



## PROMISAM – II.2

### PROJECT TO MOBILIZE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES IN MALI – Phase II.2

(Projet de Mobilisation des Initiatives en Matière de Sécurité Alimentaire –  
Phase II.2)

## Quarterly Activity Report January 1 – March 31, 2013

May 2013

Project website: [http://fsg.afre.msu.edu/promisam\\_2/index.htm](http://fsg.afre.msu.edu/promisam_2/index.htm)

This report was prepared by John Staatz, Abdramane Traoré, Niama Nango Dembélé, and  
Boubacar Diallo



## **Background**

PROMISIAM II.2 has five objectives:

1. Monitoring and outlook of the markets for key staple foods in Mali, in cooperation with (a) the *Observatoire du Marché Agricole* (OMA) and (b) the private-sector organization of truckers (the *Conseil Malien de Transporteurs Routiers, or CMTR*);
2. Helping to monitor the food security situation in Mali and provide guidance for the design and implementation of improved social safety nets through:
  - a. Providing technical assistance to the Malian food security early warning system (the *Système d’Alerte Précoce—SAP*) to help monitor the food security/vulnerability situation and develop improved indicators of urban food insecurity;
  - b. Work with the SAP and a Regional Chamber of Agriculture (CRA) in one of the USAID/Mali FTF target regions to (a) analyze the impact of past efforts recommended by the SAP for using local horticultural production as a safety net for communities facing unexpected shortfalls in agricultural production or income and (b) carry out case studies of the constraints and opportunities for using rural smallholder horticulture as a more effective safety net to earn income (particularly for women and youth) and improve rural diet quality.
3. In partnership with private institutions or national consultants, analyze the nature and adaptability of land tenure systems in some of the key areas of Mali that are likely to face increased demand for land from private investors and increased immigration from the arid zones of the country in coming years, in light of increased population pressures, climate change, and political disruption.
4. Working with the West African Regional Network of Market Information Systems to document the evolution of the export markets for Malian ruminant livestock over the past five years, with particular emphasis on how recent changes in the subregion have affected the perspectives for livestock exports to act as an engine of Malian agricultural and economic growth once peace returns to the country.
5. Providing technical support to the donor working group on *Economie Agricole et Rurale* (EAR), in which USAID participates, on the evolving market situation. Complete two studies currently in progress on farmer cereal marketing strategies and the role of the market in vulnerable zones.

## **Major Achievements during the Reporting Period**

Below we highlight the major achievements for each of the five objectives for the period January 1-March 31, 2013. The achievements are listed by activity number, as described in the project work plan.

## **Objective 1. Enhance and Develop Agricultural Market Outlook and Monitoring Skills and Capacity (OMA)**

*A1.1 and A1.2: Production of an Outlook Bulletin and a note on regional cereals trade between Mali and its neighboring countries*

In January, Niama Nango Dembélé of PROMISAM and OMA staff undertook a rapid reconnaissance of several major cereal markets throughout Mali to gather information for the next edition of the market outlook bulletin, the *Bulletin de conjuncture*. The bulletin was published in February and is available on the PROMISAM website:

- [Stabilité, voire baisse probable des prix des céréales pendant la période de soudure. Bulletin de conjuncture. Février 2012.](#)

PROMISAM and the OMA diffused copies of the bulletins to various stakeholders throughout Mali.

## **Objective 2. Monitoring the Food Security Situation/Vulnerability Analysis**

### ***2.1 Development of food security indicators for urban areas for SAP***

*A2.1.1 and A2.1.2: Methodological review of urban food insecurity indicators; Organize and implement methodological workshop on identification of urban food insecurity indicators*

At the initial methodological workshop held in Bamako in November, 2012 to discuss the development of urban food insecurity indicators for the SAP (described in the previous quarterly report), participants identified an initial set of indicators and designated a smaller working group to develop operational measures of them. This working group, made up of three representatives of INSTAT (the national statistical institute), three representatives of the SAP and two representatives of PROMISAM, met in Selingué on February 13-15 to carry out this work. For each indicator, the working group identified the variables and data to collect, the frequency of collection for each type of data, who would be in charge of designating the appropriate calculations to carry out to develop the statistical indicator, the methods of data collection and the analysis to be carried out. The report of the working group's findings is available on the PROMISAM II website:

[\(http://fsg.afre.msu.edu/promisam\\_2/RAPPORT\\_GENERAL\\_SELENGUE.pdf\)](http://fsg.afre.msu.edu/promisam_2/RAPPORT_GENERAL_SELENGUE.pdf)

## **Objective 3. Adaptability of Land Tenure Arrangements in Selected Zones**

*A.3.1 - A.3.3: Development of terms of reference with local consultants/institution, literature review and methods development, and methodology workshop*

In January, the literature review on land tenure issues that was completed in English in December was translated into French and made available to the PROMISAM team in Mali for use with the local consultants who will be hired to carry out the field studies.

In February, the PROMISAM team finalized the terms of reference for the field studies, which will be carried out in the cercles of Bougouni, Kita and Yanfoila, all areas that are likely to receive significant inflows of new migrants in coming years. A team of local consultants was identified, and based on analysis carried out on campus by MSU faculty and graduate assistant Abdrahmane Berthé on commune-level population densities, a sampling procedure was elaborated. Rather than hold a larger workshop, as originally planned, with MSU-based faculty participation, the team decided to hold smaller technical discussions on the survey methods with the local consultants, given the inability of campus-based staff to travel to Mali because of security-related travel restrictions. Based on these discussions and input received from campus-based staff, such as the literature review and the statistical analysis of population densities, the survey instruments were finalized.

#### *A.3.4: Study implementation*

In March, the team of local consultants began field data collection in the three cercles. It is anticipated that the data collection will continue through April, with the production of a preliminary report in May.

### **Objective 4. Study of the Recent Evolution of the Markets for Malian Cattle, Sheep and Goat Exports**

#### *A.4.1 and A.4.2: Review study objectives with RESIMAO and literature review and background analysis*

The planned methodological workshop that was previously scheduled to be held in Bamako in February was postponed because of security concerns in Bamako in the period immediately following the French military intervention in the country. This activity was on hold as of the end of March. PROMISAM had counted on the participation of MSU faculty members Steve Haggblade and John Staatz to help lead this activity, and the travel restrictions have thus slowed progress on this project activity. The activity is now planned for June.

### **Objective 5: Providing ongoing technical support to the donor Agricultural and Rural Economy (EAR)**

#### *A.5.1: Regular provision of cereal market outlook information and regional trade*

The main activity under this rubric was the distribution to the donor group of the *Bulletin de cononcture* produced in February. PROMISAM II staff also continued to respond to on-demand requests for information from USAID/Mali concerning the evolution of cereal production and marketing in Mali.

#### *A.5.2 – A5.4: Completion of various studies of farmers' cereals marketing strategies and the role of markets in contributing to food security in food-deficit zones*

MSU Malian graduate student Mariam Sako Thiam continued her analysis of the interaction between cotton production and coarse grain production strategies of farm households in the

Koutiala region, based on survey data collected in the previous phase of PROMISAM II. This analysis will serve as the basis for her master's thesis in Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, with completion expected in June, 2013. John Staatz is her thesis supervisor.

### **Major Obstacles Faced**

As was true in the previous quarter, the major obstacle faced has been the continued insecurity in certain parts of Mali and the related US Government travel advisories regarding Mali. These became more acute in the period immediately following the French military intervention in January, which resulted in increased security checks along major highways, restricted travel in many parts of the country, and increased concerns about foreigner safety following the kidnappings of French nationals in West Africa in response to the intervention. As a result, PROMISAM has not been able to start the planned work to evaluate the SAP's recommendations on the use of horticultural production and marketing as a social safety net, as many of the areas where this has been tried are currently insecure. In addition, the inability of MSU-based faculty and staff to travel to Mali during this period as reduced their input into the work with the SAP on urban food insecurity indicators and has led to significant delays in the design and launching of the regional livestock marketing study.

For these reasons, MSU would like to explore with USAID/Mali the possibility of a no-cost extension, from October 1 through December 31, 2013, to allow completion of the planned activities.

### **TDYs in Support of Project Activities**

Because of ongoing US Government travel advisories, US-based faculty undertook no TDYs to Mali to work with the project during this reporting period.