



**STDF ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: SAFE TRADE IN PARTNERSHIPS



# SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, POVERTY REDUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

STDF's vision linked to the SDGs

STDF's 2020-2024 Strategy supports:



In addition, the Strategy contributes to:



**STDF RESULTS  
AND NUMBERS**

**P. 6**

**SAFE TRADE PARTNERSHIP:  
PARTNERING FOR SAFE  
TRADE IMPACT**

**P. 14**

**GLOBAL IMPACT: PARTNERSHIPS  
SHAPING THE GLOBAL SAFE  
TRADE LANDSCAPE**

**P. 24**

**REGIONAL/ LOCAL IMPACT:  
PARTNERSHIPS SHAPING  
SAFE TRADE SOLUTIONS  
ON THE GROUND**

**P. 42**

**LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE:  
STDF'S FUTURE SAFE TRADE  
IMPACT IN PARTNERSHIP**

**P. 56**

**FINANCIALS**

**P. 64**

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON	4
MESSAGE FROM THE STDF TEAM	5
2023 HIGHLIGHTS	9
STDF IN ACTION IN 2023	10
2023 VOICES	22
GENDER ACTION PLAN	28
MONITORING EVALUATION AND LEARNING IN 2023	60
2023 RESULTS TABLE	70

The STDF partnership represents a dynamic network, which cuts across sectors and technical areas with a common goal to facilitate safe trade that benefits the global South by contributing to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. The STDF has a proven track record in the funding of innovative cross-cutting SPS projects that achieve measurable outcomes in developing countries. The Facility has also evolved to become a global coordination and knowledge hub to address persistent and emerging SPS challenges.

Given these strengths, during my time as Chair of the STDF Working Group in 2023, I wanted to focus my attention on the relationships and interactions among members and explore how attention to inner qualities can positively influence the quality of our collective work. One exploration was to ask ourselves, as a Working Group, what are important inner capacities that we needed to bring to our meetings to work effectively together. We identified humility, focused attention, playfulness, curiosity, enthusiasm, inclusivity, honesty, listening, freedom to speak and many more! Overt attention to these areas for the over 40 experts attending each meeting, in-person or online, brought a different perspective to our work. The cohesive interactions also supported the Working Group as it discussed innovative initiatives to address increasingly complex SPS challenges.

The STDF global partnership is recognized as having strong technical competence amongst its members and, during 2023, the Working Group showed its capacity to identify and express its inner qualities as we worked through our meeting agendas. I am convinced that this awareness benefited the quality of our discussions and decisions. The Working Group co-created a space that truly reflected all our voices and insights to advance our collective goals. This year marks 20 years of the STDF, which is a true testament to the partnership's impact and commitment. As we move towards a Strategy for 2025 and beyond, let us make sure we leave no one behind and remember our shared humanity.

## Letter from the Working Group Chair



**Gillian Mylrea**

Head, Standards Department,  
World Organisation for Animal Health  
(WOAH)

## Message from the STDF Team

The STDF is proud to celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. The Facility has grown from a collection of small projects to a respected knowledge network and partnership bringing together diverse organizations, in support of Aid for Trade and the One Health approach.

The partnership is as relevant today as ever before. SPS issues continue to account for a major share of non-tariff barriers to trade, particularly for countries in the global South. Coupled with the after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, progress on the Sustainable Development Goals hangs in the balance. At the same

time, today's global landscape presents new risks and wider spillover effects – from conflicts to the climate change.

Against this backdrop, demand for support from the STDF is increasing – as seen in over 140 project and PPG funding applications received in 2023 – while there is strong interest and engagement with STDF Practitioner Groups on topics from PPPs to eCertification and P-IMA. Over the last year, improved food safety, animal and plant health measures for trade were rolled out in 34 countries thanks to STDF, alongside better SPS policies and market access linkages. In 2023, development partners generously contributed US\$9.7 million to the Trust Fund as a mark of confidence in the STDF.

The STDF makes an important contribution to facilitating safe trade, despite its relatively small size, thanks to the added value of its partnership network. The Facility acts as a catalyst partnering with developing economies to meet trade goals that drive growth, generate jobs and provide income generation including for vulnerable groups. Going further, the STDF is championing gender in safe trade facilitation thanks to its new Gender Action Plan. In turn, through recent knowledge exchange and learning, the Facility is advocating for stronger SPS systems that support climate change adaptation and resilience.

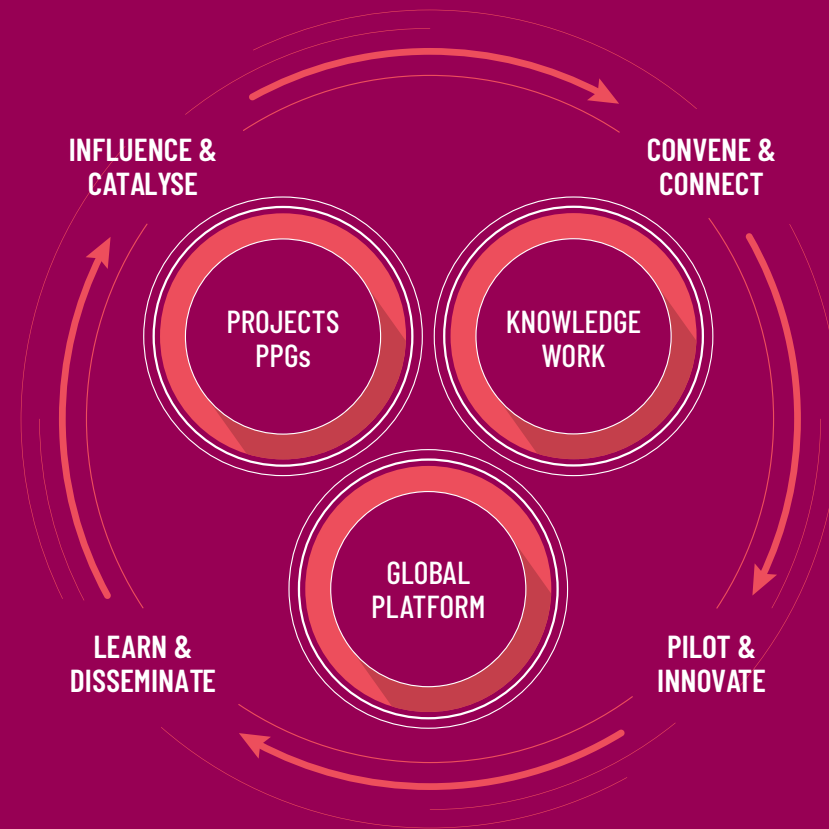
Amidst rising global interdependencies, recommitting to a partnership that supports people, prosperity and the planet is increasingly vital. In 2024, a programme evaluation of the Facility will guide the journey to shape the future development of the STDF. As a partnership, we invite you to reflect on our progress – showcased in this 2023 Annual Report – and join our ongoing efforts to drive safe, inclusive trade and development outcomes worldwide.





# STDF RESULTS AND NUMBERS

# 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

# 2023 highlights

## GOAL: INCREASED AND SUSTAINABLE SPS CAPACITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

STDF initiatives and projects/PPGs contributed to:

- Improved food safety, animal and plant health measures for trade in: **34** countries
- Changes in SPS legislation, regulation, policies, strategies, structures, processes in: **19** countries (with a focus on environment/biodiversity/climate change in: **10** countries)
- Facilitating market access and exports/imports through linkages between: **480+** farmers, **25** farmer producer organizations, **115+** traders/exporters

## OUTCOME 1: MORE SYNERGIES AND COLLABORATION DRIVING CATALYTIC SPS IMPROVEMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Value of new investments leveraged from 2004-2023: **US\$40.5 million** (+6% from 2004-2022)
- Networks supporting delivery of change in SPS systems: **7 networks**
- Adaptation, replication, scaling of STDF approaches in: **13 countries**
- Coordination of SPS capacity development interventions by Working Group: **5 cases**

## OUTCOME 2: GREATER ACCESS TO, AND USE OF, GOOD PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AT GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

- Reach of STDF good practices/knowledge: **6,820 people trained in 37 countries**
- Knowledge products: **26,275+ downloads from 200+ countries** (over two-thirds from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Uptake and application of STDF good practices: **5 knowledge products/approaches**



# STDF in Action in 2023

## PROJECTS/PPGs

23

STDF projects ongoing on food safety, animal and plant health, with STDF funding of over US\$16 million

9

Ongoing STDF PPGs on food safety, animal and plant health, with STDF funding of over US\$0.4 million

2

Projects completed

2

Project ex post impact evaluations

9

PPGs completed

142

applications received for funding (up from 117 in 2022)

US\$ 6.5 MILLION

approved for 7 new projects and 7 PPGs

55%

of funds allocated to new Projects/PPGs benefit LDCs (above 40% target)

## FUNDING

10 DONORS

US\$ 9.7 MILLION

Multi-annual agreements: Australia, European Commission, France, Germany, Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden, United States  
Annual agreements: Canada, Ireland

## KNOWLEDGE WORK

4

Knowledge Topics (eCert, PPPs, P-IMA, GRP) covered, supported by 3 Practitioner Groups (eCert, PPPs, P-IMA)

8

**New Publications:** P-IMA Updated Guide; Gender Action Plan; Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Briefing; Driving Safe Food Trade in Africa Briefing with AGRA; Remote Inspection Publication; Value Chain Analysis in Sri Lanka; vTPA Publication with UNIDO; GRP Guide accessible for CAREC countries with support from ADB

1

Thematic evaluation

## GLOBAL PLATFORM

2

Working Group meetings with 88+ members; 1 Policy Committee meeting

6

developing country experts

## OUTREACH

4,700

stakeholders (including governments, industry, international/regional organizations) reached at 80+ events

12

e-news sent out to 3,600+ subscribers

# 2023 Projects and PPGs

STDF project and project preparation grants (PPGs) convene and connect public, private and other stakeholders at global, regional and country level to pilot innovative and collaborative approaches, leverage expertise and resources, and deliver results, including in least-developed countries (LDCs), land-locked developing countries and small island developing states.

## AFRICA

1. STRENGTHENING GUINEA'S PHYTOSANITARY SYSTEM
2. ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING FRUIT FLY-FREE AREAS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
3. IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF SMOKED FISH IN MALI
4. PILOTING THE USE OF VOLUNTARY THIRD-PARTY ASSURANCE (TPA) PROGRAMME IN AFRICA TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY OUTCOMES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND TRADE
5. IMPROVING SHELLFISH SAFETY IN SENEGAL TO BOOST MARKET ACCESS
6. HARMONIZING REGULATIONS AND MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN THE SADC REGION
7. ACCREDITED MOBILE LABORATORY FOR FOOD SAFETY TESTING IN THE SADC REGION
8. HARMONIZING THE PHYTOSANITARY LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK IN CENTRAL AFRICA
9. USING DIGITAL TOOLS TO FACILITATE SAFE FOOD TRADE IN WEST AFRICA
10. POST-COVID-19 VOLUNTARY FOOD QUALITY CONTROL IN WEST AFRICA THROUGH DIGITISATION
11. SPS NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ACTORS IN THE BURUNDIAN HORTICULTURAL SECTOR
12. ENHANCING AFLATOXIN MANAGEMENT IN GHANA'S MAIZE AND GROUNDNUTS
13. BUILDING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY OF CROSS-BORDER TRADERS IN ZAMBIA
14. MANAGING SCALE INSECTS IN FRESH FRUITS IN EAST AFRICA
15. REGIONAL APPROACH TOWARDS ADDRESSING INVASIVE QUARANTINE PESTS OF POTATO IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
16. MANAGING INVASIVE POTATO PESTS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
17. EVALUATING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY TO IMPROVE THE PLANT HEALTH SYSTEM IN NIGERIA
18. PILOTING A vTPA PROGRAMME IN EAST AFRICA TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY IN HORTICULTURE AND FISHERIES
19. IMPROVING SPS COMPLIANCE TO BOOST NIGERIA'S EXPORT CAPACITY
20. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF AFLATOXINS AND IN MAIZE GRAIN USING SYSTEMS APPROACH IN UGANDA
21. STRENGTHENING BURKINA FASO'S SESAME AND CASHEW EXPORT CAPACITY

22. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY CONTROL CAPACITIES IN CAPE VERDE
23. IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY AND MARKET ACCESS IN GHANA'S SPICE VALUE CHAIN
24. SCALING UP THE P-IMA TOOL IN THE GAMBIA
25. PROMOTING LIVE ANIMAL TRADE AND EXPORT IN EASTERN AFRICA
26. EVALUATING ETHIOPIA'S PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY
27. STRENGTHENING PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY TO PROMOTE EXPORTS OF HORTICULTURE PRODUCTS FROM SENEGAL
28. IMPROVING SPS PRACTICES IN CACAO IN CAMEROON

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

29. STRENGTHENING THE SPICE VALUE CHAIN IN INDIA TO IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS
30. EXPANDING COCOA TRADE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
31. ENHANCING CAPACITY FOR FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN THE KYRGYZ FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY
32. SAFER SPICES: BOOSTING FOOD SAFETY AND MARKET ACCESS FOR THE PEPPERCORN VALUE CHAIN
33. MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUE THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF BIOPESTICIDES IN ASIA
34. STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY COMPLIANCE IN SELECT SPICES
35. STRENGTHENING BHUTAN'S BORDER INSPECTION AND CONTROL CAPACITIES
36. MODERNIZING BHUTAN'S BORDER MANAGEMENT ECOSYSTEM TO FACILITATE SAFE AGRI-FOOD TRADE
37. STRENGTHENING PHYTOSANITARY COMPLIANCE TO BOOST SEED TRADE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC
38. IMPROVING PIG BIOSECURITY AND AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) CONTROL IN 4 ASEAN COUNTRIES
39. PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS IN BANGLADESH USING P-IMA
40. MANAGING AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATION IN ASIA USING ONE HEALTH
41. REDUCING HISTAMINES IN POLE AND LINE CAUGHT TUNA IN INDONESIA
42. ADVANCING APICULTURE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

43. COORDINATING MANAGEMENT OF CADMIUM LEVELS IN COCOA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
44. MITIGATING HIGH LEVELS OF CADMIUM IN CACAO IN COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR
45. PILOTING THE USE OF THIRD-PARTY ASSURANCE (TPA) PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL AMERICA TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY OUTCOMES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND TRADE
46. PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS IN ECUADOR USING THE P-IMA TOOL
47. IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY RISK ANALYSIS CAPACITY IN LATIN AMERICA
48. PRIORITIZING SPS INVESTMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN USING THE P-IMA TOOL
49. STRENGTHENING THE PHYTOSANITARY AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM IN KEY VALUE CHAINS
50. MITIGATING PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN LATIN AMERICA USING BIOPESTICIDES
51. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY CAPACITY OF THE PEPPER VALUE CHAIN IN JAMAICA TO INCREASE MARKET ACCESS
52. REGIONAL CENTER FOR PHYTOSANITARY INTELLIGENCE OF THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY
53. ENHANCING MULTILATERAL E-VETERINARY CERTIFICATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
54. ENHANCING SPS CAPACITY AND MARKET ACCESS FOR GRENADIAN SOURSOP EXPORTS
55. IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN SAINT LUCIA

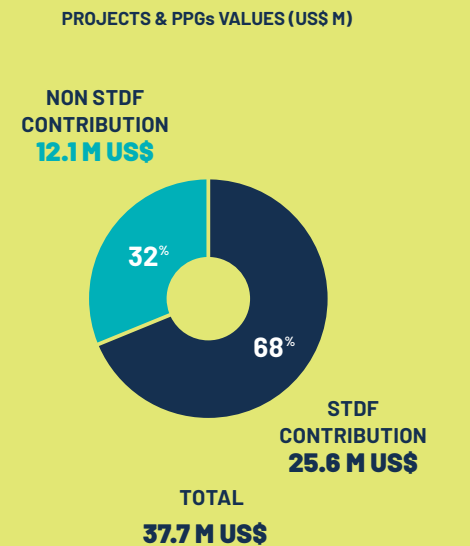
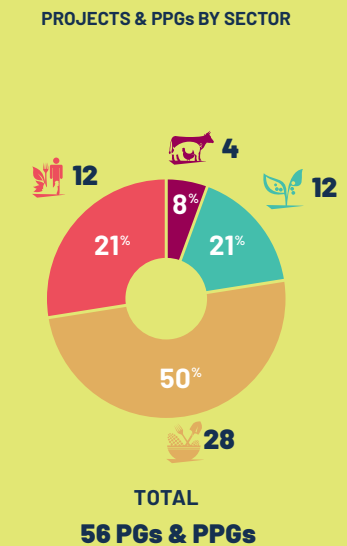
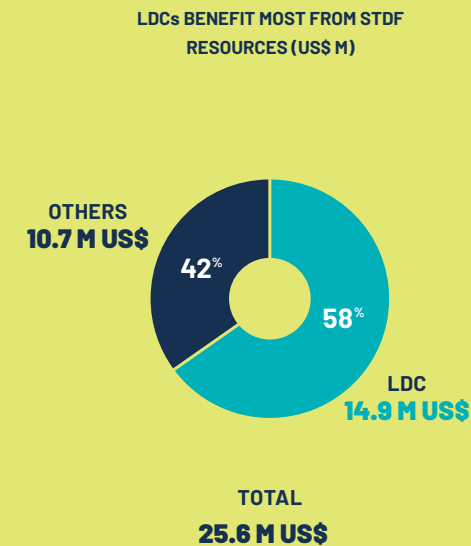
## GLOBAL

56. REMOTE INSPECTION PRACTICES IN FOOD SAFETY FOR IMPROVED TRADE
57. ENHANCING FOOD SAFETY CONTROL CAPACITIES IN CAPE VERDE
58. IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY AND MARKET ACCESS IN GHANA'S SPICE VALUE CHAIN
59. SCALING UP THE P-IMA TOOL IN THE GAMBIA

PROJECTS ▬  
PPGs ▬



Map markers are approximate and do not cover all global projects





# SAFE TRADE PARTNERSHIP: Partnering for safe trade impact

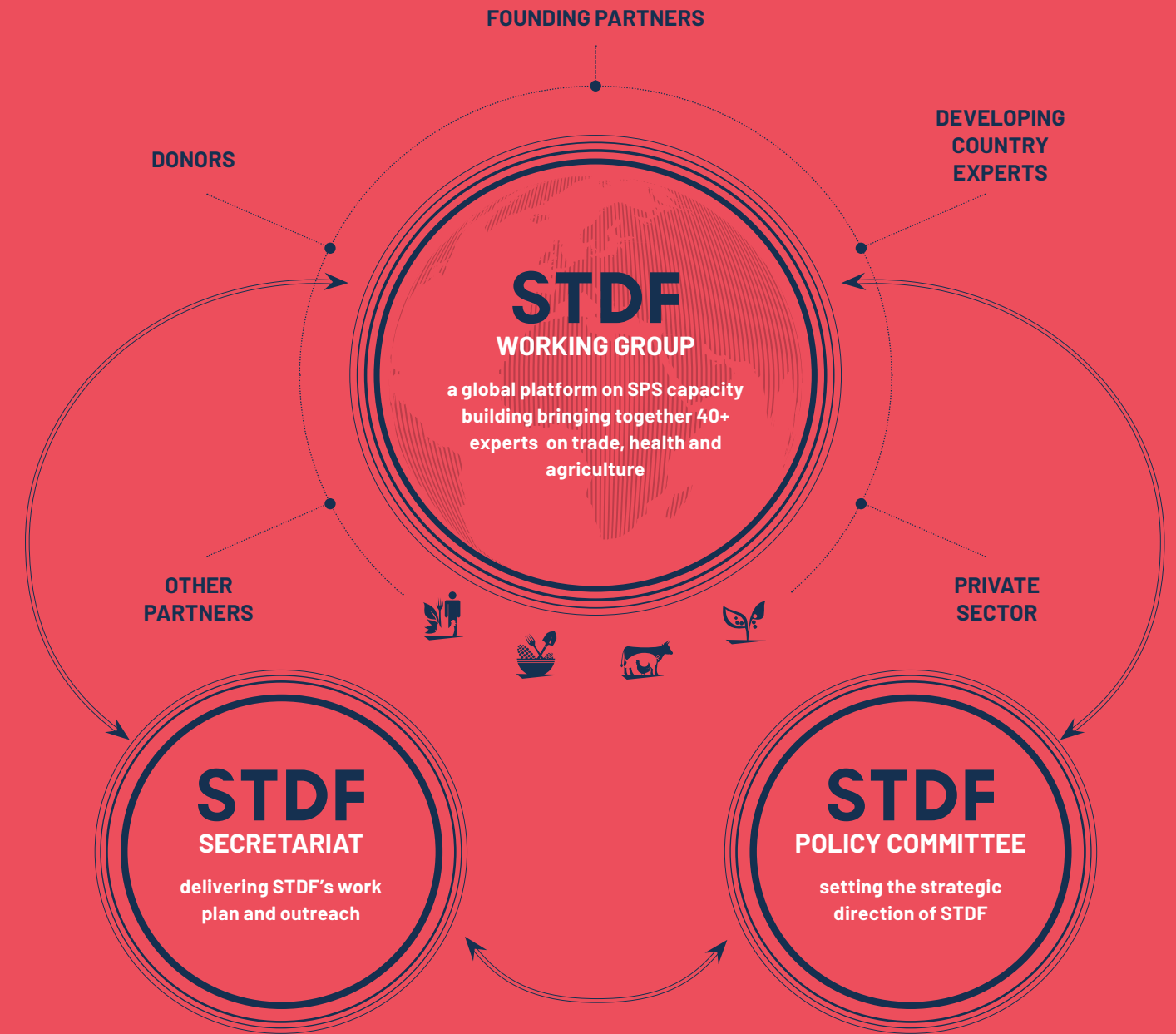


The UN Global Goal 17 on partnerships highlights the need to promote effective Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and harness their experience and strategies to move the dial on sustainable development. The STDF is a global partnership that extends beyond the Secretariat housed in the World Trade Organization. It encompasses founding partners, development partners, developing country experts and a wide network of government agencies, regional and international organizations, NGOs, universities and research bodies, and industry associations among others. For 20 years, the partnership has been the driving force behind STDF's global platform, projects and knowledge work helping to facilitate safe, inclusive trade that benefits developing economies.

Over 235 projects and project preparation grants have been funded by the STDF since 2003 - with 14 new proposals approved in 2023 - catalyzing safe trade solutions in over 95 countries thanks to connections built with local, regional and global partners. Through outreach at over 80 events worldwide in 2023, the STDF promoted the adoption of its latest safe trade tools and approaches from action on gender to climate change. Over the last year, the STDF also expanded its network, sharing knowledge insights with a wider global audience via Practitioner Group sessions, including on PPPs.

# Policy Committee

The STDF Policy Committee, held in April 2023, was chaired by Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General of the WTO, and attended by 12 members and 17 observers. At the meeting, the partnership discussed the STDF evaluation TORs, the current strategy, financial situation and forward look. Updates covered work underway to address recommendations from the 2019 evaluation on: lessons across topics and projects; embedding learning into guidance; partner use of good practice; staffing; online knowledge platform, and partner resources to work with the STDF.







## STDF Working Group in 2023

**Chair:** Gillian Mylrea,  
Head, Standards Department,  
WOAH

**Vice-Chair:** Sarah Brunel,  
Implementation and Facilitation  
Unit Lead, IPPC Secretariat,  
FAO



## STDF Developing country experts in 2023

Sithar Dorjee  
Juliet Goldsmith  
Martin Kimanya  
Marie Grace Mandigma  
Jaime Romero  
Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu



## STDF Secretariat in 2023

**Head:** Melvin Spreij

**Deputy Head:** Marlynne Hopper

Aichetou Ba  
Pablo Jenkins  
Paola Michelutti  
Chenge Nyagweta  
Simon Padilla  
Catalina Pulido  
Nydiane Razafindrahaingo

**Interns:**

Sandra Bucha  
Marie-Lou Zharinova

## In 2023: US\$6.5 million approved for 7 new projects and 7 PPGs



### NEW PROJECTS

HARMONIZING PHYTOSANITARY LEGISLATION  
IN CENTRAL AFRICA

DIGITALIZING ACCREDITATION SYSTEMS  
IN WEST AFRICA

REDUCING PESTICIDE LEVELS IN SESAME  
AND COWPEA IN NIGERIA

BHUTAN'S BORDER MANAGEMENT TO FACILITATE  
SAFE AGRI-FOOD TRADE

SENEGAL'S PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY TO  
BOOST PLANT PRODUCT EXPORTS

AFLATOXIN MANAGEMENT IN GHANA'S  
MAIZE AND GROUNDNUTS

eVET CERTIFICATION IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN



### NEW PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS

EXPLORING ISSUES AFFECTING GHANA'S  
SPICE VALUE CHAIN

USING P-IMA TO IMPROVE SPS DECISION-MAKING  
IN THE GAMBIA

PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN APICULTURE  
INDUSTRY IN THE PACIFIC

TRADE AND EXPORTS OF LIVE ANIMALS  
IN EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA'S PHYTOSANITARY  
CAPACITY

SPS CAPACITY IN THE COCOA VALUE  
CHAIN IN CAMEROON

IMPLEMENTING FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS  
IN SAINT LUCIA

# Working Group

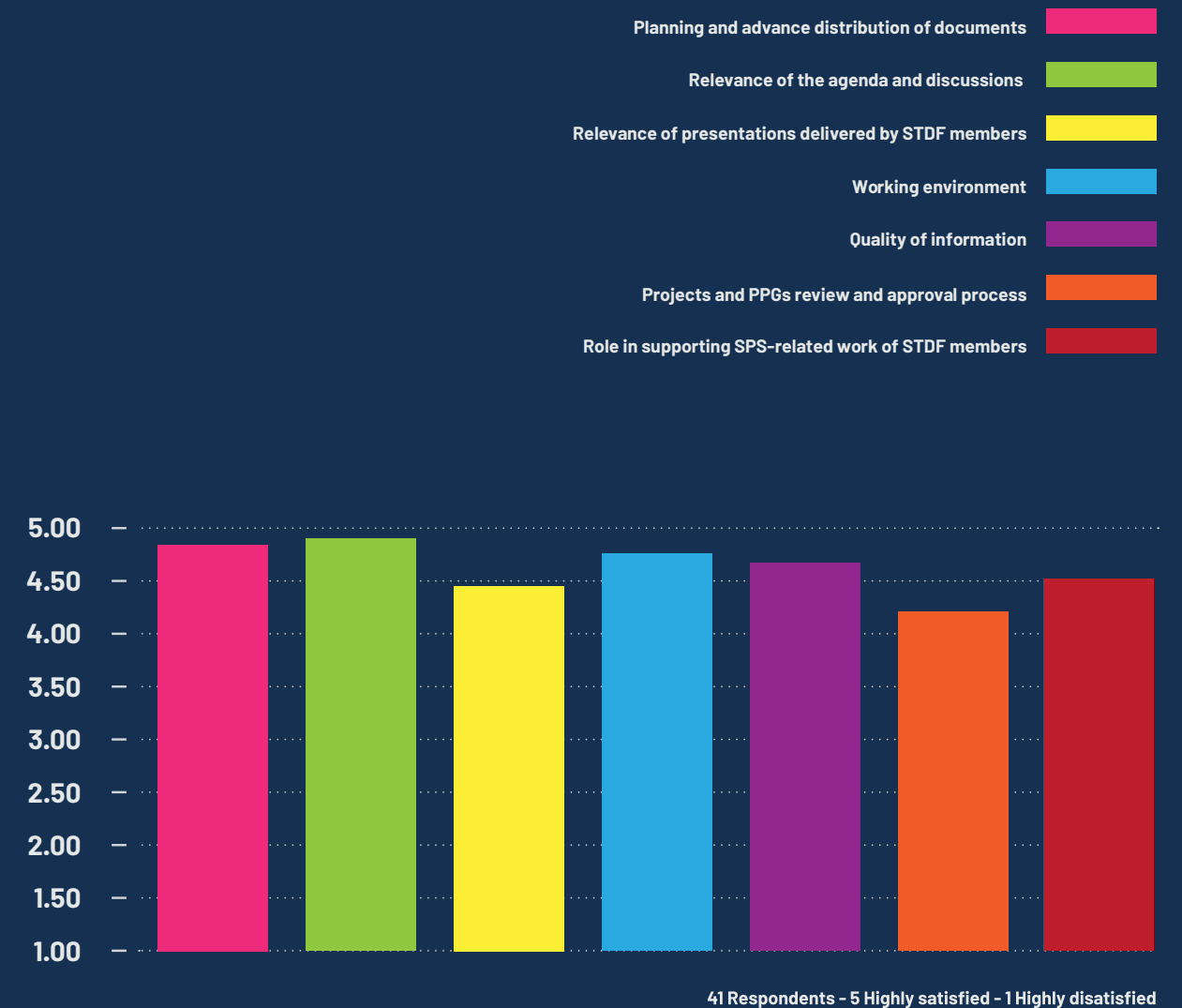
The STDF Working Group met in June and November 2023, chaired by Gillian Mylrea, Head of the Standards Department, WOA, and each meeting was attended by 40+ members from across the partnership. Items on the agenda spanned funding requests, updates on projects and knowledge work and development partner contributions. Founding partners and others exchanged news on their latest SPS initiatives which included: FAO - SPS-related projects; IPPC - Global Phytosanitary Programme; IFC - Global Food Safety and Food Loss Prevention Programme; WTO - Aid for Trade Global Review in 2024; TradeMark Africa - SPS Strategy; UNCTAD - strategies on SPS measures and toolkit on non-tariff measures; and UNIDO - tool to assess vTPA programmes.

 [Working Group resources](#)



# Working Group Survey Findings

## Level of satisfaction of Working Group Members with 2023 WG Meetings





# 2023 Voices

## Partners

Funds received will continue to support the STDF's pioneering work in food safety, animal and plant health by equipping farmers, traders, and producers with the tools needed to access global food markets more easily. Compliance with international standards enhances food security by facilitating trade in agricultural products and by raising incomes and reducing poverty in farming communities.

**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, WTO Director-General**

The key for success of any of our missions is to ensure that we are collaborating with the relevant stakeholders. For us, the value of the STDF's knowledge work on cross-cutting topics provides an excellent forum for information sharing and collaboration and particularly in sharing lessons learned. We see the opportunity to disseminate information to our members and to promote the outputs and different products.

**Gillian Mylrea, Head, Standards Department, WOA**

We've been strong members of the STDF. There is a tremendous wealth of institutional experience here with STDF. We see things are scaling up as the knowledge generated aligns well with the World Bank's investment portfolio. The work that the STDF is doing is highly credible.

**Chris Brett, Lead Agribusiness Specialist, World Bank Group**

A strong focus on SPS for One Health is the core mission of STDF. It is critical to leverage technology, innovation and data to spur development, reduce inequalities, enhance gender-sensitivity for sustainable agrifood systems that are resilient to climate change and contribute to food security and healthy diets for a rapidly growing population. STDF has a role to play in field-testing new developments and bringing new knowledge to relevant actors.

**Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO**

One of the strategic priorities of the WHO Global Strategy for food Safety 2022-2030 is the promotion of food safety as an essential component in domestic, regional and international food trade. STDF's leadership role in bringing together key global players to foster multisectoral collaboration, innovation and improve SPS capacity in low and middle income countries is instrumental in realizing this priority and helping make the food supply safer.

**Luz De Regil, Head, Multisectoral Collaboration in Food Systems, WHO**

## Select Development partners

Our commitment today to the STDF to improve SPS systems will benefit farmers around the world, including Canadian farmers. If developing countries use the same global standards, it will help them meet the United Nations goals of better feeding the world.

**Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food**

Germany is pleased to extend its partnership with the STDF. By helping developing countries tackle SPS challenges, we are making a contribution to improving SPS systems and ensuring safe agricultural food trade globally. Building SPS capacity is key to raising food security levels, protecting the environment and securing people's livelihoods.

**H.E Bettina Waldmann, German Ambassador to the WTO**

The STDF is increasingly recognized as providing unique and excellent support to strengthening the food safety systems of developing countries and to enhancing cross-border trade of agricultural and food products. Especially at this current time, strengthening regional food systems is essential.

**Marcel Vernooij, The Netherlands' Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO**

We recognize STDF's important contributions in delivering programmes and disseminating results that are effective, transparent and science based. We welcome the renewal of our investment in a partnership that accelerates the transformation toward more resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems that help support global food security.

**H.E. Maria Pagán, United States Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO**

We very much value the STDF's work on cross-cutting thematic topics, in convening STDF partners, in drawing on their technical expertise and enhancing SPS capacity more broadly. The STDF could really adopt a leadership role in sustainable food systems. And to ensure sustainability results, SPS interventions should be aligned with the One Health approach.

**Remco Vahl, Permanent Mission of the European Union to the WTO**

## Select Developing country experts

Serving as a developing country expert has enhanced my knowledge of SPS issues and their impact on trade. Significant work still needs to be done to enhance compliance with international SPS standards nationally and regionally. I am thankful for the opportunities to engage and connect in different ways.

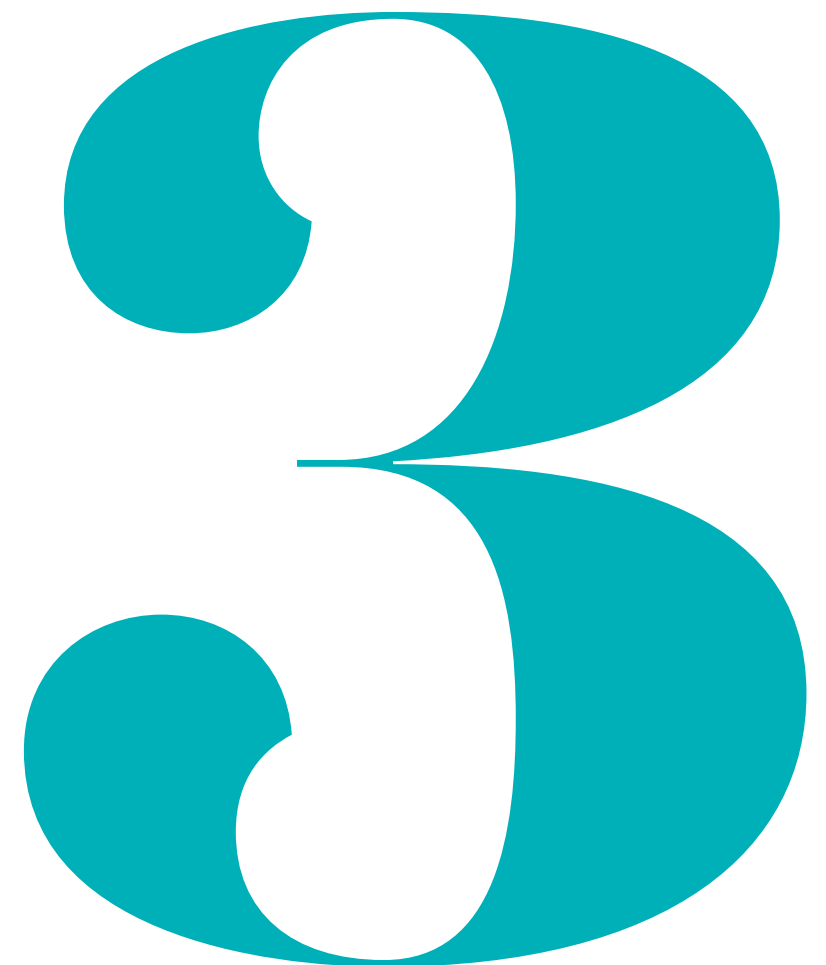
**Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu, outgoing developing country expert, Zimbabwe**

STDF is much more than a source of funds for projects in the region. It's the STDF's rich source of knowledge and the partnership of very diverse stakeholders (including international and regional organizations, development partners and donors) working together coherently that is the STDF's real value-added.

**Jaime Romero, incoming developing country expert, Colombia**







**GLOBAL  
IMPACT:  
Partnerships  
shaping the  
global safe trade  
landscape**



# On the frontline of safe trade: Gender



The STDF's safe trade partnership is working to extend the benefits of trade for more people in support of the UN 2030 agenda as outlined in its 2020-2024 Strategy. This is particularly vital for women as producers, employees of MSMEs and traders who operate on the frontline of agri-food trade in developing countries, as well as for women consumers. Yet too often women lack access to key skills or resources to meet food safety, animal and plant health standards. In 2023, the STDF continued its leading role in making the case for why gender equality matters for SPS compliance, inspiring dialogues to bring action on gender into the mainstream.

## In Numbers:

Gender Action Plan presented to **210+** attendees at four events

The publication and roll-out of STDF's Gender Action Plan represented a major milestone for the partnership in 2023. STDF Members, alongside over 50 stakeholders engaged across STDF's projects worldwide, shared views over nine months to arrive at a collaboratively developed tool, which drew on recommendations from STDF's Gender Assessment, as well as project and research insights.

The Gender Action Plan aims to champion safer, more inclusive trade that lowers transaction costs and supports the capacity of women, men and young people most impacted by SPS requirements across global value chains. To do so, it focuses on three key pillars – from fostering knowledge sharing and mainstreaming gender in projects to building capacity in this area across STDF work.

Launched at the first-ever gender mainstreaming event reaching over 100 WTO SPS delegates in July, the presentation of the Action Plan raised awareness of women's needs and challenges, as well as opportunities, to meeting food safety, animal and plant health standards to trade safely.

*Trade has an important role to play in driving economic growth by supporting women's empowerment and by advancing gender equality. STDF's event on the nexus between gender equality and safe trade facilitation is a first for SPS Committee delegates but will certainly not be the last.*

**Nicole Mensa, Special Assistant and Advisor on Gender, WTO Director-General's Office**

The STDF continued to influence the global dialogue on mainstreaming gender in 2023, sharing insights at the African Union Commission's SPS Coordination Forum in Accra in September and UNECE's Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization in November. At the eWeek run by UNCTAD in December, STDF's joint panel on gender and trade regulations in the digital environment highlighted gender-responsive actions to advance results.

*STDF's Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan has pushed and enabled COLEAD to move forward on gender mainstreaming, helping us to promote inclusion in a tangible way in COLEAD's work.*

**Jeremy Knops, General Delegate, COLEAD**

As part of the Action Plan, STDF Guidelines for mainstreaming gender in the project cycle were also rolled out in 2023. In the last year, a gender analysis was carried out for STDF's East Africa horticulture and fisheries project piloting a voluntary third-party assurance programme (vTPA). Interventions were identified that included boosting women's access to information on vTPA and selecting food business operators (FBOs) on criteria that does not exclude those that are women-owned.

*Access to Voluntary Third-Party Assurance will help to protect women-owned businesses from financial, among other risks and ensure women continue to operate businesses in the face of gender related challenges. This will have a positive impact on the growth of the aquaculture and horticulture industries in Uganda and Rwanda.*

**Gender Analysis Report for Piloting vTPA Programme, October 2023**



Motivated by the Action Plan, partners in STDF's biopesticides project in the Southern African Development Community decided to take a closer look at how gender needs and challenges influenced project delivery and results.

*We wanted to understand the constraints faced by women farmers and agro-dealers in using biopesticides in integrated pest management. Survey responses highlighted women's limited role in decision-making and unequal access to information. So, we included targeted training for women farmers and made sure that our outreach channels and events are inclusive.*

**Dennis Ndolo, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)**

[Gender Mainstreaming page](#); [Launch Event](#)



# STDF Gender Action Plan

## WHAT? OBJECTIVES

ADVANCE AND SUPPORT WOMEN'S CAPACITY TO MEET TRADE-RELATED SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS

PROMOTE GREATER ATTENTION TO GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SPS CAPACITY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT WORK

## HOW? KEY PILLARS

### 1

FOSTER A CULTURE OF AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACROSS THE STDF PARTNERSHIP ON GENDER AND SPS MEASURES IN THE CONTEXT OF TRADE

### 2

STRENGTHEN GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PROJECTS (PGS) AND PROJECT PREPARATION GRANTS (PPGs)

### 3

PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT AND BUILD CAPACITY TO SUPPORT GENDER MAINSTREAMING ACROSS STDF'S WORK

## WHO? AUDIENCE

STDF SECRETARIAT

STDF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

STDF PROJECT IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS

OTHER REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERS



# On the frontline of safe trade: environment and climate



The global community moved forward in its collective efforts to tackle the climate emergency at the UN Climate Change Conference – COP28 – at the close of 2023. This included a 'Trade Day' to inspire leaders to make use of trade as an active, vital component of climate action efforts. Breathing life into the UN Global Goal 17 on partnerships, the STDF's multi-stakeholder network continued to share knowledge, expertise, and technology-driven solutions to facilitate safer trade and build SPS systems that can withstand environmental pressures faced by developing countries.

## In Numbers: STDF COP28 Dialogue reached close to **200** online views

During 2023, the STDF partnership had a prominent role in shaping understanding on how strong SPS systems can also protect the environment, preserve biodiversity and build climate change resilience – against the backdrop of COP28 in Dubai in December 2023.

The Dialogue, hosted at the COP28 Trade House Pavilion – moderated by the STDF Secretariat with partners from the FAO, World Bank Group, USDA, CABI and Nepal's Agro-Enterprise Centre – looked at how safe trade can foster forward-looking solutions in adapting to climate change.

Held on Food, Agriculture and Water Day 2023, speakers recognized STDF's partnership as a catalyst that brings together actors across agriculture, health, trade and development. This, in turn, is championing new approaches that better link food systems, biodiversity, climate and health.

Knowledge highlights at the event – which was hosted by the WTO – ranged from the need to invest in international standards, boost trade facilitation and regulatory reform and more financing to scale up innovation from eCertification to biopesticides and digital pest surveillance.

*Enhanced collaboration at all levels is critically important and creating platforms to share information and lessons learned – we want to make sure that knowledge and tools are available for partners around the world. This is part of the reason we value STDF's knowledge work including the Policy Brief as well as the webinar series.*

**Jeremy Adamson, Senior Policy Advisor, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA**

The dialogue forms part of STDF's longstanding work to open up the policy space on how to facilitate safe trade while protecting the planet. A new STDF Briefing published in November on Strengthening SPS Systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change looked at how to manage increased SPS risks for agri-food trade. Key recommendations covered: making SPS systems a global climate priority; mainstreaming SPS capacity in cooperation; intensifying risk assessments; stronger monitoring; trade facilitation reforms, as well as country- and sector-wide cooperation.

*Urgency is a key word as we are dealing with changes in terms of climate, moving pests and diseases and technology and innovation. We need to adapt the way we work in and across countries, [using] the agri-food system approach with more coordination. We need governance innovation and the right to experiment. Thanks, STDF, for the work you do on that.*

**David Laborde, Director, Agrifood Economics Division, FAO**

Building on these efforts, an STDF learning assessment on how best to improve mainstreaming of the environment, biodiversity and climate change in SPS capacity development is now underway. In addition, the STDF partnership work on climate change directly influenced the SPS policy recommendation in the 2023 WTO publication on Trade Policy Tools for Climate Change. This focuses on protecting economies from the spread of pests and diseases exacerbated by climate change by strengthening SPS systems.





## Safe trade knowledge solutions: P-IMA

### In Numbers:

Over half of SPS capacity building options generated using P-IMA were: taken forward for funding, integrated into national action plans, used to inform organizations' strategies or national SPS investments and legislation.

Over US\$ **2.8** million leveraged for SPS capacity building based on P-IMA analysis

The STDF partnership continued to shape the safe trade global landscape through its innovative knowledge solutions in 2023, as seen in the significant results and lessons from the external evaluation published on the STDF P-IMA (Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access) framework.

The P-IMA Guide – updated in 2023 to reflect insights from its use in Africa and globally since 2015 – uses an evidence-based approach to estimate SPS investment impacts on exports, agricultural productivity, gender equality, the environment and other development policy goals.

The evaluation shows that P-IMA's seven-step framework has successfully made the business case for building SPS capacity at national and organizational level when faced with limited resources. P-IMA's quality of analysis is highly regarded across the board, as is the involvement of key private sector stakeholders and government authorities. In addition, using P-IMA at national and organizational level is seen to help improve both the quality and integrity of decision-making.

### Evaluation Results

*P-IMA is highly relevant... addressing stakeholders' needs for prioritizing SPS capacity building options in ways that are transparent, inclusive, accountable, and participatory. P-IMA work has highlighted the high potential value for money from addressing SPS capacity issues. There is growing evidence that P-IMA has contributed to improved SPS capacity and market access.*

**Karen Iles, External Evaluator**

To build on the effectiveness of P-IMA and look at areas where more can be done to embed the framework, the evaluation made seven recommendations covering: a strategic plan to improve sustainability; pilot ways to mainstream P-IMA; a training programme to improve sustainability; piloting a



'P-IMA service providers' approach; expanding outreach to support roll-out; stronger synergies between capacity evaluation tools and P-IMA, and stronger MEL processes to map impact. Work is now underway to address these areas and jointly follow-up on priority recommendations.

**Evaluation Lessons**

“ The use of P-IMA to inform SPS priority-setting and budgeting processes has not been institutionalized, undermining its sustainability. There is scope for greater collaboration with donors and development partners to support the use and mainstreaming of P-IMA, and leverage financing for the prioritized SPS investments. Improving MEL and tracking... would support this process.

**Karen Iles, External Evaluator**

In June, the STDF team also joined SwissContact, government, industry and development partners in Dhaka to discuss national SPS investments needs using P-IMA. This in turn will inform cross-sectoral decision-making on SPS investments to boost Bangladesh's horticultural and fisheries exports. An STDF session with 26 officials at the WTO Advanced SPS Course in October shared tools - including P-IMA - to protect human, animal and plant health and facilitate trade.

The STDF session broadened our understanding of the WTO SPS Agreement [and] equipped us with essential tools, such as the GRP Guide and P-IMA tool, which are indispensable in navigating the complex world of international trade and food safety.

**Md. Alam Mostafa, WTO Wing, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh**

 [P-IMA Evaluation; P-IMA Guide](#)



# Steps in using the P-IMA Framework






# Safe Trade knowledge solutions: ePHYTO



## Project Evaluation – An ePhyto solution: enhancing safe trade in plants and plant products

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

### Partnerships for further up-scaling:

To date, cross-sector support has come from ADB, ASEAN, AU-IPSAC, CABI, FAO, GATF, the IPPC, PACER PLUS, TFSP, TradeMark Africa, UNESCAP, and the Industry Advisory Group (including ISF and IGTC) among others.

### In Numbers:

**130+** countries are connected to the ePhyto Hub, with close to **90** using it to exchange electronic certificates with their trading partners.

The ePhyto Solution – an STDF flagship project – led by IPPC and supported by wide-ranging global partners made the headlines again in 2023 following publication of an external evaluation. The pilot STDF-funded project, which ran from 2017-2020, sparked use of e-SPS certification globally, streamlined trade processes, lowered trade transaction costs and reduced fraud.

By the end of 2023, close to 130 NPPOs were registered to exchange ePhytos, with close to 90 actively exchanging phytosanitary certificates via the Hub, with over 5.3 million certificates exchanged since 2017.

## Evaluation Results

*The ePhyto Solution resulted in SPS capacity, trade facilitation and environmental benefits and is a good example of STDF's role in driving catalytic SPS improvements in developing countries. It added significant security to the process of plant trade. The ease of movement of ePhytos facilitated trade including for NPPOs in least developed country contexts, and reduced trade transaction costs.*

**Neil Pogorelsky, External Evaluator**

Evaluation findings show that the ePhyto Solution was able to mobilize funds and backing from development partners, alongside the public and private sector, to support the growing uptake from developing countries and scale up impact. In turn, roll-out of the project – by delivering time and cost savings – is helping to advance eCert developments including on eVet.

*The IPPC Secretariat joined forces with various institutions and countries to take a leading role on electronic certification, so trade of plants and plant products is safer, faster and cheaper. We could get this outstanding result in implementing the ePhyto Solution thanks to the trust and support of the STDF [alongside other partners].*

**Sarah Brunel, Implementation and Facilitation Unit Lead, IPPC Secretariat, FAO**

While strong collaboration continues to underpin follow-up on ePhyto, challenges remain on financial and technological sustainability going forward. Most NPPOs in developing countries experience capacity, budget and capital constraints, while there is a need to close the gap for traders on using ePayments, and the gender and environmental aspects of digitization can be reinforced.

## Evaluation Lessons

1. Harmonization of certificates is crucial to implementing e-certification.
2. Minor investments in digitization have catalyzing effects in trade facilitation.
3. Developing countries' access and equipment challenges inhibit uptake.
4. Private sector is interested, engaged, and willing to contribute to trade facilitation.
5. E-certification: a rolling implementation is both possible and effective.

STDF's innovative pilot continues to inspire partnerships to adopt and scale the ePhyto Solution. At the WTO Public Forum in September, the STDF and Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) ran a public-private sector panel to look at accelerating SPS eCert, drawing on insights from the ePhyto Solution, accompanied by a GATF paper on experiences from the roll-out.





# Safe Trade knowledge solutions: sharing & learning in practitioner groups



The STDF Practitioner Groups – whose expert members come together to accelerate understanding and progress innovations on food safety, animal and plant health – continued to take on an active role in 2023. This included promoting joint learning events and collaborative efforts to identify and share good practices on public-private partnerships, eCert and P-IMA.

## Public-private partnerships (PPPs)

In 2023, the STDF showcased new ways of working among government authorities and businesses to facilitate safe trade. In June 2023, the PPP group hosted a virtual event where SSAFE's Executive Director shared insights on using PPPs to make the global supply and trade of food safer and stronger. Over the year, the group looked at co-creating a practical guide on PPPs, driven by lead members CABI, COLEAD and WTO. The guide will be published in 2024. Learning on PPPs was shared at the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum's Public-Private Innovation Dialogue. In addition, as part of a global dialogue on approaches to voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA), the STDF shared PPP experiences from its regional projects at the Dubai Food Safety Forum in December. A joint UNIDO-STDF vTPA Programme Assessment Tool was also published online.

[PPP Practitioner Group; vTPA Partnership Platform; vTPA Assessment Tool](#)

## eCertification

Electronic certification remains high on the international trade agenda including when it comes to levelling the playing field for the global South to capitalize on e-systems to cut trade costs and time. In 2023, the STDF-supported Electronic Certification Advisory Committee came together to exchange e-Cert updates, building on the ePhyto Solution experience. A group of members – GATF/GIZ, ePhyto IAG (ISF/IGTC), IPPC, OECD, UK Institute of Export & International Trade and the World Bank Group – worked to co-create a short film, due in 2024, to leverage support for more countries to benefit.

[Electronic Certification Advisory Committee](#)

## P-IMA

Against growing financial pressures faced by governments worldwide, the STDF P-IMA framework continued to make waves in 2023 as a tool to help catalyze resources for priority SPS needs. In line with the aims of the Practitioner Group to disseminate P-IMA and promote wider synergies, the STDF – and project partners from Land O'Lakes Venture 37, TradeMark Africa, Ghana and Rwanda – ran a dynamic half-day workshop in March for 50 African stakeholders in Kigali. The workshop was part of a learning event on the margins of the SPS Coordination Forum and was led by the African Union with AKADEMIYA2063 and the Norman Borlaug Institute, supported by the United States. P-IMA users shared how this evidence-based approach opened up public-private sector dialogue, informed decision-makers and mobilized resources in East and West Africa. An article published after the event further promoted using STDF's decision-making tool in prioritizing key value chains to help leverage the investments needed in Africa to access markets.

*In 2023, CABI saw an opportunity to use P-IMA's evidence-based approach to prioritize investment options under the Kenya Livestock Value Chain Research and Analysis financed by USDA FAS. The analysis highlighted the expected impacts of future investments to enhance the productivity and resilience of beef and dairy value chains, which were identified as high potential areas for investment for economic growth and livelihoods.*

**MaryLucy Oronje, Senior SPS Scientist, CABI**

[P-IMA; P-IMA news article](#)



# Global outreach on safe trade

## STDF 2023 Global Outreach Highlights



### WEBSITE

**18,000+**

website visitors (67% from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America & the Caribbean)



### DOWNLOADS

**13,100+**

knowledge and project resource downloads



### YOUTUBE

**1,000**

YouTube subscribers / 125,940+ views (to date)

**1,700+**

stakeholders reached at 80+ events worldwide

**11**

STDF social media posts / 12 news items out to 3,600+ subscribers / 2 STDF stories



## STDF work amplified as part of global trade and development agenda

At a Special Session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development in November 2023, the STDF shared the work of its global partnership to improve SPS capacity and facilitate safe trade with 160 delegates. During the Committee, the United States highlighted the progress made by developing economies in complying with the SPS Agreement and the added value of the STDF.

“The STDF provides resources to Members that have identified a concrete need that can be addressed through collaboration between national competent authorities and international technical experts. Project development and execution requires vision and commitment, and the STDF’s history of success is a testament to the ability of Members to improve the function of their national SPS services.

**US Communication to the Committee on Trade and Development, November 2023**

[US Communication](#)

## STDF shares project experiences in WTO ‘Let’s Talk Trade’ podcast

For the WTO’s fifth podcast episode in 2023, the STDF and Zambian agri-business project partner revealed how tackling plant pests has helped to facilitate horticultural trade and shared selected tips for the public-private sector on meeting SPS standards to gain access to, and grow, export markets. The support was provided under a joint STDF-EIF project and was led by Zambia’s Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Service.

“From the time support was given by STDF, we have seen an improvement in frequency of inspections, especially on points of exit. Thanks to the project, and better cooperation with the NPPQ, we’ve been able to improve pest management practices, reduce interceptions, and export our fruit to Germany, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and South Africa.

**Francis Chama, Packhouse Manager, York Farms, Zambia**

[Podcast Episode](#)







## STDF knowledge dialogue in support of MC12 SPS Declaration

“The Membership acknowledges that the global agricultural landscape has evolved since the adoption of the SPS Agreement in 1995. This evolution has brought about a variety of new opportunities and emerging challenges for the international trade in food, animals and plants. **SPS Declaration, MC12, Adopted on 17 June 2022**

In 2023, the STDF supported the SPS Declaration adopted at MC12 by sharing safe trade knowledge and good practices among WTO members including those in the global South. This paves the way to prioritize support for developing and least developed countries to integrate into the global trading system, as agreed at the 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in early 2024.

“These are themes we’ve been talking about in Thematic Group 5: South-South cooperation, capacity building.. and [this is] a great [STDF project] example giving developing countries the skills, tools and the data-rich environment to engage in standard-setting bodies. **Joanna Grainger Australia, co-steward, Thematic Group 5, MC12**

An STDF workshop for the WTO SPS Committee in March was organized in partnership with co-stewards, Australia and Ecuador. Here, members of STDF’s global partnership – WOA, AU-IBAR, APAARI, USDA, EU, COLEAD – and project leads from Southeast Asia, East Africa and Latin America shared insights on how to meet capacity gaps to trade safely, as identified in the MC12 work programme.

“SPS compliance is improved when countries are involved in establishing standards. We are integrating and using good practices from STDF’s knowledge work and projects to improve SPS capacity in Africa, working in coordination

with our partners in continental institutions, RECs, national authorities and international partners. Experiences and lessons from STDF’s work are supporting our SPS programmes.

**John Oppong-Otoo, AU-IBAR on STDF’s completed regional MRL project in Africa**

Speakers showcased the latest approaches on what works spanning public-private partnerships, good regulatory practices, eCertification and evidence-based decision-making. Panelists from the different regions shared examples of how STDF funding helped build fit-for-purpose SPS systems, while addressing current challenges including climate change. The discussions highlighted the value of STDF’s outreach involving local stakeholders to develop locally customized actions, and showed how STDF’s work is guiding SPS capacity development programmes led by others.

“The STDF, through its PPGs and knowledge products, serves as an incubator for innovative ideas that we can use to strengthen, scale and apply in our programmes. The STDF should continue to serve as a place where countries can come together to discuss common needs and opportunities for applying SPS measures in the new era.

**Betsy Baysinger, Division Director, Foreign Agriculture Service, USDA**

[Event page](#); [Event recording](#); [SPS Ministerial Declaration](#)





**REGIONAL/  
LOCAL  
IMPACT:  
Partnerships  
shaping safe  
trade solutions  
on the ground**





## Regional Project Results - Southern Africa: pest-free areas supported fruit production and exports

Agricultural trade is a cornerstone of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which promises to unlock economic growth and champion food security on the continent. With the rise of cross-border trade, preventing the spread of horticultural pests – such as fruit flies – is now increasingly critical.

The fruit fly-free project, funded by the STDF and completed at the end of 2023, showcased the value of jointly tackling invasive fruit fly species to expand Southern Africa's fruit export potential. Led by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) of South Africa, public-private sector partners – agricultural departments, research bodies and industry in South Africa/Mozambique – worked on surveillance, action plans, information management, training and economic modelling.

The project showed how fruit fly surveillance helped to protect the region's biosecurity, and, by setting trap threshold levels, regional actors were able to minimize the risk of fruit infestation. The private sector's active role also helped deliver a timely response to detecting invasive species. The Pest-Free Areas (PFAs) and Areas of Low Pest Prevalence (ALPPs) identified are now being used to help regional fruit producers demonstrate they meet required plant health standards for market access.

New technologies developed under the project – from a digital application to a smart trap – have widened access to information on fruit fly species among growers, researchers and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). This has been accompanied by a series of training sessions for regional and Africa-wide stakeholders, alongside online video resources. The project also led to the creation of economic models that clearly set out the benefits in establishing PFAs and ALPPs, while the framework used to identify and maintain these areas has the potential to be extended to other countries

in the Southern African Development Community, widening the impact further. In turn, through the project's lower pesticide use, there has been a positive environmental impact.

### Collaborations

- Piloting new regional approach among NPPOs, research bodies and growers' associations
- Public-private sector partnership: MOU set up between FruitFly Africa and South African Government
- Government and industry partners contributed US\$2.17 million (75% of total project budget)

### Highlights

- 6 Pest-Free Areas (PFAs) and 45 Areas of Low Pest Prevalence (ALPPs) established – for melon fly, Mediterranean fruit fly, and oriental fruit fly – and reported to trading partners.
- Exponential increase in fruit exports from Mozambique following PFAs/ALPPs, including a rise in avocado exports of almost 260% from 2020-2023, and launch of new exports like papaya in 2023.
- Action plans in place to maintain PFAs and ALPPs, and protocols in use for rapid and clear recognition of targeted fruit fly pests in both countries.

### Innovations

- South-South PPP approach whereby regulators and exporters in an LDC and UMIC collaborated to address a shared challenge, and advance mutual trade interests.
- Development of a digital platform for trap tracking in different regions in South Africa and Mozambique for access to data for better surveillance, analysis and handling of fruit flies.
- Smart trap was developed using AI and Internet of Things for surveillance programming. The system shows promise as a low-cost, easily deployed trap with scope to cover other species.

### Partner Voices

“The Fruit Fly Free project provided the opportunity for South Africa and Mozambique to develop a framework for the maintenance of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence for fruit fly pests in southern Africa. The collaboration [supported] capacity building and knowledge sharing among organizations.”

**Tertia Grové, Agricultural Research Council**

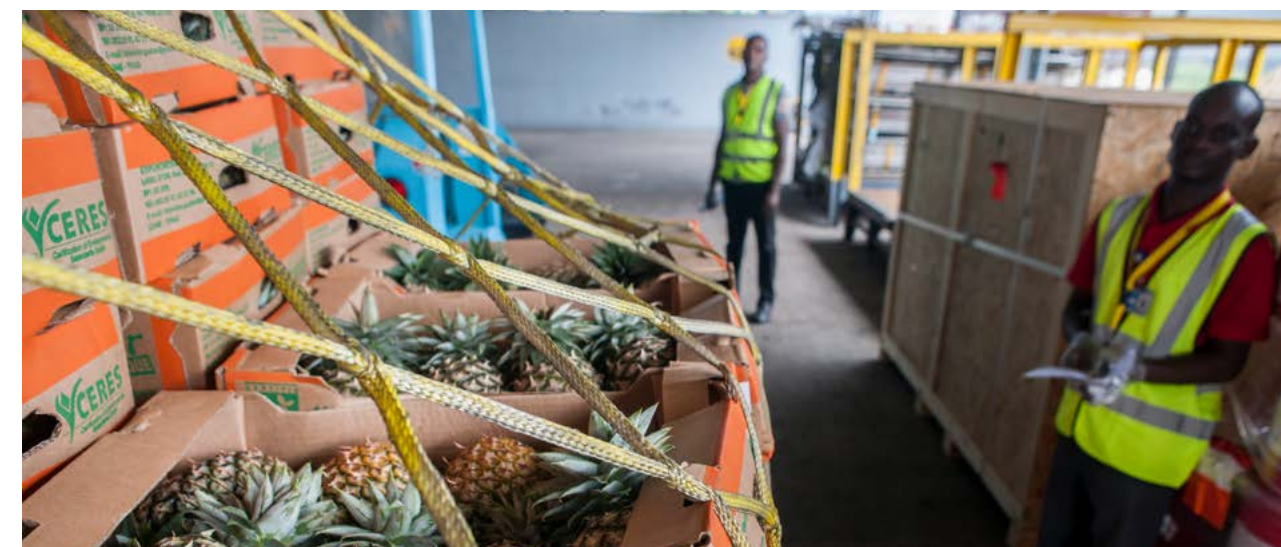
“The STDF project has made it possible to declare Pest Free Areas in the Northern-, Western- and Eastern Cape with regards to Oriental fruit fly and melon fruit fly. This provides peace of mind that these pests have not been able to spread to these very important fruit production regions.”

**Ghian Du Toit, FruitFly Africa, South Africa**

Mozambique fruit and vegetable producers can now breathe with relief since some export markets can be recovered due to the establishment of areas where exports could continue, as a result of the Fruit Fly Free project.

**Laura Canhanga, Eduardo Modlane University, Mozambique**

[Regional project page: Fruit Fly Training videos](#)



### FAST FACTS



**TIME FRAME**  
2020-2023



**STDF CONTRIBUTION**  
US\$721,584 (total value:  
US\$2,893,259)



**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**  
Mozambique,  
South Africa



**LED BY**  
ARC





## Good Regulatory Practice to Facilitate Africa's Safe Trade

2023 was designated by the African Union as the 'Year of the AfCFTA' to accelerate the roll-out of the African Continental Free Trade Area. In support of this, the STDF partnered with African organizations and others to drive collective action on inclusive safe trade facilitation.

Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs) moved centre-stage in 2023. In September, the STDF, with the African Union Commission, AfCFTA Secretariat, US Department of Agriculture and USAID hosted a two-day learning event in Ghana on how GRPs can usher in Africa's safer trading future, bringing STDF's GRP Guide to life for a wide audience.

The regional debate shared experiences on tools and processes to cut down on the costs and time to trade, bringing benefits for African traders, governments and value chain stakeholders. Close to 60 participants from national regulators, regional bodies – including COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS and SADC, the private sector and academia drilled down into experiences of using GRPs in improving the design, development and roll-out of SPS measures that are fit-for-purpose.

“ This workshop is most welcome as a learning event to use GRPs in Africa. We think this will support our member states, reduce trade barriers and enhance inter-continental trade as well as improve implementation of our AfCFTA Agreement. **Deneswaree Mohun, Non-Tariff Measures Division, AfCFTA Secretariat** ”

The knowledge exchange included space for attendees to share inputs on new tools on GRPs to make better SPS regulations. National and regional stakeholders also valued the time to deepen their skills on GRPs to support SPS measures linked to the AfCFTA and AU SPS Policy Framework.

Highlights shared covered stronger regulatory frameworks, greater transparency, and increased trust among stakeholders. Adopting international standards was seen as a means to boost safe trade within Africa and reduce compliance costs. Insights also spanned regional harmonization, Regulatory Impact Assessment, and including industry in regulatory development and follow-up.

“ The two days enhanced understanding of how GRPs help to reduce the regulatory burden while improving compliance. It also contributed to equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to promote the use of GRPs to improve SPS systems on the continent. **Chiluba Mwape, SPS Advisor, African Union Commission** ”

“ Recognizing the importance of GRPs to cut trade costs for small businesses and drive intra-regional trade, 16 COMESA Member States endorsed a decision in December 2023 to implement GRPs in the COMESA region. This work builds on STDF's GRP Guide. It aims to help simplify and streamline SPS measures so that small-scale traders can benefit more from cross-border agri-food trade. **Mukayi Musarurwa, Technical Barriers to Trade Expert, COMESA** ”

[Learning Workshop; Workshop Summary Note](#)



## Driving Safe Food Trade in Africa

Boosting intra-regional trade will help realize the African Continental Free Trade Area's vision of creating one African market, currently signed by 54 countries. Taking action to facilitate safe agri-food trade is vital given a growing food crisis occurring as result of global and regional pressures.

In October 2023, the STDF joined forces with African partners to expand the regional dialogue on breaking down barriers to trading safely when it comes to food safety, animal and plant health. Together with the Food Trade Coalition for Africa, housed at AGRA, and wider partners, the STDF co-hosted a webinar to help drive policy change for better access to safe food for all Africans.

Reaching over 150 representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society and regional organizations across the continent, the learning event generated a vibrant exchange touching on key issues linked to standards and food trade. Widening the reach of STDF's knowledge products, the event presented recommendations from a joint STDF-FTCA policy brief, which looked at how Africa can best leverage wide-ranging experiences to facilitate safe agri-food trade.

Insights from the brief, issued in 2023, include using evidence-based approaches to target SPS investments, championing effective public-private sector coordination, adopting a regional approach and pooling resources, and using good regulatory practices for faster, less costly trade.

“ [As a result of using the P-IMA framework] strong public-private dialogue and economic data and evidence helped in identifying resources and investment required to bring the national policy on aflatoxins control in food and feed. ”

**Rose Omari, Lead Scientist, CSIR-STEPRI, Ghana [Driving Safe Food Trade Briefing]**

[Driving Safe Food Trade in Africa Briefing](#)









### Snapshot: Using digital tools to facilitate safe food trade in West Africa

In support of STDF's partnership work on facilitating safe food trade, a feasibility study in 2023 explored how to use digital tools to improve compliance with food safety standards in West Africa. Countries in the region continue to face challenges in promoting agri-food exports and protecting consumer health given the limited availability of, and access to, internationally recognized food safety laboratories, certification or inspection bodies. Following the study, a project proposal was developed to use IT tools to support virtual accreditation, conformity assessment and capacity development. Approved for STDF funding in November, the nine-country project will be led by UNIDO in collaboration with the West African Accreditation Body (SOAC).

 Digital Tools Project Time frame: 2024-2027

 STDF contribution: US\$844,469  
(total value: US\$1,406,727)




 [Feasibility Study; Digital tools project](#)

### PPG Snapshot: Managing invasive potato pests in East and Southern Africa

In mid-2023, thanks to STDF support, a PPG report was finalized on invasive pests affecting the potato value chain in East and Southern Africa, which in turn is impacting food security, livelihoods and trade. A working group was set up to develop a project proposal in this area led by IITA under FAO, with partners CIP, ICIPE, KEPHIS and CABI. A series of consultative workshops gathered NPPOs, National Seed Authorities, farmer associations, research bodies and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the needs and priorities to tackle the potato cyst nematode pest. An STDF project, launched in late 2023, is training value chain actors to detect, diagnose and manage this pest responsible for low crop yields and for blocking access to markets. Results from the FAO-led project will be used to develop good practice guidelines, which can be replicated region-wide.

 Potato Pest Project Time frame: 2020-2023

 STDF contribution: US\$999,634  
(total value: US\$1,196,844)



 [Report; Regional Project](#)

### Event Snapshot: STDF project insights at the African Regulatory Authorities Forum

The STDF joined over 100 food regulators, global and regional partners at the first African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum in Cairo in October 2023 to look at delivery of the new Food Safety Strategy for Africa. At the event, the STDF shared insights on the need to invest in SPS capacity and build

public-private sector partnerships that harness innovation to cut trade costs, and the use of GRPs. Discussions highlighted

STDF's African project experiences, including those helping regulatory authorities to roll out new Codex guidelines on vTPA programmes to better profile food businesses, boost risk-based inspection and bring about the best way to allocate resources.







# Asia & The Pacific



## Regional Project Results: Using biopesticides to reduce residues and facilitate safe trade

In line with the COP28 Declaration on sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems and climate action, climate smart agriculture remained a priority area for the global community in 2023. New approaches are vital to protect crops, reduce waste and facilitate trade, while also preserving livelihoods and the environment.

In Asia, an STDF-funded project, led by APAARI in eight countries, provided evidence of how an innovative approach using biopesticides – alongside conventional plant protection products – can reduce issues related to pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and facilitate safe, sustainable trade.

The project equipped officials with new skills to generate and evaluate pesticide residue data for key crops in the region, including cabbage, sweet basil, dragon fruit and chili pepper. In turn, it helped develop protocols and good practices for farmers to meet Codex MRLs. Authorities in the region also harmonized their national biopesticides regulations, following ASEAN Guidelines, reinforcing STDF's approach to using good regulatory practices to lower trade transaction costs.

At the grassroots level, partnerships with farmers associations raised awareness and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. Linkages with a US-funded project led by CABI in Pakistan extended the project benefits further. South-South cooperation and Training of Trainers created the conditions for further learning and scaling-up from a local to regional level. Looking to the future, an Asia-Pacific Biopesticide Community is planned to enable regulators, industry and others to benefit further from the network created under the project, enhancing its sustainability.

As the costs of farm inputs rise and the need to protect biodiversity grows, the project shows that facilitating safe trade through region-wide innovation works. Going forward there is a need to further promote awareness-raising and champion good practices, while supporting a wider roll-out of biopesticides and residue trials. This will help yet more farmers to protect their crops, raise yields and make it easier for micro-, small and mid-sized businesses to expand their exports.

### Collaborations

- Partnership of governments, farmers and agri-food industry in eight countries in the region.
- South-South cooperation in the region (also engaging Pakistan and Singapore), as well as exchange on good practices and lessons with biopesticide stakeholders in Africa and Latin America

### Highlights

- 170+ government officers equipped with knowledge and skills on residue mitigation studies, biopesticide production and regulatory harmonization.
- 18+ residue mitigation studies for products (including cabbage, sweet basil, dragon fruit, chili peppers) grown by millions of small-scale Asian farmers for export.
- Studies showed that proper use of biopesticides at the end of the growing season reduced pesticide MRLs by half.
- Harmonization of participating countries' biopesticide regulations with ASEAN Guidelines.

### Innovations

- Piloting the use of biopesticides at the end of the crop season, alongside conventional pesticides, to reduce pesticide residues and facilitate market access.

### Partner Voices

“As part of our project, APAARI engages with partners from eight countries, all of whom played a crucial role and shared valuable insights on developing effective risk communication strategies and the importance of addressing pesticide residue concerns both at ground and policy level. Our 2023 webinar with STDF marked a significant step toward advancing agricultural trade and food safety, highlighting our collective commitment to tackling pressing challenges in this field.

**Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, APAARI**

“This [2023 project] workshop is very useful in terms of a more effective way of reducing pesticide residues. Mitigation of pesticide residues using biopesticides is the best way to get

low pesticide residue products without farmers having to pay a lot of money and also avoid worrying about crop failure.

**Anik Hidayah, Lab Technician, Indonesian Agricultural Environment Research Institute**

“Thanks to the STDF project, we've been able to get additional, complementary support under a new two-year project 'Risk Assessment for Pesticides and Contaminants' funded by the US Commerce Department.

**Ruwanthi Mandanayake, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Field Crops Research & Development Institute, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka**

[Asia Regional project](#); [Africa Regional project](#); [Latin America Regional project](#)



<h3>FAST FACTS</h3>	<p><b>TIME FRAME</b> 2020-2023</p>	<p><b>STDF CONTRIBUTION</b> US\$899,586 (total value: US\$1,269,603)</p>	<p><b>PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES</b> 8 countries including 3 LDCs: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand</p>	<p><b>LED BY</b> APAARI</p>
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# Snapshot

## PPG Snapshot: Remote inspection practices in food safety for improved trade

The Covid-19 pandemic raised questions among regulators about the use of remote inspections of food business operators, as discussed at the 2022 Vienna Food Safety Forum, co-organized by UNIDO with STDF and Australia.

In 2023, building on STDF’s support for data-driven and digital solutions for remote inspection, a knowledge product was developed under the Project Preparation Grant led by UNIDO. The publication assembled key lessons and good practices from a global survey that reached over 200 participants – mostly from regulators and the food industry.

As technology continues to develop and offers increasing potential to undertake regulatory activities remotely, it is important for competent authorities and auditing bodies to be transparent and negotiate the use of such tools within the food supply chain.

### Codex Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Inspection

ASEAN stakeholders at the workshop backed a regional approach to set up best practices in the area of remote audits, and inputted into a region-wide project, due to be submitted to the STDF.

[Knowledge Product on Remote Inspection; Codex Principles and Guidelines; Project Preparation Grant](#)



“ I believe the topic is of strong interest to participants and they had an opportunity to engage, question and explain their own circumstance. Participants were open in their discussion and eager to participate. I thought it was a successful stepping stone to greater future cooperation.

### Global survey participant, 2023

To move further ahead, in October 2023, the STDF co-hosted a workshop with UNIDO and Australia in Viet Nam, which brought 33 regulators from seven ASEAN member states around the table to share their concrete experiences in using remote food safety audits. This exchange built on the global survey findings as well as earlier discussions in Vienna. It also provided practical insights to inform work by Codex members and to rally support for new Codex Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Inspection, which were approved in November 2023.

## PPG Snapshot: Bhutan’s border management to facilitate safe agri-food trade

**Border Management Project Time frame: 2024-2027**

**STDF contribution: US\$967,800**  
(total value: US\$1,067,280)

A proposal was developed for a new project in Bhutan, as a result of STDF support, which enabled national stakeholders and international partners to agree on concrete steps to build capacity for border inspection and control of plant and animal products. The project, approved for STDF funding in 2023, is set to champion border agency coordination and trade facilitation reforms. On the ground, the project will address the needs of women traders, introducing gender-sensitive practices with the authorities.

The survey and field reports prepared also fed into the country’s development plan and leveraged wider support for a One Health approach to build national health system resilience. This includes a new US\$5 million programme under the World Bank Pandemic Fund, where FAO and WHO will develop infrastructure, laboratories and longer-term training programmes.

[Border management project](#)



## Event Snapshot - Niue: partnership in the Pacific supports honey exports

In 2023, the STDF connected Niue’s honey stakeholder network to regional and global partners to help build a Pacific-wide approach for the apiculture industry and boost its award-winning export potential. Following on from STDF support to set up a Pacific Bee Sanctuary with the Pacific Islands Forum and the Niuean government, the partnership amplified the buzz surrounding Niue honey at events over the year – from the WTO Public Forum to UNCTAD’s e-Week. Discussions spanned biosecurity and trade and showcased how digital technologies, e-commerce, and regional networks can help small businesses in vulnerable island states to develop products for global markets that also benefit biodiversity and nature locally. To date, Niue Honey has launched successfully in New Zealand, with plans in motion to expand into Australia, the United States and beyond.

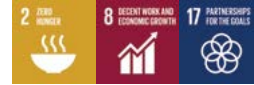
The STDF was recognized for bringing other parties and funders on board through concrete steps and mechanisms, helping to pave the way for a regional roadmap to expand the bee sanctuary.

“ The STDF has been great in lifting our visibility with agencies in the Pacific. We are now preparing a regional project to develop the apiculture industry in the Pacific. When you work with institutions like the STDF, it becomes a project that can be scaled and accelerated, which is essential in a world where diseases are spreading.

### Richard Duncan, CEO of the Niue Honey Company

[Buzz about Niue’s Bees; WTO Public Forum Session](#)

# Latin America & The Caribbean



## Project Evaluation – Southern Cone region: rolling out plant health measures expanded market access

Participating countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay

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

### In Numbers

**112** phytosanitary officers from all **7** COSAVE member states engaged in surveillance, pest risk analysis and impact of phytosanitary measures activities.

Contribution to better regional trade performance: fruit exports from COSAVE region up 70% between 2015-2022. Cereal exports doubled over same period.

A 2023 evaluation of STDF's project in the Southern Cone region of the Americas showcased significant results when it came to rolling out plant health measures to expand market access. The project, which ran from 2015-2019, was led by IICA, with the Plant Protection Committee of the Southern Cone (COSAVE), NPPOs and the IPPC.

### Evaluation Results

“ The project receives high marks for achieving important regional objectives (greater competence, and confidence; more harmonization in applying specific standards; stronger surveillance, pest risk assessment inspection and impact analysis capabilities; and better regional communications,

coordination and trust). All of this, combined with other factors, is contributing to better trade performance and market access, and is allowing the region to maintain its phytosanitary status.

**Andrea Spear, External Evaluator**

Evaluation findings show that the project improved inspections and phytosanitary certification and increased regional actors' competence to support better trade negotiation and market access outcomes for their agri-food products. Project networks also built greater trust among authorities leading to agile, streamlined action on plant health and solid public-private sector relationships.

The NPPOs and IICA were strongly committed to the project, which developed in a coordinated and participatory fashion, technical tools were very useful for the countries and had a positive impact on the facilitation of trade.

**COSAVE Directors**

Recommendations highlighted under the evaluation span the need to consolidate the regional online inspector training programme and to maintain the collaborative technical officers' learning-by-doing approach adopted in the project. In turn, it is necessary to institutionalize accountability to sustain key outputs, embed greater needs, risk and sustainability assessments and continue to engage the private sector in plant health initiatives with COSAVE and the NPPOs going forward.

### Evaluation Lessons

The challenge for COSAVE and its members now is to consolidate and build on these achievements over the longer term and address outstanding matters in a timely fashion. In future projects, they should consider devoting more attention upfront to the underlying issues that presented challenges in this project.

**Andrea Spear, External Evaluator**

[Evaluation: COSAVE project](#)

## Snapshot

### Event Snapshot: Launch of Regional Centre of Excellence in Pesticide Sciences

A Regional Centre of Excellence for Latin America in Pesticide Sciences was launched by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Bogotá in June 2023, thanks in part to support under STDF's regional biopesticides project now underway. The Centre, which was jointly developed with USDA and the Minor Use Foundation, is training technicians across the region on good laboratory practices.

[Workshop news: Regional project](#)

### Event Snapshot: Advancing eCert and eVet in the Americas

Electronic SPS certification has taken off in the Americas with some 20 countries exchanging ePhyto certificates through the Hub, thanks to the ePhyto Solution supported by the STDF and partners. In July 2023, the STDF ran a regional learning workshop in Costa Rica with IICA to move ahead on digitizing SPS certificates for animals and products of animal origin.

“ E-certification makes processes more expeditious, lowers costs, prevents documentary fraud involving agri-food products, and builds trust among health authorities. This issue is of particular importance in facilitating trade in animal-based products due to the digitization of procedures, as well as the protection this offers to public health.

**José Urdaz, Manager, Agricultural Health, Safety and Agrifood Quality Program, IICA**

Around the table, experts from IICA's 34 member states shared what works when it comes to standardizing protocols to issue and exchange electronic SPS certificates, drawing on the results and experiences from the ePhyto Solution. The dialogue also looked at innovative ways to pilot test a regional approach to exchange electronic veterinary certificates and promote trade in animal-based products. The workshop concluded there was a compelling need for a mechanism to generate and exchange eVet certificates made accessible to all, including for those with no national systems in place. As a result, public-private sector stakeholders worked jointly to develop a regional eVet certification pilot project, which was approved for STDF funding in November.

eVet Project Time frame: 2024-2027

US\$831,600 (total value: US\$1,031,600)

[eCert Workshop: eVet Project](#)







**LESSONS  
FOR THE  
FUTURE:  
STDF's future  
safe trade impact  
in partnership**

## Partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration that adapt and evolve are key to success.

In a world dominated by complex, interconnected challenges – from Covid-19 aftershocks to conflicts and food insecurity – the STDF's greatest strength lies in the evolving collaboration among its diverse actors operating across agriculture, health, trade and development. STDF's dynamic network provides an open, non-competitive platform focused on co-creating solutions that work, exchanging safe trade knowledge, learning and good practice to benefit those most in need in developing and least developed economies. Going forward, including as part of development of its new strategy that will run from 2025, it will be vital to ensure the partnership continues to adapt to a changing global context. This will involve deepening public-public and public-private cooperation and building targeted new relationships with relevant stakeholders, including the environment community and others involved in food systems transformation. By engaging and harnessing the power of partnerships and collaborations, the STDF's global partnership will be better equipped to respond to future challenges and to take advantage of strategic opportunities to facilitate safe trade.

## There is no quick fix to bring about SPS compliance – investment, innovation and digitalization are critical.

As new SPS issues emerge, and climate change increases the spread of plant pests and animal diseases, there is no simple way to bring about a fully functioning, integrated global SPS system. Needs, priorities and realities continue to differ widely across countries and regions. Commitment, hard work and increased investment – also at the country level – remains critical. The STDF partnership champions innovative solutions that can catalyse SPS capacity improvements and facilitate safe trade, adapted and tailored to country level, where there are the greatest financing gaps. For the STDF partnership, moving ahead on digitalization will mean unlocking the power of digital technologies for safe trade that contribute to transforming economies, creating jobs and improving the lives of those in the most vulnerable and remote situations.

## Progress now needs to be built on to leave no one behind via a holistic, transformative approach.

In today's world, threats to food safety, animal and plant health continue to cross borders, and it is only by building the region-wide capacity to respond that we can level the playing field for all. That means providing targeted support so that countries, not yet able to reap the benefits of the latest technical solutions – due to financing gaps or other development challenges – can also trade safely. By 2030, the world's population will be increasingly vulnerable to climate change, conflict and insecurity, presenting a critical challenge to empower least developed economies to benefit from trade alongside groups including women and small businesses. Research shows that non-tariff measures contribute more than twice as much to trade costs as tariffs. SPS measures are some of the costliest, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups and low-income countries. At the same time, SPS+ requirements (including ones linked to sustainability and climate change) are becoming increasingly important in some import markets, increasing the challenges for developing countries. The STDF partnership adopts an integrated approach to meeting SPS requirements for trade, including through its focus on gender, climate change, the environment and biodiversity. By leveraging greater collaborative solutions, the STDF will continue to champion the holistic One Health approach and food systems transformation that underpins the facilitation of safe, inclusive trade.





# Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS:



### Projects, PPGs and Knowledge Work

Two ex-post project impact evaluations finalized: STDF/PG/502 and STDF/PG/504

One independent end-of-project assessment completed

An external assessment of STDF's P-IMA framework completed

40 training sessions on LogAlto tool held with project implementing partners



### Cross-cutting Areas

Assessment on environment, biodiversity and climate commissioned, with results, lessons and recommendations to be shared in 2024.



### Operations

STDF Programme Evaluation assessing the 2020-2024 Strategy contracted and inception work completed in 2023, with findings to be shared in 2024.

STDF MEL Group met virtually in October to discuss LogAlto tool, which was also presented at the STDF Working Group in June.

### Experiences and Learning in 2023

The STDF MEL Framework focuses on demonstrating results and assessing learning across STDF's work over the course of the Strategy for 2020-2024. This includes set-up and use of the online LogAlto MEL tool by ongoing and new STDF projects, and the STDF Secretariat.

The LogAlto tool represents an innovation in the area of MEL and has inspired wider partners in their MEL work. For instance, CABI has started using LogAlto for MEL on its own projects.

“*Serving as a developing country expert has enabled me to learn from STDF's work on MEL, and to share the experiences and learning with the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards, which has taken it on board to inform and support development of a new MEL strategy for the Bureau.*”  
**Mary Grace Mandigma, STDF developing country expert, The Philippines**

By the end of 2023, 45 projects were reporting via the LogAlto platform, including eight new projects. Engaging end-users in project implementing organizations has ensured that the system better meets user needs and secures wider buy-in. The STDF Secretariat continues to play a hands-on role to provide guidance, deliver online training sessions and act as a helpdesk to support the tool's institutionalization.

There is a recognition across the STDF partnership that improvements on MEL are critical. Yet there is also awareness that moving the needle takes time and resources. Balancing expectations with resources available can be challenging. As more STDF development partners design their own customized MEL solutions, more time is required for reporting.

At the same time, there is a need to overcome ongoing challenges to rolling out the MEL Framework linked to gaps in knowledge, skills or experience in using online MEL tools. This requires a shift in mindset, combined with additional capacity, time and staffing for the STDF Secretariat, as well as for project implementing partners. Going forward, given that real improvements on MEL require dedicated time and resources, there is a need to set aside more work to fully deliver and reap the benefits of the MEL Framework.

### Evaluation and Strategy

In late 2023, an independent evaluation of the STDF programme got underway and is due to be completed by May 2024. The evaluation, which happens every five years, objectively assesses STDF results and impact based on the OECD DAC criteria and captures key lessons learned in the process. Project Economics Consulting are carrying out the evaluation and an Evaluation Steering Group made up of STDF partners (FAO, IFC, IPPC), development partners (France, The Netherlands) and developing country experts is providing guidance to the process and reviewing progress updates.

In 2023, the STDF Working Group also allocated funding to develop a new STDF strategy to run from 2025, which will build on the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation.

# Risk management in 2023

While risks related to Covid-19 abated, some other risks identified in the risk matrix continued in 2023. Risks at the programme level – as well as within specific projects – were mitigated and managed as far as possible by the Secretariat in cooperation with Working Group members, project implementing organizations and other stakeholders.

Risk	Likelihood	Risk mitigation and management
Continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic and/or emergence of a new major global crisis	<b>MEDIUM</b>	As the immediate impacts of the pandemic subside, ongoing efforts were taken to support projects impacted by Covid-19 to achieve progress and conclude their activities.
Limited interest among developing country stakeholders in the STDF's work	<b>LOW</b>	There is increasing interest in the STDF's work from stakeholders in developing countries, evidenced by the ongoing rise in the number of funding applications. The key challenge was to respond to all the requests received, including to support some stakeholders to submit applications of the quality required to be considered by the Working Group.
Inadequate resources (including financial, human and time) to deliver the STDF's Strategy	<b>MEDIUM TO HIGH</b>	While financial contributions rose in 2023, the volume of work, some staffing changes and a record 142 applications received for funding continued to increase pressure on the Secretariat team and created increased competition for project funding.
Lack of engagement of members in STDF's work	<b>LOW</b>	STDF founding partners and other partners generally continued to actively engage in the STDF Working Group and Practitioner Groups, and shared their time, expertise and guidance to support STDF workstreams. Several shared STDF good practices and knowledge products through their own networks and partnered on events. A Survey on levels of satisfaction with the Working Group in 2023 showed an average score of 4.60 (on a scale of 1-5, where 5 is highly satisfied).
External factors of specific relevance to STDF projects	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<p>Projects continued to face various challenges and delays in some cases. Common issues faced included: staff turnover in some government authorities and implementing organizations; difficulties to find qualified experts; challenges in using digital tools and social media by some groups (e.g. farmers); rising costs and exchange rate fluctuations resulting in funding gaps and/or overspending. Political instability continued to be a challenge in some places. Selected projects identified other risks, for instance related to the changing climate, as well as resistance to change.</p> <p>The Secretariat continued to engage closely with project partners to manage risks as far as possible. 9 projects and 4 PPGs requested, and were granted, no-cost extensions in 2023.</p>







# FINANCIALS

# Financial Contributions to the STDF Trust Fund in 2023

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER		AMOUNT (US\$)
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	798,241
<b>CANADA</b>	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)	762,180
<b>EUROPEAN COMMISSION</b>	DG for International partnerships (DG INTPA)	687,665
<b>FRANCE</b>	Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances and Ministère de l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation	515,984
<b>GERMANY</b>	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	2,423,188
<b>IRELAND</b>	Irish Aid	229,222
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	778,443
<b>NORWAY</b>	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	2,080,619
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	1,005,339
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA)	468,168
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>		<b>9,749,048</b>

# 2023 Expenditure

Total STDF expenditure in 2023 amounted to US\$8,069,781, compared to the total expenditure of US\$7,037,640 in STDF's 2023 work plan.

OUTPUT	ESTIMATE (US\$)	ACTUAL (US\$)	VARIATION
GLOBAL PLATFORM	56,500	51,258	-9.3%
PROJECTS AND PPGs	5,271,450	6,422,315	21.8%
KNOWLEDGE WORK	542,400	481,397	-11.2%
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING	433,920	587,986	35.5%
COMMUNICATIONS	339,000	171,951	-49.3%
OTHER OPERATIONAL COSTS	394,370	354,873	-10.0%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>7,037,640</b>	<b>8,069,781</b>	<b>14.7%</b>

At the end of December 2023, the STDF showed a negative balance of US\$1,107,967, as shown in the table below. This amount is calculated by deducting: (i) STDF's total expenditure in 2023; (ii) STDF's contracted commitments of US\$9,385,780 for ongoing PPGs and projects; and (iii) STDF's uncontracted commitments of US\$7,202,119 (corresponding to 4 PPGs and 7 projects approved by the Working Group in 2023 but not yet contracted as of 31 December 2023).



## STDF's financial balance by 31 December 2023

CATEGORY	AMOUNT IN US\$
OPENING BALANCE ON 1 JANUARY 2023	13,800,665
CURRENT YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS	9,749,048
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	183,142
TOTAL FUNDS	23,549,713
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8,069,781
CONTRACTED COMMITMENTS	9,385,780
BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS	6,094,152
UNCONTRACTED COMMITMENTS	7,202,119
<b>FINAL BALANCE</b>	<b>-1,107,967</b>



# 2023 Results table

Programme (STDF) level indicators	NARRATIVE
<b>SAFE TRADE FACILITATED</b>	
US\$ value of exports for target HS code products and target markets (i.e. regional, intra-regional, global, etc.)	NA
x Markets accessed	NA
x Firms with an increase in exports, disaggregated by gender and size of firm	NA
# of SPS non-compliance alerts/notifications	<b>STDF/PG/619:</b> 10 farms reduced rejections to zero
Evidence of market access and exports/imports directly facilitated through STDF support, with particular attention to climate change, environment, gender and inclusion	<b>STDF/PG/517:</b> Linkages between 484 farmers, 25 farmer producer organizations (FPO) and 116 traders/exporters MoU between FPO in Rajasthan and major trading company (for procurement from 150 farmers, with plan to expand to 2,500 farmers) Farmers in Andhra Pradesh secured new buyer for their black pepper
<b>PROGRAMME GOAL: INCREASED AND SUSTAINABLE SPS CAPACITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</b>	
# of STDF initiatives and PPGs/PGs contributing to changes in SPS legislation, regulation, policies, strategies, structures and/or processes	<b>STDF/PG/498:</b> Import inspection procedure for potato seed developed
	<b>STDF/PG/567:</b> New protocols for rapid, unambiguous recognition and surveillance of targeted fruit fly pests Surveillance programme for early detection of melon fly in South Africa Financial models set up for maintenance of PFAs and ALPPs
	<b>STDF/PG/569:</b> Technical inputs provided on draft Kyrgyz food safety law and inspection checklists for food products

19 COUNTRIES  
7 PGs

	<b>STDF/PG/611:</b> Updated laboratory sample management and analytical procedures for analysis on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon and pesticide residue.
	<b>STDF/PG/634:</b> Regional regulatory harmonization and compliance with ASEAN Guidelines on regulation, use and trade of Biological Control Agents to facilitate safe and effective use of biopesticides Strengthened regional regulatory networks
	<b>STDF/PG/681:</b> Cadmium sampling protocol developed
	<b>STDF/PG/838:</b> Five regional protocols for pest surveillance of Fusarium TR4 on banana farms in Andean Community developed
	<b>STDF/PG/498:</b> Protocol developed for surveillance of potato blight (to use data from weather station monitoring and warning system with IPM techniques) that promotes increased use of drought resistant varieties and newer generation plant protection products
	<b>STDF/PG/634:</b> Protocols developed for the use of biopesticides alongside convention plant protection products on four crops (cabbage, sweet basil, dragon fruit, chili pepper) which reduces use of conventional pesticides).
	<b>STDF/PG/498:</b> Online system for traceability (to producer level) of exported mangoes set up and in use
	<b>STDF/PG/567:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No melon fly species detected in Southern Mozambique (based on 232 culture-baited traps)</li> <li>Web-based fruit fly traps monitoring and surveillance database operational for South Africa and Mozambique.</li> <li>Open-access mobile apps developed to support tracking of fruit fly species of economic concern to Sub-Saharan Africa.</li> <li>Improved reporting to IPPC and trading partners by Mozambique and South Africa.</li> </ul>
	<b>STDF/PG/611:</b> Improved knowledge of trained trainers on use of more efficient and environmentally sustainable ovens
	<b>STDF/PG/634:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>174+ government officers from 9 countries improved knowledge and skills on MRL data generation, biopesticide production and regulatory harmonization resulting in improvements in practices (e.g. lab analysis, field studies, sampling, record-keeping, training).</li> <li>Evidence from project residue studies showed that proper use of biopesticides reduced pesticide MRLs by half</li> </ul>

including attention to environment, biodiversity and/or climate change

10 COUNTRIES  
2 PGs

Evidence of improved implementation and/or enforcement of food safety, animal and/or plant health measures for trade, with attention to climate change, environment, gender and inclusion

34 COUNTRIES  
8 PGs



	<p><b>STDF/PG/681:</b> 75% of participating labs improved cadmium diagnostic capacity New X-ray fluorescence lab equipment tested (cheaper, faster, practical) with potential to roll out for improvements.</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/682:</b> 30 government inspectors improved knowledge and skills on risk-based inspection practices Development and rollout of risk-based inspection programme</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/753:</b> Evidence generated on use of IPM and end-of-season mitigation to reduce pesticide residues 4 laboratories meet ISO certification requirements and/or GLP recognition 1 regional research and training centre established</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/755:</b> Regional Web portal for phytosanitary measures on seed created and used by Thailand and Philippines for publication of pest lists (Thailand: four crops; Philippines: eight crops)</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/567:</b> Engineering student designed trap to detect fruit fly species using AI and the Internet of Things</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/694:</b> Mozambique developed new biopesticide regulations, aligned with regional and international standards</p>
including attention to gender and youth 2 countries, 1 PG	
including attention to environment, biodiversity and/or climate change 2 countries, 1 PG	
<b>OUTCOME 1: MORE SYNERGIES AND COLLABORATION DRIVING CATALYTIC SPS IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
Value (US\$) of new investments leveraged +6% compared to 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US\$40,518,162 (estimated, budgeted in-kind and/or financial resources) leveraged from external sources for approved STDF projects from 2004 to end 2023.</li> <li>US\$2,387,854 (estimated) leveraged in 2023 (including US\$1,266,313 for PGs approved in 2023 and US\$1,121,541 for ongoing/completed PGs)</li> </ul>
#, type of collaborative networks, relationships, initiatives at global, regional and/or national level that support the delivery of change in SPS systems, including attention to partnerships addressing climate change, environment, gender and inclusion	<p><b>STDF/PG/517:</b> 54 Farmer Interest Groups (clusters of 15-20 farmers at village level) created and incorporated into Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in four states</p>

7 NETWORKS/GROUPS 7 PGs	<p><b>STDF/PG/567:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration improved across stakeholders in South Africa (Agricultural Research Council, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Citrus Research International, Stellenbosch University, FruitFly Africa), Mozambique (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Eduardo Mondlane University) and beyond (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium)</li> </ul> <p><b>STDF/PG/611:</b> Cooperation between two laboratories on pesticide residues and PAHs</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/634:</b> South-South dialogue and sharing of experiences between countries in Southeast Asia on good practices</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/682:</b> Cooperation and sharing of experiences between Belize, Honduras, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and UK Food Standards Agency</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/694:</b> CABI and ICGEB signed MoU for cooperation on CABI Bioprotection Portal (end 2022) including dissemination of relevant project reports</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/753:</b> Catalysed collaboration between IICA, USDA, Minor Use Foundation (MUF) and STDF project on Regional Center of Excellence for Latin America and the Caribbean in Pesticides Science</p>
Evidence of adaptation, replication, scaling of STDF approaches	<p><b>STDF/PG/517:</b> Samples of spices collected for National Contaminant and Residue Control Programme (NCRCP) in all project states and included in national Quality Evaluation Lab MRL analysis led by the Spices Board</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/567:</b> Pest Free Area (PFA) for melon fly established in southern Mozambique (Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane) and in whole of South Africa. Four pest free areas for oriental fruit fly in South Africa (Western Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and parts of Eastern Cape) 7 Areas of Low Pest Prevalence (ALPPs) established for oriental fruit fly; 2 ALPPs for the Mediterranean fruit fly In Mozambique, four farms established as ALPPs for oriental fruit fly and 32 ALPPs established for melon fly</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/611:</b> National lab upgraded for analysis of pesticide residues and PAHs. Prototypes developed for improved ovens for smoking fish, 8 ovens produced locally and supplied to cooperatives (benefitting 539 members including 309 women) Food technology Lab doing research for further improvements and dissemination of the oven technology</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/634:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 residue mitigation studies generated evidence that use of biopesticide at end of growing season reduced pesticide residues by 50%.</li> <li>Over 40 lab officials trained on Good Laboratory Practices (GLP)</li> <li>19 officials from 7 countries trained on Microbial Biopesticide Production</li> </ul>
13 COUNTRIES 4 PGs	

<p><b>Evidence of the coordination and/or alignment of SPS capacity development interventions by WG members</b></p> <p><b>5 EXAMPLES</b></p>	<p>AUC / Akademiya 2063 / Norman Borlaug Institute/ US Learning Event on Harmonized SPS Policies and Capacities in Africa (Rwanda, March 2023)</p> <p>ISF World Seed Congress (South Africa, June 2023)</p> <p>IGC Grains Conference 2023 (UK, June 2023)</p> <p>First African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (Cairo Egypt, Oct 2023)</p> <p>From 2021-23, building on STDF project, COLEAD and IPPC collaborated on development and translation of e-learning courses on Pest Risk Analysis and Export Certification, as part of FAO/COMESA trade facilitation programme on use of ISPMs.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOME 2: GREATER ACCESS TO, AND USE OF, GOOD PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AT GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL</b></p>	
<p><b># of people reached (disaggregated by women/ men and geography/region) with STDF good practices, knowledge products</b></p>	<p><b>STDF/PG/498:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 phytosanitary inspectors (2 female) and others trained on improved border controls for imported seed potatoes</li> <li>3 experts trained to draft Good Practice Guide for seed potatoes</li> <li>181 farmers (6 women) trained on good practices</li> </ul>
<p><b>&gt;6820 PEOPLE TRAINED INCLUDING &gt;822 WOMEN IN 37 COUNTRIES</b></p>	<p><b>STDF/PG/517:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>150 master trainers trained on GAP and GHP for spices</li> <li>1,700 spice farmers and other value chain stakeholders trained in 8 different villages on GAP and GHP</li> <li>1,508 farmers (36% female) reached via street plays on good practices</li> <li>421 farmers from 10 villages trained on compliance requirements for India Good Agricultural Practices (IndGAP) certification.</li> <li>35 faculty members of agriculture universities trained on GAP and GHP</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/567:</b></p> <p>Advance training course (ToT) on identification of African frugivorous flies (including officials from South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and DRC) and private sector (10 persons)</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/569:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,560 fruit and vegetable farmers trained on GAPs</li> <li>86 employees from 37 fruit/veg processing companies trained on HACCP</li> <li>Advice on improved Food Safety Management Systems provided to 22 staff of 10 processing companies</li> <li>37 national food safety experts trained via ToT programme</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/611:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 processors (including 22 women), 3 lab technicians, 1 lab trainer and 3 lab managers trained, covering hygiene and quality in fish processing, fish collection and packaging techniques, food safety, etc.</li> <li>Trained women trainers have in turn trained 125 people (including 106 women) to use new fish smoking ovens</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/634:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 327 farmers increased awareness of sustainable agricultural practices and use of biopesticides</li> <li>63 participants from government agencies, universities, plant protection centres and private companies improved knowledge (covering insect pathogenic fungus isolation and identification; secure accession of candidate strains for future use; screening criteria for the best candidate; mass production; quality control)</li> <li>Over 40 lab officials trained on Good Laboratory Practices (GLPs)</li> </ul>

	<p><b>STDF/PG/665:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22 inspectors, 16 private sector, 6 lab representatives and producers (34 men and 11 women) in Senegal and Mali trained on risk-based inspection for mango sector.</li> <li>55 women and 89 men from producers, inspectors, authorities and advisory firms trained on vTPA and GlobalG.A.P</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/672:</b></p> <p>29 persons (15 private sector, 14 government) trained on risk analysis and shellfish sanitation, of whom 41% were women</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/694:</b></p> <p>36 people (including 18 women) trained on use of harmonized biopesticide registration guidelines</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/755:</b></p> <p>17 NPPO representatives (including 10 women) trained on pest risk analysis and pest list for seeds</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/759:</b></p> <p>66 technical officers (including 40 women) trained on pest management</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/842:</b></p> <p>45 regulators from Rwanda and Uganda trained on vTPA programmes, Codex vTPA Guidelines</p>
<p><b># of downloads of different types of knowledge products from website, disaggregated by geography</b></p> <p><b>26,276</b></p>	<p>26,276 downloads from STDF website (Guidance note, PG and PPG applications, General presentation, Handbook project design, GRP Guide, Gender Assessment, annual report)</p> <p>Web users from 208 countries: 29% Africa, 25% Asia-Pacific, 22% Europe, 10% North America, 13% South America, Central America, Caribbean, 1% other</p>
<p><b>Evidence of uptake and application of good practices and knowledge products produced by STDF to inform and support SPS capacity development led by global / regional / national bodies</b></p> <p><b>5 STDF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS OR APPROACHES</b></p>	<p>Two PG implementing organizations conduct gender analysis (PG/665; PG/842); COLEAD launched new work to mainstream gender in its SPS capacity development programmes, influenced by the STDF's Gender Action Plan</p> <p>CABI used STDF's P-IMA framework to prioritize interventions in livestock value chains in Kenya</p> <p>USDA used STDF GRP Guide to inform learning session during STDF/AUC/AFCFTA/US GRP Learning Event (Sep. 2023, Ghana)</p> <p>ADB supported translation of STDF GRP for CAREC countries in Central Asia</p> <p>Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards, The Philippines used the STDF MEL Framework to inform own MEL strategy</p> <p>UNIDO built on vTPA project work to develop vTPA Assessment Tool</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT: STDF GLOBAL PLATFORM - DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE AMONG WG MEMBERS AND WITH OTHER RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS</b></p>	
<p><b># and type of STDF/external meetings</b></p> <p><b>&gt;80 EVENTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STDF Events: 2 Working Group meetings, 6 Practitioner Group meetings, 11 events organized or co-organized by STDF Secretariat and diverse other project events</li> <li>STDF participation in approx. 60 other relevant external events</li> </ul>



<p># of participants (quantity) in online or physical STDF/ external events</p> <p>&gt;4,700</p>	<p>4,700 representatives of governments, industry, international and regional organizations.</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT: STDF KNOWLEDGE WORK, PUBLICATIONS, GOOD PRACTICE BRIEFINGS, FILMS, ETC. PRODUCED</b></p>	
<p># and type of STDF knowledge products completed/ published</p> <p>&gt;86 KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STDF publications including: P-IMA Guide, STDF/AGRA FTCA policy brief, P-IMA evaluation report, STDF/UNIDO publication on use of remote practices in food safety, STDF/UNIDO Value Chain Analysis on Pepper, Clove and Nutmeg in Sri Lanka, STDF/UNIDO publication of vTPA Assessment Tool</li> </ul> <p><b>STDF/PG/517:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of 4 ToT modules on GAP and GHP for selected spices value chains</li> <li>Communications materials (print, video) for farmers on GAPs and GHPs, translated into local languages</li> </ul> <p><b>STDF/PG/567:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action plans developed for maintenance of ALPPs of melon fly in South Africa and Mozambique</li> <li>7 YouTube videos developed covering diverse topics for fruit fly surveillance</li> <li>Training video produced on use of web platform developed as part of the project</li> </ul> <p><b>STDF/PG/569:</b></p> <p>Training materials on Food Safety Management Systems at farm and process levels (GAP, GMP, GHP, HACCP) supplemented by dissemination of existing information from STDF partners and others</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/611:</b></p> <p>Diverse educational / training tools developed to support use of improved fish smoking ovens and improved safety and quality of smoked fish</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/619:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Factsheets for farmer groups covering major pepper pests and diseases and farming techniques in Viet Nam and Cambodia</li> <li>Factsheets for field activities covering irrigation, weed management, fertilizer, harvesting, etc.</li> <li>Technical content for farmers in local language in Lao PDR covering safe use of pesticides, biopesticides, composting, record keeping, contamination risks, legal requirements for establishment of farmer groups, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>STDF/PG/634:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 residue mitigation studies and videos of microbial biopesticide production</li> <li>Factsheets on biopesticide usage addressing environment and reduced risk from chemical pesticides, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>STDF/PG/665:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment report of Mali and Senegal's national inspection capacities</li> <li>Training on vTPA, disseminated via video and radio</li> <li>Analysis reports on food control and certification practices in Senegal and in Mali</li> <li>Support to create website for African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF)</li> </ul>

	<p><b>STDF/PG/681:</b></p> <p>Scientific paper published on cadmium sample variability and variability of local lab tests</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/682:</b></p> <p>Risk-based inspection report evaluating poultry, beans, and coconut chains inspection in Belize, aquaculture shrimp and fresh produce in Honduras</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/694:</b></p> <p>Drafting of IPM toolkit and guidelines on standard operating procedures (SOPs) and GAP targeted at farmers</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/759:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gap analysis for pest risk environment and mitigation practices in Jamaica</li> <li>Hot Pepper Status Report drafted with list of required tools, equipment and reagents for surveillance of pests</li> <li>Pest Emergency Response Plan and a Training Manual for the Identification of Hot Pepper Quarantine Pest produced</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/807:</b></p> <p>2 curricula for ToT on identification and management of scale insects</p>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/838:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elaboration of the diagnosis of the phytosanitary situation of the Andean countries for the implementation of the Regional Centre for Phytosanitary Intelligence of the Andean Community (pilot for Fusarium - Foc R4T)</li> <li>6 regional guidelines and 2 case studies for pest surveillance on Fusarium TR4 on banana farms</li> </ul>
	<p><b>STDF/PG/842:</b></p> <p>Mapping reports drafted on use of vTPA programmes (aquaculture / fisheries value chain in Uganda and horticulture value chain in Rwanda) and disseminated</p>
<p># knowledge products with attention to gender equality</p> <p>1 KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT</p>	<p>STDF Gender Action Plan</p>
<p># knowledge products with attention to environment, biodiversity and climate change</p> <p>2 KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS</p>	<p>STDF briefing note on climate change</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/498:</b> Environmental protection taken into account in potato good practice guide</p>

OUTPUT: SPS ASSESSMENTS AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES CONDUCTED AND PROJECT PROPOSALS FORMULATED UNDER STDF PPGs	
<p># PPGs approved for STDF funding</p> <p>7 PPGs</p>	<p><b>STDF/PPG/909:</b> Improving food safety and market access in Ghana's spice value chain</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/921:</b> Scaling up the P-IMA tool in The Gambia</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/935:</b> Advancing apiculture for economic development in the Pacific Islands</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/941:</b> Promoting live animal trade and export in Eastern Africa</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/945:</b> Evaluating Ethiopia's Phytosanitary Capacity</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/969:</b> Improving SPS practices in cacao in Cameroon</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/970:</b> Improving the implementation of food safety standards in Saint Lucia</p>
<p># PPG completed</p> <p>9 PPGs</p>	<p><b>STDF/PPG/709:</b> Applying the P-IMA tool in Ecuador</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/721:</b> Strengthening food safety and quality compliance in select spices</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/734:</b> Strengthening capacity for border inspection and control of plants, animals and their products</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/770:</b> Post-COVID-19 voluntary food quality control in West Africa through digitisation</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/773:</b> SPS needs assessment for private and public actors in the Burundian horticultural sector</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/782:</b> Remote inspection practices in food safety for improved trade</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/789:</b> Building phytosanitary capacity of cross-border traders in Zambia</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/809:</b> Regional approach towards addressing invasive quarantine pests of potato in East and Southern Africa</p> <p><b>STDF/PPG/831:</b> Prioritizing SPS investments in Bangladesh using P-IMA</p>
<p>% of PPGs meeting minimum STDF assessment threshold</p> <p>89%</p>	<p>Out of the 9 completed PPGs in 2023, 9 responded to the STDF's end-of-PPG survey. 8 out of 9 exceeded the minimum assessment threshold of 70% based on quality of delivery, effectiveness of PPG intervention, relevance, involvement of relevant national and regional stakeholders.</p>
OUTPUT: INNOVATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE SPS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED	
<p># PGs approved for STDF funding</p> <p>7 PGs</p>	<p><b>STDF/PG/734:</b> Modernizing Bhutan's border management ecosystem to facilitate safe agri-food trade</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/768:</b> Harmonizing the phytosanitary legislative framework in Central Africa</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/770:</b> Using digital tools to facilitate safe food trade in West Africa</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/786:</b> Enhancing aflatoxin management in Ghana's maize and groundnuts</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/845:</b> Improving SPS compliance to boost Nigeria's export capacity</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/856:</b> Enhancing multilateral e-veterinary certification in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/946:</b> Strengthening phytosanitary capacity to promote exports of horticulture products from Senegal</p>
<p># PGs completed</p> <p>2 PGs</p>	<p><b>STDF/PG/567:</b> Establishing and maintaining fruit fly-free areas in Southern Africa</p> <p><b>STDF/PG/634:</b> Mitigating pesticide residue through the promotion of biopesticides in Asia</p>
<p>% of PGs meeting minimum STDF assessment threshold</p> <p>100</p>	<p>Out of the 2 completed PGs in 2023, 2 responded to STDF end-of-PG survey. Both projects exceeded the minimum assessment threshold of 70% based on quality of delivery, effectiveness of PG intervention, relevance, involvement of relevant national and regional stakeholders.</p>





# Glossary

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank	<b>COSAVE</b>	Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal del Cono Sur	<b>IPPC</b>	International Plant Protection Convention	<b>TFSP</b>	Trade Facilitation Support Program (World Bank)
<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area	<b>CSIR-STEPRI</b>	CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute	<b>ISF</b>	International Seed Federation	<b>TORs</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>AGRA</b>	African-led institution focused on scaling agricultural innovations	<b>EAC</b>	East African Community	<b>KEPHIS</b>	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service	<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence	<b>eCert</b>	Electronic Certification	<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Country	<b>UMIC</b>	Upper Middle-Income Country
<b>ALPP</b>	Area of Low Pest Prevalence	<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States	<b>MC12</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>APAARI</b>	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions	<b>EIF</b>	Enhanced Integrated Framework	<b>MEL</b>	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>APEC</b>	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	<b>ePhyto</b>	Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate	<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding	<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>ARC</b>	Agricultural Research Council of South Africa	<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>MRL</b>	Maximum Residue Level	<b>UN ESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	<b>eVet</b>	Electronic Veterinary Certificate	<b>MSME</b>	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprise	<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission	<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization	<b>US</b>	United States
<b>AU-IBAR</b>	African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources	<b>FBO</b>	Food Business Operator	<b>NPPO</b>	National Plant Protection Organization	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>AU-IPSAC</b>	African Union – Inter-African Phytosanitary Council	<b>FTCA</b>	Food Trade Coalition for Africa	<b>OECD DAC</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Assistance Committee	<b>US FDA</b>	United States Food and Drug Administration
<b>CABI</b>	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International	<b>GATF</b>	Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation	<b>PACER</b>	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus	<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>CAREC</b>	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation	<b>GRP</b>	Good Regulatory Practice	<b>PFA</b>	Pest-Free Area	<b>vTPA</b>	Voluntary Third-Party Assurance
<b>CIP</b>	International Potato Centre	<b>IAG</b>	Industry Advisory Group (ePhyto)	<b>PG</b>	Project Grant	<b>WBG</b>	World Bank Group
<b>CODEX</b>	Codex Alimentarius Commission	<b>ICGEB</b>	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology	<b>P-IMA</b>	Prioritizing SPS Investments for Market Access	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>COLEAD</b>	Committee Linking Entrepreneurship-Agriculture-Development	<b>ICIPE</b>	International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology	<b>PPG</b>	Project Preparation Grant	<b>WOAH</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation	<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership	<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization
<b>COP28</b>	2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference	<b>IGTC</b>	International Grain Trade Coalition	<b>SADC</b>	Southern Africa Development Community		
		<b>IICA</b>	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal		
		<b>IITA</b>	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	<b>SOAC</b>	West African Accreditation Body		
				<b>SPS</b>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary		
				<b>SSAFE</b>	Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere		
				<b>STDF</b>	Standards and Trade Development Facility		

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