



HOW CAN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT REFORM FACILITATE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR GROWTH?

WEBINAR CHAT TRANSCRIPT

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PRESENTERS

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MODERATOR

Julie MacCartee, USAID/Bureau for Food Security

Kelley Cormier, USAID/Bureau for Food Security

USAID Agrilinks: 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.

Julie MacCartee: Welcome! We'll be getting started in 20 minutes

USAID Agrilinks: 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.

USAID Agrilinks: Fills the polls! Thank you for your feedback!

Magdaleno Bargamento: Hi Everyone, good evening here in the Philippines

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

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

Jean Damascene Nyamwasa: Hi, this is Jean Damascene Nyamwasa from USAID Rwanda Mission

Martin Mautner Markhof: 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

Nathan Kline: Hi. Nate Kline here from Fintrac in Washington DC.

Julie MacCartee: Welcome, Jean and Martin!

Julie MacCartee: Hi Nate - thanks for supporting your colleagues :)

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

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

Marian Parsons: Hi. Marian Parsons from BFS here

Julie MacCartee: Hi Marian! Glad you could join

Marian Parsons: Thanks

Regina Brown: Regina Brown, CADRESenegal, Dakar, Senegal

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Marian! Thank you for joining us!

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

Magdaleno Bargamento: good

USAID Agrilinks: 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!

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

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

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

Julie MacCartee: Welcome, all!

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

USAID Agrilinks: Good morning Anne!

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

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

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Sara - welcome from Fintrac!

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

AV Tech (Washington DC): We'll be starting in just a couple of minutes

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

USAID Agrilinks: Hi Jessica Wallach!

Lauren Burnhill: 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 :-)

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

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

USAID Agrilinks: Arohi, very interesting!

Dawit Hagos: Hi this is Dawit from Ethiopia

USAID Agrilinks: Hello Dawit - good afternoon!

USAID Agrilinks: Hey Jessie! This is Carla - thanks for joining us!

Jessie Kalsmith: Good morning, Jessie Kalsmith here from Fintrac

USAID Agrilinks: 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

USAID Agrilinks: 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!

USAID Agrilinks: welcome Doudou!

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security)): which are largely in the form of projects and programs. Does that help?

Kelley Cormier: 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.

Martin Mautner Markhof: Yes if we are talking about projects then we do not face reality.

IDORENYIN OTUNG 2: Hi, I'm Doren from Nigeria

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security)): Yes, great point Kelley. Also, Martin, there is a lot more beyond projects. That is true.

USAID Agrilinks: Hello Doren, thank you for joining us from Nigeria!

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

Nathan Kline: @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.

USAID Agrilinks: 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>

Patrick Binns: What is meant by a 'customs single window'?

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

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security)): 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>

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

Nathan Kline: Patrick - Please see here for a resource on customs single windows: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/single-window/single-window-guidelines.aspx>

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 found?

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.

Julie MacCartee: Full Report: An Analysis of Enabling Environment Reform under Feed the Future: <https://agrilinks.org/library/full-report-analysis-enabling-environment-reform-under-feed-future>

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?

Phil Steffen: Bureau for Food Security in AID/Washington.

Julie MacCartee: Glad you could join, Phil :)

Meaghan Murphy (Enabling Environment for Food Security)): Here are some more interesting related resources to Amy's comment on AgBEE <https://agrilinks.org/library/business-enabling-environment-agriculture-agbee-lesson-cross-border-agricultural-trade> and an example of a country snapshot in Jordan <https://agrilinks.org/library/business-enabling-environment-agriculture-agbee-jordan>

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!