Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023-09-21

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023

Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction (Scott Steedman, Raymond Murenzi)
- Keynote (Karen Bell, Minister-Counsellor, Head of Pacific Development Unit, British High Commission, Canberra)
- CSN Overview (Ben Hedley)
- Standards Partnership collaboration with CSN (Charles Davies)
- Workshop discussion: NSB needs assessments and next steps for CSN (All)

bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023

Welcome

- Scott Steedman (BSI Director-General, Standards)
  - Introduction to The Commonwealth Standards Network

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023
Welcome

- Raymond Murenzi (RSB Director General)
  - Collaboration
  - Membership introductions

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023
Keynote

- Karen Bell (Minister-Counsellor, Head of Pacific Development Unit, British High Commission, Canberra)
  - Value of Commonwealth;
  - Value of international standards;
  - UK Government aid objectives;
  - CSN commitment: Phase 3 £250,000 activity;
  - New £2.7m Standards Partnership Programme;

UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023
CSN Overview

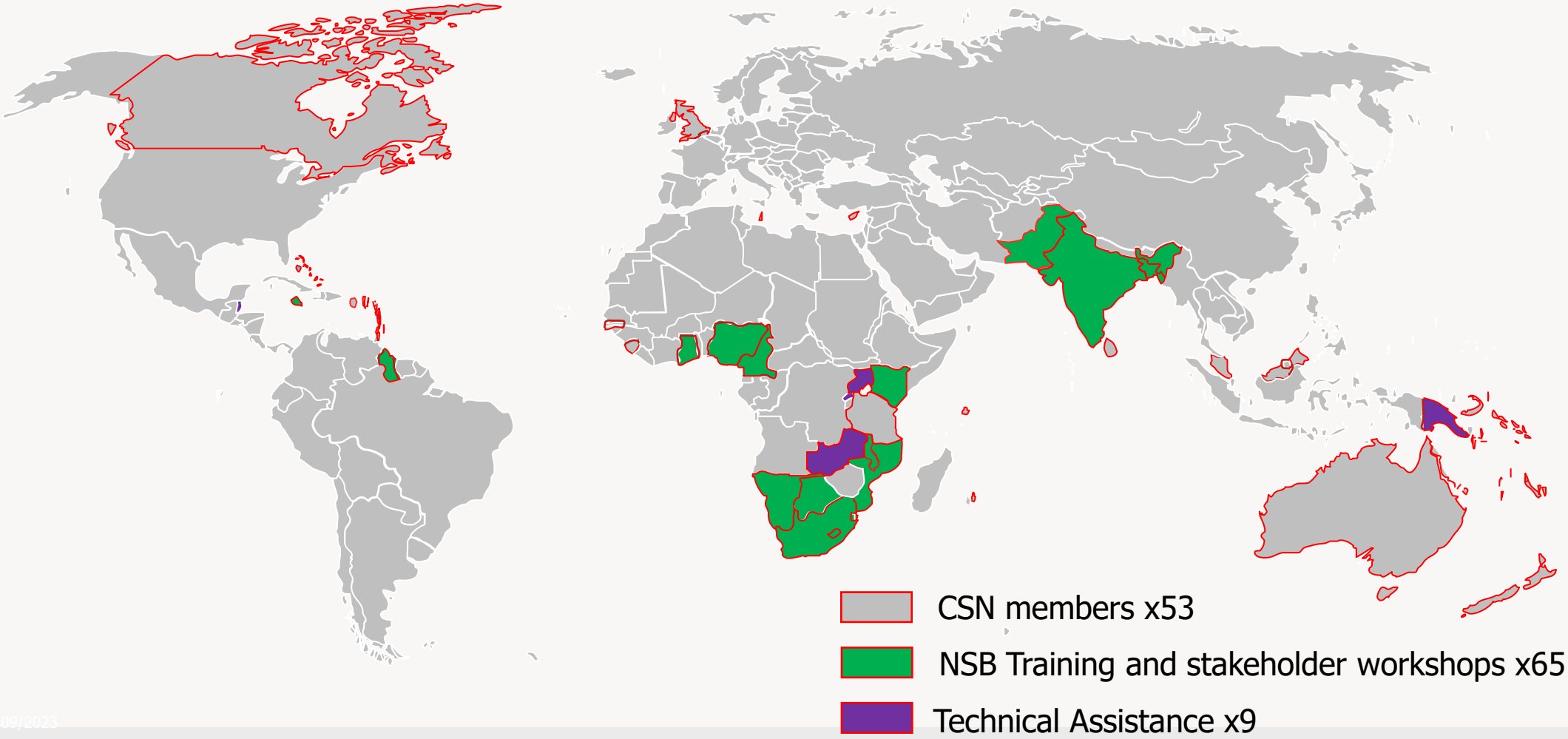
- Ben Hedley (BSI, CSN Senior Programme Manager)
  - Membership
  - Activities
  - Resources

bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023 Membership



bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023

- **Annual Meetings:** At ISO GA meetings & online
- **Membership:** 53 countries (+31 associate members)
- **Training & Workshops:** 65 training sessions to >1,800 delegates from 49 countries.
- **Resources:** Guidance & training publications eLearning courses.
- **Platform:** www.commonwealthstandards.net

- **2018-2021 Technical Assistance:** Bespoke programmes working with NSBs to address key Quality Infrastructure challenges
  - **Africa:** Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda
  - **Caribbean:** Saint Lucia, Belize, Dominica, St Vincent & the Grenadines
  - **Oceania:** Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu

- Increased participation in international standards development
- Increased use of international standards

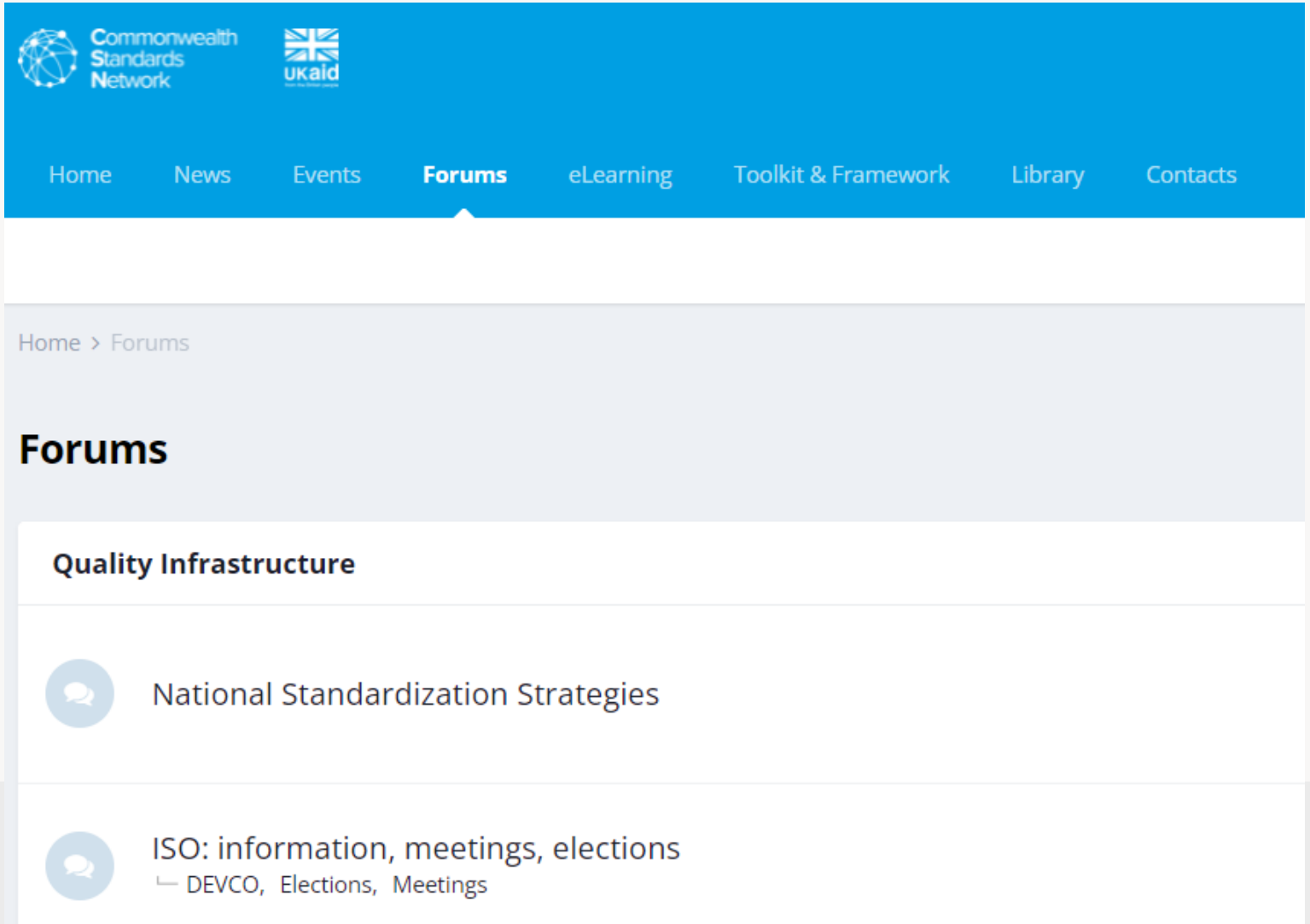
- **Increased intra-Commonwealth Trade**
- Economic prosperity
- Positive developmental outcomes

bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023: Resources

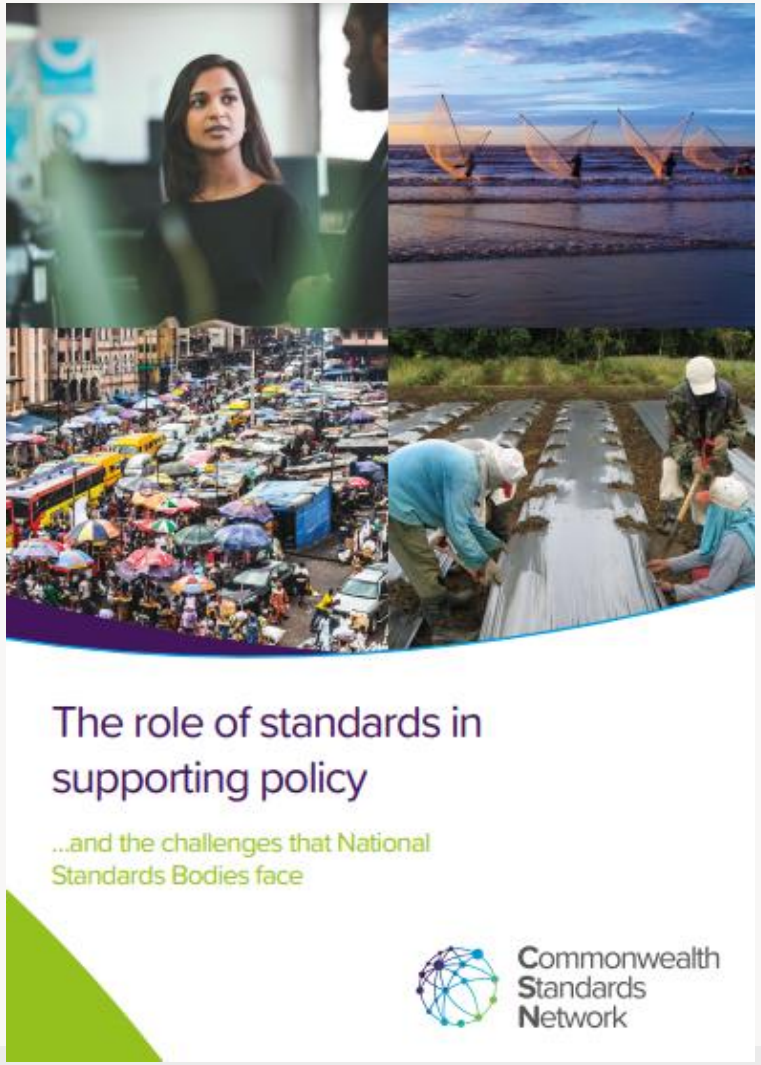
- **CSN Resources:** www.commonwealthstandard.net, Forum, eLearning, videos, publications, news, contacts, events.

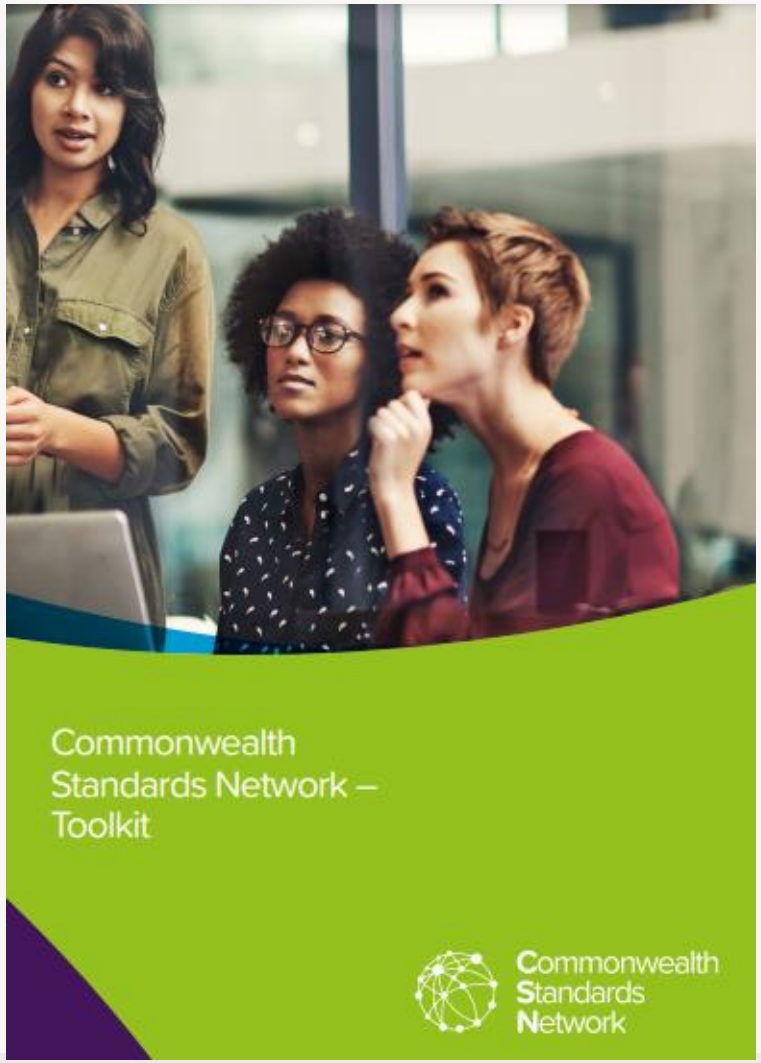


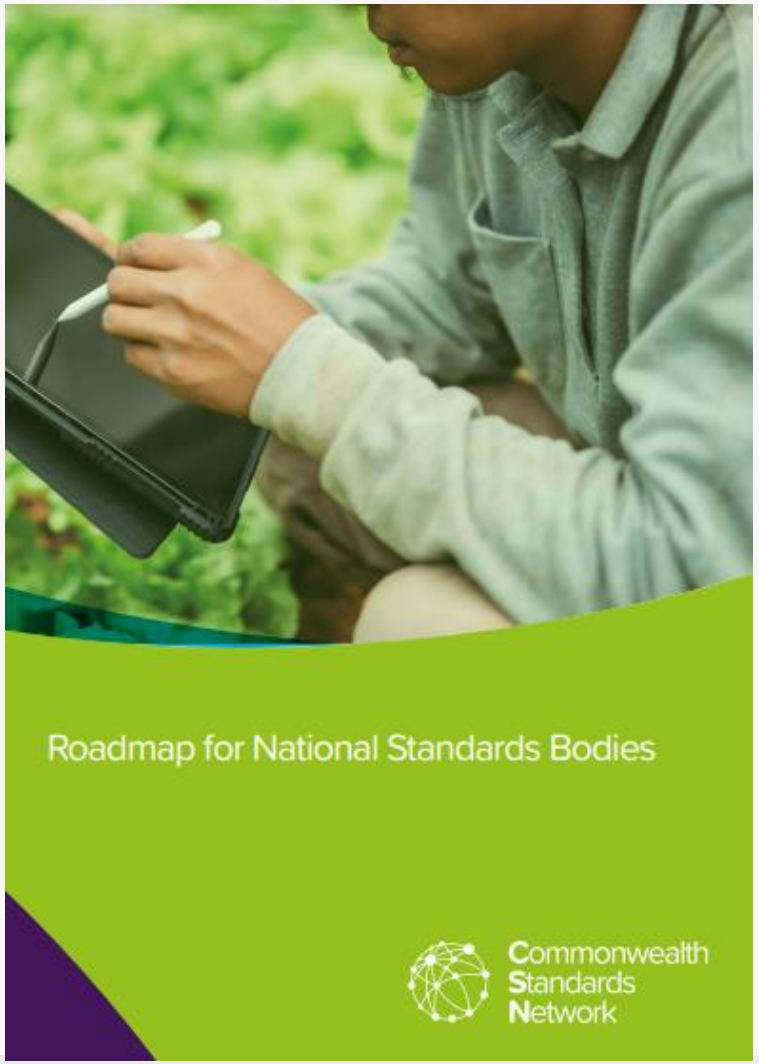
Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023: Resources







bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Challenges	Solutions
Over 90% of businesses globally are Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs), they represent the majority of global employment and are an essential contributor to economic development in low and middle-income countries. However, some SMEs are not working at optimal levels of productivity, efficiency, safety, innovation, and compatibility and are therefore not gaining access to new markets and are not achieving their potential for growth and development.	International standards are primarily designed to address market needs, they are written for the benefit of users and their stakeholders and are applicable regardless of business size and location. They play an important role for SMEs by promoting productivity, efficiency, safety, supporting innovation, reducing costs, removing barriers to trade, and driving economic growth and development.
Approximately 600 million people become ill and 420,000 die because of unsafe food each year[1]. Unsafe food harms human health and damages confidence in businesses. Many food products move across national boundaries, stakeholders locally and internationally need to have confidence that food is safe.	The international standard ISO 22000 'Food safety management systems — Requirements for any organization in the food chain' helps organizations identify food safety hazards, reduce exposure to risk and improve safety.
International standards are sometimes regarded by SMEs as a burden because there is a poor understudying of the likely costs and effort as well as the benefits that can be achieved.	The Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) works in partnership with National Standards Bodies throughout the Commonwealth to communicate the benefits that can be achieved by SMEs through the use of international standards.

© BSI. All rights reserved

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023
Resources

Standards overview brochures for SMES:

- ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems
- ISO 22000 Food Safety Management Systems
- ISO 37000 Governance of Organisations
- ISO 45001 OHS Management Systems
- ISO/IWA 42 Net Zero Guidelines

Like a good cookbook, standards are written by experts to help us complete processes in effective, tried and tested ways to achieve efficient, high-quality, repeatable outcomes that consistently meet expectations.

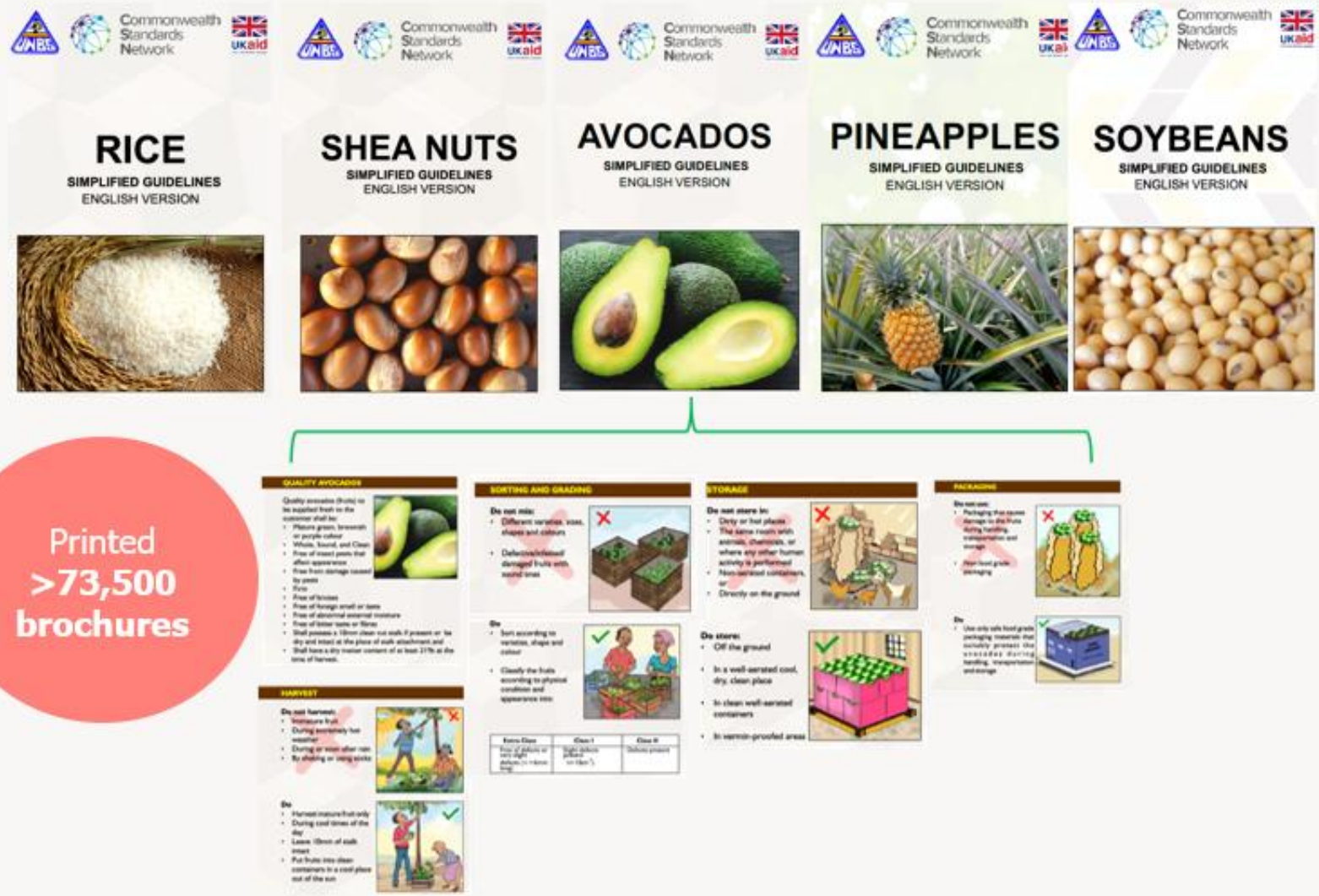
Trading relationships are built on trust.

International standards have become the international language of trade by providing confidence in products and processes to regulators, business partners and consumers locally and globally. They ensure everyone gets what they expect.

ISO 22000 can be used by SMEs to reduce exposure to risk and enhance confidence with business partners, customers, and regulators.

bsi.

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023: Resources



Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023
2023/24 Proposed Work Programme

- **Output 1: Network Development and Engagement**

  Enhance CSN engagement (online content, meetings, written resources) to increase CSN opportunities to collaborate and to assist the membership.
  - 1.1 Annual Meeting – 21st September 2023.
  - 1.2. CSN membership/engagement – engaging with NSBs, Regional SDOs, including collaboration with Standards Partnership.
  - 1.3. CSN Portal – content creation and enhanced engagement.
  - 1.4. CSN resources updated – e.g., updating publications such as CSN 'simplified standards', and 'tools for NSBs and Policy makers'.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023
2023/24 Proposed Work Programme

- **Output 2: Sustainability**

  Provide guidance/training on key sustainability/social related developments in international standardisation and how they can be influenced and utilised by CSN members – leading to increased engagement and use of the standards, resulting in positive developmental outcomes.

  - 2.1. Sustainability standards – Mapping of standardisation processes, barriers to participation, recommendations.
  - 2.2. London Declaration – Training and toolkit.
  - 2.3 UN Declaration for Gender Responsive Standards and Standards Development.
  - 2.4 Support for participation in the development of international standards e.g. ISO AWI 37200.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023
2023/24 Proposed Work Programme

- **Output 3: Digital Trade**

  Deliver guidance/training on key digital trade related developments in international standardisation/Quality Infrastructure and Technical Barriers to Trade relating (TBT) related issues and how they can be influenced and utilised by CSN members – leading to increased engagement and use of the standards, resulting in positive developmental outcomes. *(Note: Potential linkage with Trusted Bytes).*

  - 3.1. Supporting understanding of the Electronic Trade Documents Act, Developing Countries Trading Scheme, simplifying customs and trade through digitization, and how these relate to standards/QI.
  - 3.2 WTO TBT relating to digital trade – Enhancing understanding, and supporting engagement.
  - 3.3 Digital Trade – Promoting the use of international standards relevant to digital trade e.g., cyber security.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Standards Partnership update

CSN Annual Meeting

21 September 2023

Charles Davies

Principal Consultant

BSI International Projects

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Copyright © 2022 BSI. All rights reserved

NEW: Standards Partnership Programme

UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Budget: £2,900,000 *(2023/2024 financial year)*

Funding Agency: FCDO/ DBT (UK Government)

UK Centre of Expertise: Trade

Beneficiary: 11 countries/ work streams

(**Bangladesh, Caribbean**, Ethiopia, **Ghana, India, Kenya**, Mozambique, **Nigeria, Pacific, Rwanda, Uganda**)

Duration: 8 months (08/2023- 03/2024)/ initial phase

Contract type: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Status: Ongoing

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Copyright © 2022 BSI. All rights reserved

How did we get here, the journey so far…

1 Commonwealth Standards Network

Phase1: May 2018 – March 2020
Phase 2: April 2020 – March 2021

2 Standards Partnership Benchmark Study

March 2022

3 Standards Partnership Commonwealth Pilot (Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda)

August 2022 - March 2023

4 Global Standards Partnership Implementation Phase 2023-2024 / 11 workstreams

August 2023 - March 2024

Phase 3: September 2023 – March 2024

Commonwealth Standards Network

5 CHOGM 2024, Samoa

CHOGM RWANDA2022

THE AFRICA DEBATE 6th July 2022

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Copyright © 2022 BSI. All rights reserved

2023/ 2024 Standards Partnership workstreams

ODA Funding ('Voucher' initiative)
Work Stream
Bangladesh
Caribbean - regional
Ethiopia
Ghana
India
Kenya
Mozambique
Nigeria
Rwanda
PACER PLUS Unit/ Samoa - regional
Uganda

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Copyright © 2022 BSI. All rights reserved

The UK's Trade Centre of Expertise

Strategic importance:

- The SP programme will increase the capacity of developing countries to use and meet international standards and regulatory measures required to enhance trade. This will increase economic stability and as a secondary benefit, the programme will also open trade opportunities for international businesses, including from the UK
- Trade contributes to poverty reduction
- Trade can help fight the impacts of COVID-19
- Trade enables green growth
- Trade creates jobs and drives societal benefits
- Launched in parallel to the introduction of the Developing Country Trading Scheme (DCTS) in June 2023 (replaces UK's Generalised Scheme of Preferences) – eligible for 65 countries that fall under one of the following categories:
  - least developed countries (LDCs) as defined by the United Nations
  - low income and lower middle-income countries as defined by the World Bank

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

UK Government

The UK Government's Strategy for International Development

May 2022

CP 676

"To share the best of UK expertise, help us learn from our partners and our partners to learn from each other, we will establish new Centres of Expertise and build on existing platforms for shared learning. We will focus on where we as the UK are best placed to support – through government, business, academia and civil society – including:

- *A suite of new **UK Centres of Expertise**, providing tailored advice, 'what works' evidence, and technological solutions to the greatest development challenges we face. Initial areas of focus will include financial services; green cities and infrastructure; public finance; **trade**; and green and inclusive growth (for instance, on agriculture and manufacturing)."*

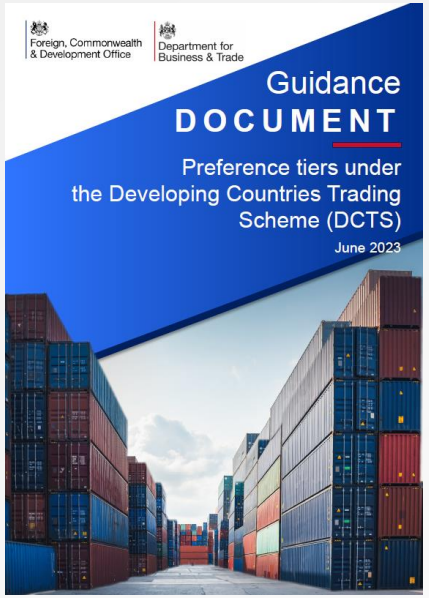
Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Copyright © 2022 BSI. All rights reserved

Standards Partnership under the Trade Centre of Expertise

Purpose and impacts:

- Increase in sustainable trade leading to greater income generation opportunities.
- Enhanced opportunities for trade, investment and business between ODA eligible countries and the UK (including domestic/ regional trade) through the strengthening of Quality Infrastructure organizations and promotion of the new DCTS trading scheme. In Africa, this project will support the implementation of the AfCFTA agenda.
- Improved business environments and sector competitiveness in 11 target SP economies (i.e., reduced trade barriers) facilitated by enhanced Quality Infrastructure services.
- UK importers and consumers have access to a wider range of reliable and sustainable goods that meet the necessary standards, increasing demand for goods.
- Strengthened Quality Infrastructure systems (and governance) in line with International best practices.



Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Copyright © 2022 BSI. All rights reserved

‘Go far, go together’ - high quality trade related support

BSI will deliver bespoke interventions with the objective of:

1. **Building developing country national capability to trade** through strengthening institutions to use and meet international standards and regulatory measures, enhance trade facilitation to reduce time and cost; and simplifying other burdensome processes to improve trade flows with the UK and globally.

2. **‘Making trade happen’** – boosting uptake of UK trade agreements (EPAs and DCTS) by supporting and facilitating access to UK markets, linking businesses, strengthening the resilience of supply chains; and improving participation of marginalised groups, including women-owned businesses in trade.

3. **Improving compliance with and shaping free and fair global trading system.** Ensuring the multilateral trading system delivers for developing countries for example by supporting LDC accessions to the WTO and their participation in the dispute settlement mechanism and at the forthcoming 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (February 2024).

4. **Providing research and analysis on what works.** Supporting global trade research, data, innovation, and analysis and driving evidence-based policy and programmes to strengthen the links between trade and poverty reduction.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

‘Standards Partnership’ thematic interventions

Core

Quality Infrastructure (QI), International Standards & Economic Growth

Cross Cutting Priorities

- Governance
- Communications
- GESI
- Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation and Learning (MREL)

Themes

Trade and QI	NQP/ NSS	GSP	Green & circular economy; Sustainable trade	Digital trade/ toolkit	
Laboratory Strengthening	Conformity Assessment	Metrology			
Energy/ Climate Change	Trade and the climate agenda	Environmental Management	Net Zero	ISO London Declaration	Green and sustainable finance
Food Safety & Agriculture	‘Stepping stone’ food safety standards	Value chains			
Business Environment	QMS	Business Continuity Mgt.	Supply Chain Resilience	Anti bribery management systems and good governance	
Health	Medical Devices QMS	Post market clinical follow up/ market surveillance			

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

The long term vision: Standards Partnership Theory of Change

Bespoke ToRs aligned to the outputs with a range of focus areas, expected activities and outputs and reflecting varying starting points or baselines are implemented by BSI and targeted institutions in 11 streams:

(Bangladesh, Caribbean, Ghana, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, PACER Plus/ Samoa, Rwanda, Uganda)

Outputs

1. Quality and inclusive technical assistance provided to partner institutions to **develop national quality infrastructure and trade related regulatory frameworks** (where possible TA may take the form of peer-to-peer learning between target institutions)
2. Quality and inclusive technical assistance **supports, facilitates and enables participation and engagement** by partner institutions with international standards development bodies
3. Training and awareness raising with **private sector firms** including support to SMEs and women-owned businesses **seeking to export**, including to the UK
4. **Compliance issues** in agri-food value chains and their root causes are identified and tackled via SPS technical assistance and support
5. Stronger **evidence base** on how standards can benefit developing countries and marginalised groups within them, **what works**, and **documentation** identifying trade barriers and/or bottlenecks and mitigate effects (e.g., short illustrative examples)

Intermediate Outcomes

1. Greater **capacity, skills and quality infrastructure** reside within targeted developing country institutions for effective use of standards and regulation for trade
2. Developing country officials **participate and engage meaningfully*** with international standards setting bodies, and in the international standardization process (* defined in logframe)
3. Firms are **more able** to **contribute to a growing quality culture** and to **comply with import requirements** of key markets, including the UK market, and can take advantage of the UK's new preferential access/Developing Country Trading Schemes (DCTS) and trade agreements offerings

Outcomes: SP programme in 23-24 will contribute to these longer-term outcomes

1. International standards discussions fora and processes are primed to **reflect trade and sustainability priorities of developing countries** building on increased influence and inclusive participation
2. **Growth** of sustainable and inclusive **global value chains** in developing economies and **improved business environment and sector competitiveness** in the 11 streams (this outcome is also a secondary benefit)
3. Consumers within streams and the UK, and UK importers, have access to **a wider range of reliable and sustainable goods** that meet the requirements of the relevant standards (this outcome is also a secondary benefit)

Impact: SP programme in 23-24 will contribute to this longer-term impact

Increased sustainable trade, inclusive growth and greater income generation opportunities for SMEs and private firms in 11 streams and for UK consumers and importers

bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023

Workshop discussion

- Opportunities for closer collaboration
- Lessons learned/recommendations
- Resources: New requirements

bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Commonwealth Standards Network

CSN Annual Meeting, Brisbane 2023
Closing Remarks

- Continue to promote the use and development of International Standards to reduce technical barriers to trade;
- Collaborate with the 53 membership NSBs & 31 Associate members;
- Develop CSN resources and promote their use;
- Collaborate with the Standards Partnership Pilot programme;
- Work with non-NSB organisations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat 'Connectivity Agenda' with a focus on Regulatory and Digital connectivity clusters.

bsi.

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved

Contact

Ben Hedley Ben.Hedley@bsigroup.com

By Royal Charter

Copyright © 2020 BSI. All rights reserved