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APCAM/MSU/USAID
Projet de Mobilisation des
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Alimentaire au Mali (PROMISAM)

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

PROMISAM

PROJECT TO MOBILIZE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES IN MALI

(Projet de Mobilisation des Initiatives en Matière de Sécurité Alimentaire)

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

Quarterly Activity Report January – March 2006

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Introduction

PROMISAM's goal is to help support Mali in the implementation of its national food security strategy, or SNSA, through collaborative efforts with the *Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire* (CSA, or Food Security Commission) in the Office of the President. The 2005/06 PROMISAM work plan has 3 objectives:

1. Help local communities (communes, *cercles*, and regions) develop their own local-level food security plans. This objective is achieved through training of trainers (mayors, NGO members, other members of civil society) in concepts of food security and in food security planning. They in turn return to their home communities and work with the local populations to develop the local plans. During 2005/06, this effort is focusing on completing the process begun in year 1 of the project in the Gao and Sikasso regions and extending it into the regions of Kayes, Kidal, Mopti, and Tombouctou. This effort includes helping the CSA to develop appropriate food security indicators to monitor the current food security situation in the country (*tableau de bord*) and measure the impact of the implemented plans.
2. Strengthen the CSA's Communication and Information Service's outreach efforts.
3. Work with the market information system (*Observatoire du marché agricole*, or OMA) and the early warning system (*Système d'alerte précoce*, or SAP) to improve the timeliness and assure the quality of their publications on the food situation in Mali.

Achievements during the Period January 1 – March 31, 2006

Activities and achievements for the quarter are described below in terms of the objectives and intermediate results listed in PROMISAM's 2005/06 work plan (available at:

http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mali_fd_strtgy/PROMISAM_WorkPlan_yr2_08_05_final.pdf)

Objective 1: Development of Local Food Security Plans

Activities under this objective focused on completing the local plan development process in the Sikasso region begun in year 1 of the project (Gao region is already completed) and continuing the process in the Mopti and Tombouctou regions, which began in late 2005.

Result 1.1: Training of trainers

- Planning of training and implementation of the training programs in the cercles of Tombouctou, Niafunké, Diré, Goundam, Gourma Rharous (all in the region of Tombouctou) and Douentza (Mopti region) was completed during the quarter.
 - Training of 51 trainers in the *cercle* of Tombouctou (9 women and 42 men), from 6 communes on 30 January and 1 February;
 - Training of 67 trainers in the *cercle* of Niafunké (13 women and 54 men) from 8 communes between February 3rd and 5th;
 - Training of 73 trainers in the *cercle* of Diré (13 women and 60 men) from 13 communes between February 7th and 9th.

- Training of 100 trainers in the cercle of Goundam (18 women and 82 men) from 16 communes between February 11th and 13th;
 - Training of 60 trainers in the cercle de Gourma Rharous (4 women and 56 men) from 9 communes between March 13th and 15th;
 - Training of 83 trainers in the cercle of Dountza (16 women and 67 men) from 15 communes between March 18th and 20th.
- These training sessions followed missions to the Mopti and Tombouctou Regions carried out by PROMISAM and the CSA in late December 2005 to contact local officials, explain the joint CSA/PROMISAM approach to the development of local food security plans, and solicit their support. Preparations for the training took place in early January.

Result 1.2: Development of food security plans at the commune, cercle, and regional levels

During this quarter, the project provided technical support to ongoing development of commune- and *cercle*-level plans in the Sikasso region, culminating in the completion of 114 of 147 anticipated commune-level plans for the region.

Specific activities included:

- ✓ Continued support to communes and *cercles* in Sikasso for the elaboration of their food security plans.
- ✓ An evaluation mission by CSA, PROMISAM and OMA from 11 to 13 March to review the development of plans in the communes of Bougouni, Sikasso, Yorosso, Koutiala and Boura.
- ✓ Support to *cercles* in the Tombouctou Region for the elaboration of the commune-level plans.

Intermediate result achieved:

One hundred fourteen (114) communes in the Sikasso Region have completed their food security plans; 33 still need to be completed to achieve total coverage.

Result 1.3: Information made available to all participants planning food security activities to facilitate the articulation between the local and national food security plans

In this area, PROMISAM focused on facilitating two-way communication between the local levels (communes, *cercles*, and regions) and the national level about the structure and objectives of the various food security initiatives at each level. Activities included:

- ✓ Providing information during the local-level training of trainers sessions in the Tombouctou and Mopti regions about the SNSA, the National Food Security Plan (PNSA), and the role of the CSA.

Intermediate results achieved:

As a result of these activities, the local-level plans now reflect a better understanding of the national programs. The local level plans for Gao are available and continue to be used by different agencies (donor, government, NGOs) as a basis for planning local-level interventions.

Result 1.4: Strengthened capacity of the CSA to manage and implement the decentralized SNSA

To achieve this intermediate result, PROMISAM focused on working with the CSA and the national SAKSS committee to develop indicators of the current food security situation in the country (*tableau de bord*) and impact indicators for activities taken to implement the SNSA and the PNSA.

Activities undertaken during the quarter included:

- ✓ Participation in meetings to develop the National Plan for Food Security Response for 2006;
- ✓ Participation in preparatory meetings for the Comité Technique de Pilotage des Politiques de Sécurité Alimentaire (CTPSA);
- ✓ Initiated correspondence with providers of information needed to update the *tableau de bord*.

Intermediate results achieved:

- The National Food Security Response Plan for 2006 is available.
- The minutes of the meeting on March 6, 2006 of the Steering Committee on Food Security Policy are available.
- Steps were taken to update the *tableau de bord*.

Objective 2: Strengthening the CSA's Communication and Information Service's Outreach Efforts

PROMISAM's efforts in this area focused on continuing to strengthen the CSA's Documentation Center and the training of journalists in concepts of food security in order to improve the quality of press coverage of food-security-related issues in Mali.

Result 2.1.1: The resource center becomes completely operational

Activities to support this intermediate result included continued provision of equipment and supplies to the Documentation Center.

Intermediate results achieved:

The Center increased the number of documents it has available (approximately 60 new documents added) and expanded content on its webpage

Result 2.1.2: The Documentation Center effectively supports food-security programming at the local level through the exchange of documents and information with CLICs, cyber-café, and similar centers across the country.

Activities contributing to this intermediate result focused on building effective working relations between the Documentation Center and the USAID-supported Community Learning and Information Centers (CLICs). The CSA documentalist undertook field trips to visit the CLICs of Ouélessebougou and Bougouni (March 15-17). The trips were an opportunity to exchange documents and information, and establish cross-links between the CLIC websites, the CSA website, and the relevant parts of the MSU-supported Food Security and Food Policy Information Portal for Africa. The project also participated in the design of CSA brochures and supported the costs of printing. CSA also had a stand at the FAO Food Security summit in Bamako in February, where local food security plans and other information about CSA programs were displayed.

Intermediate results achieved:

- ✓ Collaborative ties have been established between the CSA documentation center and the CLICs of Ouélessebougou et Bougouni and cross-links are established between the CLIC websites and the CSA website .
- ✓ New CSA brochures are now available for distribution.
- ✓ Participants at the FAO summit were informed of the local food security plans and able to review them.

Result 2.2.1: Training of local journalists and radio personnel in concepts of food security

Activities focused on the organization and holding of training workshops on the concepts of food security and on the CSA's mandate for representatives of local radio stations in the regions of Tombouctou and Mopti. These training sessions were conducted in conjunction with the training of trainers for the food security plans in each cercle covered during the period.

Intermediate results achieved:

- 6 training sessions held
- 13 representatives of local radio programs were trained:
 - 3 from Tombouctou
 - 3 from Niafunké
 - 2 from Diré
 - 2 from Goundan
 - 2 from Gourma Rharous
 - 1 from Douentza

Objective 3: Improving the Timeliness and Quality of the OMA and SAP Publications

Result 3.1: The bulletins OMA and SAP are produced and diffused on time

Work under this objective during the quarter focused on improving the timeliness of the OMA publications and assuring good quality of its annual market outlook publication. Activities during the period included:

- ✓ Preparation and participation in meetings concerning the presentation and discussions of the OMA report on the cereals market outlook for the 2006 marketing season.
- ✓ PROMISAM staff (Dembélé) participated in a joint mission with OMA and CSA staff from January 15 to January 18, 2006 to collect information needed to prepare the market outlook report.
- ✓ Preparation, with OMA, of the cereal market outlook report for the 2005/2006 marketing campaign and recommended actions. The report was prepared for the CSA, with copies also sent to USAID and WFP.
- ✓ PROMISAM provided resources for maintenance and repair of key OMA equipment to assure timely information collection, verification, and communication, and some other limited funding to OMA needed to assure timely information collection. This support is a stop-gap measure while OMA works to incorporate adequate funding for such items in its annual budget. Support provided during the quarter by PROMISAM covered:
 - Repairs to communications equipment at the stations of Bougouni, Koulikoro, Bamako and Mopti in order to assure timely reporting of market conditions;
 - Installation of new batteries (to power the computer equipment) for the OMA market information offices at Koury, Bankass, Koutiala, Sikasso and Mopti ;
 - Repairs to an OMA vehicle, which permitted resumption of the OMA's enumerator-supervision missions;
 - Payment of 1000 FCFA per week (for a period of 6 months) to the head of the local OMA offices (ULCDs) to enable data transfer by Internet using cyber cafés—the objective being to improve the efficiency of data transmission from Gao, Ségou, Kayes, and Niono.
 - Cost of conducting two supervision missions to Koutiala and Bla
 - Costs of printing a large supply of survey instruments for the collection of information on the full range of agricultural products, including animals and meat.

Intermediate results obtained:

As a result of PROMISAM's actions, OMA is now largely up-to-date in its publications, as indicated by:

- Production of a "Note de Conjuncture" by OMA in March 2006, providing an update on the current market situation
- Publication of 2 monthly bulletins of 2 planned for the period
- Publication of 13 weekly bulletins of 13 planned for the period