

STDF WORKING GROUP PROJECT STATUS REPORT

STDF	<i>Title: STDF 173- Strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies</i>
Date of Working Group approval	March 2007 (in principle approval) Contract signed by WTO on 20 August 2007
Date of start of implementation / supervision activities	Implementation of project activities commenced in August 2007
Overall status report	<p>Describe the current status of implementation in comparison with the activities, timetable and budget set out in the project document.</p> <p>In the project plan agreed to by STDF, FSANZ and FAO, it is stated that an evaluation survey would be designed and carried out six months after the training workshop to monitor and assess progress in the assessment of capacity building needs and development and implementation of national action plans in follow-up to the training workshop.</p> <p>FSANZ and FAO are currently planning the last step of the project which has been very successful to date. It has now been 6 months since the workshop that was held in Beijing so it is an appropriate time to follow up with a questionnaire to monitor progress. Specific indicators that will be used as a measure of success will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisation of national workshops on assessing the need for capacity building in the national food control systems in participating APEC countries; • development of action plans for strengthening the capacity in the national food control systems in participating APEC countries; and • preparation of summaries of national experiences in applying the FAO tools to assess food safety capacity. <p>Already, some informal feedback has been collected by FSANZ and FAO in relation to progress that has been made in some of the participating countries including Viet Nam, the Philippines, Thailand and Papua New Guinea. From the feedback provided to date, it appears that there is a high level of commitment and significant work that has been undertaken in relation to food safety needs assessment and capacity building. Specific activities that have been undertaken include: reporting proposed capacity building action plans to senior management within relevant agencies; applying for and receiving funding/support for implementing national forums/capacity building needs assessment workshops.</p> <p>FAO and FSANZ will prepare a formal questionnaire by mid July for distribution to all workshop participants. Participants will be requested to complete the questionnaire, enabling FSANZ/FAO to compare the experiences / findings between countries.</p> <p>At this stage, all project activities are in line with the timeline and budget agreed to in the contract/project proposal. It is anticipated that a questionnaire will be prepared, responses collated and a final report prepared and sent to STDF by end August/early September 2008.</p>

	<p>Given the success of the first stages of this project and the strong desire from participating countries to follow-up and review progress in the development of national food safety capacity building action plans, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ), together with FSANZ and FAO have submitted a Grant Application to the STDF for a <i>Follow-up workshop on strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies</i>. This Application is to be considered at the June 2008 Working Group Meeting. The overall goal of this project will be to review developing APEC Member Economies development of capacity building action plans and to critically evaluate these in relation to their ability to improve public health and facilitate international trade.</p> <p>The specific objectives will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate activities undertaken as a result of the first workshop on capacity building activities aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of food safety regulators from developing APEC Member Economies to plan and conduct capacity building needs assessments in their national food control systems; • assist the food safety authorities in developing APEC Member Economies to further develop national capacity building actions plans based on the outcome of the assessments of activities undertaken; • provide knowledge and direction on the prioritization, implementation and evaluation of action plans; and • facilitate information sharing between developing APEC Member Economies in relation to capacity needs assessment as well as action plan development and implementation.
Achievements / Impact	<p>Outline any impact which the project may be having. Impact can be quantitatively measured or qualitatively judged</p> <p>To date, there has been a positive impact as a result of the project. Significant progress has been made in raising awareness about the need for assessing needs with respect to food safety capacity building. In a number of participating countries, there has been additional significant, and positive impacts, including the implementation of national workshops to address the need for assessing food safety capacity building needs.</p>
End date	September 2008