

<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 January – March 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, January – March 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.

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 January – March 2010, by objective as well as by cross-cutting management, administrative, and outreach functions. **Major highlights** of the quarter included continued support to Mali's CAADP process, the further implementation of farm-level production and marketing studies, the launching of training (in conjunction with PGP-2 and Peace Corps/Mali) of local stakeholders in how to monitor implementation of local-level food security plans, and the planning of major study tours scheduled for April 2010 of Malian food policy makers and University faculty to the US and Canada.

Cross-cutting outreach and administrative activities

The most significant cross-cutting activities included:

- The writing of a paper by Nango Dembélé and John Staatz for the Forum de Bamako (Feb. 16-20) on food security challenges facing West Africa and policy strategies to address them ([Sécurité alimentaire en Afrique de l'Ouest : Enjeux et Eléments Stratégique pour sa Réalisation.](#)) – available on the project website.
- The TDY of Steve Longabaugh to Bamako to work with the Mali-based team on an improved database system to track project outputs and activities.
- The participation, at the request of USAID/Mali, of PROMISAM II staff in meetings of the PRMC technical committee.

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 support to the CSA and its affiliated agencies (*service rattachés*):

- In January, Nango Dembélé participated with OMA staff in the production of a semi-annual market outlook *Bulletin de conjuncture* ([Niveau Exceptionnellement élevé des prix des céréales sèches en début de récolte](#)). These joint OMA-PROMISAM publications are widely used by government in planning marketing and import policies.
- The project supported the CSA's Information and Communication Service in developing materials for a public information campaign on the concepts of food security developing a communication action plan and associated budgets. The different activities identified were agreed upon by CSA and PROMISAM and the action plan and its budget have been adopted.
- In consultation with the CSA, campus- and Bamako-based staff developed the agenda for the study tour of CSA and other food policy officials to Michigan and Washington DC, scheduled for April, 2010.

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 this quarter, data entry for round 1 of the survey was completed, data cleaning routines were established, and round 2 of the surveys were started. MSU faculty member Abdoul Murekezi visited Mali in March to begin preliminary analysis of the round-1 data, in conjunction with MSU statistical specialist Margaret Beaver and PROMISAM II database specialist Sidibé Thiam.
- On March 19 – 23, PROMISAM II organized a retreat in Segou with the CSA, OMA, IER, and the Regional Directorate of Planning, Statistics, Information Technology, Territorial Development and Population (DRPSIAP) to plan the updating of cereal

marketing studies carried out in Mali during the 1980s and 1990s. The report of the retreat is available on the project website. The updating is planned for the second and third quarters of calendar year 2010.

3. Other support to CSA

As part of its ongoing support to the CSA, PROMISAM II staff participated in the monthly meetings of the SAP held to validate its monthly bulletins.

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

The development of tools to monitor the implementation of the commune-level food security plans is a joint activity of PROMISAM II, the USAID/Mali-funded PGP2 (Shared Governance Program) and the Peace Corps/Mali Food Security Program. PROMISAM II is working with the PGP2 team and Peace Corps/Mali to train local officials, affiliated NGOs, and Peace Corps volunteers in monitoring the implementation of the local plans, using a set of tools and associated materials developed by PROMISAM II. The training program, scheduled to cover 30 test communes, began this quarter with two training sessions:

- January 6-8, in Segou. Training with 37 participants (31 men and 6 women) from 6 communes in the region of Segou.
- February 4-6 in Sikasso. Training with 43 participants (37 men and 6 women) from 5 communes in the region of Sikasso.

Reports on both these training sessions are available on the project website.

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

Major achievements and activities in support of this objective included:

- Assisting IPR/IFRA faculty in identifying appropriate texts and other literature in French to acquire to support the new curriculum in Agricultural Economics.
- Work continued on developing syllabi for the courses identified in the new undergraduate program and professional masters (this was done mostly by graduate assistant Amadou Diallo and Professor Brent Simpson). These were subsequently shared with IPR colleagues during their visit to MSU in April.
- Professor Abdoul Murekezi from MSU visited Mali in March to work with IPR/IFRA faculty members on further development of syllabi for the courses identified in the new undergraduate program and professional masters program and to draw lessons for IPR from a similar program in curricular reform in which he participated as a faculty member at the National University of Rwanda.

- Campus-based faculty members facilitated the applications of two IPR junior faculty members, Jacob Coulibaly and Abdrahmane Berthé, to the graduate program in Agricultural Economics at MSU. They are scheduled to begin English courses at MSU in May, 2010.
- MSU/PROMISAM II staff worked with IPR colleagues and colleagues from Université Laval in Québec to develop the itinerary of a planned study tour of IPR/IFRA faculty members to MSU and Laval in April, 2010.

At the end of March, 2010, all public university faculty in Mali went on strike. If the strike is not resolved quickly, this could lead to delays in implementing the undergraduate teaching program in agricultural economics for the current school year.

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

Following the signature of the national CAADP compact during the previous quarter (October 2009), during the present quarter, PROMISAM II staff continued to work with the CPS-Rural Development on the elaboration of the National Agricultural Sector Investment Plan (PNISA). This work involved participating in some of the ongoing consultation with various domestic stakeholder groups and participating in meetings with the technical and financial partners' (PTF) agriculture group to help ensure full integration of the PNISA-CAADP process and the program to move to a sector-wide agricultural planning approach that has been supported by the PTF group.

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

During the period January 17-24, Abdramane Traoré of PROMISAM II led a delegation of 4 Malians (two private-sector actors, a representative from the Malian Chambers of Agriculture – APCAM, and Mr. Traoré) to Dakar to meet with Senegalese counterparts, members of the Presidential Commission on Investment subcommittee on ECOWAS trade, the USAID/Senegal-supported PCE project, and John Staatz from MSU (who was in Dakar at the same time) to discuss plans for the planned border conference. Tentative agreement on topics and venue were reached, and it was agreed that the Senegalese would in turn send a delegation to Mali for further preparation of the conference.

Upon return to Mali, Traoré, Staatz, and Dembélé met with the Malian Minister of Territorial Administration and Local Government to brief him on the planned conference and to ask for his support and advice. He supported the idea of the conference and recommended that PROMISAM II get in touch with other relevant ministries (agriculture, commerce, finance, African integration) to brief them on the planned conference.

Later in the quarter, staff changes in the PCE project in Dakar led to a rescheduling of the conference for later in the year, likely in October.

Anticipated Focus of the Work for the Coming Quarter

Major foci in the period April-June, 2010 will be on:

- Carrying out the study tour to Michigan and Washington for a high-level delegation of Malian food policy makers.
- Carrying out the study tour to MSU and Université Laval for faculty members of IPR/IFRA.
- Working with the CPS – Rural Development to prepare the priority national agricultural investment plan for ECOWAS and donor review.

TDYs during the Reporting Period

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

Margaret Beaver, Computer/statistical analysis specialist, MSU. **February 20-March 15, 2010.** Assisted PROMISAM II personnel complete data cleaning of first round of cereal production and marketing survey and prepare for round 2. Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II (45%) and MSU's grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (55%).

Duncan Boughton Associate Professor, International Development Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, MSU and Co-Director, Food Security III Cooperative Agreement. **January 24 – February 6, 2010.** PROMISAM II-funded portion of the trip focused on the following activities: (a) briefing USAID mission staff on observations from CSA/IER/MSU rapid appraisal/key informant interviews with cereal producers and traders in December 2009; (b) reviewing progress in data cleaning for first round of household level cereal production and marketing data; (c) finalizing round 2 questionnaire and enumerator training program; and (d) consulting with SAP, DNSI and other partners on design of study of role of cereal markets in assuring food security in vulnerable areas. Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II (60%) and MSU's grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (40%).

Duncan Boughton, March 14-27, 2010. PROMISAM II-funded portion of the trip focused on the following activities: (a) reviewing final cleaning outcomes of first round of household level cereal production and marketing data; (b) undertaking preliminary analysis of cleaned data with IER colleagues and Abdul Murekezi (MSU); and (c) participating in methods workshop for rapid appraisal of changes in structure, conduct and performance of cereals markets over the past two decades with OMA and CSA colleagues. Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II (75%) and MSU's grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (25%).

Steve Longabaugh, Specialist, International Development Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics. **January 3-16, 2010.** Improve project administration and reporting by helping PROMISAM II staff install and implement a system to monitor the progress of project deliverables; developing a system that on an on-going basis, assembles completed outputs and forwards them for posting to the FSG website; and developing a weekly routine to backup project computers. Work with the CSA to assure that its web site and other formats (CDs, paper copies) of key documents support the work of the local committees. Conduct a user needs survey of IPR/IFRA regarding getting their publications, scanned and on the web to help support the new program in agricultural economics.

Abdoul Karim Murekezi, Assistant Professor International Development, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, MSU. **March 14-27, 2010**. Met with IPR/IFRA colleagues to discuss syllabi and content for the courses of the their new curriculum and guest lecturer series; reviewed the preparation of the IPR faculty members' visit in April to MSU and to Laval University; reviewed final cleaning outcomes of first round of household level cereal production and marketing data; undertook preliminary analysis of cleaned data with IER colleagues and Duncan Boughton. Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II (75%) and MSU's grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (25%).

John Staatz, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, MSU. **January 16-31, 2010, including travel to both Senegal and Mali**. Travel to Senegal (supported by USAID/Senegal) included work with SAGIC/CRE project colleagues, USAID/Senegal staff, Senegalese partners and a visiting Malian delegation from APCAM, ROESAO, and PROMISAM II to plan a Senegal-Mali border conference aimed at facilitating agricultural trade along the Dakar-Bamako corridor. PROMISAM II-supported activities in Mali included: (a) work with IPR/IFRA colleagues on course-development, plans for strengthening library resources (including electronic resources), equipment acquisition, faculty strengthening and faculty exchanges in the agricultural economics program; (b) work with CSA and IER colleagues on and implementation of marketing studies, on training program for CSA staff on food security issues, with USAID and CSA on planned trip of food policy leaders to the US April; (c) work with Mali-based team, USAID-Mali, and CPS teams on identifying follow-up actions on the CAADP agenda; and (c) work with Bamako-based team on PROMISAM II's quarterly report for the period Oct-Dec., 2009. . Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II (50%), MSU's grant from the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (37.5%), and USAID/Senegal's PCE project (12.5%).

El Hadji Tamboura (Technical Advisor, APCAM), **Souleymane Nimaga** (cereals merchant, Bamako), **Dramane Diarra** (livestock trader, Segou), and **Abdramane Traoré** (PROMISAM II), **January 17-24, 2010** from Bamako to Dakar. Trip was to meet with Senegalese counterparts, USAID/Senegal and PCE officials, and John Staatz of MSU to help plan the Mali-Senegal border conference for later in the year.