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, Senegal performs comparatively well in providing access to seed technologies, markets, and ICT, but not as well in facilitating access to fertilizer, machinery, finance, or transport, or in managing its water resources. Sub-category scores reveal gaps in the legal framework and weaknesses in quality control measures and consumer safeguards. Furthermore, import and registration policies are either too relaxed or pose bottlenecks. The following sections take a deeper look at selected EBA data relevant to USAID/Senegal.

Market indicators measure laws and regulations that impact access to agricultural markets for producers and agribusinesses. Senegal performs better than the sub-Saharan average. Laws regulating the establishment and profit-sharing of producer organizations are strong. Some plant protection mechanisms are in place, but could be improved by conducting periodic phytosanitary import inspections for agricultural imports. By contrast, Senegalese laws regulating agricultural trade pose burdensome restrictions, such as establishing price regulations for certain products (e.g. rice), providing little to no guidance on how phytosanitary and fumigation certificates can be issued for export products. These bottlenecks lengthen time to export agricultural products to 3 days at a cost of 3.8% income per capita.

Senegal under-performs in providing access to financial services. Despite its well-crafted law regulating e-money activities, Senegal has no legal framework regulating agent banking activities, preventing branchless banking agents from providing services such as cash deposits and withdrawals, bill payment, and processing of loan documents. On the contrary, laws governing microfinance institutions (MFIs) and financial cooperatives do exist and can service less urbanized and rural areas. However, the law could improve customer protections such as requiring minimum mandatory capital upon establishment of an MFI or financial cooperative and requiring subscription to a deposit insurance system. Finally, Senegal could further improve its moveable collateral sub-score by introducing a law regulating warehouse receipt systems.

*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.
With a strong legal framework protecting and granting plant breeders’ rights, Senegal has high scores for plant breeding (70/100) and variety registration (69/100). Its variety release committee balances governmental and non-governmental representation and meets on demand. However, the total time to register new seed varieties of 561 days and associated cost of 710% income per capita is much higher than other West African countries such as Cote d’Ivoire and Nigeria. Senegal has clear and adequate requirements for seed labels, but could improve its seed quality control measures by obliging plant breeders to ensure the traceability of their plant reproductive material for at least two years. It could also allow non-governmental institutions to become accredited to perform seed certification activities.

**Fertilizer**

It is relatively easy to import fertilizer into Senegal. Only a blanket permit is required with a validity of 4 years. Distribution is allowed by private companies, NGOs, and farmer organizations. However, there is no law requiring private companies to register new fertilizer products in order to sell them in the country. Nor are field tests or lab analysis required of new products. Furthermore, once available to consumers, package labeling guidance is minimal, omitting critical information such as manufacturing and expiration dates and safety and storage instructions. There are also no established penalties for the sale of mislabeled (or open) fertilizer bags. Disregard for fertilizer registration and quality control measures erodes trust in fertilizer products thereby reducing application of this yield-boosting technology.

**Machinery**

This topic evaluates the regulatory framework for tractors as a proxy for all agricultural machinery. Senegalese laws pose bottlenecks to machinery imports, requiring companies to register as importers of agricultural tractors (valid for 4 years) and obtain import permits for each shipment. Once in the country, type approval is not required, bypassing tests that ensure minimum standards are met. Although tractors are to be registered by law, Senegal has not established national or international standards for operator safety, tractor performance, or engine emissions. Periodic inspections are not mandated, nor are vendors required to provide after-market services for the ongoing maintenance of machinery. On the whole, Senegal significantly under-performs in this area, providing a weak legal and regulatory framework necessary to foster a healthy machinery market for tractors.

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 lmartinezzromero@usaid.gov or Nate Kline (Chief of Party) at nkline@fintrac.com.