2018 Agriculture is key to Africa’s future.

*This report raises the tough questions* that accompany the challenge of delivery. It looks at how to translate visions into reality; how political leaders can build buy-in to what they are trying to achieve, often in limited timeframes; how to plan and align resources; and how to manage the various obstacles, distractions and challenges that will always arise and often derail even the best laid plans.

It also looks at how you create the right conditions and set out a clear and coherent policy framework which enables the private sector, supports smallholder farmers, and builds a coalition with civil society and development partners.

*Several lessons can be learned* about how to support countries to create a strong agribusiness enabling environment.

1. The first lesson is the need for participatory diagnosis, identification and prioritization of policy and regulatory constraints that are a nuisance to agribusiness firms and of importance to governments and opportunities for reform.
2. Second, there is a need to engage government policy makers and private sector representatives in dialogue about alternative reform options and solutions and management of policy reform processes.
3. Third, engaging champions is necessary to drive the reforms through the government processes and to work with the policy reform processes.
4. Fourth, rigorous and robust analysis and generation and messaging of evidence are needed to advise, inform and influence the decision making.
5. The fifth lesson is that there is a need to focus on implementation of the reforms. Much is still unknown and must be learned.