

IMPLEMENTING STANDARDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: THE STANDARDS AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT FACILITY

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The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a global partnership on SPS capacity building involving FAO, OIE, WHO, WTO and the World Bank, assists developing countries in enhancing their capacity to analyze and implement international SPS standards, improving their human, animal and plant health situation, and thus ability to gain and maintain market access. As a coordination mechanism, the STDF aims to enhance the awareness of SPS issues, share information, exchange experience, disseminate good practice and mobilize resources through interaction with other relevant initiatives, such as Aid for Trade and other SPS-related programmes. Current STDF work focuses on the use of economic analysis to inform SPS-related decision-making, SPS indicators, and public-private partnerships in SPS capacity building. The STDF also finances the development of projects and has limited funds available for project implementation. Animal health projects should take into account the results of the country PVS evaluations using the OIE PVS Tool and PVS Gap Analysis, where appropriate. Veterinary legislation is a key element of good governance. Where significant gaps in veterinary legislation are identified in the course of PVS evaluations, countries should consider undertaking projects to strengthen veterinary legislation. The OIE and other international organisations like FAO offer technical support and advice to such projects.. Projects aimed at strengthening key elements of the veterinary infrastructure and governance, including through revision of outdated veterinary legislation, are a relevant target for investment by donors engaged with the STDF.

Keywords: Technical assistance – Coordination – Project development – Veterinary legislation.
