

Presidency of the Republic Food Security Commission (CSA)		APCAM/MSU/USAID Project to Mobilize Food Security Initiatives in Mali (Projet de Mobilisation des Initiatives en matière de Sécurité Alimentaire au Mali, or PROMISAM)
		

CSA/PROMISAM

“Project to Mobilize Food Security Initiatives in Mali”

http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mali_fd_strgy/index.htm

**Progress Report
April - June 2005**

Bamako
July 2005

Introduction

The general objective of PROMISAM is to support the Food Security Commission (Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire, or CSA) in mobilizing local capacities and initiatives for the implementation of the National Food Security Strategy, or SNSA.

The project's objectives are the following, and the various activities of the project contribute to their realization:

- The management entities of the SNSA are functional at the commune, cercle, region, and national levels.
- Indicative food security programs in the regions of Gao and Sikasso are elaborated at the commune, cercle and regional levels.
- The CSA's Documentation Center is functional.
- An indicative national food security program, based on a reconsideration of the five-year SNSA action plan, is adopted.
- A baseline for the CSA's real-time food security monitoring system (*tableau de bord*) is produced.
- Information on agricultural research and technologies available in Mali is synthesized and made available to key Malian and donor groups.

The following are the key activities undertaken by PROMISAM from April through June and the intermediate results obtained:

Objective 1: Technical support for the establishment and operationalization of the institutional framework of the SNSA (CSA and various committees)

Result 1.1: The various management entities of the SNSA are set up and strengthened at the level of cercles and regions, in a minimum for two regions.

Intermediate Results Obtained

- Information was provided to elected communal officials of the cercles of Menaka and Ansongo (region of Gao) on the SNSA and the missions of the CSA
- Regional food security committees were created for the regions of Gao and Koulikoro

Activities Undertaken

The activities that made it possible to reach the intermediate results and the impacts (listed below) were the following:

- ✓ Training workshops carried out in the region of Gao to provide information and sensitize local communal elected officials to the concepts of food security, the objectives of the SNSA and the missions of the CSA;
- ✓ Participation in the preparation of the annual meeting of the National Food Security Council (Conseil national de sécurité alimentaire), chaired by the President Touré.

Result 1.2: The trainers are trained for the development of local food security programs

Intermediate results obtained

- Training of 50 trainers in the cercle of Menaka (8 women and 42 men), representing 5 communes
- Training of 57 trainers in the cercle of Ansongo (9 women and 48 men) representing 7 communes

Activities Undertaken

- ✓ Planning the training activities for Menaka and Ansongo
- ✓ Holding of the training courses from May 2- 13, 2005 in the cercles of Menaka and Ansongo
- ✓ Providing technical support to local committees for the development of local food security programs for the communes and the cerles of the Gao region.
- ✓ Planning the training activities for the region of Sikasso.

Objective 2: Support to the CSA for the Evaluation of the Five-Year (2002-2007) SNSA Action Plan

Intermediate Results Obtained

- The development of a National Food Security Program (PNSA), in coordination with the FAO
- Identification and adoption by the CSA of a set of food security indicators
- Identification of the indicators to be used by the CSA for its real-time food security monitoring system (*tableau de bord*).

Activities Undertaken

- ✓ Provided technical advice on the first draft of the PNSA
- ✓ Participated in the committee charged with developing the second draft of the National Food Security Program
- ✓ Participated in the holding of the round table discussion on the PNSA, which involved all the major stakeholders.
- ✓ Identified relevant food security indicators to use in evaluating progress of the program
- ✓ Held a workshop at the CSA to validate the choice of indicators.

Objective 3: Creation and Strengthening of the CSA's Documentation Center

Intermediate Results Obtained

- Creation of a web site for the Food Security Commission (CSA):
<http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/test/CSA/index.htm> (temporary address ; it is being shifted to a Mali-based ISP with its own domain name)
- Procurement of a workspace at the CSA for the librarian
- Strengthening the skills of the librarian, particularly with respect to website management
- Creation of a bibliographic data base on food security

Activities Undertaken

- ✓ Carried out an inventory of locally available sources of information on food security

- ✓ Training of the librarian in the management of the scanner provided by the project and the production of pdf files.
- ✓ Planning and holding of training sessions for the librarian and the rest of the CSA's Communication and Information Service on the creation of web pages and on network management (May 24-28 in Segou)
- ✓ Carried out an inventory of the documents currently available to the CSA relating to food security for the constitution of the bibliographic data base.
- ✓ Provision of equipment to the librarian (2 computers including 1 notebook and 1 desktop, printer, peripherals, and a scanner).
- ✓ Connected the librarian and the rest of the CSA's Communication and Information Service to the CSA's computer network.

Objective 4: Evaluation and synthesis of current activities related to the application of science and technology in Malian agriculture

Result 4.1: Information is available to USAID and its Malian partners (especially the National Agricultural Research Committee) on the options available to promote the application of science and technology to Malian agriculture. This information will be used, inter alia, in the development of the new strategic plan for agricultural research of Mali in 2006.

Intermediate Results Obtained

- Final report (in English and French) produced concerning the options available for promoting the economic growth of Mali through the greater application of science and technology to agriculture. The two versions of the document are available to the PROMISAM web site (French version: http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mali_fd_strtgy/ag_tech_french.pdf; English version: http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mali_fd_strtgy/ag_tech_eng.pdf).

Activities Undertaken

- ✓ Finalization of the French and English versions of the report based on the comments received on the draft report from Malian interlocutors Malians and foreign experts.
- ✓ Participation with the CSA in the seminar on African Scientific Renewal held in Bamako on June 30, 2005; Theme: "The Contribution of Research to Food Security."

Support to the CSA to Manage the Food Crisis of 2004/2005

Intermediate Results Obtained

- 8 broadcasts via radio and television of special market news reports (3 separate bulletins)
- Development of a draft database on projects working in the field of the food security in Mali
- In order to try to hold down the rapid rise of cereals prices and to improve provisioning of markets, the Government, in response to the proposal developed by CSA, PROMISAM, and other affiliated services, authorized the private sector to import, tax free, 100,000 tons of maize and 50,000 tons of rice from the world market.

Activities Undertaken

- ✓ Production, with the OMA, of a special joint bulletin on evolving agricultural market trends;
- ✓ Meeting of the project with the OMA and the CSA to plan the continued production and broadcasting of the special market news bulletins.
- ✓ Developing a contract with the firm Wassalou Productions to produce and broadcast the radio and TV bulletins;
- ✓ Preparing an inventory of projects working on food security in Mali and their areas of intervention (ongoing activity)
- ✓ Participation in the preparatory meeting to develop proposals for the CSA to take to the Prime Minister for solutions to assure adequate food supply to the population during the hungry season.

Non- programmed activities

- Participation in the monthly meetings of the working group of the SAP (*Système d'Alerte Précoce*). The meetings review and approve the SAP bulletin for the past month and deal with other related questions. The group's mandate, in addition to the approval of the bulletins, includes making decisions concerning various recommendations suggested by the SAP;
- Participation in the workshops to elaborate and validate the base document for the establishment of the Development Plans for Agricultural Growth, Poverty Reduction and the Environmental Protection (PD-CARPPE) of the Ministry for Agriculture;
- Participation in the workshop to launch the Thematic Action Programs (ATP) of CIRAD and IER, entitled "Regional Impact of Integration on Food Security in West Africa."

Impacts of the Activities Undertaken by the Project

- The training courses for the cercles and communes in the Gao region created a real enthusiasm among the local populations, which very much appreciated the participative approach adopted by the project. Their enthusiasm translated into a strong involvement and interest in the process of designing the indicative food security programs at the commune level. They all recognized that a good execution, under their own responsibility, of the programs that themselves have developed, constitutes the only reliable way to obtain long-term food security and their independence from relying on emergency assistance and free food distributions, which, according to them, kills private initiatives.
- Food security has become a stronger priority of the Malian government.
- The implementation of the PNSA is no longer viewed as just the responsibility of the CSA, but integrates various technical ministries and agencies, NGOs and the private sector. The CSA plays the role of coordinator and evaluator rather than implementing agency.
- There is better use of market information by various actors, including the government in its planning of how to respond to the current food crisis. This, in turn, has helped in managing the crisis *in collaboration with* the private sector rather than seeing the private sector as an adversary.
- The potential has been laid to reduce consumer prices with the arrival of the 150,000 tons of cereals that are being imported tax-free.