

Standards and Trade Development Facility

STDF NEWSLETTER

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Taking stock

From left: Mr Harsha Singh, Deputy Director General, WTO, welcoming Mr Stuart Slorach, consultant, with Mr Michael Roberts, STDF Secretary, at the start of the evaluation of the STDF.

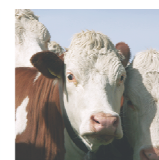
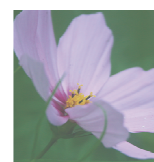
"In addition to our regular overview of what's going on in the world of SPS-related technical co-operation, we are keen to hear from you about your views on our work. See p.7 for more information"

Michael Roberts, STDF Secretary

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



The STDF is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Other participating organizations include the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

STDF ACTIVITIES

Good Practice in SPS-related Technical Assistance

Each year, substantial amounts of public money are allocated to capacity building in developing countries. Donors and recipient countries alike expect this assistance to be used as effectively as possible. To achieve this goal, they agreed on a set of specific actions in 2005 – the Paris Principles – to improve the effectiveness with which these funds are provided and utilized (see Box). Three years later, the STDF and OECD have undertaken research in Central America, East Africa and the Greater Mekong Sub-region to explore how the Paris Principles are being applied in the highly-technical area of SPS-related capacity building.

The joint research built on a survey requesting WTO Members and OECD contact points to nominate projects considered as examples of good practice. A total of 24 projects were nominated by 19 organizations. In-country interviews were then carried out with project partners and beneficiaries

"How can potential beneficiaries be involved in project design when they are not aware of and/or lack understanding of the SPS challenges that they face?" Spencer Henson, East African review author.

to seek their views on elements of good practice in the design, implementation, outputs and impact of these 24 nominated projects. The research looked into the role of beneficiaries in project identification and design. Other findings addressed the importance of adequate attention to a country's absorptive capacity, political buy-in and the active involvement of the public and private sectors, comprehensive needs assessments, flexibility in

implementation, sequencing and coordination, and separation of regulatory powers and service provision.

The findings of the research have been documented in three regional reports and an overview paper which will be presented at a workshop on good practice in

"The outcomes of regional projects could be improved by better tailoring support to in-country needs and conditions including absorptive capacity. One size does not fit all." Cornelis van der Meer, Greater Mekong Sub-region's review author.



Paris to Accra: from principles to action

Three years after the Paris Declaration was endorsed, more than 1,200 representatives of aid recipients, providers and civil society organizations gathered in Accra, Ghana in September 2008 to review progress made in implementing the Paris Principles. Experiences since then show that substantial progress has been made in some areas but that further progress is urgently needed in others.

At the end of the meeting, ministers and senior officials from developed and developing countries agreed to take bold steps to reform the way aid is given and spent. Committing to the Accra Agenda for Action, they pledged to do what is needed to accelerate implementation of the Paris Declaration.

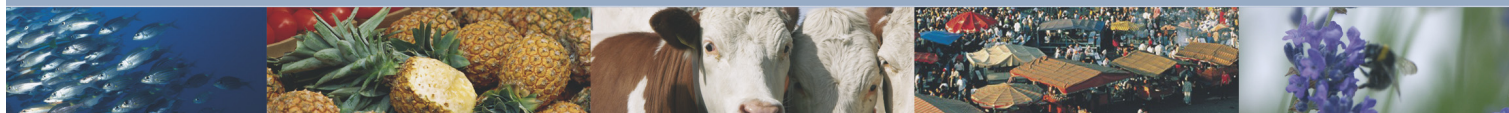
SPS-related technical assistance in Geneva on 6 October 2008.

More details will be available on the STDF website (www.standardsfacility.org)

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, March 2005

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness lays out a roadmap of practical commitments to improve the way aid is given and spent. It is organized around the following five key principles, each of which has a set of indicators of achievement.

- Ownership by countries
- Alignment with countries' strategies, systems and procedures
- Harmonization of donors' actions
- Managing for Results
- Mutual accountability



STDF Information Session on Private Standards

Approximately 200 delegates from the WTO's SPS Committee attended an STDF information session on private standards on 26 June 2008. Representatives of the Africa Observer Project, the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), International Certification and Risk Services (CMI) and the World Bank made presentations. Issues considered included: (i) initiatives to make developing countries' voices heard in the private standards area; (ii) advancements in the recognition of equivalence between schemes; (iii) options to reduce the costs of certification; and (iv) opportunities to promote dialogue among private standard holders, suppliers, certifiers and other interested parties.

Discussions highlighted the different views that persist on private standards. While some approached private standards as an opportunity to enhance quality, others viewed them as an obstacle to trade. General recommendations emerging from the session included:

(i) the need to give attention to the negative aspects of private standards for small producers, and seek solutions to address them; and (ii) the need to promote dialogue and strengthen linkages between private standards schemes. For more information, see www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/private_standards_june08_e/private_standards_june08_e.htm



Participants at the private standards information session

ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNER AGENCIES

31st meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

The 31st session of the CAC took place in Geneva from 30 June to 4 July 2008. Over 500 delegates from 139 Members and 44 international governmental and non-governmental organizations attended.

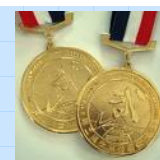


Dr Karen Hulebak
New chairperson
of the CAC

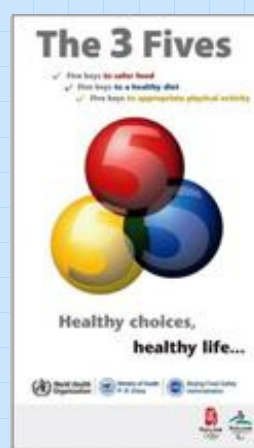
Highlights

- Dr Karen Hulebak from the United States Department of Agriculture was elected as the CAC's Chairperson, taking over from the out-going Dr Claude Mosha from Tanzania.
- Codex adopted 41 new standards and related texts, including in areas related to equivalence, biotechnology and aflatoxins.
- Concerns were expressed about the proliferation of private standards in the area of food safety and the consequences for the relevance of Codex work and for trade flows. Codex will take up this issue at the next Commission session in June 2009.
- Adoption of an Appendix to facilitate use of the existing Guidelines on the Judgement of Equivalence of Sanitary Measures Associated with Food Inspection and Certification Systems.

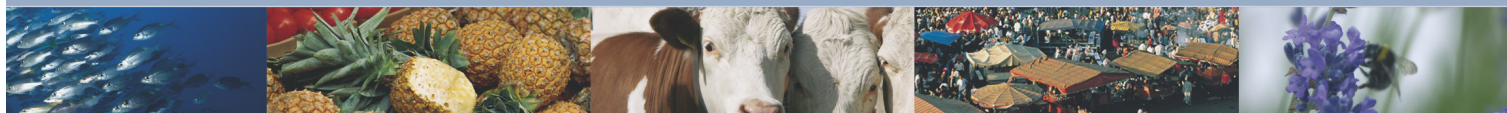
Gold for WHO!



In collaboration with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games and the Chinese authorities, WHO organized a health promotion campaign on health benefits of food safety, healthy diets and appropriate physical activity. **The 3 Fives: Five Keys to Safer Food, Five Keys to a Healthy Diet, Five Keys to Appropriate Physical Activity** were launched for the first time at the Beijing Olympics with an initial printing of



1.4 million copies disseminated in strategic locations such as airports, Olympic venues, hotels and in the community. The aim is now to repeat the Beijing performance at other global sporting events. The 3 Fives are available in English and Chinese at: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/consumer/3_fives_Beijing/en



Resources for risk analysis

FAO has recently published an overview and framework manual for biosecurity risk analysis as part of the **"Biosecurity Toolkit"**. The manual presents a generic framework to structure and guide the application of risk analysis principles in biosecurity at the national level. Available at: www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1140e/a1140e00.htm



FAO and WHO have developed a guide to enhance food safety regulators' understanding and use of risk analysis in national food safety frameworks. The publication **"Food safety risk analysis - A guide for national food safety authorities"** is available at:

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

IPPC has developed a training package on **Pest Risk Analysis (PRA)** with support from the STDF (project STDF 120). The package includes a manual for participants taking the course, group exercises, powerpoint presentations, a manual for instructors giving the course, speaker's notes for giving the presentations. Available at: www.ippc.int



The World Bank launches, with the support of PIP, a survey of African export companies

The World Bank and the University of Guelph are conducting a survey of companies exporting fresh produce from sub-Saharan Africa. The objective is to gain a better picture of the factors having an impact on these companies. COLEACP/PIP has actively supported the initiative, making its network of companies available to the World Bank. The results of this survey will help donors to better direct their assistance. For more information, contact: infopip@coleacp.org

The International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health (IPFSAPH)

A new version of the IPFSAPH has been released. It contains additional functionality such as news items on particular topics and a more intuitive and easier to use advanced search option. With over 35,000 records, new data sets recently incorporated into IPFSAPH include WTO's SPS Information Management System (WTO trade notifications and specific trade concerns) and IAEA's Clearance of Irradiated Foods Database. See: www.ipfsaph.org



Exporting Seafood to the EU

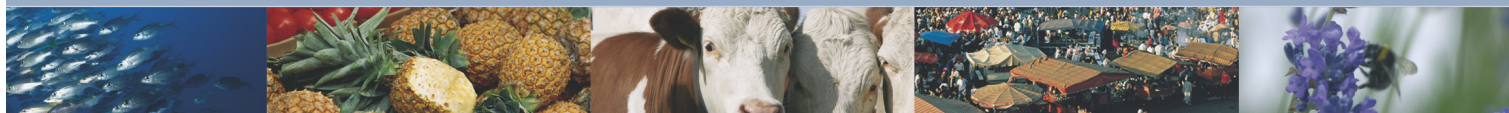


ITC Bulletin No. 84, April 2008

This bulletin provides practical guidance on how to export seafood products to the European Union. It describes the EU system for the main regulations and requirements for competent authorities and operators along the value chain. Available at: <http://www.intracen.org/tdc/Export%20Quality%20Bulletins/EQM84eng.pdf>



The USAID-funded Southern African Trade Hub based in Gaborone, Botswana is working with the South African Department of Agriculture on a priority list for imported produce from Southern African countries. This work is intended to facilitate market access for intra-SADC trade. The list and requirements will assist in the timing of export promotion and trade deals between producers in Southern African countries and South African buyers. For more information, go to: www.satradehub.org



Information Retrieval on SPS Measures

ITC Bulletin No. 81, April 2008

This bulletin provides guidance on how exporters can obtain information on current and future sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, for export products. Available at:

<http://www.intracen.org/tdc/Export%20Quality%20Bulletins/EQM81eng.pdf>

Warm welcome to the new Manager for the EIF Trust Fund



The Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) has an Executive Director, Ms Dorothy Tembo, pictured here at a recent workshop.

The STDF would like to wish Ms Tembo well in her new position as the EIF Executive Director to head the upcoming EIF Executive Secretariat. Ms Tembo joins the EIF Executive Secretariat from her current position as Chief Trade Negotiator and Director, Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Zambia.

As of 1st September 2008, 32 countries had validated their Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS). DTIS are underway in more than 14 other countries.

The STDF and the IF work closely together to improve LDC's trade performance. Through its Project Preparation Grants, the STDF assists IF countries in turning recommendations made in the DTIS into bankable projects. Other STDF activities aim at helping IF countries to identify their SPS capacity building needs which can then be funded by development partners in-country.

Aid for Trade: Expert Working Group and forthcoming LDC Ministerial Organized by UNIDO

As part of the 2008-09 programme of Aid for Trade events, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) organized a technical workshop in Kigali (Rwanda) on 8-9 September 2008. The workshop provided a platform for discussion in the context of Aid for Trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework by technical experts from a group of eight Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The STDF participated in the Expert Working Group and presented a background study of SPS supply side constraints in Benin, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Yemen, which identified areas where future technical cooperation activities might be focused. Conclusions and recommendations from the workshop will feed into discussion at LDC Ministerial Conference to be held in Siem Reap (Cambodia) on 19-20 November 2008.



Mr Lalith Goonatillake
Director, Trade
Capacity Building
Branch. UNIDO



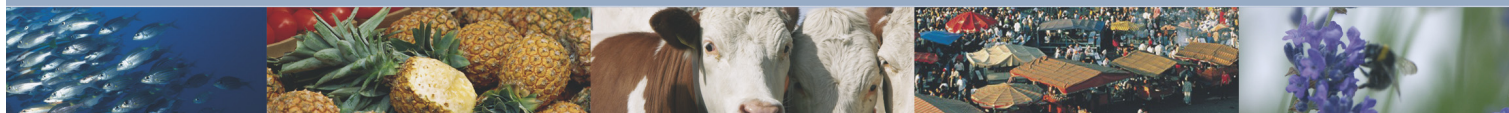
SPS Committee Highlights

Work on "mediation procedures" progressed at the SPS Committee meeting on 24-25 June 2008. By clarifying how the chair's "good offices" can be used, Members hope to develop an alternative to full-blown dispute settlement. IPPC and OIE also offer alternatives based on technical resolutions of issues. Members will look again at this issue at the 7-9 October meeting of the Committee.

Private standards is another issue that will re-appear in October. Practical actions to be taken by the SPS Committee will be discussed on the basis of Members' replies to a questionnaire circulated by the Chairperson after the last meeting.

Private standards have been raised at OIE, IPPC and Codex meetings so the outcome of the Committee's work is eagerly anticipated.

How the "special needs" of developing countries should be considered by Members when they change their SPS requirements is another topic for debate which will again be considered in October. A procedure adopted to address these "special needs" (G/SPS/33) has not been used and the Committee is considering amendments to it.



FORTHCOMING STDF ACTIVITIES

STDF initiative on fruit fly

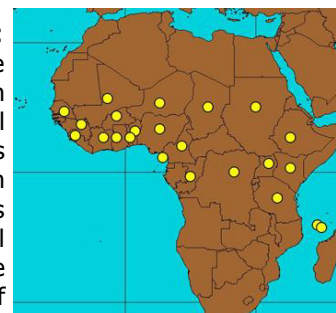
Damage caused by fruit flies has been recognized as a quarantine problem for fruit and vegetables for many years. Among the fruit and vegetables that are attacked by fruit flies (e.g. melons, water-melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, chilis, mangos), mango is by far the most important in both volume and value of trade, as well as in terms of the damage inflicted by fruit flies.

In July 2008, under the aegis of the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture and Mali's Minister of the Environment, 15 ECOWAS member states met in Bamako, Mali to discuss and validate a study on fruit fly financed by the European Commission.



Mr Panos Antonakakis, STDF Secretariat and Mr Gogovor, Phytosanitary Control Division, Togo at the ECOWAS workshop

Recommendations arising included: (i) initiating concerted regional action for the management of fruit flies and developing an appropriate phytosanitary response to control the pest; (ii) organizing a meeting of donors with a view to financing the Regional Action Plan proposed and ensuring that donor actions are coordinated; and (iii) creating national fruit fly committees with public and private participation to supervise implementation of the Action Plan at national level.



Map showing countries in Africa where *B. invadens* has been reported (2006)
Source: www.africamuseum.be/fruitfly/AfroAsia.htm

Inside the mango trade

- **Import:** With 32% of world mango imports, the EC is the largest mango importing market, followed by the US. Within the EC, the Netherlands is the largest importer of mangos, acting as a hub for mango distribution across Europe.
- **Export:** West African countries represent more than 52% of all ACP mango export tonnage and 95% of the mangos exported from Africa to Europe in 2006.
- **Between 2005-2007**, 103 consignments of fruit from African exporting countries containing fruit flies were intercepted in France alone. With the exception of 3 consignments (melon, passion fruit, flowers), all seizures concerned mangos.

An STDF meeting is being planned for early 2009 to mobilize and coordinate donor resources to control fruit fly in West Africa. The meeting will invite key donors and regional institutions with expertise in fruit fly control to ensure a coordinated response to the findings of the EC study on fruit fly management.

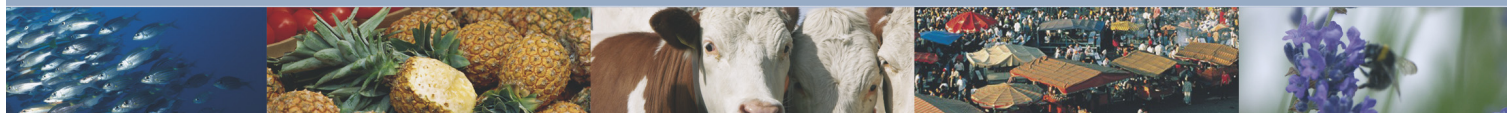


Damage caused by fruit flies in West Africa

Damage depends on production area, the variety of mango cultivated and the stage of maturity of the fruit. Average mango production losses have been estimated in West Africa's main mango producing countries at:

- **Senegal:** 36->80%
- **Guinea:** 50-60%
- **Gambia:** 50-60%
- **Mali:** 50-60%
- **Burkina Faso:** 50->80%
- **Benin:** up to 75%
- **Ghana:** 30-85%
- **Ivory Coast:** 43%

Photos on the left show attacks of *B. invadens* on mango fruit
Source: www.cirad.bf



Final workshop of the STDF Safenut project in Brazil

A workshop will be held on 6-7 November in Belém, Brazil to present the results and the conclusions of the STDF 114 Safenut project. The workshop will present the findings of the project mainly with respect to the factors causing aflatoxin contamination in the Brazil nut production chain and the methods of control available. Major constraints and opportunities in the Brazil nut production chain for aflatoxin control will also be addressed. More information on the project is available at: <http://stdf-safenutproject.com/home.html>



Brazil nut pod infected with fungus



Pod cutting



Safenut project workshop

New Project Preparation Grants

The STDF Working Group approved three new project preparation grants in June 2008:

- Development of a phytosanitary capacity building strategy for Africa (STDF 232)
- Development of a Good Agricultural Practice Scheme for Lao PDR (STDF 234)
- Application of SPS standards in the Comoros (STDF 242)

Aid for Trade initiative in Peru

A further Aid for Trade initiative underway is a SPS country survey in Peru. The STDF will collaborate with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) on a field study to examine the need for and provision of SPS-related technical cooperation in Peru.

The aim of the research is to strengthen the link between "supply" and "demand" of SPS-related technical assistance, notably by identifying gaps when they exist and catalyzing the further provision of assistance as necessary. It is expected that the study will be completed by November 2008.

Evaluation of the STDF



Mr Stuart Slorach
STDF Evaluator

"Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted." Albert Einstein

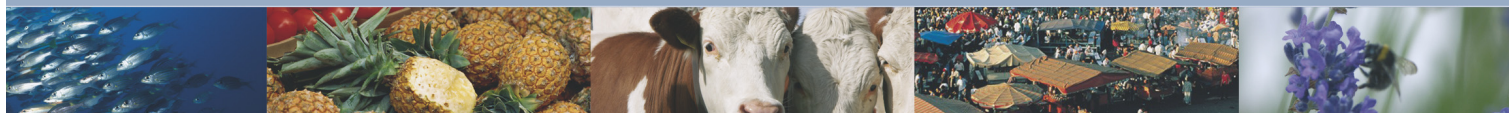
An evaluation of the STDF is being undertaken by Mr Stuart Slorach. The objective is to review the performance of the STDF particularly in terms of the impact of STDF activities. A first independent evaluation of the operation of the Facility was completed in December 2005; the present evaluation should be completed by mid-November 2008. The evaluation will be posted on the STDF website.

To give your views on our performance, e-mail stuart.slorach@gmail.com by 15 October.

New Project Grants

The STDF Working Group approved four new projects in June 2008:

- Creation of a Horticulture Development Council in Tanzania (STDF 126)
- Development of an SPS Action Plan for Cambodia (STDF 246)
- Establishing areas free of Lethal Yellowing Disease of coconuts in Mozambique (STDF 230)
- Development of an accredited Good Practice and HACCP certification scheme in Guatemala (STDF 238)



FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

October 2008

6 Oct., Geneva: STDF Workshop on "good practice" in SPS-related technical cooperation

7-10 Oct., Warsaw, Poland: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe for the Codex Alimentarius Commission

8-9 Oct., Geneva: WTO SPS Committee

27-30 Oct., Tonga: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific for the Codex Alimentarius Commission

November 2008

1-4 Nov.: International Phytosanitary Portal Capacity Building Workshop (Anglophone countries)

10-14 Nov., Acapulco, Mexico: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Codex Alimentarius Commission

17-21 Nov., Denpasar, Indonesia: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia for the Codex Alimentarius Commission

26-27 Nov., Cairo, Egypt: International Conference on "Sharing Innovative Agribusiness Solutions: From Farms to Markets, Providing Know-how and Finance", UNIDO

December 2008

1-5 Dec.: International Phytosanitary Portal Capacity Building Workshop (Francophone countries)

8-12 Dec., Rome, Italy: Open-ended Working Group for the Development of an IPPC Capacity Building Strategy

January 2009

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

February 2009

24-27 Feb., Accra, Ghana: FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa for the Codex Alimentarius Commission

25-26 Feb., Geneva: WTO SPS Committee

27 Feb., Geneva: STDF Working Group meeting

March 2009

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

Forthcoming deadlines for submitting STDF applications:

- **19 December 2008**
- **24 April 2009**

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

Biosafety Protocol News

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

EC DG Trade's SPS News

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

FAO's Food Safety and Quality Update eNewsletter

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

FAO-BiotechNews

www.fao.org/biotech/

IPC's Agritrade Forum Newsletter

www.agritrade.org/Publications/#newsletter

ITC Competitiveness Newsletter

www.intracen.org/e-trade/

OIE bulletin

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

PiP Programme newsletter

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

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For further information, contact the STDF at:

Fax: +41 22 739 57 60

E-mail: STDFSecretariat@wto.org

