



Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA)

A Brief Overview

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Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA)

- Objectives
- Partners
- Research and outreach themes
- Brief update on activities in Mali (focus on food staples in the cotton zone)



Objectives of GISAMA:

1. To identify public investments, marketing and trade policies needed to:
 - Catalyze development of staple food markets
 - Improve smallholder access to markets and incentives for farm productivity growth
 - Encourage private sector investment in crucial marketing functions
 - Improve food security
2. To develop long-term institutional collaboration between African universities and research institutes, regional economic organizations, and Michigan State University



Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA)

- Partners in Mali:
 - Food Security Commission (CSA)
 - Institut d’Economie Rurale - ECOFIL
 - Chambers of Agriculture of Mali (APCAM)
- Partners in Southern and Eastern Africa:
 - COMESA / ACTESA
 - Universities in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia



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- Research and outreach themes:
 - Theme 1: structure and behavior of smallholder agriculture, urban consumer behavior, dynamics
 - Theme 2: Value chain studies
 - Theme 3: Impact Assessment



GISAMA research in Mali

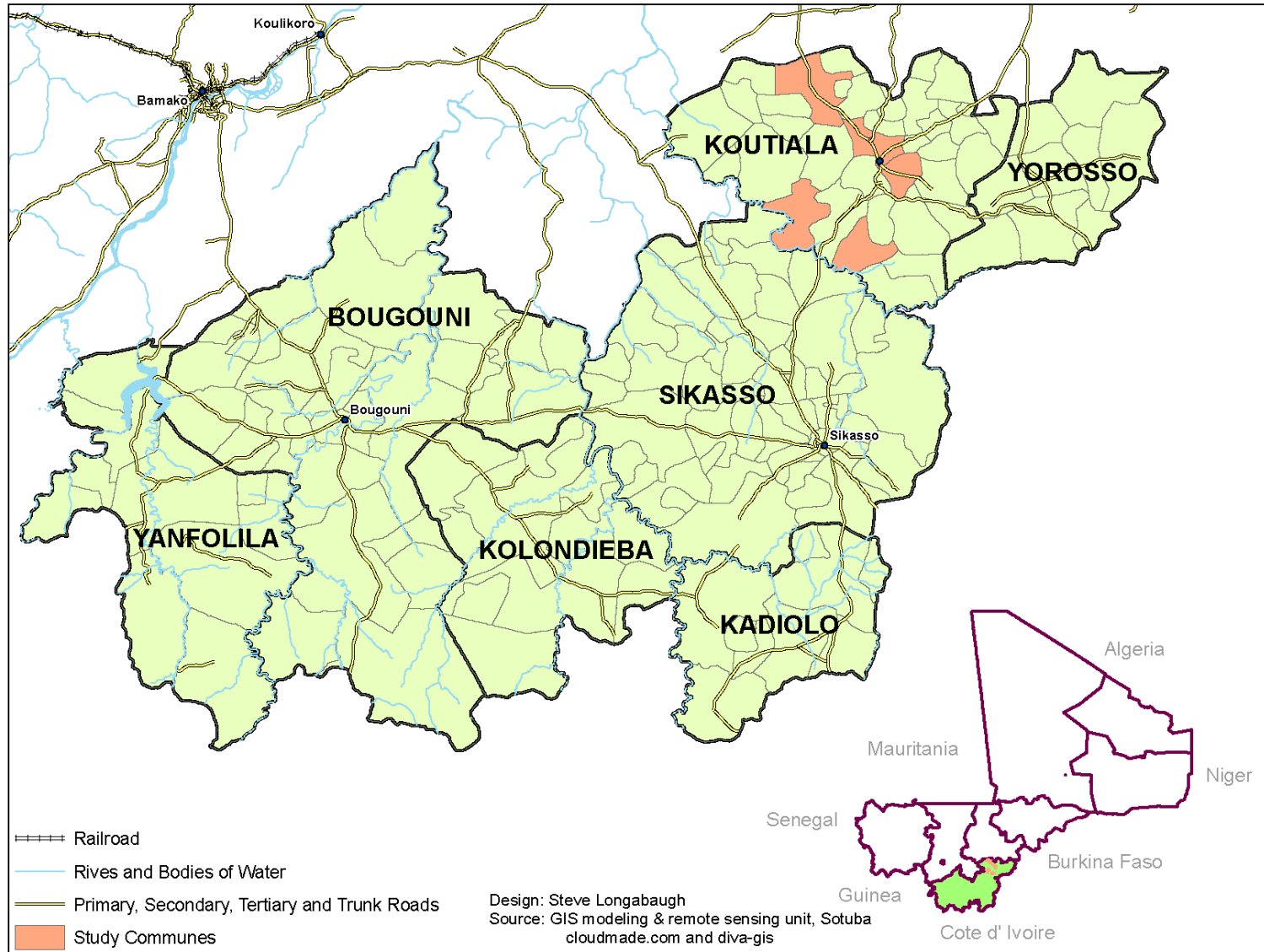
- Desk study of aggregate cereal production and marketing trends in Mali;
- Detailed household-level study of smallholder cereal production and marketing behavior in 3 production systems of Mali (co-funded by USAID):
 - Irrigated rice (Office du Niger)
 - Rainfed cereal production with cotton (Koutiala)
 - Rainfed cereal production without cotton (Tominian)
- Panel sample of 150 households in six villages in each system (building on World Bank Ruralstruc study 2007) complemented by focus group interviews



Focus on the cereal-cotton system

- Cotton historically an “engine of development” providing for capitalization of smallholder farming:
 - Rural roads
 - Animal traction equipment
 - Access to improved seeds and fertilizer on credit
 - Access to extension for cotton and food staple crops
- Financial crisis in cotton sector (since 2006)
 - Low international prices (in USD) combined with strong Euro
 - Low CFA farmgate prices and late payment for cotton
 - Low profitability aggravated by
 - group credit responsibility
 - elimination of non-cotton seasonal inputs

Koutiala - Location of cereal-cotton zone survey





Cereal-cotton system preliminary findings

- Key aggregate trend: increasing importance of maize in total cereal production for animal feed and urban household consumption -> more stable farmgate prices
- Preliminary household level survey findings in Koutiala:
 - Land allocation to cotton has decreased in favor of cereals and other crops; but
 - Maize cannot substitute for cotton as a cash crop;
 - Aggregate cereal production has not increased;
 - Decrease in number of net cereal sellers and buyers (increase in households not participating in cereal market);
 - Share of maize in total cereal sales has increased
 - Early maturing and can be sold before millet and sorghum to meet cash needs for school fees



Implications for farmers' organizations

- Need for a cash crop with reliable production and marketing systems to capitalize smallholder farming;
- Smallholder farmers need access to sufficient land and equipment to be able to meet cash and food requirements;
- Soil management practices for moisture retention and fertilizer use efficiency critical to productivity of rainfed production systems;
- Investment in literacy and business skills for women and men to develop agricultural value added enterprises and complementary off-farm income sources.

Merci pour votre attention!

