

STDF Newsletter

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Standards and Trade Development Facility



Dear readers,

Welcome to the first issue of the STDF newsletter in 2010! Work has started on the implementation of our new Operating Plan for 2010 and 2011. The plan continues to focus on STDF's role in raising awareness on SPS issues, mobilization of resources, donor coordination, and sharing and dissemination of information on good practice in the area of SPS-related technical assistance. With respect to the latter,

this year STDF events are planned on SPS performance indicators in the context of results-based management and on public/private partnerships in SPS capacity building. We also aim to launch a pilot project to test different economic analysis methodologies and develop a practical user guide for decision-makers in developing countries. The STDF will continue its efforts to advocate the importance of addressing SPS needs and constraints in the context of broader trade- and agriculture-related development programmes and to promote the preparation of SPS action plans and strategies at national, regional and/or thematic level. I look forward to collaborating on these and other issues with our partners, donors, beneficiaries and other relevant organizations.

Melvin Spreij, STDF Secretary

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



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 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

STDF workshop on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision-making

The STDF organized a workshop in Geneva on 30 October 2009, immediately after the WTO SPS Committee meeting, to raise awareness about the use of economic analysis methodologies to inform SPS-related decision-making. There were over 250 participants in the workshop, including SPS Committee delegates, as well as other food safety, animal and plant health experts funded by the WTO and STDF. Speakers from developing and developed countries, and international organizations, provided examples of how different methodologies have been used (ex ante and ex post) to estimate the costs, benefits and returns on investments in food safety, animal and plant health capacity building.

More information about the event, including presentations and podcasts, is available on the [STDF website](#).

Key messages

- Economic analysis offers a useful tool to:
 - complement scientific information and inform and support SPS decision-making;
 - help convince decision-makers of the potential benefits and/or cost-savings of SPS capacity building;
 - promote transparency, objectivity and accountability in SPS decision-making.
- Different economic analysis methodologies exist. Decisions on which one to use will depend on the particular situation and question being addressed.
- Some common challenges limit the wider application of economic analysis in developing countries including incomplete data, inadequate skills and knowledge, time and resource requirements, etc.



"While there are undoubtedly substantial benefits from employing economic analysis to support decisions concerning SPS capacity building options, it is important to recognise the resources, skills and expertise needed in order to apply such methods successfully"

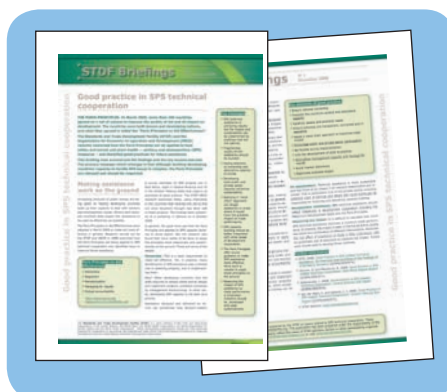
Spencer Henson, author of the STDF Guidelines on the Use of Economic Analysis

The new [STDF Guidelines on the Use of Economic Analysis](#) reviews experiences in the use of economic analysis methodologies in the SPS area in developing countries, discusses the key challenges faced and offers general guidance to decision-makers on the use of economic analysis to help and inform SPS capacity building.

Available in English on the [STDF website](#). An Executive Summary is available in French and Spanish.

New STDF Briefings now available

Three new two-page STDF Briefings are now available on [STDF's website](#). These address the following topics: climate change and SPS risks and responses; the use of economic analysis to inform SPS-related decision-making; and fruit fly control in West Africa. STDF Briefings are reader-friendly publications which aim to disseminate information, experiences and good practices that emerge from STDF's coordination and capacity building activities. Each number provides the reader with a quick overview on a specific STDF initiative, including main findings, key messages, recommendations and lessons learned.



STDF ACTIVITIES

New STDF films

A short version (8 minutes) of the STDF film, entitled "Trading Safely: protecting health, promoting development", as well as a short institutional clip about the mission and functions of the STDF, will soon be available on [STDF's website](#).



Towards safer sesame and shea value chains in Nigeria



On the margins of the Aid for Trade Review for West Africa held on 27-28 January 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria, the STDF Secretariat organized a meeting with the Nigerian Export Promotion Council and the International Trade Centre (ITC) to finalize implementation and supervision modalities of an STDF-funded project entitled "Expanding exports of sesame seeds and shea nut/shear butter through improved SPS capacity building for the private and public sector in Nigeria". The project aims to address SPS constraints along the sesame and shea nut/shear butter value chains with the objective to raise exports by over 15 per cent.

Total Diet Studies, a first step towards measuring exposure to food contaminants in Africa



Over 25 participants from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and The Gambia will participate in an STDF-funded workshop organized by the Cameroon Pasteur Centre (CPC) in Yaoundé from 1 to 5 March 2010. The objective of the workshop is to train trainers from African countries on methodologies, interpretation and use of Total Diet Studies (TDS). The training will be provided by experts from the CPC, FAO and Mét@risk, a Collaborating Centre of the WHO. In addition, the workshop aims at setting the basis for the joint formulation of a procedural manual to conduct a regional TDS for Sub-Saharan Africa. The regional TDS will provide data on the status of chemical contamination of food in the countries concerned, assess exposure to harmful substances through food and provide indications on possible deficiencies of micronutrients. Results

of the TDS can be used in the risk analysis process and may contribute to enhancing market access of food and agricultural products.

Recently Approved STDF Projects and Project Preparation Grants

The STDF Working Group approved four projects and one project preparation grant in December 2009:

- **STDF/PG/172/R3** - Expanding exports of sesame seeds and shea nut/butter through improved SPS capacity building for the private and public sector in Nigeria
- **STDF/PG/283/R1** - Support for SPS risk assessment in the mango export sector in Mali
- **STDF/PG/300** - Developing a combined e-Learning Curriculum and Information System on Food Standards as a contribution to up-grading the Quality Infrastructure in Developing Countries (Ghana)
- **STDF/PG/313** - Continuation of the West African Fruit Fly Initiative (WAFFI) in 2010
- **STDF/PPG/309** - Support to build an SPS management system in Guinea Bissau.

Next Deadline for STDF Funding Applications

- Friday 9 April 2010

Detailed information on funding eligibility and criteria is available on the [STDF website](#)



ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

2010 Global Food Safety Conference



The Conference, organized by the Global Food Safety Initiative of the Consumer Goods Forum (GFSI) took place in Washington, D.C. on 3-5 February 2010. Entitled "Connecting the Pieces – A Global Food Safety Framework for the 21st Century", the event was attended by some 700 food safety experts from food retailers and manufacturers, standard-setting bodies and certification

bodies, and related service providers. Representatives of national government agencies, academic institutions and international organizations also participated.

The relationship between public and private standards was on the agenda. A panel discussion involving representatives from Codex and the WTO Secretariat provided an opportunity to inform food industry participants about international food safety standards and the SPS Agreement. Some other topics of discussion addressed the market's role in the selection of standards, the importance of promoting further harmonization of auditing requirements to reduce costs, continued difficulties of small suppliers in the United States and emerging markets to meet requirements, as well as the need to encourage greater public-private collaboration in standards development. For more information : <http://www.tcgffoodsafety.com>.

OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in the Middle East: Putting a halt to the misuse of veterinary medicinal products



A regional approach to harmonize and improve the registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary drugs was agreed at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in the Middle-East, held in Damascus, Syria on 2-4 December 2009. The Conference brought together 160 participants from different countries in the region. Other participants included representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations in the Middle-East, funding agencies, major global and regional producers of veterinary medicinal products and NGOs involved in developing sustainable livestock production in the Middle-East.

Recognizing that misuse of veterinary medicinal products, whether intentional or unintentional, represents a risk for animal and public health, participants committed to take actions both at regional and national level at all stages of development, production and marketing of veterinary medicinal products.

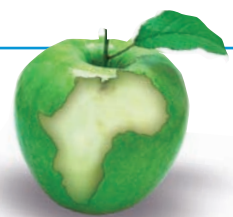


Better Training for Safer Food: Regional training in Dakar



As part of the EU-funded programme "Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF), Africa", an intensive training workshop was held in Dakar, Senegal on 9-11 February 2010. The workshop aimed to enhance awareness of officials from the African Union Commission (AUC), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and specialized bodies within Africa on food hygiene inspection procedures.

This event is one of a series of regional trainings scheduled to take place in the first half of 2010 in Africa. BTSF Africa is a project dedicated to strengthening national and regional SPS capacities in Africa, with reference to international standards. It is comprised of two main activities: (1) the organization and implementation of regional workshops on EU regulation and SPS measures; (2) the organization of sustained training missions and ad hoc assistance for small and medium enterprises. The overall objective of the project is to ease access to the EU market for products from Africa.



ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

Aid for Trade can help West Africa face development challenges



"Aid for Trade can help West Africa recover from the global recession"

Valentine Rugwabiza,
Deputy Director-General,
WTO

The Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) hosted an Aid-for-Trade Review at its headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria, on 27-28 January 2010. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the WTO. It was attended by senior officials from ten ECOWAS member states. The agenda was centred around presentations of ECOWAS programmes, at both regional and sectoral level, including ECOWAS' agricultural policy (ECOWAP). The session on agriculture provided an opportunity for the STDF to highlight the work conducted in collaboration with ECOWAS on fruit fly control in West Africa.

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development



Co-hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Rome on 26-27 January 2010, the Annual General Assembly of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development involved over 100 participants from the donor community, international financial institutions, foundations, farmer organizations and NGOs in discussions on major agricultural topics such as climate change, large-scale land investments and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). In a special session dedicated to Aid for Trade and rural development, the STDF stressed the importance for developing countries to control their SPS risks and meet international standards, notably in terms of gaining and maintaining market access for their food and agricultural products, higher levels of production and hence increased food security, and improved human health status. More information can be found on: <http://www.donorplatform.org/>



SPS database for Latin America

The Inter-American Development Bank, through its Integration and Trade Sector, has developed an SPS Database containing information on SPS-related commitments negotiated in regional trade agreements; SPS notifications; SPS related requirements to export agricultural products to specific countries; private standards and import refusals due to the lack of compliance. The SPS database is part of INTRADE-BID, the most complete resource hub on trade and integration in the Americas. For more information contact Ms Juliana Almeida at: JALMEIDA@iadb.org.



ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

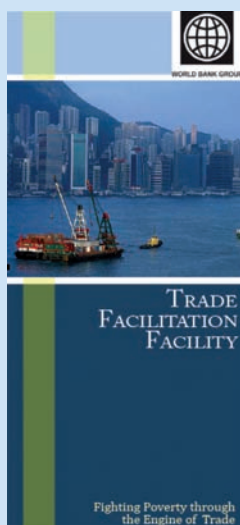
WHO Foodborne Diseases Stakeholder Meeting 2009 - Bridging the Research-Policy Gap in Food Safety



On 26-30 October 2009, the WHO hosted the third formal meeting of the Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG), which included the third international Foodborne Diseases Stakeholder Event, in Geneva. FERG scientists presented preliminary results on the burden of disease in the areas of enteric, parasitic and chemical causes of foodborne diseases. Stakeholders discussed in workshops how the burden estimates may be used to inform food safety policy. For more information, visit the website of the [WHO Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases](#) or contact foodsafety@who.int.

Trade Facilitation Facility: Opportunities for African Countries

The STDF participated in a two-day information session organized by the World Bank in Abuja, Nigeria, immediately preceding the ECOWAS Aid-for-Trade Review. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about funding opportunities available through the Trade Facilitation Facility (TFF) (see box). The meeting resulted in a set of tangible proposals put forward by participating beneficiaries focusing on core aspects of the trade facilitation agenda, including increased capacity of trade gateways and the establishment of regional trade facilitation systems. This included a possible contribution of the TFF towards the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to control fruit fly in West Africa.



- The TFF is a multi-donor trust fund that will enhance developing countries' competitiveness by strengthening the quality of trade facilitation systems and reducing trade costs through:
 - Assisting in the implementation of practical initiatives in key areas such as border management improvement, institutional development, trade procedures, logistics services markets, and gateway infrastructure;
 - Supporting trade corridors and other regional facilitation initiatives around the world;
 - Acting as a catalyst for mobilization of resources from development banks and donors; and
 - Helping developing countries implement trade facilitation provisions of international trade agreements.

ACTIVITIES OF STDF'S PARTNERS

Regional Workshop on the WTO SPS Agreement for Central Asian Countries



Approximately 50 officials from selected central Asian countries (Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) will attend a regional workshop on the WTO SPS Agreement in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 16-19 February 2010. During the course, participants will improve their knowledge on the main provisions of the SPS Agreement, including recent work of the SPS Committee, and discuss ways to address specific SPS implementation challenges and seize opportunities. The workshop is tailored to the specific characteristics and needs of the region and will benefit from the participation of representatives from the Codex, IPPC and OIE Secretariats.

Cost of National Prevention Systems for Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Developing and Transition Countries

A study entitled "Cost of National Prevention Systems for Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Developing and Transition Countries", commissioned by the OIE and co-funded by the World Bank and the European Union, was published in November 2009. It aims to: (a) estimate the "peace time" costs of Veterinary Services competence in early detection and rapid response to emerging and re-emerging diseases in different regions, economies, animal health systems and eco-systems; and (b) develop economic indicators within the OIE-Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Tool. The study is based on results of in-depth research in nine OIE member countries. The study is available on the [OIE website](#).



High-level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa

Jointly organized by UNIDO, FAO and IFAD, in collaboration with the AUC, the New Partnership for Africa's Development / Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (NEPAD/CAADP), UNECA, the AfDB and the Government of Nigeria, a High-Level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa (HLCD-3A) will convene African Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers and senior policymakers, as well as senior representatives of financial institutions in Abuja, Nigeria on 8-10 March 2010. Participants will consider and endorse specific commitments to enhance the role of agribusiness and agro-industries in promoting food security, employment generation and sustainable economic growth in Africa. The Conference will officially launch the African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI). More information can be accessed at: www.hlcd-3a.org



Welcome to the new IPPC Secretary



Yukio Yokoi, new
IPPC Secretary

The IPPC Secretariat has a new Secretary, Mr Yukio Yokoi. Mr Yokoi comes from the Ministry of Agriculture in Japan where he has worked on technical, trade and development issues related to IPPC and WTO SPS issues. Mr Yokoi has a long experience in agriculture and rural development issues of interest to developing countries, gained through his work with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). He brings valuable expertise to the Secretariat which will help in mobilizing additional resources to ensure the sustainable delivery of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures' (CPM) work programme.

FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

March 2010

8-10 March, Abuja, Nigeria: High-Level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa

9-11 March, Buenos Aires, Argentina: OIE Training on Food Safety for American countries

8-12 March, Budapest, Hungary: Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

15-19 March, Beijing, China: Codex Committee on Food Additives

15-19 March, Rabat, Morocco: BTSF Regional workshop on food hygiene inspection

15-19 March, Tanzania: OIE Training on Wildlife Diseases for English speaking Africa and Middle East countries

16-18 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPS Committee meeting

17 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO Workshop on Aid for Trade and Agriculture

19 March, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group meeting

22-26 March, Rome, Italy: 5th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

April 2010

5-9 April, Lilongwe, Malawi: PAN-SPSO regional Training of Trainers workshop for COMESA member states

11-14 April, Melbourne, Australia: 2010 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) International Symposium organized by the Government of Australia

12-16 April, Paris, France: Codex Committee on General Principles

19-24 April, Xian, China: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

26-30 April, Izmir, Turkey: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

19-23 April, Kampala, Uganda: BTSF Regional workshop on food hygiene inspection

19-23 April, Ljubljana, Slovenia: Second Meeting of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management Under the Cartagena Protocol organized by the CBD

May 2010

3-7 May, Quebec City, Canada: Codex Committee on Food Labelling

23-28 May, Paris, France: 78th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates, OIE

24-28 May, Bamako, Mali: BTSF Regional workshop on food hygiene inspection

June 2010

14-18 June, Madagascar: BTSF Regional workshop on food hygiene inspection

16-18 June, Namibia: OIE Training on Aquatic Diseases for African countries

21-23 June, Paris, France: Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

28 June-2 July Ottawa, Canada: Expert Working Group on Movement of soil and growing media in association with plants in international trade

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

July 2010

1 July, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF workshop/expert meeting on SPS performance indicators

2 July, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group

5-9 July, Geneva, Switzerland: 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

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Biosafety Protocol News

www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/

Codex Newsletter

www.codexalimentarius.net/web/newsletter.jsp

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

ISEAL Gazette

www.isealliance.org

ITC Competitiveness Newsletter

www.intracen.org/e-trade/

OIE bulletin

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

PiP Programme newsletter

www.coleacp.org/fr/pip/11763-pip-magazine

UNIDO Trade Capacity Building Briefings

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WHO Food Safety Newsletter

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