

*Project Leaflet: STDF PG 755*

# Strengthening Phytosanitary Compliance and Public-Private Partnerships to Boost Seed Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region



## CONTEXT

Agricultural trade depends on countries' ability to manage pests and diseases and maintain effective regulatory and technical systems. In South and Southeast Asia, rising populations and regional challenges are increasing the demand for food, highlighting the importance of safe and efficient seed trade, which forms the foundation of agricultural productivity. Seeds move across multiple countries along the global value chain—from breeding and testing to multiplication, processing, and distribution. To manage biosecurity risks, countries apply Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, including phytosanitary testing, declarations, and variety registration. However, complex or unclear compliance requirements can increase costs and create barriers to international seed trade.<sup>1</sup>

While many countries are strengthening their technical capacities to participate in global seed markets, important gaps<sup>1</sup> remain. In several cases, Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) systems are outdated and not fully aligned with international standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) such as ISPM 2 and ISPM 11, and compliance with standards governing the international movement of seeds—including ISPM 38 and ISPM 45—remains limited.<sup>1</sup>

This project aims to strengthen phytosanitary compliance and promote public-private collaboration to support safe and efficient seed trade in the Asia-Pacific region. Through training, workshops, and regional knowledge exchange, it will support National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in updating regulated pest lists, improving PRA processes, adopting digital phytosanitary tools such as e-Phyto, and enabling qualified third parties, including private seed laboratories, to support phytosanitary functions. By strengthening these systems, the project will improve access to quality seed, contributing to higher agricultural productivity, expanded economic opportunities, and enhanced food security.<sup>1</sup>

## BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES



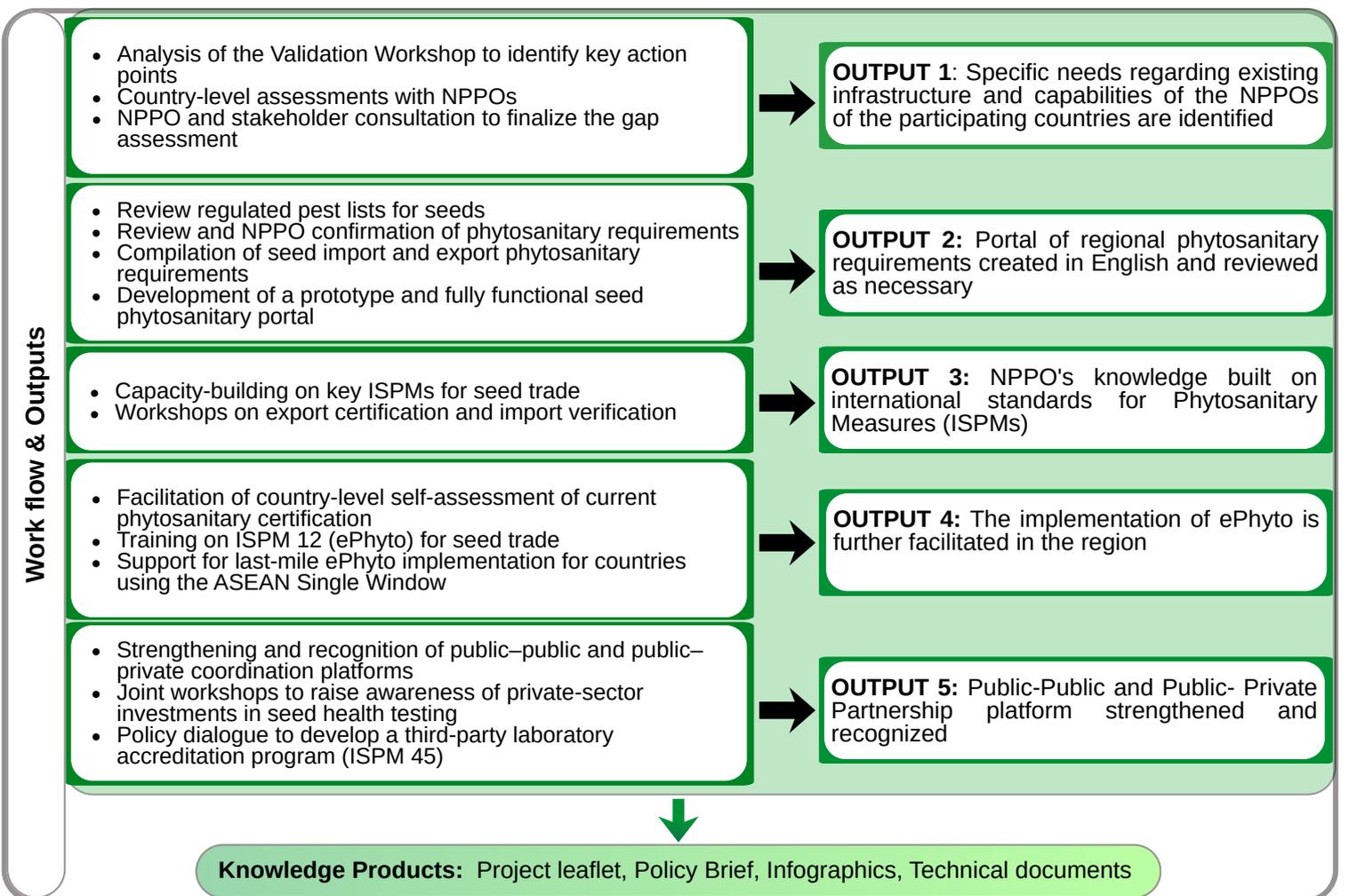
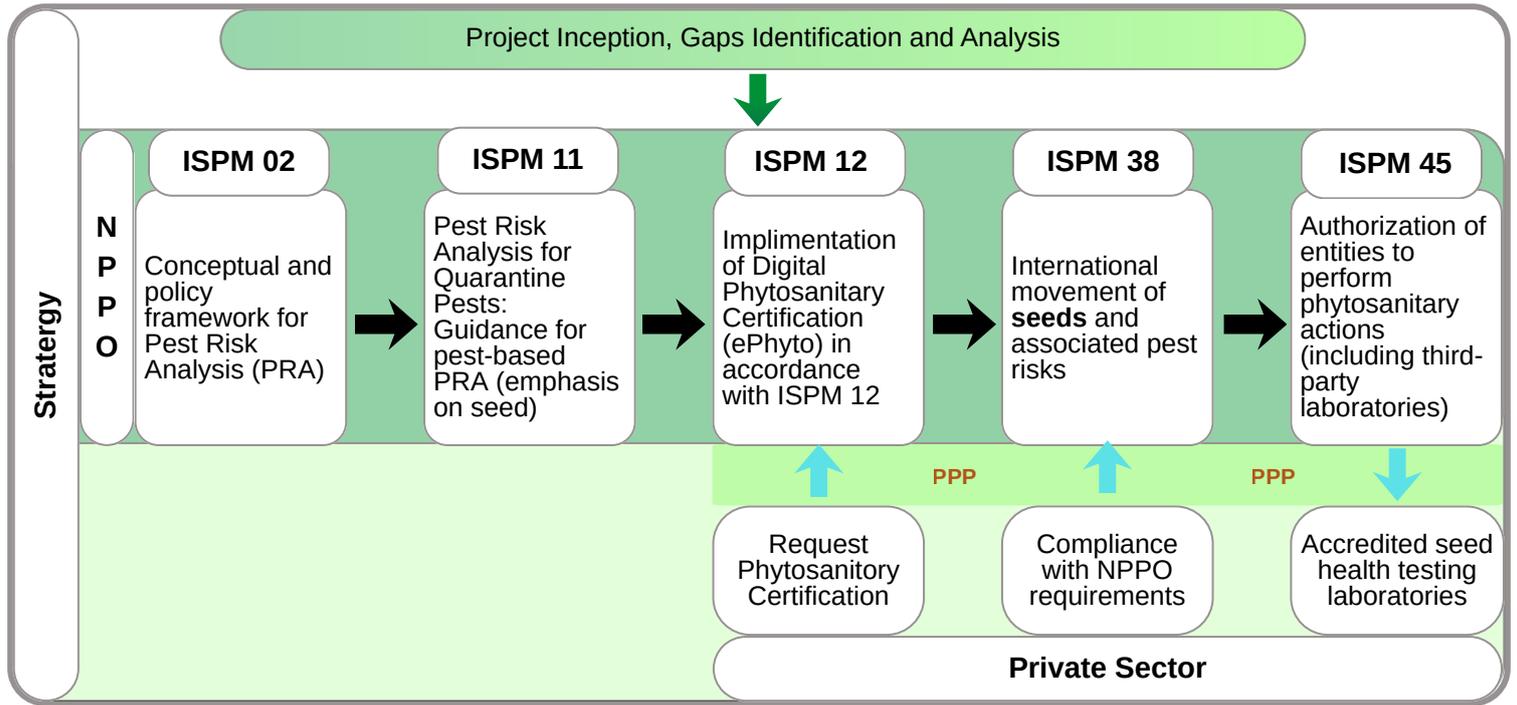
## OBJECTIVE

To ensure that phytosanitary issues do not impede the trade of seeds between these countries, phytosanitary capabilities match with global standards, and to boost public-private trust and partnership to ensure food security through the availability of high-quality seeds.

- Project Period: 2022 - 2026
- Total Budget: USD 1,131,637

<sup>1</sup> [STDF Project Grant Application Form](#)

# OUR APPROACH



**GOAL: Increased seed trade and market access for the Asia Pacific region**

# GALLERY



*Project Inception Workshop with NPPOs  
16 November 2022, Thailand*



*Project Inception Workshop with NPPOs  
16 November 2022, Thailand*



*Expert Consultation to Develop TOR for APSA-PEC platform  
12 February 2026, Indonesia*



*Advancing Trade Facilitation: Enhancing Capacity Workshop on ePhyto Innovations and Implementation in the Philippines  
24–26 February 2026*

*This document was prepared by Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and reviewed by its technical implementing partners — International Seed Federation (ISF), Asia and Pacific Seed Alliance (APSA), Crop Life Asia (CLA), and American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) — under the STDF-funded project “Strengthening Phytosanitary Compliance and Public-Private Partnerships to Boost Seed Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region (STDF PG 755).” APAARI, as the lead organization, assumes overall responsibility for the content.*

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