

# Strengthening the Recovery of Agricultural Markets after COVID-19 Pandemic

Implemented by the *Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag)*  
As part of the special initiative *Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems*

## The Challenge

Agricultural markets have been severely disrupted through impacts of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic provides a clear reminder of the ease and speed at which pests and diseases can spread worldwide and of the inter-connectedness of our global supply chains. Its extraordinary disruption to the global economy and world trade underscores the importance of constructing food safety and plant and animal health capacities as a global public good. The consequences of COVID-19, such as shocks to agricultural production, distribution and trade, challenge the way the agri-food sector works and the mechanisms by which food safety can be ensured, including sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) management functions such as inspection and surveillance.

Name of the Project	Strengthening the recovery of agricultural markets after Covid-19 through the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)
Name of the Global Fund	Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Region	Global
Implementing Partners	Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)
Duration	08/2021 — 06/2026

## The Strategy

Establishing global multi-stakeholder partnerships to stabilise post-pandemic recovery

The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a global multi-stakeholder partnership for the facilitation of safe and inclusive trade and to contribute to sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. The STDF promotes the improvement of food safety as well as animal and plant health capacities in partner countries. This helps to meet SPS requirements for trade (import and export) based on international standards. By bringing together the SPS expertise with the skills of its founding partners, donors and other organisations, the STDF provides a unique forum to exchange information and encourage collaboration and synergies. Stakeholders involved are thus enabled to achieve more effective and sustainable results than would be possible on their own.

## The Main Objective

*Economic recovery from shocks of COVID-19 through improved sanitary and phytosanitary measures in agricultural trade*



L: Quality assurance of beans for export; R: Apple production in Chile

## Methodological Approach and Innovation Partnership

The project is implemented through basket funding, complementing ongoing support by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The implementation strategy as well as the monitoring and evaluation of activities are guided by the operational guidelines of the STDF and its steering structure. Biannual meetings of the STDF working group, which consists of technical-level representatives of STDF's partners and donors, as well as the experts from developing countries, guide the implementation of activities and projects through the STDF secretariat.

## Sustainability and Scaling Strategy

Since its inception in 2004, the STDF has contributed to safe and inclusive trade through more than 85 projects worldwide. Due to its global partnership approach, the lessons learnt and networking exceed the impact of individual project grants. In support of the 2030 Agenda, the STDF constitutes a global platform for dialogue and learning on SPS capacity development. By convening and connecting diverse stakeholders from agriculture, health, trade and development across its knowledge and project work, and by piloting and learning from innovative and collaborative approaches, the STDF influences and catalyses SPS capacity development globally. In doing so, the STDF also addresses cross-cutting issues, such as gender-sensitivity and environmental protection, so that trade generates decent work and productive employment opportunities for women and men while benefiting the planet. Sector development projects that reach small producers along agricultural value chains contribute to enabling framework conditions for private sector development and investments in local value addition.

## Important Activities

- Selection of three STDF projects through the STDF working group based on the project proposals received and the relevance of ongoing projects related to COVID-19 response
- Implementation and evaluation of project grants in at least three countries to strengthen capacities for a context-specific implementation of SPS measures in agricultural value chains
- Development and publication of global or project-specific knowledge products on SPS issues and climate change, environment as well as gender and inclusion in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Support of the monitoring and evaluation of STDF activities in close coordination with BMZ, BMEL and the GIZ sectoral project Agriculture

### 13 actors in 5 countries

*confirm safer trade through improved SPS-measures*

### 4 STDF project grants

*have been implemented and positively evaluated*

### 20 knowledge products *are available*

*The project contributes to the achievement of these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):*



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