

<p>Présidence de la République Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire</p> 		<p>APCAM/MSU/USAID Projet de Mobilisation des Initiatives en matière de Sécurité Alimentaire au Mali – Phase II (PROMISAM - II)</p> <p>MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY</p>
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PROMISAM - II

PROJECT TO MOBILIZE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES IN MALI – Phase II

(Projet de Mobilisation des Initiatives en Matière de Sécurité
Alimentaire – Phase II)

Quarterly Activity Report Dec. 2008 – Feb. 2009

March 2009

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Project to Mobilize Food Security Initiatives in Mali—Phase II (PROMISAM II)
[Projet de Mobilisation des Initiatives en Matière de Sécurité Alimentaire au Mali]

Quarterly Activity Report, December 2008-February 2009

Strengthening the Capacity of the Malian Government to Develop Analytical and Market-Based Food Security Responses

The second phase of PROMISAM, funded for the period December 2008-November 2011, has four objectives: (i) Further enhance and develop the technical and analytical skills for the Malian food security commission (CSA) and related support agencies; (ii) assist Mali in implementing food security plans country-wide through the developing and testing of methods for monitoring plan implementation; (iii) help IPR/IFRA de Katibougou to develop an academic and practical curriculum in support of Malian educated analysts in a range of components to ensure continuing food security; and (iv) provide technical support to Mali's national team developing Mali's NEPAD/CAADP report and national compact. This report summarizes the activities and achievements of the project during its first 3 months by objective as well as by cross-cutting management, administrative, and outreach functions.

The overall focus of activities during the reporting period was to get the various components of the Associate Award started, including general program logistics. A particular emphasis was given to the NEPAD/CAADP component, consistent with priorities expressed by USAID/Mali and the tight deadlines for the overall West Africa CAADP process.

Cross-cutting administrative and support activities

1. The fully executed agreement between MSU and USAID/Mali was signed on December 4, 2008.
2. In anticipation of the new agreement, and using non-USAID funds, Bamako-based project administrative assistant Maïmouna Traoré traveled to MSU during the period November 17-24, 2008 to participate in training on Quickbooks accounting software in order to be able to upgrade financial tracking and reporting capacity of the MSU Mali office.
3. French summaries of the program description were developed in December and January to share with Malian partners.

4. A request for authorization for vehicle purchases was submitted, via USAID/Bamako, to the regional agreement officer in Accra on February 21, 2009.
5. The 2009 annual work plan was developed and submitted to USAID/Mali on February 24, 2009. A French translation was begun and was finished in the first week of March.
6. The project solicited and received the expressed equipment needs from IPR/IFRA and from the CSA and its affiliated services (OMA, SAP, and PRMC). The lists were received by the third week of February and MSU began to analyze the lists to determine which needs could be met through the project.
7. In a parallel fashion, the project solicited and received training needs from the CSA and its affiliated services (OMA, SAP, and PRMC). The lists were received by the third week of February and MSU began to analyze the lists to determine which needs could be met through the project.
8. MSU began search processes for two additional Bamako-based staff, who would split their time between the USAID/Mali-funded project and other MSU projects in Mali funded by other sources. The positions include a data-base manager/electronic resource specialist and an agricultural economist. Candidates for each position have been identified, with hiring anticipated in the second quarter of 2009.

Cross-cutting outreach activities

1. Nango Dembélé was interviewed on December 8, 2008 by Radio France International for a program on the food crisis in West Africa and countries' policy responses to it.
2. Nango Dembélé was interviewed on December 8, 2008 by ECOWAS TV for broadcast later in 2009 on the Africable television network on the food crisis in West Africa and countries' policy responses to it.
3. Nango Dembélé participated as a discussant in a World Bank workshop in Bamako on January 26, 2009 on the impact of the food crisis on poverty in Mali.

Objective 1: Enhancing the technical and analytical skills of the CSA and related support agencies

During the quarter, the project:

1. Identified 3 economists working within the CSA system, obviating the need for the Commission to hire additional staff. Rather, the project will work with these economists, undertaking joint research and analysis with them to help strengthen their skills. The individuals identified are Tagalfi Maïga, who works in the CSA's Département Promotion des Echanges; Boh Koné, who works for the PRMC, and Bakary Sékou Coulibaly, who manages IFAD-funded projects with the CSA.
2. Began the design of empirical studies to help inform the design of marketing policy in Mali. This process included review of previous studies and

- questionnaire design. Studies will be carried out jointly with CSA, OMA, and IER.
3. Participated (Dembélé, Traoré, and Staatz) in the February 13 meeting in Bamako to validate the SAP's experts' report on the outcome of the 2008/09 agricultural production year. The meeting was chaired by the Food Security Commissioner, with the participation of the national WFP director, coordinator of the donors' group on food security. The discussions focused on the factors that explained the high staple food prices (particularly for rice) in spite of the high level of production announced by the government.
 4. Provided ongoing advice to the Commissioner on management of the rice market situation in Mali, including import policy.

Objective 2: Helping develop methods for monitoring the implementation of local food security plans

1. The project contracted with Harouna Koné of the DNSI to develop draft training materials on monitoring and evaluation, for use in training sessions with local stakeholders who will be involved in the implementation monitoring. The draft material was produced by February 15, and MSU is reviewing them, providing suggestions for possible revisions.
2. The project held discussions with Peace Corps in January and February about involving volunteers in helping to support local communes' efforts to monitor plan implementation. Peace Corps and the project are working together to help site new volunteers in areas where the monitoring methods will be tested. USAID/ Mali's decentralization team will also be involved in these discussions, as we will try to choose at least some sites that have both volunteers present and are communes where the new decentralization project (PGP2) will be working.
3. Nango Dembélé and John Staatz met with Dennis Bilodeau of USAID/Mali's Governance/Communication team on Feb. 13, 2009 to discuss procedures for coordination with USAID's decentralization team once the new contractor for PGP2 is chosen (mid-March 2009).

Objective 3: Helping IPR/IFRA de Katibougou to develop an academic and practical curriculum in Agricultural Economics and Food Policy Analysis

The work on this component built upon the October, 2008 USAID-funded visit to MSU by IPR Director General Fafré Samaké, head of the socio-economics department Kardigué Coulibaly, and Director of the Centre d'Etudes et de Renforcement des Capacités (CERCAP), Boubacar Macalou. This visit allowed the IPR team to meet with a wide range of faculty members at MSU to discuss IPR's proposed program in food policy analysis and ways in which MSU could support that effort.

1. In anticipation of the signing of the Associate Award, Dembélé, Staatz and Boughton met with faculty (including all department heads) at IPR/IFRA on November 5, 2008 to discuss the forthcoming project and solicit their feedback. A major outcome was the agreement to merge what had heretofore been two

- separate IPR/IFRA initiatives (plans to create a program in agricultural policy analysis and plans to create a major in Agricultural Economics) into a single initiative—developing an academic program in Agricultural Economics, with a specialization in policy analysis. The aims of this merger were to concentrate resources and create a firmer analytic base for work at IPR/IFRA in policy analysis.
2. IPR/IFRA and MSU agreed that an early step in creating the new program will be to carry out a study of the demand for and supply of agricultural economists in Mali.
 - a. MSU Mali- and campus-based staff provided written and oral feedback (at a meeting in Katibougou on February 6) on a draft report on the design of the agricultural economics program and on the design of the study of the supply and demand of agricultural economists in Mali.
 - b. Nango Dembélé and John Staatz met with IPR/IFRA faculty members Souleymane Kouyate and Boubacar Diarra, who will be carrying out the study (along with an outside Malian consultant), to refine the terms of reference of the study, which the project will finance during March and April, 2009.
 - c. We agreed to hold a workshop in Katibougou in May 2009 to validate the study, which at least two MSU-based faculty members will attend.

Objective 4: Providing technical support to Mali’s NEPAD/CAADP team

In 2008, Congress provided additional funding to USAID missions as part of the Global Food Security Response (GFSR). USAID/Mali received GFSR funding, some of which is supporting PROMISAM II. Given that GFSR aims to support activities consistent with the CAADP agenda and given the tight deadlines for completing the national and regional roundtables in 2009, PROMISAM II is giving high priority during the first months of this Associate Award to supporting Mali’s participation in the CAADP process. During the reporting period, the project carried out the following activities:

1. In anticipation of the signing of the Associate Award, Staatz and Dembélé met with the technical coordinator in the CPS/Rural Development (Aliou Konaté) and one of the national consultants (Abdramane Berthé) in early November, 2008 to discuss approaches to the simulation modeling work and the support that MSU could provide. The MSU team arranged the transfer to Mr. Berthé of an updated social accounting matrix for Mali, which he needed for the CGE modeling work, and identified a consultant from Burkina Faso who could provide technical assistance in the modeling work if needed.
2. Dembélé explored possible additional technical support to the Mali national CAADP team from CIRAD. Following the February 2009 CAADP meeting in Dakar (see below), it was decided to rely initially on technical support from IFPRI to ensure a consistent approach with the modeling done in other West African countries.

3. Nango Dembélé participated, under French government funding, in the December 7-8, 2008 meeting in Paris co-sponsored by ECOWAS and the French Presidency of the EU to discuss NEPAD-CAADP/ECOWAP.
4. Staatz and Dembélé participated in the February 16-19, 2009, ECOWAS/IFPRI/USAID West Africa regional meeting in Dakar, providing technical support to the Mali national team of Aliou Konaté (CPS/Rural Development) and Moussa Dembélé (Ministry of African Integration and of Malians Abroad), who also attended. USAID/Mali was represented by the project's AOTR, Halima Ouattara-Ayanou and by Jean Harman. The conference established a new time-line for the Mali country activities, and committed IFPRI to invite the Malian national consultants to Dakar for a week of training on the CGE modeling techniques in April, 2009 (at IFPRI's expense).

TDYs during the Reporting Period

Jan. 31-Feb. 14, 2009: Duncan Boughton from East Lansing to Mali. Worked on project administrative issues, design of survey instruments, and review of IPR/IFRA activities.

Jan. 31-Feb. 21, 2009: John Staatz from East Lansing to Mali and Senegal. Worked on project administrative issues, meetings with CSA on food pricing issues, research design, design of IPR/IFRA program and study of demand and supply of agricultural economists, and support of the CAADP process (including participation in the Dakar meetings).