

<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 October– December, 2009

January 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, October-December 2009

*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 October – December 2009, by objective as well as by cross-cutting management, administrative, and outreach functions. **Major highlights** of the quarter included the holding of Mali's national CAADP roundtable and signing of its CAADP compact, and the formal approval and launching of the undergraduate agricultural economics program at IPR/IFRA de Katibougou.

Cross-cutting outreach and administrative activities

The most significant cross-cutting activities included:

1. Participation of Bamako-based and campus-based staff in the USAID/Mali Partners' meeting on December 8-10. PROMISAM II was represented by Mali-based coordinator, Niama Nango Dembélé, Abdramane Traoré, the project contact person for USAID/Mali and by Professors Duncan Boughton and Eric Crawford, Co-Directors of the Food Security III Cooperative Agreement
2. Development of the 2010 work plan (submitted in January 2010).
3. In December, Dr. Dembélé was named by the Malian government as the coordinator of Mali's CAADP network of food security experts, whose task is to advise both the Malian government and NEPAD on food security issues.
4. Dr. Dembélé continued to serve on the Scientific Commission of the Mali's National Council of Agricultural Research, which reviews the proposals submitted by researchers at Mali's national agricultural research institute (IER) and IPR/IFRA for competitive research funding. This activity makes an important contribution to strengthening the capacity and quality of the Malian agricultural research system.
5. Meeting with various consultants referred to PROMISAM II by USAID/Mali.

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

During the period October-December, 2009, PROMISAM pursued this project objective through the following activities:

1. **Analytic support to the CSA's affiliated agencies (*service rattachés*):**
 - a. PROMISAM staff participated in the workshops to validate the SAP bulletins for the months of October and November (the beginning of the harvest season for coarse grains).
 - b. In December, Nango Dembélé participated with the OMA in a rapid reconnaissance mission to gather information for the semi-annual market outlook publication, the *Bulletin de conjuncture*. This document is widely used by the Malian government to help plan food policy actions during the crop year.
2. **Marketing studies:**
 - a. 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. The first round of the survey and data entry had been completed in September. During the October-December, the project developed its data cleaning strategy and designed the questionnaire for the second round of

the study (to be launched in February 2010), based on lessons learned in the first round.

- b. During the period December 13-19, a joint PROMISAM II – CSA – IER team undertook a rapid market reconnaissance in the CMDT zone of Mali. The objective of the reconnaissance was to explore changes in cereal production and marketing patterns (particularly in light of the decline in cotton production in the zone) as an input to the design of a forthcoming study of changes in the structure, conduct and performance of the coarse grain sector in Mali. The rapid reconnaissance team included Dr. Amadou Samaké, Head of the ECOFIL Department of IER, Mr. Tagalfi Maiga, Economist with the CSA, Dr. Nango Dembele, MSU Country Representative, and Dr. Duncan Boughton, MSU FSIII Co-Director. A draft report was developed and will be finalized in January 2010.

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

From September 30 through October 21, PROMISAM II sponsored training of staff from the CSA's Communication and Information Service in how to update and maintain the newly redesigned CSA website. The training focused on how to design web pages, website administration and management of site content, and processing of graphics and visual images. As a result of the training, the CSA now has the in-house capacity to keep its web site up to date.

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 new Peace Corps/Mali Food Security Program. MSU/PROMISAM II team will work with the PGP2 team 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, in an initial set of 30 communes, will begin in the first quarter of 2010.

During October-December, 2009, PROMISAM II undertook the following activities to prepare for this training:

1. In November, the training modules were finalized.
2. PROMISAM II staff met with Karim Sissoko of the Peace Corps Food Security Program to review with him plans for the training as well as other possible collaboration between Peace Corps and PROMISAM II (e.g., the assigning of a volunteer to act as a liaison between PROMISAM II and Peace Corps).
3. Plans were finalized for the first training session with local officials of some of the initial 30 communes, to be held in Segou in early January 2010.

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:

1. IPR/IFRA received official approval to go ahead with the agricultural economics and food policy program, based on the plans that were validated at the June 2009 workshop held in Katibougou. The first class of 30 students (22 men and 8 women) was admitted and began classes in November.
2. Three professors from MSU—Eric Crawford, Scott Loveridge and Brent Ross—traveled to Mali during the period November 30-December 9 to work with IPR/IFRA partners on designing a strategy to develop content of the courses to be offered both in the license- and masters-level programs. The MSU professors also worked with Jacob Coulibaly, who has been identified as the first junior faculty member from IPR/IFRA to come to MSU (in May 2010), to begin studying for a masters degree in Agricultural Economics, on preparation of his application packet. They also discussed with IPR/IFRA the need to identify a program coordinator as a full-time position and refined the equipment and library needs of the program.

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

The highlight of work under this objective was the holding of the Malian national CAADP roundtable on October 12-13, which culminated in the signing of Mali's CAADP compact by the Malian government, its Technical and Financial Partners, and representatives of civil society. This culminated a very intensive set of work by PROMISAM II over the previous 10 months to help bring the CAADP process to this stage.

Following the signature of the compact, PROMISAM II was asked by the Cellule de Planification et de Statistique (CPS) of Rural Development to work with it in helping further refine the analysis needed to design the details of Mali's national agricultural investment plan and acquiring the software GAMS. This work with CPS will continue throughout 2010.

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

The 2010 PROMISAM II work plan added a new objective to the project: helping organize a Mali-Senegal border conference to facilitate agricultural trade. This border conference, which will bring together private sector actors, local elected officials, and agencies charged with governing cross-border trade (e.g., customs, police, gendarmerie) from both countries, is aimed at clarifying the conditions that need to be met to trade agricultural products legally across the Senegal-Mali border. The initiative is modeled on a successful border conference that MSU helped organize between Mali and Guinea in 2009, with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The Senegal-Mali

border conference will be jointly supported by USAID/Senegal through its Projet de Croissance Economique (PCE), of which MSU is an implementing partner; and USAID/Mali, through PROMISAM II. The conference is tentatively planned for late April, 2010 in Senegal, near the border.

During this reporting period, PROMISAM II organized a trip within Mali by a group including Abdramane Traoré of PROMISAM, two members of the national agricultural traders organization (CONOESAM), and the Malian Chambers of Agriculture (APCAM). The purpose of the mission was to identify and inform key agricultural traders involved in trade with Senegal about the objectives of the conference and to seek their input and support. The mission, from December 23 through December 30, covered the markets of Ségou, Koutiala, Sikasso, Niéna, Bamako and Kati Draal. Traders in all these markets expressed strong support for the conference and signaled their willingness to participate.

Anticipated Focus of the Work for the Coming Quarter

Major foci in the period January-March 2010 will be on:

- Planning the visit of the food security commissioner, selected members of her staff, and related officials to MSU and Washington (tentatively set for mid-April);
- Planning the visit of selected IPR/IFRA faculty members to MSU and Université Laval in Québec (also in mid-April);
- Acquisition of computer equipment and the minibus for IPR/IFRA;
- Further work with IPR/IFRA on course design;
- Implementation of round 2 of the farm-level marketing study;
- Implementation of the training of local officials on monitoring implementation of the local food security plans (to be carried out jointly with PGP2 and Peace Corps);
- Launching a public information campaign to help clarify the notion of food security among policy makers and the general public; and
- Writing key analytic pieces outlining major food policy issues facing Mali over the next 5 years.

TDYs during the Reporting Period

The following TDYs were carried out in support of the project objectives during the quarter. Two of the TDYs (those of Boughton and Crawford) were co-financed by MSU's non-USAID/Mali food security projects in Mali.

Duncan Boughton (MSU faculty member and co-director, Food Security III Cooperative Agreement) – Nov. 28 – Dec. 20, 2009. Building on earlier discussions with Bamako-based MSU team, IER and other colleagues in April-May, he undertook a rapid appraisal of maize and other coarse grain marketing channels in the southern CMDT zone with collaborating CSA staff to understand changes in structure, conduct and performance of cereal markets. He also participated with USAID Mali partners meeting December 8 –

10. (Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II and MSU's grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation)

Eric Crawford (MSU faculty member and co-director, Food Security III Cooperative Agreement) – Nov. 30 – Dec. 9, 2009. The PROMISAM II portion of his TDY (75%) was devoted to collaboration with IPR/IFRA de Katibougou, MSU/PROMISAM staff in Bamako, and MSU TDY Professors Loveridge and Ross to develop a work plan for developing course content and implementing the planned new licence-level and masters-level specializations in agricultural economics, agribusiness, and agricultural policy at IPR/IFRA de Katibougou. Other activities included contacts with USAID/Mali regarding implementation of FS III Associate Award, discussion with Peace Corps/Mali regarding PROMISAM II-Peace Corps collaboration, participation in the USAID partners meeting on December 8 and 9, and contributions to project management discussions. (Trip co-financed by PROMISAM II and MSU's grant from the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture).

Scott Loveridge (MSU faculty member and director of the graduate program in agricultural, food and resource economics at MSU) – Nov. 30 – Dec. 9, 2009. TDY was devoted to collaboration with IPR/IFRA de Katibougou, MSU/PROMISAM staff in Bamako, and MSU TDY Professors Crawford and Ross to develop a work plan for developing course content and implementing the planned new licence-level and masters-level specializations in agricultural economics, agribusiness, and agricultural policy at IPR/IFRA de Katibougou.

Brent Ross (MSU faculty member) – Nov. 30 – Dec. 9, 2009. TDY was devoted to collaboration with IPR/IFRA de Katibougou, MSU/PROMISAM staff in Bamako, and MSU TDY Professors Crawford and Loveridge to develop a work plan for developing course content and implementing the planned new licence-level and masters-level specializations in agricultural economics, agribusiness, and agricultural policy at IPR/IFRA de Katibougou.