



# STDF

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# ANNUAL

Facing the future: shaping safe trade outcomes

# REPORT

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# 2019

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# SUSTAINABLE

*STDF's vision linked to the SDGs*

# ECONOMIC

*STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy supports:*

# GROWTH,

# POVERTY

# REDUCTION

# AND FOOD SECURITY



*In addition, the Strategy contributes to:*

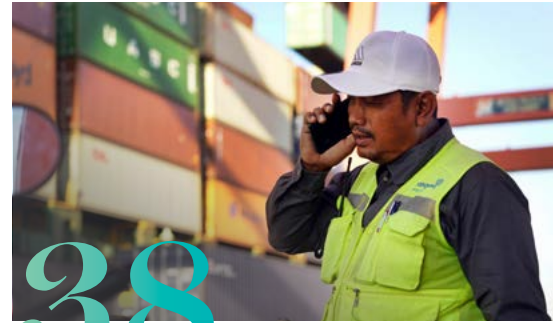


# 24

*Sustaining livelihoods through safe trade*

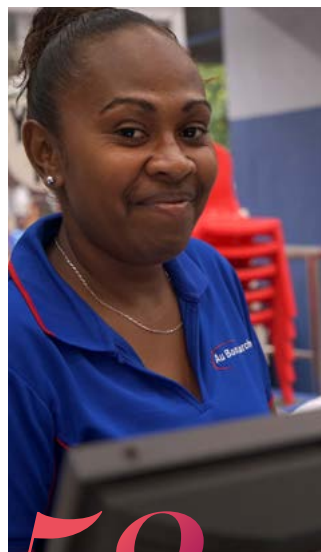


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# LETTER *from* the STDF TEAM

The fallout from the global coronavirus pandemic, which hits out at the entire fabric of how people live, work and do business, is being felt all the more keenly in developing countries.

How the global community responds will be shaped in the coming period, but STDF's vision of sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security is as critical as ever.

The STDF partnership in the last year has continued to bring that vision to life. We are proud of our responsive, expert-driven work to effect change and empower small-scale farmers, producers, traders and governments working in developing and least developed countries.

This 2019 Annual Report is focused on facing the future and shaping safe trade outcomes, with the development of STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy, drawing on the latest external evaluation. Headline results and lessons from the Report connect to the UN Global Goals of no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, decent work and economic growth, and partnerships, and show how our work links to emerging trade and development trends.

In 2019, STDF's global platform, knowledge hub and projects delivered practical solutions for the public and private sector to use tools and technologies to transform agri-food productivity, meet international standards, facilitate business at borders, access regional and global markets and trade safely. In turn, our partnership efforts have helped to generate jobs, raise incomes and secure more livelihoods including for women and small businesses.

In the current context where pests and diseases can spread worldwide, promoting plant and animal health and food safety across supply chains is a global public good. The STDF is building cross-community action in this area, investing in safe trade systems and scaling up assistance for developing countries, which in turn will help to support economic recovery.

We look forward to staying connected and realizing our collective vision.

## Emerging trends



Growth in agri-food global value chains (GVCs), regional trade and South-South trade



Jobs in micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) including for women and youth



Greater focus on how to reduce trade costs linked to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement



Regional integration with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other regional trade agreements



Digitalization and access to technologies transforming agricultural development and trade

# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

### Sustaining project impact and catalysing new resources

In 2019, strong results and evidence from STDF projects and PPGs paved the way for wider trade and development programmes to focus on safe trade priorities. In Myanmar, the oilseeds sector was included in an EU-funded project, while, in Madagascar, funding was mobilized to build plant health capacity as part of a broader COLEACP-funded project.

### Expanding remit and reach of regional and global efforts

STDF's catalytic project models influenced regional and global initiatives on safe trade in 2019. An evaluation of global MRLs projects showed the results continue to inspire follow-up, supporting Codex work, and laid the basis for the Minor Use Foundation. At the same time, a plant health and agro-export model has been successfully rolled out in Latin America.

### Recognition of innovation in delivery for development

In 2019, there was global recognition of STDF's work in empowering developing countries to trade safely showcasing solutions across its projects, knowledge hub and global platform. STDF's role featured in a joint statement from the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade, while the ePhyto project received a trade facilitation innovation award in Asia-Pacific.

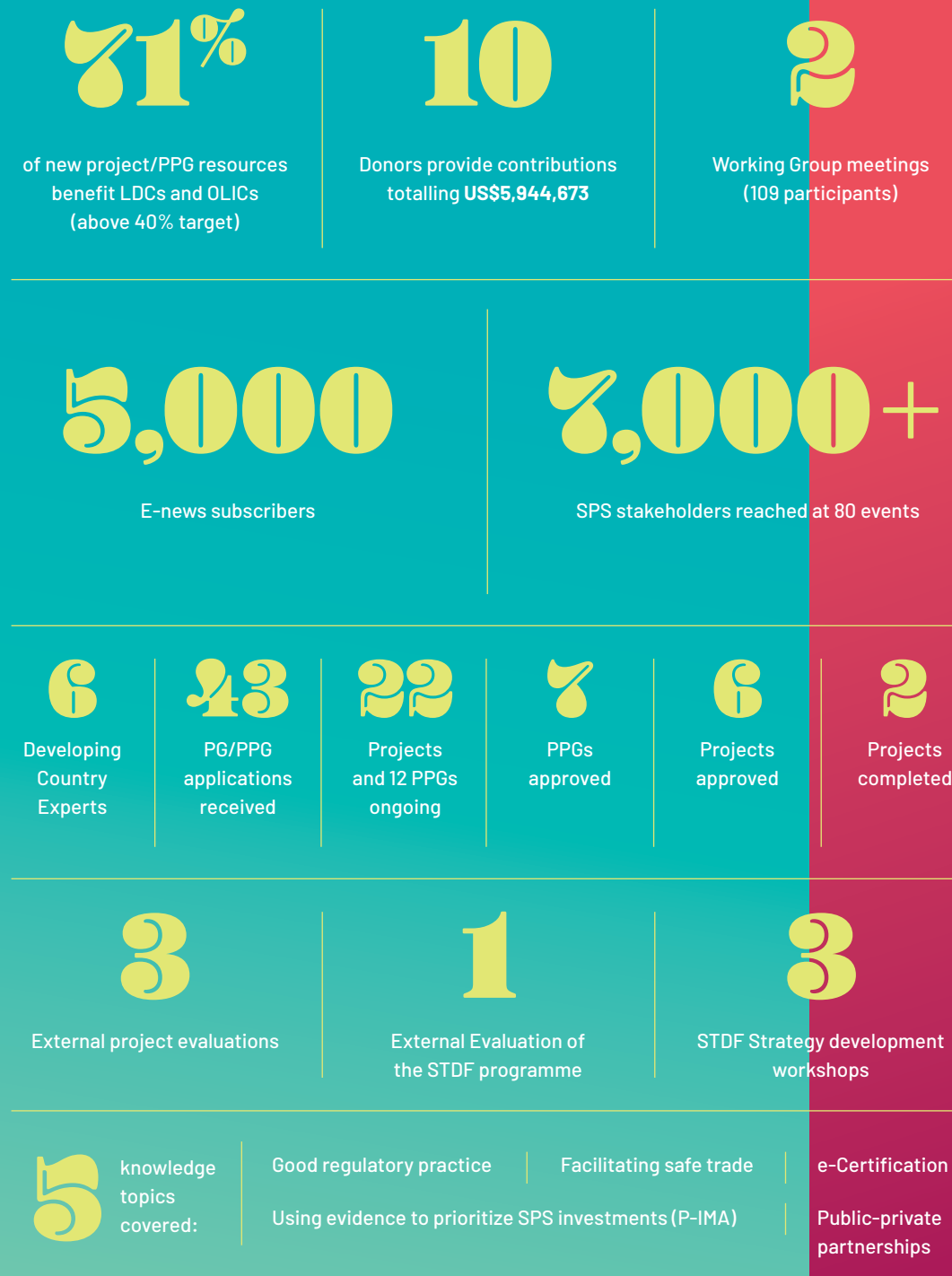
### Global platform shaping dialogue and driving collaboration

STDF's global presence at knowledge events in 2019 made the business case for continued safe trade investments in developing countries. This covered exchanging experiences with governments and business leaders at Aid for Trade, food safety and agricultural conferences, as well as sharing trade facilitation expertise. Experts from STDF's network also voiced what more is needed to collectively facilitate safe, inclusive trade in a new film and video series.

### Focusing on development priorities and dissemination

In 2019, 10 donors provided valuable contributions to the Trust Fund totalling US\$5,944,673 and 71% of new project and PPG resources benefitted least developed countries and other low-income countries. In addition, more stakeholders accessed online resources with 32,000 website sessions, 13,500 publication downloads and 14 news items sent out to 5,000 subscribers.





Founding partner voices in 2019\*

FAO values the engagement of the STDF partnership to reinforce SPS capacities making it easier for small-scale farmers, producers and traders to connect to global, regional and local agri-food markets. FAO remains committed to further strengthen collaboration in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**QU Dongyu**  
Director-General, FAO

As a founding partner of the STDF, the OIE recognizes the role and value of the STDF partnership in strengthening coordination among providers of SPS capacity building to enhance developing countries' ability to meet international standards and benefit from trade opportunities, including through development and implementation of innovative projects.

**Monique Eloit**  
Director General, OIE

Together, the STDF and the WBG have helped countries in areas such as agribusiness, food safety, trade facilitation and improved border management, and the development of benchmarks and data for strong analytics. The WBG is confident that the STDF will continue to play an important role in improving the implementation of effective and efficient SPS measures to support safe trade and looks forward to continued collaboration.

**Martien van Nieuwkoop**  
Global Director, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank Group

Together with our partners, WHO is committed to continuing its work within STDF to promote dialogue between key players and drive multisectoral collaboration to build developing countries' capacities to comply with the Codex Alimentarius standards, enabling international market access and ensuring safe food for all people, no matter where they live and what they eat.

**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
Director-General, WHO

By providing a forum for coordination and dialogue across stakeholders in agriculture, health, trade and development, the STDF contributes to WTO's Aid for Trade Initiative. Through its knowledge work and collaborative projects, the STDF promotes partnerships and delivers cross-cutting solutions across value chains in developing countries, supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Roberto Azevêdo**  
Director-General, WTO

\*from the Forewords to STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy

# STDF projects in 2019



## FOOD SAFETY

### AFRICA

#### 1. Reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize

Beneficiary: Burkina Faso  
 Implemented by: EIF NIU Burkina Faso  
 Partners: WFP, Farmers Confederation, Burkina Faso

#### 2. Building SPS capacity in the Penja pepper value chain

Beneficiary: Cameroon  
 Implemented by: COLEACP  
 Partners: Ministry of Trade, Penja Pepper GI Group, Chamber of Commerce

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### 3. Meeting food safety standards in cocoa

Beneficiary: Colombia, Ecuador  
 Implemented by: KU Leuven  
 Partners: CIAT, Wageningen University, AGROSAVIA, ESPOL

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### 4. Improving food safety in honey and apricots to boost exports

Beneficiary: Tajikistan  
 Implemented by: ITC  
 Partners: FAO, industry and farm associations

#### 5. Improving compliance with SPS measures to boost oilseed exports

Beneficiary: Myanmar  
 Implemented by: ITC  
 Partners: Myanmar Pulses Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchant Association, MSTRD

#### 6. Ensuring food safety, spicing up trade

Beneficiary: India  
 Implemented by: FAO  
 Partners: Spices Board India

#### 7. Laboratory capacity building to support fish exports

Beneficiary: Solomon Islands  
 Implemented by: FAO  
 Partners: Cawthorn Institute

#### 8. Expanding cocoa trade

Beneficiary: Papua New Guinea  
 Implemented by: PNG Cocoa Board  
 Partners: NGIP Agmark Ltd. Outspan PNG Ltd.

### GLOBAL

#### 9. Building capacity to implement GAP, GHP & HACCP

Beneficiary: Kyrgyz Republic  
 Implemented by: FAO  
 Partners: AFVE

#### 10. Safer spices: food safety and market access for peppercorn

Beneficiary: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam  
 Implemented by: CABI  
 Partners: WASI

#### 11. Promoting biopesticides and boosting trade

Beneficiary: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam  
 Implemented by: APAARI  
 Partners: IR-4 Project, Rutgers University, Singapore

## ANIMAL HEALTH

### AFRICA

#### 12. Improving sanitary capacity to facilitate livestock exports

Beneficiary: Ethiopia  
 Implemented by: FAO

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### 13. Accreditation of diagnostic tests for animal diseases

Beneficiary: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama  
 Implemented by: OIRSA  
 Partners: FAO, OIE, PAHO

#### 14. Improved traceability for foods of animal origin

Beneficiary: Costa Rica  
 Implemented by: IICA

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### 15. Piloting an improved animal identification and registration system

Beneficiary: Mongolia  
 Implemented by: FAO  
 Partners: IDELE

### GLOBAL

#### 16. Facilitating e-veterinary certification

Beneficiary: Cambodia, Eswatini, Nigeria, Paraguay, Zimbabwe  
 Implemented by: OIE  
 Partners: FAO, UN/CEFACT, WCO, WBG

## PLANT HEALTH

### AFRICA

#### 17. Strengthening phytosanitary capacity for plant exports

Beneficiary: Zambia  
 Implemented by: EIF NIU Zambia  
 Partners: NPPD, SADC, industry associations, PhytoSolutions Consultancy

#### 18. Building capacity to meet phytosanitary requirements in fruit and vegetable exports

Beneficiary: Uganda  
 Implemented by: CABI  
 Partners: IPPC, HORTEXA, The Netherlands, Uganda Agribusiness Alliance, NARO, industry associations

#### 19. Strengthening Guinea's phytosanitary system

Beneficiary: Guinea  
 Implemented by: COLEACP

#### 20. Pest free areas to support fruit production and exports

Beneficiary: Mozambique, South Africa  
 Implemented by: Agricultural Research Council, South Africa  
 Partners: NPPDs in South Africa and Mozambique, Citrus Research International, Stellenbosch University, Eduardo Mondlane University, Royal Museum for Central Africa, South Africa

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### 21. Implementing phytosanitary measures to expand market access

Beneficiary: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay  
 Implemented by: IICA  
 Partners: COSAVE, IPPC

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### 22. Strengthening information systems for pest surveillance and reporting

Beneficiary: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand,

### GLOBAL

Viet Nam  
 Implemented by: Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
 Partners: ASEANET

### GLOBAL

#### 23. Rolling out a systems approach globally

Beneficiary: Developing countries  
 Implemented by: FAO/IPPC  
 Partners: ICL

#### 24. ePhyto: Enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products

Beneficiary: Developing countries  
 Implemented by: FAO/IPPC  
 Partners: Australia, Canada, CITES, Codex, The Netherlands, OIE, UN/CEFACT, UNICC, US, WBG, WCO, industry associations

## CROSS-CUTTING SPS

### AFRICA

#### 25. Strengthening Togo's SPS system

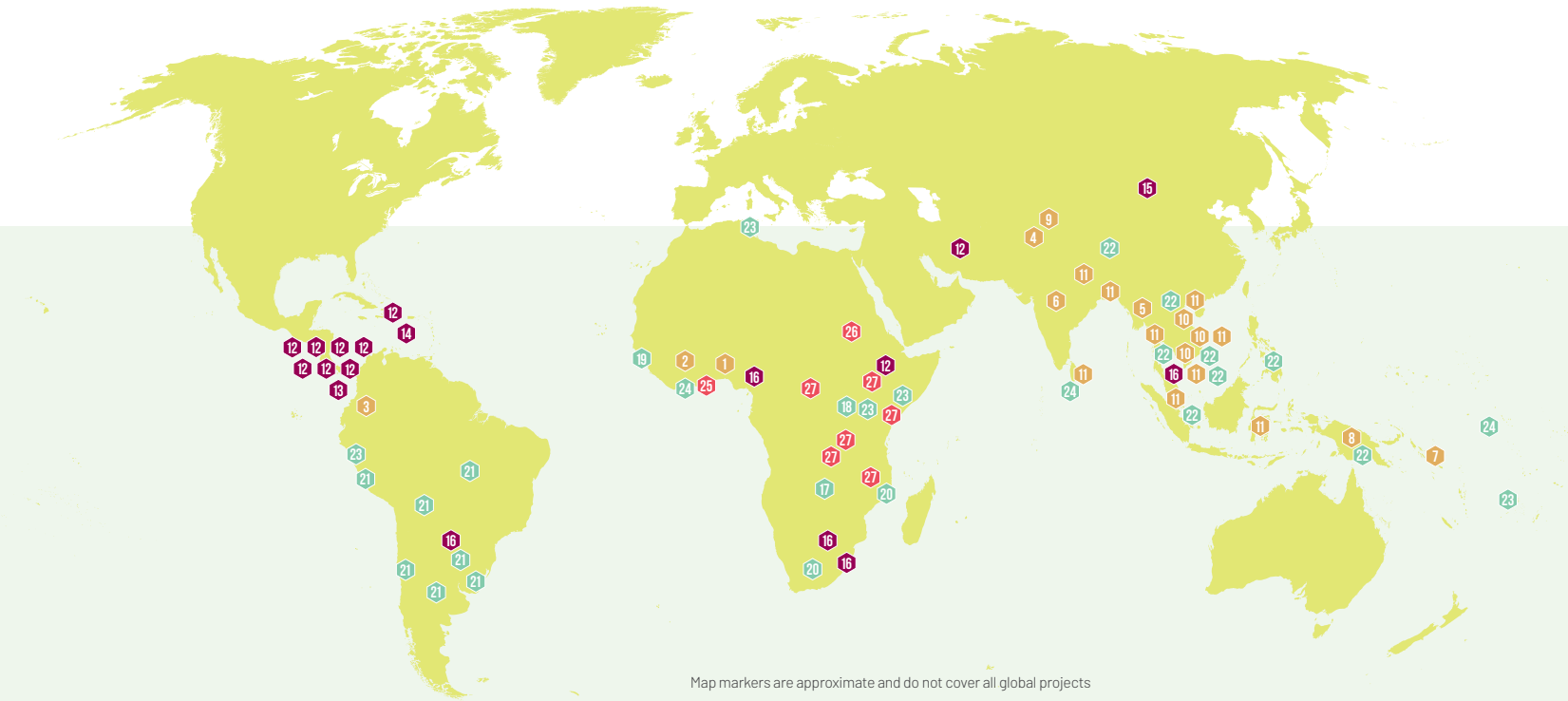
Beneficiary: Togo  
 Implemented by: COLEACP  
 Partners: Industry associations

#### 26. Upgrading the Sudanese sesame seed value chain

Beneficiary: Sudan  
 Implemented by: UNIDO  
 Partners: FAO

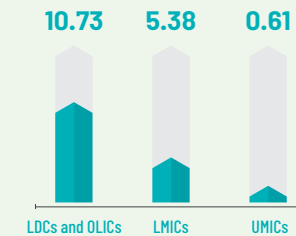
#### 27. Mainstreaming SPS investments into CAADP

Beneficiary: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda  
 Implemented by: COMESA  
 Partners: EIF



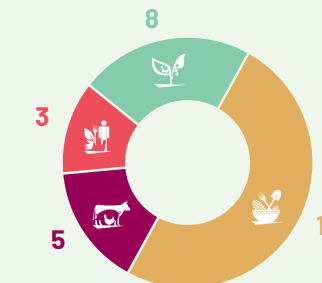
Map markers are approximate and do not cover all global projects

### LDCs benefit most from STDF project resources (US\$ M)



TOTAL: 16.7

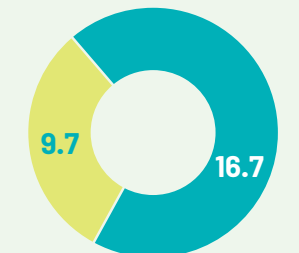
### Projects by sector



TOTAL: 27

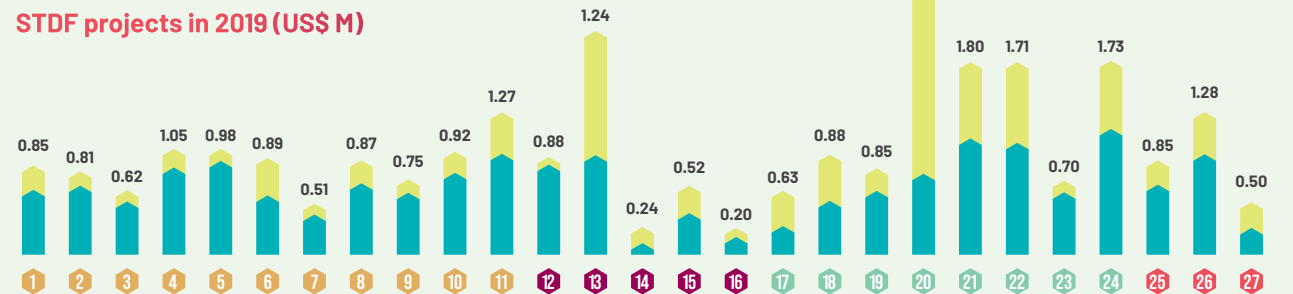
### Project values (US\$ M)

STDF Contribution - Other Contributions



TOTAL: 26.4

### STDF projects in 2019 (US\$ M)



# STDF PPGs in 2019



## FOOD SAFETY

### AFRICA

**1. Improving the safety and quality of Penja pepper**  
Beneficiary: Cameroon

**2. Improving the safety of smoked fish**  
Beneficiary: Mali

**3. Piloting the use of vTPA programmes to improve food safety outcomes in Africa**  
Beneficiary: Mali, Senegal, Uganda

**4. Strengthening SPS capacity in the shellfish sector**  
Beneficiary: Senegal

**5. A regional biopesticides approach in Southern Africa**  
Beneficiary: SADC member states

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**6. Piloting the use of vTPA programmes to improve food safety outcomes in Central America**  
Beneficiary: Belize, Honduras

**7. Food safety risk analysis in Latin America**  
Beneficiary: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**8. Feasibility of a bee sanctuary**  
Beneficiary: Niue

**9. Improving food safety in the peppercorn value chain**  
Beneficiary: Cambodia, Lao, Vietnam

**10. Pesticide residue mitigation through promotion of biopesticides**  
Beneficiary: Bangladesh, Lao, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam

**11. Strengthening the national food control system**  
Beneficiary: Kiribati



## PLANT HEALTH

### AFRICA

**12. Addressing fruit fly challenges in Southern Africa**  
Beneficiary: Southern African countries

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**13. Shaping market access by building phytosanitary capacity**  
Beneficiary: Tajikistan



## CROSS-CUTTING SPS

### AFRICA

**14. Prioritizing SPS investments**  
Beneficiary: Madagascar

### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**15. Applying the P-IMA tool**  
Beneficiary: Ecuador

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**16. Feasibility study for value addition in the fruit and vegetable sector**  
Beneficiary: Sri Lanka

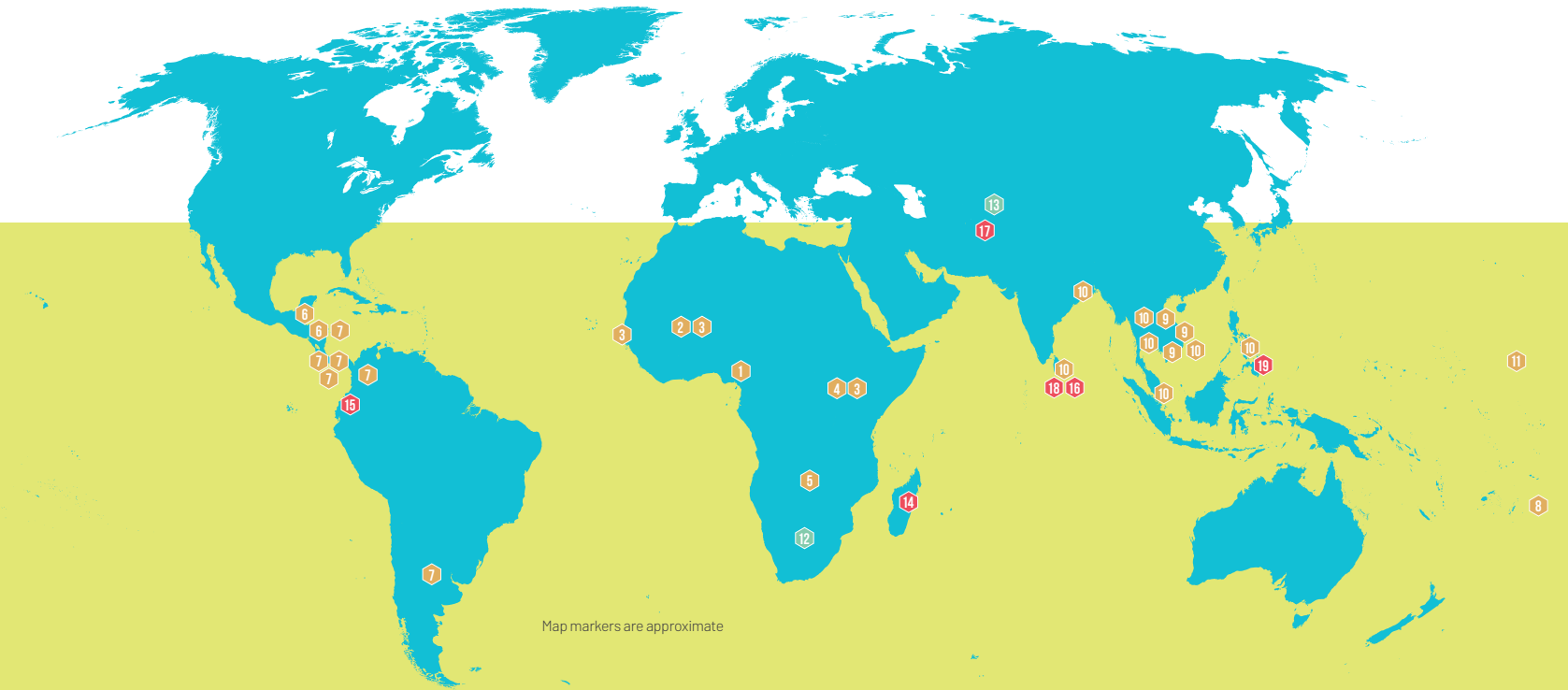
**17. Meeting SPS requirements in food and animal feed value chains**  
Beneficiary: Afghanistan

**18. Food safety and quality compliance in spices**  
Beneficiary: Sri Lanka

**19. Piloting use of GRP in agriculture and fisheries**  
Beneficiary: Philippines

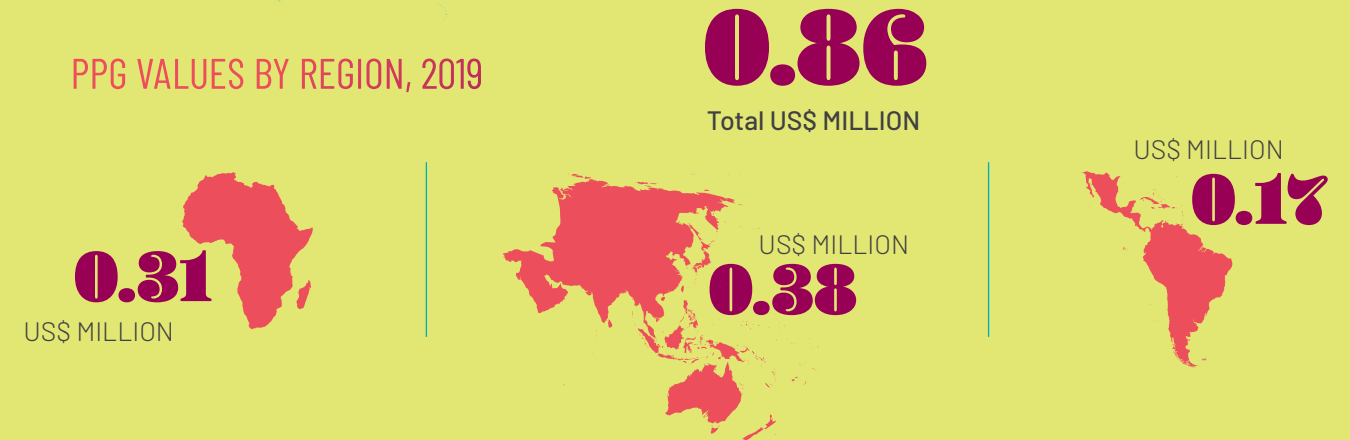
Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) support developing countries to prepare technically sound and sustainable projects in key SPS areas, apply SPS-related capacity evaluation tools or carry out feasibility studies.

PPGs promote collaboration across government agencies responsible for agriculture, health and trade, as well as with the private sector, and other partners.

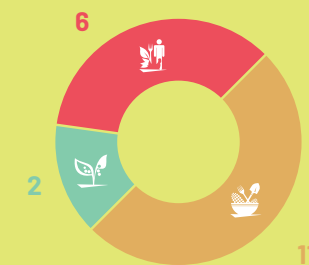


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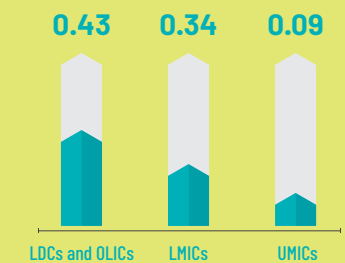
## PPG VALUES BY REGION, 2019



## PPGs by sector



## LDCs benefit most from STDF PPG resources (US\$ M)



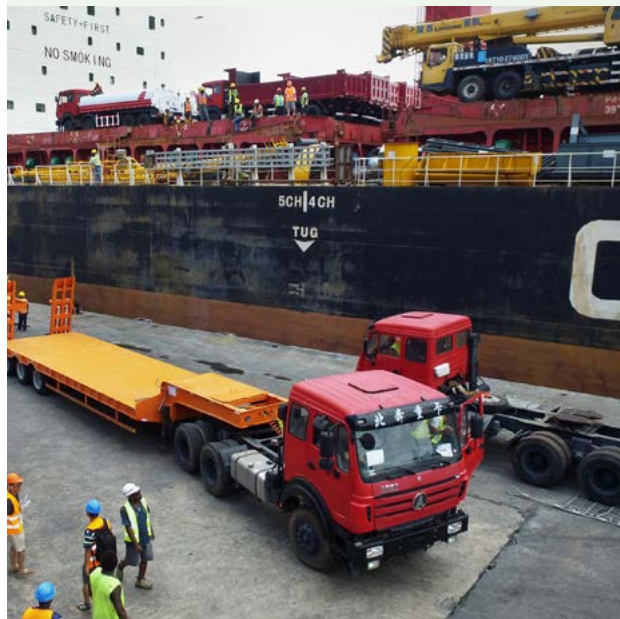
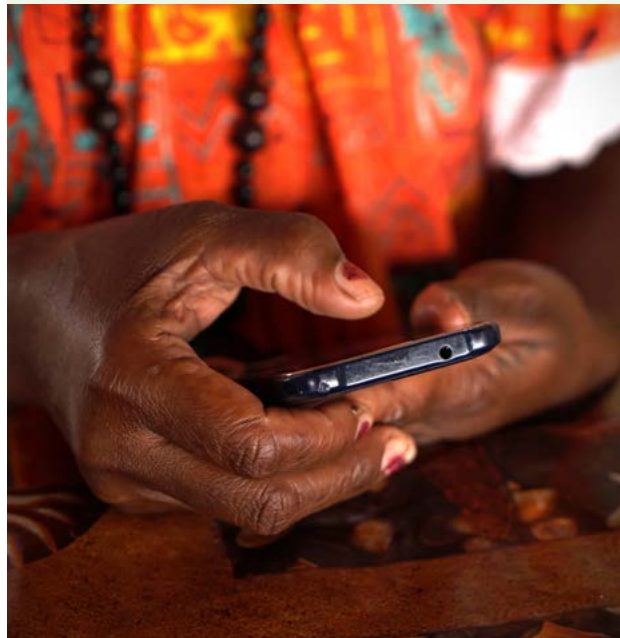


## Looking back, moving forward in partnership

In 2019, an independent external evaluation of the entire STDF programme confirmed that the STDF is responding to the needs of developing countries in its focus on building SPS capacities to enable and unlock trade. It highlighted that SPS capacity and application of standards continue to be a major market access constraint, reconfirming STDF's relevance and role as a knowledge network and catalyst to promote safe and inclusive trade. Pointing to STDF's added-value and results, the evaluation made recommendations to improve its delivery model and performance.

STDF members came together in 2019 to map out a pathway for the future. The Strategy 2020-2024 builds on STDF's track record, highlighting two key outcomes to deliver added-value for members and beneficiaries in developing and least developed countries. The focus is on driving catalytic SPS improvements that facilitate safe trade and contribute to the UN's 2030 Agenda. It emphasizes consolidating and building on STDF's strengths and performance to improve results, and further developing the partnership to expand reach and resources.

The Strategy development process provided an important opportunity for members of the STDF partnership to deepen the links connecting them and to consider how to innovate and work together more effectively moving forward. Part of this was to clarify the STDF's focus on trade-enabling objectives, both imports and exports, with the aim to benefit stakeholders in developing countries. The need to remain targeted, while being flexible, was highlighted to make sure that STDF stays relevant and able to respond to emerging SPS challenges.



## Making sure safe trade is also inclusive and sustainable trade

The external evaluation and Strategy development underlined the importance of making sure that STDF's work contributes to safe and inclusive trade. Meeting food safety, animal and plant health standards is essential. Yet more should be done to show how SPS capacity development benefits women, youth and other vulnerable groups and to measure how export-oriented projects impact positively on the domestic population and the environment.

Attention to cross-cutting issues – including gender and the environment – supports inclusive SPS capacity development. Building on STDF's efforts since 2015 to address gender in STDF's project work, more will be done to identify, monitor and measure the gender impacts in knowledge and project work to roll out the benefits of safe trade more equitably.

In 2019, increasing global attention to climate change raised the need to reflect further on how SPS capacity building contributes to mitigating the risks in this area. Started over 10 years ago, STDF's work on the linkages between SPS risks and climate change is more relevant than ever for developing countries that are facing the greatest risks and challenges. Moving ahead, the concept of sustainability, including a closer look at the interactions between STDF's work and people, profit and planet, will take on even greater relevance.

# LESSONS *and* OPPORTUNITIES

## Increasing knowledge access to influence change

The external evaluation – and reviews by select donors – confirmed that the STDF sets a high benchmark for transparency and knowledge sharing. Going further, the evaluation asked members of the partnership to consider how to make more and better use of the STDF's knowledge bank so that it reaches more beneficiaries in developing countries. Partners and donors were encouraged to actively share and use STDF's knowledge work. Moving forward, all members will need to step up to this challenge to help build SPS capacity in developing countries and drive sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security.

The STDF Strategy 2020-2024 puts more focus on how the global platform, knowledge and project work can influence catalytic and sustainable improvements in SPS capacity. While qualitative feedback shows this is happening, more needs to be done to translate this into uptake, and to track and measure the change.

Greater communications and outreach, in particular through STDF members' own networks, can help STDF's knowledge work to have increased influence. Updated online platforms will support these efforts, as will empowering beneficiaries in developing countries to share knowledge and lessons with a wider audience. Working more closely with STDF's pool of past and current developing country experts, as well as partners, donors, regional organizations and others, will reach more beneficiaries.



## *Focus on learning, with monitoring and evaluation*

The external evaluation recognized how STDF's monitoring and evaluation improved since the 2015 Mid-Term Review recommended strengthening results-based management systems, tools and processes. It acknowledged efforts to capture results and lessons across STDF's global platform, knowledge and project work, including the 2018 meta-evaluation of projects. It concluded that learning has not always been as systematic or far-reaching as possible, given the Secretariat's limited resources and the scope of the existing M&E framework. Increased attention to learning was prioritized to ensure greater global impact.

The MEL framework, to be finalized in 2020, will put a greater focus on learning, while tracking results and feedback on the Facility's operations. More emphasis will go to measuring how results and experiences are shared across countries, regions and globally, and how STDF's work benefits inclusive trade. At the same time, the framework will be simple, practical and cost-effective, and focused on areas within STDF influence and reach.

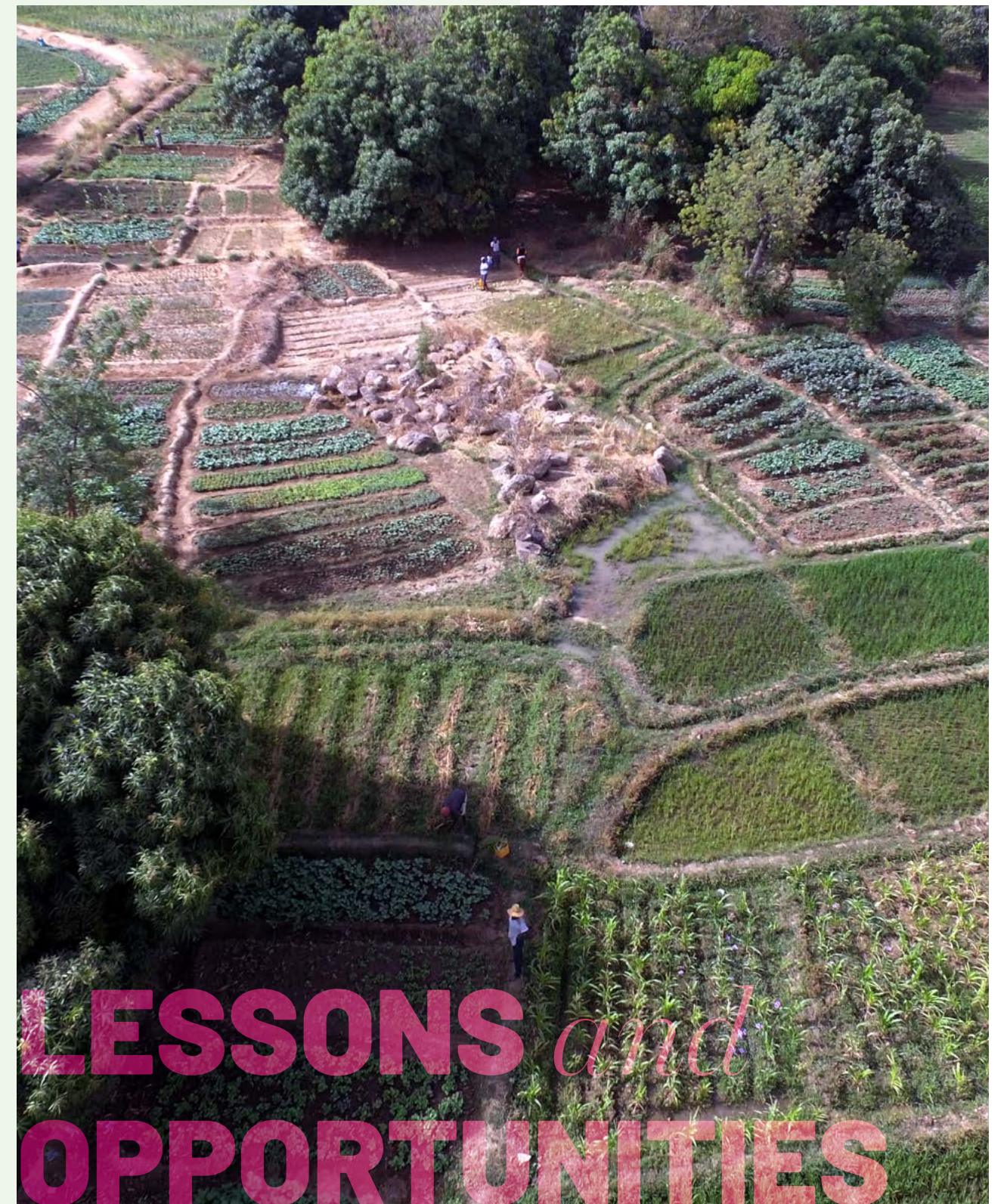
Recognizing the importance of collaboration to improve monitoring, evaluation and learning, and provide upwards accountability, interested STDF partners and other members will be involved in development of the MEL framework to build support and momentum for follow-up. Providing a feedback loop will make sure that future work led by STDF members takes on board this learning, alongside knowledge work and projects led by the partnership.



## *Innovating together with the partnership*

During the development of the new STDF Strategy in 2019, some partners emphasized the need to facilitate innovation within the partnership, as well as promote innovative STDF projects. To a certain extent, innovation has already been a feature of STDF, from improving synergies across STDF's knowledge work and project portfolio, to the use of thematic practitioners' groups – including on GRP, eCert and spillovers – and virtual meetings, such as those organized on voluntary third-party assurance programmes. Further opportunities exist to benefit from greater innovation, for example linked to the STDF's new MEL framework.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the need for ongoing innovation is more crucial than ever for the STDF partnership to evolve and grow in a rapidly changing global context, where developing countries stand to be among those most affected. In the future, innovation will allow the partnership to take advantage of opportunities including to roll out new technologies to support SPS capacity and empower more actors in developing countries.



**LESSONS *and* OPPORTUNITIES**



## *New SPS e-Cert Advisory Committee set up*

In October 2019, STDF members agreed to set up an SPS e-Cert practitioners' group, building on STDF's electronic certification work since 2016, including ePhyto and eVet projects and facilitating safe trade knowledge events. In addition to STDF partners (FAO, OIE, World Bank Group, WTO, Codex and IPPC), the SPS e-Cert Advisory Committee brings together STDF members and other organizations including CITES, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNICC and the WCO.

By promoting dialogue and facilitating exchange of cross-sector experiences and lessons, the group will catalyse collaboration opportunities so that SPS authorities in developing countries benefit more from e-Cert.

## *Meeting held of African Continental SPS Committee*

Following on from expert discussions with the STDF, the African Union Commission brought together members for an African Continental SPS Committee in March 2019 on the margins of the WTO SPS Committee.

At the meeting, SPS representatives, including from Regional Economic Communities, discussed strategic SPS issues affecting the continent.

The exchange spanned the need for a coordinated approach to control plant pests – such as Fall Armyworm – opportunities to improve SPS capacity and develop an SPS Policy Framework, as well as to mainstream SPS issues into CAADP and other regional frameworks. Work to be taken forward in this area will improve health protection and support the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which went live in July 2019.

## *P-IMA tool selected to inform African initiative*

In 2019, ILRI chose STDF's P-IMA tool to set priorities for the safe, sustainable transformation of trade in livestock and livestock products in the Horn of Africa and Arabian Peninsula. ILRI carried out a feasibility study to inform the design of OIE's Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade (BESST) initiative.

For the priority-setting exercise, ILRI selected P-IMA ahead of other multi-criteria decision analysis tools and ranking approaches, thanks to its structured approach, use of clear criteria and transparent process, and alignment to the study's guiding principles of innovation, evidence and participation.

P-IMA's focus on investment in capacity development for trade, and ability to recognize both private and public sector inputs, proved valuable, and ILRI was able to adapt the qualitative aspects of P-IMA to fit the needs of the BESST study, which was completed in March 2020.

## *Project platform in Uganda led to joint work to drive exports*

In Uganda, STDF's ongoing project, led by CABI, provided a platform to connect government authorities with COLEACP to prepare for an EU audit focused on fruit and vegetable exports. CABI and COLEACP joined forces to run a trial audit in September 2019, with CABI facilitating meetings and farm visits, and COLEACP funding an expert to act as auditor. Thanks to the trial run, the government and private sector prepared for the real audit and identified minor gaps to be corrected.

Uganda successfully passed the audit and project partners are following up on other areas identified. The authorities, CABI and COLEACP are continuing to collaborate on plans to form an Apex body, carry out surveillance and monitoring, train trainers on GAPs, as well as to seek funds for a PCE.

## *Practical solutions to countries' trade challenges*

During the 2019 SPS Advanced Course, the STDF Secretariat supported regulators and policy makers from 20 developing countries to identify practical solutions to national trade challenges.

The team acted as a mentor on SPS action plans, moderated expert-led roundtables and exchanged STDF know-how and tools. In the case of Kenya, the government is drawing on results under STDF projects and consulting the private sector to finalize a PPG request around market access. Whereas in Rwanda, thanks to experiences shared from an STDF project on fruits and vegetables in Uganda, the government is connecting to COLEACP for follow-up support.

Lessons from STDF's project on wood packaging materials in Africa led to the Board of the Bahamas Agriculture and Food Authority approving work to follow up on recommendations.

# 2019:

## STDF'S ROLE IN CONVENING, CONNECTING, INFLUENCING AND CATALYSING



# Shaping STDF'S FUTURE DIRECTION: EXTERNAL EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

An external evaluation of the STDF, carried out by Nathan Associates, was published online on 17 July 2019. The evaluation, which was started in September 2018, takes an in-depth look at the overall performance of STDF's global partnership across all its work areas.

The evaluation focused on the impact and the results achieved during the period 2014-2018, and was based on the OECD/DAC five evaluation criteria - relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact - together with the STDF's logical framework.

The report, which is the fourth evaluation of the Facility to date, highlighted the continued added value of the STDF and set out fresh recommendations to shape its future direction.

At STDF's Policy Committee on 17 June 2019, members discussed the recommendations to scale and sustain the Facility, feeding into the new five-year Strategy developed in 2019.

## FAST FACTS

100+

interviews including face-to-face discussions with STDF partners and donors, developing country experts, and telephone discussions with other key stakeholders

E-survey with stakeholders including beneficiaries and partners in projects/PPGs

2

country visits to Uganda and Guatemala

4

key recommendations

20

sub-recommendations

**The STDF is responding to the needs of developing countries in its focus on building SPS capacities to enable and unlock trade.**

External evaluation, 2019



## Relevance of STDF

*SPS capacity and application of standards are a major market access constraint, as both private sector and governments in developing countries struggle to adopt and implement necessary control measures acceptable to their target markets.*



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/evaluations](http://www.standardsfacility.org/evaluations)



# Key strengths

2

THE STDF AND THE STDF SECRETARIAT HAVE DELIVERED OUTPUTS AND RESULTS BEYOND WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED GIVEN THEIR BUDGET AND RESOURCES.

THE SECRETARIAT IS REGARDED AS EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE BY FOUNDING PARTNERS, DONORS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.

4

6

THERE HAS ALSO BEEN STEADY EVOLUTION AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE STDF'S CORE OPERATIONS, BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS IN PREVIOUS EVALUATIONS, SUGGESTIONS FROM WITHIN THE WORKING GROUP AND INITIATIVES FROM THE SECRETARIAT ITSELF, SUCH AS ON M&E AND COMMUNICATIONS.

1

THE STDF IS RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ITS FOCUS ON BUILDING SPS CAPACITIES TO ENABLE AND UNLOCK TRADE.

1

THE BENEFIT OF COORDINATION WAS WITNESSED DURING THE WORKING GROUP MEETING. IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE ANOTHER FORUM WHERE THIS EXCHANGE OF VITAL INFORMATION COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

3

5

THE PPGS PROVIDE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP HIGH-QUALITY PROJECT DESIGNS, DEFINING THE NEEDS WITH THE BENEFICIARY COUNTRY AND COMMENTS AND INPUTS FROM GLOBAL SPS AND STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES AND THEIR EXPERTS.

DONORS REPORTED THAT THE STDF IS ALIGNED WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS.

7

## Shaping STDF'S FUTURE DIRECTION: EXTERNAL EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

### Selected areas for improvement

The structure for value-added and unique interventions is in place within the STDF, but there is scope for it to be more fully exploited.

The small full-time team is stretched and more staff resources are required just to continue to deliver at this level and also to respond to the need identified by this evaluation for improvements in communications, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge sharing.

Widespread use and dissemination of STDF's knowledge is limited among both partners and beneficiaries in developing countries.

Inputs and coordination with developing countries needs to be strengthened.

There is little verifiable evidence to suggest that donors are using the PPGs to inform or design their own SPS interventions.

It is not explicit how the STDF contributes to the institutional strategies and objectives of the founding partners.

### Four key recommendations

Given its relatively small budget and its global leadership position in trade and SPS, all deliverables should focus on innovation and adding value, leaving more routine SPS capacity building activities to be implemented by others. Learning should be more clearly embedded in best practice and guidance for beneficiaries and partners.

The STDF should agree ways of maximising the impact of its unique structure on innovation and global leadership, including by clarifying relationships and responsibilities, ensuring that future STDF strategies and workplans are more explicitly linked to partners' own strategies and plans, and exploring the potential for secondments from the founding partners to the Secretariat.

The STDF should build on acknowledged improvements achieved in reporting and communications, placing increased emphasis on measuring results and impact across all STDF activities and on improving beneficiaries' access to knowledge. This should be underpinned by updating the theory of change and the logical framework to reflect an explicit focus on innovation and lesson learning.

The resources allocated to the STDF need to reflect the ambition of its objectives. Consideration should be given to increasing the STDF Secretariat's resources, including augmenting the staff complement. Investment is needed to make the knowledge platform more accessible, more easily searchable and more utilised by beneficiaries. To enrich the dialogue and strengthen knowledge networks, STDF should explore ways of increasing participation by developing countries at Working Group level.

Final Evaluation Report, External Evaluation of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF),

Nathan Associates

# 2020-2024 Strategy DEVELOPMENT

STDF's Strategy was developed through an open, collaborative and participatory process, allowing STDF partners and other members to provide substantive and strategic inputs, including on mechanisms of change. The process included hands-on, facilitated workshops in Geneva in March, July and October 2019. It involved internal consultations with STDF members, each engaging their own networks. An electronic survey captured views on specific areas of STDF's work and past performance, as well as opportunities to consolidate and build on these experiences moving ahead.

This approach enabled STDF members to openly discuss and assess the degree of innovation and convergence required to consolidate the STDF's partnership and delivery model, while identifying specific areas and themes where the STDF could further evolve and develop. This has ensured that the Strategy consolidates and builds on STDF's unique role and past performance. At the same time, it allowed the partnership itself to innovate and evolve, reflecting the current ecosystem for SPS capacity development and the range of organizations involved, as well as the key SPS needs and challenges facing developing countries.

## What we are aiming for

The STDF drives safe, inclusive trade and development outcomes in support of the UN's 2030 Agenda.



### VISION

Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security



### GOAL

Increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries



### OUTCOME 1

More synergies and collaboration driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries

*Working at a global, regional and national level, the STDF will Convene and Connect diverse stakeholders with a role in SPS capacity development.*

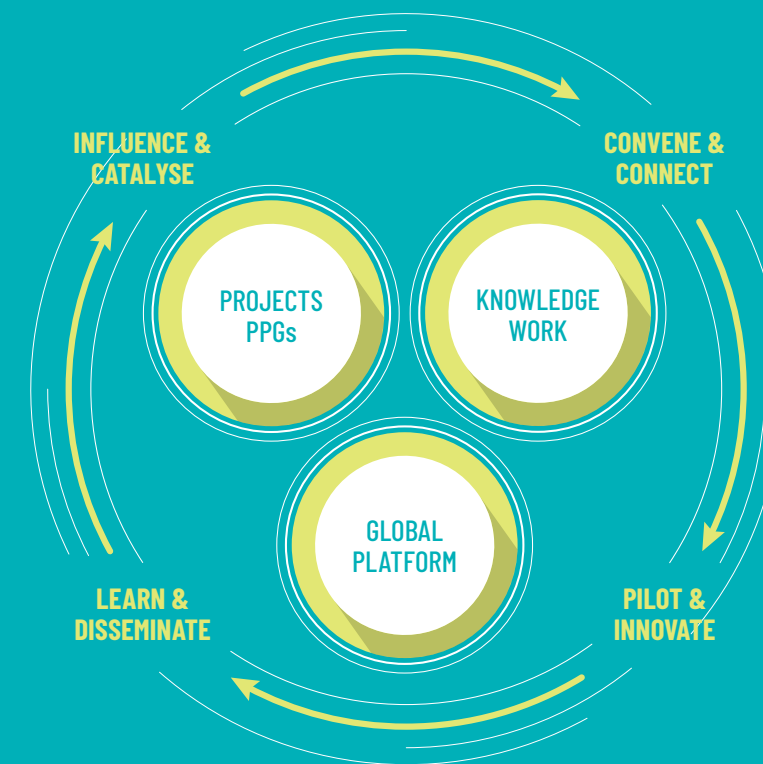


### OUTCOME 2

Greater access to, and use of, good practices and knowledge products at global, regional and national level

*STDF will deliver demand-driven activities to Pilot and Learn from collaborative and innovative approaches in developing SPS capacity.*

## Theory of change



### OUTCOME 1

More synergies and collaboration driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries

### PROGRAMME GOAL

Increased and sustainable SPS capacity in developing countries

### SAFE TRADE FACILITATED

Promoting sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security

### OUTCOME 2

Greater access to, and use of, good practices and knowledge products at global, regional and national level



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/new-stdf-strategy](http://www.standardsfacility.org/new-stdf-strategy)





# Sustaining livelihoods through safe trade

The Global Goal on no poverty sets out the need to raise living standards for those on lower incomes and in vulnerable situations, while widening people's access to economic resources.

In a world interconnected by global supply chains and vulnerable to global shocks, people's livelihoods are linked to their ability to access markets, locally, regionally and internationally. In 2019, the STDF's global projects continued to play an active role in supporting more jobs and higher incomes in production, processing and exports linked to trade opportunities.

In Myanmar, more oilseed farmers and processors have been certified to trade safely, with a knock-on effect on prices and incomes, including for women engaged across the sector. A project was launched in Cameroon to drive up safe production and exports of Penja pepper, securing the livelihoods of vulnerable smallholder producers and rural communities.

In Colombia and Ecuador, a new project will support cocoa growers and their families by helping them to meet international standards. Opportunities

are opening up in the peppercorn value chain for small-scale farmers and seasonal women workers, as a project goes live in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. In turn, a study showed adding value will help Sri Lanka's businesses reach new dried fruit markets. A project proposal under development in Senegal will secure safe shellfish exports as well as social benefits for artisanal fishermen. At the 2019 Aid for Trade Global Review, STDF's knowledge event showcased how investing in safe trade promoted livelihoods and exports in the cinnamon, flower and shrimp sectors.

## Emerging Trend:



Jobs in micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) including for women and youth





# Myanmar:

## food safety promotes oilseed exports and farmers' livelihoods

In Myanmar, sesame, mustard and sunflower seeds account for around 20% of production in agriculture, which employs over half of the workforce. As one of the world's largest oilseeds producers, the crop is a vital source of export revenue and income generation for farmers.

Under STDF's project in Myanmar, finalized in 2019, actors across the oilseed value chain received targeted training to meet food safety standards. Led by ITC, with the public and private sector, the project has improved export capacity and competitiveness in the sector.

From farm to market, in-depth food safety training reached 900 farmers, collectors, and processors, alongside 20 national extension officers. The programme covered how to grow crops, use pesticides, and collect, store and process seeds safely. It shared food

safety and quality manuals with over 480 farmers, and tools and guidance for collectors and processors. Close to a quarter of all project activities engaged women across the oilseeds sector, while women made up over half of trainees in technical areas from processors to the government.

To date, 150 farmers have obtained national GAP certification and seven processors received internationally recognized HACCP certification. Select local buyers have also put in place a 2-4% price premium for farmers who adopted GAP with support of the training.

The value-chain approach under the project has continued to strengthen links from farmers, collectors, processors and advisers to each other and to final buyers. After a number of companies engaged in the World Export Development Forum and business-to-

business meetings in Europe and China, the sector's profile and buyer network is expanding.

In 2019, over 90 stakeholders took part in the final project workshop in Yangon to share achievements, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations to sustain the project's impact. After the project, the reported increase in annual export sales in the oilseeds sector looks set to continue, with an expected impact on revenue generation to follow. The Department of Agriculture has committed to using the project materials in future training. Based on the results achieved, the oilseeds sector was included as a priority sector for the 2019-2023 €8 million EU-funded Arise Plus project in Myanmar, which is being led by ITC.



**Since I began following the good storage practices, my Japanese clients are buying more and more of my product. Now that they are increasing their orders for GAP products, I can pay farmers a higher price for their seeds.**

U Nyan Lwin, Owner, Lwin Phyto Warehouse

**The project provided valuable knowledge for farmers, collectors, millers and exporters along the value chain to improve significantly the quality management in Myanmar's oilseeds industry.**

Aung Soe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce



### FAST FACTS

Food safety training to 900 farmers, collectors, processors and extension officers

**480+**  
farmers trained on GAP

**150**  
GAP certified sesame farmers

**7**  
oilseeds processors certified for HACCP



**BENEFICIARIES**  
farmers, collectors, processors and exporters in the oilseed value chain



**LED BY**  
ITC, with the public and private sector



**TIME-FRAME**  
August 2015 - February 2019



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$825,071 (total project value: US\$977,658)



**MORE INFO**

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-486](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-486)  
<https://youtu.be/spZn-gawDo0>



# Cameroon:

## trade and income opportunities along the Penja pepper value chain

Penja peppercorn from Cameroon is one of the world's most coveted spices and was the first Geographical Indication (GI) registered by the African Intellectual Property Organization.

In recent years, however, trade opportunities were being lost due to pepper exports not being able to meet international SPS standards, in particular in relation to pesticides. Livelihoods in the sector, particularly for small-scale producers, were increasingly insecure.

In March 2019, a new STDF project, led by COLEACP, was approved by STDF's Working Group to maintain and diversify exports of Penja pepper through better food safety and plant health practices. Following a recent STDF PPG, which carried out research and consultations with Cameroon's public and private sector, the project will develop training

materials and roll out technical assistance to promote good practices across the value chain.

The project will support the Penja Pepper GI Group, which represents around 450 actors along the value chain, including nurseries, producers, processors and distributors. In addition to GAPs and GHPs, there will be a focus on laboratory testing and drying methods.

On 24 October 2019, a project launch workshop was hosted by the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, with around 80 public and private sector stakeholders attending the event. Through better coordination, cross-sector dialogue and knowledge exchange, the project will improve the quality, production and export of Penja pepper, sustaining rural livelihoods.

**Penja pepper is a major source of rural employment as nearly all production is carried out by small-scale producers with plots smaller than 3 hectares. Improving their economic situation is critical to accelerating progress towards the eradication of poverty and vulnerable livelihoods.**

René Claude Metomo Elogo, President, Penja Pepper GI Group



### FAST FACTS

Project was developed as part of the SPS Advanced Course at the WTO

450

Support will reach 450 actors along the value chain, 20% of them women



#### BENEFICIARIES

nurseries, producers, processors and distributors in the Penja pepper value chain



LED BY  
COLEACP



TIME-FRAME  
October 2019 -  
September 2022



STDF CONTRIBUTION  
US\$562,321 (total project  
value: US\$814,238)



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-593](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-593)



# Colombia and Ecuador:

## meeting safety standards to support cocoa growers and trade

Cocoa beans produced by Andean countries have a strong reputation of being of high quality, sought after by chocolate manufacturers as consumer demand rises globally. However, given the levels of cadmium contamination found in cocoa beans, Ecuador and Colombia's cocoa and cocoa products stand to lose their access to overseas markets.

A new project in Colombia and Ecuador was approved by STDF's Working Group in October 2019 to focus on risk management to reduce cadmium concentration in cocoa beans and products, and promote good agricultural practices in areas with high cadmium levels in soil.

With 90% of production in the region in the hands of small-scale farmers on low incomes, improving food safety under the project will help to support Ecuador's 600,000 sector jobs and Colombia's

54,000 cocoa-growing families. Good agricultural practice manuals will be produced under the project for extension workers, farmer associations and farmers.

The project will harmonize methods to sample and measure cadmium levels in cocoa and soil, improve baselines and mapping capacity to zone vulnerable areas. Good laboratory practice will minimize trade disruptions via a regional approach, also involving Peru. In turn, the project links to the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food, which is developing a code of practice for prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in cocoa beans.

Through the project, Ecuador and Colombia's cocoa sector will be able to meet international standards and remain competitive, with sector growth supporting jobs and rural livelihoods.

### FAST FACTS

Project will help to support the cocoa sector's 600,000 jobs in Ecuador and 54,000 cocoa-growing families in Colombia.



#### BENEFICIARIES

cocoa farmers and other actors in the sector



#### LED BY

KU Leuven (Catholic University), Belgium



#### TIME-FRAME

2020 - 2023



#### STDF CONTRIBUTION

US\$516,989 (total project value: US\$617,999)



#### MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-681](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-681)

**Cocoa farmers are the main beneficiaries of this project whose produce is at risk of losing market if not meeting food safety standards on cadmium. The production of cocoa is done mainly with family labour, and most of them have none or few technical support to enhance the quality of its products.**

Professor Erik Smolders, KU Leuven



# Southeast Asia:

## small-scale producers to gain market access in peppercorn

Peppercorn sustains the livelihoods of small-scale producers across Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Lao PDR. Yet gaps in managing plant diseases and meeting pesticide limits meant growers in the region have not been fully benefited from the global demand for pepper.

Under an STDF PPG finalized in February 2019, a regional proposal was developed to address food safety and plant health challenges in peppercorn. The focus was on opening up markets and increasing producer incomes, following an assessment of the value chain priorities.

The project, which was approved by the STDF Working Group in October 2019, will reach actors along the peppercorn value chain, and secure better opportunities for the region's vulnerable smallholder farmers and the hired, seasonal workforce, most of them women.

**The project aims to increase financial returns, improve productivity, quality and safety and market access for smallholder pepper growers and processors, and grower and processor groups by improving compliance with international food safety requirements.**

Dr. Phan Viet Ha, Deputy Director General, WASI, Viet Nam

A low-cost quality assurance mechanism will be rolled out thanks to active participation by everyone in the value chain, securing safer produce and promoting community learning. In turn, export companies will have a large base of safe, raw material traced back to the farm.

Through the regional exchange and South-South cooperation established under the PPG, Cambodia and Lao PDR will be able to draw on Viet Nam's peppercorn industry – already well established – as an inclusive market model to use in other priority spice value chains.



### FAST FACTS

For at least half of the project beneficiaries:

**45%+**

reduction in contaminants and pesticides

**10%**

drop in rejections



#### BENEFICIARIES

smallholder farmers and other actors along the peppercorn value chain in Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Cambodia



#### LED BY

WASI, Viet Nam, with CABI and other partners



#### TIME-FRAME

2020 - 2023



#### STDF CONTRIBUTION

US\$711,096 (total project value: US\$919,846)



#### MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-619](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-619)  
[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-619](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-619)



# Sri Lanka:

a study on adding value to boost business and benefits for the fruit sector

For Sri Lanka's farmers, processors and traders of fruit and vegetables, tapping into value addition and market linkages will promote fresh business and employment opportunities.

In 2019, under a PPG an STDF-backed study by ITC looked into the economic, technical and operational feasibility of adding value to five export-oriented value chains – from pineapple, papaya and banana to mango and passion fruit. Building on an STDF project finalized in 2016 – which addressed gaps in safety and quality in the sector – the study findings show Sri Lanka can supply a growing market for safe, natural dried fruits, such as pineapples and mangoes.

The study highlights were shared with 40 public and private sector stakeholders on

26 February 2019, alongside development partners, buyers and international experts. A five-year strategic and operations plan to support the LFPPEA was also profiled at the event.

In 2019, building on the country's potential to supply safe, value-added products, the LFPPEA signed a partnership agreement with Noberasco, an Italian dried-fruit company.

**Our vision is to have Sri Lankan fruit companies become the preferred supplier in the global market... We call on exporters, producers, government bodies and development partners to address challenges and tap the full potential of the partnership with Noberasco for the benefit of all, from farmers to consumers.**

Zuraish Hashim, LFPPEA President

## FAST FACTS

The Lanka Fruit and Vegetable Producers, Processors and Exporters Association (LFPPEA) signed partnership agreement with Italian dried-fruit company, Noberasco

# Senegal:

a proposal to support safe exports in shellfish and secure social benefits

Against a growing global demand for seafood, Senegal's 500km coastline offers fresh opportunities for seafood production from both wild catch and fish farming sites. Nearly 90% of Senegal's seafood production involves artisanal fishermen, with over 70,000 fishermen and their families involved in business and support structures, and as middlemen.

However, inadequate controls in the artisanal seafood sector make traceability complex and challenges in

meeting food safety requirements are putting a break on the flow of exports to markets. There are huge social benefits to be gained from securing safe seafood exports.

A new PPG was approved by the STDF Working Group in March 2019 to develop a project that addresses food safety and sanitary challenges in the shellfish value chain in Senegal. In turn, the project is expected to have important positive spillovers on domestic public health.

The resulting project will improve market access through the adoption of regulations and improved monitoring and control practices, as well as through greater knowledge shared on how to meet Codex standards. The project will focus on strengthening the capacity of small-scale operators along the value chain to meet good hygiene and manufacturing practices.



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-576](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-576)



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-672](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-672)

# Investing in safe trade drives development:

## STDF highlights at Aid for Trade Global Review

Happening now at the #STDF session at #Aid4Trade Global Review, public and private sector show how investing in food safety, animal and plant health promotes exports and sustainable development. *WTO social media: 4 July 2019*

At the 2019 Aid for Trade Global Review from 3-5 July at the WTO, over 1,500 attendees joined 84 sessions to debate the themes of economic diversification and empowerment. The STDF event on 4 July brought together food safety, plant and animal health experts to share experiences from STDF projects in Africa and Asia, as well as developments in Latin America.

The session showed how trading safely in agri-food products is allowing more small-scale farmers, processors and traders to secure higher incomes and drive local development.

In Sri Lanka, nationally recognized qualifications for cinnamon operators have promoted food safety standards, and supported the skills development of women processors. Whereas, in Uganda, pest surveillance and inspections led to a fall on the interceptions on roses, boosting the incomes of the majority women workers. Diagnostic tests in Guatemala meanwhile helped to meet international standards for shrimp exports, providing more jobs.

Take-away lessons on investing in safe trade from the debate included how to reach high-level decision-makers, showing the impact on the domestic agenda, and strengthening public-private partnerships.

STDF also took part in COMESA's session at the Review on 4 July. The dialogue focused on regulatory solutions and promoting regional trade and integration. Lessons were shared from STDF and work in the region, identifying opportunities to build greater public-private sector trust, improve SPS border management and boost growth.

At the STDF stand during the Review, participants sampled Guatemalan honey and cinnamon tea from Sri Lanka, and picked up roses from Uganda on show at the exhibition.



When we think about the Sustainable Development Goals, it's important that each country whoever attaches an importance to agriculture and agri-food production, invest in having the right standards.

Frédéric Seppey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/  
stdf-aid-trade-global-review](http://www.standardsfacility.org/stdf-aid-trade-global-review)





# Agricultural solutions and safe trade systems

Under the Global Goal on zero hunger, championing agricultural productivity and good practices for small-scale producers serves to level the playing field for rural communities.

New technologies are expanding rapidly with the potential to transform how agri-food products move from farm to table, but are often out of reach for those who can benefit the most. In 2019, knowledge tools developed with STDF support led to a wider access to, and participation in, safe trade systems by the public and private sector in developing countries.

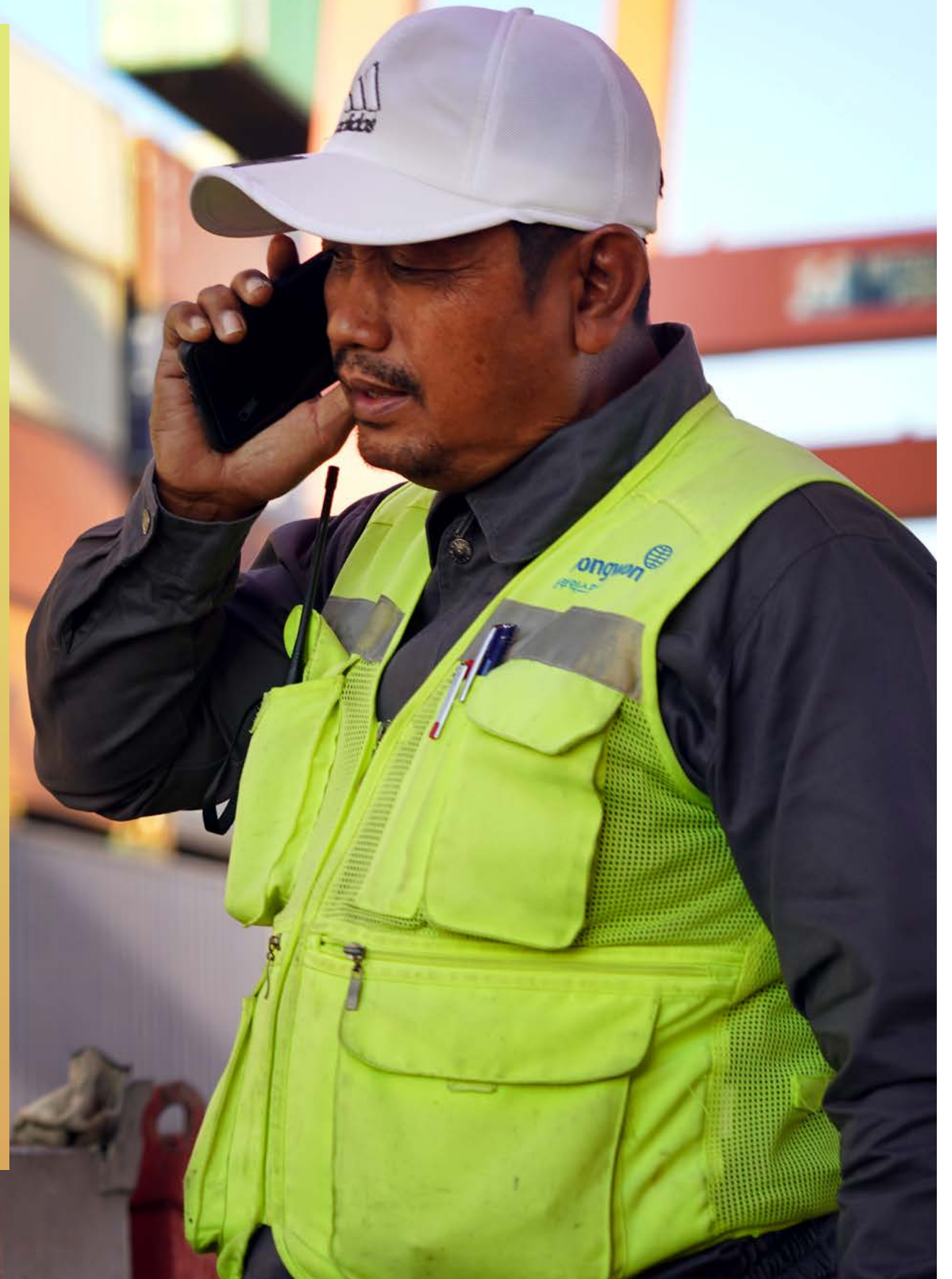
The award-winning ePhyto solution went live with more governments in developing countries able to boost transparency, reduce costs and speed up safe trade in plants and plant products. In Nigeria and Southeast Asia, mobile apps – from SeedTracker to P-tracker – are showing how to effectively monitor plant health and support access to markets. A new project in Southern Africa is going to set up pest free areas in the region and help to track fruit flies, championing local growers' production and export opportunities.

Improved agricultural systems and practices under a new project in Guinea will help to drive competitiveness in priority value chains, including for the majority women workers. An evaluation of global plant health tools showed a positive uptake in developing countries, while a new study looked at the potential of a bee sanctuary in Niue to support productivity and livelihoods.

## Emerging Trend:



Digitalization and access to technologies transforming agricultural development and trade





# ePhyto:

## innovation solutions on safe trade in plants and plant products

Paperless trade reduces costs & increases transparency. #STDF's ePhyto project with the @ippcnews receives Trade Facilitation Innovation Award at Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2019 in New Delhi (17-18 September). *WTO social media: 18 September 2019*

The ePhyto project supported by STDF is delivering innovative IT solutions to improve safe trade in plants and plant products by helping to boost transparency, reduce costs and speed up trade. In addition to governments, the private sector is benefitting, including agri-food SMEs in developing countries.

In July 2019, the ePhyto solution became fully operational. The solution is made up of the Generic System (GeNS) for countries to produce, send and receive electronic phytosanitary certificates and the ePhyto Hub, which is facilitating the exchange of electronic certificates. By March 2020, 80 countries were connected to the Hub and 11,000 ePhyto certificates were exchanged each month, with capacity to handle up to 100,000 certificates each day.

Following pilots in Ghana, Samoa and Sri Lanka, the IPPC-led project moved into operations as Ghana exchanged ePhytos for the first time in July 2019. A live demo of an ePhyto exchange between Ghana and the United States was shown at the inaugural IPPC ePhyto and Emerging Pests workshop for African countries. The event was hosted by the US Animal

and Plant Health Inspection Service in Maryland from 12-15 November.

Recognizing the progress made to pilot and roll out the generic national system in Samoa and Sri Lanka, the ePhyto project won an innovation award at the UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum on 17-18 September in New Delhi. Organizations worldwide are looking to ePhyto to better understand how to harness new technologies to facilitate trade.

In April 2019, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures approved a five-year strategic plan to continue work on ePhyto following on from the STDF project. In October, the STDF Working Group set up a practitioners group to promote synergies in the area of SPS e-Cert.

**In seeking further regional and international collaboration, we encourage members to participate in harmonized electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto) systems developed by the IPPC.**

G20 Agriculture Ministers Declaration 2019, Annex 1 For Better Plant Health

### FAST FACTS

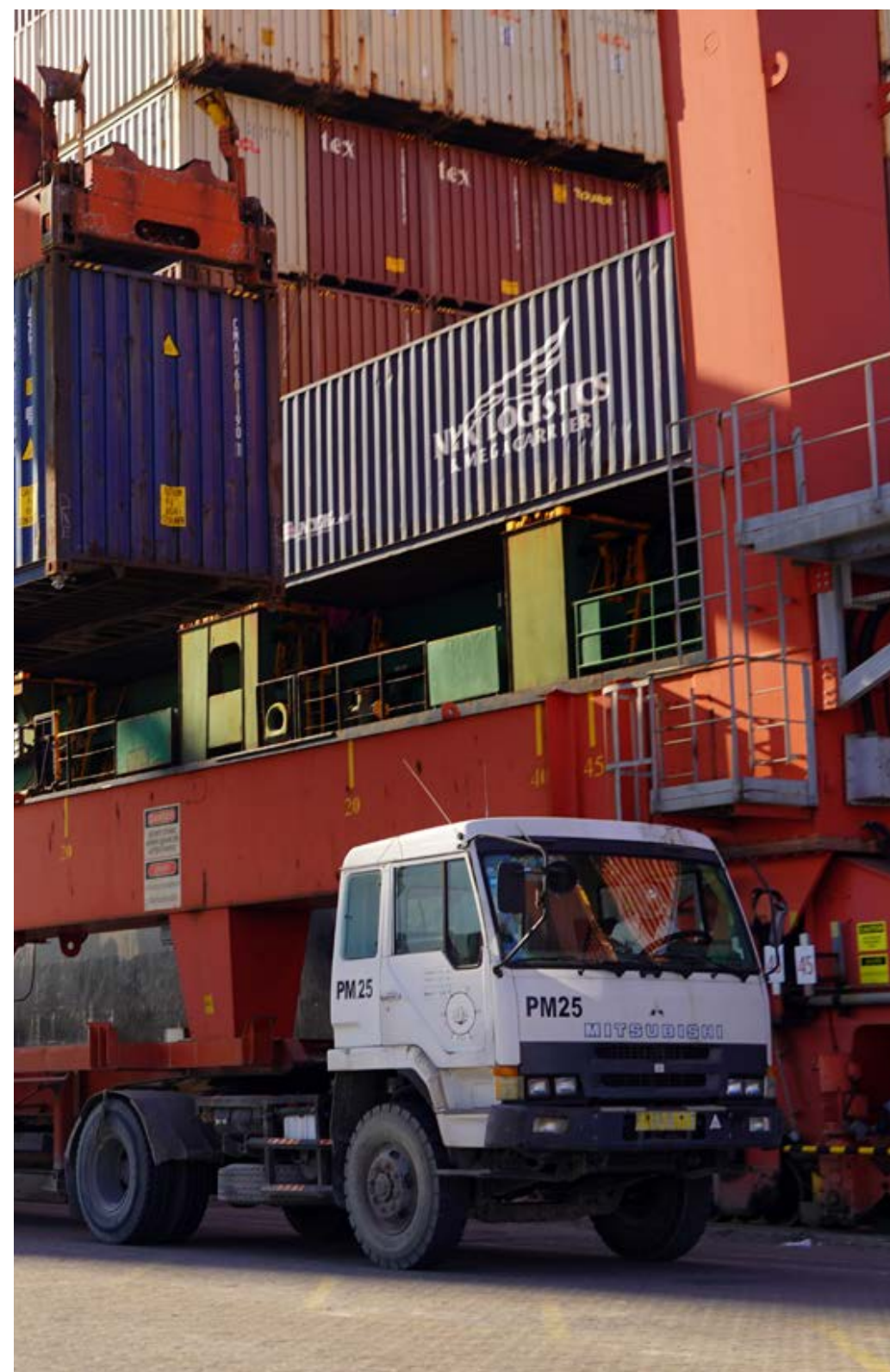
## 80+

countries are using the system (as of March 2020)

## 11,000

certificates are exchanged each month (as of March 2020)

STDF practitioners group set up to promote synergies on SPS e-Cert



#### BENEFICIARIES

governments and private sector, including SMEs in developing countries



LED BY  
IPPC



#### TIME-FRAME

December 2016 -  
March 2020



#### STDF CONTRIBUTION

US\$1,120,000 (total project  
value: US\$1,728,000)



#### MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-504)  
[www.ippc.int/en/ephyto](http://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto)



# Nigeria:

## digital system rolled out to monitor plant health and promote exports

The popularity of the digital SeedTracker, which was identified as part of an STDF PPG in Nigeria to improve seed production and market access, took off both nationally and globally.

In May 2019 SeedTracker was rolled out as a national seed certification platform and IITA, who led on the PPG, is working to expand the digital system to cover all crops. An Android version has been developed with Google challenge funding and was released in November for download from Google Play. SeedTracker is also in use in Tanzania and has been piloted in Brazil, with plans to expand to DRC, Malawi and Ghana in 2020, and interest from Zambia and Viet Nam.

**This is the world's first web-app for seed value chain integration for enhancing quality seed production and market access to help seed producers meet their potential. The inbuilt algorithms of this program connect all key stakeholders, from seed producers, to regulators, traders, and extension services.**

Dr. Lava Kumar, Head of the Germplasm Health Unit, IITA

# Asia-Pacific:

## IT tools support pest surveillance and market access

#STDF project supports 7 South East Asia countries with IT solutions to monitor & report agricultural pests in key economic commodities to maintain access to international markets. Meeting in Manila to share best practices learnt under the project. *WTO social media: 4 April 2019*

Under STDF's project to detect and monitor agricultural pests in Asia-Pacific, IT solutions, such as a customizable P-tracker app, are proving a vital tool at field level. Led by the Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, the project is supporting surveillance activities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Smart technologies are assisting in the early detection of high priority quarantine pests by sharing data and alerts in real time. Using data generated on coffee and cocoa, for example, the Philippines demonstrated its pest status to trading partners, maintaining market access.

Practitioners across the region met in Manila in April 2019 to share best practices on how to report pests in key economic commodities and support access to regional and international markets. A number of National Plant Protection Organizations plan to use the IT surveillance tools after the life-span of the project, both for existing commodities as well as new crops.



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-626](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-626)



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-432](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-432)



# Southern Africa:

## setting up pest free areas supporting fruit production and exports

High volumes of tropical and other fresh fruit are exported from South Africa, and there is a huge potential for horticultural exports from Mozambique, where 80% of the workforce are employed in agriculture. However, the presence of fruit fly pests in the region – namely oriental fruit fly, melon fly and medfly – is having a serious impact on production and trade.

Under a new STDF project, approved by the STDF Working Group in October 2019, pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence will be set up and maintained in Mozambique and South Africa, given that the two countries share large ecological regions between them.

The project is being guided by international standards on phytosanitary measures (ISPMs), and will generate scientific evidence on low fruit fly levels, as well as create a database to track fruit fly status in different regions, with a service for rapid recognition of fruit fly pests.

By addressing good SPS practices, the project aims to safeguard and improve horticultural production in Southern Africa, supporting continued and new market access opportunities linked to fruit exports free of fruit fly pests. Workshops will be run with fruit growers and associations to build local engagement, with plans to develop a sustainable business model.

In turn, assuring the producers' position on the market stands to benefit women who make up increasing numbers of small-scale farmers, and vulnerable, casual and seasonal workers. By reducing overall use of insecticides, the project will impact positively on the environment.

**The project will improve market access, revenues and employment in South Africa and Mozambique with regard to export fruit markets where targeted fruit fly pests constitute risks.**

Tertia Grové, Senior Researcher, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa



### FAST FACTS

Proposal was developed through an STDF PPG completed in 2018

12

pest free areas and 10 areas of low pest prevalence will be set up

Project in line with international standards: ISPM 26, ISPM 35, ISPM 29, ISPM 37



#### BENEFICIARIES

fruit producers, including at small-scale, in Mozambique and South Africa



#### LED BY

Agricultural Research Council, South Africa, with a consortium of partners



#### TIME-FRAME

2020 - 2023



#### STDF CONTRIBUTION

US\$721,584 (total project value: US\$2,925,941)



#### MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-567](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-567)



# Guinea:

## improving systems and practices in agricultural value chains

Agriculture plays an important role in Guinea's economic and rural development. Yet, gaps in production techniques, alongside phytosanitary challenges, have impacted production and exports in recent years, with post-harvest losses as high as 85% in the mango sector.

STDF's Working Group approved a new STDF project in March 2019 to support Guinea's agricultural products to access regional and international markets by improving the safety of mango and potato exports in particular. It follows

up on the recommendations from the IPPC Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation carried out in 2017-18, which was funded by STDF.

The COLEACP-led project will improve the legislative and regulatory framework for phytosanitary control, build the NPPO's capacity to roll out a risk-based inspection and certification system, and strengthen operators' capacity to apply good practices.

At the same time as improving the competitiveness of agricultural

products, the project will support food security and nutrition, as well as sustain women's livelihoods, given that women make up 80% of the mango sector working in harvesting, processing and business.

In 2019, STDF shared updates on the project at IPPC's Commission of Phytosanitary Measures.



### FAST FACTS

Project was developed as part of the SPS Advanced Course at the WTO.

Rejections of agricultural produce to reduce by at least 70% in three years.

## 1,400

producers to receive training on GAPs, GHPs and other practices.



#### BENEFICIARIES

public and private sector actors involved in agricultural value chains



LED BY  
COLEACP



TIME-FRAME  
October 2019 -  
September 2022



STDF CONTRIBUTION  
US\$559,491 (total project  
value: US\$847,959)



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-498](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-498)



# Evaluation of project on global tools to open up access to plant health know-how

International standards are used to protect agriculture and natural resources and facilitate safe trade. In developing countries, many government authorities lacked the know-how and procedures to meet these standards, putting plant health, as well as market access, at risk.

An STDF project led by the IPPC, which was completed in 2015, developed a set of resources to help NPPOs put in place effective systems on import verification, export certification, pest surveillance and diagnostics, pest risk analysis and other areas. The new guides were widely shared online, via global and regional meetings, including at sessions for WTO SPS delegates.

An evaluation finalized in 2019 found that the project over-achieved on its outputs, producing an electronic library of over 20 phytosanitary guides and training materials. A survey showed that 18 NPPOs from developing countries use the manuals on priority topics.

The project was found to lay the foundation for IPPC's capacity development strategy, although findings showed that more could be done to promote and monitor use of the guides. Lessons from the evaluation highlighted that beneficiaries should have a stronger voice from the project design phase and that key resources are needed to maintain knowledge tools. The report shows that training tools cannot make a difference without higher priority and resources for phytosanitary capacity building – including at country level.

Country experiences captured the value of the project, with Georgia using the manuals to prepare a phytosanitary capacity development strategy to prioritize activities and resources. In turn, the knowledge products developed under the project helped Comoros to build the capacity needed at national level to support the country's ongoing accession to the WTO.

The evaluation recommended that IPPC should continue to promote and monitor use of the manuals, develop a more sustainable solution for knowledge exchange, set up an NPPO helpdesk and roll out more strategic partnerships. Alongside the manuals, NPPOs should use STDF's P-IMA tool to improve planning and decision-making. The report also called on donors to invest more to improve phytosanitary systems and infrastructure in developing countries.

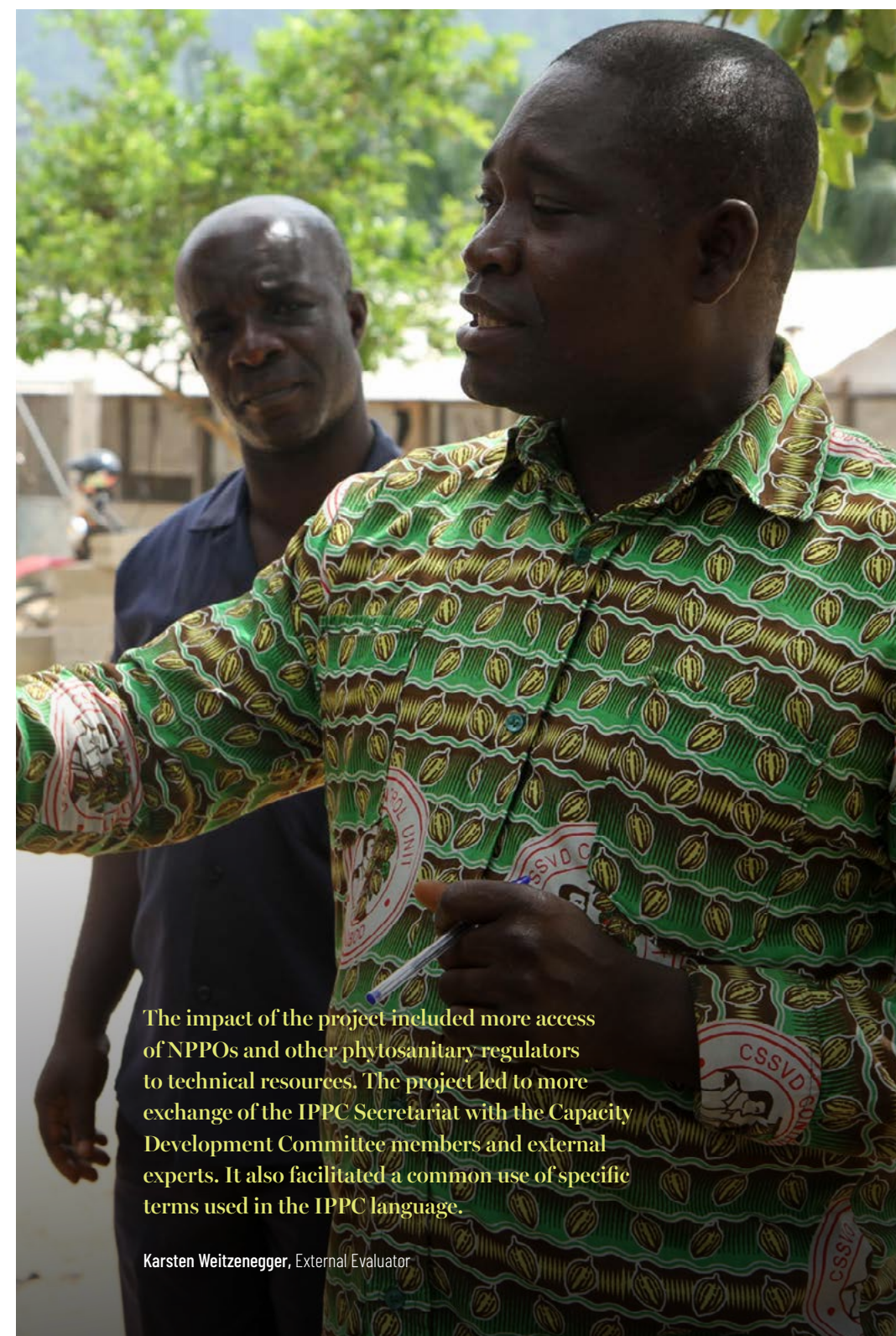
Moving forward, the IPPC Implementation Committee is following up on the evaluation's recommendations including to improve the IPPC website to make resources more accessible to users, as well as to improve the dialogue with both the private sector and consumers. The IPPC's global photo contest "Pests without borders" – developed under the project – continues to raise awareness, including in support of the 2020 International Year of Plant Health, which aims to show how protecting plant health boosts sustainable development.

## FAST FACTS

### 20+

global manuals were published.

Most used guides: Export Certification and Import Verification Guides



**The impact of the project included more access of NPPOs and other phytosanitary regulators to technical resources. The project led to more exchange of the IPPC Secretariat with the Capacity Development Committee members and external experts. It also facilitated a common use of specific terms used in the IPPC language.**

Karsten Weitzenegger, External Evaluator



**BENEFICIARIES**  
National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in developing countries



**LED BY**  
IPPC



**TIME-FRAME**  
February 2012 – July 2015  
(External evaluation published in 2019)



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$672,000 (total project value: US\$822,000)



**MORE INFO**

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-350](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-350)



# Niue:

## a study promoting apiculture productivity and conservation

Bee colonies worldwide have been collapsing as bees come under threat of disease, which in turn threatens agricultural production. Niue, a small island in the South Pacific, counts on a rare stock of Italian honey bees that are free from major bee diseases and parasites.

In 2019, with STDF support, a study assessed how a Pacific bee sanctuary could be set up in Niue to drive apiculture productivity at national and regional level. In turn, this would help supply healthy bee stock to other Pacific countries and support livelihoods in the region.

The study found that setting up a bee sanctuary in Niue would protect bee biodiversity and develop an alternative, sustainable source of bee imports in the region. This would also help to drive agricultural productivity, act as a platform to promote bee health and support native bush regeneration, protecting the local environment and mitigating soil degradation.

Niuean honey, which meets rigorous SPS requirements and is exported to New Zealand, also stands to gain new sales opportunities in the United States and the United Kingdom. However, the Niuean government will need to

take the lead in further developing the beekeeping industry and in setting up a sanctuary to increase export values and new product lines.

Moving ahead, although the bee sanctuary is not yet a commercially viable prospect – if based solely on the export revenue of live bees – preserving Niue’s bees remains vital for conservation efforts and to support regional development projects in the apiculture sector.



### FAST FACTS

Niue hosts the last known significant isolated stock of Italian honey bees.

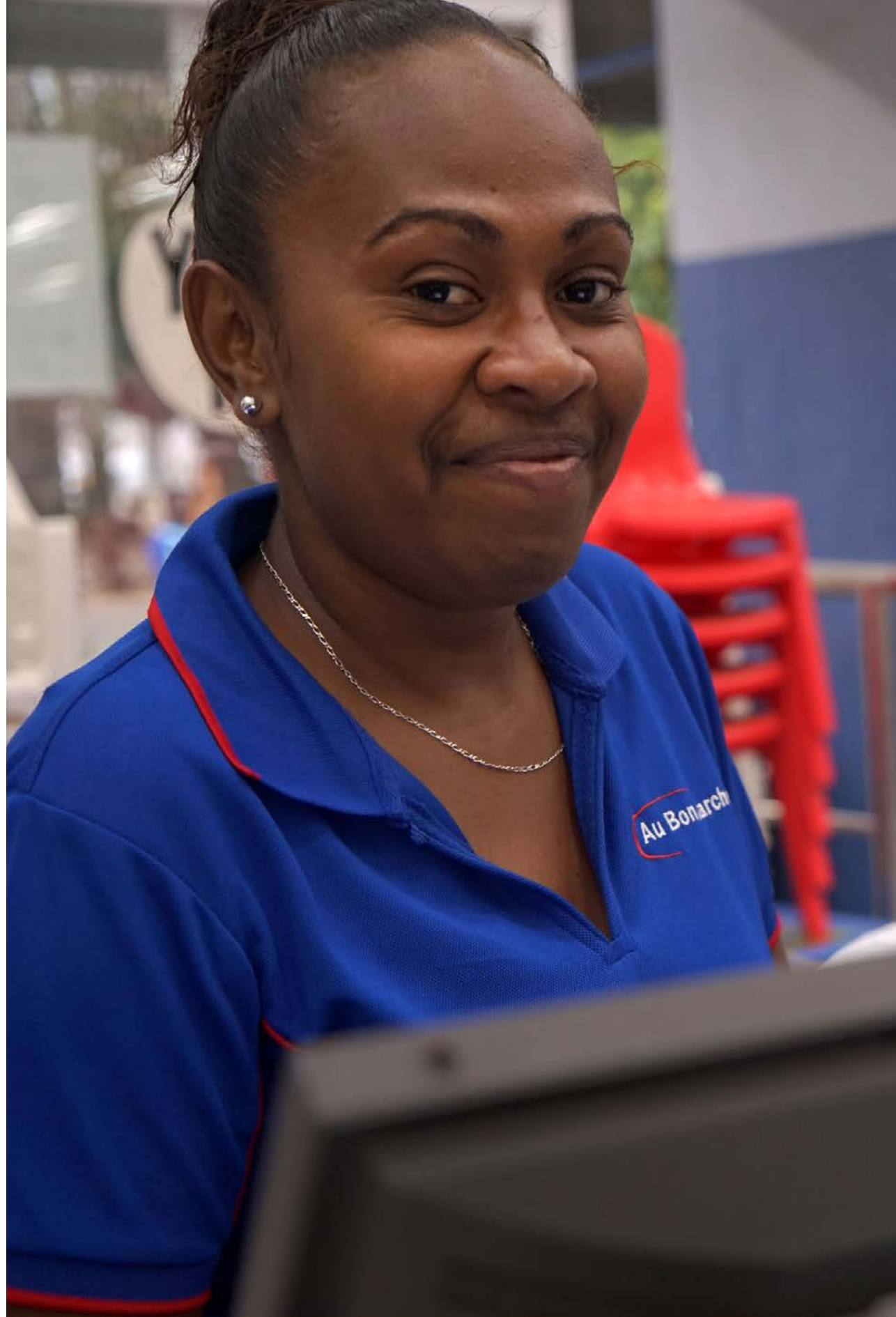
Feasibility study on setting up a bee sanctuary was completed in 2019.



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-616](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-616)





## Securing agri-food value chains and safe trade

The Global Goal on good health and well-being underscores how reducing the burden of diseases and contamination is vital for protecting public health, including for the vulnerable.

In the current context, with the rise of global agri-food value chains, making sure food is safe and meets international standards helps to secure the health of consumers worldwide. In 2019, the STDF shared expertise and lessons from its projects and knowledge hub on how to act in partnership to safeguard the future of food safety at the regional and global level.

In Burkina Faso, reducing aflatoxin contamination in maize is shoring up a safe food supply for the region, including for vulnerable groups. An evaluation highlighted how global projects have effectively helped producers to use low-risk pesticides and meet Codex standards for tropical crops, with the results widely shared and influencing other efforts. Under a new project in Asia, and a PPG in Southern Africa, the use

of biopesticides alongside conventional pesticides, will be tested as an approach to reduce residue levels, as well as to promote trade flows and protect consumers.

In addition, findings from a project evaluation showed that harmonizing food inspection in Central America using online training is being adopted in more countries in the region. Project proposals are underway to support food safety risk analysis in Latin America, monitor residue levels in Afghanistan and promote food safety compliance for spices in Sri Lanka.

The value of STDF's global partnership in supporting countries to close food safety gaps was profiled in 2019 at international events by the FAO, WHO, WTO and the African Union. In turn, STDF members looked at opportunities on how trade-focused investments can impact positively on domestic public health, with a new trade spillovers briefing published.

### Emerging Trend:



Growth in agri-food global value chains (GVCs), regional trade and South-South trade





# Burkina Faso:

## producing safe maize for domestic and regional markets

Regional trade in maize is vital for supporting food security in West Africa and for ensuring a safe food supply for vulnerable groups, including refugees and those affected by famine. The STDF-backed project helping maize producers in Burkina Faso to prevent aflatoxin contamination started up activities in 2019, with an inception workshop held on 25-27 July.

Led by the EIF's National Implementation Unit, the project is being supported by public and private sector partners in the country, as well as the World Food Programme. In July and October 2019, two information and training workshops were run for extension agents, facilitators, inspectors, and laboratory technicians. The facilitators

shared their knowledge with close to 4,500 producers, nearly a third of them women. In addition, demonstration plots were set up nationwide to test Aflasafe BF01, a new biopesticide to combat aflatoxins.

**Diagnostic studies carried out by USAID and ITA on aflatoxin contamination in maize in Burkina Faso have showed high variations of between 3.4 to 636 micrograms per kg from B1 aflatoxin, the most toxic and carcinogenic, and an average of 67 micrograms per kg overall.**

Joseph Zerbo, Cabinet Director, Ministry of Commerce

**After this training, we want to see improved aflatoxin testing capacities inside the laboratories, and on farms. The use of mobile testing technologies will allow us to test for aflatoxins where maize is produced, reducing the number of samples going to the lab for more sophisticated and costly tests.**

Issoufou Porgo, Permanent Secretary, Farmers Confederation, Burkina Faso



### FAST FACTS

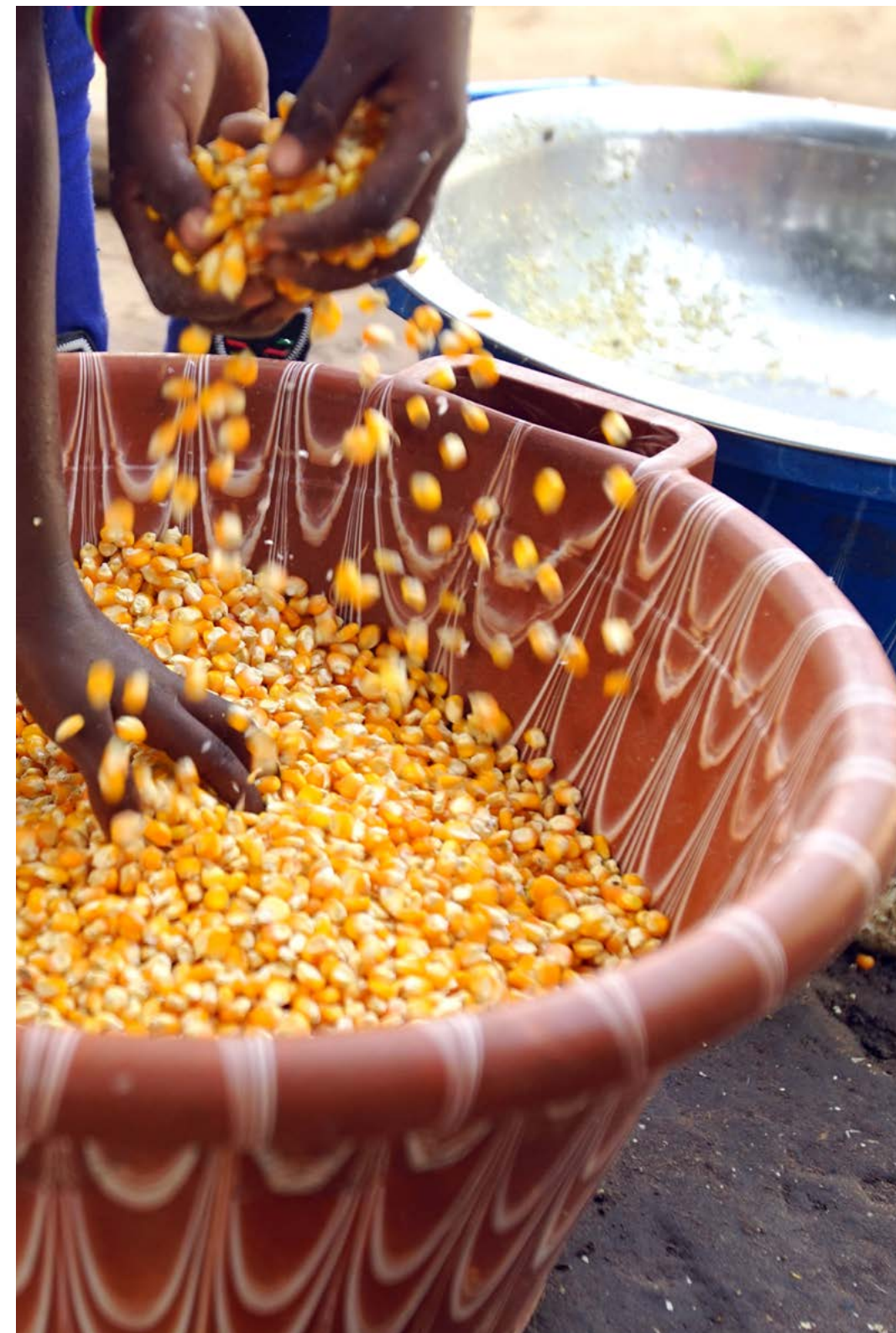
3-day workshops held for 46 key actors and trained 22 inspectors and technicians

**4,500**

Knowledge was shared with close to 4,500 producers

**16**

Demonstration plots were set up on 16 sites across 6 provinces



**BENEFICIARIES**  
public and private stakeholders in the maize sector



**LED BY**  
EIF NIU Burkina Faso



**TIME-FRAME**  
April 2019 - March 2022



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$544,402 (total project value: US\$845,862)



**MORE INFO**  
[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-566](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-566)



# Evaluation of global projects to plug pesticide data gaps and drive regional collaboration



Pesticides often cause trade concerns for tropical fruits and vegetables from developing countries, as exports face being rejected. Few Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) exist for these crops and they can differ from Codex standards or for different trading partners. There are gaps in residue data, plus high costs in generating data and registering new pesticides.

STDF's regional MRL projects connected public and private sector across three continents to pilot and learn from a collaborative model to expand residue programmes and help to meet Codex standards. This led to coordinated pesticide residue studies, as well as 62 field trials.

A 2019 independent evaluation found the projects achieved their objectives to a great extent, and that the STDF added value and helped to promote regional

**In Africa, the STDF project encouraged and supported regional harmonization on pesticide MRLs by the EAC. ECOWAS is keen to replicate these experiences, showing the project's catalytic effect.**

John Oppong-Otoo, Food Safety Officer, AU-IBAR

harmonization. At an STDF knowledge event to share project lessons – held for WTO SPS Committee delegates on 7 November – panellists showcased how the projects supported farmers to use new-generation pesticides, with added benefits for agricultural productivity, the environment and consumer safety. In turn, project impact is being sustained at regional and global level.

As a result of the project, seven new Codex MRLs were developed by 2019 with three more due by 2022, 13 countries have registered low-risk pesticides, and over 160 scientists and government officers have new expertise on pesticide residue data, driving active participation in Codex and other fora. The projects played a key role in bringing together government authorities from agriculture, health, environment and trade, as well as in promoting public-private partnerships, linking to STDF

**In October 2019, 34 Ministers from across the Americas endorsed a new resolution on MRLs calling for collaborative action to reduce the impact of NTBs on trade. The technical work carried out under STDF's regional MRL projects contributed towards these global objectives.**

Julia Doherty, Deputy Assistant, U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs

members' work, and in influencing wider efforts on pesticides globally.

Lessons shared from the evaluation showed how the project model should be adapted to national infrastructure, conditions and resources. The report also highlighted the role of the Study Team and the value of having technical and stakeholder coordination expertise.

Moving forward, the Minor Use Foundation was set up to expand low risk pesticide options for tropical produce globally, building on the projects' technical foundation and results. The findings, which are widely shared, support ongoing Codex work on MRLs, and will be profiled at the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and Global Minor Use Summit in 2020.

**The country teams in all three regions said the project improved communications and joint activities among them, and contributed to regional harmonisation efforts. The STDF projects proved that the collaborative, hands-on model could deliver the desired results.**

Stuart Slorach, External evaluator



## FAST FACTS

7

new MRLs developed

13

countries registered low-risk pesticides

160+

scientists and government officers have new expertise on pesticide residue data.



### BENEFICIARIES

Africa (5 countries)  
ASEAN (8 countries)  
Latin America (5 countries)



### LED BY

AU-IBAR, ASEAN Secretariat, IICA with diverse partners including IR-4 (Rutgers University), USDA, FAO/WHO JMPR, private sector (CropLife, Dow, Syngenta, Valent/Sumitomo)



### TIME-FRAME

2012-2017 (External evaluation published in 2019)



### STDF CONTRIBUTION

US\$1,457,316 (total value:  
US\$3,501,866)



### MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-359](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-359);  
[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-337](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-337);  
[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-436](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-436);  
[www.standardsfacility.org/strengthening-capacity-meet-pesticide-export-requirements](http://www.standardsfacility.org/strengthening-capacity-meet-pesticide-export-requirements)



## Asia:

### promoting biopesticides to increase trade flows

Meeting pesticide MRLs is an ongoing trade challenge for actors along priority agri-food value chains in Asia, whether as farmers, industry associations or export businesses.

A new STDF project was approved at STDF's Working Group in October 2019 to help Asian countries test an alternative and innovative approach to reduce pesticide MRLs, which uses biopesticides alongside conventional pesticides. Work to be carried out under the project builds on STDF members' efforts and experiences in this area, including the FAO, GIZ, OECD and the US.

Focusing on crops that are economically important for many countries in the region, from chilli pepper and leafy greens to basil, dragon fruit and rice, the project will promote public-private cooperation among regulatory authorities, producers, industry, and traders. Domestic consumers in the region also stand to benefit from improvements in food safety.

Women, who play a key role in fruit and vegetable production, stand to benefit, including through reduced exposure to pesticides. Developing women farmers' capacities is a priority, with a baseline study to focus on gender, and good practices on mainstreaming to follow.

By reducing the use of conventional pesticides, the project expects to lower environmental pollution, health risks, environmental exposure for bees and other sensitive species, and improve biodiversity. Data on MRLs and the environmental impact will also be gathered.

The project will help develop cross-regional networking and learning, spanning Southeast Asia to South Asia, with more advanced economies in the region delivering training and mentoring. Biopesticides are increasingly in the spotlight regionally and globally - with interest from ASEAN, Codex and the OECD - and the project is set to generate wider lessons.



#### FAST FACTS

Project developed via a PPG, with record-turn around time

15

Project to help resolve up to 15 trade-related residue issues



#### BENEFICIARIES

fruit and vegetable producers, associations and exporters in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam



#### LED BY

APAARI,  
IR-4 - Rutgers University



TIME-FRAME  
2020 - 2023



STDF CONTRIBUTION  
US\$899,586 (total value:  
US\$1,269,603)



#### MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-634](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-634)

## Southern Africa:

### a regional biopesticides approach to facilitate trade



In Southern Africa, SADC member states have seen the value of their agricultural exports drop linked to SPS challenges, including pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs).

Countries in the region lack effective and operational systems for pesticide regulation and control, with gaps in support for farmers on best practices in sustainable pest management and pesticide use. Biopesticides offer a way for countries to reduce chemical residues and to meet MRLs. However, few biopesticides are registered and

available for sale, with limited knowledge and agreement on how they can be used alongside conventional pesticides.

In March 2019, the STDF Working Group approved a new STDF PPG to develop a regional project in Southern Africa to pilot and roll out a collaborative approach on biopesticides. The proposal will promote the harmonization of biopesticide regulations and address trade issues linked to pesticide residues. It will support greater collaboration among regulators, biopesticide registrants, the private sector and academic partners in the region.

The PPG will connect SPS regulators in Southern Africa with STDF members – including the FAO and the US – and, at the same time, exchange experiences with STDF work in East Africa and Asia. In turn, the PPG will promote linkages with other areas of work in Codex and IPPC.

## Latin America:

### developing a proposal to build capacity on food safety risk analysis

There are increased demands being placed on Latin American countries to use risk-based approaches to reduce food safety hazards. However, there are limited capacities on food safety risk analysis in the region and rolling out this approach varies widely across countries.

A new STDF PPG, which was approved by the STDF Working Group in October 2019, will bring together food safety regulators from 10 countries in the region. Alongside STDF members, including the FAO, WHO and IICA, and academia, the participating countries will discuss

and agree on a collaborative, South-South approach to share food safety risk analysis knowledge and expertise in response to country needs.

The PPG will facilitate the inception meeting of the Food Safety Risk Analysis Network of government agencies, universities and international organizations. An action plan and project proposal will follow to improve risk analysis capacity to benefit public health and trade. The resulting project will transfer knowledge and expertise in food safety risk analysis among countries in

the region, based on Codex, and design a hybrid learning model with online courses, training and mentoring. This is expected to lead to a harmonization of methods and a cost-effective use of resources in support of regional and international trade.



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-694](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-694)



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-716](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-716)



## Afghanistan:

### how to monitor residue levels and support food and animal feed value chains

In October 2019, the STDF Working Group approved a new STDF PPG to develop a project to monitor levels of residues and contaminants in food of animal origin and feed in Afghanistan. The resulting project would then roll out a national residues and contaminants monitoring plan. This is the first time an STDF grant has been awarded to the country.

Work under the PPG will explore the potential for strengthening existing value chains linked to food producing animals, such as carpets and leather – areas which were identified as having export growth potential in the 2012 DTIS study. The PPG will also look at awareness raising and training for the project, covering areas such as antimicrobial agents and Codes of Practice, including good animal husbandry, good veterinary and good hygiene practices.

The PPG will build synergies with STDF members' work in Afghanistan, with ITC in the area of food testing capacities and with the World Bank Group's agriculture operations.



## Sri Lanka:

### an approach to drive food safety compliance along the spices value chain

Sri Lanka exports a wide range of spice products, yet significant challenges remain in the spices value chain, while exports face rejections due to contamination and residue levels.

A new PPG was approved at the STDF Working Group in October 2019 to develop a project proposal to strengthen food safety in line with international standards along the spices supply chain, including using ICT based traceability solutions. A value chain analysis will identify gaps and market development and export promotion opportunities for key spices.

The PPG will facilitate nationwide consultations with technical agencies, industry associations, the Chamber of Commerce, extension service agencies and academia. The private sector is keen to explore the potential for value addition to gain market access, and the PPG is expected to catalyse capacity building in the sector linked to Codex standards.



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-669](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-669)



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-721](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-721)



# Central America:

## Evaluation of project in Central America to harmonize food inspection to boost regional trade

Working together on food inspection is improving the safety of fresh and processed food across Central America, while facilitating regional trade and protecting consumer health.

In 2019, an independent evaluation was carried out of an STDF-funded project to set up a virtual food inspection school, which supported over eight countries in the region. The school trained a pool of food inspectors in the latest techniques that can help to guarantee safety throughout the food chain and build the confidence of the region's trading partners.

Findings show that the IICA-led project was successful in helping officials in the region understand the importance of having harmonized food inspection tools, and in consolidating auditing and inspection know-how in the region, training food inspectors to a high standard. Under the project, around 480 officials from the region completed and passed the online course, with over 40 university staff trained as virtual teachers and academic assistants.

However, the evaluation report flagged a number of sustainability challenges, given the lack of a functioning structure at the close of the project, with gaps in mobilizing steady political support. Lessons from the project highlighted the need to bring on board the private sector and to build high-level support for food safety to address the supply chain as a whole.

Moving forward, universities from Costa Rica and Nicaragua plan to host the inspector course. Since the project, modules have been used in a pilot with the Ministries of Agriculture and Health in El Salvador, with 50 food safety inspectors having completed the course in 2019.

Following the virtual school, a USDA-funded project is helping food safety inspection directors in the region develop risk-based inspection protocols for specific value chains. Based on the project model, IICA supported OIRSA to set up a training platform on animal and plant health, and food safety. More than 4,000 technicians are enrolled, and OIRSA held its first virtual course for food safety auditors in 2019. In 2020, IICA plans to create a new three-tier food safety course for Latin America.

**This project has been an example on how to bring together Inspection and Auditing knowledge and experience across the region... and was successful in delivering high quality training to a sub-set of public sector food inspectors.**

Hugo Hays, External Evaluator



### FAST FACTS

**480**

officials completed and passed the online course.

**4,000**

Based on the model, 4,000+ technicians are enrolled in OIRSA's virtual classroom.

In a 2019 pilot in El Salvador, 50 food safety inspectors completed the course.



#### BENEFICIARIES

public and private sector in Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama



LED BY  
IICA



TIME-FRAME  
July 2012 – June 2016  
(External evaluation published in 2019)



STDF CONTRIBUTION  
US\$977,643 (total project value: \$1,534,294)



#### MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-344](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-344)  
and Spanish course available on [campus.iica.int](http://campus.iica.int)



## Investing in food safety for the future:

### STDF partnership and know-how at global events

How to collectively tackle food safety challenges and deliver policies that improve lives and livelihoods was the focus of global food safety events in 2019 run by STDF partners, the FAO, WHO, WTO, and the African Union on 12-13 February in Addis and 23-24 April in Geneva.

Over 630 participants from 125 countries took part in the conference in Ethiopia, where STDF was showcased at an exhibition, alongside the STDF project film on safe food in Africa.

At the forum in Geneva, the STDF global partnership was highlighted for supporting actors in agri-food supply chains in developing countries to meet international

food safety standards. STDF's knowledge and project work also underpinned papers presented at the two events, which called for resources to improve capacity to promote public health and facilitate trade.

In line with STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy, the global events emphasized the scale of the future challenges and the need for knowledge-based actions on food safety, as well as underlining the role of increased investment in effective systems, and the importance of partnerships.

**FAO, WHO and the WTO should continue their coordinated work, together with the World Bank Group and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), at the Standards and Trade Development Facility.**

**Joint Statement, International Forum on Food Safety and Trade**

**The FAO and the WHO help provide a framework to facilitate trade on the basis of internationally agreed food standards. And our organizations also collaborate to help build the necessary capacity and skills to that end. This includes the Standards and Trade Development Facility. So there is already very good work under way.**

**Roberto Azevêdo**, WTO Director-General,  
International Forum on Food Safety and Trade



## Trade spillover effects and the impact on domestic food safety:

### STDF knowledge sharing

At the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade in April 2019, the STDF published a new briefing on trade spillovers, with findings from a recent study on how to maximize the benefits of trade-related food safety capacity building. The recommendations point to making sure future programmes benefit stakeholders in the domestic food safety context.

Building on the briefing, in 2019, STDF members discussed how to drive knowledge work so that trade-focused investments impact positively on domestic public health. Following ideas shared at the October Working Group, virtual discussions on spillovers in November looked at opportunities within STDF projects and knowledge work, with updates planned in 2020.

**We think that by increasing the capacity of developing members and LDCs to comply with SPS measures, to participate in the elaboration of these measures that would create better opportunities for these countries to participate in international trade, to protect their people and their consumers.**

**Paolo Garzotti**, Deputy Head of the EU Mission to the WTO



## Briefing note snapshot:

### How to promote positive spillovers in trade-related projects?

Identifying, targeting and measuring spillovers throughout the project cycle can help to:

- highlight potential synergies (and any conflicts) between trade-related measures and domestic food safety.
- engage a broad range of national stakeholders to better understand potential direct or indirect impacts.
- build robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to measure potential domestic co-benefits.



**MORE INFO**

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-535](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-535)  
and [www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_Briefing\\_Note\\_Trade\\_Spillovers\\_En.pdf](http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Briefing_Note_Trade_Spillovers_En.pdf)





## Facilitating safe trade for developing countries

Under the Global Goal on decent work and economic growth, priority focus goes to driving productivity in low-income countries, enabling jobs, entrepreneurship and MSMEs to flourish.

Sustainable growth comes under pressure as crises strike, making it vital to build countries' resilience, promote access to markets and reduce costs in line with the Trade Facilitation Agreement. In 2019, STDF's global platform, projects and knowledge work influenced efforts for developing countries to be more competitive, facilitate trade and adopt good practices.

In Latin America, seven countries successfully closed critical plant health gaps, improving conditions for agricultural production and opening access to markets in the region and beyond. Across 2019, STDF's partnership shared its trade facilitation expertise at global and regional events – including in Asia-Pacific and Latin America – outlining practical solutions for developing countries to streamline procedures,

improve border cooperation and use automated systems.

In addition, a project proposal is being developed in the Philippines to facilitate trade in agri-fisheries by reducing the regulatory burden on the private sector. Drawing on insights and inputs by members in 2019, STDF's Good Regulatory Practice guide to make sure that SPS measures protect health and drive trade was further developed. In turn, STDF's facilitating safe trade, e-certification and good regulatory practice work was identified by UN agencies as supporting effective trade and development measures.

### Emerging Trend:



Greater focus on how to reduce trade costs linked to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement





# Latin America :

## a regional plant health model supporting market access

Protecting plant resources without impacting negatively on trade flows posed a challenge for Latin American countries keen to facilitate trade in agricultural goods in the region. At the same time there was a need to maintain and improve export access to wider markets.

An STDF project, finalized in 2019, strengthened the capacity of member countries of the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE) to put in place plant health measures.

Over 90 professionals from National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay improved their knowledge and skills on pest information, surveillance and pest risk analysis. As a result, countries have fresh tools relating to ISPM 6 and ISPM 11, improving their national and regional negotiating positions.

A methodology on the impact of plant health measures was developed, with over 20 NPPO professionals trained. Countries in the region are now able to assess the costs and quantify the benefits of applying measures to protect plant health and improve market access. The project also developed a regional virtual school on phytosanitary inspection. To date, 54 professionals completed the international module, with a new group due to start in 2020.

The participatory approach developed through IICAs training and tools under the project created a network of specialists and supported processes to be harmonized at regional level. These experiences will be used in future regional projects on plant health and other areas.

Overall, the project was successful in integrating a plant health and agro-export model for the region. Going forward, it is expected to have a positive impact on market access, thanks to reduced numbers of interceptions, as well as improved agricultural production conditions.

### FAST FACTS

Countries closed plant health gaps relating to ISPM 6, ISPM 11, inspection and certification.

## 90+

NPPO professionals trained on pest surveillance or pest risk analysis know-how.

Results shared widely, with materials produced in Spanish, English and Portuguese

**The project is improving aspects related to phytosanitary surveillance and pest risk analysis. The outstanding addition to set up a Virtual School is strengthening both public and private sector national capacities on phytosanitary inspection and certification to improve regional competitiveness.**

Ernesto Galliani, Technical Secretary, COSAVE



#### BENEFICIARIES

NPPOs in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay



#### LED BY IICA



#### TIME-FRAME

November 2015 - April 2019



#### STDF CONTRIBUTION

US\$1,084,270 (total project value: US\$1,796,998)



#### MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PG-502](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-502)



# Facilitating safe trade:

## STDF shares latest experiences and lessons at global events

The World Bank Group's 2018 Logistics Performance Index (LPI) shows an 8% increase from 2016 in satisfaction with SPS border agencies in countries with the lowest LPI scores. Given this includes least developed and other low-income countries, it suggests SPS border operations are improving. The LPI sets out how cooperation among border agencies is vital.

Connecting to Compete 2018, Trade Logistics in the Global Economy,  
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/29971/LPI2018.pdf>

Globally, progress is being made to reduce trade transaction costs linked to SPS measures. In 2019, the STDF continued to share its trade facilitation knowledge work on how developing countries can streamline and simplify SPS procedures, adopt risk-based approaches, improve cooperation between SPS agencies and customs, and advance SPS electronic certification.

During the year, the STDF and the World Bank Group's Trade Facilitation Support Programme built on the Border Agency Cooperation workshop piloted in Southern Africa in 2018. On 15 March 2019, the STDF hosted a workshop with the World Bank Group and other interested partners to advance work on a toolkit to measure SPS compliance at borders.

STDF exchanged key lessons and experiences on facilitating safe trade at global events in 2019, including an STDF side-event at the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in April, and during a Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility workshop held at the WTO in September. The STDF delivered presentations on trade facilitation at a World Bank Group seminar in February and learning event for SPS, customs and trade delegates for client countries in July.

Globally, STDF's trade facilitation knowledge work was also shared at an Australia-led Regional Quarantine Regulators Meeting in Panama in April, a CAREC regional SPS Working Group in June, and a workshop for SPS and customs officials from the Pacific in December 2019.

At the same time, STDF's facilitating safe trade expertise continues to inform other efforts, including by the United States in Azerbaijan, to improve inter-agency coordination, promote economic reform, facilitate trade, drive regional integration and support WTO accession.

Moving forward, a new STDF SPS e-cert practitioners' group, approved in 2019, will meet to share the latest updates, while activities will continue under STDF's e-certification projects – ePhyto and eVet – and STDF's Working Group will discuss border risk management in 2020.

**Many times, policy makers need to understand in economic terms the benefits that could be derived by investing in SPS capacity at national level.**

**Delilah Cabb**, Coordinator, Belize Agricultural Health Authority, and former STDF developing country expert



### WTO social media

24 Jun 2019  
#STDF encourages Central Asian countries to follow international standards, reduce trade costs and move towards #SPS e-cert at 1st CAREC regional SPS working group in Uzbekistan today.

18 Sept 2019  
#STDF participates in the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum in New Delhi on 17-18 September; using intl standards and removing #WTOsps procedural obstacles will greatly facilitate trade in food and agricultural products.

10 Dec 2019  
#STDF and WTO take part in @UNESCAP sub-regional workshop on Non-Tariff Measures in #Azerbaijan on 9-11 December; highlights show how facilitating safe, inclusive trade is helping to reduce trade costs for Central Asian countries.



## The Philippines:

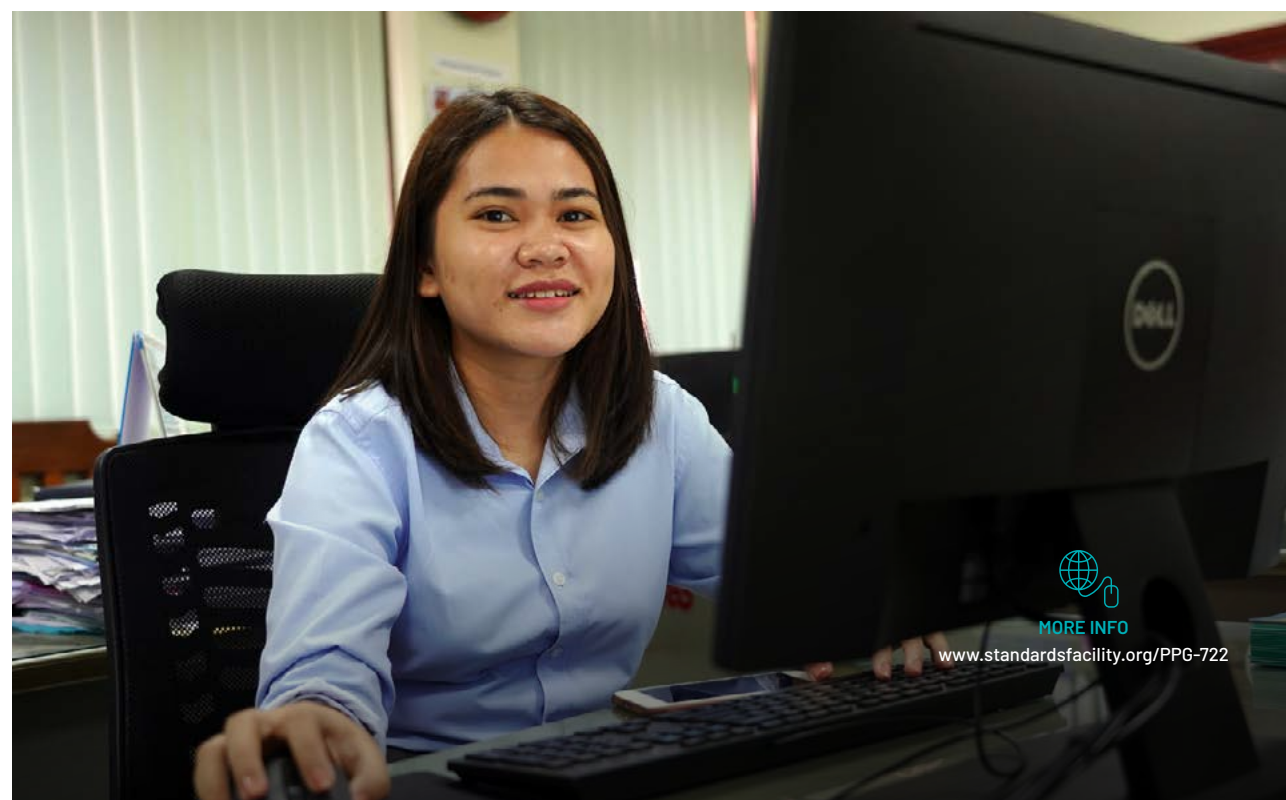
### good regulatory practice approach to facilitate trade in agri-fisheries

Government authorities in the Philippines are keen to reduce the regulatory burden on the private sector and other actors to improve compliance and facilitate trade in agri-fisheries. Challenges span overlapping regulations, weak coordination and conflicting jurisdictions.

In October 2019 a new STDF PPG was approved by the STDF Working Group to develop a project proposal to support the Philippines to apply good regulatory practices – including Regulatory Impact Assessment – in the agri-fisheries sector. The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards developed guidance and needed practical support to put it into practice.

The PPG and resulting project will promote an evidence-based approach to policymaking, producing learning on practical experiences to apply good regulatory practices, which will improve the country's development and application of SPS measures and regulations. Work under the PPG will connect to STDF partner and member initiatives, including by the World Bank Group and OECD, and build on good regulatory practice efforts in the region.

The PPG and project will also link to STDF's knowledge work on good regulatory practice. Drawing on the pilot and lessons will help in the development of STDF guidance on making sure SPS measures are fit for purpose, achieve intended outcomes and reduce trade costs.



## Good regulatory practice:

### STDF expands knowledge to protect health and facilitate trade

In 2019, STDF's knowledge work moved ahead on how good regulatory practice can be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures in developing countries.

Throughout the year, progress was made to develop STDF's practical guide to support SPS regulators in developing countries to make use of good regulatory practices. STDF partners and members, including the World Bank Group, OIE, WTO, OECD and the United States, took part in a peer review group, providing inputs into a draft of the guide to be finalized in 2020.

The upcoming STDF guide will identify good practices and recommendations to strengthen the effectiveness of regulatory interventions, improve compliance with international standards and the SPS Agreement, and ensure health protection while facilitating trade.

At the same time, STDF's knowledge work in 2019 drew on learning from global trends and work relevant for SPS measures, including good regulatory practice provisions in regional trade agreements, the WTO and OECD publication on facilitating trade through regulatory cooperation linked to SPS and technical barriers to trade, and the OIE's Observatory Project.

**The STDF is really having this unique catalytic role of bridging this complex world of rules and regulations at the international level to practical actions on the ground and I think that is so needed.**

**Marcel Vernooij,**

Deputy Permanent Representative of The Netherlands to the WTO

**By providing a specific application of GRPs to the SPS area, the STDF's GRP guide will complement the OECD's Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance and accompanying tools, including new best practices on stakeholder engagement, regulatory impact assessment and ex-post evaluation.**

**Céline Kauffmann,**

Deputy Head, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD





# Non-tariff measures and trade findings:

## value of STDF work highlighted by UN agencies

At STDF's Working Group in October 2019, UNESCAP and UNCTAD shared findings from the 2019 Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report on navigating non-tariff measures and the impact on sustainable development.

The presentation highlighted how non-tariff measures – technical regulations including SPS requirements – are increasing and are adding up to costs double those of tariffs. The discussion focused on how these measures, while protecting health or the environment, can be less transparent and more difficult to meet namely for small-scale producers and traders.

The session dialogue on recommendations from the report highlighted key areas including improving transparency, promoting digitalization, and carrying out regulatory reviews and sustainability impact assessments of SPS measures. The debate highlighted the relevance of STDF's knowledge and project work on facilitating safe trade, e-certification and good regulatory practice as adding value in supporting trade for development.

**Many producers are actually small and medium enterprises and they really need to build capacity to be able to share and the benefits from their participation in trade.**

Christiane Wolff, Counsellor, WTO



Economies that report higher rates of trade facilitation implementation generally tend to report fewer burdensome non-tariff measures by traders. The trade costs of non-tariff measures can be significantly reduced by moving to paperless trade and cross-border electronic exchange of information.

Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report, [www.unescap.org/publications/APTIR2019](http://www.unescap.org/publications/APTIR2019)



**MORE INFO**

[www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/APTIR\\_2019\\_WGOct19.pdf](http://www.standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/APTIR_2019_WGOct19.pdf)





# Mobilizing local and global safe trade partnerships

The Global Goal on partnerships highlights how greater coordination and exchange, capacity building and resource mobilization support low-income countries to export and boost trade.

To capitalize on the potential of regional integration, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the public and private sector need to collaborate and share practical solutions. In 2019, STDF's projects and knowledge hub helped to expand access to expertise and tools to facilitate cross-sector dialogue, leverage funding and influence safe trade outcomes.

In Madagascar, a participatory process using the P-IMA framework guided SPS investments to support agri-food exports, mobilizing resources linked to trade and agricultural outcomes. Applying P-IMA in Ecuador under a new PPG will also facilitate public-private sector dialogue, inform decision-making and coordinate SPS resources, complementing wider capacity building tools. The STDF P-IMA tool continued to be widely shared in 2019 and has been used to help unlock global and regional opportunities, including through a

workshop for six countries in East Africa, catalysing solutions and mobilizing support for SPS needs in the region.

Through STDF's dialogue at global food safety and agricultural conferences, experiences on how public-private partnerships support improved food safety and safe agri-food trade were shared with governments and business leaders. At the same time, project proposals were developed in West Africa and Central America with public and private sector actors to use voluntary third-party assurance programmes to better target limited resources. A new STDF film and interview series on investing in safe trade captured how STDF's global platform and partnership works to effectively promote food safety, animal and plant health

## Emerging Trend:



Regional integration with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other regional trade agreements





# Madagascar:

## a participatory process to prioritize SPS investments

Madagascar faced capacity challenges in meeting international SPS requirements, which would help its small-scale producers and exporters access external markets. In turn, the investments needed exceeded resources available and the government had to improve the economic efficiency of decisions, while promoting a transparent, comprehensive process.

An STDF PPG in 2019 supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to use the P-IMA framework, building on the National Phytosanitary Strategic Plan developed with the PCE.

The participatory P-IMA process brought together public and private sector stakeholders, consumer associations and development partners in national workshops. Using P-IMA led to a dashboard to guide SPS investments and support market access for priority value chains.

P-IMA analysis generated data and information on 16 SPS investment options. The tool delivered hard evidence on the expected impacts of investments linked to policy goals on trade, agricultural productivity and poverty reduction including for vulnerable groups.

Based on the evidence, COLEACP allocated around US\$110,000 to a US\$1.7 million project to strengthen the capacity of the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). The project aims to control the risks of quarantine pests in priority fruit and vegetable exports to the EU.

The EIF's National Implementation Unit committed to work with the NPPO to support capacity building on investments identified in the P-IMA analysis, including linking to an EIF project on pesticide residue limits in fresh fruit and vegetables, and dried grains exports.

Authorities in charge of plants and plant products, food of animal origin and fishery products plan to use the P-IMA results to mobilize resources from Ministries and from wider partners. The national P-IMA Working Group is continuing to operate, with stakeholders committing to review prioritization results on an ongoing basis, helping resources to be used efficiently.

### FAST FACTS

16

P-IMA analysis brought together data and information on 16 SPS investment options.

Based on evidence, COLEACP allocated US\$110,000 to US\$1.7 million project to build NPPO capacity.

**False Codling Moth is a huge challenge for the horticulture sector in Madagascar. P-IMA allowed government agencies and the private sector to focus on the investments needed to address SPS challenges. This helped us to mobilize more support to resolve the problem of False Codling Moth. My company is partnering with the NPPO to help our exports get going again.**

M. Solofo, Company owner, Malagasy Export



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-575](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-575)



# Ecuador:

applying P-IMA and facilitating public and private sector dialogue

In March 2019, a new PPG was approved by the STDF Working Group to support Ecuador to apply the STDF P-IMA framework to prioritize SPS investments to improve market access.

The tool will generate information to support SPS capacity building in Ecuador, raise awareness among the public and private sector about the returns on SPS capacity building, and support fundraising. Using P-IMA will facilitate public-private sector dialogue, inform transparent decision-making, and better

coordinate the resources going to SPS agencies. The results of the P-IMA tool will also be used to develop a five-year SPS strategic plan.

Work under the PPG will build on tools already applied in Ecuador, including OIE's PVS tool and IICA's Performance, Vision and Strategy tool. Spanish-speaking facilitators will be trained on P-IMA, supporting a wider roll out by IICA to other countries in the region.



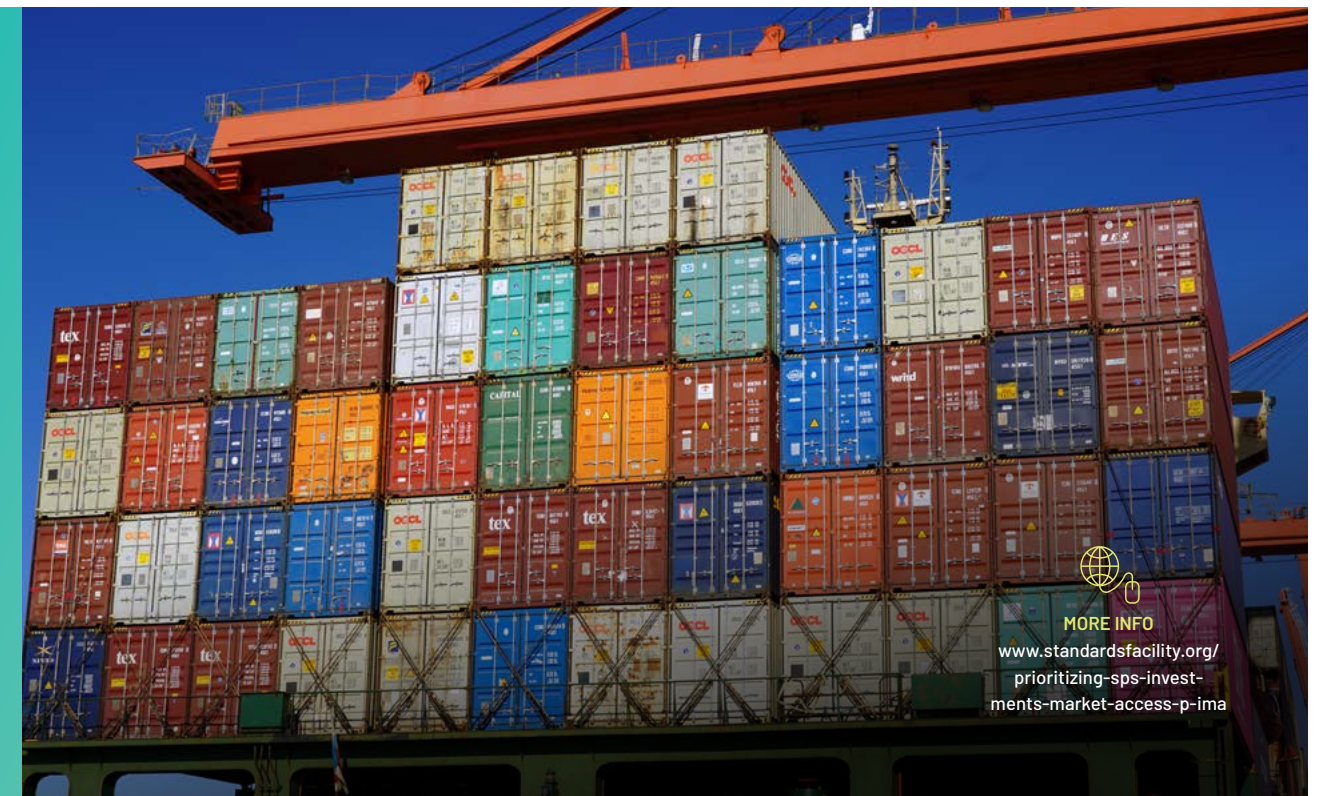
MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-709](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-709)

# Expanding access to STDF's P-IMA tool to unlock global and regional opportunities

At an IPPC capacity development seminar on 8 October 2019, STDF shared experiences on the benefits of P-IMA, including in Madagascar, where donor funding was mobilized to meet phytosanitary capacity gaps. New opportunities were identified to use P-IMA to complement the use of the PCE tool and support IPPC work in Sri Lanka, Nicaragua and Sierra Leone.

The STDF shared information on P-IMA at the World Bank Group during a session on 4 June in Washington D.C. At the event, opportunities were identified to use P-IMA in World Bank Group country operations, including Colombia and India, to help promote evidence-based decision-making, boost efficiency and transparency, and support public-private dialogue.



MORE INFO

[www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima](http://www.standardsfacility.org/prioritizing-sps-investments-market-access-p-ima)



# P-IMA catalyses solutions to SPS needs in Africa

P-IMA is a very useful tool when it comes to prioritizing finite resources to unlock SPS-related barriers to trade and increase exports. TMEA is excited to use it to unlock technical barriers to trade in the East African Community. It is also useful in supporting collaboration among donors and other partners for transparency and reduction of duplication in Aid for Trade initiatives.

**Elizabeth Nderitu,**  
Regional Programme Manager, Standards and SPS, TMEA

A regional workshop on STDF's P-IMA framework, organized by TradeMark East Africa from 19 – 20 November 2019 in Nairobi, brought together 30 SPS experts from the private and public sector in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The sessions identified over 30 capacity building options to unlock regional trade. TradeMark East Africa is planning to direct funding via its country programmes to address the identified priorities.

The workshop builds on STDF's project, with the EIF, to help COMESA member states use P-IMA to mainstream SPS investments within national and regional agricultural, environment and trade investment plans. Going forward, COMESA and TradeMark East Africa's work is driving SPS collaboration at continental, regional and sub-regional level, so that Regional Economic Communities can use harmonized approaches to identify and solve SPS needs.

The STDF's P-IMA framework was selected for its structured approach and alignment to the guiding principles of the BESST feasibility study – innovation, evidence and participation. It proved to be a useful tool given its focus on investment in capacity development for trade, and ability to recognize both private and public sector capacities.

**Nadhem Mtimet,**  
Senior Agricultural Economist, ILRI

In 2019, ILRI used the P-IMA approach with diverse public and private sector stakeholders from the Horn of Africa and Arabian Peninsula to compile evidence and set priorities for the safe and sustainable transformation of trade in livestock and livestock products. Commissioned by the OIE, with funding from the Gates Foundation, the feasibility study is part of the OIE's Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade (BESST) initiative.



# How public private partnerships support developing countries:

## STDF dialogue at 2019 GFSI Conference

STDF co-moderated G2B workshop on how public/private collaboration helps SMEs in developing countries enhance food safety, including options to use 3rd party assurance programmes to improve #publichealth and trade. *WTO social media post: 27 February 2019*

In 2019, STDF's knowledge work moved ahead on how good regulatory practice can be used to improve the quality and effectiveness of SPS measures in developing countries.

In 2019, STDF shared experiences on public-private partnerships at the Global Food Safety Conference from 25-28 February in Nice. Organized by the GFSI, it gathered 1,000 delegates from over 60 countries spanning food industry, government, academia, and international organizations, including the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Bank Group.

STDF's work was shared in a panel on building capacity in developing markets, focusing on pathways to improve food safety to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the margins of the event, senior government representatives met with representatives of the world's largest companies across the entire food chain from manufacturing to retail.

The STDF co-organized and co-moderated a workshop during the government to business meeting on the topic of small and medium-sized enterprise capacity building. This follows STDF's longstanding collaboration with GFSI, including in past conferences and meetings.

At the workshop, Belize, Honduras, Senegal and Uganda highlighted challenges and needs in relation to using third-party assurance programmes, linked to work that started under STDF PPGs in 2019. A follow-up meeting convened on the margins deepened the dialogue between the PPG pilot countries, the private sector, as well as STDF partners and donors.

**For us the STDF is a key conveyer between the public and the private sector on the ground for the SPS agreement.**

**Anne Gerardi,**  
Senior Project Manager, GFSI



**MORE INFO**

[www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships](http://www.standardsfacility.org/public-private-partnerships)



# Public-private collaboration to support food safety:

## regional STDF work to develop pilots

In 2019, the global trend continued around the need for a closer engagement between food safety regulatory authorities and the private sector to support shared food safety objectives, which had been identified in STDF's public-private partnerships publication released in 2012.

In particular, there is increasing interest from developing countries in an approach from some developed countries where competent authorities are making use of reliable data from voluntary third-party assurance programmes. Currently, this model is helping to inform the risk profiling of food businesses, improve risk-based inspection and more effectively target scarce resources.

Given that there are few examples of how that works in a developing country context, in 2019, STDF's PPGs in West Africa and Central America convened diverse public and private sector actors to develop pilot projects in this area to help improve food safety outcomes.

These STDF initiatives in 2019 also tied into ongoing Codex work to develop draft principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes.

**Being part of the STDF's work on public-private partnerships, including the workshop STDF co-led with the GFSI and IICA in 2019, has enriched our dialogue with the private sector and other regulatory authorities. Honduras looks forward to STDF's regional project to learn how the use of voluntary third-party assurance programmes can support our national food control system based on Codex guidance.**

**Mirian Bueno Almendarez**, Food Safety Director, National Agency for Agri-food Health and Safety, Honduras



**MORE INFO**

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-665](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-665)

[www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-682](http://www.standardsfacility.org/PPG-682)



# Influencing food safety partnerships:

## STDF joins global dialogue on Africa and in Arab countries

*Today at the 3rd AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference in Rome, #STDF shares evidence-based tool to help African countries prioritize investments for safe agricultural trade. WTO social media post: 21 June 2019*

In 2019, STDF took part in a high-level panel on how to overcome SPS hurdles in intra-African trade during the AU-EU Agricultural Ministerial Conference held on 21 June in Rome. The session was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of Ireland. Sharing work on public-private partnerships, STDF's presentation showed how P-IMA's evidence-based approach brings together public-private sector actors in agricultural value chains and trade in Africa to set SPS priorities and leverage funding to address key needs.

Alongside the African Union and European Commission, STDF's intervention at the event, with that of COLEACP and others is expected to help set the SPS and food safety investment priorities across the continent. Experiences from the Conference are supporting operations under the SPS Annex of the AfCTFA that went live in July 2019.

At UNIDO's workshop for the Arab Task Force on Food Safety on 10 October 2019 in Jordan – alongside Sweden who funds the SAFE project to promote regional economic integration and cooperation – the STDF shared experiences and lessons from its knowledge and project work on public-private partnerships with a range of Arab partner organizations.





# Strategies to drive partnerships across livestock value chains:

## STDF shares insights at WTO and FAO

At an information session held at the WTO on 20 March 2019, STDF shared insights from a recent project evaluation in Cameroon to promote knowledge of animal diseases and drive safe trade.

At an FAO event on transforming the livestock sector through the Sustainable Development Goals on 28 March, STDF exchanged the latest lessons on how public-private partnerships help to meet international standards and catalyse change in value chains.



# Why investing in safe trade matters for developing countries:

## STDF partnership voices

A new STDF global partnership film and interview series was released during the WTO Public Forum "Trading Forward: Adapting to a Changing World" from 8-11 October 2019. The film and interviews feature partners, donors and developing country experts speaking on the current landscape and what more is needed to collectively facilitate safe, inclusive trade.

The film sets out how in order to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals, investing in SPS capacity in developing countries is vital for people to share in the benefits from trade. Ten experts from Belize, Canada, the European Union, GFSI, IPPC, The Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, the US and WTO voiced their views on how building SPS capacity helps producers, traders and consumers and promotes food safety, animal and plant health.

Going forward, the film sets out a call to action for policymakers worldwide to champion investments in SPS capacity that will have a vital impact on the public and private sector.



**The donors, developing country representatives, partner organizations, standards-setting organizations are there, the STDF brings us together and we can talk about the issues, we can avoid duplication we can build synergies on each other's projects.**

**Bent Larson,**  
Implementation and Facilitation Unit Leader, IPPC Secretariat

**The platform that STDF provides for us to participate and articulate our needs, and are making sure that we are heard, and implementing strategies and measures that are appropriate and helpful to developing countries is quite useful.**

**Sidney Suma,**  
Biosecurity and Trade Facilitation Specialist and former STDF developing country expert



**MORE INFO**

[www.standardsfacility.org/new-stdf-film-and-interview-series](http://www.standardsfacility.org/new-stdf-film-and-interview-series)



# STDF operations in 2019

**The STDF and the STDF Secretariat have delivered outputs and results beyond what might be expected given their budget and resources. The Secretariat is regarded as efficient, effective and responsive by founding partners, donors and other stakeholders.**

## External evaluation, 2019

In 2019, Nathan Associates completed the external evaluation of the STDF, which started in September 2018, following a procurement process based on WTO rules. STDF partners, other members and the STDF Secretariat were actively involved in contributing to the finalization of the evaluation. More than 100 interviews were conducted with partners, donors and other members to reflect the opinions of STDF's stakeholders and network, and inform the findings. Views were sought from beneficiaries and other SPS capacity building actors during country visits to Guatemala and Uganda, with additional interviews in Nairobi.

Development of the new STDF Strategy for 2020-2024 represented a significant share of work in 2019. The Secretariat set up a participatory process to enable partners and other members to provide substantive and strategic inputs to its development, including through facilitated workshops in Geneva on 13-14 March, 18-19 June and 15 October 2019. An electronic survey captured views

on past work and performance, and future opportunities. STDF partners and members also organized internal consultations within their networks.

Alongside the external evaluation and strategy development, the STDF Secretariat worked with partners and other members to deliver on activities in the final year of the STDF's 2015-19 Strategy and workplan. Two successful STDF Working Group meetings took place on 12-13 March and 16-17 October in Geneva, with over 100 participants from around the world.

The Secretariat continued to actively support the STDF's project and knowledge work. This included work to help developing country applicants to develop and submit projects, and to contract, manage and evaluate approved projects and PPGs. A total of 27 PPGs and 16 project applications were received in 2019, with 12 PPGs and 22 projects ongoing in 2019.

The team facilitated and led STDF knowledge work on five topics covering facilitating safe trade, electronic SPS certification, good regulatory practice, public-private partnerships, and the use of an evidence-based approach to prioritize SPS investments (P-IMA).

The Secretariat continued to deliver with a relatively small core team, complemented by two interns and short-term staff. STDF's communications consultant continued to support the

Secretariat across the outreach portfolio including with publications, the Investing in Safe Trade film and interview series, online platforms and media relations. An M&E expert, offered by the UK as part of its SITFA programme, provided advice on M&E as part of the development of the STDF 2020-2024 Strategy, as well as on delivering the M&E framework.

Developing country experts continued to contribute to the global partnership. They participated in the Working Group meetings and shared experiences on SPS technical cooperation activities. In addition, the experts provided guidance and support to review new applications for STDF funding and encouraged synergies with ongoing work in their regions. STDF developing country experts also delivered presentations on STDF at regional events, including at the FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia from 23-27 September.

**By pooling our resources, our expertise and our funds, the reach of what we've collectively been able to do to build SPS capacity has gone far beyond the sum of what we would have been able to accomplish as individual countries and agencies.**

**Kelly J. McCormick**, International Policy Analyst, US FDA

## STDF POLICY COMMITTEE IN 2019

An STDF Policy Committee took place on 17 June 2019 at the WTO in Geneva, chaired by WTO Deputy-Director General, Alan Wolff. Attended by 30 representatives from across the partnership, the agenda focused on the external evaluation report delivered by Nathan Associates. Policy Committee members reviewed the evaluation's recommendations to scale up the STDF's operations and impacts.

Policy Committee members approved 16 out of the 20 recommendations proposed in the evaluation. Approved recommendations included strengthening the contribution of all members to the STDF, and the role of partners in particular, improving synergies between STDF projects and PPGs and other initiatives, and paying closer attention to cross-cutting issues, namely gender and the environment, moving forward. Members agreed to strengthen the Secretariat's operational capacity, notably with two additional staff, one covering Communications and the other Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.

Other recommendations to improve the STDF's performance and reach were agreed – such as strengthening the role of developing country experts. Recommendations that implied more significant resource implications were put on hold. Following the Policy Committee, the Working Group approved an action plan to deliver on the approved recommendations, which included responsibilities for STDF partners, other members and the STDF Secretariat.

## STDF WORKING GROUP

**Chair:** Loraine Ronchi (World Bank Group)  
**Vice-chair:** Julie Emond (Canada)

## STDF DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPERTS

**G. J. Benoit Gnonlonfin**, Benin  
**Merriam Toalak**, Vanuatu  
**Sanniel Wilson**, Jamaica  
**Sanjay Dave**, India  
**Rogério Pereira Da Silva**, Brazil  
**Ameha Sebsibe Woldemariam**, Ethiopia

**March 2019:** Ms Wilson and Mr Da Silva were unable to attend the meeting due to personal circumstances.

## STDF SECRETARIAT

**Head:** Melvin Spreij  
**Assistant Head:** Marlynn Hopper  
Pablo Jenkins  
Roshan Khan  
Paola Michelutti  
Simon Padilla  
Catalina Pulido

**Consultant:** Elena Immambocus  
**Temporary staff:** Nazia Mohammed  
**Intern:** Angélica Cottica Grisuk  
**Intern:** Joaquín Landazuri Benitez  
**NTP intern:** Brenda Kabasinguzi

**Ms Pulido** joined the Secretariat in November 2019



# Risk management in 2019

General and specific risks and assumptions relevant to the Facility's operation for the period of the current mid-term strategy (2015-2019) are identified in the STDF's logical framework. In 2019, the Secretariat continued to take actions

to mitigate and/or manage the risks faced, building on previous experiences and lessons. Organizations implementing STDF projects and PPGs continue also play an essential role in risk management.

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk mitigation and management in 2019
Insufficient active participation in Working Group	MEDIUM	LOW	<p><b>Action to mitigate risk:</b> The Secretariat continued to encourage and facilitate participation in the Working Group. This included efforts to: pinpoint meeting dates well in advance, discuss the meeting agenda with the Chairperson, finalize and distribute all documents for consideration at least two to four weeks prior to the meetings, organize preparatory discussions with STDF partners and other members, and identify relevant topics and presenters for the agenda. Changes continued to be introduced to meetings (for example to the sharing of members experiences) in an effort to improve meeting quality and outcomes.</p> <p><b>Experience:</b> Effective and timely preparations by the Secretariat, combined with the efforts of the Working Group Chairperson and the active engagement of members, resulted in the delivery of two successful Working Group meetings in 2019, as planned.</p>
Insufficient number of high-quality PPG and project applications received by STDF	LOW	LOW	<p><b>Action to mitigate risk:</b> Ongoing efforts were made by the Secretariat and STDF members, via participation in external events, webinars, meetings and email communications, to share information on the STDF's funding opportunities and solicit eligible applications. The Secretariat continued to operate as a help-desk, providing guidance to applicants (by Skype and email), and made ongoing efforts to promote linkages between PPGs and donor programmes in an attempt to mobilize funding for projects resulting from PPGs.</p> <p><b>Experience:</b> In 2019, demand for STDF support to address SPS capacity needs and deliver safe trade solutions continued to be strong, with 43 new applications (16 projects and 27 PPGs) received in 2019. While less than the number of applications submitted the previous year, the quality of applications received was generally high.</p>
Insufficient funding available in STDF Trust Fund	HIGH	MEDIUM	<p><b>Action to mitigate risk:</b> The Secretariat continued to engage actively with existing and potential donors, including through meetings in Geneva wherever possible, and face-to-face information sessions in capitals for development agencies, as well as agriculture and trade ministries. Ongoing attention to communications, outreach and reporting, combined with attention to monitor and evaluate results and performance, supported fundraising efforts. STDF partners and developing country experts helped to make the case for ongoing support to the STDF Trust Fund.</p> <p><b>Experience:</b> Donor contributions in 2019 amounted to US\$5.94 million, exceeding the annual funding target of US\$5 million.</p>

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Risk mitigation and management in 2019
STDF Secretariat not fully staffed and operational	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	<p><b>Action to mitigate risk:</b> One temporary staff supported the STDF team from January to August 2019 until a Grade 6 vacancy was filled. Two interns (funded by the STDF budget) assisted the Secretariat team, each for six months plus an additional intern for 4 months through the Netherlands Trainee Programme. An external expert provided valuable support on implementation of the STDF's communications plan, as part of the 2019 work plan. An M&amp;E expert (provided by DFID) supported M&amp;E as part of the development of the STDF's new Strategy. Ongoing efforts were made to work innovatively and effectively, with more use of Skype for meetings and reliance on members to represent the STDF at external events wherever possible.</p> <p><b>Experience:</b> The STDF Secretariat continued to maximize the outputs and results delivered by its relatively small team, supported by STDF partners, donors and other members. The 2019 External Evaluation reported that the STDF Secretariat is "regarded as efficient, effective and responsive by founding partners, donors and other stakeholders" and "delivered outputs and results beyond what might be expected given their budget and resources".</p>
Implementation of STDF projects influenced by external conditions (i.e. political stability, national commitment to address SPS constraints, government support, allocation of resources, etc.)	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	<p><b>Action to mitigate risk:</b> Individual risks for new projects were assessed during the review of project applications, which include a section on risk identification and mitigation. The Secretariat maintained regular communications with project implementing organizations, beneficiary governments and other stakeholders to monitor and manage risks faced in projects, as relevant. Project progress reports were carefully analysed to ensure that risks were addressed.</p> <p><b>Experience:</b> Notable risks faced in projects in 2019 included political instability in Guinea (which delayed an inception workshop), forest fires in Australia (which led to travel delays for Australian experts leading on a regional project) and financial difficulties to transfer cash to project accounts in countries facing cash shortages. Ongoing efforts were taken by project implementing partners to address these risks and deliver on the project results. Final project reports and external evaluations show that STDF projects are relatively successful in managing risks and achieving the expected results.</p>



# Financials in 2019

Today, mobilizing resources for innovative projects, which have a big impact in the value chains, where many small-scale producers are involved, I believe is an important challenge. Given this, I would ask the donors, so that facilities such as STDF, that are working at an extremely important scale, can have even more funds.

**Babacar Samb, Director**, Cabinet Bioscope SARL and former STDF developing country expert

In 2019, developing countries continued to request assistance from the STDF to assist small-scale farmers, processors, traders and governments to meet international standards and facilitate safe trade. Demand remained high in terms of financing projects and PPGs, with a total of 43 applications received, including 16 project applications and 27 PPG applications.

## 2019 Funding highlights

6 NEW PROJECTS AND 7 NEW PPGS WERE APPROVED BY THE WORKING GROUP IN 2019, ABOVE THE TARGET OF 4 PROJECTS AND 4 PPGS PER YEAR.

71% OF RESOURCES FOR NEWLY APPROVED PROJECTS AND PPGS IN 2019 WILL BENEFIT LDCS AND OLICS, OVER AND ABOVE THE STDF TARGET OF 40%.

10 DONORS MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STDF TOTALLING US\$5,944,673.

The Facility welcomed donor support in 2019 to invest in safe, inclusive trade and development outcomes in support of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Contributions were received from Australia, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. All donors, except for Ireland, provided contributions as part of multi-annual agreements.

While the total value of donor contributions in 2019 was 11% lower than the amount received in 2018, it exceeded the amount estimated (US\$4,895,160) for delivery of the annual work plan.

## Donor contributions in 2019

Donor	Amount (US\$)
<b>Australia</b> Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	<b>361,927</b>
<b>Denmark</b> Danish International Development Agency	<b>589,088</b>
<b>European Commission</b> European Aid Cooperation Office (EuropeAid)	<b>666,265</b>
<b>France</b> Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances and Ministère de l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation	<b>163,404</b>
<b>Ireland</b> Irish Aid	<b>166,566</b>
<b>The Netherlands</b> Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (Aid for Trade)	<b>577,309</b>
<b>Norway</b> Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<b>706,403</b>
<b>Sweden</b> Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	<b>1,104,674</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b> Department for International Development (DFID)	<b>806,978</b>
<b>United States</b> US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA)	<b>802,108</b>
<b>Total (US\$)</b>	<b>5,944,673</b>



# Financials in 2019

## 2019 Expenditures

Total STDF expenditures amounted to US\$4,747,116 in 2019, which was 3% lower than the estimated total (US\$4,895,160) in the budget estimate attached to STDF's work plan for 2019.

Planned expenditures for 2019 were mostly exceeded in both the external project evaluations (+42%) and PPG funding (+29%) categories, with some additional spending on staffing (+10%) reflecting the increased workload in the Secretariat. Areas of higher than expected spending in 2019 included a payment of US\$90,343 for the external evaluation of the STDF, which was deferred from 2018 until 2019.

Spending under Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and Good practice to support SPS capacity building was 42% and 28% less than estimated, respectively. While work advanced on Good Regulatory Practice and Public-Private-Partnerships, some activities were carried over to 2020 with expenditures lower than expected. Savings occurred on developing country experts' travel costs, as some experts were unable to attend the Working Group for personal reasons. Spending was slightly less than planned on the Strategy development workshops, with WTO covering 50% of the facilitator's fee and the STDF payment carried over to 2020. Other underspending occurred in the production of new STDF film material following suspension of the film company's contract by the WTO.

Other minor changes, compared to the budget estimate, included two missions to East Africa related to STDF knowledge work on P-IMA (US\$8,342), and travel and other costs related to the organization of three STDF information sessions in Geneva (US\$13,132).

Efforts were made to achieve resource efficiencies, including with STDF partners and donors covering the cost of STDF Secretariat participation in selected external events.

Estimated and actual expenditures in 2019 are shown below, with detailed information in Annex 2.

## Estimated and actual expenditures in 2019

Output	Estimate (US\$)	Actual (US\$)	Variation (%)
Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and dialogue among relevant stakeholders promoted	67,800	39,058	-42%
Good practice to support SPS capacity building identified and disseminated	779,700	560,631	-28%
Needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals produced	505,675	599,501	19%
SPS capacity building projects in specific areas supported	3,036,875	2,998,958	-1%
Other operating costs (including implementation of M&E framework and Communications Plan)	505,110	548,967	-9%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>4,895,160</b>	<b>4,747,116</b>	<b>-3%</b>

STDF's final balance at the end of 2019 is shown in the table below. Deducting total expenditures, contracted commitments of US\$6,107,720 for ongoing PPGs and projects, and uncontracted

commitments of US\$3,486,754, the STDF showed a negative balance of US\$164,966 as of 31 December 2019.

## STDF's financial balance at the end of 2019

Category	Amount in US\$
Opening balance as at 1 January 2019	8,251,992
Contributions in 2019	5,944,673
Interest on investments	-20,041
Total Funds	14,176,624
Total expenditures	4,747,116
Contracted commitments	6,107,720
Balance in favour of Donors	3,321,788
Uncontracted commitments (corresponding to 6 PPGs and 4 projects approved in 2019 and not contracted as of 31 December 2019)	3,486,754
<b>Final Balance</b>	<b>-164,966</b>



# STDF outreach in 2019

STDFSecretariat@wto.org 

standardsfacility.org 

#STDF 



## WEBSITE

# 32,000

Close to 32,000 sessions logged  
(up by over 27% from 2018)

## TOP PAGES

Homepage, Projects and PPGs,  
STDF at a glance

P-IMA page saw a 188%  
jump in views

GRP page saw a 28%  
jump in views

SPS e-Cert page saw  
a 19% jump in views

# 87%

of all website visitors were  
new visitors (new user sessions  
up by nearly 38% from 2018)



## USERS CAME FROM 209 COUNTRIES

**24%** from Europe

**23%** from Asia-Pacific

**22%** from North America

**18%** from Africa

**13%** from South America,  
Central America, Caribbean

## TOP DOWNLOADS

Project guidance note; Project  
design manual; STDF Standard  
Presentation; PPG Application  
Form; STDF Annual Report 2018;  
PG Application Form; 2018 STDF  
External Evaluation Report;  
P-IMA Guide.



# 13,500 pdf

publications downloaded  
(up by nearly 4% from 2018)



## YOUTUBE

# 21,500

Over 21,500 views  
(up by 24% from 2018)

## NEW VIDEOS

Investing in Safe Trade film and  
series of 10 interviews



## WATCH TIME

# 72,000

minutes  
(up by nearly 79% from 2018)

# 174

new subscribers

## MOST VIEWED PLAYLISTS

Cocoa: a sweet value chain;

Building capacity of small-scale  
shrimp and prawn farmers; How  
safe is Africa's food; Investing in  
Safe Trade; Safe Trade Solutions.



## E-NEWS

# 14

News items went out to

# 5,000

SUBSCRIBERS

(up from 10 e-news in 2018)

## PUBLICATIONS

STDF Annual Report 2018  
STDF Briefings - Trade spillover  
effects: the impact on domestic  
food safety, Driving better  
decision-making: Prioritizing SPS  
investments for market access  
(P-IMA)



## STDF EVENTS

Strengthening the control  
of transboundary diseases  
in Cameroon

Investing in SPS capacity matters  
for safe trade and sustainable  
development

Global action on meeting pesticide  
standards for export

## EXTERNAL EVENTS

# 7,000+

SPS stakeholders reached at over  
80 events in Africa, Asia-Pacific,  
Latin America and the Caribbean

# 6,750+

copies of STDF publications and  
briefings distributed

## FIND OUT MORE AND GET INVOLVED



Access SPS information and tools  
at standardsfacility.org



Browse SPS resources in the  
online Library



View good practice films on STDF's  
YouTube channel



Sign up for updates through  
STDF's e-news



Share experiences and lessons  
at STDF's Working Group



# Snapshot of STDF in the news

## CABI

[News update on STDF fruits and vegetables project in Uganda](#)  
(December 2019)

## EIF

[Impact story on STDF/EIF ginger project in Nepal](#)  
(August 2019)

## Food Business Africa

[News update on STDF P-IMA project in COMESA](#)  
(January 2019)

## GIZ

[Newsletter item on STDF P-IMA project in COMESA](#)  
(March 2019)

[Newsletter item on STDF Investing in Safe Trade film](#)  
(November 2019)

[Newsletter item on evaluation of STDF global MRLs projects](#)  
(December 2019)

## IPPC

[News update on STDF Working Group](#)  
(March 2019)

[Newsletter item on STDF ePhyto project](#)  
(July 2019)

[News update on STDF, P-IMA and capacity development](#)  
(October 2019)

## ITC

[Feature on STDF fruit and vegetable project in Sri Lanka](#)  
(March 2019)

[Feature on STDF oilseeds project in Myanmar](#)  
(September 2019)

## SIDA

[Case story on STDF/EIF ginger project in Nepal](#)  
(September 2019)

## WTO

[News item featuring STDF's role in food safety and trade](#)  
(February 2019)

[News item on STDF external evaluation](#)  
(July 2019)



# STDF on the ground in 2019

 STDF meetings

 STDF at WTO events, Geneva

## February

**12 - 13** FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**13** [WTO Advanced Trade Policy Course](#)

**19** STDF Project "Improving compliance to boost oilseeds exports" Final Workshop, Yangon, Myanmar

**19** WBG Seminar on Border Agency Collaboration, Geneva

**19** [WTO Accessions Rules Seminar](#)

**22** [WTO Informal Working Group on MSMEs](#)

**26-28** GFSI Global Food Safety Conference, Nice, France

**25** G2G and G2B Food Safety Meetings, Nice, France

## March

**4-5** CLDP Workshop on SPS Agreement, Baku, Azerbaijan

**5** Commonwealth Small States Information Session, Geneva

**12-13** STDF Working Group, Geneva

**13-14** STDF Strategy Workshop, Geneva

**18** [WTO SPS Committee Session on Equivalence](#)

**20** STDF Information Session on Transboundary Animal Diseases in Cameroon Geneva

**20** AU Continental SPS Committee for Africa, Geneva

**28** FAO World Livestock Report Launch, Geneva

## April

**1-5** IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, Rome, Italy

**2-3** OIE Global Burden of Animal Diseases, Paris, France

**2-5** STDF Project "Promoting IT solutions for surveillance and pest reporting" Steering Committee Manila, The Philippines

**10 - 12** Australia-led Quarantine Regulators Meeting, Panama City, Panama

**11** STDF Meetings with SIDA and Swedish Government, Stockholm, Sweden

**12** STDF Meetings with Swedish Trade Academy, National Board of Trade, Stockholm, Sweden

**23-24** International Forum on Food Safety and Trade, Geneva

**29** STDF Presentation to World Economic Forum, Geneva

## May

**6 - 10** APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum, Viña del Mar, Chile

**8** UNCTAD Multi-year Expert Meeting on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation, Geneva

**13** [WTO Trade Policy Course for LDCs](#)

**14** [STDF-SPS Seminar for journalists from Africa and Asia](#)

**16** [WTO-STDF eLearning Session](#)

**21** [WTO Committee on Trade and Development - Aid for Trade Session](#)

**26 - 31** OIE General Session, Paris, France

## June

**4** STDF Information Session for WBG Washington, USA

**5-6** STDF Meetings with USDA, US FDA, USAID, IDB, GFSP and GMA, Washington, USA

**11** [STDF Presentation to WTO NTP Interns](#)

**17** STDF Policy Committee, Geneva

**18-19** STDF Strategy Workshop, Geneva

**18** [WTO Advanced Trade Policy Course](#)

**21** AU - EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference Rome, Italy

**24 - 26** CAREC Regional SPS Working Group and Regional Trade Group Meeting, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**24 - 27** STDF COMESA Project: P-IMA Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya

**25** WTO Trade Facilitation Committee

**27** COCERAL- GAFTA Digitalisation of the Commodity Trade, Geneva

**27** [STDF-SPS Seminar for Latin American journalists](#)

**27 - 28** [WTO Agriculture Symposium](#)

## July

**4** AfT Global Review - COMESA Side-Event on Regional Trade, Geneva

**4** AfT Global Review - STDF Session on Investing in SPS Capacity, Geneva

**10** WBG Learning Event for Client Countries, The Hague, The Netherlands

**11 - 12** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands: Seminar Trade for Development Policy and Practice, The Hague, The Netherlands

**12** [WTO Sub-Committee on Least Developed Countries](#)

**15 - 16** [WTO SPS Committee Workshop on Transparency and Coordination](#)

**17** [WTO SPS Advanced Course Follow-up](#)

**22 - 23** STDF Project "Improving Sanitary Capacity to Facilitate Livestock and Meat Products" Steering Committee, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**23** STDF Meeting with FAO, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**29** STDF Project "Reduction of aflatoxin contamination in maize" Inception Workshop, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

## September

**2-6** FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

**17 - 18** Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum, New Delhi, India

**23-27** FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia, Goa, India

## October

**8-11** [WTO Public Forum](#)

**8** IPPC Strategic Planning Group Seminar, Rome, Italy

**10** UNIDO Arab Task Force on Food Safety Technical Workshop, Amman, Jordan

**11** CAADP Development Partners Coordination Group, (Virtual)

**15** STDF Strategy Workshop, Geneva

**16-17** STDF Working Group Geneva

**18** [WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility Workshop](#)



# STDF on the ground in 2019

- STDF meetings
- STDF at WTO events, Geneva

**21-25** FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile

**22 - 28** STDF Project "Improving SPS Capacity in the Penja Pepper Value Chain" Inception Workshop, Douala, Cameroon

**25** WTO Advanced Trade Policy Course

**28 - 15** WTO SPS Advanced Course

**29** WTO Informal Working Group on MSMEs

## November

**5** WTO Committee on Trade and Development

**7** STDF Information Session on Evaluation of Global MRL Projects, Geneva

**7 - 8** WTO SPS Committee

**12 - 15** STDF ePhyto Project Technical Committee and Steering Group, Washington DC, USA

**19 - 20** Regional P-IMA Workshop with TradeMark East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

**19 - 21** IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, Rome, Italy

**20** UNECE - FAO Conference on Food (Waste) for Thought, Geneva

**22** COLEACP Consultative Committee, Brussels, Belgium

**27 - 29** STDF Meetings with Australia and New Zealand, Canberra, Australia and Wellington, New Zealand

## December

**2 - 6** WBG Workshop on Border Risk Management, Auckland, New Zealand

**9 - 11** UN ESCAP Subregional Workshop on Non-tariff Measures, Baku, Azerbaijan



# STDF global partnership

## Founding Partners



## Including

**CODEX**  
Codex Alimentarius Commission Secretariat

**IPPC**  
International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat

## Donors in 2018-2019

Government agencies for agriculture, development, food, foreign affairs and trade in:

Australia	Finland	Norway
Canada	France	Sweden
Denmark	Germany	United Kingdom
European Commission	Ireland	United States
	The Netherlands	

## Developing Country Experts

Over 30 experts on food safety, animal and plant health, and trade from more than 30 countries in:

### AFRICA

Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

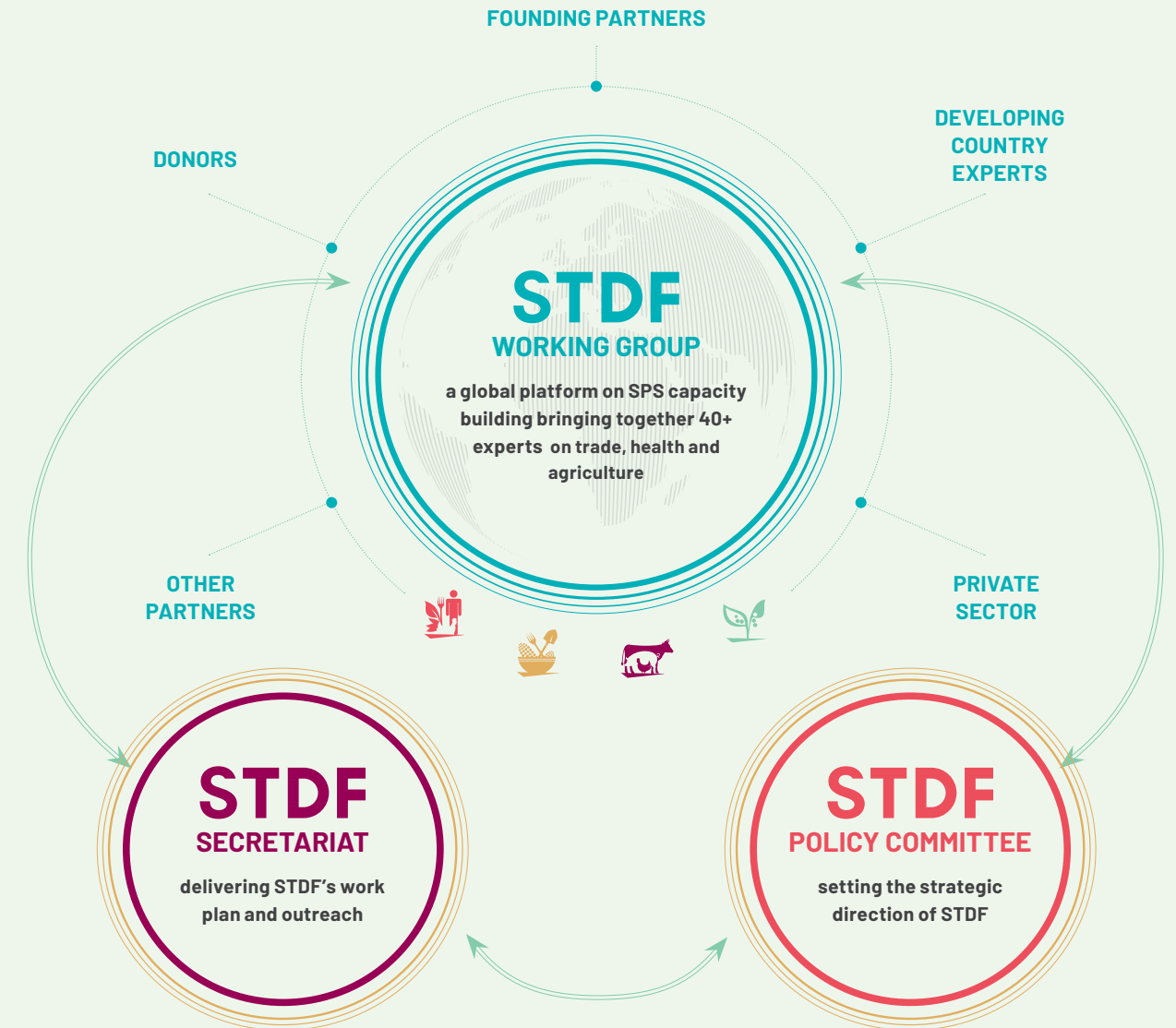
### ASIA-PACIFIC

India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, Vanuatu

### LATIN AMERICA

### AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Uruguay



### Other Partners

AUC	OECD
CABI	OIRSA
COLEACP	SSAFE
EIF	UNCTAD
GFSI	UNIDO
IICA	WCO
ITC	

### Project Partners from the public and private sector

- Developing country government agencies
- Regional and international organizations
- NGOs
- Universities and research institutes
- Industry associations
- Private sector companies

### STDF's wider network includes

ADB	COSAVE	PACA
AfDB	EAC	PAHO
ATF	ECOWAS	PHAMA
ASEAN	FIA	PIFS
AU-IBAR	FFM	SAARC
BTSF	FSCF	SADC
CAADP	GDPRD	UN DESA
CAHNSA	GFSP	UNDP
CARICOM	GMUF	UNECE
CBD	ICCO	UNESCAP
CITES	IDB	WAEMU
COMESA	IFPRI	WEF



# Glossary

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area
<b>AfDB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AFVE</b>	Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises
<b>AGROSAVIA</b>	Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria
<b>APAARI</b>	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
<b>ARC</b>	Agricultural Research Council (South Africa)
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>ASEANET</b>	ASEAN Network on Taxonomy
<b>ATF</b>	Arab Task Force on Food Safety
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>AU-IBAR</b>	African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
<b>BESST</b>	Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade
<b>BTSF</b>	Better Training for Safer Food
<b>CAADP</b>	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
<b>CABI</b>	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
<b>CAHFSA</b>	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
<b>CAREC</b>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>CIAT</b>	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
<b>CLDP</b>	Commercial Law Development Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce
<b>COLEACP</b>	Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>COSAVE</b>	Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur
<b>DAC</b>	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>DTIS</b>	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EIF</b>	Enhanced Integrated Framework

<b>EIF NIU</b>	EIF National Implementation Unit
<b>ESPOL</b>	Escuela Politécnica del Litoral Ecuador
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FIA</b>	Food Industry Asia
<b>GAP</b>	Good Agricultural Practice
<b>GDPRD</b>	Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
<b>GFSI</b>	Global Food Safety Initiative
<b>GFSP</b>	Global Food Safety Partnership
<b>GHP</b>	Good Hygiene Practice
<b>GI</b>	Geographical Indication
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
<b>GMUF</b>	Global Minor Use Foundation
<b>GRP</b>	Good regulatory practice
<b>GVCs</b>	Global value chains
<b>HACCP</b>	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
<b>HORTEXA</b>	Horticulture Exporters Association of Uganda
<b>ICCO</b>	International Cocoa Organization
<b>ICL</b>	Imperial College London
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communications technology
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IDELE</b>	French Livestock Institute
<b>IFPRI</b>	International Food Policy Research Institute
<b>IICA</b>	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
<b>IITA</b>	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
<b>ILRI</b>	International Livestock Research Institute
<b>IPPC</b>	International Plant Protection Convention
<b>IR-4</b>	Interregional Research Project No.4 (USDA)
<b>IT</b>	Information technology
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>JMPR</b>	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues
<b>LDCs</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>LMICs</b>	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories
<b>LFVPPPEA</b>	Lanka Fruit & Vegetable Producers, Processors and Exporters Association (Sri Lanka)
<b>LPI</b>	Logistics Performance Index
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation

<b>MRLs</b>	Maximum Residue Limits
<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
<b>MSTRD</b>	Myanmar Scientific and Technological Research Department
<b>NARO</b>	Uganda National Agricultural Research Organization
<b>NIGIP</b>	New Guinea Islands Produce Company Limited
<b>NPPD</b>	National Plant Protection Organization
<b>NTP</b>	The Netherlands Trainee Programme
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>OIE</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>OIRSA</b>	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
<b>OLICs</b>	Other Low Income Countries
<b>PACA</b>	Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa
<b>PAEPARD</b>	Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>PCE</b>	Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation
<b>PG</b>	Project Grant
<b>PHAMA</b>	Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program
<b>PIFS</b>	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
<b>P-IMA</b>	Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access
<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>PPG</b>	Project Preparation Grant
<b>PPPs</b>	Public-Private Partnerships
<b>PVS</b>	Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services
<b>SAARC</b>	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
<b>SADC</b>	Southern Africa Development Community
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>SME</b>	Small and medium-sized enterprise
<b>SNPV DS</b>	National Service for the Protection of Plants and Stored Foodstuffs
<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
<b>SSAFE</b>	Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
<b>STDF</b>	Standards and Trade Development Facility

<b>TMEA</b>	TradeMark East Africa
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNCEFACT</b>	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>UNESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UNICC</b>	United Nations International Computing Centre
<b>UMICs</b>	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>US FDA</b>	United States Food and Drug Administration
<b>WAEMU</b>	West African Economic and Monetary Union
<b>WASI</b>	Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (Viet Nam)
<b>WBG</b>	World Bank Group
<b>WCO</b>	World Customs Organization
<b>WEF</b>	World Economic Forum
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization
<b>WCO</b>	World Customs Organization

# Annex 1 STDF Logical Framework

## Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2019)

**Vision:** Sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection in developing countries

**Programme goal:** Increased capacity of developing countries to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations and hence ability to gain and maintain market access

Indicator	Progress in 2019	Baseline and target
OUTCOME: ENHANCED EFFECTIVENESS OF SPS CAPACITY BUILDING		
Output 1 Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and dialogue among relevant stakeholders promoted		
Perceived value of STDF partners and other WG members/observers with relevance and effectiveness of STDF activities and projects/PPGs	Positive feedback shared in WG meetings, as part of Strategy development process and in STDF external evaluation	At least 80% of respondents report a satisfaction rate corresponding to 4 or higher on a 5 grade scale
Documented cases of collaborative/cross-cutting/innovative/regional approaches to capacity building facilitated by STDF activities and projects/PPGs	5 collaborative cases identified	At least three new cases identified annually
Number and type of participants in WG	51 participants at WG meeting in March and 58 in October. Summary reports and other information shared on STDF website	At least 30 participants attending each WG meeting, including partners
Number and type of presentations made in WG (including reports by partners, donors, observer organizations and beneficiaries)	1 presentation in March and 3 in October, with additional information on SPS capacity building work by STDF Working Group members shared on STDF website	Minimum of one presentation in each WG

Activities 2019	M&E activities planned 2019	Individual assumptions and risks	General assumption
			<p>Ongoing interest, engagement and support of partners, other members/ observers and beneficiaries to participate actively in STDF and share information.</p> <p>Sufficient funding available in STDF Trust Fund and STDF Secretariat fully staffed and operational</p> <p>Other necessary conditions exist (i.e. political stability, national commitment to address SPS constraints, government support, allocation of resources, etc.)</p>
Circulate survey as part of Strategy development process (June 2019)	Prepare and circulate survey (Nov/ Dec 2019) to STDF partners and other WG members/observers - to feed in 2019 Annual Report	Good response rate to survey	
Ongoing exchange among WG members	Identify and maintain list of relevant cases - including in WG meetings and through external project evaluations - to feed into 2019 Annual Report	Capacity building providers and beneficiaries willing to consider, apply and use new approaches	
Organize and report on 2 WG meetings	Document 2 WG meetings (reports, presentations)	Active participation in WG	
Organize and share presentations Facilitate information dissemination and exchange in WG meetings	Monitor feedback receive	Active participation in WG	



# Annex 1: STDF Logical Framework

Indicator	Progress in 2019	Baseline and target
Output 2 Good practice to support SPS capacity building identified and disseminated		
Number of thematic topics	<p><b>Ongoing work on 5 knowledge topics:</b> Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access (P-IMA); Facilitating safe trade; Good Regulatory Practice; Public Private Partnerships; SPS e-Cert</p> <p><b>New STDF Briefing notes on:</b> Trade Spillovers (April 2019); P-IMA (January 2019);</p> <p>Investing in Safe Trade film and series of 10 interviews</p>	Minimum of one thematic topic addressed annually
Number of visitors to STDF website and number of STDF e-newsletter recipients	Close to 32,000 website sessions logged (up by over 27% from 2018); 13,500 pdf publications downloaded (up by nearly 4% from 2018); Over 21,500 YouTube views (up by 24% from 2018); 14 News items went out to 5000+ subscribers (up from 10 in 2018)	Baseline to be specified. Target is to have at least a stable number of visits and recipients over longer time-period.
Number of external events attended by the STDF Secretariat	STDF participation in 80 events	Minimum of ten events attended annually
Output 3 Needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals produced		
Number of project preparation grants (PPGs) completed with satisfactory outputs	6 PPGs completed with satisfactory outputs  7 PPGs approved in 2019  Support and oversee 19 ongoing PPGs in 2019	At least 70% of PPGs having satisfactory output
Output 4 SPS capacity building projects in specific areas supported		
Number of projects completed with satisfactory outputs (as per individual results framework)	2 projects completed in 2019 with individual outputs achieved; 6 new projects approved in 2019; Support and oversee 28 ongoing projects in 2019; 3 external evaluations (covering 5 projects)	At least 70% of specific outputs achieved for each individual project

Activities 2019	M&E activities planned 2019	Individual assumptions and risks	General assumption
<p><b>Address four topics:</b></p> <p>Evaluate and monitor use of STDF P-IMA guide; Conduct work on Good Regulatory Practice; Follow up on PPP work, Produce new STDF film material</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Document thematic topics (publications, reports, film, briefing notes)</li> <li>2. Discuss and agree on new thematic topics in WG</li> </ol>	Agreement in WG on priorities for thematic work	
<p>Maintain and enhance website &amp; Virtual Library</p> <p>Prepare and regularly distribute electronic news items</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use specified baseline (numbers on 31 Dec 2014) to measure number over time</li> <li>2. Report on use of website, Virtual Library and E-news (statistics)</li> </ol>	Website attractive and regularly updated	
Participate in selected events (including related to STDF PPGs/ projects)	Report on external events (back-to-office memos)	STDF Secretariat receives invitations to external events, including from partners	
Implement ongoing PPGs	1. Develop and circulate end-of-PPG questionnaire to applicant/beneficiary	Sufficient number of high-quality PPG applications received by STDF.	
Approve at least 4 new PPGs	2. Assess final PPG reports, studies and project proposals	Specific assumptions of relevance to individual PPGs	
Implement ongoing projects	1. Assess final project reports, including end-of-project evaluations	Sufficient number of high-quality project applications received by STDF.	
Approve at least 4 new projects	2. Select, contract and implement two independent "ex post" evaluations	Specific assumptions of relevance to individual projects	

## Annex 2: Estimated and actual expenditures in 2019

Output	Activity	Estimate US\$	Actual Expenditure US\$	Variation
Information among providers of SPS capacity building exchanged and dialogue among relevant stakeholders promoted	STDF Working Group meetings (travel of six developing country experts, one presenter, subsistence allowances and other costs)	60,000	34,565	-42%
	Sub-total	60,000	34,565	-42%
Good practice to support SPS capacity building identified and disseminated	Promote, monitor and evaluate use of the P-IMA guide	0	8,342	100%
	Conduct work on GRP	50,000	5,060	-90%
	Follow-up work on PPPs	150,000	0	-100%
	Produce new STDF film material	100,000	54,823	-45%
	Staffing to support thematic activities (one Grade 8, one Grade 7)	390,000	427,909	10%
	Sub-total	690,000	496,133	-28%
Needs assessments, feasibility studies and project proposals produced	Advice and support to applicants and review of project and PPG applications	0	0	-
	PPGs contracted (average US\$50,000)	200,000	258,974	29%
	Staffing to support project development (50% of one Grade 8, 50% of one Grade 7 and 50% of one Grade 6)	247,500	271,557	10%
	Sub-total	447,500	530,532	19%
SPS capacity building projects in specific areas supported	Projects contracted (average US\$600,000)	2,400,000	2,325,443	-3%
	Independent evaluations of completed projects	40,000	56,945	42%
	Staffing to support project implementation (50% of one Grade 8, 50% of one Grade 7 and 50% of one Grade 6)	247,500	271,557	10%
	Sub-total	2,687,500	2,653,945	-1%

Output	Activity	Estimate US\$	Actual Expenditure US\$	Variation
Communications plan	Implementation of communication strategy/plan (expertise)	65,000	64,759	0
	Communication and outreach materials (annual report, results book, briefing notes, e-news, maintain STDF website and library etc.)	40,000	31,560	-21%
	Participate in selected events, liaise with other relevant organizations, partnerships, programmes and initiatives	100,000	98,417	-2%
	Organization of STDF events/sessions in Geneva	0	13,132	100%
M&E framework	Implementation of M&E framework (expertise)	10,000	0	-100%
Strategy development	STDF Policy Committee Meetings (developing country expert travel)	30,000	16,569	-45%
	External facilitator for development of new STDF strategy (up to 10 days)	20,000	0	-100%
	Preparatory meeting for STDF Strategy (travel of up to ten developing country experts, subsistence allowances and other costs)	30,000	16,569	-45%
	External Evaluation of the STDF	0	90,343	100%
Administrative support	Administrative assistant	130,000	142,636	10%
	Interns	22,000	11,827	-46%
	Sub-total	447,000	485,812	-9%
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,332,000</b>	<b>4,200,988</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Administrative overhead (13%)*		563,160	546,128	-
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4,895,160</b>	<b>4,747,116</b>	<b>-3%</b>



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