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| **Name of Donor** | **Name of Project** |
| **World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPs)** | Mainstreaming SPS Capacity (STDF & EIF) |
| **Grant start date**: | 4th July, 2018 |
| **Grant End date:** | 3rd July,2021 |
| **Grant Amount:** | USD 428,425.00 |
| **Disbursed before current year:** (2019) | USD 151,585.00 |
| **Balance:** | Nil |
| **Disbursed in 2019**: | USD 66,308.00 |
| **Balance yet to be disbursed:** | USD 210,532.00 |

1. **Brief about the programme**

**Overview**

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat signed a Grant Agreement with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) titled “Mainstreaming SPS capacity building into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and other National policy frameworks”

The purpose of the project is to ensure COMESA member States are effectively using an evidence-based approach Prioritizing SPS Investment for Market Access (P-IMA) to prioritize SPS investment needs, mainstreaming SPS investment within national/regional agricultural, environment and trade investment plans, and thereby mobilize resources for SPS capacity development.

* Several non-tariff barriers (NTBs) are attributed to restrictive technical standards and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures;
* While some of the standards and SPS related trade barriers may be due to protectionism, several are due to inadequate human, and institutional capacity in regulatory entities and export enterprises;
* Thus, COMESA countries face many demands to improve their SPS capacity and to boost trade in food and agriculture products.
* In light of this, COMESA Secretariat in partnership with the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) introduced an evidence- based approach, known as “Prioritizing SPS Investments for Increased Market Access” (P-IMA);
* P-IMA helps to inform decisions on where to target investments in SPS capacity building;
* P-IMA also offers a transparent, inclusive and participatory process to prioritize several SPS investment options, based on the engagement of relevant stakeholders using best available data and information.
* To boost agriculture exports in the targeted countries, through identifying the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues/challenges associated with the major export trade flows.
* Specifically, the project will ensure that COMESA MS are effectively using an evidence-based approach (P-IMA) to prioritize SPS investment needs and mainstream within national agriculture investment plans and thereby mobilize additional resources for SPS capacity development.

1. **Overview of 2019 programme and expenditure implementation**

Most of the project activities between January and June 2019 were focused on the outputs below;

**Output 1**

Regional expertise and skills to apply the P-IMA framework in five Member States

Five (5) selected member States as follows; Uganda, Malawi, Kenya Rwanda and Ethiopia. This involved preparation of training materials based on the STDF P-IMA user guide of which three (3) countries have been trained.

Training of five (5) national experts (P-IMA Facilitators) in each country on the use of P-IMA

**Output 2:**

SPS investments for market access are prioritized and mainstreamed into key policy/investment frameworks by public and private sector stakeholders in the selected countries:

* Meetings held with high-level policy and decision-makers to raise awareness about P-IMA of which three (3) countries completed (Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda)
* Collection, compilation and analysis of information and data needed to prioritize SPS investments of which Uganda is completed
* National workshops in the selected 5 COMESA Member States to discuss SPS investment options, decision criteria and weights of which Uganda is complete.
* Additional data collection, consultations and analysis to prepare draft report Uganda in progress
* Four synthesis trade flow report produced- Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda
* Purchase of the P-IMA Framework Analysis Computer software: D-Sight

Table 1, below presents expenditure incurred in the period in implementing the above activities

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **STDF (USD)** | **EIF (USD)** | **TOTAL (USD)** |
| Total Project budget | 221,025 | 207,000 | 428,425 |
| Receipts | 77,339 | 107,400 | 184,739 |
| Expenditures as at 31st August,2019 | (86,066) | (50,214) | (136,280) |
| **Unitilsed funds as at 31st August,2019** | **(8,727)** | **57,186** | **48,459** |
| **Funds absorbed (%) (rounded)** | **111.28%** | **47%** | **74%** |

As reflected in the above table, budget utilisation since inception of the project was USD 184,739.00 representing 74% of the 2019 of funds advanced.