Unlocking Opportunities for Policy Wins: A Grassroots Narrative of the Food and Nutrition Security of Rural Bhutan

SAPLING side event

Delivering For Nutrition (D4N) Conference 2024 Colombo, 4th December 2024

Chime P. Wangdi Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan

Current Context:

- 98.5% of Bhutanese households have sufficient food (silent on the nutrition factor)
- Food insufficiency is more severe in rural than in urban areas with 12.2% and 3.7% respectively

(According to the Bhutan Living Standards Survey Report 2022)

- Stunting in children reduced from 33.5% in 2010 to 21.5% in 2015 (National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025, Nutrition Programme, Ministry of Health, Bhutan 2021)
- South Asia is home to the largest population experiencing hunger and malnutrition. The Business, Enterprise and Employment Support (BEES)
 Network for Women of South Asia, a regional body with members from all eight SAARC countries, could play a pivotal role in unlocking opportunities for policy wins and contribute to positive food and nutrition outcomes











Initiatives to improve Food and Nutrition:

• Green houses and low cost bamboo poly tunnel in highlands for enhanced growing season



Natural and organic farming promoted for food and environment safety

- Nearly 13,200 acres of farmland registered for organic production
- In addition, nearly 5000 acres certified under the Local Organic Assurance System (NCOA, 2022)
- Most rural farmland under natural farming by default



70% of farmland on steep slopes 30% of cultivated land on 50% slope or more



Climate Change impacts on water

- Erratic weather patterns creating havoc on crop production
- Mostly rainfed crop production with less than 20% irrigated farmland
- Heavier downpours, wetter monsoon and drier winter, drying springs







Food and Nutrition Security in the context of Climate Change-Farm Labour Shortage-Human-Wildlife-Food-Systems Nexus





Videos taken by Mon Raj Rai























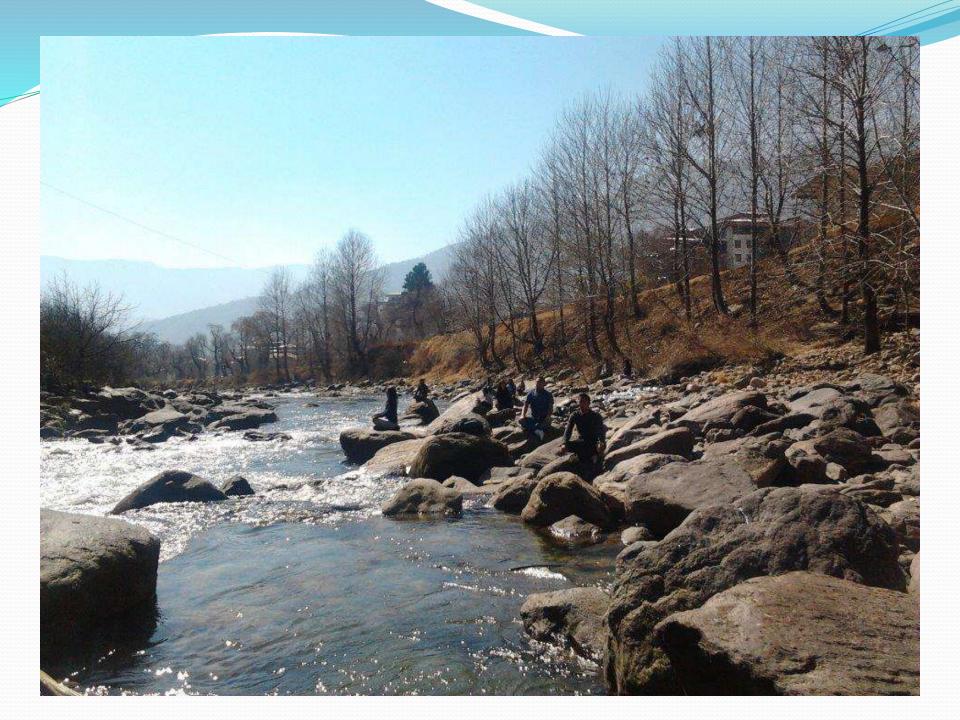


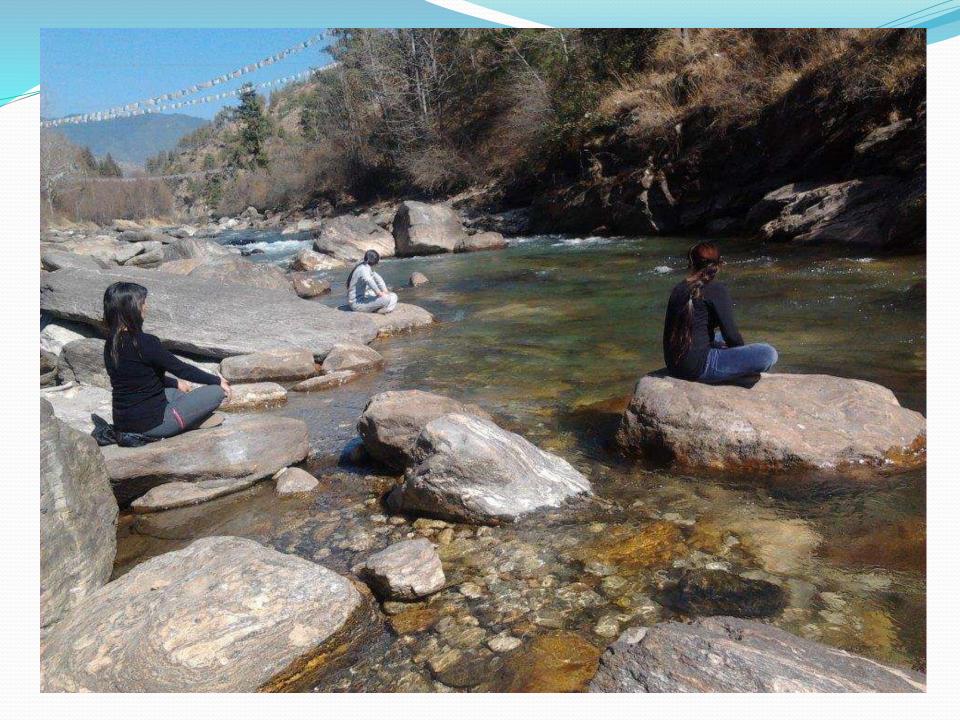


Way Forward:

- *Policy coordination mechanisms* Multi-sector collaboration in upskilling initiatives to strengthen Food and Nutrition Security
- Stakeholder engagement strategies Promote healthy lifestyles and prevent malnutrition and diseases
- Need for systems thinking Promote local resiliencies to climate shocks seed, land and water management skills and the use of appropriate technologies
- More resources committed to grassroots food and nutrition security initiatives, *investment* in spring-shed management and climate smart farming *Role of community ownership and active participation*
- Food and Nutrition Security as a basic human right
- Enhanced availability of reliable dietary information –*effective advocacy for long-term sustainability*
- *Holistic policy formulation* coupled with necessary funds to roll out implementation

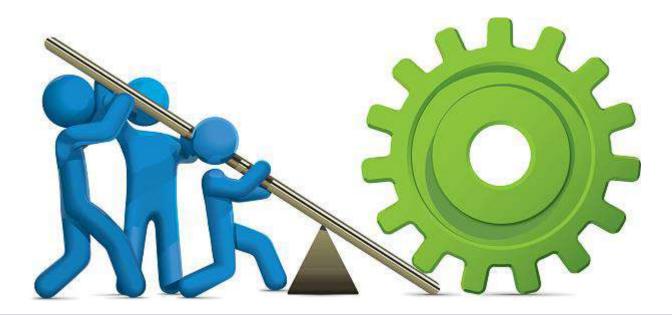






Balance and harmony to be sought in all interventions

Unlocking opportunities for policy wins



Farbod Youssefi Senior Agriculture Specialist Agriculture & Food Global Practice

December 2024

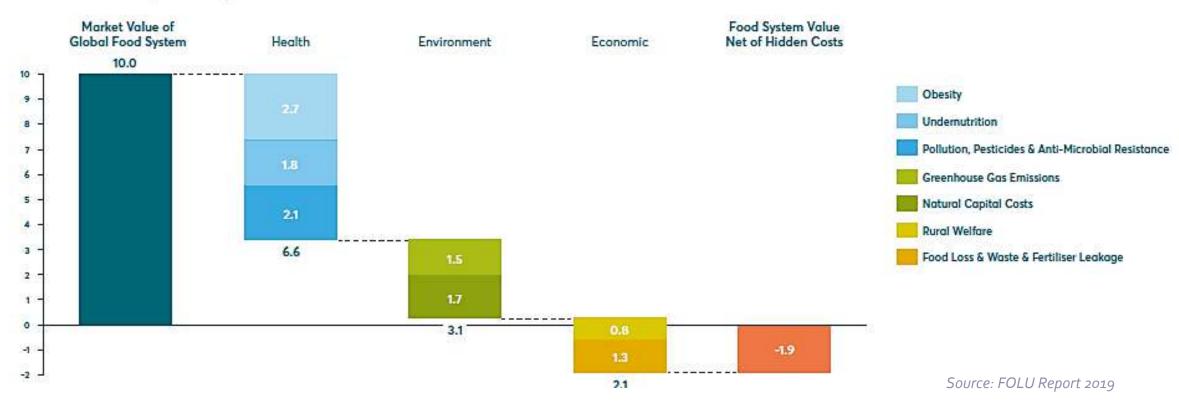


Driving food systems

The 'hidden costs' of the global food and land use system sum to **\$12 trillion** annually, compared to a market value of the global food system of **\$10 trillion**...

Trillions USD, 2018 prices

...staying on the current course, these costs could rise to **\$13 trillion** a year by 2030





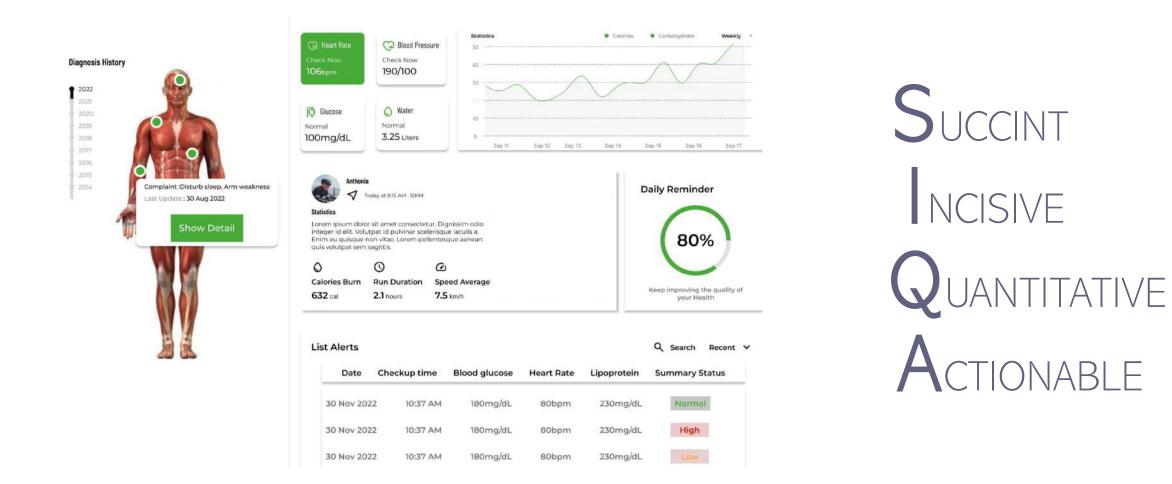




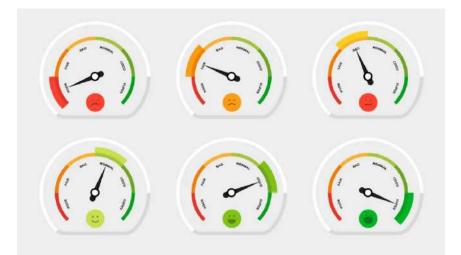
You [Socrates] have discovered the reasons why some farmers are so successful that husbandry yields them all they need in abundance, and others are so inefficient that they find farming unprofitable. I should like to hear the reasons in each case, in order that we may do what is good and avoid what is harmful.

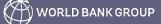


Xenophon, 4th Century BC

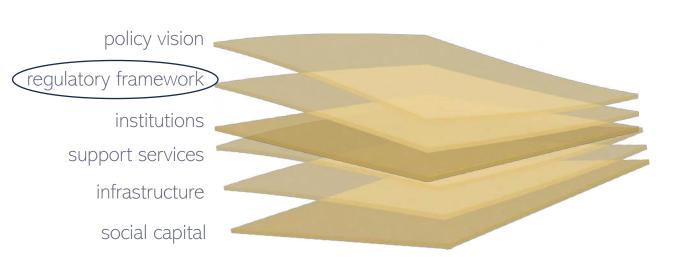


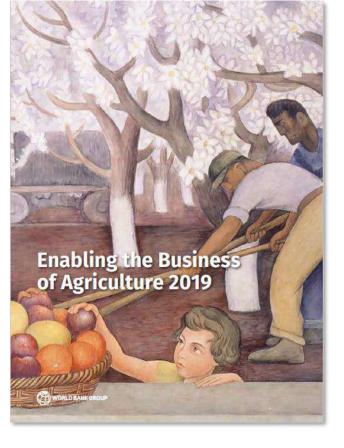






Measuring policy: the legal/regulatory framework



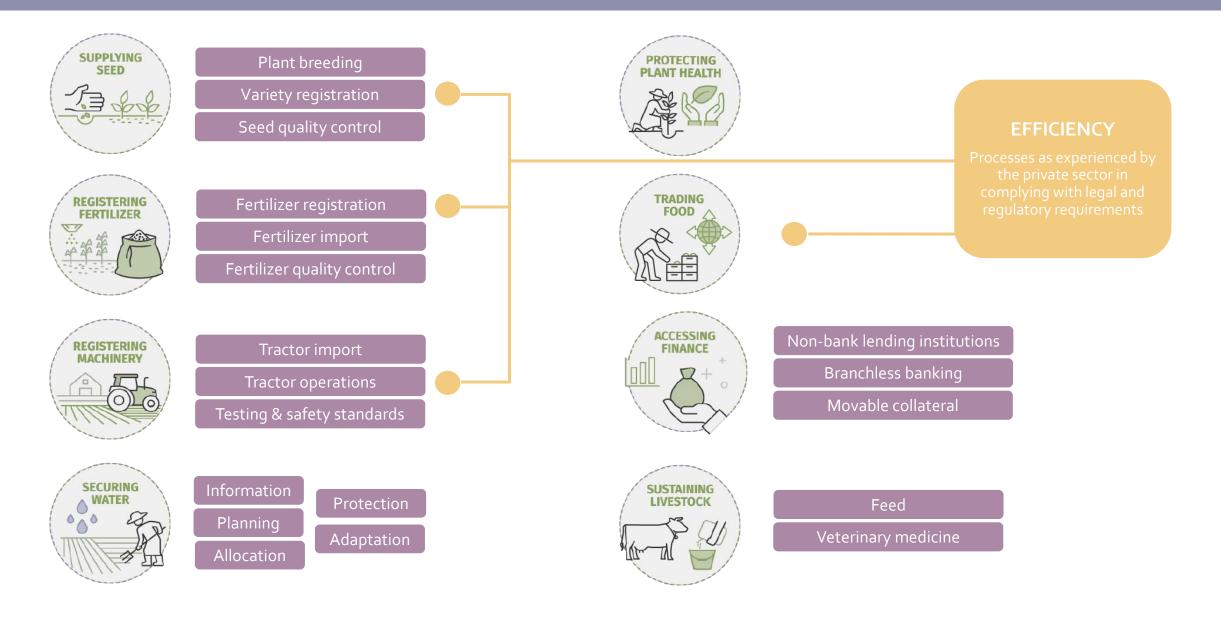




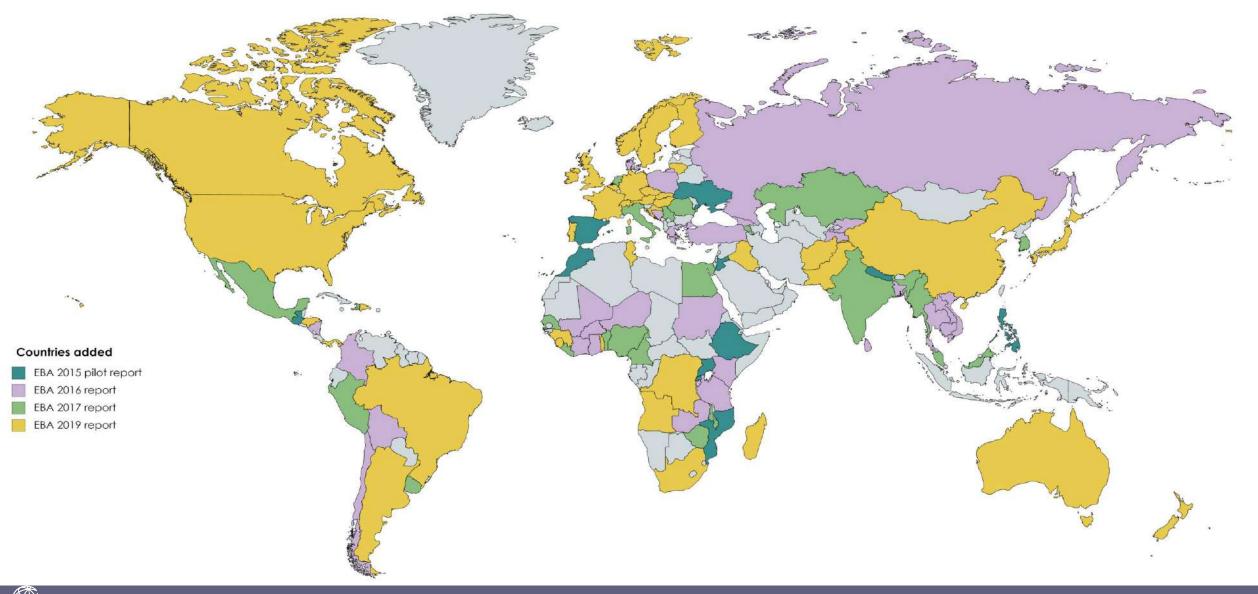




Measuring policy: thematic coverage



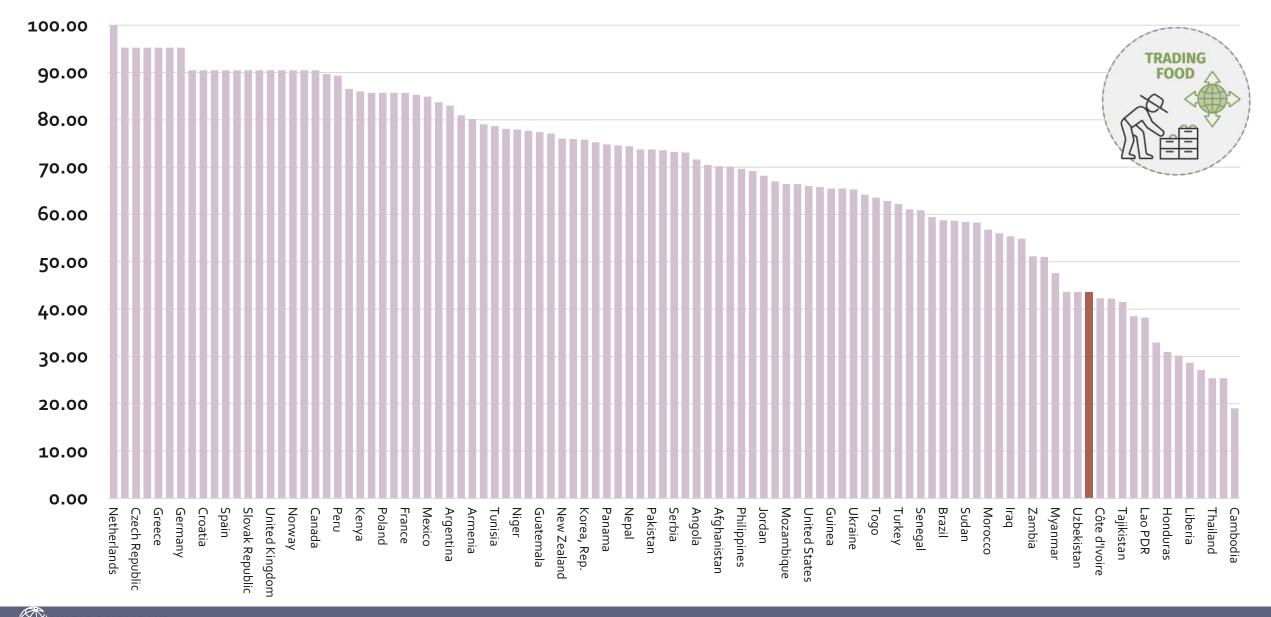
Measuring policy: geographic coverage

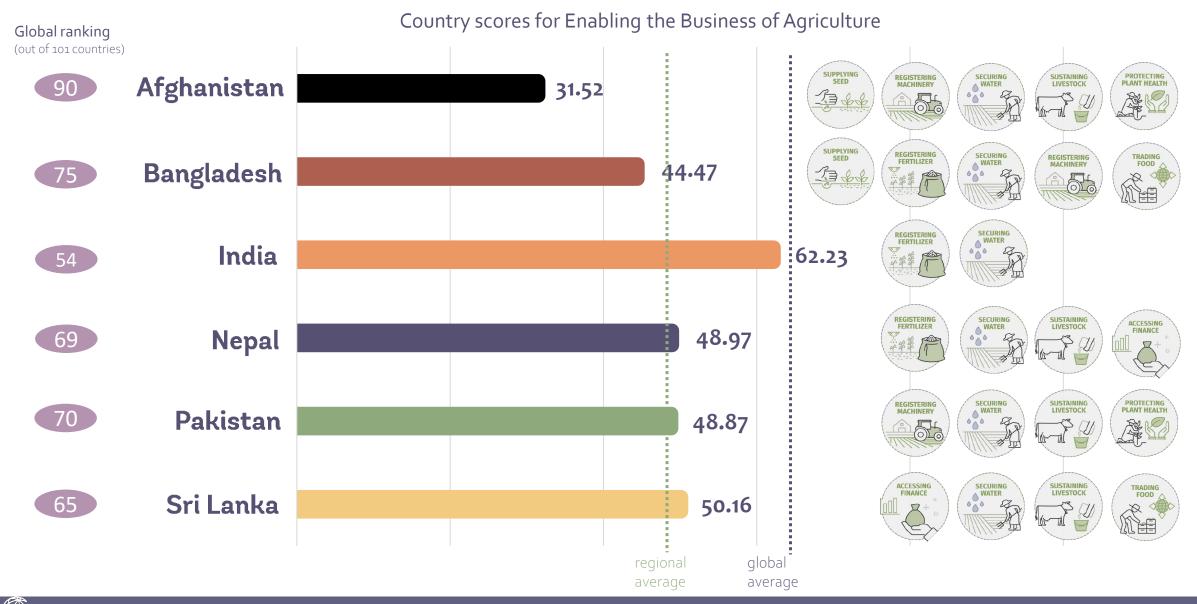






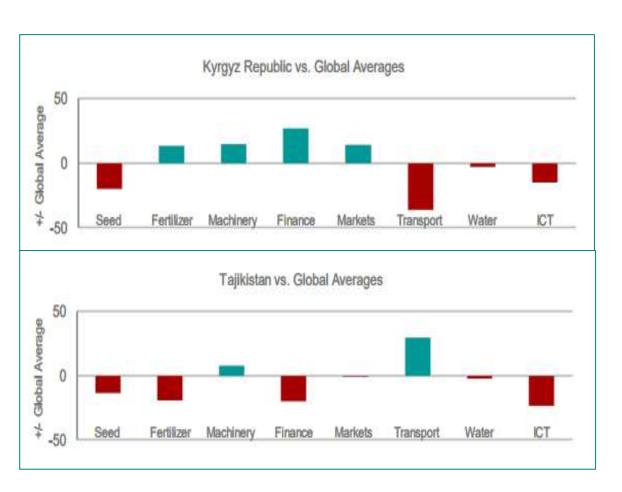




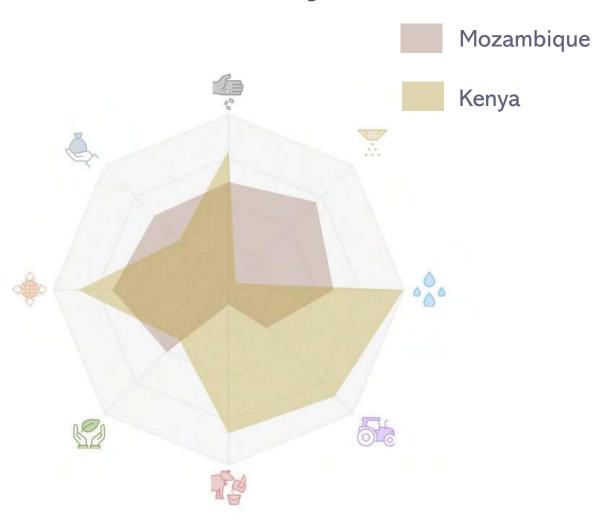


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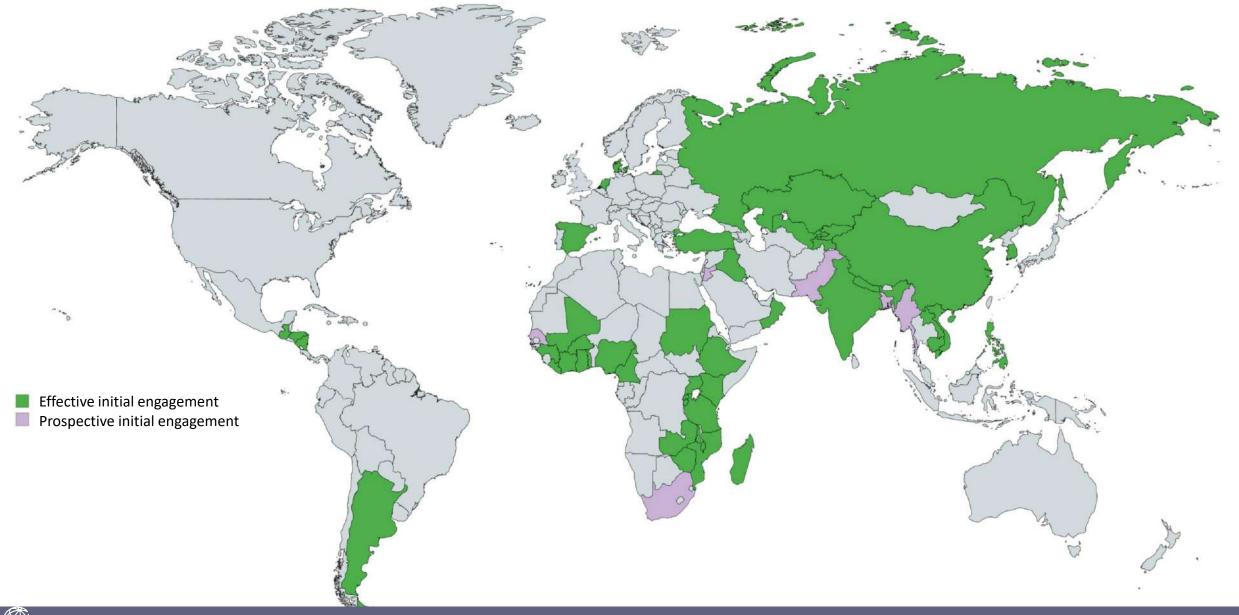
Based on EBA 2017 data



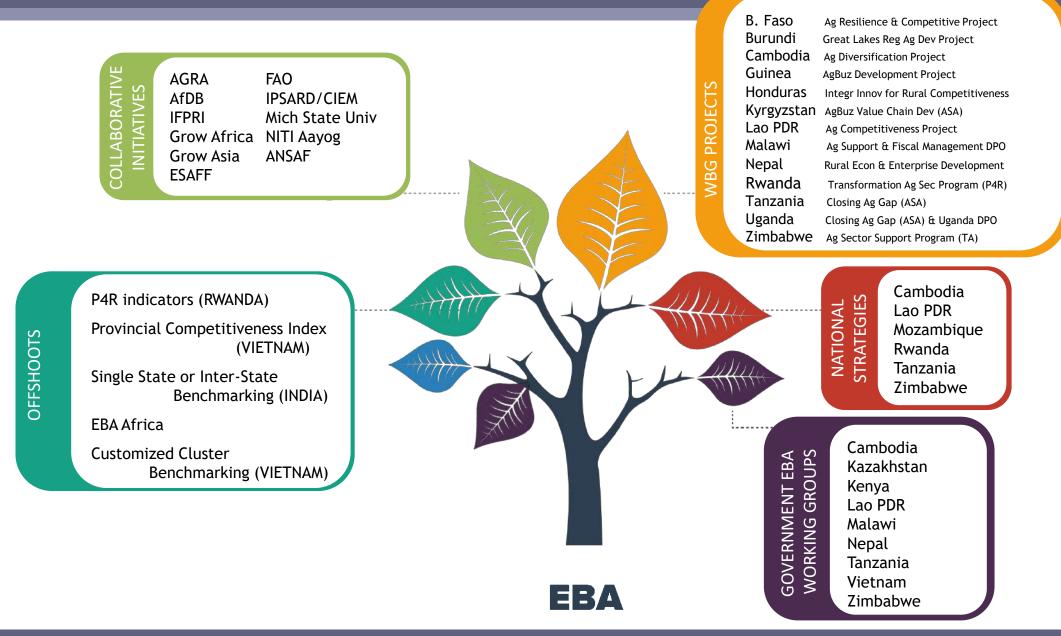
Based on EBA 2019 scores



Informing and nudging policy change



Informing and nudging policy change



Informing and nudging policy change

