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| <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 April – June 2010

August 2010

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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, April – June 2010

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

PROMISAM II, funded for the period December 2008-November 2011, originally had 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 agricultural economics and food policy analysis; and (iv) provide technical support to Mali's national team developing Mali's NEPAD/CAADP report and national compact. The FY 2010 (October 2009-September 2010) work plan added a fifth objective, helping to organize a border conference between Senegal and Mali in order to facilitate smoother cross-border trade in agricultural products. A further modification implemented in May 2010 called for PROMISAM II to carry out a number of background studies on agricultural development/food security challenges facing Mali over the coming 5-10 years in order to assist USAID/Mali in its strategic planning of future investments and activities.

MSU implements PROMISAM II in partnership with the Malian Food Security Commission (CSA) and the Permanent Assembly of the Malian Chambers of Agriculture (APCAM). Other key collaborators include the Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée (IPR/IFRA) de Katibougou and the Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER). PROMISAM II represents part of a larger portfolio of applied research, outreach and capacity-strengthening activities on food security implemented by MSU in Mali with funding from an array of sources, including USAID/Mali, USAID/WA, the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, the World Bank, and ECOWAS. The non-USAID-funded work is complementary to that of PROMISAM II, thus leveraging USAID/Mali's funding.

This report summarizes the activities and achievements of the project during the period April – June, 2010. This was by far the most active quarter of the project to date, with major ramping up of several activities. **Major highlights** of the quarter included:

- The successful organization and carrying out of study tours to the US and Canada of 12 Malian food policy, IPR/IFRA and USAID/Mali leaders in April.

- Organizing and facilitating the participation of the Malian Minister of Agriculture in the May 2010 symposium in Washington at which USAID officially launched its Feed the Future initiative.
- Close collaboration with the CPS-Rural Development to support the preparation of Mali's CAADP Priority National Investment Plan (PNIP) and participation in the subsequent ECOWAS meetings to review it.
- The arrival of two IPR/IFRA junior faculty members at MSU to begin English training in anticipation of their beginning the graduate program in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics.
- Preparation of 7 background documents for USAID/Mali June 2010 AEG partners' meeting.
- Participation in and facilitation of the AEG partners' meeting.
- Expansion of the number of MSU campus-based faculty members involved in PROMISAM II, in part through their initial participation in the two study tours of Malians to the US.

Cross-cutting outreach and administrative activities

The most significant cross-cutting activities involved the modification of the cooperative agreement to include \$250,000 in additional funding to permit the preparation of background documents on agricultural development/food security challenges and opportunities facing Mali over the next 10 years. These will serve as input into USAID/Mali's strategic planning of future activities and investments. Also in June, MSU received from USAID/Mali \$1.0 million of the planned \$1.5 million in incremental funding for implementation of year 2 of the original program of work.

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

During the period January-March, 2010, PROMISAM pursued this project objective through the following activities:

1. Analytic and technical support to the CSA's affiliated agencies (*service rattachés*):

- In May, Nango Dembélé participated with OMA staff in the production of a semi-annual market outlook *Bulletin de conjuncture* ([Stabilité relative des prix liée à la forte demande pour le stockage en début de campagne.](#)) These joint OMA-PROMISAM publications are widely used by government in planning marketing and import policies. This study focused on the emergence of a new group of private-sector actors in the grain markets in recent years who are engaged in temporal arbitrage and their impact on stabilizing market prices.
- Provision of six notebook computers to the Système d'Alerte Précoce (SAP).

2. Marketing studies:

In partnership with the CSA and the Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER), PROMISAM II continued the implementation of its farm-level agricultural marketing study, covering 450

households in 3 zones of Mali. During the period April-June, 2010, PROMISAM pursued this project objective through the following activities:

- IER and PROMISAM II started the data cleaning of the second round of the farm-level agricultural marketing study.
- Two MSU faculty members, Valerie Kelly and Abdoul Murekezi, spent a few days of collaborative work with CIRAD in Montpellier and integrated the RuralStruct data base collected by CIRAD/IER/MSU in 2007 with the first round of household survey collected by MSU/IER in 2009. PROMISAM II aims to create a 3-year panel data after the on-going third round of the survey.
- PROMISAM II undertook the analysis of the combined RuralStruc and the first round of MSU/IER data set and produced a draft working paper on household cereal production and marketing patterns in Mali. Some of the findings of this analysis were used in one of the policy briefs (Achieving Food Security in Mali: Key Issues and Investment Needs) produced for the USAID/Mali-AEG partners' held in Bamako, Mali, June 22-24, 2010.
- PROMISAM II started preliminary analysis on household coarse grains production and marketing patterns over the last twenty years in the CMDT region and their relationship to the cotton subsector performance in Mali;
- In collaboration with IER collaborators, the questionnaire on household incomes covering the 2009/10 year, which is part of the third round of data collection on household cereal production and marketing patterns, was designed, tested, and survey interviewers were trained in the use of this instrument. The questionnaire is currently being implemented.

3. Training of CSA and CSA-affiliated staff in analytic and data management techniques

By far the largest activity during the quarter under objective 1 was the organization and carrying out of a study tour to Michigan and Washington, DC of key Malian food policy decision makers. The delegation was headed by Mme. Lansry Nana Haïdara, the Food Security Commissioner, and included top advisors from the Office of the President and the Prime Minister's Office, the Director of the Planning and Statistics Unit (CPS) for Rural Development, and staff members from the Food Security Commission and affiliated agencies. Halima Ouattara-Ayanou of USAID/Mali participated in both the Michigan and Washington components, and Jean Harman of USAID/Mali participated in the Washington portion of the study tour. The study tour took place from April 11 through April 27, with the first week spent in Michigan and the second week in Washington. The period in Michigan coincided with the visit of two faculty members from IPR/IFRA to MSU (described below), so some of the Michigan-based activities were carried out jointly with this group.

The study tour had four themes, which were developed jointly with the participants: (a) the design of US social safety net systems (especially for food), (b) the ways in which various levels of government (local, state, federal) work together on key policy issues, (c) the system of management of grain inventories in the US marketing system, and (d) the use of analytic data in policy making and how research and policy organizations—including Land Grant Universities—interact with policy makers in the US. Each theme involved both presentations and field visits and was examined both in Michigan and in Washington.

In Michigan, the group had extensive interactions with MSU faculty members, administrators, graduate students, and staff (including Extension personnel); state, county, and township officials; cooperative and private grain handlers; NGO personnel (particularly those involved with food banks), and Michigan-based USDA staff. In Washington, the group met with staff from the State Department, USAID (AFR and EGAT), USDA (ERS, NASS, and NIFA), the USTR, the World Bank, Congress (House and Senate), the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), and Congressman Gary Peters of Michigan.

The meetings provided the Malians broad opportunities to learn more about US safety net systems and food policy analysis (including the role of technical agencies, such as those in USDA), network with key agencies and discuss the scope for future technical support (e.g., from USDA/NASS), and to understand the political process through which US food policies and foreign assistance programs are developed. For example, the group attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing at which USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah and Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew testified on the Feed the Future initiative. The meetings also afforded the Malians the opportunity to present key elements of the Malian CAADP program to various audiences, such as USAID/AFR, the USTR, and the World Bank. These discussions helped set the stage for the Malian Minister of Agriculture to participate in the symposium in Washington in May that officially launched the Feed the Future initiative. They also provided the Malian team valuable feedback on the design of their CAADP program and aspects of program design that will be critical in order to attract donor support.

Upon return to Mali, the Food Security Commissioner sent reports on the trip to both the Prime Minister and the President and discussed the trip directly with the President. Among the key notions that the Commissioner brought back to Mali from the trip was the need to more carefully target food assistance programs to the most needy in order to limit budgetary costs and minimize any market disruption from such programs. She has asked MSU to help her on the issue of designing more effective targeting of programs.

Copies of the agenda of the study tour and of all the presentations made in Michigan and Washington, in both French and English versions, are available on the project website (http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/index.htm#visit).

An article on the study tour (“From Mali to Michigan: Sharing Lessons on Food Security”) also appeared in the July 2010 edition of USAID’s *Frontlines* magazine (http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/Jul10_FrontLines.pdf)

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

The training of local stakeholders and Peace Corps volunteers in monitoring the implementation of the local food security plans, which was begun in the previous quarter, continued during this quarter. The training, in an initial set of 30 test communes, is a joint activity of PROMISAM II,

the USAID/Mali-funded PGP2 (Shared Governance Program) and Peace Corps/Mali's Food Security. During this quarter, two training sessions took place:

- April 22-24, in Koulikoro. Training with 33 participants (all men) from 6 communes in the region of Koulikoro.
- April 27-29, in Kayes. Training of 35 participants (all men) from 5 communes in the region of Kayes.

Reports on both these training sessions are available on the project website. PROMISAM II will organize follow-up training sessions for women leaders from the selected communes from the regions of Kayes and Koulikoro, where women are not represented in the communal councils (which led to no women participating in the first round training sessions).

In addition, during June, Dr. Mark Skidmore of MSU, an expert on local government and public finance (and a key participant in the Malian food policy makers' study tour to the US) came to Mali on TDY to brainstorm with PROMISAM and PGP2 staff and key Malian partners, such as the CSA and the OMA, about ways of improving the flow of information on food security issues among communes and from the communes to other levels of government. He and Cheick Oumar Diarra visited the commune of Doumba (in Koulikoro region) to explore these issues. Out of these discussions grew a tentative plan to work with the OMA to adapt its cell-phone-based method of sending market information data from enumerators to the OMA headquarters so that commune leaders could use a similar system to share key information among themselves and with officials in Bamako. The mayor of Doumba and other leaders there also expressed the desire to establish a sister-city relationship between Doumba and a township in Michigan, and Dr. Skidmore will pursue this opportunity in the coming quarter.

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

In spite of the ongoing strike of University faculty in Mali that prevented teaching during this quarter in the new agricultural economics program, major progress was made in helping to strengthen that program. Key achievements included: (a) the organization of a study tour to the US and Canada for two IPR/IFRA faculty members; (b) the beginning of English training at MSU of two IPR/IFRA junior faculty members, in anticipation of their beginning the graduate program in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics; (c) the appointment of a program coordinator at IPR/IFRA; (d) the acquisition of computer equipment and books for the program; and (e) the preparation of a short-course to be taught by MSU graduate student Amadou Diallo on analysis of the food system and introduction to food policy analysis.

1. Study Tour to the MSU and Université Laval

During the period April 11-27, two IPR/IFRA faculty members, Souleymane Kouyaté (agricultural economist) and Kaboro Samassé (computer specialist) traveled to MSU for 11 days, followed by a 4-day visit to Université Laval in Québec. The visit aimed at allowing the IPR faculty members to explore in depth the agricultural economics programs at the two universities through discussions with faculty members and students and to explore ways in which

collaboration could be broadened to help support IPR/IFRA's new programs in agricultural economics. The visit to MSU coincided with the period when the Malian food policy makers were also at MSU for their study tour, so some sessions were held jointly with that group, particularly concerning the potential contributions of a university in providing empirical analysis to inform the design of food policies and programs.

At MSU:

- The two IPR faculty members learned about the organization/management of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE) and its links within and outside university; AFRE's research activities, undergraduate programs including the organization of internships and teaching methods.
- They also learned about distance education and open on-line resources at MSU and discussed the possibilities of using these resources at IPR/IFRA.
- The two faculty members also participated in a session about grant proposal writing presented by Mary Anne Walker, Director of MSU's Global Institute for University Education and a participant in MSU's previous ALO-funded program with IPR/IFRA in 2002-05. She expressed willingness to work with faculty members of IPR to prepare proposals for funding to benefit the new agricultural economics program at IPR or IPR in general.
- MSU faculty members and graduate students reviewed with the IPR colleagues draft course syllabi of some courses of the planned professional masters program in agricultural economics at IPR.
- The IPR faculty members met with MSU faculty member Luis Flores, who presented a program of MSU's Institute for International Agriculture that is supporting the creation of a master's program in agribusiness at the University of ENSA/Thies in Senegal. They discussed the opportunities for collaboration between the Senegalese program and the new program in agricultural economics at IPR Katibougou.
- They also met with MSU AFRE graduate students to discuss the new agricultural economics curriculum at IPR. Many of these students were trained in different African universities before pursuing their studies at MSU; they provided suggestions to strengthen the new IPR program in agricultural economics.

At Université Laval in Québec, which the two IPR faculty members visited along with MSU AFRE professors Eric Crawford and Abdoul Murekezi:

- With the support of Daniel-Mercier Gouin, the chairperson of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Laval, the two IPR faculty members gave a presentation about the new program to a group of faculty members and the Dean of Faculty Agriculture. They received many comments that can help strengthen the new IPR program.
- The visitors from IPR and MSU also met with the Deputy Vice-Rector for International Studies and discussed opportunities and procedures for collaboration between Université Laval, MSU, and IPR/IFRA. Laval already has a Memorandum of Understanding with IPR and a joint project in agro-forestry.

- The IPR and MSU faculty members also met with the chairperson of the Department of Agricultural Economics to discuss the organization of the department, procedures for evaluating faculty and students, the review process for the departmental curriculum and the possibility for Laval faculty to teach at IPR, particularly in summer.
- The visitors had a series of individual meeting with faculty members to discuss their teaching and research activities. During these meetings, a number of course syllabi that will help in course design and content development of the new program at IPR/IFRA were collected and scanned.
- The visitors also met with: (a) the internship coordinator to learn about the organization of internships, (b) the director of the Center for Applied Economic Research to learn about research projects and ways to generate research funding, and (c) the director of the college technology and teaching support office to learn about distance education opportunities and how IPR/IFRA can get access to these resources.

Copies of the agenda and presentations of the study tour, as well as the IPR/IFRA team's trip report, are available at the project website

(http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/index.htm#visit)

2. Arrival of Two Junior IPR/IFRA Faculty Members at MSU for Long-Term Training

In May, two junior faculty members, Jacob Coulibaly and Abdrahmane Berthé, arrived at MSU to begin taking English classes in anticipation of their beginning graduate work in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE). Coulibaly is an IPR/IFRA faculty member, while Berthé is an economist from the Central Bank who also teaches at the University of Bamako and who has signed a letter of commitment to teach at IPR upon his return to Mali. Coulibaly is currently at MSU as a visiting scholar as MSU works to get originals of his transcripts from his former university in the ex-USSR so that he can be admitted as a Master's student in AFRE. Berthé, who already has a masters' degree, has been provisionally admitted the AFRE Ph.D. program, conditional on his successfully completing his English courses. We anticipate that they will be in English training at least through December, 2010, but in the meantime, they will also be involved in helping support research and curriculum development activities under the Cooperative Agreement. Both are involved in helping update the Agricultural Sector Assessment (described in section 6 below).

3. Naming of a Program Coordinator

In May, 2010, IPR/IFRA officially named Professor Souleymane Kouyaté as the coordinator of the Agricultural Economics program. He has played a leadership role in the design of the program for the last two years. At the suggestion of PROMISAM II, he will report to a program advisory committee that will include members for the IPR/IFRA administration and from other departments at the school. PROMISAM II is providing resources to establish a program coordinator's office at the IPR/IFRA annex in Bamako. PROMISAM II also suggested that IPR/IFRA appoint an assistant to the coordinator, who has strong private-sector experience and

whose main task will be to organize internships for IPR students of the new program and build links with potential employers of the program graduates. PROMISAM II helped draft terms of reference for the assistant, and the draft is under review at IPR/IFRA.

4. Computer and Book Acquisition

In June, MSU acquired and transferred to IPR/IFRA 40 new computers (36 desk-tops and 4 notebooks), 36 UPS's, and 2 printers for the new Agricultural Economics program. Following the visit to Laval University, MSU and IPR faculty developed, from the syllabi collected in Québec, a list of books to potentially acquire for the agricultural economics program. IPR will explore the possibility of acquiring these books directly from dealers in Mali. In addition, a number of other books were donated to the IPR library by some MSU professors. The IPR faculty members transported those books back to Mali following their study tour to the US and Canada.

5. Development of an Introductory Course in Analysis of the Food System and Food Policy

MSU graduate student Amadou Diallo (who also has an undergraduate degree from MSU in Agribusiness Management) developed a short-course introducing students in the new IPR program to basic concepts in agricultural economics and their application to analysis of the food system and to food policy analysis (see appendix 1 for the course outline). In June, he traveled to Mali in anticipation of teaching the course at IPR. The continuing strike of University faculty members in Mali prevented him from doing so during this quarter, but he refined the outline and was subsequently able to offer the course at Katibougou when the strike ended in July.

6. Other Support to the IPR/IFRA Program – Looking Forward

Following the visit of the IPR/IFRA faculty members to MSU, further discussions led to the following recommendations:

- MSU recommended that IPR postpone the opening of its professional masters program in Agricultural Economics (originally scheduled for October, 2010) and concentrate its efforts on establishing a high-quality undergraduate program. PROMISAM II recommended, and IPR/IFRA accepted, a proposal to organize a workshop in September or October to revisit the course content of the proposed curriculum, with the aim of increasing the economics content in order to assure the undergraduate program is competitive with other programs in the region.
- Selected IPR/IFRA faculty members who are going to teach some courses in the new program were identified. Some of them will travel to MSU to “shadow” MSU Professors who teach similar courses.
- During his TDY to Bamako in June, MSU faculty member John Staatz met with USAID/Mali consultant Dick Wall to discuss the needs assessment that Wall was conducting for IPR as a whole. His findings will likely be helpful in further refining the agricultural economics program.

- During his TDY to Bamako in May, MSU faculty member Abdoul Murekezi helped two faculty members of IPR, Belco Tamboura and Assétou Kanouté, apply for the USDA Cochrane Scientific Exchange Fellowship Program.

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

The project provided extensive support during the quarter to Mali's NEPAD/CAADP team through the following actions:

1. Study tour discussions in Washington

The Washington portion of the April study tour, described under Objective 1 above, was extremely useful in sharpening the understanding of the Malian team of the perception of key partners, such as USAID and the World Bank, of the CAADP process and their expectations about the elements that need to go into a solid national CAADP plan. The study tour involved the key Malian leadership on CAADP, both on the technical side (Fousseyni Mariko, Director of the CPS-RD) and the political side (Food Security Commissioner Mme. Nana Lansry, Presidential advisor Modibo Makalou, and Advisor to the Prime Minister Manda Sadio Keita). Through their discussions and presentations in Washington, they were able to both clearly articulate what Mali was seeking through its CAADP program and to modify the design and presentation of the program based on the feedback received. Their discussions in Washington led subsequently to the invitation to Mali to send high-level representation to the May symposium at which the US Government's Feed the Future initiative was officially launched.

2. Facilitation of Mali's High-Level Participation at the Feed the Future Launch

Based in part on the discussions held during the April study tour, Mali was invited to send high-level representation to a symposium in Washington on May 20, sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, at which the U.S. Government officially launched its Feed the Future initiative. The Malian government was represented at this symposium by the Minister of Agriculture, Agatham Ag Alhassane, who participated in one of the Symposium panels and met with USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah. Minister Alhassane was accompanied by presidential advisor Modibo Makalou (a participant in the April study tour), who carried a letter from President Touré of Mali to President Obama concerning Mali's support for the Feed the Future initiative. John Staatz and Cheick Oumar Diarrah of MSU traveled to Washington to brief Minister Alhassane on Feed the Future and on the symposium and to facilitate contacts and discussions in Washington. (Staatz served as translator for many of the minister's discussions during the Symposium). The participation of Minister Alhassane and Mr. Makalou also helped consolidate links with key partners in Washington (e.g., in USAID and USDA) established during the April study tour and helped build high-level political support within the Malian government for the CAADP/FTF agendas. Upon his return to Mali, the Minister made a report of his participation in the symposium to the Council of Ministers and briefed the President Touré on Feed the Future.

3. Support for the Development of Mali's Priority National Investment Program (PNIP) for the Agricultural Sector

Under CAADP, Mali is developing its National Investment Plan for the Agricultural Sector (PNISA), a highly participative process that is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2011. In the interim, in order to begin high-priority investments in the context of the West Africa-wide CAADP process led by ECOWAS and to take advantage of donor funding to support these initial investments, Mali's CAADP team, led by the CPS-Rural Development, prepared a Priority National Investment Program (PNIP). This plan was submitted to donor groups and a joint African Union/ECOWAS review team in early June. PROMISAM II supported the preparation of the PNIP through the following actions:

- The project provided financial and intellectual support for a retreat of a team of 16 experts, including Nango Dembélé of PROMISAM II, who met in Segou May 1-23 to develop a draft of the PNIP. A smaller group worked over the period May 24-30 to refine the document.
 - Nango Dembélé, John Staatz, and Cheick Oumar Diarra of MSU provided extensive comments on the draft PNIP.
 - PROMISAM II financed the participation of Souleymane Ouattara of the CPS at an ECOWAS conference in Dakar June 3-8 that provided an initial review of the draft PNIP, in anticipation of a larger ECOWAS Business Meeting in Dakar on June 14-17 to review the plans with the development partners.
 - Nango Dembélé worked extensively with Fousseyni Mariko of the CPS during the period June 3-10 to revise the draft PNIP based on the comments received from various reviewers. This led to a revised PNIP that was presented at the June 14-17 ECOWAS Business Meeting in Dakar.
 - Campus-based staff contributed heavily to drafting the Executive Summaries of the PNIP, in both French and English.
 - John Staatz of MSU participated in the June 14-17 ECOWAS Business Meeting in Dakar, working closely with the Malian delegation to help facilitate their presentations and interactions with PTF and ECOWAS officials. The Malian delegation was led by the Minister of Agriculture, Agatam Ag Alhassane, and Staatz helped arrange meetings for him with USAID administrator Rajiv Shah and FTF coordinator Ambassador William Garvalink.
4. The project will continue to work in the coming quarter with the CPS to incorporate final revisions into the PNIP, based on feedback from the June 14-17 ECOWAS business meeting and from USAID/Mali and other PTF, and to submit the revised plan for ECOWAS/AU review. This review is a necessary precondition to obtaining PTF funding support for the plan.

Objective 5: Mali-Senegal Border Conference to Facilitate Agricultural Trade

In June, while they were in Dakar for the ECOWAS/CAADP meetings, John Staatz of MSU and Jean Harman of USAID/Mali met with USAID/Senegal and PCE staff to discuss next steps for the preparation of the border conference. Staatz had further follow-up discussions with the new PCE staff member most directly involved in planning the conference from the Senegalese side,

Souleye Wade, and with his supervisor, Andy Keck. Plans were finalized for a visit of a Senegalese delegation to Bamako in July to meet with Malian counterparts to continue planning for the conference, now scheduled for October, 2010.

Objective 6: Preparation of Background Documents on Agricultural Development/Food Security Challenges Facing Mali

Early in the quarter, USAID/Mali asked MSU to help prepare background documents to assist the AEG team in the development of its strategic plan for the next 5-10 years. Two key elements of this strategic planning process was the holding of an AEG partners' meeting in Bamako on June 22-24 and the updating of a 2002 Agricultural Sector Assessment produced by Abt Associates when AEG last went through an extensive redesign of its portfolio. MSU/PROMISAM II undertook the following actions in support of this objective during the quarter:

1. Background Documents Prepared for the Partners' Meeting

MSU faculty members, graduate students, and one consultant (Jeremy Foltz, of the University of Wisconsin) prepared the following background documents for the Partners' meeting. All are available on the project website.

- Duncan Boughton and Valerie Kelly. *Mali's Agricultural Sector: Trends and Performance*. French version: *Secteur Agricole du Mali: évolution et performance*.
- Duncan Boughton, John Staatz and Nango Dembélé. *Mali's Food Security Challenges: An Overview*. French version: *Les défis de la sécurité alimentaire au Mali: aperçu général*
- Duncan Boughton, Nango Dembélé, Valerie Kelly and John Staatz. *Achieving Food Security in Mali: Key Issues and Investment Needs*. French version: *Atteinte de la sécurité alimentaire au Mali: enjeux et besoins d'investissements*
- Robert B. Richardson. *The Contribution of Tourism to Economic Growth and Food Security* (Report).
- Robert B. Richardson. *Tourism and Food Security in Mali* (Policy Brief).
- Jeremy Foltz. *Opportunities and Investment Strategies to Improve Food Security and Reduce Poverty in Mali through the Diffusion of Improved Agricultural Technologies* (Full Report, plus executive summaries prepared in both English and French).
- Brady Sohlberg and Mariam Sako. *Nutrition in Local Mali Food Security Plans*
- In addition, John Staatz prepared a 2-page summary of Mali's Priority National Investment Plan for Agriculture.

These documents provided much of the empirical background for the issues debated during the partners meeting

2. Participation in and Facilitation of the Partners' Meeting

John Staatz and Nango Dembélé worked with USAID/AEG staff and the two consultants that USAID hired to facilitate the Partners Meeting (Dick Wall and Jawara Lumumba) to help

finalize plans for the meeting and the various presentations and discussions. The following MSU/PROMISAM faculty and staff members participated in the meeting, with most serving as small-group discussion facilitators: Nango Dembélé, Abdramane Traoré, John Staatz, Mark Skidmore, Robby Richardson, and Cheick Oumar Diarra.

Dembélé and Staatz made an overview presentation at the beginning of the meeting to help frame the issues to be discussed. (Niama Nango Dembélé and John Staatz. *Performance récente de l'Agriculture malienne et enjeux pour le futur*) available on the project website.

3. Updating of Agricultural Sector Assessment

During his visit to Mali, Staatz discussed with the in-country team and with MSU faculty members Skidmore, Richardson, and Diarra about the initial plans for the updating of the sector assessment. This will be a major activity for the project in the next quarter. The aim is to finish the draft by September 30.

Anticipated Focus of the Work for the Coming Quarter

Major foci in the period July-September, 2010 will be on:

- Completing the training sessions in monitoring the implementation of the local food security plans for Mopti, Gao and Tombouctou.
- Launching the evaluation work in the 30 communes.
- Completing the updating of the Agricultural Sector Assessment.
- Working with the CPS to complete the revisions to the PNIP and submit it to review by national stakeholders, the PTF, and the ECOWAS/AU review team.
- Working with the CPS to complete Mali's application for funding from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) Trust Fund managed by the World Bank.
- Revising the organization and structuring of the PROMISAM publication series to give the project results more visibility.

TDYs during the Reporting Period

The following TDYs were carried out in support of the project objectives during the quarter.

Duncan Boughton, Associate Professor, International Development Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, MSU and Co-Director, Food Security III Cooperative Agreement. **May 16-29, 2010.** Prepared a synthesis paper to highlight the nature of the food insecurity challenge in Mali for the planned June 2010 USAID/Mali partners' meeting, participated in the presentation of the agricultural productivity synthesis paper by Jeremy Foltz (prepared for the same partners' meeting) and prepared comments on the draft paper, and worked with Nango Dembele on follow up to the March cereal marketing studies planning workshop.

TDY of CSA group to MSU and of group plus MSU faculty (Staatz, Skidmore, Boughton) to Washington (**April 11-24, 2010**).

TDY of 2 IPR faculty members (Kouyaté and Samassé) plus MSU faculty (Crawford and Murekezi) to Université Laval in Québec (**April 11-24, 2010**).

Amadou Diallo, Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, MSU. **June 6 – August 27, 2010**. PROMISAM II funded portion of the trip focused on the following activities: (a) develop and teach a 6-week course at IPR/IFRA to 1st-year students on introduction to the agro-food system and on food policy analysis and (b) work with Mali-based MSU team, IER, CESA, and CSA colleagues in carrying out a rapid assessment study of major constraints and opportunities in the maize value chain in Mali and its links to regional markets. Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II (75%) and MSU's grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (25%).

Cheick Oumar Diarrah, Visiting scholar at MSU and former Malian ambassador to the U.S. **June 19-28, 2010**. Work focused on: (a) strategizing with PROMISAM II team, CPS and other GOM colleagues on the best ways to ensure efficient implementation of Mali's CAADP program; (b) participating in the USAID/Mali partners' meeting on June 22-23; and strategizing with PROMISAM II, IER, IPR/IFRA, and APCAM colleagues on ways of strengthening coordination.

Jeremy Foltz, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Independent Consultant. **May 16 – June 1, 2010**. Prepared a synthesis paper, as background for the USAID/Mali-AEG partners' meeting in June, focusing on the potential to improve food security and reduce poverty in Mali through the diffusion of improved agricultural technologies in the main crop and livestock subsectors.

Valerie Kelly, Associate Professor, International Development, Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, MSU. Period in Mali working on PROMISAM II, **May 22-29, 2010** (part of a longer trip to Senegal and Mali co-funded by 3 projects). PROMISAM II-funded portion of the trip focused on the following activities: Work with Duncan Boughton, Nango Dembele, and collaborators at IER and CSA to help develop background paper for USAID/Mali-AEG partners' meeting in June on potential of new agricultural technologies (with particular emphasis on the potential contributions of soil and water conservation technologies and issues of input (particularly fertilizer) supply) on improving economic growth and food security in Mali. Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II (25%), MSU's grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (25%), and USAID/Senegal-funded PCE project (50%).

Abdoul Karim Murekezi, Assistant Professor International Development, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, MSU. **May 9-29, 2010**. PROMISAM II-funded portion of the trip focused on the following activities: (a) integration of the RuralStruc data base collected by CIRAD/IER/MSU in 2007 with the data base currently being collected by MSU/IER to create a 3-year panel; (b) undertaking preliminary analysis on the combined RuralStruc and MSU/IER data sets; (c) help design and test the questionnaire for the upcoming

income survey covering the 2008/09 year; (d) train interviewers in the use of the instrument and launch the 3rd round of the survey; (e) provide general backstopping of the data collection, entry, and cleaning procedures, and (f) help in the data sets management through data checking, update data bases and in monitoring of data cleaning and documentation. Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II (50%) and MSU's grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (50%).

Souleymane Ouattara, Head of the Planning Unit, Cellule de Planification et de Statistique du Secteur du Développement Rural, Ministry of Agriculture of Mali. **Travel from Mali to Dakar, Senegal, June 3-8, 2010.** As part of PROMISAM II's support to the Mali CAADP team and at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and of USAID/Mali, PROMISAM II supported Mr. Ouattara's travel to Dakar to participate as part of the Malian delegation to the ECOWAS regional meeting at which priority national CAADP investment programs were reviewed in preparation for the ECOWAS/CAADP Business Meeting on financing the CAADP plans, June 13-17, 2010.

Robert Richardson, Assistant Professor, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies, MSU. **June 12-25, 2010.** Met with PROMISAM II team, USAID/Mali AEG team members, and USAID partners to discuss potential collaborations in Mali related to tourism development and food security; visited Global Sustainable Tourism Alliance's activities in the Dogon country; and participated in the USAID/Mali-AEG's partners' meeting, serving as small-group discussion facilitator.

Mark Skidmore, Professor and Morris Chair in State and Local Government Finance and Policy, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, MSU. **June 19-26, 2010.** Participated in USAID/Mali – AEG's partners' meeting; served as small-group discussion facilitator; Met with Food Security Commission staff to consider how to improve the targeting of the programs; met with local leaders of Doumba commune (Koulikoro region) to discuss challenges they face in implementing decentralization policies; met with OMA staff to consider how to adapt OMA's cell-phone based data collection system to the gather information about local conditions and policies; and met with staff of MSI to review the PGP2 program.

John Staatz, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, MSU. **June 12-29, 2010, including travel to both Senegal and Mali.** In Senegal, participated in ECOWAS regional CAADP meeting, where national and regional priority implementation plans were discussed and validated. Spent one day discussing with Jean Harman, Peter Trenchart of USAID/Senegal, and PCE staff the latest plans for Mali-Senegal border conference on regional agricultural trade. In Mali, PROMISAM II-funded activities included: (a) Helping prepare and participating in USAID/Mali - AEG's partners meeting; (b) working with Mali-based team, USAID-Mali, and CPS teams, and Cheick Oumar Diarrah from MSU on identifying follow-up actions on the CAADP agenda, building on results of Malian delegation's study tour to the US and the Feed the Future symposium in Washington in May; (c) working Mark Skidmore to introduce him to the work on local food security plans, monitoring issues, IPR/IFRA program and food security targeting; (d) in collaboration with PROMISAM-team, finalize list of project performance indicators. Trip co-funded by PROMISAM II (50%), Syngenta Foundation (37.5%), and ECOWAS (12.5%).

Appendix 1: Outline of Introductory Course Taught by Amadou Diallo of MSU

Intro Course to the Agro-food System

Background

IPR/IFRA has engaged in opening a new agricultural economics program, with the support of MSU through USAID, in order to diversify its majors. The new program was launched in November 2009 with a License class (3 years undergraduate level); the Master level will also follow. Prior to the opening, there was a study on the supply and demand of agricultural economists in Mali, and a workshop with participants from both the public and the private sectors was done to approve the new program. In addition to agricultural policymaking skills, MSU has stressed on the necessity to also look at the private sector side in elaborating the new program and to teach private enterprise management and agro business skills to students. Thus, MSU propose a short introductory course in agro food system to the new students in order to initiate them into their new major and also give them basic knowledge in agricultural economics, food industry, and agro business.

Objectives:

The main goals of this short course are to:

- Give students a basic understanding of their new agricultural economics major through its different components, specializations, implications in the Malian context, and related opportunities
- Introduce the agro-food system to students with the food product marketing, the value chains, the basic microeconomic lessons (supply, demand, quantity, price, and elasticity)
- Introduce to students a basic understanding of agricultural related policies such as price floor and ceiling, and also quotas, tariffs, and subsidies

Organization

The course will be taught by MSU MS Student Amadou Sekou Diallo. It will be in three days a week for six weeks on IPR/IFRA campus in Katibougou.

Tentative calendar:

Introduction to the Food System in Mali

06.07.2010: Intro to agricultural economics

06.08.2010: Food industry, value chain concepts

06.09.2010: Food marketing

06.14.2010: Trends in food consumption

Basic concepts in Microeconomic for the Analysis of the Food System Opportunity Cost

06.15.2010: Supply function
06.16.2010: Demand function

06.21.2010: Supply & Demand / price determination
06.22.2010: Supply & Demand / price determination
06.23.2010: Review

06.28.2010: Test
06.29.2010: Supply & Demand / elasticity
06.30.2010: Supply & Demand / elasticity

Applications to Food Policy

07.05.2010: Supply & Demand / price floor and ceiling
07.06.2010: Supply & Demand / price floor and ceiling
07.07.2010: Agricultural trade: quotas, tariffs, and subsidies

07.12.2010: Agricultural trade: quotas, tariffs, and subsidies
07.13.2010: Review
07.14.2010: Test