

		<p>APCAM/MSU/USAID Projet de Mobilisation des Initiatives en matière de Sécurité Alimentaire au Mali – Phase II (PROMISAM - II.2)</p> <p>MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY</p>
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## 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**  
**Sept. 20 – Dec. 31, 2012**

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, Boubacar Diallo and Steve Longabaugh

## **Background**

On September 19, 2012, PROMISAM II received a funded extension covering the period September 19, 2012 – September 30, 2013, with new terms of reference. This report covers activities and achievements of the project under the new terms of reference for the period September 19-December 31, 2012. A separate end-of-project report summarizes the work of PROMISAM II under its previous terms of reference, which covered the period December 1, 2008 – September 30, 2012.

The current phase of PROMISAM II (hereafter referred to as PROMISAM II.2) was developed in the context of the aftermath of the March, 2012 coup d'état, the subsequent suspension of US Government development assistance to Mali and the occupation of the northern two-thirds of country by jihadist rebels. The project focuses on humanitarian assistance, especially in helping monitor the impacts of the insecurity in Mali on the evolution of agricultural markets and on factors that will be essential for Mali's economic recovery once peace and a freely elected government returns to the country. Consistent with US Government directives, the project does not directly collaborate with Malian government agencies with the exception of the *Système d'Alerte Précoce (SAP)*, which is involved in monitoring the food security situation throughout the country as part of Mali's humanitarian assistance infrastructure.

PROMISAM 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 Sept. 19, 2012 (when the current phase of the project began) through December 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*

Because regional trade plays a critical role in the behavior of the domestic cereals market in Mali, the team decided to integrate regional trade aspects into the Outlook Bulletin (*Bulletin de conjuncture*) rather than producing two separate documents. During the period under review, PROMISAM II.2 and the OMA produced two outlook bulletins, both of which are available on the PROMISAM website:

- [Importations nettes de céréales au Mali malgré les excédents annoncés.](#) *Bulletin d'analyse prospective du marché agricole et des échanges*, September, 2012.
- [Persistance des restrictions aux exportations malgré une bonne production.](#) *Bulletin de conjuncture. Bulletin d'analyse prospective du marché agricole*. December, 2012.

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

##### *A1.3: Purchase of a 4x4 Land Cruiser and 15 motorbikes for the OMA*

As part of the logistical strengthening of the OMA under the approved work plan, PROMISAM purchased a Toyota Land Cruiser and 15 motorbikes for the OMA in November and December, respectively. This equipment was transferred immediately to ownership of the OMA.

##### *A1.4 and A1.6: Organization of a Refresher Training Session for OMA Enumerators and Training of CMTR Agents on Monitoring Regional Trade Flows*

In order to improve the quality of data on market conditions and regional trade, the work plan called for the holding of training sessions for both OMA enumerators and agents of the *Conseil Malien des Transporteurs Routiers (CMTR)*, a private organization that is collaborating with the OMA and PROMISAM on monitoring regional trade flows. The training of OMA agents was designed as a refresher session for experienced enumerators and a training session on market monitoring for several newly hired enumerators, while the CMTR training aimed at gathering accurate information on regional cereal trade flows along various trade corridors. The trainings were combined in a five-day session held in Segou on December 17-21. Thirty-three OMA

enumerators (32 men and one woman) and 17 CMTR agents (all men) successfully completed the training.

## **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***

On November 29-30, at the Hotel Massaley in Bamako, PROMISAM held a methodological workshop on the identification of food insecurity indicators in urban areas. The workshop brought together representatives from the SAP national team, including headquarters staff and SAP coordinators from the various regions of Mali; PROMISAM staff and representatives from the National Statistics Institute, USAID, and the World Food Program.

The aim of the workshop was to identify pertinent and reliable indicators that would allow the SAP to broaden its coverage from food-insecure rural areas to begin to monitor efficiently food insecurity in urban areas. The participants discussed and amended a draft framework that the PROMISAM staff had prepared as a background document for the meeting. The participants succeeded in agreeing upon a set of target indicators and designated a smaller working group to develop operational measures of the indicators. This group will meet in February, 2013 to develop the questionnaire and survey methods to monitor these indicators.

All the workshop documents, including the final report, are available on the PROMISAM II website ([http://fsg.afre.msu.edu/promisam\\_2/index.htm](http://fsg.afre.msu.edu/promisam_2/index.htm)).

#### ***A.2.3: Technical and logistical support to the SAP***

##### ***A.2.3.2: Development of new software for SAP database management***

In November, MSU/PROMISAM staff carried out an initial evaluation of the SAP's current database management tools. The SAP is using a program written in a very old version of Microsoft Access. It was decided that the first step will be to update the organization's version of Access (which comes with the new computers described below that PROMISAM II.2 is providing) and then explore the possibility of updating and modifying the existing program. The restriction on travel from MSU-based staff to Mali led to a decision to engage a local consultant to work with the SAP on this issue.

##### ***A.2.3.3: Purchase by PROMISAM of a 4x4 Pickup for use in joint activities with SAP***

In November, PROMISAM took delivery of a 4x4 Toyota double-cab pickup for use in joint activities with the SAP. Per USAID/Mali guidance, PROMISAM is retaining title to the vehicle, and its disposition at the end of the project will be decided by USAID.

#### *A.2.3.4 – A.2.3.6: Provision of new computer equipment to the SAP*

In November, PROMISAM purchased and delivered to the SAP the new computer equipment called for under the work plan (8 desk-top computers, 3 notebook computers, and one video-projector). This equipment replaces very old equipment that hindered the SAP's ability to carry out its work in a timely way.

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

#### *A.3.1 and A.3.2: Development of terms of reference with local consultants/institution and literature review and methods development*

Work on this objective began with a literature review on land tenure issues in Africa, in the context of climate change, population growth, and migration. The review was led by Professor Mark Skidmore of MSU and Graduate Research Assistant Aissatou Ouédraogo, with feedback from Mali-based and campus-based staff. The English version of the review is scheduled for completion in January 2013, with translation into French soon thereafter.

During this reporting period the PROMISAM team also developed draft terms of reference for the field studies and began discussions with potential local consultants to carry out the field work. Following an information-sharing meeting on the study between PROMISAM staff APCAM, the organization designated a technical advisor to monitor the study on behalf of APCAM. PROMISAM staff and the APCAM technical advisor followed up with a meeting in December to discuss in more detail the design and implementation of the study. The final selection of the local consultants and a meeting with them to define data collection methods are planned for February 2013.

### **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*

In November, Bamako-based PROMISAM staff held an informational meeting with APCAM staff to let them know about the proposed study. As with the land-tenure study, APCAM designated a technical advisor to monitor the study on behalf of the organization. In December, PROMISAM staff held a follow-up technical meeting with this advisor to discuss the details of the study methods. Professor Steve Haggblade produced a preliminary draft literature review on Mali's livestock export trade in December, and the draft terms of reference were developed. The PROMISAM team contacted local consultants in the key export markets to inform them of the upcoming study and began planning for a methodological workshop tentatively scheduled to be held in Bamako in February 2013.

## **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 conjoncture* produced in September and December, which address, among other topics, the dynamics of cereal trade between Mali and its neighbors.

### *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*

In December, the PROMISAM team completed two major reports summarizing findings of research begun under the previous phase of PROMISAM II on Malian farmers' cereals marketing strategies and the role of markets in contributing to food security in chronically food-deficit zones:

- [Cereal Market Dynamics: The Malian Experience from the 1990s to Present](#). Valerie Kelly, Abdoul Murekezi, Nathalie Me-nsope, Sonja Perakis, and David Mather. *MSU International Development Working Paper 128*. December 2012.
- [Farmers' Production and Marketing Response to Rice Price Increases and Fertilizer Subsidies in the Office Du Niger](#). David Mather and Valerie Kelly. *MSU International Development Working Paper 129*. December 2012

Both reports are available on the project website. In the coming months, MSU/PROMISAM staff will develop policy briefs from these reports for use by USAID in its leadership role of the EAR.

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 the first half of 2013.

### **Major Obstacles Faced**

The major obstacle faced has been the continued insecurity in certain parts of Mali and the related US Government travel advisories regarding Mali. These have had two impacts:

- They have prevented the start of 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.
- They have prevented the travel of MSU-based faculty and staff to Mali, which has reduced their input into the work with the SAP on urban food insecurity indicators and on the design of the livestock marketing study.

### **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.