

<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 April – June 2012

July 2012

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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, April – June, 2012

Strengthening the Capacity of the Malian Government to Develop Analytical and Market-Based Food Security Responses

All project activities involving collaboration with Malian government entities were suspended during this quarter as a result of the suspension of US government development assistance to Mali following the March 22 coup d'état. Consequently, project activities during this quarter focused mainly on analyses of data collected during surveys earlier in the project. This analysis was carried out by MSU/PROMISAM staff, based in Mali and the US. During this period, MSU also prepared a proposal for USAID/Mali's consideration for a 14-month funded extension of PROMISAM, focused on market monitoring and analysis of options for food safety nets, consistent with a focus on purely humanitarian issues. This program, which would assist the USAID/Mali mission and other donors in designing humanitarian actions during Mali's current crisis, continued under discussion with the mission during the quarter. The mission also provided a no-cost extension of the project, initially through June 30, 2012 (subsequently extended to July 31, 2012) to allow timely shut-down of the project's activities with Government of Mali institutions and to allow further refinement and processing of the proposal for the 14-month extension.

This report summarizes the activities and achievements of the project during the period April – June, 2012, by each of the 6 strategic objectives of the project (which are described in previous quarterly reports) as well as by cross-cutting management, administrative, and outreach functions.

Objective 1: Further Enhance and Develop Technical and Analytical Skills for the CSA and Related Support Agencies

All collaborative activities with the CSA were suspended during this quarter. The activities under this strategic objective focused on the analysis by MSU/PROMISAM staff of data from the various marketing studies carried out earlier in the project under this component of the project. The PROMISAM team also carried out one follow-on field visit in the northern part of the Koulikoro region to assess the role of the market in contributing to food security in chronically deficit zones.

The rapid reconnaissance field visit to Falou and N'tomodo in the cercle of Nara was carried out by PROMISAM staff and the director of the Malian food security early warning system (SAP). The information collected will contribute to the planned report on food markets in vulnerable zones described below.

During the quarter, four draft reports were drafted, which will be refined during the coming months, covering the following topics:

1. Cereal Market Dynamics: The Malian Experience from the 1990s to Present
2. Cereal Price Increases, Fertilizer Subsidies, and Household Rice Production and Marketing in the Office du Niger: The Case of Macina
3. Effects of household participation in cotton production on coarse grain productivity in Mali: Evidence from the cotton zone of Koutiala
4. The role of the market in contributing to food security in vulnerable zones.

In addition, three MSU graduate students are using the data collected in these studies for their Masters' theses. These theses will focus on:

1. A Study of Household Income Determinants and Income Inequality in the Tominian and Koutiala Regions of Southern Mali.
2. The determinants of farmers' decisions on allocation of their land among different crops in the region of Koutiala.
3. The determinants of farmers' decisions to stay with or abandon cotton cultivation in the Koutiala region in the period 2006-10.

During the quarter, the students worked with PROMISAM/MSU faculty in the analysis of their data. Completion is anticipated in the last quarter of calendar year 2012.

Objective 2: Assistance in Implementing Food Security Plans Country-wide

All programmed activities under this objective were completed in 2011.

Objective 3: Development of an Academic and Practical Curriculum for the University of Bamako/ IPR Katibougou in Agricultural Economics/Food Policy Analysis

Because of the suspension of development assistance to Malian government institutions, including the University, all activities under this objective were suspended throughout the quarter. IPR faculty member Jacob Coulibaly, who was studying for a Master's degree at MSU, returned to Mali under non-US government funds in May. MSU will endeavor to find non-USG funds to allow him to return to MSU and complete his master's degree.

The other IPR junior faculty member at MSU, Abdrahmane Berthé, is not a Malian government employee, as he had resigned his position at the Central Bank (his previous employer) before coming to MSU. IPR had planned to hire him as a faculty member when he returned from

graduate training. USAID/Mali conveyed to MSU the decision that because Mr. Berthé is not a Malian government employee, he can remain at MSU under project funding. He thus spent the reporting period taking further classes at MSU.

Objective 4: Technical Support to Mali's Team Developing the Country's NEPAD/CAADP Program

All activities under this objective are suspended due to the coup.

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

All planned activities under this objective were completed in 2011.

Objective 6: Provide Analyses to Assist USAID/Mali-AEG in Planning its Future Investments

The main activity under this objective was working with the mission to develop a proposal for a 14-month funded extension of PROMISAM through September 2013. The proposed activities would focus on providing critical assistance to the donor Agriculture and Rural Economy (EAR) working group in which USAID participates and to humanitarian structures in Mali to monitor closely the rapidly evolving food situation in the country, provide key information for the design of social safety nets for the food insecure, and analyze how Mali's livestock export trade and land tenure situation have been affected by recent events. The objective of this assistance is to help ensure food security during a time of major unanticipated political upheaval, and thereby hasten the return to a situation in which USAID's planned Feed The Future activities can resume.

Anticipated Focus of the Work for the Coming Quarter

The project is still in a wait-and-see mode, pending political developments in Mali and the outcome of the negotiations on the funded extension. If the funded extension is approved, the project will undertake a new set of market and food-security monitoring activities with the OMA and the Système d'Alerte Précoce (SAP) consistent with the proposal MSU has submitted to USAID/Mali.

TDYs during the Reporting Period

There were no TDY's from campus to Mali during this period.

Content added to the project website during the reporting period:

Nothing was added to the website during this period.