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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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ACTIVITIES OF THE SPS COMMITTEE AND OTHER RELEVANT WTO ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY 2008 UNTIL APRIL 2009

Report by the WTO Secretariat¹

1. This report to the 32nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission provides a summary of the activities and decisions of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the "SPS Committee") from January 2008 until April 2009. It identifies the work of relevance to the Codex, including specific trade concerns, transparency, equivalence, monitoring the use of international standards, technical assistance, review, and private and commercial standards. The report also includes relevant information on geographical indications and on dispute settlement, which occurred outside the context of the SPS Committee. A separate report is provided regarding the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

Work of the SPS Committee

2. The SPS Committee held three regular meetings in 2008: on 2-3 April, 24-25 June and 8-9 October. The first meeting of 2009 took place on 25-26 February.²
3. The SPS Committee's upcoming meetings are scheduled for 23-24 June and 28-29 October 2009.
4. At the April 2008 meeting, Mr. Marinus Huige of the Netherlands was re-appointed Chairperson for one more year. Pursuant to consultations among WTO Members, as of June 2009, Ms. Miriam Chaves of Argentina will be confirmed as the new Chair of the SPS Committee.

Specific Trade Concerns

5. The SPS Committee devotes a large portion of each regular meeting to the consideration of specific trade concerns. Any WTO Member can raise specific concerns about the food safety, plant or animal health requirements imposed by another WTO Member. Issues raised in this context are usually related to the notification of a new or changed measure, or based on the experience of exporters. Often other countries will share the same concerns. At the SPS Committee meetings, Members usually commit themselves to exchange information and hold bilateral consultations to resolve the identified concern.
6. A summary of the specific trade concerns raised in meetings of the SPS Committee is compiled on an annual basis by the WTO Secretariat.³ Altogether, 277 specific trade concerns were raised in the fourteen years between 1995 and the end of 2008, of which 28 per cent were related to food safety.

¹ This report has been prepared under the WTO Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of WTO Members or to their rights or obligations under the WTO.

² The report of the April 2008 meeting is contained in G/SPS/R/49 and Corr.1, that of the June 2008 meeting in G/SPS/R/51 and Corr.1, and that of the October 2008 meeting in G/SPS/R/53. The report of the February 2009 meeting is contained in G/SPS/R/54.

7. Sixteen new specific trade concerns were raised during 2008, thirteen previously raised concerns were again discussed, and four concerns were reported to have been resolved.

8. The following food safety issues were raised for the first time in 2008 or during the February 2009 meeting:

- Ecuador's concerns regarding modification of the EC maximum residue levels of Ethephon in pineapple;
- Brazil's concerns regarding Malaysia's price list for reimbursement of expenses for inspection missions;
- EC concerns regarding requirements by certain governments for diplomatic ratification of sanitary and phytosanitary certificates;
- US concerns regarding Japan's enforcement of regulations on maximum residue levels;
- Senegal's concerns regarding EC restrictions on mango exports due to alleged pesticide residues;
- US concerns with Chinese Taipei's maximum residue levels for ractopamine in pork products;
- Ecuador's concerns about the failure of the European Communities to establish tolerance levels for residues of various pesticides used in cacao;
- EC concerns with US import restrictions on EC dairy products; and
- Mexico's concerns with China's hygienic standard for distilled spirits and integrated alcoholic beverages.

9. Issues relating to food safety that had been previously raised and were discussed again in 2008 or February 2009 included:

- US concerns regarding El Salvador's zero tolerance for salmonella in poultry and eggs;
- Colombia's, Ecuador's, and Peru's concerns on the application and modification of the EC regulation on novel foods and its effects on traditional foods;
- US concerns regarding the EC's restrictions on US poultry exports due to use of antimicrobial treatments;
- China's concerns regarding US and EC restrictions on cooked poultry products due to avian influenza and hygiene issues;
- EC concerns regarding restrictions imposed on meat exports for BSE-related reasons; and
- Canada's concerns regarding Greek inspection of grain imports for the presence of GM wheat.

10. At the SPS Committee meeting in October 2008, China's concern regarding EC restrictions on cooked poultry products due to avian influenza and hygiene issues was reported to have been resolved. Also, in February 2009, the concern of the United States regarding Panama's inspection regime for food processing establishments, which was first raised in 2005, was reported to have been resolved.

Transparency

11. In June 2007, a new information management system (SPS IMS) was made public that allows easier management of all WTO SPS-related documentation.⁴

12. On 30 May 2008, the Committee adopted revised recommended procedures for transparency (G/SPS/7/Rev.3). The new procedures, *inter alia*, clarify the definition of the comment period, encourage the notification of measures conforming to international standards, and provide links for access to full texts of regulations and their translations. The new transparency procedures, including the use of the new notification formats, took effect on 1 December 2008. These new changes have been integrated into the SPS IMS.

13. The legal obligation of WTO Members is to notify new or modified SPS measures when these deviate from the relevant international standards, including Codex standards for food safety. The new recommendations of the SPS Committee, however, encourage the notification of all new or modified measures even when these conform to international standards. Although this new recommendation does not

³ The latest version of this summary can be found in document G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.9 and addenda. This document is a public document available from <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

⁴ <http://spsims.wto.org>

change the legal obligations of WTO Members, it is expected that it will enhance transparency regarding the application of Codex food safety standards.

14. A total of 1,271 notifications of new or proposed SPS measures were submitted to the WTO in 2008. 470 regular notifications and 59 emergency notifications identified food safety as the objective of the measure being taken. Of these, 120 of the regular and 7 of the emergency notifications identified a Codex standard as relevant.

Equivalence

15. In July 2004, the SPS Committee completed its work on guidelines on the implementation of Article 4 of the SPS Agreement on equivalence in response to concerns raised by developing countries.⁵ The Decision on Equivalence adopted by the SPS Committee notes, *inter alia*, the work on recognition of equivalence undertaken in the Codex, the OIE and the IPPC, and requests the further elaboration of specific guidance by these organizations to ensure that such recognition is maintained. Equivalence remains a standing agenda item of the Committee.

16. The Codex representative has provided regular updates to the SPS Committee on Codex work in this regard.

17. In June 2008, the Dominican Republic notified that since November 2006 it had recognized the equivalence of USDA inspection systems for products and by-products of bovine animals, swine and poultry.

18. In February 2009, Brazil and Norway reported that a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed in 2003 between the two countries on Technical, Hygienic and Sanitary Requirements for the Recognition of Equivalence of Inspection and Quality Control Related to Fish and Aquaculture Products. This MOU had taken into account the SPS and TBT Agreements as well as Codex standards and had facilitated trade between the two countries.

Monitoring the Use of International Standards

19. The procedure adopted by the SPS Committee to monitor the use of international standards invites countries to identify specific trade problems they have experienced due to the use or non-use of relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations.⁶ These problems, once considered by the SPS Committee, are drawn to the attention of the relevant standard-setting body.

20. In June 2008 the Committee adopted the Tenth Annual Report on the procedure to monitor the use of international standards as modified.⁷ No new or previously raised issue regarding food safety was discussed under this agenda item during the course of 2008. Several Members have suggested that this procedure may need to be revised in the future, in light of information that may be provided through the modified notification procedures regarding the use of international standards.

Technical Assistance

21. At each of its meetings, the SPS Committee has solicited information from countries regarding their technical assistance needs and activities. The representative of Codex has provided regular updates to the Committee on relevant activities of the FAO and the WHO and of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund. The WTO Secretariat has acknowledged the Codex Secretariat's continued support in contributing knowledge and expertise to the WTO's regional technical assistance activities.

22. In February 2009, the Secretariat presented its report entitled "SPS Technical Assistance and Training Activities", containing detailed information on all SPS-specific technical assistance activities undertaken by the WTO Secretariat from 1 September 1994 to 31 December 2008.⁸

23. To meet demands for more advanced SPS technical assistance and training activities, a two-week specialized course has been developed and offered by the WTO since 2005. The fourth of these was held in October 2008, and the fifth course, to be offered in Spanish, is scheduled for 12-13 October 2009.

Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement

⁵ G/SPS/19/Rev.2.

⁶ G/SPS/11/Rev.1.

⁷ G/SPS/49.

⁸ G/SPS/GEN/521/Rev.4.

24. The Committee is now mandated to review the operation and implementation of the Agreement every four years. The Second Review of the Agreement was completed in July 2005.⁹ At its October 2008 meeting, the Committee adopted a procedure and timetable to undertake the Third Review of the Agreement.¹⁰ The WTO Secretariat has prepared a background document for the Third Review, which includes information through to the end of 2008.¹¹

25. The Second Review report covers a wide number of areas related to implementation of the Agreement. For example, it recommends that the relevant international organizations keep the Committee informed of any work they undertake with regard to the recognition of equivalence, as well as their activities relevant to the recognition of pest- or disease-free areas or areas of low pest or disease prevalence. The report recommends that the Committee continue to monitor the use of international standards at each of its regular meetings.

26. With respect to the relationship of the SPS Committee with the IPPC, OIE and Codex, WTO Members were interested to clarify the respective roles of each of these bodies. The relationship of the SPS Committee with the three sister organizations was relevant for the consideration of a number of other issues, including regionalization and monitoring of the use of international standards. During the June meeting, Japan proposed that the Committee organize a workshop on the standard-setting procedures of the Codex, OIE and IPPC.¹² A special Workshop has been scheduled for October 2009 to examine the work of these organizations and how to enhance the relationship between them and the SPS Committee. The draft program for this Workshop is contained in G/SPS/W/235.

27. During the April 2008 meeting, Chile noted that none of the three sister organizations had effective mechanisms to monitor the application of international standards by Members. With the adoption of the new recommended procedures on transparency, the SPS Committee is expected to have more information regarding the use of international standards through SPS notifications.

Private and Commercial Standards

28. Since June 2005, the SPS Committee has discussed the issue of private and commercial standards on a number of occasions. The issue was initially raised by St. Vincent and the Grenadines with regard to EurepGAP (now GlobalGAP) requirements on pesticides used on bananas destined for sale in European markets.

29. In October 2006 and in June 2007, informal information sessions were held in the margins of the SPS Committee meetings. A number of international organizations working on the issue of private standards, including OECD and UNCTAD, as well as a number of private standardizing groups, including GlobalGAP, provided information regarding commercial and private standards. WTO Members have raised a number of concerns regarding the trade, development and legal implications of private standards.

30. In July 2008, the Chairman of the SPS Committee solicited proposals from Members regarding what the SPS Committee can and should do to (1) reduce the negative effects that private SPS standards have on international trade, especially for developing countries, and to (2) enhance the potential benefits arising from private SPS standards for developing countries.¹³

31. There is much interest, in particular on the part of developing country Members, for the SPS Committee to begin to address this issue in a practical manner. A large number of respondents favoured undertaking a study which compares relevant private standards with the corresponding Codex, IPPC or OIE standards.¹⁴ A group of 30 interested Members is working informally on this issue with the Chairperson and the Secretariat.

32. The Committee agreed to the following actions:

⁹ G/SPS/36.

¹⁰ G/SPS/W/228.

¹¹ G/SPS/GEN/887/Rev.1.

¹² G/SPS/W/226.

¹³ JOB(08)/58.

¹⁴ G/SPS/W/230 contains a summary of the responses received from 30 Members, along with specific suggestions regarding concrete actions by the SPS Committee.

Members and Observer Organizations are encouraged to provide any relevant information regarding studies or analysis which they have undertaken or of which they are aware for consideration by the group of interested Members. Of particular interest in this regard is the study being undertaken by FAO with respect to food safety standards. Representatives of the Codex, IPPC and OIE, as well as of any other appropriate organizations, may be invited to meetings of the group of interested Members;

The group of interested Members may periodically request the Secretariat to organize informal information sessions with appropriate representatives of bodies involved in the setting of private standards, assessment of conformity, or assistance with compliance with private standards; and

The group of interested Members is undertaking a comparative study, in three phases:

Phase 1: WTO Members have been invited to identify products of export interest whose trade is affected by private standards, providing specific examples of the markets, the standards and the positive and negative effects. The format for this information was circulated as a questionnaire¹⁵ and the deadline for responses was extended until 24 April 2009.

Phase 2: The Secretariat, with the assistance of interested Members, will compile the information provided by Members into a descriptive report.

Phase 3: On the basis of the descriptive report, and other relevant input, the group of interested Members will prepare an analytical report for consideration by the SPS Committee. The report should address, *inter alia*, to what extent private standards create trade difficulties; the nature of any such difficulties; the most relevant SPS disciplines; the role of Codex, IPPC and OIE; etc. This report should also propose concrete actions for consideration by the SPS Committee based on the above study and the comments of Members.

33. In February 2009, the informal group of interested Members discussed a first set of replies to the questionnaire. In the area of food safety, a common problem related to certain private standards, setting maximum residue limits (MRLs) for pesticides which were significantly lower than national requirements, which were themselves at times more restrictive than the MRLs set by Codex for the same product.

34. The descriptive report, based on replies from 22 Members, will be prepared for presentation to the Committee at its meeting of 23-24 June 2009, and the analytical report with recommendations could be presented for consideration by the Committee at its meeting of 13-15 October 2009.

Other Relevant WTO Activities

Geographical indications

35. The WTO has continued its work, pursuant to the mandate under Article 23.4 of the TRIPS Agreement and paragraph 18 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, to negotiate the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits. In paragraph 29 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of 18 December 2005, Ministers agreed to intensify these negotiations in order to complete them within the overall time-frame for the conclusion of the negotiations. However, differences have continued to remain large, in particular in respect of the legal effects of a registration and participation. In paragraph 39 of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, Ministers requested the Director-General to intensify his consultative process on all outstanding implementation issues under paragraph 12(b) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, including on issues related to the extension of the protection of geographical indications provided for in Article 23 of the TRIPS Agreement to products other than wines and spirits. In these consultations, positions remain divided both on the merits of such extension and its relationship to the Doha Round negotiations.

Dispute Settlement

The WTO dispute settlement procedure

36. Any WTO Member may invoke the formal dispute resolution procedures of the WTO if they consider that a measure imposed by another WTO Member violates any of the WTO Agreements, including the SPS

¹⁵ G/SPS/W/232.

Agreement. If formal consultations on the problem are unsuccessful, a WTO Member may request that a Panel be established to consider the complaint.¹⁶ A Panel of three individuals considers written and oral arguments submitted by the parties to the dispute and issues a written report of its legal findings and recommendations. The parties to the dispute may appeal a Panel's decision before the WTO's Appellate Body. The Appellate Body examines the legal findings of the Panel and may uphold or reverse these. As with a Panel report, the Appellate Body report is adopted automatically unless there is a consensus against adoption.

37. According to the SPS Agreement, when a dispute involves scientific or technical issues, the Panel should seek advice from appropriate scientific and technical experts. Scientific experts have been consulted in all SPS-related disputes. The experts are usually selected from lists provided by the OIE, IPPC and Codex, standard-setting organizations referenced in the SPS Agreement. The parties to the dispute are consulted in the selection of experts and regarding the information solicited from the experts.

SPS Disputes

38. As of April 2009, there have been 38 formal complaints under the WTO dispute settlement procedures alleging violations of the SPS Agreement, although in seven cases this was not the main focus of the dispute.

39. Ten panels have been established to consider 11 SPS-related issues:

- one panel to examine the United States' and Canada's complaints regarding the EC ban on meat treated with growth-promoting hormones;
- two panels to examine complaints by Canada and the United States against Australia's restrictions on imports of fresh, chilled or frozen salmon;
- one at the request of the United States to examine Japan's requirement that each variety of certain fruits be tested with regard to the efficacy of fumigation treatment;
- one regarding Japan's restrictions on apples due to fire blight requested by the United States;
- one panel to examine the Philippines complaints against Australia's quarantine procedures¹⁷;
- one panel to examine complaints by the European Communities against Australia's quarantine procedures;
- one panel to examine complaints by the United States, Canada and Argentina concerning EC measures affecting the approval and marketing of biotech products;
- one panel regarding the complaint of the European Communities against the United States and Canada on their continued suspension of obligations relating to the EC-Hormones dispute; and
- one panel to examine New Zealand's complaint against Australia's restrictions on apples.

40. Two dispute cases have concerned food safety regulations – the EC ban on imports of meat treated with growth-promoting hormones, challenged by both the United States and by Canada (*EC-Hormones*).¹⁸ On 13 February 1998, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) adopted the panel and Appellate Body reports in the *EC – Hormones* case which recommended that the European Communities bring the measures at issue into conformity with WTO obligations. When the European Communities was unable to implement by the 13 May 1999 deadline, the United States and Canada obtained authorisation from the DSB on 26 July 1999 to suspend obligations up to the level of US\$116.8 million and CDN\$11.3 million per year, respectively.

41. On 28 October 2003, the European Communities announced that its measures were now in compliance with the rulings, and on 17 February 2005 two new panels (with the same members) were

¹⁶ A flow chart of the dispute resolution process can be consulted at (http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/disp2_e.htm).

¹⁷ In August 2003, a panel was established to consider a complaint by the Philippines against Australia's restrictions on fresh fruits and vegetables, including bananas. Members of the panel have not been agreed, and no further action has occurred on this case.

¹⁸ The reports of the panels are contained in documents WT/DS26/R/USA and WT/DS48/R/CAN. The Appellate Body report is in document WT/DS/26/AB/R and WT/DS48/AB/R.

established to consider the EC complaints against the continued suspension of concessions by the United States and Canada. The hearings for this panel were the first to be made public. The report of the Panel was circulated on 31 March 2008.¹⁹ It concluded that the United States and Canada had failed to follow the correct procedures in this regard, but also concluded that the EC ban was in violation of the SPS Agreement.

42. The European Communities filed an appeal in this case, and the United States and Canada filed cross appeals on certain, limited procedural finding. The Appellate Body issued its [report](#) on 16 October 2008. The Appellate Body reversed the panel's findings and concluded that the United States and Canada did not violate WTO dispute settlement rules after the notification of the EC amended ban. The Appellate Body also concluded that because the panel made certain legal errors in its analysis of the scientific basis for the EC amended ban, the question of whether the EC amended ban is WTO-consistent remains open. In light of the report, there is no obligation on the United States or Canada to remove the duties that are intended to restore the balance of trade concessions under the WTO and to induce compliance by the European Communities with the WTO's rulings and recommendations in the original *EC – Hormones* dispute.²⁰ In December 2008, the European Communities formally requested consultations as the first step of eventually requesting the establishment of a panel to examine its claim of implementation of the rulings in the initial hormones dispute case.²¹

43. A single panel was established in 2003 to examine the complaints by the United States, Canada and Argentina regarding the European Communities' measures affecting the approval and marketing of biotech products. The volume of submissions from the parties, the need to consult scientific advice and requests for time extensions meant that the Panel circulated its report on 29 September 2006. In its report, the panel concluded that the European Communities had applied a general *de facto* moratorium on the approval of biotech products between June 1999 and August 2003, as well as a moratorium on 24 specific product applications. As such, the European Communities had acted inconsistently with its obligations under Annex C(1)(a), first clause, and Article 8 of the SPS Agreement. In short, there had been undue delays in the completion of EC approval procedures. With respect to the safeguard measures taken by six EC member states against products authorized in the European Communities, the Panel found that the member states (and thus by extension the European Communities itself) had violated Articles 5.1 and 2.2 of the SPS Agreement. More specifically, those national safeguard measures were not based on risk assessments satisfying the definition of the SPS Agreement and, hence, could be presumed to be maintained without sufficient scientific evidence. The report was adopted without appeal.²²

¹⁹ The reports of the Panels are contained in documents WT/DS320/R and WT/DS/321/R.

²⁰ Appellate Body reports: WT/DS320/AB/R (US); WT/DS321/AB/R (Canada).

²¹ WT/DS26/23,

²² The reports of the Panel are contained in documents WT/DS291/R, WT/DS292/R, and WT/DS293/R.

ACTIVITIES OF THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

Report by the STDF Secretariat²³

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global programme in capacity building and technical cooperation established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). It assists developing countries to meet food safety, animal and plant health (sanitary and phytosanitary or SPS) measures in international trade. Other organizations - including the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organization for Economic and Development (OECD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – as well as donors and developing countries also participate in the Facility.²⁴

2. The STDF has two main aims:

- to assist developing countries enhance their expertise and capacity to analyze and to implement international SPS standards, improving their human, animal and plant health situation, and thus ability to gain and maintain market access; and
- to act as a vehicle for raising awareness on the importance of SPS issues, coordination among technical cooperation providers, the mobilization of funds, the exchange of experience and the dissemination of good practice in relation to the provision and receipt of SPS-related technical cooperation.

II. EVALUATION

3. An independent evaluation of the STDF was completed on 14 November 2008.²⁵ The review judged the overall performance of the STDF to be good, and in many important areas very good. Furthermore, the performance of the Secretariat was highly rated by virtually all stakeholders and by the evaluator. The final report has been circulated to the SPS Committee as document G/SPS/GEN/899 and can be downloaded on the [WTO SPS gateway](#).

4. The evaluation was discussed by the STDF Policy Committee on 16 December 2008 and led to a review of the [STDF Operational Rules](#) and [Operating Plan for 2009](#). The new documents incorporate various recommendations made in the evaluation and place further emphasis on STDF's coordination function. According to the evaluator, the STDF's future lies in coordination "since it has a comparative advantage here and can play a unique role in assisting developing countries in the future". Both documents can be downloaded from the STDF website at www.standardsfacility.org.

5. Other recommendations to improve the STDF's work related to the information flow and the STDF website are currently being implemented. The evaluation concluded that the Secretariat and the partners, donors, observers and recipient countries have a shared responsibility to make STDF's existence and activities more widely known and to raise its profile. There is a need to improve the funding situation to meet the target of US\$5 million per year, preferably in multi-annual commitments, to implement the STDF work programme for 2009 and beyond.

III. CO-ORDINATION

6. Increasing importance is being placed on the STDF's role as a co-ordination mechanism and centre of good practice. Within the framework of the Aid of Trade Initiative, three regional consultations were initiated in 2007 to examine SPS capacity building needs and responses in terms of the provision of capacity building in East Africa, Central America and three countries in the Greater Mekong Delta Sub-Region

²³ This report has been prepared under the WTO/STDF Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of WTO Members or of STDF partners and participants..

²⁴ More detailed information on the STDF can be found on the [STDF website](#).

²⁵ The evaluator was Dr. Stuart Slorach, formerly of the Swedish National Food Administration, and former chair of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the European Food Safety Authority's Management Board.

(Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam).²⁶ The first component of this work was a review of SPS capacity evaluation studies, overviews and SPS-related technical assistance provided in the period of 2001-2006 in each region. Results were presented during the Regional Reviews of Aid for Trade in Peru, Philippines and Tanzania in September 2007.²⁷

7. The second part of this work was to take stock of where SPS capacity building needs are not being met and to identify actions to mobilize resources to address these needs. A number of the needs identified relate to improving capacity in the food safety area. Regional workshops to present the findings of this work took place in Cambodia (20-21 May 2008), Uganda (28-29 May 2008) and Guatemala (11-12 June 2008). The reports of these consultations, as well as the national and regional balance sheets developed, are available on the [STDF website](#).

8. As part of its co-ordination mandate, the STDF has organized a series of thematic events for delegates of the SPS Committee and additional participants from developing countries. A workshop on SPS-related capacity evaluation tools developed by international organizations took place in Geneva on 31 March 2008. An information session on private standards was held on 26 June 2008 with representatives of the Africa Observer Project, the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), International Certification and Risk Services (CMi) and the World Bank. Information on these events, including the presentations made and podcasts of sessions, is available on the [SPS gateway](#) of the WTO website (www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm).

9. In collaboration with the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) the STDF held a workshop on good practice in SPS-related technical co-operation, just prior to the October 2008 meeting of the SPS Committee in Geneva. The meeting was attended by some 250 persons including delegates from the SPS Committee and 60 officials from developing countries. The workshop provided an opportunity to consider the Paris Principles on Aid Effectiveness in the context of the highly technical area of SPS-related technical cooperation and presented the findings of the STDF/OECD research to identify elements of good practice in the design, implementation, outputs and the achievement of higher-order objectives for projects in East Africa, Central America and the Greater Mekong Delta Sub-Region.

10. The workshop concluded that while there is clarity about what should be avoided in technical cooperation, there is less clarity about how to practically implement the Paris Principles on Aid Effectiveness on the ground. Another conclusion focused on the importance of measuring the impact of SPS assistance on trade performance and the need to develop and systematically apply indicators for this purpose. A summary report of the workshop ([G/SPS/R/52](#)), presentations and podcasts of discussions are available on the [WTO SPS gateway](#). An overview and synthesis of the findings of the regional research on good practice is available in [G/SPS/GEN/875](#). In addition, the Secretariat has prepared a [briefing note](#) on the conclusions of the good practice work for general distribution.

11. The STDF prepared a desk study ([G/SPS/GEN/900](#)) on SPS needs and assistance of eight Least Developed Countries (LDCs), i.e. Benin, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Yemen. The study was based on a review of existing needs assessments, notably the Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies prepared under the Enhanced IF and other publicly available information. The report complemented and strengthened UNIDO's broader programme proposals aimed at addressing the supply-side constraints of the eight LDCs and identified areas where future SPS technical cooperation activities with a positive trade effect might be focused. The final report was presented at the [LDC Ministerial Conference on Aid for Trade](#) on 19-20 November 2008 in Siem Reap, Cambodia, jointly organized by WTO and UNIDO.

12. As part of its coordination role, the Secretariat prepared a background paper for the "Open- Ended Working Group for the Development of an IPPC Capacity Building Strategy" held in Rome, Italy, from 8-12 December 2008 ([G/SPS/GEN/898](#)). The objective of the report was to identify current flows of phytosanitary technical cooperation, examine how phytosanitary needs are evaluated and discuss how these can be mainstreamed into national development plans. The Secretariat also participated in an International Conference on "Sharing Innovative Agribusiness Solutions" organized by UNIDO in Cairo, Egypt, on 26-27 November 2008.

²⁶ Aid for Trade aims to help developing countries, particularly least-developed countries, develop the trade-related skills and infrastructure that is needed to implement and benefit from WTO agreements and to expand their trade. The Aid for Trade initiative was launched at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005.

²⁷ [G/SPS/GEN/812](#).

13. The revised [STDF Operating Plan](#) contains a detailed description of coordination activities planned for 2009. This includes the organization of two global thematic events on SPS risks and climate change, in collaboration with the World Bank (22-23 September 2009, Washington, D.C.), and on the use of economic analysis in the SPS (30 October 2009, back-to-back with the SPS Committee meeting). New research work will also be conducted on the development of indicators to evaluate the impact of SPS capacity building and on possible synergies between trade facilitation and STDF work.

14. At a regional level, the STDF is planning to organize a meeting in September 2009 to coordinate responses to combat fruit fly in West Africa. The meeting will provide an opportunity for national and regional organizations, donors and other stakeholders to discuss mechanisms to control fruit fly and mobilize funds for a multi-year Action Plan. More information on STDF's work in this area can be found on the [STDF website](#).

IV INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

15. The STDF is developing a short film to raise awareness about the importance of SPS capacity for international trade and economic development. The film will provide an introduction to SPS issues and their impact on trade and showcase examples from three countries that have been affected by SPS issues. The film should be available by July 2009.

V. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

16. As a financing mechanism, the STDF provides grant funding to public and private sector organizations in developing countries seeking to comply with international SPS standards and hence gain or maintain market access. Two types of grants are available through the STDF: project preparation grants (PPGs) and project grants. PPGs are a key mechanism for future STDF programme development. PPGs help overcome constraints faced by developing countries in the articulation of their needs and are a mechanism for ensuring synergy with other on-going initiatives, in particular the Enhanced IF and the Aid for Trade. Greater reliance will be placed on the use of PPGs to provide a basis for donor interventions and as a vehicle for the mobilization of funds. A total of 31 PPGs have been approved for funding by the STDF since its inception.

17. The main criterion in awarding preparation grants is the likelihood that the project developed may receive funding. Final project funding may be provided by the STDF or from another funding source (e.g. a bilateral donor). Much greater emphasis is being placed on the use of PPGs to provide a basis for donor interventions and as a vehicle for mobilizing funds for projects developed by the STDF.

VI. PROJECT FUNDING

18. To be eligible, projects or project preparation grants must address one or more of the following three themes:

- Theme 1: SPS capacity evaluation and planning tools, including the need for and implications of international standards and their application;
- Theme 2: Capacity building for public and private organizations, notably with respect to market access; and
- Theme 3: Information sharing on standards and co-ordination of technical co-operation activities.

19. An overview of the current status of STDF projects and project preparation grants as at 30 January 2009 is provided in Annex I.

20. It is to be noted that the [STDF Operational Rules](#), as revised and adopted in December 2008 by the STDF Policy Committee, include new eligibility criteria for STDF funding. Funding available is dependent on the beneficiary country or countries' classification in the OECD Development Assistance Committee [List of ODA recipients](#) as follows:

- For applicants from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) or Other Low Income Countries (OLICs), the STDF will provide up to 90% of the project value;
- For applicants from Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs), the STDF will provide up to 80% of the project value;

- For applicants from Upper Middle Income Countries (UMICs), the STDF will provide up to 40% of the project value;
- For regional projects with at least one LDC or OLIC, the STDF will provide up to 90% of the project value; and
- For regional projects without an LDC or OLIC, the STDF will provide up to 80% of the project value.

21. Applications for STDF funding can be made at any point in the year but should be received 60 working days in advance of each Working Group meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. The forthcoming deadline for submission of funding applications is 10 September 2009.

ANNEX 1

**STDF PROJECTS AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS
30 April 2009**

(a) Projects awaiting contracting

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Budget US\$
STDF-126	Support for the establishment of the Horticulture Development Council	Tanzania	Assistance to the Tanzanian horticulture sector to address SPS issues by creating a permanent public-private forum for coordination.	268,755
STDF 155	Nicaragua-Market Oriented Training Service on Standards Application	Nicaragua	Establish SPS professional training units, to develop training manuals, quality and good process controls for pilot products.	537,435
STDF 230	Establishment of Pest Free Areas for Lethal Yellowing Disease in Coconuts	Mozambique	Build phytosanitary capacity to implement international standards to manage LYD in palms and thereby expand market access for coconuts.	385,528
STDF 238	Development of accredited HACCP certification schemes for processed food products	Guatemala	Implement accredited inspection and certificates for Good Manufacturing Practices and HACCP recognized by the competent authorities in Guatemala.	397,420
STDF 267	Devising a National GAP Programme and a Commercial GAP Standard	Philippines	Set up a national horticulture stakeholder platform or Working Group to strengthen the national GAP programme and develop a suitable commercial GAP standard for horticultural exports.	210,000
STDF 287	Information sharing initiative on the actions to control fruit flies in Sub-Saharan Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	Publication of a newsletter on fruit fly control in SSA which will feature on-going control initiatives and inform about technical advances in the area, new challenges, various stakeholders, etc.	97,800

(b) On-going projects funded by STDF

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Budget US\$
STDF-48	Quality control for agricultural products in Benin - with particular reference to shea and cashew nut products	Benin	Apply good agricultural practices (training and capacity building activities) so as to overcome problems of mycotoxin contamination for shea and cashew nut production, to contribute to the development of national, regional and international markets, meeting international quality standards.	470,575
STDF-62	Strengthening food safety in Cameroon	Cameroon	Reactivate the National Committee on Food Safety (coordination and simplification of controls), provide training for trainers (key stakeholders in the public and private sectors) and design a National Strategy.	460,964
STDF-69	Improved capacity for ensuring the quality and safety of Yemeni seafood products	Yemen	Enable Yemen Sea Food Association to develop the capacity of its members to better meet the commercial requirements of SPS measures and thereby improve the quality and safety of seafood products and access key overseas markets.	408,750

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Budget US\$
STDF-79	Quality information on SPS issues - a pre requisite for capacity building	Developing countries	Improving the sharing of information on official standards (including the supporting scientific evaluations) developed by OIE, IPPC and Codex on the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health. The project will improve the sustainability	470,000
STDF-108	Developing institutional capacity of countries in the Americas to participate in the SPS Committee	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) countries	Foster a common and shared vision (public and private sectors and between countries), provide further support for the development of real and potential capabilities and consolidate technical cooperation to help countries to participate more actively and effectively in the SPS Committee.	585,588
STDF 116	Establishment of a traceability system for the livestock sector in Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Develop a sustainable traceability system in the livestock sector which facilitates the management of the information related to agricultural units and epidemiological events.	465,220
STDF-127	Support for SPS information systems in Benin	Benin	Improve information flow on SPS requirements among key stakeholders, particularly in the private sector. Build a public-private partnership to promote agricultural exports and favour country integration into the multilateral trading system.	374,790
STDF-133	Building capacity to use the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) Tool in the Pacific	South Pacific Forum members	Up-skill National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) to undertake appropriate evaluation of their national phytosanitary services in order to meet SPS requirements. (One regional training workshop and application of the PCE tool in 6 selected countries)	179,000
STDF-134	Capacity building to improve fish trade performance of selected West African countries	Benin, Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Gambia	Develop countries' capacities to understand SPS issues and deliver training in safe fish handling to the beach level. Construct a technical and trade information data base to encourage the dissemination of findings to other countries in the region.	469,000
STDF-145	Rwanda Horticulture Export Standards Initiative (RHESI)	Rwanda	Address the priority SPS capacity building needs identified by stakeholders in the sector and establish a plant health management system conforming SPS standards that will instil confidence among trading partners.	526,647
STDF-146	Strengthening phytosanitary controls in Mali - with particular reference to mango exports	Mali	Strengthen capacities of the National Phytosanitary Control System to meet international SPS standards. Provide institutional and operational support to facilitate fruit and vegetables trade (especially mango), to contribute to export diversification and poverty reduction.	518,800
STDF-170	Strengthening the capacity of government SPS officials to effectively implement SPS measures	Nepal	Provide support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) to effectively implement SPS measures to reduce food safety risks for domestic consumers, enhance the protection of animals and plants and promote economic development.	357,900
STDF-171	African Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence	East Africa	Build phytosanitary capacity and to increase market access through the establishment of an African Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence based in Kenya.	729,375
STDF 246	Development of SPS Action Plan for Cambodia	Cambodia	Identify actions to be taken to enhance the SPS system in Cambodia.	250,000
STDF 255	Regional Initiative on the fight against fruit flies in West Africa	West Africa	Conduct tests in pilot mango orchards using different fruit fly control and other Integrated Pest Management techniques to monitor and control fruit fly populations in 8 pilot countries.	279,620

(c) Completed projects funded by STDF

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Budget US\$
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Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Budget US\$
STDF-5	STDF Database	Database users	Establishment of a Database containing information on past, current and planned technical assistance projects that are SPS-related, to avoid duplication between activities and, taking advantage of opportunities, fill gaps and exploit synergies between partners. (http://stdfdb.wto.org)	45,100
STDF-9	Model programme for developing food standards within a risk analysis framework	Asia Pacific countries	Training programme to increase the capacity to use risk analysis techniques to develop their own food standards, understand the Codex standard-setting process and understand and comply, in the development of these standards, with international obligations under the relevant WTO agreements.	70,848
STDF-10	National implementation of the International Portal on food safety, animal and plant health	Turkey and Uganda (pilot countries)	Develop a Portal implementation handbook to assist countries in the establishment of a national internet-based site for the exchange of official legislation and regulations on food safety, animal and plant health.	59,400
STDF-13	Development of regional action plans to enhance capacity in meeting sanitary standards for livestock and livestock products	Djibouti, Ethiopia and Mali	Develop regional strategies for enhancing veterinary service's and other stakeholders capabilities for export of livestock and livestock products with special emphasis on improving animal disease surveillance, reporting and control, and the implementation of international animal sanitary standards.	305,000
STDF-14	Evaluation of capacity of national veterinary services	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) countries	Develop a specific diagnostic tool capable of evaluating the capacity of national veterinary services to meet international zoosanitary obligations in an efficient and sustainable manner, according to the OIE standards, resulting in increased benefits from the SPS Agreement.	37,000
STDF-15	Expanding SPS capacities at national and regional levels	OIE delegates (Workshops held in Mali, Thailand, Egypt, CIS and Latin America)	Development of a training programme for delegates to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); development of a training syllabus for an enhanced implementation of the SPS Agreement and initiation of the training programme back-to-back with WTO technical assistance activities.	130,614
STDF-19	Model arrangements for SPS stakeholder involvement at the national level	Sri Lanka and Paraguay	Improve the institutional capacity of stakeholders in the public and private sectors to receive SPS-related information flows and to translate it into an improvement in export performance and a strengthening of SPS measures. Create a web-based National Portal for food and agricultural standards.	291,218
STDF-20	Country-based plans for SPS-related development	Peru and Uganda (pilot countries)	Develop a methodology for systematic identification and prioritisation of SPS capacity-building needs in developing countries, which encourages a cooperative relationship between donors and private and public sector stakeholders in recipient countries, with special emphasis on enhancement of market access.	170,862
STDF-37	Assistance to developing countries in the implementation of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No.15	Participants at ISPM No.15 workshop held in Canada	Facilitate understanding of ISPM-15 (Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material) among developing and least-developed countries. Enhance their capacity to set up adequate infrastructure and systems to implement ISPM-15, protect natural resources, decrease the movement of pests harmful to plants and increase market access.	332,000
STDF-56	Capacity building for implementation of the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for animal feeding	Feed industry (Regional workshops in Brazil, China, Egypt, India and Kenya)	Development of a Manual of Good Practices for Animal Feeding that will inform about safe feed production, good agricultural practices (GAP), good manufacturing practices (GMP) and hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system; dissemination through workshops in support of the implementation of the Codex Code.	150,000
STDF-65	Develop a private/public safety control system for the horticultural export sector	Guinea	Develop a safety control system for the tropical fruit export sector. Establish a Safety Management Expert Force to assist companies implementing control systems and lay the ground for the establishment of a Public Inspection Force.	530,300

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description	Budget US\$
STDF-89	International plant health risk analysis workshop	Developing and Least-Developing Country participants	Provide funding for 29 developing and least-developed country officials to attend a workshop on pest risk analysis in Canada. (24 to 28 October 2005)	147,000
STDF-114	Sustainable and effective aflatoxin management system in Brazil nut production	Brazil (Peru and Bolivia)	Training and transfer to the key stakeholders a sustainable and effective safety management system for reducing and controlling the occurrence of aflatoxins along the nut production chain. Enhancing the capacity to meet international sanitary standards and share results within the region.	619,664
STDF-120	Risk analysis and risk assessment training procedures	India	Training on risk analysis and risk assessment procedures in order to develop a national strategy for capacity building and trade enhancement on SPS related issues. (workshops in three regions)	95,060
STDF-173	Strengthening capacity in assessing food control systems in developing APEC Member Economies	Developing APEC countries	The project aims to train food safety regulators from developing Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries in the use of FAO's food safety capacity evaluation tools. Knowledge acquired will then be applied by participants in their home countries.	113,000

STATUS OF APPROVED PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGs)²⁸

(a) PPGs awaiting contracting

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description
STDF-262	Strengthening veterinary services and promoting market access of animal products from Sahel countries to North African markets	Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger	Assist the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to formulate a proposal to provide institutional support for the implementation of the regional strategy for strengthening veterinary services and promoting market access.
STDF-286	Reducing phytosanitary risks through participatory research and expansion: the Clean Stock Program in ornamental plants	Costa Rica	Developing a project whose main objective is to reduce the phytosanitary risk of exporting 5 varieties of ornamental plants in order to maintain access to the US market and open new potential markets.

(b) PPGs currently being implemented

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description
STDF-165	Improving fruit production SPS controls in Madagascar	Madagascar	Improve fruit production in order to meet SPS requirements.
STDF-191	Enhancing Sierra Leone's Competitiveness through improved SPS National Capacity	Sierra Leone	Establish a sustainable and functioning quality and standards management system. Build capacity of the Sierra Leone Standards Bureau and the private sector for setting, enforcing and meeting regional and international standards.
STDF-221	Supporting implementation of SPS standards in Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	Identify specific SPS issues and constraints affecting sesame production and exports and develop a project proposal aimed at overcoming these constraints and improving market access.
STDF-232	A phytosanitary capacity building strategy for Africa	Cameroon and other African countries	Improve phytosanitary capacity in African countries through the development and implementation of a phytosanitary capacity building strategy.

²⁸ All PPGs are funded by the STDF. The budget for PPGs is on average US\$20,000.

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description
STDF-234	Design of Lao GAP scheme	Lao PDR	Create institutional infrastructure to ensure market access for agricultural products from Lao PDR.
STDF-242	Elaboration of SPS needs expressed in the IF DTIS of Comoros	Comoros	Assess SPS human resource and infrastructure needs based on the IF DTIS and formulate a proposal to improve the competitiveness of the litchi and lobster sectors.
STDF-268	Harmonization of the Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework for SPS control Management System	Tanzania	Strengthening the relevant legislation and improving institutional coordination to raise confidence among trading partners.

(c) Completed PPGs resulting in a project funded by STDF

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description
STDF-62	Measures to strengthen food safety and quality in Cameroon	Cameroon	Review SPS technical assistance needs in Cameroon by applying a capacity evaluation tool and submit a technical assistance project proposal corresponding to needs identified in the evaluation.
STDF-63	Quality control for agricultural products in Benin	Benin	Build on the DTIS and other relevant country reviews by applying a specific evaluation tool and assist the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and the Institut National des Recherches Agricoles to prepare an application for funding.
STDF-64	Facilitating livestock trade in Djibouti	Djibouti	Build on the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) and other relevant country reviews by researching further SPS constraints in the livestock sector and submitting a technical assistance project proposal.
STDF-65	A model for the development of a safety control system for tropical fruit exports in Guinea	Guinea	Build on the DTIS and UNCTAD study by organizing a consultation with national stakeholders to establish priority actions for SPS compliance and submitting a technical assistance project proposal which corresponds to these priority actions.
STDF-69	Fish handling, safety and quality improvement in Yemen	Yemen	Evaluate the Seafood Processors Association to improve safety and quality of products, harmonize standards and strengthen private domestic enforcement, and submit a technical assistance project proposal.
STDF-88	Proposal on human resource development for SPS implementation in Nepal	Nepal	Identification of technical assistance needs in human resource development for SPS implementation, preparation of an action matrix for effective and efficient management of SPS measures and development of a coherent project proposal.
STDF-102	SPS constraints and export diversification project preparation grant in Mali	Mali	Complement existing export diversification initiatives (under the Integrated Framework) by further studying SPS constraints in the fruit and vegetables sector and, in consultation with stakeholders, develop a project to address these constraints.
STDF-103	Rwanda horticulture export standards initiative	Rwanda	Build on the DTIS by participating in a national SPS seminar to stimulate interest from stakeholders, conducting field research on SPS constraints in the horticultural sector and submitting a technical assistance project proposal and a fieldwork report.
STDF-116	Establishment of a traceability system in the livestock sector in Costa Rica	Costa Rica	Develop a project proposal for an evaluation of the animal health directorate and the introduction of a traceability system for livestock farms examining equivalence with similar systems operating internationally.
STDF-126	Assistance to establish a horticulture industry organization in Tanzania	Tanzania	Develop a business plan for the Tanzanian Horticulture Association and a mid-term strategy for effectively dealing with conformity to international standards and increase trade opportunities.
STDF-127	Strengthening the capacity of the Benin Chamber of Commerce to track SPS-related development	Benin	Establish an information centre within the Benin Chamber of Commerce to ensure that firms are aware of SPS measures affecting their existing or planned exports and examine the feasibility of a well targeted regional approach in the WAEMU.

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description
STDF-155	Nicaragua market oriented training service on standards application (MOTSSA)	Nicaragua	Work with stakeholders in Nicaragua's plant health sector to understand their specific needs and concerns about how to enhance their capacity to meet SPS requirements. Organize a workshop and develop a project proposal.
STDF-171	African Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence	Kenya	Conduct desk and field research aimed at establishing an African Phytosanitary Centre of Excellence, identify key stakeholders and re-draft the existing project proposal in accordance with the STDF Operational Rules.

(d) Completed PPGs resulting in a project approved by STDF for funding from other sources

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description
STDF-52	Regional initiative to assist Malawian and Zambian exporters aflatoxin contamination	Malawi and Zambia	Develop a project which will address post-harvest management problems in the paprika and groundnut sector, in particular with respect to aflatoxin contamination; ensure consultations with private and public sectors, and donors.
STDF-66	Strategy to increase capacity to comply with SPS and retailers' agrifood protocols	Mozambique	Develop the capability of technicians to provide assistance in the standards domain and, in particular, in the requirements of EurepGap and Organic Agriculture.
STDF-100	Strengthening the national food control system for the fisheries sector in Cape Verde	Cape Verde	Assist Cape Verde in evaluating its capacities in its National Food Control System and prepare a suitable follow-up project which meets its requirements (particular attention should be paid to the WTO accession and the fisheries sector).
STDF-105	Compartmentalisation, using a pilot country for the implementation of the concept	Brazil and Thailand	Develop a project which will further the practical application of the concept of compartmentalisation for avian influenza and Newcastle disease in commercial poultry. Assist an OIE Member Country to implement the concept.
STDF-113	Support for the introduction of the HACCP system in Burundian enterprises	Burundi	Review SPS technical assistance needs by applying the joint WHO/FAO evaluation tool of official control services to survey the food situation and submit a project proposal corresponding to needs identified in the evaluation.
STDF-172	Expanding Nigeria's food exports through enhanced SPS capacity	Nigeria	Conduct desk and field research on technical cooperation activities in the food safety area in order to ensure full synergy, identify key stakeholders and draft a sustainable project proposal in accordance with the STDF Operational Rules.
STDF-223	Strengthening the official food control in Moldova to support the emerging food businesses	Moldova	Assess requirements to strengthen official food controls, standards and food inspection based on specific priority commodities identified in the World Bank Action Plan and develop a proposal for follow-up.

(e) Completed PPGs resulting in a project not approved by STDF

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description
STDF-38	Agricultural health and food safety laboratory and training needs assessment for CARICOM countries	Caribbean countries	Develop terms of reference for a regional project aiming to assist members in strengthening and rationalizing the use of laboratory and diagnostic capacity and capability of their agricultural health and food safety systems.
STDF-46	Enhance capacity to implement Codex standards in the African Region	Benin and Tanzania	Conduct field research on on-going SPS activities, identify priority Codex standards and guidelines, establish contacts with key stakeholders, obtain support of the donor community and submit two technical assistance project proposals.
STDF-61	SPS standards and trade advisor in Cambodia	Cambodia	Build on the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) and other relevant country reviews by researching technical assistance through contacts with key stakeholders and submitting a project proposal.

Project	Title	Beneficiaries	Description
STDF-101	Capacity evaluation of National Food Control System in Eritrea	Eritrea	Evaluate capacities of the National Food Control System and use this evaluation to develop suitable projects which meet Eritrea's requirements.
