for accreditation. Only candidates nominated by the

appropriate organization and in accordance with local rules will be accepted. Women are encouraged to apply.

#### *Contents*

The programme aims to provide participants with a more in-depth understanding of the following topics:

- the principles of international trade, with specific emphasis on the principles and practices embedded in the WTO TBT Agreement (rights and obligations, effect on participating countries, harmonization and notification procedures, etc) and bilateral and multilateral trade agreements
- Preparation, adoption and application of technical regulatory activities and related conformity assessment procedures concerned with national and international trade, safety, health and environmental requirements
- The concept of quality (quality system development, ISO 9000, TQM, quality awards, etc)
- The role and use of accreditation, certification, standardization, metrology, testing and inspection in national and international trade and as a tool for enforcement of national legislation
- The development of National Quality policies
- Development of National Quality Infrastructures (institutional infrastructures for standardization, accreditation, certification, inspection, testing, metrology and quality assurance)

#### **Quality Infrastructure for Food Safety (Global)**

##### *Duration*

Part 1: September 26 - October 22

Part 2: May 2011

##### *Location*

Part 1: Stockholm and Uppsala Sweden

Part 2:

*Number of participants* 25

##### *Target Region*

Global

##### *Closing date for applications*

July 16, 2010

##### *Objectives*

- To provide awareness, information and training to the relevant governmental officials and economic operators regarding the new principles and requirements related to food safety, international trade in food and agricultural products embedded in the WTO agreements and best practices
- The programme aims at supporting the participants and their institutions, companies and countries in addressing identified issues and problems at home base through project work to be done by the participants supported by programme consultants
- Finally, the programme will provide for updating and support regarding issues addressed in the project works done by the participants through a follow-up seminar that will be conducted in one of the participating countries.

##### *Target Group*

The programme is intended first and foremost for all stakeholders related to food safety and regulatory and quality infrastructure for food safety and quality. Participants will come from ministries dealing

with aspects of food safety, animal and plant health, industry and commerce, food conformity assessment bodies and from those concerned with the economic aspects, such as industry and trade. The participants shall be obliged to participate in all components of the programme, the initial training

course of four weeks, the project work period of six months and the follow-up workshop of one week's duration.

Women are encouraged to apply.

#### *Contents*

The programme aims to provide participants with general understanding of:

- The WTO-Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS).
- International trade based on the WTO-TBT agreement.
- Food legislation and enforcement
- Principles and concepts covering food safety, animal health and plant health
- Risk analysis.
- European Union food safety systems
- International standardization work in the food area
- Codex Alimentarius, I.A.H.O., I.P.P.C.
- Food labeling
- The concept of quality
- HACCP training
- Accreditation.
- Laboratory testing
- Quality Infrastructure development for food safety

#### MENA Quality Infrastructure for Food Safety

#### *Duration*

Part 1: February 7 - March 5

Part 2: September 2010

#### *Location*

Part 1: Stockholm and Uppsala Sweden

Part 2: To be decided

#### *Number of participants* 25

#### *Target Region*

Middle East and Northern Africa

#### *Closing date for applications*

December 3, 2009

#### *Objectives*

- To provide awareness, information and training to the relevant governmental officials and economic operators regarding the new principles and requirements related to food safety, international trade in food and agricultural products embedded in the WTO agreements and best practices.
- The programme aims at supporting the participants and their institutions, companies and countries in addressing identified issues and problems at home base through project works to be done by the participants supported by programme consultants.
- Finally the programme will provide for updating and support regarding issues addressed in the projects works done by the participants through a follow-up seminar that will be conducted in one of the participating countries.

#### *Target Group*

Target Region: Invited countries in Mena region.

The programme is intended first and foremost for all stakeholders related to food safety and regulatory and quality infrastructure for food safety and quality. Participants will come from

ministries dealing with aspects of food safety, animal and plant health, industry and commerce, food conformity assessment bodies and from those concerned with the economic aspects, such as industry and trade. The participants shall be obliged to participate in all components of the programme, the initial training course of four weeks, the project work period of six months and the follow-up workshop of one week's duration. Women are encouraged to apply.

#### *Contents*

The programme aims to provide participants with general understanding of:

- The WTO-Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS).
- International trade based on the WTO-TBT agreement.
- Food legislation and enforcement
- Principles and concepts covering food safety, animal health and plant health
- Risk analysis.
- European Union food safety systems
- International standardization work in the food area
- Codex Alimentarius, I.A.H.O., I.P.P.C.
- Food labeling
- The concept of quality
- HACCP training
- Accreditation.
- Laboratory testing
- Quality Infrastructure development for food safety

#### *MENA Quality Infrastructure Development in Support of International Trade*

#### *Duration*

Part 1: April 11 - May 7

Part 2: November 2010

#### *Location*

Part 1: Stockholm and Borås Sweden

Part 2: In one of the participating countries

#### *Number of participants 25*

#### *Target Region*

Middle East and Northern Africa

Closing date for applications

December 3, 2009

#### *Objectives*

The overall objectives of the programme are:  
To provide information and training in establishing, maintaining and operating the national framework for international trade and quality infrastructure development, including preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, standardization, accreditation, certification, testing, inspection and quality assurance.

#### *Target Group*

The programme is intended first and foremost for those involved in the decision-making process when implementing a quality infrastructure in their country in accordance with international agreements and requirements in particular issues and matters related to the establishment and operation of accreditation activities. Participants will typically come from ministries dealing with international trade, industry and commerce, conformity assessment bodies (standardization bodies, certification bodies, testing laboratories, inspection bodies, metrology institutions or laboratories) and from accreditation bodies or national focal points for accreditation. Only candidates nominated by the



appropriate organization and in accordance with local rules will be accepted. Women are encouraged to apply.

#### *Contents*

The programme aims to provide participants with a more in-depth understanding of the following topics:

- the principles of international trade, with specific emphasis on the principles and practices embedded in the WTO TBT Agreement (rights and obligations, effect on participating countries, harmonization and notification procedures, etc) and bilateral and multilateral trade agreements
- Preparation, adoption and application of technical regulatory activities and related conformity assessment procedures concerned with national and international trade, safety, health and environmental requirements
- The concept of quality (quality system development, ISO 9000, TQM, quality awards, etc)
- The role and use of accreditation, certification, standardization, metrology, testing and inspection in national and international trade and as a tool for enforcement of national legislation
- The development of National Quality policies
- Development of National Quality Infrastructures (institutional infrastructures for standardization, accreditation, certification, inspection, testing, metrology and quality assurance)

#### ***Projects/programmes in the pipeline***

Please note that no formal decision on support has been taken by Sweden, nor has any agreement been signed, on the projects listed below. This information is provided to the STDF for information and coordination purposes only and does forego any of Sida's internal appraisal or decision-making processes.

#### **Uganda:**

##### QUISP Uganda

The Government of Uganda and Sida have been developing a five year programme on quality infrastructure and standards. No formal decision has been taken yet and no agreement has been signed yet, but we wanted to flag for this programme in the Working Grouping.

Specifically, the programme will focus on achieving the following specific objectives;

- i. To develop a policy for standardization and review strategies for policy implementation
- ii. To develop a comprehensive and effective legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of standards and quality control measures.
- iii. To establish an effective coordination mechanism with clearly defined mandates and responsibilities for the different actors in the standards and quality area
- iv. To rationalize the institutional set up of service providers for standards development, conformity assessment and measurement services
- v. To enhance public awareness on standards and quality products and best practices.

Also, the European Commission is a cooperating partner on limited parts of this programme.

Many of the concerns raised in the balance sheet that was produced in the joint workshop by Government of Uganda, STDF and the Integrated Framework are addressed in the QUISP-programme.

Sweden plans to contribute SEK 46 million for a period of five years.

#### **Moldova:**

In Moldova there is an SPS-programme/-project that has been developed by FAO. Sweden has held consultations with FAO on possible support to this project.

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## VI. GERMANY

The German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has commissioned GTZ to carry out the project “Private Sector Development in South Caucasus” (03/2008-12/2011). The project is part of the BMZ Caucasus Initiative and covers Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The project supports the improvement of food safety as an important element in the ENP action plans which exist in all three countries. Support with food safety is complementary to the two other areas of action of the regional project (competition policy, export promotion), with the aim of giving new stimulus to trade in agricultural products by removing non-tariff barriers.

Based on the results of 3 short term missions in 2009, the following concrete activities are planned for 2010:

### GEORGIA

Agreement was reached with the Georgian partner on training the staff of the National Service for Plant Health, Animal Health and Food Safety, formed in 2006. GTZ is in contact with FAO and grateful for their assistance in identifying a short term consultant who will explore the strengths and weaknesses of 15 core staff who have been appointed by the Georgian Ministry of Agriculture and Food to conduct training of trainers. This short term mission is scheduled for January 2010 and is supposed to deliver a baseline for subsequent trainings. A number of donors including the BMZ are prepared to share in assisting implementation and financing of trainings. The exact structure of the advisory work is still to be discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Georgia.

### ARMENIA

In Armenia, agreement was reached with the partner to follow a regional workshop which took place on 3 and 4 December 2009 in Tbilisi (with representatives from Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan) on “EU requirements for food safety – the example of honey” by drawing up and implementing an action plan for the responsible authorities to lay the basis for assuring the quality and safety of products of animal origin (specifically honey) and supply proof of conformity with import requirements of trading partners from the EU and/or the wider region.

### AZERBAIJAN

The State Office for Control of Consumer Market – SOCCM) in the Ministry of Economic Development has required assistance by GTZ to improve the quality and safety of hazelnuts. It is planned to undertake training measures which would include all relevant actors in the entire value chain. Close cooperation will be sought with other partners and donors, especially with the ongoing twinning project of the EC in the fisheries sector.

### 2) Trade Standards Practitioners Network (TSPN <http://tradestandards.org>)

The Trade Standards Practitioners Network is a community of practitioners actively promoting the adoption of improved social, environmental, and food safety standards in developing countries. The overarching objective of the TSPN is to better enable developing countries to take advantage of, and participate more effectively in, standards-based markets.

- **The decision making guide of the TSPN working group I:**

The International Institute for Environment and Development” (IIED) has been commissioned to produce a “Guide for Decision Making”. The aim of the guide is to provide governments and other decision makers in developing countries with a tool to support decision making and strategy development for accessing international markets in which private standards have become reality, and to analyze what services and infrastructure (hard and soft) are needed.

Since food safety is an integral part of most private standards - the guide might also be helpful in SPS decision processes. The guide is meant as a framework for an analysis which shows how countries should generally approach standards, with the guiding question: “What do you have to consider, when getting engaged in standards based markets?”

The methodology would follow a **Decision Tree approach**. A Decision Tree facilitates critical analysis and helps decision making between several courses of action. Challenges and critical points are identified and related to possible alternative actions. A Decision Tree is mainly used to choose between different strategies and investment opportunities, especially when resources are limited, as it is often the case for the users of this guide.

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## VII. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

### Information Note on

### **Selected FAO Activities in Food Safety Capacity Building**

Conference on Nanotechnologies Applied to Food and Agriculture, 20-25 June, Sao Carlos, Brazil

A number of emerging nanotechnologies seem to have the potential to provide significant benefits in various fields including the food, water and agriculture sub-sectors. New and emerging applications such as water purification systems, rapid pathogen and chemical contaminant detection systems, and nano-enabled renewable energy technologies applied along the food chain are expected to provide developing countries with new tools to address some of the challenges to sustainable agricultural and irrigation development as well as food safety and food security.

The Government of Brazil, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is organizing an international conference as a forum for debate and discussion on new and emerging applications of nanotechnologies in food, water and agriculture. The conference aims to:

- Identify priority areas of research and development that are considered to have the greatest potential to provide broad social and equitable benefit
- Promote collaboration and partnerships among countries on issues of common interest
- Promote a harmonized approach toward the assessment and management of potential human health and environmental risks that may be associated with the application of nanotechnologies in the areas of food and agriculture.

FAO is in the process of contacting a number of international and regional bodies regarding their interest to take part in and to support the Conference. The Conference will include a series of Roundtable meetings dedicated to key issues including the questions of harmonisation of regulation as a means to avoid trade barriers.

### Food Import Inspection

In the framework of its "Food inspection series", FAO has initiated the preparation of a guidance document on the design and administration of food import control programmes. The work has been undertaken in light of the needs expressed by a number of developing member countries who rely heavily on imports to satisfy the needs of their population. The previous guidance of FAO on this specific issue dates back to the early nineties, before the adoption of the SPS agreement whose principles need to be reflected in this guidance. In addition, the relevant recommendations and guidelines developed by the Codex Committee on import and export inspection and certification systems (CCFICS) also have to be incorporated, explained and developed in the revised guidance document, to facilitate their practical application by developing countries. The resulting document should be practical enough to allow countries to develop a system for import control that reflects international principles, and is at the same time adapted to their needs and resources.

### Guidance and Training on Sampling

FAO is planning to improve tools and training materials on sampling in the context of contaminant monitoring and food safety surveillance programmes.

Sampling of foods is undertaken for a number of reasons, ranging from assessment of performance of a food safety management system against a range of performance criteria to lot testing to assess conformance to a particular microbiological criteria or MRL. This is critical for food trade and the basis on which food is allowed to move to markets making it an issue which all countries need to be able to address. The correct use of sampling plans and understanding of their

role is important so as to ensure that together with acceptance/rejection criteria they are not used as barriers to trade and are established in a science based manner. The Codex Alimentarius provides guidance in this area and is about to embark on the revision of its guidance on the establishment and application of microbiological criteria in foods. However the practical implementation at country level continues to present problems particularly in developing countries. FAO is working to ensure that these countries have an appropriate understanding of how to establish, apply and interpret sampling plans and their output in a manner that will provide both consumer protection and facilitate market access and trade. FAO already provides such guidance in an ad hoc manner through its technical assistance program but is now working towards a more integrated approach to provide assistance in this area. A web-based tool has been developed to assist countries in establishing appropriate sampling design in their surveillance/monitoring programmes according to the objectives of the programme. Work on the further improvement of this tool and the development and implementation of programmes of training on sampling in the context of food safety programmes is planned for 2010-2011.

#### Managing Microbiological Risks in Domestic and International Trade: Control of Salmonella and Campylobacter in poultry.

FAO continues to implement a number of programmes aimed at enabling countries to continuously improve their application of the food safety risk analysis framework in establishing food safety measures. Such activities are incorporated within a number of recent and on-going technical assistance projects. Recent initiatives include development of risk analysis training materials in collaboration with WHO and the International Council for development (ICD).

The FAO approach to capacity development in science and risk based food safety measures is well illustrated by its ongoing work on the control of salmonella and campylobacter in poultry. Salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis are among the most frequently reported foodborne diseases worldwide and commercial chicken meat has been identified as one of the most important food vehicles for these organisms. Furthermore, the presence of these organisms in poultry affects trade - recently the detection of Salmonella in poultry products led to rejection of large consignments of raw poultry meat.

Work is underway within the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) to develop guidelines for the control of Salmonella and Campylobacter in chicken meat. These guidelines are outcome focused and specific measures would be expected to vary according to infrastructure and practices along the production and processing chains in different countries. In recognition of the challenges involved in implementing such guidelines, member countries have requested FAO/WHO to develop *a risk based decision support tool to facilitate the assessment and implementation of appropriate control measures in the national context*. However in doing this work the paucity of data from developing countries became evident and at the same time both the production and consumption of poultry products in these countries is growing at a rate of approximately 3.5% per annum. Through projects, advocacy and training FAO continues to put emphasis on supporting developing country efforts to generate food safety data to guide decision-making at national, regional and international levels on appropriate measures. An on-going project in Uganda is reviewing practices in the poultry sector and collecting data on contaminants including Salmonella and Campylobacter as a means of informing national risk management decisions. This could be the starting point for further data collection efforts in Uganda and in other countries as well.

#### Planning Food Safety Emergency Response

EMPRES Food safety (FAO emergency prevention program on food safety) with the joint FAO/WHO INFOSAN (the International Food Safety Authorities Network) are developing a guidance document for formulating and implementing national food safety emergency response plans. While developed mainly for government agencies, this document may be useful for

organizations engaging in capacity building in the area of food safety. Recognizing the importance of relying on effective national food control systems to build food safety emergency response plans, the document will address specific need of countries in the process of developing their food control systems and strengthen their preparedness to respond appropriately in a collaborative multidisciplinary and interagency manner to food safety emergencies.

The FAO international technical conference on: Agricultural biotechnologies in developing countries: Options and opportunities in crops, forestry, livestock, fisheries and agro-industry to face the challenges of food insecurity and climate change (ABDC-10)

FAO international technical conference on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Developing Countries (ABDC-10) will be held from 1 to 4 March 2010 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The conference touches the topics in the area of agriculture, which includes the production of crops, livestock, fish and forestry products, with a direct impact on the rural economy and therefore investment in agriculture. While the measures needed extend well beyond the issue of producing more food and agricultural products, boosting productivity of smallholders' farms through appropriate application of good practices and improved technologies must be a key ingredient of developing countries' development policies. For more detail about this conference, see <http://www.fao.org/biotech/abdc/>.

## VIII. THE WORLD BANK

### OVERVIEW OF WORLD BANK SPS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

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The World Bank has undertaken a number of activities in order to broaden and deepen the operational agenda related to food safety and agriculture health management (sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues), including analytical work, training/elearning for stakeholders, direct technical assistance and investment. The involved parties have included ARD, PRMTR, and the Regions, with a considerable amount of this work done in conjunction with other organizations. Some of the most prominent activities undertaken by the World Bank in the SPS field during FY 2008/2009 covered the following:

#### 1) Mainstreaming SPS into WB operations

In recent years, the World Bank has undertaken Country Assessments of food safety and agriculture health capacities in several countries. Actions Plans to strengthen those capacities, based on the assessment and prioritization of constraints and opportunities, have also been prepared. To see the list of action plans and assessments [click here](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/TRADE/0,,contentMDK:21028381~isCURL:Y~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:239071,00.html) (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/TRADE/0,,contentMDK:21028381~isCURL:Y~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:239071,00.html>). The most recent work in this area includes the report: [“Lao People’s Democratic Republic- Sanitary and Physotanitary Measures: Enhancing Trade, Food Safety, and Agricultural Health”](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64193027&piPK=64187937&theSitePK=523679&menuPK=64187510&searchMenuPK=64187283&theSitePK=523679&entityID=000333037_20090609001657&searchMenuPK=64187283&theSitePK=523679) published in 2009 ([http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64193027&piPK=64187937&theSitePK=523679&menuPK=64187510&searchMenuPK=64187283&theSitePK=523679&entityID=000333037\\_20090609001657&searchMenuPK=64187283&theSitePK=523679](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64193027&piPK=64187937&theSitePK=523679&menuPK=64187510&searchMenuPK=64187283&theSitePK=523679&entityID=000333037_20090609001657&searchMenuPK=64187283&theSitePK=523679)).

Similarly, the WB has been supporting the design and implementation of projects with significant components (or sub-components) related to food safety & quality, and agriculture health issues. During the period 1998-2007 about 41 projects with food safety and agriculture health components were approved, covering 35 countries. Agriculture commercialization projects currently in implementation in Zambia, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and other countries, include important subcomponents related to strengthening SPS capacities. Some of the most recent projects either approved or under preparation with important components/subcomponents on SPS capacities include: *The Agriculture Commercialization and Trade Project* (PACT) in Nepal, approved in 2009; the *Jilin Agricultural Product Safety and Quality Project* in China, with investments in food safety capacity expected to reach nearly US\$100 million, to be approved in March 2010; *The Agricultural Competitiveness and Community Development Project* in Armenia with a component on institutional strengthening for food safety and agricultural competitiveness, to be approved in 2010. The description of these projects and related documents can be found in the [WB operational portal](http://go.worldbank.org/0FRO32VEI0). (<http://go.worldbank.org/0FRO32VEI0>)

Likewise, in response to a request from the Government of Turkey, the World Bank is implementing programmatic Food Safety Technical Assistance to support the modernization and compliance of food enterprises in the process of accession to the EU. Also, initial discussions are ongoing regarding a possible food safety EU harmonization project in Bulgaria.

In-country activities have been combined with regional initiatives. An example of a recent regional initiative is the programme to control fruit fly in West Africa. In July 2008, a regional action plan to control fruit fly was validated and approved by ECOWAS Members in Bamako. A study funded by the European Commission proposed operations in eight West African countries but did not include an estimated budget, a breakdown of activities between the regional and national levels, or an institutional implementation mechanism. To remedy these shortcomings, the WB, using funds

available in the EU trust fund and the Standard Trade and Development Facility (STDF) co-financed a complementary study which addresses these issues and proposes a more complete and budgeted regional action for all ECOWAS members countries. The programme to control fruit fly in ECOWAS members will start in 2010 and the WB is working with the STDF in defining the WB supervisory role in the Technical capacity building component of the project.

## 2) Publications/Guidelines

During the last couple of years, the WB implemented, with donor support, a research program on the challenges associated with standards, market access and smallholder farmers, and the efficacy of donor and other interventions that address these challenges. The following documents were published under the program in 2008/2009. A synthesis report and a set of other documents are planned to be published in 2010.

- [“Linking African Smallholders to High-Value Markets: Practitioner Perspectives on Benefits, Constraints, and Interventions.”](http://go.worldbank.org/WTPG1SOI30) Jaffee *et al.* 2008. (<http://go.worldbank.org/WTPG1SOI30>)
- [“Not Yet Up to Standard: The Legacy of Two Decades of Private, Governmental, and Donor Efforts to Promote Ugandan Horticultural Exports.”](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/uganda_horticulture_web.pdf) Diaz, L. Jaffee, S. Henson, S. Mugisha, J. 2009. ([http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/uganda\\_horticulture\\_web.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/uganda_horticulture_web.pdf))

Other ongoing SPS-related analytical work/publications include:

- *“Assessing the Demand for Trade-Related Food Safety and Quality Interventions in Agri-Food Chains.”* Henson, S. Jensen, M. Jaffee, S., and Diaz, L. (forthcoming publication)
- Guidelines for understanding harmonization in the SPS and TBT agreements.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of SPS capacity building programs.

## 3) Partnerships

Operational work on SPS issues undertaken by the Bank in partnership with other agencies includes support to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), and support to the work undertaken by the Trade and Standards Practitioners Network (TSPN).<sup>7</sup> The WB supports regular STDF work and is an active participant in STDF working groups meetings and STDF policy meetings. In the case of the TSPN, the WB provides financial support through the Grant Development Facility (GDF), and it is an active member of the Steering Committee. TSPN has undertaken a set of activities since October 2008, as presented below:

### - Research and Conference on “Governmental Use of Voluntary Standards”

In July 2008 a research program was initiated by TSPN member ISEAL Alliance in close consultation with other TSPN members. The theme of this research was “governmental use of voluntary standards.” A conceptual framework was developed and eight case studies were undertaken, representing a spectrum of countries and standards. On October 16-17, 2008, a conference was organized in Geneva to discuss and initially disseminate the findings of this research and to identify follow-up activities. In total, about 80 persons participated. The conference report and the case studies are available at:

<http://www.isealalliance.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=1014>

- **International Conference on “Assessing Costs, Benefits and Impacts of Compliance with Agricultural, Forestry and Food Related Standards.”** On December 9-10, 2008, an international conference took place in Berlin on “Assessing Costs, Benefits and Impacts of

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<sup>7</sup> TSPN is a community of practitioner organizations seeking to facilitate a more effective flow of information and experiences among a diverse group of interested organizations and analyze the work of membership interventions to develop best or better practices that will enhance developing country capacity to implement market standards.



Compliance with Agricultural, Forestry and Food related Standards.” This event was co-organized by GTZ and the TSPN. The event examined the current state-of-the-art in measuring the impacts of standards systems at micro (farmer/firm) level, in supply chains, in relation to trade. Different methods were reviewed and strengths and limitations were highlighted. Approximately 50 researchers and development practitioners took part in this conference. A summary note on this conference can be found at:

<http://www.tradestandards.org/en/Article.65.aspx>

- **Tool development.** In its efforts to improve standards-related technical assistance, the TSPN is currently supporting the preparation of a framework for systematic comparison of standards-related technical assistance interventions on the basis of the value chain approach. As part of the work, a review of donor and practitioner practices for monitoring and evaluating interventions is being prepared. The results of this work will be presented at a conference of the TSPN to be held in spring 2010.
- **E-Discussion.** During the period November 4-10, the TSPN undertook an e-dialogue on *What Decision Makers in Developing Countries need to turn Voluntary Standards into Catalysts for Market Integration and Development*. A second round was held on November 30<sup>th</sup> to summarize and evaluate the findings.
- **TSPN Newsletter.** The TSPN published a bimonthly electronic newsletter, to disseminate news on standards-related issues.

#### 4) Awareness creation/raising and training

**E-learning course— *Standards and Trade: Principles and Applications*.** June 1-30, 2009. The WBI’s course aimed to increase the awareness and dialogue among policy makers, regulatory agencies, NGOs, private companies, and other stakeholders on the fundamental concepts and principles of standards and how these are implemented in the market. About fifty participants took part in the course.

**Climate Change and Agricultural Trade: Risks and Responses.** The Development Research Group—International Trade and the World Trade Organization’s Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) held a seminar on the topic on September 22-23, 2009. The event highlighted the effects of climate change on agricultural sustainability and safety, and agricultural trade trends between developed and developing countries, with a focus on standards and regulatory systems as they relate to animal, plant, and human safety. The seminar was attended by over 100 representatives from international organizations, regulatory and development agencies, research, academia and the private sector. Discussions on the first day focused on the connections between climate change, agricultural trade and food security. Predictions show that temperature changes and extreme weather events will negatively impact agricultural production in many regions, and that parts of Africa and South Asia are likely to suffer most. The second day of the seminar focused on SPS risks and responses to climate change.

**East Asia and Pacific Regional Agribusiness Trade and Investment Conference.** The World Bank together with International Finance Corporation organized the first EAP Regional Agribusiness Trade and Investment Conference “*Agroenterprise without Borders*,” in Singapore on July 30-31, 2009. The objective was to initiate a multi-country, public-private, long-term effort to stimulate increased intra-regional trade and investment in the agrifood sector of East Asia, consistent with best practices in critical areas such as land-extensive agroenterprise, cluster and value chain development, and assured compliance with food safety, environmental and social standards. A total of 171 participants attended, representing a mix of public trade, development and regulatory agencies, private companies involved in agribusiness or supporting it, and civil society organizations that represent producers or processors or that focus on key themes such as sustainability. In addition to two days of presentations

and discussion, the event included a working dinner jointly organized with the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum to discuss public-private collaboration for food safety.

***5. Other standard-related activities (not specifically related to SPS issues)***

In response to growing concerns over climate change, consumers and firms in developed countries are considering their carbon footprint. Carbon labeling is being explored as a mechanism for greenhouse gas emission reduction primarily by private actors. The WB has supported some research initiatives aimed at discussing the carbon accounting activities and carbon labelling schemes that are being developed to address these concerns with a view to their impact on small stakeholders. The work has led to the preparation of the following documents:

*Carbon Footprints and Food Systems: Do Current Accounting Methodologies Disadvantage Developing Countries?* Brenton, P., G. Edwards-Jones, M.F. Jensen, K. Plassmann, A. Norton, and N. Attarzadeh. Draft Paper.

*May Carbon Labeling Be Development-Friendly? - Recommendations on How to Improve Emerging Schemes.* Forthcoming.

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