

# 7th CAREC Regional Trade Group Meeting

13 June 2025, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Simon Padilla

STDF Secretariat

[simon.padilla@wto.org](mailto:simon.padilla@wto.org)

## FIND OUT MORE



# What is the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)?

A Global partnership that helps developing countries improve their food safety, and animal and plant health capacity to meet **SPS requirements**, based on international standards, to gain or maintain market access.



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



WORLD BANK GROUP



World Health  
Organization



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

# What does the STDF do?

## Three Workstreams:

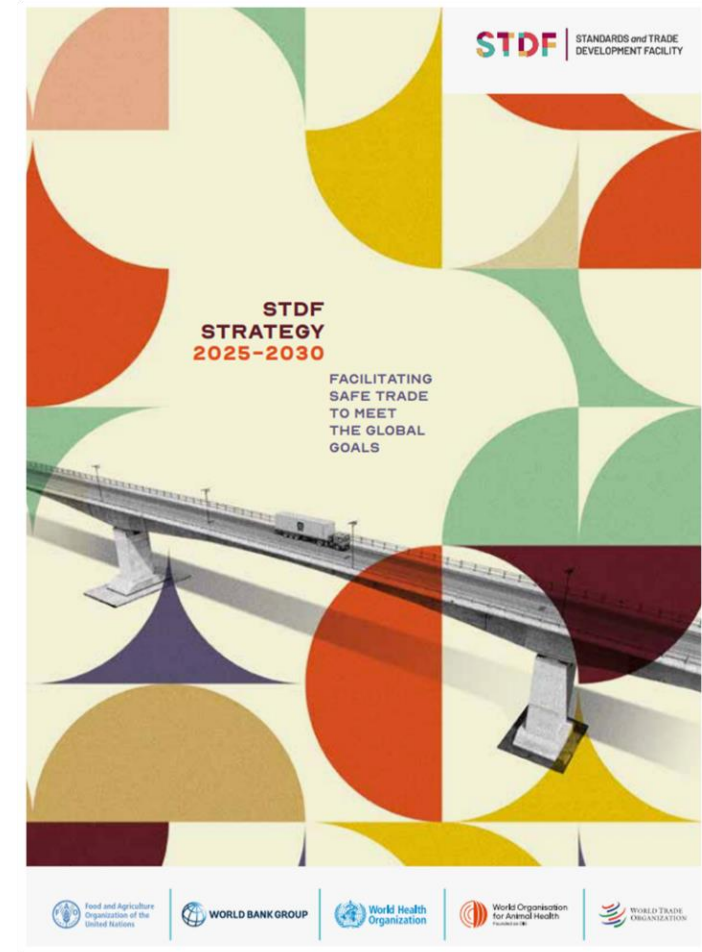
1. Global platform for coordination and dialogue

+

2. Knowledge work to identify and disseminate good practices

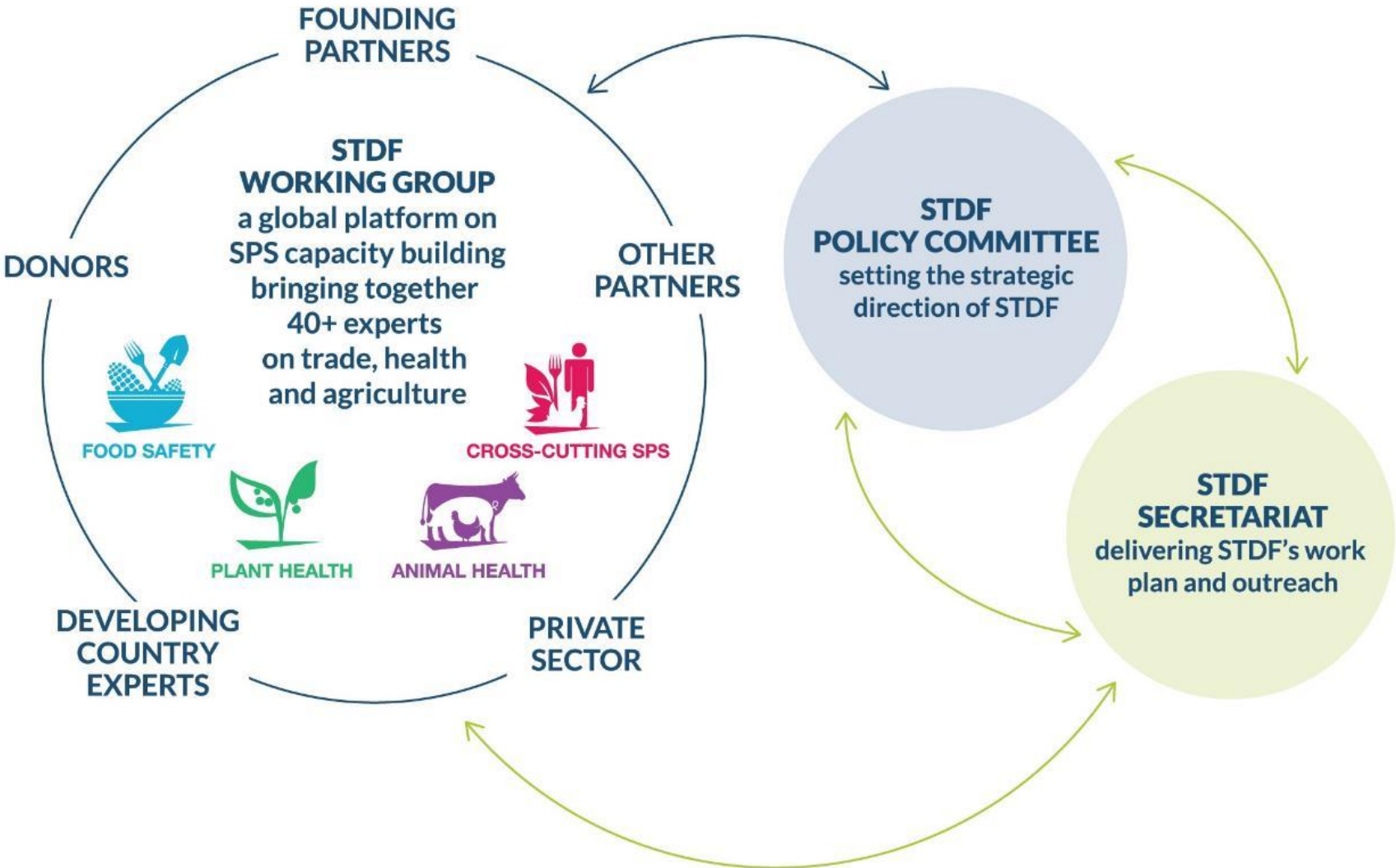
+

3. Funding mechanism to develop and implement innovative, collaborative projects based on international standards



See more: [STDF strategy 2025-2030 Eng.pdf](#)

# STDF Global Coordination Platform



# STDF Knowledge Work



## Connecting stakeholders, co-creating and sharing good practices

Public-private partnerships (PPP)

Evidence-based approaches to prioritize SPS investments (P-IMA)

Trade facilitation - SPS eCertification

Good regulatory practices (GRP)

# Funding Mechanism



## Project Preparation Grants (PPG)

Seed funding (up to **US\$50,000**)

- Apply capacity evaluation / prioritization tools
- Assess feasibility before project development
- Develop an SPS capacity building project proposal

## Projects (PG)

Up to **US\$1,000,000**, duration of three years

- Identify, develop or share good practice
- Include regional/global approaches
- Innovative, replicable, collaborative



# Examples of Project Grants (PGs)

Preparation of a project proposal to facilitate market access through enhancing phytosanitary capacity in Uzbekistan

<https://standardsfacility.org/PPG-944>

Enhancing capacity for food safety management in the Kyrgyz fruit and vegetable industry

<https://standardsfacility.org/PG-569>

Piloting an improved animal identification and registration system in Mongolia

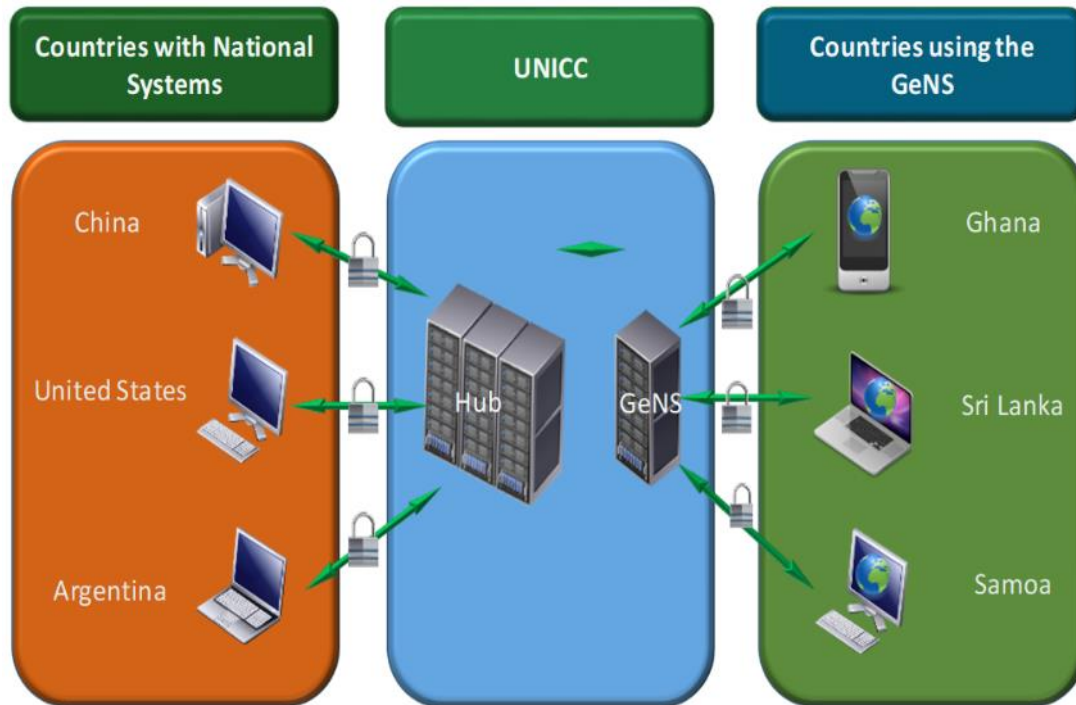
<https://standardsfacility.org/PG-534>

Strengthening phytosanitary border controls in Azerbaijan

<https://standardsfacility.org/PG-316>



# The ePhyto Solution (STDF/PG/504)



## Recent highlights

### ePhyto numbers:

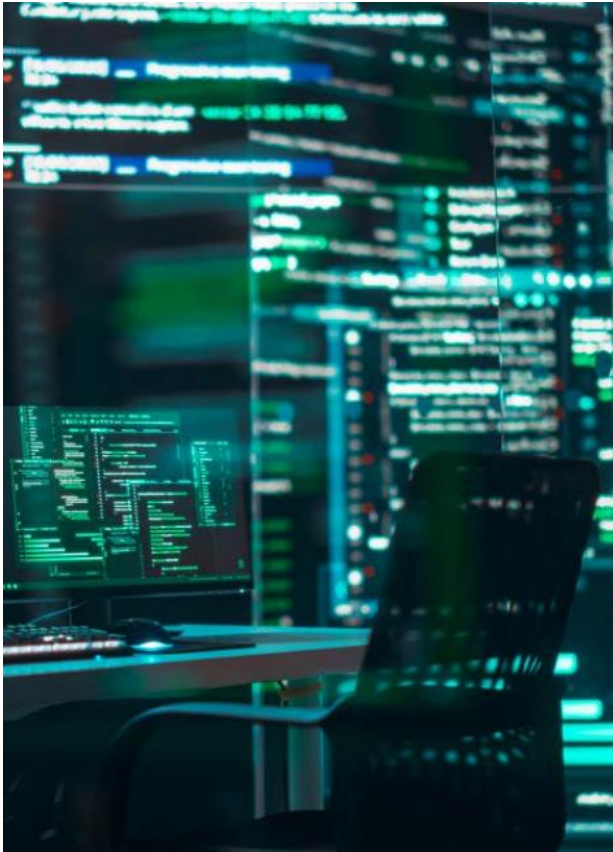
- 140 countries **connected** to the ePhyto Hub
- 96 countries **exchanging** ePhytos
- 200,000+ ePhytos exchanged **per month**
- 2.5 million ePhytos exchanged **in 2024**

### In the CAREC region:

- **Exchanging:** Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan
- **Testing:** China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic
- **Not registered:** Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

The IPPC ePhyto Solution platform: <https://www.ephytoexchange.org>

# Ex-post evaluation of the ePhyto Solution



## Key Lessons

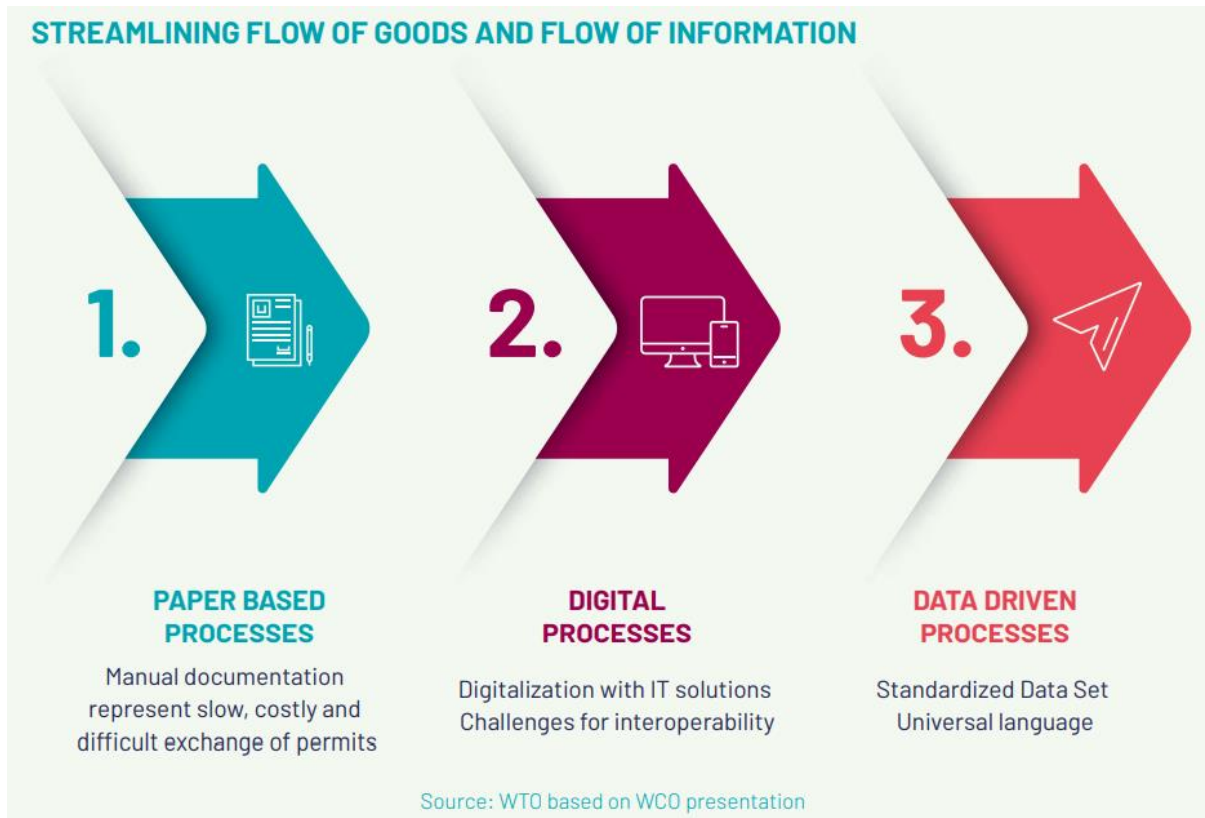
- **Harmonization:** encouraging the use of international standards.
- Minor investments in **digitization** and **technology** have catalyzing effects in trade facilitation.
- **Private sector** is interested, engaged, and willing to contribute to trade facilitation.
- eCert: a **rolling implementation** is both possible and effective.

# Digitalization challenges

- **Spaghetti bowl** of platforms and systems.
- Lack of **resources/capacity** (human resources and infrastructure).
- Limited **coordination** (agency-specific efforts).
- Lack of international **standards**.
- **Data** protection and confidentiality.



# Looking ahead: recommendations



- **Cross-government collaboration:** Use of national coordination platforms.
- **Use of existing infrastructure:** Integration into national/regional Single Windows
- **Leverage existing standards** for data exchange.
- **Re-think business processes** for greater efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Put interoperability first** into the development of domestic or cross-border digital services

# Opportunities for collaboration



Use STDF good practices (publications, videos, etc.)

Sign up for STDF e-news:  
[www.standardsfacility.org](http://www.standardsfacility.org)

Apply for STDF funding (PPGs, Projects)

See examples of completed Projects/PPGs  
Consult with regional/national stakeholders

Submit online application form  
Next deadline: 1 August 2025

# With thanks to STDF donors and other partners

