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, Rwanda performs relatively well in most topic areas, with the exception of seed and ICT. Scores highlight notable strengths in facilitating access to finance to the agricultural sector and regulating the transport sector. However, Rwanda needs to address the severe weaknesses in the seed area by improving areas such as its variety registration system and seed quality control. The following sections take a deeper look at EBA data relevant to USAID/Rwanda.

**Finance**

Rwanda scores highly in the finance topic area, with an overall finance score well above the East African Community (EAC) average. Its branchless banking and moveable collateral scores are strong, both around 85/100. It could improve its warehouse receipts score by adjusting the law to require warehouse operators to provide performance guarantees such as a bond, guarantee fund, or insurance. It could also allow electronic warehouse receipts to be legally valid. The non-bank lending score of 71/100 could be improved with modest changes such as legally requiring microfinance institutions and financial cooperatives to disclose their effective interest rate or the annual percentage rate to loan applicants.

**Transport**

Rwanda’s transport scores reflect stronger performance in regulating cross-border transport than domestic transport of agricultural goods. Efficiencies could be gained domestically by extending the validity of company licenses and introducing electronic license applications and renewals. This would reduce the time and cost of obtaining licenses to levels closer to neighboring countries. Providing guidelines related to the transport of perishable agriculture products and requiring road transport documents to include an official document describing the goods shipped, their origin, and destination would improve the reliability of food transport services to preserve the quality, traceability, and shelf life of perishable products, adding value to the entire value chain.

*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.*
As seen in the illustration, Rwanda’s seed scores fall well below the EAC. Rwanda has a comparatively strong plant breeding score based on a law granting and protecting plant breeder’s rights for 20 years. However, the overall seed score is weighed down by weaknesses in Rwanda’s variety registration system and seed quality control measures. The country does not actually register new seed varieties. Therefore, although a variety release committee is legally required in Rwanda, it does not meet in practice. Seed quality control measures are lax. For example, seed certification cannot be performed by a third party/private entity and no fee schedule is available. Seed quality could be improved by requiring plant breeders ensure the traceability of their plant reproductive material, performing post-control tests on certified seed, and expanding the information provided on seed container labels.

Rwanda’s fertilizer scores outperform its regional EAC and Feed the Future peers, but reveal registration bottlenecks including field testing requirements and relatively high time and costs associated with registration of new fertilizer products. It takes 730 days to register new fertilizer products with a cost of 100% per capital income. By contrast, strong fertilizer importing and distribution scores of 64/100 reflect efficiency in Rwanda’s legal and regulatory process governing the import and sale of fertilizer in the country. Importer registration is not specific to fertilizer products, valid for 5 years, and available to many types of organizations. Quality controls are also relatively strong, with a legal framework that clearly specifies labeling guidelines and penalties for mislabeled products.

This topic evaluates the regulatory framework for tractors as a proxy for all agricultural machinery. Rwanda has a perfect machinery import score, reflecting the ease with which tractors can be legally imported into the country. The overall machinery score is offset, however, by gaps in the legal system that do not require tractor type approval before tractors are marketed in the country. By contrast, Ethiopia and Uganda require type approval. Rwanda also has relaxed operator safety standards. For example, the national regulations do not require tractors to be equipped with a fixed roll-over protective structure or falling object protective structure. They do require a seatbelt.

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.