

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”

Progress Report February-March 2005

Bamako
April 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 various programmed activities of the project contribute to the realization of the following outcomes:

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

The activities undertaken by PROMISAM during February and March and the intermediate results obtained are the following:

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 reinforced at the level of circles and regions, at a minimum

Intermediate Results Obtained:

- Briefing note produced for the Commissioner on issues regarding the cereals supply in Mali
- 3 special radio and the national television broadcasts regarding agricultural market news (based on 3 special bulletins produced by the project and the CSA)

Activities Undertaken:

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

- ✓ Review of literature and drafting of the briefing note on the issues related to cereals supply in Mali
- ✓ Meeting of the project with the OMA and CSA to define the contents and the frequency of the special market news bulletins.

- ✓ The establishment of a contract with *Wassoulou Production* for the production and diffusion of the television and radio broadcasts of the special market news bulletins.

✓

Impacts: After 3 weeks of broadcasting the special bulletins, there was a reduction in the rate of increase in the general level of the cereals prices in the retail markets of Bamako.

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

Intermediate Results Obtained:

- Training program adopted for the areas of Sikasso and Gao on February 16, 2005 by the CSA, representatives of civil society, NGOs and technical services,, and representatives of the National Assembly and the Haut Conseil de Collectivités Territoriales (HCCT)
- Training of 58 trainers in the cercles of Gao (9 women and 49 men) representing 7 communes
- Training of 56 trainers in the circles of Bourem (6 women and 50 men) representing 5 communes

Activities Undertaken:

- ✓ Development of the training program to reinforce understanding of key concepts of food security at the cercle and regional levels
- ✓ Holding of a meeting on February 16, 2005 to discuss, amend and adopt the program (21 participants)
- ✓ Finalization of the training program, incorporating the various comment received
- ✓ Planning of the training activities for Bourem and Gao
- ✓ Holding of the training courses on March 16-24, 2005 in the cercles of Gao and Bourem

Impacts:

The training courses were greeted with enthusiasm by the local populations, which very much appreciated the participative approach adopted by the project. Their enthusiasm translated into a strong involvement and interest of the populations in the process of designing the indicative food security programs at the commune level.

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

Intermediate Results Obtained:

- Comments from the project staff were incorporated into the final version of the governments National Response Plan to the current food crisis (PNR)

Activities Undertaken:

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

- ✓ Provision of technical advice for the development of the National Response Plan (PNR); reading of the national response plan, drafting and sending of suggestions and comments to the CSA
- ✓ Participation in the meeting of presentation of the first version of the PNR by the consultant (Mr. Bah)
- ✓ Participation in the committee charged with revising the FAO-supported National Food Security Program (PNSA);
- ✓ Participation in the validation workshop for the revised PNSA

Impacts:

- The concept of self-sufficiency food was removed as an objective in the National Response Plan (PNR).
- The aspect nutrition was taken into account in the corrected version of the PNR
- The implementation of the PNR is no longer the sole responsibility of the CSA, but integrates various technical departments of the government

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

Intermediate Results Obtained:

- 120 documents already owned by the CSA were inventoried
- Adoption of a work plan and implementation calendar for the Center
- Procurement of temporary workspace for the librarian in the Ministry of
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Activities Undertaken:

- Meeting with the librarian of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to a workspace and the transfer of the documents to the CSA
- Provision of a micro-computer to the CSA's librarian
- Establishment of work plan for the establishment of the resource center
- Planning of the activities for training the librarian in networking and the creation of web pages.
- Inventory list of the documents available at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (location of the ex Associate Ministry of Food Security)

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

Intermediate Results Obtained:

- Draft report produced concerning options for promoting economic growth in Mali through the application of science and technology to agriculture

Activities Undertaken :

- ✓ Organization and coordination of a mission of to Mali from February 7 to February 24 of 7 Malian and US specialists in the application in science and technology to agriculture
- ✓ Writing of the draft report (in English and French)
- ✓ Validation of the draft report through discussions with key interlocutors in Mali.

Non- programmed activities:

- Participation in the regional NEPAD conference in Bamako on March 15-18
- Participation in the West African regional conference on the agricultural and food situation and the opportunities for trade in the Sahel and in West Africa (Bamako, March 16-18)