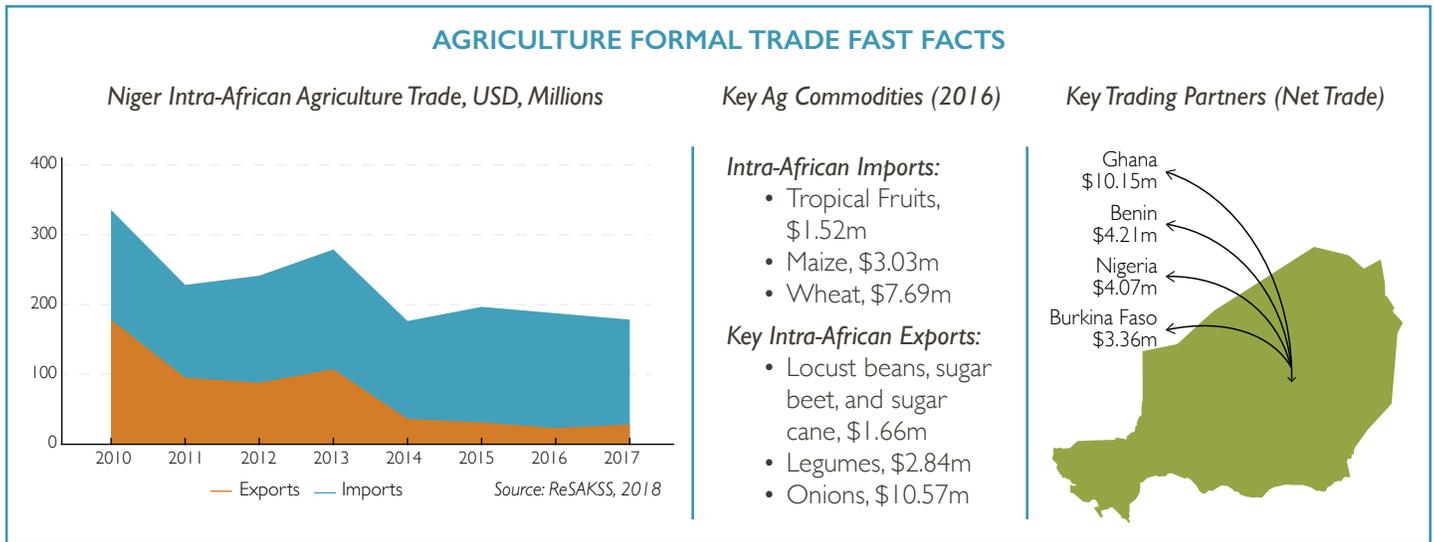




FEED THE FUTURE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY PROJECT Intra-African Agriculture Trade Improvement Scorecard: Niger

In June 2014, African Union member states committed to a set of goals in the Malabo Declaration that included tripling intra-African agricultural trade by 2025. Needs in the country are great; as reported in the African Union's 2018 Inaugural Biennial Review Report, there is a 42.2 percent prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age. Niger is making progress in establishing intra-African trade policies to meet the Malabo Declaration targets but will need to make steady increases in agricultural exports in order to triple trade from 2014 levels by 2025.



This scorecard compiles publicly available data related to four key trade determinants from the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System's (ReSAKSS) Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor 2018 report, including (1) production capacity, (2) the cost of trade, (3) institutional efficiency, and (4) trade policies. The bases of comparison for these indicators are Feed the Future or sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, as indicated. The coloring of the indicators below designates the country's performance in this area relative to its peers. A green score indicates higher-than-average performance; a yellow score indicates average performance, with room for improvement; and a red score indicates below average performance, with a serious need for improvement. For more on indicators, see [here](#).

PRODUCTION CAPACITY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fertilizer use ● Improved seed varieties [no info] ● Machinery standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mobile phone penetration ● Digital payments ● Rural electrification
---	--

PRODUCTION CAPACITY (factors that affect the level of supplies) is determined by resource endowments and other technological and institutional factors that enhance productivity. Niger's harvests are hindered by a low rate of fertilizer use (0.5 kg/ha versus the suggested 50kg/ha, putting Niger in 32nd place among 34 SSA countries). Niger receives a score of 0.33 (out of 8) under the World Bank's Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) tractor testing and standards indicator, indicating that Niger risks importing second-rate and unsafe tractors, because it does not apply any quality and safety machinery standards on tractors. Niger has a mid-high range rate of mobile phone penetration (0.36 mobile lines per person). Yet, only about 13 percent of adults send or receive digital payments — well below the SSA average of 34 percent. Lastly, less than 5 percent of the rural population has access to electricity to power lights, pumps, and farm equipment.

COST OF TRADE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Road connectivity [no data] ● Quality of roads [no data] ● Perceptions about infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Truck licensing ● Cross-border transport licensing ● Domestic transport costs
--	---

COST OF TRADE. Good roads and an efficient trucking system make it easier and cheaper to import and export food. While the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Road Connectivity Index and quality of roads indicator do not rank Niger's roads network, other sources reveal that only about 20 percent of Niger's roads are paved. Niger scores a 2.07 (out of 5) in users' perceptions about infrastructure on the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, below the SSA mean of 2.49. Scores on the EBA Truck Licensing Index (4.5 out of 11) and on the EBA cross-border transport licensing indicators (a 5 out of 9) are average for an SSA country. The World Bank's Doing Business Trading Across Borders (2018) standardized domestic transport costs for Niger were relatively inexpensive for exports (\$374) but high for imports (\$932), deserving closer examination.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFICIENCY

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ● Competitive business environment [no data] | ● Export document compliance |
| ● Agricultural finance | ● Import border regulations |
| ● Secured lending | ● Import document compliance |
| ● Private international legal instruments | ● WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement |
| ● Export border regulations | |

INSTITUTIONAL EFFICIENCY refers to the ease of doing business in relation to agricultural trade. Although Niger ranks 17th among 21 SSA countries examined by the EBA finance indicator, it receives high marks in access to e-money. On secured lending, Niger receives 6 out of 12 points on secured lending, derived from the World Bank's Strength of Legal Rights Index. Niger has only ratified two of seven important private international legal instruments, indicating a need for harmonization with international commercial norms.

Overall, the Nigerien trade regime is comparatively efficient for exporters and importers. Doing Business Trading Across Borders indicators calculate that exporters spend 48 hours to comply with export regulations at the border (SSA median of 78 hours) and spend 51 hours to complete documentation (SSA median of 69 hours). Importers spend 78 hours to comply with import regulations at the border (SSA median of 97 hours) and 156 hours to complete documentation (SSA median of 76.5 hours). Lastly, Niger has fully notified six of 16 articles important for agricultural trade under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement, which is about average for an SSA country.

TRADE POLICIES

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ● Average weighted agricultural tariff | ● Trade facilitation performance |
| ● Import and export bans recently enacted | ● Export licensing |

TRADE POLICIES include measures aimed at protecting trade. Niger's average weighted agricultural tariff is at 15.8 percent, which is the 15th highest among 35 SSA countries. In recent years, Niger has not placed any import or export bans on agricultural goods. The OECD Trade Facilitation Index, which measures the performance of border procedures and policies, shows Niger making improvements in 6 (out of 10) areas, with particular improvements in fees, documentation, and procedures. While it is meeting the African Union's 2018 Inaugural Biennial Review Report targets, Niger still has a long way to go, scoring a 0.37 in this area (below the SSA average of 0.70). On export licensing, the EBA export licensing metric gives the country a 5 (out of 5) for not imposing controls over its main export, vegetables.

THE AFRICAN UNION'S 2018 BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ● Tripling intra-African trade | ● Establishing intra-African trade policies and institutions |
|--------------------------------|--|

BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT 2018. The African Union's 2018 Inaugural Biennial Review Report measured member countries' progress toward achieving the Malabo Declaration's goals. To be considered on track for tripling intra-African trade, countries should have reached the minimum of 20 percent in growth rate increase. Niger is one of few countries to meet this threshold. To be considered on track for establishing intra-African trade policies and institutions, countries are rated by the OECD Trade Facilitation Index. To be considered on track, countries need to reach a cumulative score of 10 points when adding together points given for each of the 10 sub-indicators comprising trade facilitation performance. Niger has met this threshold.

Developed in 2018.