

Michigan State University
Food Security III Cooperative Agreement
Request for 3-Month No-Cost Extension of Mali Food Security
(PROMISAM)-FS III Associate Award #688-A-00-04-00073-00
July 13, 2007

Michigan State University requests a 3-month no-cost extension for the above-referenced associate award from the current end date of September 30, 2007 to December 31, 2007. The justification for this request is outlined below, and the following pages also provide a revised work plan for the period August-December, 2007, a pipeline budget, and a list of equipment acquired during the course of the project.

Background and Justification

The PROMISAM Associate Award to FS III was originally initially issued in September 2004. Four subsequent modifications added funding, expanded the scope of work, and extended the end-date to September 30, 2007. The objectives of the Award were to assist Mali in the implementation of its national food security strategy through: (a) working with the Malian Food Security Commissariat (CSA) to help local governments (communes, circles, and regions) develop their individual food security plans in a coordinated fashion with the national food security plan (PNSA); (b) create a CSA documentation center; and (c) help improve the timeliness of publications of key food security monitoring reports by the market information service (OMA) and the early warning system (SAP).

As of this date, the second and third objectives have been met and considerable progress has been made in achieving the first objective, the development of the local food security plans. Project-organized sessions to train of trainers (mayors, CCC members, leaders of women's associations) in how to use food security concepts to develop local food security plans have been completed in all but one of Mali's 49 rural circles and have trained a total of 3,820 individuals (707 women and 3,113 men). These trainers have in turn returned to their communities to help lead the local planning processes. Local-level plans have now been completed for 496 of Mali's 696 rural communes (including all the communes in the regions of Kayes, Sikasso, Mopti, Tombouctou, Gao, and Kidal; and some in Segou), circle-level syntheses are completed for 19 of the 49 circles. All the completed plans are available on the PROMISAM website (http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/mali_fd_strtgy/plans/index.htm#plans) and are also being posted on the CSA website (www.csa-mali.org). Local teams are currently working on the remaining local-level plans. Nonetheless, it will not be possible to complete all these plans and the circle and regional syntheses by September 30, 2007.

The reason for the delay is that many of the mayors and other local officials who help lead the development of the local plans have had little time to devote to this activity since March, 2007, due to their involvement in the Malian presidential and parliamentary elections. This factor, entirely outside of MSU's control, has slowed completion of the local plans. The presidential election is now over and the parliamentary elections will end in July. A no-cost extension

through December will permit completion of all the plans, further outreach to key stakeholders about the plans' availability, and orderly completion and administrative shut-down of the project.

Proposed Work Plan: August – December, 2007

The proposed work plan is illustrated in figure 1 and includes the following activities:

1. Completion of the 1 remaining circle-level training session, for the circle of Koulikoro in the region of Koulikoro (mid-August)
2. Continued technical backstopping for the completion of the remaining commune-level plans and the remaining circle-level and regional syntheses (to continue through November)
3. As the plans are completed, they will be posted to both the PROMISAM and CSA websites. In addition, the CSA documentation center will continue to prepare CDs with the completed plans for distributions to users, particularly in the local rural areas, who have computers but weak or no Internet Access.
4. PROMISAM and the CSA will continue outreach efforts to various stakeholders (donors, NGOs, government officials, and journalists) to make them aware of the availability and content of the local-level plans. A particularly important outreach opportunity will be the October meeting of the National Food Security Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, which will be held in Kidal. The CSA and PROMISAM will make copies of the plans, on CD, available to the participants.
5. The project will write its end-of-project report in November and December.
6. Administrative closure of the project will occur in phases, beginning with a local staff reduction at the end of August and ending in November and December with the transfer of all data and completed plans and reports to USAID/Mali and the CSA and transfer of equipment to the CSA.

Figure 1. Timing of PROMISAM Activities, August-December, 2007

Activity	2007				
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1. Training of Trainers – Circle of Koulikoro (last remaining training session)					
2. Support to completion of remaining commune, circle, and regional plans					
3. Posting of all plans to CSA and PROMISAM websites					
4. Outreach with CSA documentation center to stakeholders (donors, NGOs, Malian national and local gov't agencies, journalists) regarding availability and content of local-level plans			CNSA meeting Kidal		
5 Writing of final project report					
6. Administrative closure of project:					
- Reduction/termination of local staff					
- Transfer of documented data sets/plans to CSA and USAID					
- Transfer of equipment to CSA					