

Standards and Trade Development Facility Workshop

30 September 2007

Making market access opportunities a reality means complying with a growing body of non-tariff requirements. These requirements may be legal obligations or commercial realities. Particularly difficult can be standards related to the complex area of food safety, animal and plant health (collectively known as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures). Compliance with SPS measures is becoming an increasingly important determinant in market access, not just into developed country markets, but also in regional trade relations. The fall-out from health scares related to food and feedstuffs can have global and long-lasting negative consequences.

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) workshop will bring together senior officials concerned with SPS compliance and trade, key donors and private sector representatives. The focus will be to look at the role of SPS capacity building in promoting the integration of developing countries into world trade. The side event will have a regional focus, looking in detail at three countries from the East African Community (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania), but the conclusions which will be drawn should have significance for African countries as a whole.

The STDF workshop is open to all participants of the main Aid for Trade event.

Objectives:

- Underline the importance of SPS compliance for market access
- Identify capacity building needs in three case study countries
- Highlight the evolving nature of official and commercial standards in the SPS area
- Survey the provision of SPS-related technical assistance in case study countries
- Examine how best to foster good practice and bridge the gap between needs and the provision of assistance
- Set out further steps to galvanize interest and resources on SPS-related technical assistance

Links:

Standards and Trade Development Facility <http://www.standardsfacility.org>

World Trade Organization http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm

Food and Agriculture Organization www.fao.org

World Health Organization http://www.who.int/topics/food_safety/en/

World Organization for Animal Health www.oie.int

World Bank:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/TRADE/0,,contentMDK:20629901~menuPK:222955~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:239071,00.html>