

Standards and Trade Development Facility

STDF NEWSLETTER

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Dear readers,

It is a great honour for me to write my first editorial since my recent nomination as Secretary of the STDF. Over the summer months, we have been busy working towards major events focused on the implications of climate change on SPS systems, a regional approach for fruit fly control in West Africa, and the use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision-making. We also started the wider distribution of the successful

STDF film entitled: "Trading Safely, protecting health, promoting development".

Measuring the performance of technical cooperation is increasingly at the forefront of the international development agenda. By the end of 2009, a joint STDF/OECD study will propose a common basket of indicators to better measure performance and support more consistent and coherent reporting. Other upcoming STDF studies will focus on regional SPS frameworks and protocols, as well as national SPS coordination mechanisms in Africa.

I will continue to provide our readers with the latest news on SPS-related technical cooperation and look forward to collaborate with you to further strengthen the SPS capacity of developing countries and increase market access for their food and agricultural products.

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, Switzerland, the United Kingdom 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

World Bank / STDF seminar discusses the links between climate change and SPS risks

Climate change and SPS risks were on the agenda at a World Bank / STDF seminar attended by over 100 representatives from international organizations, regulatory and development agencies, research, academia and the private sector in Washington, D.C. on 22-23 September. 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. Participants agreed that production must increase to meet consumption needs, and that climate change will complicate that challenge. Speakers made a compelling case for the need to avoid protectionism and dramatically expand investments in agriculture, including research and development.

The second day of the seminar focused on SPS risks and responses to climate change. Speakers emphasized that climate change is already having impacts on food safety and animal and plant health and that these are likely to become more intense, with implications for the future development and implementation of SPS-related standards. While some countries have started to consider how climate change will affect agricultural production and SPS risks, many are still ignoring or denying the linkages. Yet notwithstanding data gaps, action cannot wait. There was agreement that strengthening food safety, animal and plant health systems is critical to tackle the challenges faced. This will require more support to develop capacities in prediction, surveillance, diagnosis, risk assessment, regulatory frameworks, etc. Ensuring an interdisciplinary approach and strengthening regional collaboration is also essential. More information about the event, including presentations and a briefing note, is available on the [STDF website](#).

How will climate change affect SPS risks?

Climate change will have important and complex consequences for food safety, animal and plant health. Feedback loops and data gaps make precise predictions difficult, however, impacts are likely to include:

- changes in the distribution, range and frequency of plant and animal diseases,
- greater use of pesticides and veterinary drugs,
- increased spread and pestilence of plant pests,
- rise in mycotoxin contamination,
- increased frequency of Salmonella.



Gretchen Stanton, WTO and Richard Sikora, CGIAR Systemwide Programme on Integrated Pest Management during a break at the climate change seminar



Strike Mkandla, United Nations Environment Programme and Julian Smith, Food and Environment Research Agency, UK at the climate change seminar

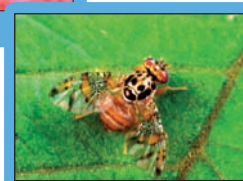
Donor Workshop on Control of Fruit Fly in West Africa

A total of 87 participants, including government representatives, private sector, civil society, research institutions and development partners, validated a regional action plan to control fruit fly in West Africa (prepared by COLEACP) at a meeting in Bamako, Mali on 29-30 September 2009. The meeting was co-hosted by the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) the Government of Mali, and the STDF.

Participants adopted the Bamako Declaration, outlining a roadmap of recommended actions to commence the implementation of the regional action plan in the months to come. More information on the fruit fly initiative and the Bamako meeting, is available on the [STDF website](#).



Fruit fly



STDF ACTIVITIES

STDF participation in PAN-SPSO programme

The STDF provides technical advice to the Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO) project, funded by the European Commission (EC) and implemented by the African Union/Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

In close collaboration with the WTO, Codex, OIE and IPPC Secretariats, two "training-of-trainers" workshops were held in July 2009 in Nairobi (Kenya) and Bamako (Mali). The workshops were targeted at English- and French-speaking officials of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as a core selected group of African SPS experts in sanitary and phytosanitary issues. Follow-up regional and national workshops are planned in 2009 and beyond.

The STDF will also be involved in carrying out a scoping study on the establishment and functioning of regional and national SPS coordination mechanisms. The PAN-SPSO Steering Committee meeting in Nairobi on 5 October 2009 discussed progress in the project's activities. More information is available on the project website: http://www.au-ibar.org/ach_trdmkt/pansps.html.



Participants at the Nairobi workshop



Participants at the Bamako workshop

Using Economic Analysis to Inform SPS Decision-Making

The use of economic analysis to inform SPS decision-making will be the subject of an STDF workshop in Geneva on 30 October 2009. The workshop will discuss the costs and benefits of strengthening SPS systems. Relevant experiences and lessons from both developed and developing countries will be presented, as well as guidelines to assist countries to apply economic analysis in SPS decision making. For more information, see: www.standardsfacility.org/Economic_analysis.htm.

Research on Impact and Development of SPS Indicators

The STDF Secretariat, in collaboration with the OECD, is undertaking a study on indicators to measure the performance and ensure sustainability of SPS-related technical assistance at the output, outcome and impact level. Work on SPS indicators is crucial to improve aid quality and effectiveness, hence, supporting the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008). Building on earlier work on Good Practice, STDF's work on SPS indicators is a direct response to the demand for a more rigorous monitoring and evaluation of Official Development Assistance (ODA) that is now at the forefront of the international development agenda. Various stakeholders are expected to benefit from a more consistent and coherent reporting mechanism that is an inherent part of the work on indicators.

Inputs are being received from STDF partners, donors and beneficiaries, which will enable the study to highlight successful processes and indicators to quantify performance, as well as constraints faced. The STDF work will be presented at the OECD-DAC meeting in November 2009. For more information, contact: Farah.Farooq@wto.org.

STDF Project in Cambodia Works to Develop a National SPS Action Plan

On 27 July 2009, members of Cambodia's national SPS taskforce, representing the main line ministries concerned with SPS, gathered for their third meeting in Phnom Penh to review progress and plan upcoming activities for an STDF project to prepare an SPS Action Plan for Cambodia (STDF 246). The project started in May 2009 and is advancing along two streams of work – a strategic and policy approach develops a framework for the main biosecurity functions in Cambodia, while a sector approach considers the specific export potential of selected agricultural and food commodities. With the assistance of FAO Cambodia, international consultants will conduct studies on SPS-related export potential and constraints in seven high-value products/sub-sectors, ranging from fruit and vegetables to rice and fishery commodities. For more information, contact: Marlynne.Hopper@wto.org.



Experts at work in the field in Cambodia



STDF ACTIVITIES

Recently Approved STDF Projects and Project Preparation Grants

The STDF Working Group approved four project preparation grants in June 2009:

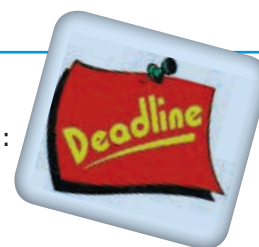
- STDF/PPG/298: Capacity Building Programme on Pesticide Residues and other Harmful Substances in Cocoa in Africa (International Cocoa Organization - ICCO).
- STDF/PPG/302: Project Preparation Grant to Support the Competitiveness of Cabbage in the Niayes Region (Senegal).
- STDF/PPG/303: Project Preparation Grant to Conduct a Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa (Centre Pasteur du Cameroun - CPC).
- STDF/PPG/305: Project Preparation Grant on Institutionalizing SPS for Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems in Africa (African Union Commission).

In addition, the Working Group approved one project to strengthen Vietnamese SPS capacities for trade by improving safety and quality of fresh vegetables using a value-chain approach (STDF/PG/259).

Next deadline for STDF funding applications

- 24 December 2009

Detailed information on funding eligibility and criteria is available on the STDF website: http://www.standardsfacility.org/Funding_Opportunities.htm.



ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

ADB/FAO Workshop on WTO SPS Measures



From 8 to 11 September 2009, the WTO/STDF Secretariat participated in a workshop on WTO SPS Measures, organized by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), in collaboration with FAO. More than 30 mid-level and senior agriculture officials from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (People's Republic), India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Viet Nam were briefed on recent developments in the WTO SPS Committee and current STDF activities. Other presentations focused *inter alia* on transparency and equivalence, private standards, and the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) introduced a recently drafted SPS Action Plan for the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). The plan builds on STDF research on SPS needs and assistance in Cambodia,

Lao PDR and Viet Nam in 2007-08 in the wider context of Aid for Trade. The establishment of risk-based border handling procedures, strengthening diagnostic and private sector capacities, and the promotion of academic training for SPS management are among the proposed areas of intervention. More information on the draft GMS SPS Action Plan can be obtained from Ms Lingling Ding, Senior Regional Economist at the ADB: dingl@adb.org.



ACTIVITIES OF STDF PARTNERS

Agroenterprise Without Borders



Participants at the Agroenterprise Without Borders Conference

More than 170 participants representing government agencies, private companies and NGOs attended the first EAP Regional Agribusiness Trade and Investment Conference, organized by the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, in Singapore on 30-31 July 2009. The event sought 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. Marlynne Hopper, from the STDF Secretariat, spoke about private standards from the perspective of the SPS Committee, complementing presentations by representatives of private standard setting bodies and schemes. All the presentations are available on the World Bank website: [Regional Agribusiness Trade and Investment Conference](#).

APEC Members Focus on Food Safety in Singapore

Representatives from 18 APEC member economies, as well as international organizations with an interest in food safety, attended the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), hosted by co-chairs Australia and China, in Singapore on 30 July 2009. Marlynne Hopper participated on behalf of the STDF. The meeting discussed successes and challenges faced in strengthening food safety systems within APEC, emphasizing the need for good coordination and information exchange.

The Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN), an initiative developed by the USA to leverage expertise and resources from the private sector and academia to meet FSCF's capacity building priorities, organized its first workshop as part of the FSCF meeting. Entitled "Examination of Hot Issues in Risk Analysis", the PTIN workshop on 1-2 August 2009 brought together officials from regulatory authorities, the business world and academia. For more information, go to: http://jifsan.umd.edu/news/news_record.php?id=16.



OIE/FAO Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease

Over 500 participants, including OIE national delegates, representatives of FAO and other international organizations, donors, non-governmental and farmers' organizations participated in the OIE/FAO Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Asunción, Paraguay on 24-26 June 2009. Participants stressed that FMD control should be recognized as a global public good and reiterated the importance of a coordinated approach for FMD control. In the absence of a global or regional approach, FMD is likely to be easily reintroduced via trans-boundary trade or movement of people. Final recommendations from the conference, as well as presentations, are available on the OIE website: http://www.oie.int/eng/A_FMD2009/presentations-FMD.html.



Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General

"FMD-free countries must support infected developing countries in the control of FMD because while contributing to poverty alleviation they will protect their territory from virus reintroduction. It is a win-win action."

Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE.



ACTIVITIES OF STDF'S PARTNERS

EC Seminar on Sanitary Issues for Administrators from Third Countries

The EC organized a seminar in Brussels on 22-26 June to familiarize developing country administrators with the EU's SPS-related import requirements including in the area of fisheries, food legislation, HACCP and traceability. Field visits to food production, exporting and importing facilities helped participants to better understand the concrete implementation of SPS requirements in practice. More information on this seminar is available at: <http://www.spsseminar.eu/>.

Food Safety Knowledge Network Roundtable

The Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and Michigan State University organized a roundtable on the development of the global Food Safety Knowledge Network (FSKN) in Washington, D.C. on 28 September. The event was attended by more than 70 representatives from regulatory bodies, international and bilateral development organizations, the food industry and academia, as well as the STDF Secretariat. The FSKN aims to strengthen the food industry's response to the complex food safety knowledge and training challenges that affect emerging markets. For more details, see the FSKN website: <http://foodsafetyknowledgenetwork.org/>.



Increasing Transparency of SPS Measures at the 2009 WTO Public Forum



At the last WTO Public Forum, 28-30 September 2009, the International Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) organized a session on SPS transparency and implications. Marlynne Hopper, from the STDF Secretariat, made a presentation on how to "Make Better Use of the SPS Notification System", complementing presentations on how to include more monitoring of SPS measures in the WTO Trade Policy Review Mechanism, and on how to aggregate the effects of SPS measures so as to provide an overview of the trade impact of SPS regulations. Presentations were followed by comments from the private sector, the WTO and the OIE on how to increase transparency surrounding the creation and the implementation of SPS regulations and measures. For more information, see the [WTO website](#).

FAO Symposium "Ensuring Safe Food Supply – A continuing challenge"

This Symposium entitled "Ensuring Safe Food Supply - A continuing challenge" was held during the 19th International Congress of Nutrition (ICN 2009) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4 to 9 October 2009. Under the broad theme "Nutrition Security For All," the congress featured the most up-to-date scientific and practical solutions to the challenges of securing the need for a safe, adequate, and nutritious food supply. The symposium, scheduled on 6 October and organized by FAO in collaboration with Thai authorities, included presentations on: microbial hazards in fresh produce, practical application of HACCP in food safety and quality, and climate change and the challenge of new pathogens for food safety. For further information, see the [ICN Website](#).



ACTIVITIES OF STDF'S PARTNERS

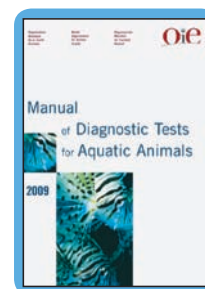


Better Training for Safer Food Annual Report

The annual report of the Better Training for Safer Food initiative (BTSF) has been published, providing an overview of training activities in 2008. The report also looks at programmes starting in 2009 as well as the Better Training for Safer Food in Africa programme (BTSF Africa) which runs during 2009-10. It provides information on the intermediate evaluation of BTSF, carried out in 2008, and the transfer of competencies related to BTSF to the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC). The BTSF annual report 2008 is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/annual_report2008/BTSFAnnualreport2008.pdf.

OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

The purpose of this Manual is to provide a uniform approach to the detection of diseases listed in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code to help countries meet the requirements for health certification in connection with trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. It includes bibliographical references and a list of the OIE Reference Laboratories for amphibian, crustacean, fish and mollusc diseases. For more information, see: <http://www.oie.int/boutique/index.php?lang=en>.



PIP Position Paper on the Potential Impact of Proposed Changes to EU Pesticides Regulations in ACP Countries

PIP has conducted an impact assessment to consider the potential implications of the new regulation on pesticides that is currently recommended and approved for use on horticultural export crops in ACP countries. The PIP study concludes that while several pesticides currently used on export crops may be withdrawn in Europe, the new Regulation is not likely to have a major impact in ACP countries in the short-term. When a pesticide is withdrawn in Europe, continued use on ACP export crops will still be possible provided that the product is registered locally, and EU MRLs and import tolerances are met. The full version of the report can be seen on the PIP website: <http://www.coleacp.org/en/pip/14197-impact-assesment>.

New EC Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) Portal

On 16 July 2009, the European Commission officially launched a website portal to make the functioning of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) as transparent as possible to consumers, business operators and authorities around the world. RASFF is an effective tool to exchange information about measures taken responding to risks detected in food or feed. It is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/rapidalert/rasff_portal_database_en.htm.



The Consumer Goods Forum Global Food Safety Conference 2010



The Conference will take place in Washington, D.C. from 3 to 5 February 2010, and will follow up on the challenges recognized at the GFS Conference held in Barcelona in February 2009 entitled: "Connecting the Pieces – A Global Food Safety Framework for the 21st Century". The event will bring together over 500 food safety specialists from more than 40 countries to discuss the importance of connectivity in the food safety area: between farm and fork; between science, industry and regulators; and between standards, auditors and suppliers. For more information, go to: <http://www.tcgffoodsafety.com>.



FORTHCOMING SPS EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

November 2009

2-6 November, Düsseldorf, Germany: Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

2-13 November, Hammamet, Tunisia: IPPC Regional Workshop on Phytosanitary Networks in the Near East

2-13 November, Accra, Ghana: IPPC Regional Workshop on Phytosanitary Networks in West Africa

3-6 November, Accra, Ghana: Regional Workshop on the WTO SPS Agreement for English-Speaking Africa

4-6 November, Montreal, Canada: Sixth Meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

9-13 November, Rome, Italy: IPPC Standards Committee Meeting

16-20 November, San Diego, United States: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

17-27 November, Kingston, Jamaica: IPPC Regional Workshop on Phytosanitary Networks in the Caribbean Region

December 2009

2-4 December, Damascus, Syria: OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in the Middle East

8-12 December, Geneva, Switzerland: Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

10-11 December, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group and Policy Committee meetings

January 2010

25-29 January: Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption

February 2010

1-5 February, Auckland, New Zealand: Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products

3-5 February, Washington D.C., United States: CGF Global Food Safety Conference

March 2010

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

17-18 March, Geneva, Switzerland: SPS Committee Meeting

19 March, Geneva, Switzerland: STDF Working Group meeting

30 March-3 April, Rome, Italy: Commission on Phytosanitary Measures-4th Session

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www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/

Codex Newsletter

<http://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.isealliance.org

ITC Competitiveness Newsletter

www.intracen.org/e-trade/

OIE bulletin

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

PiP Programme newsletter

<http://www.coleacp.org/fr/pip/11763-pip-magazine>

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WHO Food Safety Newsletter

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

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