Facilitating **Safe Trade**: Experiences and lessons from STDF’s work

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[www.standardsfacility.org](http://www.standardsfacility.org)
Recognizing
The right to protect human, animal, plant life or health

Avoiding discrimination and unnecessary barriers to trade
Convening & Connecting:
Global coordination and knowledge platform, network for SPS capacity building

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Piloting & Learning:
Funds for innovative, cross-cutting SPS projects and project development
Realities on the ground

SPS measures may result in justifiable transaction costs based on need to protect health but

Ineffective and inefficient SPS controls disrupt trade more than necessary, and sometimes result in poor health protection
SPS procedural obstacles

- Limited information
- Multiple inspections
- Lack of coordination at borders
- Complex and lengthy procedures
- Excessive document requirements
- No complaints / appeal procedures
- Arbitrariness, unpredictability
Influencing factors

Low awareness about importance of trade facilitation

Trade facilitation not seen as part of core role

Limited skills, technical capacity

Too little funding for operational costs

Lack of public-private dialogue
Why this matters

More controls than justifiable

Longer than needed waiting times

Increased costs for traders, also for governments

SMEs/women suffer the most

Informal trade
Win-win opportunities to facilitate *safe* trade

- Improve transparency
- Streamline and simplify SPS processes
- Use risk-based approaches
- Connect customs and SPS authorities

http://www.standardsfacility.org/facilitating-safe-trade
Future work

Use TFA to leverage resources and improve SPS border management

Use international standards (Codex, OIE, IPPC)

Review existing SPS measures

Explore use of IT for SPS compliance/controls (STDF project on pest surveillance/reporting in SE Asia, ePhyto and eVet, etc.)

http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-432
http://www.standardsfacility.org/SPS-eCert
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