



Enabling the Business of Agriculture

The world will need to feed 9 billion people by 2050. This rapid rise in population will require farmers to increase agricultural production by at least 50 percent.

The bulk of the expected increase in global food demand will be driven by urban markets in developing countries, offering local and regional players a huge opportunity to supply these markets. Smart and balanced regulations and policies, along with responsible investments, will be crucial for unleashing growth in the vital agribusiness sector and for ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) 2015 presents the methodology, key findings and lessons learned from a pilot effort to generate new data on the agribusiness enabling environment. This report represents a first step towards identifying and monitoring policies and regulations that impact how markets function within the agricultural sector. The process has involved collecting, organizing and studying initial data which can later be used to build actionable, evidence-based indicators that are usable by policymakers and other stakeholders.

The long term goal of the EBA is to provide policy makers with accurate, evidence-based data and analysis to help them improve policies for supporting inclusive growth in agriculture and bolster food security.

PROJECT STATUS

The EBA project is a work in progress. During the project's first-year pilot phase, data was collected in ten countries representing a range of geographic regions and stages of agricultural development: Ethiopia, Guatemala, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, the Philippines, Rwanda, Spain, Uganda, and Ukraine covering nine topics.

To facilitate the collection, analysis and reporting of data, EBA breaks down the agricultural value chain—the full range of activities and services needed to bring a commodity or product from production to sale in the market—into different topic areas. Six of these topics were selected for study during the pilot year—registering agricultural land, accessing financial services, strengthening seed systems, improving fertilizer supply, transporting agricultural goods and selling agricultural goods. Another three were chosen for initial testing: contracting agricultural production, electrifying rural areas, and connecting farmers to information.

In 2014/15, building on pilot phase findings and learnings, the EBA team plans to scale up its coverage to cover 30 additional countries and expand the list of topics to include issues related to environmental sustainability, gender, mechanization, livestock, and water.

The project will also build the capacity of African government institutions working on agricultural issues by forming partnerships with local organizations for data collection and the refinement of indicators to be used at the regional level.

In line with its commitment to transparency and openness, and its knowledge-brokering role, the World Bank is placing the results from the pilot phase in the public domain with a view to facilitating the exchange of ideas and perspectives on a vital topic. The EBA team looks forward to feedback as it works to refine the methodology and develop a tool that is helpful to policymakers as they foster an enabling environment for agribusiness.

For more information, please visit: www.eba.worldbank.org