

<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 March, 2009 – May, 2009

June 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, March 2009-May 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 the period March–May 2009 by objective as well as by cross-cutting management, administrative, and outreach functions.

The overall focus of activities during the reporting period was to staff the program fully in Bamako, move ahead with acquisition of equipment the CSA and affiliated agencies as well as the project itself, advance the planning for the agricultural economics program at IPR/IFRA and to accelerate work on the Mali CAADP process.

Cross-cutting administrative and support activities

The project undertook five actions during the quarter aimed at supporting the full range of project activities:

1. The identification and hiring of three additional Bamako-based staff members to work on PROMISAM II as well as other MSU Mali-based food security activities (funded by non-USAID sources):
 - a. Boubacar Diallo, a Ph.D. agricultural economist and former food security program coordinator at CILSS/Institut du Sahel, was hired in April by MSU to be based in the project's Bamako office. USAID/Mali-PROMISAM III funding is initially covering 20% of his salary, with the remainder covered by non-USAID/Mali funded activities that are complementary to the objectives of PROMISAM II (including projects

supported by the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the USAID/West Africa West Africa Cotton Improvement Project). Within the PROMISAM portfolio, Dr. Diallo will help lead the studies of farmers' cereals marketing strategies and will support other capacity building activities at the CSA and IPR. His non-USAID supported activities focus primarily on regional trade, which will help put the PROMISAM-supported applied marketing studies in a broader West African context.

- b. Sidibé Thiam, a data management and website specialist, will help coordinate all database and website issues for the MSU team in Mali. Among her PROMISAM II-supported activities will be creation and management of a database for the applied marketing studies to be carried out jointly with the Institut d'Economie Rurale and CSA, advising IPR/IFRA on computer networking and IT issues, and helping strengthen the CSA's capacity in information management.
 - c. Hamistou Diallo, an administrative and financial assistant, was hired to work with Maimouna Traoré, MSU's in-country chief administrative assistant.
2. The acquisition of the 4x4 project vehicle.
 3. The project solicited bids from 3 firms to purchase of computer equipment to be supplied to the CSA and affiliated structures (the OMA, SAP, and PRMC). These needs were identified through a survey carried out by the project during the previous quarter. As of the end of May, the bids had been received and were being analyzed by a committee of 4 people (1 from the project, 2 from OMA and 1 from the CSA). The equipment was subsequently acquired and transferred to the CSA in July 2009.
 4. PROMISAM began hosting a guest graduate student, Nadège Mbomi, from the Institut des Régions Chaudes in Montpellier, France, whose dissertation topic relates to the performance and impact of CSA's cereals banks. She will work with PROMISAM through October 2009 and help the project with its planned joint research activities with the CSA on the impact of the cereal banks on the food marketing system in Mali. We anticipate that Ms. Mbomi will work with at least two of the CSA system's economists on the study, thus contributing to strengthening their analytic skills.
 5. The project purchased some computer equipment office furniture for the new staff and replaced some old office equipment.

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

During the quarter, the project carried out the following activities and achieved the following results:

1. At the invitation of the Food Security Commissioner, PROMISAM organized a one-day retreat to identify elements that should go into a new national cereals marketing strategy for Mali. The retreat brought together over 30 Malian experts and stakeholders from the public and private sectors to identify key constraints and opportunities in the cereals marketing system in Mali, with the objective of developing proposals for improvements to be implemented during the 2009/10 marketing system. The retreat was held in Bamako on April 1 and developed a draft report. PROMISAM identified and hired two Malian consultants who finalized the strategy document over the following two weeks (collaborating with a small committee of workshop participants), and the report was submitted to the CSA in mid-April. The Commissioner subsequently submitted the document to the Prime Minister's office in May. The retreat documents are available at: http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/index.htm#conference.
2. Abdramane Traoré participated in a CSA workshop held in Segou on April 28-29 to develop improvements to the Commission's communication and information strategy.
3. Abdramane Traoré participated in the annual meeting of the Comité de Coordination et de Suivi des Programmes de Sécurité Alimentaire on March 25, 2009.
4. Nango Dembélé provided assistance to the CSA for the preparation of the meeting of National Food Security Council and subsequently participated in that meeting (held on May 28), which was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture on behalf of the Prime Minister.
5. Several team members (Nango Dembélé, Valerie Kelly, Duncan Boughton, Sidibé Thiam) worked in April with IER colleagues to design and begin to implement the first phase of a household-level survey in the Koutiala area aimed at updating information on farmers' cereals marketing and production strategies. This study, which will be extended to several other areas of Mali during the next quarter, is jointly financed by PROMISAM II and MSU's GISAMA project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. It will serve to provide a better empirical foundation for recommendations to the CSA regarding cereals marketing strategies and will also provide a tool to strengthen the analytic skills of the CSA economists who will be involved in helping implement it.
6. PROMISAM II/MSU staff provided ongoing advice to the Commissioner on management of the cereals market situation in Mali, including import policy.

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

1. During the previous quarter, PROMISAM hired Harouna Koné, of the *Direction Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Informatique I* (DNSI), a highly experienced evaluation specialist, as a local consultant to develop training materials for use with local communities on how to carry out program implementation monitoring. During this quarter, the project received and reviewed the draft training material on monitoring and evaluation produced by Mr. Koné. Based on the comments he received, Mr. Koné revised the materials and delivered them to the project. These materials will be used in the collaborative work described below involving PROMISAM, the CSA, the PGP2 program, and Peace Corps.
2. Abdramane Traoré attended the USAID/Mali Governance and Communication team's workshop on May 27-28 on its Performance and Monitoring Plan. His participation was part of the planned collaboration of PROMISAM II with the Shared Governance Program (PGP2) in implementing the Governance program's work with local communities on food security.
3. The PROMISAM team planned meetings with PGP2 team (which were carried out in the following quarter) to identify communes where PROMISAM II will work jointly with the CSA, PGP2 and Peace Corps in training local communities in the tools for monitoring the implementation of their local food security plans.

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

Work on this component focused on developing the background materials for the planned workshop in July 2009 at IPR/IFRA to debate, amend, and validate plans for launching degree programs (at the undergraduate and masters levels) in Agricultural Economics/food policy analysis.

1. The project contacted a team of three Malian consultants (two faculty members from IPR/IFRA and one independent specialist in Education) to carry out the study of the demand for and supply of agricultural economists in Mali.
2. The consultants submitted a draft report to PROMISAM in April. The report was extensively reviewed by Bamako-based and campus-based MSU faculty, who sent back comments to the consultants for incorporation in a revised report. Many of the comments focused on the need to identify more clearly the specific skill sets needed by different types of potential employers and the need to investigate more thoroughly the private sector's potential demand for graduates from the program.

3. The project worked with IPR/IFRA colleagues to plan a July, 2009 workshop in in Katibougou to debate and validate the study. At least two MSU-based faculty members will attend in addition to Bamako-based PROMISAM staff.

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

Given the importance of CAADP process to both Mali and to USAID (as part of the USG's Global Food Security Response) and the tight deadlines involved (Mali plans to hold its national CAADP roundtable and compact signing in September 2009), PROMISAM devoted a lot of effort during the quarter to helping move along the process. Among the project's key concerns were assuring that: (a) administrative processes of the two ministries involved (the Ministry of African Integration and of Malians Abroad, and the Ministry of Agriculture) were working smoothly so that the national consultants were not delayed in carrying out their work and (b) representatives of Mali's technical and financial partners (PTF) were fully informed about the CAADP process. The latter concern arose in part because the PTF were also strongly supporting a second process, Mali's Sectoral Review of Rural Development, which has at its aim the development of a national agricultural investment strategy—which is the same objective as the CAADP process. PROMISAM worked during the quarter (and will continue to do so in the subsequent quarter) to share information about the two processes so as to try to avoid duplication of effort and the creation of two parallel agricultural strategy development processes within Malian government.

During the reporting period, the project carried out the following activities:

1. Nango Dembélé (PROMISAM) and Aliou Konaté (CPS of Rural Development and part of the national CAADP team) briefed the PTF about the CAADP process. The meeting took place on March 12 at the Canadian Embassy and led to agreement by the PTF for the need to harmonize the CAADP and Sectoral Review processes.
2. In March, John Staatz and Nango Dembélé briefed the Minister of African Integration and of Africans Abroad, on progress achieved thus far by the CAADP technical team in developing Mali's CAADP plan. The minister stated his strong support of the process.
3. Nango Dembélé participated on March 19 in one-day meeting in Bamako with staff from IFPRI and the Ministries of Agriculture and of African Integration to work out a new action plan and calendar for the Malian CAADP.
4. PROMISAM worked with the Ministries of Agriculture and of African Integration to arrange for the Malian CAADP consultant, Mr. Abdrahmane Berthé, to attend a workshop in Dakar in April on simulation modeling techniques. The workshop was hosted by IFPRI and was aimed at helping

the local consultants from the various countries to carry out computable general equilibrium simulations of various agricultural investment options.

5. Nango Dembélé met with Mr. Berthé in May to discuss the result of the simulation work for Mali.
6. From May 12 to May 15, 2009, Nango Dembélé attended the ECOWAS-IFPRI workshop held in Accra on the performance of agriculture in West Africa in support of the national CAADP process.

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).

March 23-April 2, 2009. John Staatz from East Lansing to Mali. Helped organize and participated in the CSA retreat on developing a new national cereals marketing strategy, interviewed prospective new staff members (Diallo and Thiam), consulted with IPR/IFRA staff on the design of the study of the demand and supply of agricultural economists in Mali and plans for the July workshop, briefed the Minister of African Integration and of Africans Abroad on progress with the CAADP process, and handled project administrative issues.

March 23-March 30, 2009. Duncan Boughton from East Lansing to Mali. Worked on project administrative issues, design of survey instruments, and review of IPR/IFRA activities. TDY ended earlier than expected due to a family medical emergency.

Anticipated Focus of the Work for the Coming Quarter

During the coming quarter (June-August), we anticipate five major areas of emphasis:

1. Intensified support of the CAADP effort, with particular effort put towards trying to ensure, particularly at the Malian government level, better coordination of the CAADP and Sectoral Review processes.
2. Implementation of the IPR/IFRA workshop to validate the plans for launching the new programs in Agricultural Economics/Policy Analysis and follow-up actions to implement the decisions taken at the workshop.
3. Working with PGP2 and Peace Corps to identify the communes where we will work together on the training of local communities on local food security plan implementation, and then beginning this process of collaboration. The work

on this component had been delayed while the contractor for PGP2 was identified by USAID/Mali and the contract finalized. That has now been achieved.

4. Continued implementation of the applied marketing studies, which will provide a stronger empirical basis for food marketing strategies and a means, through collaborative research and analysis, of strengthening the analytic skills of the CSA economists.
5. As needed, provide counsel to the Food Security Commissioner on policy options as Mali moves into the hungry season (*soudure*).