

STDF Newsletter

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Dear SPS friends,

As outgoing chair of the STDF Working Group I am honoured to write the opening address for this first 2011 issue of the STDF newsletter.

During my involvement in the STDF, from 2005 until now, I have admired the Facility's targeted approach. I have seen the STDF grow, evolve and prosper. Over the years, the emphasis shifted from implementing projects to donor coordination and disclosure of information. Several successful events have been organized on a variety of topics of interest to the SPS community. Most recently, a seminar on public-private partnerships, organized in collaboration with the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the World Bank Institute, concluded that such partnerships prove to be a most effective approach to build and develop SPS capacity.

Personally I attach great importance to STDF's coordination function. I believe the Facility's strongest asset is that it brings together the knowledge and expertise in the area of SPS capacity building of key international institutions, donors and recipients. The information shared during STDF Working Group meetings is impressive and participation has become a "must" for those working and building capacity in the area of food safety, animal and plant health. I hope the STDF will further develop into a "clearing house" for SPS-related technical cooperation and I call upon you as members of the SPS community to build further on its success -- because it works!

Marinus Huige

The STDF is supported by:
Australia; Canada; Denmark;
the European Union;
Finland; Germany; Ireland;
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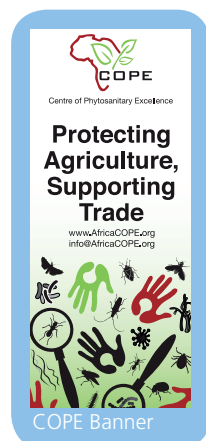
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The STDF is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Other participating organizations include the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).



STDF ACTIVITIES

Launch of the Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence (COPE)



On 27 October 2010, Kenya's Agriculture Minister, Dr. Sally Kosgey, launched the Centre of Phytosanitary Excellence (COPE) in Nairobi, Kenya. With start-up funding from the STDF, the COPE was developed through a regional partnership involving leading experts from Kenya's Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS), the University of Nairobi (UoN), the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI), the FAO, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, the Netherlands Plant Protection Service (NPPS), the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union, as well as national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) from several countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. The secretariat of the COPE is hosted by KEPHIS and the UoN in Nairobi.

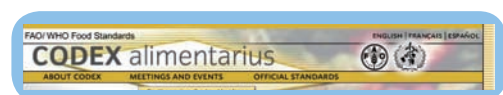
The objective of the COPE is to assist countries in the region in enhancing their national phytosanitary systems, and hence increasing their ability to compete in international markets by meeting international phytosanitary standards. A second objective is to help countries to better protect their national resources. Major results achieved under

the project include the establishment of a regional training unit, development of a curriculum for short phytosanitary in-service modules and certificate courses at the UoN, as well as the creation of a network of regional experts to conduct Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). Initial work is underway on the harmonization of phytosanitary regulations for maize and beans in Eastern Africa. For more information on COPE, please see: <http://www.africacope.org/>.

New STDF Briefing on Public-Private Partnerships

A new two-page STDF Briefing (Issue N°. 6, November 2010) is now available on STDF's website. This Briefing, entitled "*Facilitating Partnerships to Enhance SPS Capacity*," provides an overview of the key findings and conclusions of the workshop on "*Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Support of SPS Capacity*" held in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 4-5 October 2010, in close collaboration with the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the World Bank Institute. The event examined existing types of partnerships focused on SPS-related capacity building and co-regulation and provided recommendations on how to promote a partnership approach to enhance SPS capacity. A desk study on SPS-related PPPs, examining several partnerships in more detail, is currently under preparation. STDF Briefings can be viewed at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/IRBriefings.htm>

FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa



The STDF participated in the meeting of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) in Accra, Ghana, from 1-4 February 2011. Private food safety standards, possible changes to the Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex

and implementation of the Strategic Plan for CCAFRICA were among the topics discussed. Participants recognized Ghana's contribution as Coordinator of CCAFRICA from 2007 until 2011 and nominated Cameroon as the next Coordinator for appointment by the 34th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, 4-9 July). The STDF held a seminar on the margins of the meeting, which covered the SPS Agreement, recent developments in the SPS Committee and STDF activities. In particular, information was provided on STDF projects related to food safety capacity-building in Africa. The full report of the meeting is available from the Codex website: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/>

Towards strengthening the SPS capacity in SPECA countries

The STDF collaborated with UNIDO in organizing a side-event on "*Standards and Conformity Assessment Challenges and Related Capacity Building*" on the margins of the Ministerial Conference on Aid for Trade for the countries of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (UN SPECA).

STDF ACTIVITIES

The side-event, held on 2 December 2010 in Baku, Azerbaijan, provided a forum for the exchange of views between policymakers, experts, research institutions, representatives of the private sector, donors and international organizations on managing SPS measures in trade in UN SPECA countries. It offered recommendations for addressing challenges and opportunities in this respect, and in particular recommendations for external support for raising awareness, needs assessments, action planning and regional cooperation. Further information on this side-event is available on the STDF website: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/TAidForTrade.htm>



Pilot Testing on the Use of Economic Analysis to Inform SPS Decision-Making

Preparations are underway for the first phase of the STDF work on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision-making, which will take place in Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi from April to June 2011. During the pilot testing work, the STDF team will work with SPS stakeholders in each of the selected pilot countries to test a methodology, known as Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA), which is intended to help countries prioritize and rank their SPS capacity building options across a wide range of decision criteria. Following the in-country work, a regional workshop is planned to present the pilot testing experiences and train a wider group of SPS experts in Africa on how to apply MCDA to inform SPS decision-making. This workshop is tentatively scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2011. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the STDF Secretariat for more information.

STDF / OECD Draft Working Paper on SPS indicators



A revised version of the STDF/OECD draft Working Paper on indicators to measure the performance of a national SPS system is available on the STDF website: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/taspsindicators.htm>. The revised version reflects comments and discussions from the STDF/OECD Technical Working Meeting in Geneva on 1 July 2010. The STDF intends to carry out follow-up

work in selected countries in the second half of 2011 and 2012 to pilot test and further improve the indicators in this draft working paper. More details will be provided on the STDF website in due course.

New STDF PPGs and Projects

The STDF Working Group approved one project and three project preparation grants (PPGs) in October 2010:

- STDF/PG/309: Strengthening SPS capacity in Guinea-Bissau
- STDF/PPG/308: Developing an SPS action plan for the Central African Republic
- STDF/PPG/329: Support to Public and Private Sector for SPS Implementation in Nepal
- STDF/PPG/335: Strengthening phytosanitary capacity in the floriculture sector in Uganda

Next deadline for STDF funding applications

- Tuesday, 8 April 2011

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



ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation

The OIE organized the first Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation entitled "*Modernising Veterinary Legislation for Good Governance*" on 7-9 December 2010 in Djerba, Tunisia. The conference was attended by over 250 participants, including representatives from the FAO, WTO/STDF and the World Bank. The objectives of the conference were to: (i) raise awareness of the requirements for effective veterinary legislation; (ii) brainstorm on the challenges and tools needed to transform international standards and guidelines into veterinary legislation; and (iii) provide practical guidance on how OIE Members (in particular developing countries) can mobilize governments and donors to modernize veterinary legislation, educate veterinarians in the public and private sector on their role and responsibilities, and promote the key role of veterinary statutory bodies. For more information on this event and the resulting recommendations, see: http://www.rr-africa.oie.int/en/en_index_annex81.html



Welcoming address by the OIE Director General, Dr. Bernard Vallat.

4th Meeting of the WHO Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG)

The fourth meeting of the Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) took place in Geneva from 8 to 12 November 2010. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to discuss the progress made over the last twelve months and to review and revise the work commissioned under the FERG Task Forces' work plans. Interim results in the following areas of foodborne diseases were presented: chemicals/toxins, parasites and enteric pathogens. The FERG also appraised protocols developed for use in forthcoming pilot country studies, both in the areas of burden of disease and policy context analysis. These pilot country studies are set to begin in early 2011. For more information, please see: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/foodborne_disease/ferg4/en/index.html

EIF Regional Workshops

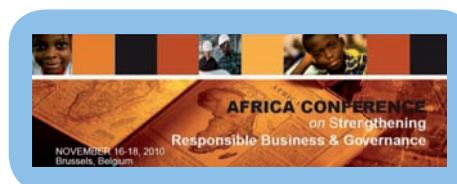


The STDF participated in two regional workshops organized by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), for Central and West African Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Haiti from 8-10 December 2010 (Bamako, Mali), and for Eastern and Southern African LDCs from 15-17 February 2011 (Maseru, Lesotho). The need to clearly articulate trade-related priorities in national development strategies, improve monitoring and demonstrate the results of trade-related assistance on economic growth and poverty reduction were among the key issues discussed. Participants at both workshops emphasized the importance of continued attention to SPS capacity building to enable producers and exporters in their

countries to take advantage of the potential to expand regional and international trade in agri-food products. The value of past and ongoing STDF PPG and project support in Africa was recognized on several occasions. See the new EIF website for more information: <http://www.enhancedif.org>

Strengthening Responsible Business and Good Governance in Africa

The STDF spoke on the importance of support from agri-business associations for SPS capacity building during an Expert Group Meeting at the Conference on "*Strengthening Responsible Business and Good Governance in Africa*", organized by the World Bank Institute in Brussels in November 2010. Drawing on the conclusions of the STDF/LNV/WBI workshop on Public-Private



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Partnerships, the intervention highlighted the role of agri-business associations in raising awareness about the need to invest in SPS capacity building, bringing together producers and exporters in a representative body to engage and dialogue with government agencies, and supporting the provision of SPS services. For more information about the conference see: <http://www.responsiblebiz.info>

Controlling Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia and aflatoxin

The Milken Institute, in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, held a workshop entitled "*Using Pull Mechanisms to Advance Food and Income Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*" from 7-8 October 2010 in London. The workshop focused on finding solutions to address two specific challenges facing agricultural productivity in sub-Saharan African countries, i.e. Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and aflatoxin. Participants highlighted the importance of improving consistency in the vaccine manufacturing process for CBPP and providing incentives for additional research. Participants also explored ways to provide incentives to smallholder farmers to use aflatoxin biocontrol products, in combination with drying technologies. For more information, see: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/events/events.taf?function=detail&ID=362&cat=finlabs>



Workshop participants

Aflatoxin Control for Improving Health, Agriculture and Trade in Africa

On 26 January 2011, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank jointly held a workshop on "*Aflatoxin Control for Improving Health, Agriculture and Trade in Africa*" in Washington, D.C. The workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders and experts to discuss the latest research undertaken by the WHO, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the World Bank and others on the prevalence of aflatoxins and their impact on broader development efforts in Africa. Participants discussed the current challenges to aflatoxin control and the available solutions, including an aflatoxin management technology developed by the United States Department for Agriculture (USDA) and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The establishment of a Partnership for Aflatoxin Control (PAC) was further discussed on the margins of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) meeting on 23-24 March 2011 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Better Training for Safer Food (BTFSF) – High Level Conference



Some 180 participants from African countries, the European Union, other countries, African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), international standard-setting bodies, academia and other stakeholders attended a BTFSF High Level Conference on 18-19 November 2010 in Brussels, Belgium where the results of the BTFSF programme were presented. The STDF presented the main conclusions and recommendations of a scoping study entitled "*Regional SPS Frameworks and Strategies in Africa*", which analyses the current and potential role of the African Union Commission (AUC) and RECs in the SPS area. Several speakers and participants emphasized the

importance of ensuring synergies across the various SPS training activities supported by development partners and donors in Africa. Others emphasized the need to also address other constraints (e.g. inadequate human resources, SPS infrastructure) in order to ensure the effectiveness of the training provided. For more information on the conference, see: http://www.foodinfo-europe.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=98&Itemid= The scoping study is available on the STDF website, see: http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/Publications/STDF_Regional_SPS_Strategies_in_Africa.pdf

ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

COMESA Regional SPS Proposal Development Workshop



Delegates at the SPS Workshop

The STDF participated in an SPS workshop organized by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in Lusaka, Zambia, from 26-28 October 2010. Representatives from various development partners and COMESA member states assisted the COMESA Secretariat in developing a practical SPS strategy and action plan (within the broader context of the Tripartite Agreement to establish a single Free Trade Area between COMESA, the East African Community and the Southern African

Development Community). Trade Mark Southern Africa (TMSA), a programme funded [or assisted] by DFID in support of activities of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite process, offered to facilitate a follow-up meeting between SPS officials of the three RECs to determine whether the strategy and action plan developed by COMESA can be broadened and adopted in the Tripartite context. For more information, please contact Martha Byanyima at the COMESA Secretariat: mbyanyima@comesa.int

WTO SPS regional and national seminars

The WTO organized two regional SPS seminars in November 2010 for Latin America and for Asian and Pacific Countries. Approximately 50 government officials attended each of these seminars where they benefited from various presentations and exercises aimed at deepening their knowledge of SPS measures, international standards and their link to trade. Both workshops were enriched by the technical expertise, regional knowledge and up-to-date information of representatives from Codex, IPPC and OIE. The seminar in Latin America also benefited from contributions by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

The WTO participated in national seminars on the SPS and/or TBT Agreements organized by the governments of Ecuador (November 2010), El Salvador (November 2010), Honduras (December 2010) and Burundi (January 2011). These seminars were attended by a mix of governments officials (representing various Ministries), private sector entities as well as producer and exporter associations. The WTO also participated in the Advanced International Training Programme in the Field of Quality Infrastructure for Food Safety, provided by the Swedish development agency (SWEDAC). The intensive, month-long training programme was offered to approximately 30 Iraqi officials, in February 2011, and will be provided to officials from the Balkan region in March 2011. The WTO will also collaborate with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to hold a seminar on the SPS Agreement for the IsDB's English-speaking Asian member countries in March 2011. For more information on WTO's technical assistance programme in the SPS area, please contact Javier Ocampo at the WTO (javier.ocampo@wto.org).

WTO workshop on transparency

Approximately 70 participants attended the WTO SPS workshop on transparency on 18 October 2010 in Geneva, organized on the margins of the SPS Committee meeting. The objective of the workshop

was to enhance the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement, in particular by sharing experiences on how to operate an effective SPS National Notification Authority and Enquiry Point. The workshop provided participants with an overview of transparency issues and practical exercises on notifications were undertaken, including hands-on demonstration sessions on the SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS) and the on-line Notification Submission System (NSS). Participants were encouraged to share national experiences and this resulted in concrete recommendations for enhancing the implementation and benefits of SPS transparency obligations. One major challenge highlighted in the area of transparency was effective coordination among Ministries, private sector and other relevant entities. For more information on this workshop, please see: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/spse/wkshop_oct10_e/wkshop_oct10_e.htm



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APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum

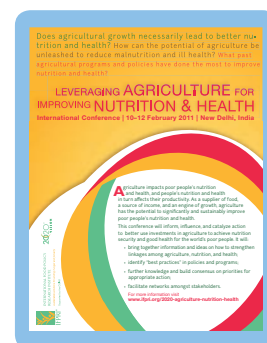
On the margins of the APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM2), the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) will be holding a series of meetings/workshops from 14-17 May 2011 in Montana, USA. The events to be held are: (i) the APEC FSCF Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) Food Safety Incident Management Workshop; (ii) the APEC FSCF PTIN Roundtable; and (iii) the third APEC FSCF Meeting. This suite of events will be co-chaired by Australia (Food Standards Australia New Zealand) and China (Import and Export Food Safety Bureau, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine). The APEC FSCF events will

build on the successful work already undertaken in developing robust food safety systems in APEC member economies, improving the safety of food within economies and the safety of food traded between APEC member economies. For more information, please visit: <http://www.apec2011.gov/>



Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

An international conference on "Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health" was held by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and its 2020 Vision Initiative on 10-12 February 2011 in New Delhi, India. The conference brought together leaders in agriculture, nutrition, and health from around the world to deliberate how to create a more integrated system that mobilizes agriculture to improve human nutrition and health. Participants examined how agriculture, nutrition, and health are linked, explored opportunities for improving nutrition and reducing health risks along the value chain, drew lessons from country experiences and program interventions, and identified key levers to make agriculture, nutrition, and health work better together. For more information on the results of the conference, please visit: <http://2020conference.ifpri.info/>



Global Food Safety Conference

Over 600 participants attended the 2011 Global Food Safety Conference held in London from 16-18 February 2011. The theme of this year was "Creating a Global Food Safety Culture." Participants were exposed to new ideas and perspectives on managing food safety from experienced food safety professionals and engaged in discussing ways to better manage food safety in a global context. For more information about the conference, please see: <http://tcgffoodsafety.com>

Quality and Standards featured in ITC's Magazine: International Trade Forum – Issue 3/2010

Issue 3 (2010) of ITC's Magazine "International Trade Forum" focused on Quality and Standards and featured articles from the WTO and STDF Secretariats. Please see: http://www.tradeforum.org/news/categoryfront.php/id/1198/Quality___Standards.html



Best Practices in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Training

In November 2010, the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) released the final report on "Best Practices in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Training". The final report is available at: http://www.standardsfacility.org/Files/News/EC_Best_Practices_SPS.pdf

FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

March 2011

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

14-18 March, Rome, Italy: 6th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)

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

15-17 March, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: SPS Seminar for English-speaking & Asian ISDB member countries

21-25 March, The Hague, Netherlands: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

23-24 March, London, UK: Global Animal Health Conference "Global Availability of Veterinary Medicines – Providing a Climate for Science and Innovation"

23-24 March, Yaoundé, Cameroon: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) meeting

28 March, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group

28 March – 1 April, Hammamet, Tunisia: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East

29-31 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPS Committee meeting

12-13 April, Libreville, Gabon: 5th Steering Committee and Technical Workshop (PAN-SPSO programme)

May 2011

2-6 May, Mexico: Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

9-13 May, Canada: Codex Committee on Food Labelling

14-17 May, Montana, USA: APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)

22-27 May, Paris, France: 79th OIE General Session

June 2011

27 June, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group

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

July 2011

4-9 July, Geneva, Switzerland: Codex Alimentarius Commission

18-19 July, Geneva, Switzerland: Third Global Aid for Trade Review

April 2011

4-6 April, Cape Town, South Africa: MycoRed Africa Conference "Mycotoxin Reduction - Global Solutions"

4-9 April, China: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

11-16 April, Tromsø, Norway: Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products,

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Codex Newsletter

www.codexalimentarius.net/web/newsletter.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

ISEAL Gazette

www.isealalliance.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/fr/pip/11763-pip-magazine

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WHO Food Safety Newsletter

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

FishFiles Lite

www.megapesca.com/aboutfishfiles.asp

Fruit Fly Newsletter

www.colehacp.org

STDF e-list

If you would like to receive information on STDF publications, activities, etc. via the new electronic mailing list, please visit: <http://icd.wto.org/member/register.aspx?l=e>.

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