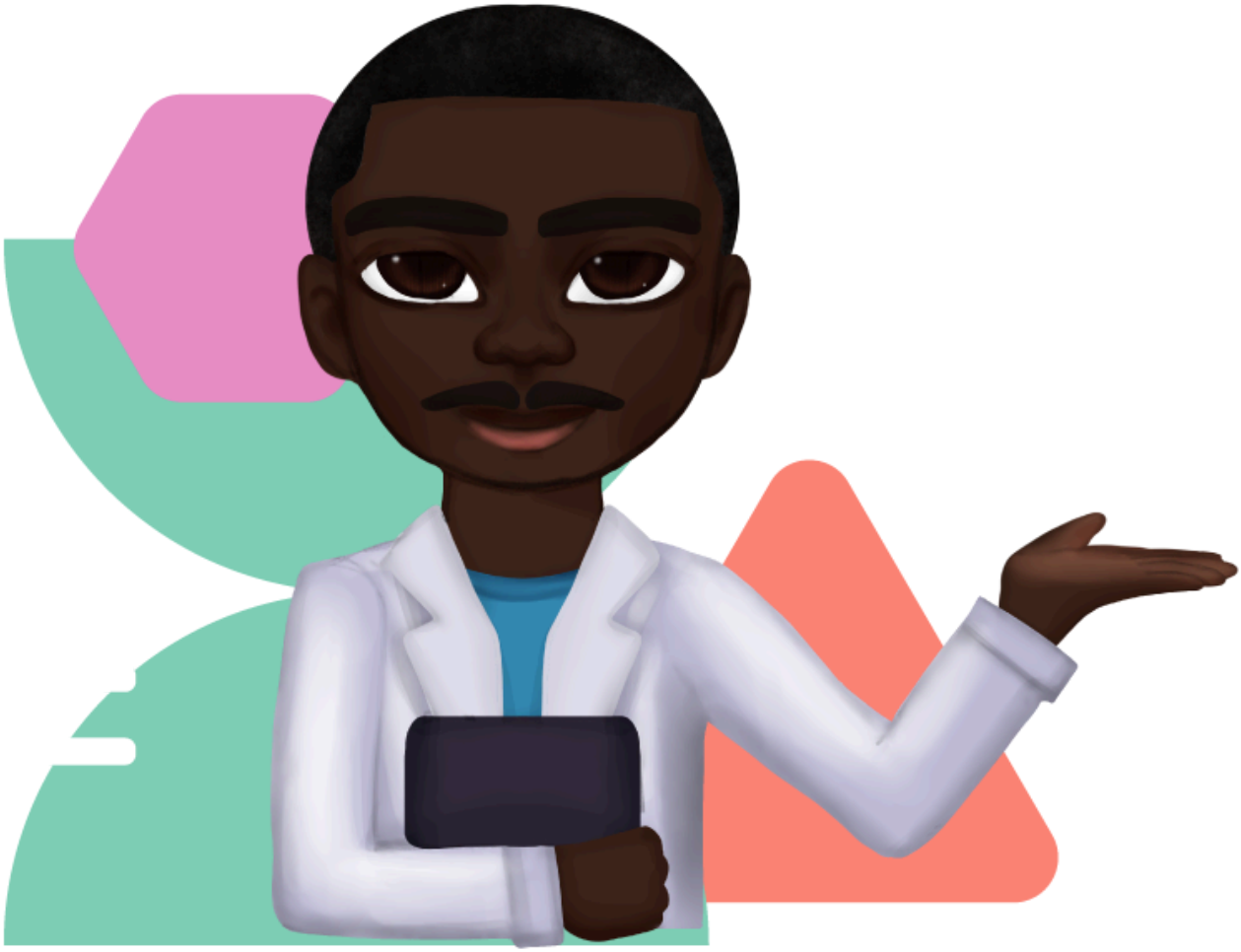

2.2 Identify enabling and inhibiting factors

Identifying external influences that help or challenge the implementation of FAIR data practices

Why should I do this?

To identify external factors that influence your investment's ability to implement FAIR data practices. By recognizing and addressing these factors, you can enhance your investment's success and create a robust and equitable data-sharing ecosystem.
Understanding these factors at an early stage can help you to assess the resources required to effectively reach your investment's FAIR outcomes.

In this activity you will:

Conduct a landscape review to identify factors that enable or inhibit FAIR data practices within your project. Consider the political, regulatory, technological and cultural aspects of the environment where you operate. Assess how each factor either supports or challenges data sharing, accessibility, and interoperability. This assessment will guide your strategies for managing external influences and improving data-sharing outcomes.

Successful deployment and management of any data-driven investment will depend on factors beyond the direct control of any team.

1) If you are a Program Officer (PO), you may want to share this page directly with your grantee, so they can act on it.

2) Use the workbook (and supporting factsheet) for Step 2 here. We recommend using the same document throughout this step, so that you have a single document that captures all your workings.

3) Refer to the investment type examples to help you better understand what inputs are required to identify enabling and inhibiting factors for your investment.

4) Refer to the example questions to help you better understand which inputs are required to identify enabling and inhibiting factors for your investment.

5) Looking at the investment type examples and example questions will help you plan for which approach is required to collect the required information. Conduct a landscape review through desk

research, surveys/workshops, and/or meetings with stakeholders, to gather information and address both enabling and inhibiting factors.

6) Document these in your workbook.

Here are additional areas for you to consider, and some useful questions, for when you are exploring inhibiting and enabling factors:

Political, legal and regulatory considerations

- What are the government's priorities for data sharing?
- What laws govern data protection and privacy?
- Are there specific regulations for data sharing?
- Are there regulatory bodies overseeing data-sharing activities?
- What are the requirements for organizations engaging in data sharing?

Considering cultural norms

- How does society value data sharing versus privacy?
- Are there historical events shaping attitudes toward data sharing?
- How are ethical considerations like fairness and justice viewed in data sharing?
- What are the cultural preferences for data-sharing methods and communication?

Considering technological capacity

- Are there established platforms for data exchange?
- What technologies are available for data storage, processing and analysis?

What is the level of digital literacy among the population?

Are there government initiatives promoting data-sharing technologies?

Consider other inhibiting factors

What is the current political climate?

Are there geopolitical or military factors that might cause instability?

Could political challenges like territorial disputes or corruption hinder success?

How do cultural taboos affect data sharing?

Are there significant gaps in digital infrastructure?

Investment types

Overview

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Every investment project is unique

The application of the six steps will vary accordingly. To provide examples that align with your project, common characteristics of AgDev investments were researched and three 'investment types' were developed.

AgriConnect: a digital solutions investment

AgriConnect: Identifying enabling and inhibiting factors

In its pursuit of digital innovation, AgriConnect conducted a thorough landscape analysis. This revealed an array of enabling and inhibiting factors crucial to fulfilling its aspirations.

Enabling factors

Supportive policies in Dataland

The presence of supportive policies in Dataland such as the 'Digital Transformation Policy 2024-2028' not only facilitates the growth of other digital solutions but also creates an advantageous environment for AgriConnect's comprehensive platform to succeed.

Cultural norms

The cultural norms in Dataland, characterized by an openness to new technologies, emerged as a cornerstone, playing a pivotal role in the successful design and rollout of AgriConnect's one-stop shop solutions.

Ongoing governmental and collaborative efforts

As part of this evolving narrative, ongoing governmental and collaborative efforts are also shaping the landscape with improved infrastructure, including enhanced internet accessibility, electricity, and expanded mobile coverage in the region. These strategic moves stand as clear indicators that augur well for the future success of AgriConnect's initiative.

Collectively, these positive developments position AgriConnect on a promising trajectory, marking a significant transformation in the digital landscape within the agricultural sector of Dataland.

Inhibiting factors

Geopolitical tensions

A contentious upcoming election, a long-standing border dispute with a neighboring country, and issues with government corruption.

Cultural norms around data sharing

High levels of distrust, especially regarding data that might be used by the government to target individuals for tax purposes or possible extortion. Smallholders were often hesitant to share data through digital channels, due to security concerns around this type of transmission.

Technological setbacks

Low levels of internet access, especially in rural areas and for poorer citizens and marginalized groups, in addition to low rates of digital literacy.

AgroThrive: a policy and advocacy investment

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AgroThrive: Identifying enabling and inhibiting factors

To strengthen its Policy and Advocacy work, AgroThrive conducted a thorough landscape analysis, revealing a variety of enabling and inhibiting factors crucial to its goals:

Enabling factors

Supportive policies in Datapur

Policies such as the 'Rural Growth and Empowerment Strategy (RGES) 2024-2028' not only facilitate the growth of other rurally-based advocacy work, but also create a supportive environment for AgroThrive to succeed in this endeavor.

Cultural norms

An openness to new technologies emerged as a key enabling factor. It played a pivotal role in the successful design and rollout of the AgroThrive initiative aimed at enhancing the government's capacity to scale inclusive agriculture, develop infrastructure, facilitate the adoption of new technology, and attract more private sector investment.

Ongoing governmental and collaborative efforts

The government and partners are shaping the landscape with improved infrastructure, including enhanced internet accessibility, electricity, and mobile coverage in the region.

Inhibiting factors

Geopolitical tensions

Trade disputes with neighboring countries and issues with government corruption.

Cultural norms around data sharing

High levels of distrust, especially regarding data that might be used by the government to target individuals for tax purposes or possible extortion. Smallholders were often hesitant to share data through digital channels, due to security concerns around this type of transmission.

Technological setbacks

Low levels of internet access, especially for poorer citizens and marginalized groups, in addition to low rates of digital literacy.

NGBT: a field research investment

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NGBT: Identifying enabling and inhibiting factors

When beginning its project to develop a new barley variety that is more nutritious and resistant to climate change, as well as yielding higher outputs, NGBT conducted a thorough landscape analysis, revealing a variety of enabling and inhibiting factors crucial to its goals:

Enabling factors

Supportive policies in Datastan

The implementation of policies such as the 'Climate-Adaptive Crop Development Program (CACDP)', plays a significant role not only in the development and dissemination of crops engineered to withstand variable climates, but also in fostering a conducive environment for NGBT's research and data-sharing efforts.

Cultural receptiveness to new technologies

This has been instrumental, serving as a foundational component for the successful development and introduction of this new barley varietal.

Ongoing governmental and collaborative efforts

The government and partners are enhancing the region's infrastructure, improving internet access, electricity availability and mobile network reach. These deliberate improvements signal a positive outlook for the success of NGBT's project.

Inhibiting factors

Political tensions

A political climate marked by resource competition, various international trade disputes, and concerns related to government corruption.

Cultural norms

Surveys revealed significant levels of distrust, particularly concerning data considered proprietary by private sector organizations, which has led to reluctance in sharing data from prior research initiatives. Moreover, smallholders often expressed hesitancy in using digital channels for data sharing, due to security concerns associated with this mode of transmission.

Technological hurdles

Smallholders in particular face challenges accessing digital technology, and frequently encounter power outages. This digital divide is further exacerbated for women and other marginalized groups within the smallholder community.

Open and FAIR data assets improve the speed, efficiency and efficacy of research.

Understanding the enablers and disablers of mainstreaming FAIR – the Case of CGIAR

Learn more

FAIR Process Framework has been developed by the Enabling Data Access (EDA) project team at CABI and is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the foundation's Open Access Policy. The FAIR Process Framework is a tool to assist partners in developing data access and management plans (DMAPs) that incorporate FAIR and responsible data practices.