Feed the Future Enabling Environment for Food Security Project
Policy Data Snapshot: Nigeria

The World Bank’s Enabling the Business of Agriculture Index (EBA) is a unique tool for measuring the ease of doing agribusiness. EBA data, coupled with contextual analysis and consultations with key stakeholders, can inform priority reforms and allow for transparent result tracking over time and across countries. The index scores, on a scale of 0-100*, the strength of the legal and institutional environment for agribusinesses across eight topics: seed, fertilizer, machinery, finance, markets, transport, water, and ICT. Scores and detailed topical data can be used to inform design and monitoring of Feed the Future’s (FTF) agricultural reform efforts. As seen in the graphic, Nigeria performs relatively well in fostering access to agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizer and machinery, with low costs and quick registration. However, Nigeria’s scores within sub-categories highlight poor quality control systems that undermine consumer confidence and reduce adoption of improved technologies. Areas for improvement include easing transport constraints for agricultural products and improving access to markets and water. The following sections take a deeper look at EBA data relevant to USAID/Nigeria.

**Water**

Water management is the topic area with the greatest potential for improvement; Nigeria falls well behind the FTF and regional averages. In particular, its integrated water resource management (IWRM) framework could incorporate more stakeholder consultation and greater protection for water users. It could require a registry of water users, improve monitoring of water use and quality, publicize these results, and provide incentives for water use efficiency. Nigeria’s long-term water basin planning system has no practical linkages to the water use permit system and minimal monitoring and enforcement measures. To achieve equitable and sustainable use of its water resources, Nigeria must improve the legal and regulatory framework for IWRM in a manner that embraces public consultation mechanisms with periodic review of existing water uses in relation to water quality and availability.

**Transport**

Nigeria’s transport scores reflect efficiency in obtaining trucking licenses as measured through time and expenses. However, regulations governing trucking operations could be strengthened by providing guidelines related to the transport of perishable agriculture products or foodstuffs, or requiring road transport documents to include an official document describing the goods shipped, their origin, and destination. Such clarifications aim to improve the reliability of transport services to preserve the quality, traceability, and shelf life of perishable products.

*The distance to frontier score compares a country’s performance to the highest performing country ("frontier"). The higher the score, the more of a top performer the country is in a particular area.
Nigeria’s seed variety registration system is relatively efficient and transparent, including the time and cost to register new varieties. For example, it maintains an up-to-date online variety catalogue that includes agro-ecological zones suitable for each variety listed. However, Nigeria does not have a law granting and protecting plant breeder’s rights. The country could benefit from seed quality control improvements by adopting best practices exhibited by other sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, such as requiring plant breeders to ensure traceability of reproductive materials for at least two years, as in Burundi; allowing accreditation of private seed companies or third parties to perform certification activities, as in Zambia; or subjecting a percentage of certified seed to post-control tests by the national seed authority, where seed is removed from the market if standards are not met, as in Ghana.

Nigeria excels in the machinery topic area, placing it significantly ahead of its SSA peers and on par with Ukraine and Morocco. This topic evaluates the regulatory framework for tractors as a proxy for all agricultural machinery. Sub-indicators measure access through import, registration requirements, and quality and safety standards. Nigeria performs strongest in the import of tractors where it has very few legal or regulatory impediments to their import and sale. There are no laws requiring companies to register as importers of agricultural tractors, nor are import permits required, though tractors must meet international standards. Once in use, safety precautions could be improved by requiring routine inspections for road-worthiness. Steps could also be taken to reduce unnecessary bottlenecks that lengthen the time involved for tractor registration (14 days) and obtaining type approval (105 days).

Nigeria is a comparatively strong performer in the fertilizer topic area. It has an efficient registration process for new fertilizer products. However, regulations governing fertilizer imports are costly and time consuming. Importer registration is specific to fertilizer products, limited to six months. Subsequently, import permits are issued with volume restrictions and take 90 days to obtain. Easing requirements for companies to obtain and maintain fertilizer import registration and permits will allow freer flow of fertilizer imports into the country, which will ultimately lower the cost to farmers to access and purchase fertilizer. Nigeria’s scores also reflect weaknesses in fertilizer quality control standards and enforcement. Labeling requirements for fertilizer packages are not made explicit and there is no penalty for the sale of mislabeled fertilizer.

The Feed the Future Enabling Environment for Food Security program is a global support mechanism for Feed the Future focused and aligned Missions to address policies, as well as legal, institutional, and regulatory factors that affect food security. To learn more, please contact Lourdes Martinez Romero (COR) at lmartinezromero@usaid.gov or Nate Kline (Chief of Party) at nkline@fintrac.com.