



Benchmarking the Business of Agriculture

A joint program by the Agriculture and Environmental Services (AES) and Global Indicators and Analysis Department (GIA)

Background

Achieving transformative agricultural growth continues to be a key global development objective. A significant productivity boost is needed for the sector in which the majority of the world's poor work. The recent global food price crisis has again underscored the urgent need to catalyze modernization in food production throughout much of the developing world.

The overarching aim of the *Benchmarking the Business of Agriculture* (BBA) program is to inform and to leverage policy reforms which enable the emergence of a stronger commercial agriculture sector. The focus of the program is beyond the farm gate, covering policy, infrastructure, trade, inputs, and in particular those factors that bear upon the development of functioning networks of agribusinesses and agriculture-related businesses. These networks will be crucial in marketing input technology, purchasing production, and transforming and delivering food at affordable prices to expanding urban markets. Increased farmer productivity and strong agricultural value chains will improve food security, create livelihoods, and raise incomes.

Benchmarking the Business of Agriculture builds on two proven elements in catalyzing agricultural transformation. The first is the proven effectiveness of cross-country benchmarking in attracting attention to and catalyzing change in the policies and actions of governments. The second element relates to the existing Agribusiness Indicators (ABI) and their proven utility that goes beyond government laws and regulations to include their implementation in practice and private sector response to the enabling environment. BBA's integrated approach combines annual monitoring of comparative indicators across countries with periodic deep dives into issues which are identified as being particularly critical – including those which restrict the growth and development of the broader agriculture sector. This dual methodology provides new comparative data to better align private sector needs with government policies.

Objectives

Stimulate dialogue and discourse among stakeholders to leverage policy change for a stronger commercial agriculture sector through an integrated approach:

Doing Business in Agriculture (DBA) provides policymakers with new benchmarks of laws and regulations affecting the business of agriculture that are comparable across countries.

Agriculture Deep Dives (DDs) examine factors that affect agricultural productivity, market access, and the policy environment. Highlight good practices that can be replicated and adopted by other countries.

The focus of the work is beyond the farm gate, which is vital to enable the emergence of a more market-oriented commercial farming sector.



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Integrated Approach

Doing Business in Agriculture

Legal and regulatory indicators of the agricultural business environment

- Enable countries to benchmark their regulatory framework for the agriculture sector and the implementation of their laws in practice
- Comparable across economies and consistent over time
- Points policymakers to specific areas for potential regulatory reform

Deep Dives

In-depth multi-country studies

- Build on the Agribusiness Indicators (ABI) program
- Generate indicators that go beyond the legal and regulatory framework to enable countries to benchmark their commercial farming enabling environment
- Cross country comparison using in-depth metrics on a broader range of factors

The integrated approach will create synergies and enable more robust comparisons between countries.

Indicators

The program covers those areas that are most important for the productivity of smallholder farmers, agribusiness dealers and suppliers of other agriculture services.

Agricultural Inputs

Land

Rural Finance

Water

Markets

Trade

Rural Energy

Rural Transport

Contact

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