HOW CAN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT REFORM FACILITATE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR GROWTH?

WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

OCTOBER 25, 2016
**Presenters**

Meaghan Murphy, Feed the Future Enabling Environment for Food Security Project

Justin Lawrence, Feed the Future Knowledge-Driven Agricultural Development Project

Amy Chambers, Feed the Future Enabling Environment for Food Security Project

Gwen Varley, Feed the Future Knowledge-Driven Agricultural Development Project

**Moderator**

Julie MacCartee, USAID/Bureau for Food Security

Kelley Cormier, USAID/Bureau for Food Security
Good morning Folks! Please excuse us while we finish up setting up the room - you will see the layouts change a bit as it all comes together! Thanks for your patience.

Welcome! We’ll be getting started in 20 minutes.

Good Morning Everyone! Thank you for joining us today - we are going to be switching to the polls shortly and we invite you to please fill them out as the feedback is very useful to us! We will get started at 9:30 with the presentation.

Fills the polls! Thank you for your feedback!

Hi Everyone, good evening here in the Philippines

Good evening Magdaleno, thank you for joining us this morning from Washington D.C./Philippines!

Hi there! This is Julie MacCartee with USAID/BFS. Who is joining us today? Let us know your org and city/country!

Hi, this is Jean Damascene Nyamwasa from USAID Rwanda Mission

Good morning, I’m from Vienna, Austria and it is rather afternoon here. As agro. economist with 25 years dev experience I am wondering what to learn today. Best, Martin

Hi. Nate Kline here from Fintrac in Washington DC.

Welcome, Jean and Martin!

Hi Nate - thanks for supporting your colleagues :)

Good morning all - this is Harley Stokes from CRS in Baltimore

Hi Harley. Too bad about the Orioles this season. Go Cubs!

Hi. Marian Parsons from BFS here

Hi Marian! Glad you could join

Thanks

Regina Brown, CADRESenegal, Dakar, Senegal

Hi Marian! Thank you for joining us!

Hello Regina! Good afternoon, thank you for joining us for Senegal!

good
Good morning everyone! We are excited to get started shortly! Please use the chat box to post your questions, engage with each other, and to let us know if you are having any technical difficulties!

Good morning! This is Liz Guerrero from Fairtrade America, happy to be here with you all.

Good morning Liz - welcome and thank you for joining us!

Good morning! Anne Dare, AAAS S&T Fellow with USAID MERC.

Welcome, all!

Hello, Sara Steffan from Fintrac's communications department joining from our DC office!

Good morning Anne!

Good morning! This is Jessica Wallach from http://www.strategiesforanewworld.com/. I'm excited to learn from you all.

good morning everyone-Arohi Sharma here from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Hi Sara - welcome from Fintrac!

Hi Arohi! How did you hear about this webinar? Always glad to have students.

We'll be starting in just a couple of minutes

Good morning Arohi! Always happy to have grad students joining us!

Hi Jessica Wallach!

Hi everyone! My name is Lauren Burnhill and my technical area is finance (currently working on Agri and Climate). Good enabling environment is key to mobilizing capital :-)

hey Julie-MY thesis work is on Ag lending, so I learned about this from my thesis client.

Hello Lauren - completely agreed - where are you joining us from?

Arohi, very interesting!

Hi this is Dawit from Ethiopia

Hello Dawit - good afternoon!

Hey Jessie! This is Carla - thanks for joining us!

Good morning, Jessie Kalsmith here from Fintrac

good morning Jessie! This is carla (formerly from Fintrac!)
USAID Agrilinks: Thanks for joining us today!
Jessie Kalsmith: Hi Carla :) Great to 'see' you on here!
Katrin Glatzel: Good afternoon, this is Katrin from Imperial College in London
USAID Agrilinks: Likewise!
USAID Agrilinks: Good afternoon Katrin, thank you for joining us - are you a student or professor?
Leyla Roshanian: Good morning. My name is Leyla. I am here from the Global Community-led Advocacy intern with the Hunger Project.
USAID Agrilinks: Good morning Leyla - great to have you here!
Andrew Kezala: Hello this Andrew from Uganda
Leyla Roshanian: Thank you.
USAID Agrilinks: Welcome Andrew - good afternoon! What organization are you with?
Katrin Glatzel: I'm a researcher at Imperial
Andrew Kezala: Independent Agri-business consultant
Julie MacCartee: Kelley Cormier with USAID/BFS is speaking now
USAID Agrilinks: Great - thank you Katrin
Dick Tinsley: Dick Tinsley just shifting from the BEAM webinar
AV Tech (Washington DC): Mr. Tinsley!
USAID Agrilinks: Andrew - Thank you for sharing with us!
USAID Agrilinks: Hello Dick - welcome and thank you for joining us today!
Julie MacCartee: Let us know how you define "enabling environment" in your work
Andrew Kezala: Thank you for the platform too
Dick Tinsley: you and beam need to coordinate your webinars to avoid conflicting times
USAID Agrilinks: We understand there were some conflicts this week, unfortunately it is a busy month - we do strive to avoid this.
Lauren Burnhill: I'm here in Washington, DC
Howard Elliott: I am looking forward to learning from your speakers and audience.
USAID Agrilinks: Hello Howard, we are excited to have you with us and to have the opportunity to share the information with you.
USAID Agrilinks: What is your work, Howard?
Howard Elliott: I am currently semi-retired working as consultant in agricultural research and university system development.

USAID Agrilinks: Oh great.

USAID Agrilinks: Folks - please ask your questions by typing them here into the chat pod - we will address all your questions after the presentation!

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Hi everyone!

Julie MacCartee: You can learn more about the Enabling Environment for Food Security (EEFS) project here: https://agrilinks.org/activity/feed-future-enabling-environment-food-security-project-eefs-0

Gary Walker: ok. Gary Walker here BFS Youth Advisor

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Gary, Carla here, welcome to you, we are excited to have you joining us today.

Dick Tinsley: I noticed that you enabling environment concentrates on host country administrative issues, but how many of your small-holders farmers operate completely independent of any government contact. Perhaps as much as 90%. Also are you overlooking the operational environment that will enable the farmers to expedite their crop management?

Julie MacCartee: Thanks for your question,

Dick Tinsley: this has been historically overlooked. Please review the article: http://webdoc.agsci.colostate.edu/smallholderagriculture/OperationalFeasibility.pdf

Martin Mautner Markhof: What earns investment? Donor project spending’s?

Julie MacCartee: ALL- Please ask Qs at any time!

Julie MacCartee: Martin, can you flesh out your question a bit more? Are you asking how they are defining "investment"?

Martin Mautner Markhof: Yes? For me investment is private investment and I have the feeling we are talking about donor money "invested" somewhere.

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Great question of clarification Martin

Doudou Ndiaye: Regional Agriculture Specialist

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Investments in this review are looking at USAID investments
Dear all - please continue to post questions here in the chat box! We will try to address them as they come and if not will answer them after the presentation!

welcome Doudou!

which are largely in the form of projects and programs. Does that help?

Martin, we have also referenced “investment” in terms of an outcome we want improved enabling environments to contribute to—both private sector and public sector investment.

Yes if we are talking about projects then we do not face reality.

Hi, I’m Doren from Nigeria

Yes, great point Kelley. Also, Martin, there is a lot more beyond projects. That is true.

Hello Doren, thank you for joining us from Nigeria!

Also public sector investment is fine if based on taxpayer's money - but that is completely different from dev. projects by donors.

@Dick Tinsley - The definition of enabling environment is much broader than mere administrative functions. It includes informal customs and rules that affect transactions at all levels of formality and scale, including smallholder farmers.

Folks - if you would like a copy of the presentation we are sharing today, please visit Agrilinks Event page for the Ag Sector Council today - https://agrilinks.org/events/how-can-enabling-environment-reform-facilitate-agricultural-sector-growth

What is meant by a 'customs single window'?

I would like to know that as well, Patrick :)

The full report of the review Amy is talking about can be found here and it includes a very robust annex with brief descriptions of all the projects included. Check it out here https://agrilinks.org/library/full-report-analysis-enabling-environment-reform-under-feed-future

Does anyone on the webinar have experience with customs single windows?

Julie MacCartee: Thanks, Nate!

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Do these challenges resonate for any of you joining us?

Julie MacCartee: Timelines are very much an issue that we see frequently. Sometimes policy reform can take decades.

Julie MacCartee: But sometimes, public and political will can push policy reform through quickly

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Agreed Julie, this timing issue is true on a lot of levels, especially with enabling environment and policy reform specifically

Martin Mautner Markhof 2: What are in general the most important policy reform that have to be undertaken to enable....

USAID Agrilinks: @Martin, to enable something in specific?

Martin Mautner Markhof: Enabling Environment Reform Facilitate Agricultural Sector Growth

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Thanks Martin, this is a question that does come up and suggest we try and raise in the Q&A.

Julie MacCartee: All - please feel free to ask questions at any level - no question is too basic or too complex ;)

Julie MacCartee: Does anyone here use the World Bank's EBA tool? or the WEAI tool?

Amanda Fong: We will start using the WB EBA tool in Mozambique.

Julie MacCartee: Amanda - how/why did you decide to start using it?

Amanda Fong: We are launching a new policy program and will use it in our monitoring system, as a way to guide work planning decisions and put data against our results. It’s a good baseline also.

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Great to hear Amanda.

Julie MacCartee: Here is the EBA tool site: http://eba.worldbank.org/

Ernest Aayel: Great

Julie MacCartee: Thanks for sharing, Amanda

Ernest Aayel: Just came on board and trying to catch up with the presentations.

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Please check out this guide if you haven’t seen it yet to get a quick picture of EBA https://agrilinks.org/library/guide-enabling-business-agriculture-eba-2016
Julie MacCartee: What do you think of the term “enabling environment”? Have you been using it for years, or just using it now?

Arohi Sharma: I have to leave for class—but thanks so much for this. If it’s alright with you, Meaghan, I’ll follow up separately with additional questions for my thesis. is there a good email address I can reach you at?

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Yes, sure Arohi. Please feel free to email me at mmurphy@fintrac.com and my colleagues and I would be happy to talk more.

Julie MacCartee: I’m curious—how do your projects measure/track policy reform? As Justin says, it can be hard to measure policy progress quantitatively.

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Glad to hear you’ve enjoyed the session and thank you for joining us!

Patrick Binns: How do you ‘calibrate’ your qualitative analysis of keywords and phrases from project outcome reports -- “word smithing” -- with selected projects’ quantitative accomplishments (e.g. volume of fertilizers used, animal vet services in the field, etc)?

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you for your question Patrick!

USAID Agrilinks: We would love to hear your questions, comments - please share right here in the chat box!

Justin Lawrence: A really good question. Happy to discuss during Q&A!

Doudou Ndiaye: I am dully agree with the importance of market information system, but according to my experience in West Africa, most of market information systems works under support from projects and the system falls down at the close-out of these projects. The sustainability of these markets information systems needs to be assess

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Thank you doudou for sharing this experience. The sustainability of these activities is key. And a real challenge

Abelardo Rodriguez: for KDAD: based on your 17 codes have you been able to come up with causal models for development used DeDoose? Can you depict a theory of change based on those qualitative results? Are these results congruent with what USAID had stipulated as theories of change?

Jean Damascene Nyamwasa: I am not sure if influence on regional trade related policies was a success? what did find?

Deborah Mansfield: Have you done any analysis on sequencing of enabling environment reforms?

USAID Agrilinks: thank you Abelardo and Jean for your questions!
Martin Mautner Markhof: If you have 5 days going to a development country, on what topics are you focusing to improve the agri-business environment? Do you have a check-list? Another too?

Patrick Binns: Capacity Building is a major objective -- do you track what in-country project staff do post project completion? I’m thinking of folks who continue to work in the Ag ministry, organize ongoing civil society efforts, enter private business in supply chains, etc?

Martin Mautner Markhof: One stop shop: Most development countries have the agricultural players in the informal sector. So a one stop shop / windows is not very relevant.

USAID Agrilinks: Keep the questions coming folks! In a few minutes, we will switch the view to the polls but the questions and answers will not stop until 11:00 AM EDT. The Q&A will continue during the polls.


Phil Steffen: Great presentations! I logged on later so I may have missed something. Those in charge of making formal laws, policies and regulations (as opposed to informal customs, practices and traditions) may be personally persuaded by analysis of the costs of poor incentives or counterproductive regulations, but have to keep in mind their own political futures and stakeholder interests -- political economy questions. What are good approaches to overcome reluctance/resistance to improve enabling environments?

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you Phil! And thanks for joining us - where are you joining us from?


Julie MacCartee: Glad you could join, Phil :


USAID Agrilinks: Folks the question and answer will continue!

USAID Agrilinks: Please take less than a minute to engage in our end polls!

Leyla Roshanian: Thank you very helpful

USAID Agrilinks: The questions and answers will continue!!

USAID Agrilinks: Please continue to post any questions or comments while you engage in our polls and give us the feedback we need to continue these very informative chats!
Martin Mautner Markhof: I remain interested in this topic and am open for further discussions. Feel free to contact me anytime. Thanks a lot. - Dr. Martin Mautner Markhof, Agricultural Economist, office@agroservice.com

Phil Steffen: Thanks, Kelley!

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you for joining us Martin, we were very pleased you could join us today and continue to attend our Ag Sector Council series!

Julie MacCartee: So glad that you all could join us. Feel free to email me with comments about Agrilinks webinars at any time! jmaccartee@usaid.gov

USAID Agrilinks: We have about 10 minutes left - Thank you all so much for joining us - continue to post your questions and engage in our end polls!

Martin Mautner Markhof: Market Information System must be cheap and pragmatic. There are for sure many ministry staff members passing the green market every day. Let them put down the 10 most important products and process and put it the same day on the MoA website. Almost for free and no need for donor support. (Done by Swiss Dev Aid in Kosovo long ago.)

Andrew Clark: It seems to me that sustainability is inextricably linked with buy-in and confirmation of ability to sustain at time of inception of the project, doesn’t it?

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Great points Andrew and Martin,

Kelley Cormier: Andrew, good point. Individual action drives collective action. And can transform systems.

AV Tech (Washington DC): Thanks everyone! We'll leave the room open for another five minutes or so.

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you so much for joining us today! We will post all the resources shared today to the Agrilinks event page this week! Be sure to visit: https://agrilinks.org/events/how-can-enabling-environment-reform-facilitate-agricultural-sector-growth

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security): Thanks Julie and Agrilinks! And everyone that joined us for the useful discussion.

Mary Beggs: Thank you! This was very interesting. I look forward to reading the report.

USAID Agrilinks: Thank you Mary for joining us!

USAID Agrilinks: Have a great rest of your day

Jessica Wallach: Thank you! This was a fascinating webinar.

Julie MacCartee: Thank you for joining and for your great questions!

USAID Agrilinks: excellent - thank you Jessica!