

<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 January – March 2012

April 2012

This report was prepared by Niama Nango Dembélé, Abdramane Traoré, Abdoul Karim Murekezi, Duncan Boughton, John Staatz and Steve Longabaugh

#### Contacts:

In Mali: BPE 2906, Bamako, ACI 2000, Mali:  
Niama Nango Dembélé ([dembele@msu.edu](mailto:dembele@msu.edu); tel. +223-2022-3419)  
Abdramane Traoré ([draatra@msu.edu](mailto:draatra@msu.edu); tel. +2023-222-3419)

#### In the USA:

Dept of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan, 48824-1309  
Duncan Boughton ([boughton@msu.edu](mailto:boughton@msu.edu); tel. +1-517- 432-6659)  
John Staatz ([staatza@msu.edu](mailto:staatza@msu.edu); tel. +1-517-355-1519)

**Michigan State University**  
**Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics**  
**Food Security III Associate Agreement**  
**(Leader Award no. GDG-A-0-02-000021-00)**  
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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, January – March, 2012**

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

The March 22, 2012 coup d'état in Mali has ushered in a period of great uncertainty for all USAID/Mali-supported programs, including PROMISAM II. At the time of the writing of this report in early April, all project activities with agencies of the Malian government are suspended, per guidance of the USAID/Mali mission. MSU will, for the time being, maintain Mali-based staff in place to maintain capacity. We have, however, reduced office hours and occasionally shut down the office to ensure the security of the staff. We also have evacuated all US-based MSU staff and graduate students from Mali until the security situation in Mali improves. Per USAID/Mali guidance, we will continue to analyze data that were collected earlier in the project for the various marketing studies undertaken by the project. This analysis will involve Mali-based and US-based MSU staff, but will no longer involve work with Malian government employees. MSU's home institution in Mali, the Permanent Assembly of the Malian Chambers of Agriculture (APCAM), receives the majority of its funding from sources other than the Malian government, so we anticipate that PROMISAM II can continue to be affiliated with that organization, which is also the home institution of the Malian agricultural market information system (OMA) with which PROMISAM has collaborated closely in the past.

This report summarizes activities of the project from January 1, 2012 until project activities were suspended at the end of March following the coup. This was a period in which the project had completed activities under three of its strategic objectives but was planning ambitious activities with respect to policy outreach (building on the Agricultural Sector Assessment study completed in 2011) and to pushing forward the capacity-building program with IPR/IFRA. The coup interrupted these initiatives.

PROMISAM II began in December, 2008 and is currently funded through May 31, 2012. The original project agreement had 4 strategic 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 countrywide 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 the country's NEPAD/CAADP report and national compact. The FY 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. (Work on this objective was completed in mid-2011.) A further modification implemented in May 2010 called for PROMISAM II to carry out a number of background studies on agricultural development/food security challenges and opportunities facing Mali over the coming 5-10 years in order to assist USAID/Mali in its strategic planning of future investments and activities.

This report summarizes the activities and achievements of the project during the period January – March, 2012, by objective 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**

During the period January – March, 2012, PROMISAM pursued this project objective through the following activities:

#### **A. Analytic support to the CSA and its affiliated agencies (*service rattachés*):**

- 1. Preparation of the market outlook bulletin (*Bulletin de conjuncture*).** In February, 2012, PROMISAM coordinator Nango Dembélé worked with OMA coordinator Salifou Diarra to produce the semi-annual OMA-PROMISAM agricultural market outlook bulletin. This bulletin, which is widely used by both government and non-government entities in Mali, highlighted market conditions following the harvest and projected conditions likely to emerge as the country moved towards the hungry season (*soudure*). The report is available on the project website ([http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam\\_2/Bulletin\\_de\\_conjoncture\\_Fevrier\\_2012.pdf](http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/Bulletin_de_conjoncture_Fevrier_2012.pdf)).
- 2. Preparation of Agricultural Sector Assessment Outreach Symposium.** PROMISAM planned a major policy outreach symposium for the end of March, drawing on key messages that emerged from the Agricultural Sector Assessment completed in 2011 under objective 6 of this project. The symposium, scheduled for March 29-30, was to involve key actors from the CSA and Planning and Statistics unit (CPS) of the Ministry of Agriculture (see objective 4), government and civil society stakeholders, and Mali's main technical and financial partners. The plan was for the CPS and the Centre Djoliba to co-sponsor the symposium with MSU/PROMISAM. The PROMISAM/MSU team developed draft outreach materials and had staff from MSU in Mali to aid in the preparation of the symposium when the March 22 coup d'état occurred. The symposium was thus cancelled, but the background material (available on the project website at [http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam\\_2/index.htm#rp](http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/index.htm#rp)) will still likely be useful in suggesting longer-term priorities for the agricultural sector once democratic government returns to Mali and the north comes back under central government control.

Following the coup d'état, all activities with the CSA and affiliated agencies were suspended for the remainder of the reporting period.

## **B. Marketing studies:**

1. All field-level data collection for the various marketing studies has been completed with one exception: a follow-up rapid reconnaissance visit to the Nara area in the region of Koulikoro. This activity was planned for early in April, but given the instability in Mali, it is now on hold. If it takes place, it will not involve CSA collaborators as originally planned.
2. Analysis of data collected in the field-level study data continued in Mali and on campus, aimed at producing the following reports:
  - a. A study of cereal market dynamics, focused on the evolution of the Malian cereal markets from the 1990s to the present.
  - b. A study drawing on the household-level data in the Office du Niger, focusing on how rice-growing households responded to rice price increases and fertilizer subsidies in the Macina area.
  - c. The interaction, at the household level, of cotton production on productivity in coarse grain production in the Koutiala area.
  - d. The role of the market in contributing to food security in vulnerable zones.

Drafts of these four papers were developed during the reporting period and are currently under revision.

3. Three MSU graduate students (Brenda Lazarus, James Allen III, and Mariam Sako) are also planning to use the field-level data for their Master's theses in Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics. These will focus on determinants of income inequality in the Tominian and Koutiala areas (Lazarus), land allocation decisions of Koutiala farmers among various crops (Allen) and factors affecting farmers' decisions in the Koutiala region to either drop cotton or continue its cultivation during the "cotton crisis" of 2006-09 (Sako). We anticipate that the students will complete their theses by early in the final quarter of calendar year 2012.

In addition, PROMISAM team members Steve Longabaugh, Nango Dembélé, Boubacar Diallo, and John Staatz helped co-author a study, funded through the Food Security III Cooperative Agreement Leader agreement (with the Bureau of Food Security), on staple food market sheds (production and consumption basins) in West Africa. This study helps place the analysis of staple food markets in Mali in their broader regional (West African) context. The study is available on the project website at: <http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/papers/idwp121.pdf>.

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

All programmed activities under this objective were completed during the previous quarter and no further activities are planned.

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

All collaborative work with IPR/IFRA de Katibougou has been suspended following the March 22 coup, as IPR/IFRA is a Malian government organization. Prior to suspension of activities, the major achievements and activities in support of this objective during the quarter included:

- In February, the 30-passenger bus and 15-passenger van bought by the project for the IPR program were delivered to Bamako and officially transferred to IPR. MSU had planned a ceremony in March with USAID/Mali and IPR/IFRA to highlight the transfer, but that ceremony was canceled because of the coup. As the vehicles were officially transferred prior to the coup, IPR/IFRA has them and can use them in transporting students from Katibougou to Bamako for classes in economics (taught at the IPR/IFRA annex in Bamako) and for field visits as part of the program.
- Recruitment of a local consultant to work with IPR/IFRA on the development of a 5-year action plan for the Agricultural Economics/Food Policy degree programs. PROMISAM was close to launching this work with the local consultant (Dr. Yoby Guindo) and had sent MSU faculty member Abdoul Murekezi to Mali to work with Dr. Guindo in mid-March when the coup d'état intervened. This work was then suspended, and Dr. Murekezi returned to campus.
- The two IPR/IFRA affiliated junior faculty members, Abdrahmane Berthé and Jacob Coulibaly, continued their graduate programs in Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at MSU.

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

As described under Objective 1 above, a major outreach symposium was planned focusing on key opportunities and challenges in Mali's agricultural sector. The Symposium was being developed in conjunction with the CPS, which was to co-sponsor it along with the Centre Djoliba. The symposium was cancelled due to the coup, and all further work with the CPS and its partners in the Mali NEPAD/CAADP national team are suspended until further notice.

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

All programmed activities under this objective were completed in mid-2011, and no further activities are planned.

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

The main activity here was the development of outreach materials based on the Agricultural Sector Assessment that was produced in 2011 under this strategic objective. These outreach materials were to be used in the symposium described above under Objective 1.

### **Cross-cutting activities**

The main cross-cutting activities involved the following:

1. In-country program coordinator Nango Dembélé continued in his role as a member of the National Agricultural Research Council (CNRA). The CNRA reviews and decides on all competitive research funding in agriculture allocated by the Malian government. In that role and as one of only two economists on the panel, he plays a key role in improving the quality of agricultural research in the country.
2. Dealing with the consequences of the March 22 coup d'état. This involved:
  - Adjusting project office hours (including some closures of the office in the days immediately following the coup) and project activities to ensure the safety of PROMISAM staff.
  - Arranging for the return of MSU staff and graduate students in the country at the time of the coup.<sup>1</sup>
  - Beginning preliminary discussions with USAID/Mali about the consequences of the coup for the future of PROMISAM II, which is scheduled to end on May 31, 2012.

### **Anticipated Focus of the Work for the Coming Quarter**

With the suspension of all development assistance to the government of Mali, many of the project's planned activities are halted. For these activities, the project is in a wait-and-see mode. In the meantime, the project plans to continue to carry out analysis of the marketing study data and preparation of reports, drawing solely on MSU/PROMISAM staff. We will also be in discussion with USAID/Mali about the possible future of the project after the programmed end-date of May 31, 2012.

### **TDYs during the Reporting Period**

The following TDYs were carried out in support of the project objectives during the quarter.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Cheick Oumar Diarra, a Visiting Scholar at MSU (and former Malian ambassador to the US) was in Mali at the time of the coup, working with the PROMISAM team to prepare for the planned outreach symposium scheduled for late March. Dr. Diarra elected to remain in Mali, under non-USG funding, rather than return to the US, in order to try to help negotiate a political settlement to the crisis.

**Cheick Oumar Diarra**, Visiting scholar, Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **Mali March 18-April 8, 2012.** Dr. Diarra traveled to work with PROMISAM II team to organize and carry out the March 28-29 outreach conference related to the 2011 Agricultural Sector Assessment prepared by MSU (and of which Dr. Diarra was one of the coauthors). He was also to help prepare materials to present to the conference and contribute to the preparation of the conference report. The coup prevented the outreach conference from being held. Dr. Diarra elected to remain in Mali on non-USG funds to try to help negotiate a resolution of Mali's political crisis.

**Abdoul Murekezi**, Assistant Professor International Development, Food Security Group, Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **Mali, March 17-31, 2012.** He traveled to Mali to work closely with Yoby Guindo, the consultant hired to work with IPR/IFRA to develop a 5-year development plan for the agricultural economics and food policy program. Dr. Murekezi was also to provide inputs to an action plan of the agricultural economics and food policy analysis program at IPR/IFRA Katibougou and feasibility study of the professional masters in agricultural economics in Mali. He also planned to interact with faculty members from the IPR and the University of Laval, who will be traveling to Mali, and discuss how their project on capacity building at the IPR, funded by CIDA, could be complementary to the work conducted by MSU with the financial support of USAID/Mali. His terms of reference also called for him to work with the USAID Mission and the MSU team in the organization of a symposium. This would include involving third year students from the agricultural economics and food policy analysis program at IPR/IFRA Katibougou and IPR leadership to participate in the symposium, network with participants and publicize their program to Malian agricultural stakeholders. His mission was interrupted by the coup d'état, and he returned to the US on Sept. 30.

**Sonja Perakis**, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **Mali March 10-April 3.** She worked with the USAID Mission and the MSU team in the organization of the outreach symposium. This included assisting with final preparation of presentations, other outreach materials that would be made available to the participants as well as drafting the symposium reports. She was also to deal with the logistic issues related to the organization of the event, such as inviting participants, taking notes and other miscellaneous tasks. The coup interrupted her mission, and she returned to the US in early April.

Two other planned TDYs, those of MSU faculty members Steve Haggblade and John Staatz, were canceled because of the coup.

**Content added to the project website ([http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam\\_2/index.htm](http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/index.htm)) during the reporting period**

- [Etude nationale sur les bassins de production des spéculations céréales au Mali.](#) Décembre 2011.

- [Staple Food Market Sheds in West Africa](#). Steven Haggblade, Steven Longabaugh, Duncan Boughton, Nango Dembelé, Boubacar Diallo, John Staatz, and David Tschirley. International Development Working Paper #121. February 2012.
- [Sécurité, aide, autosuffisance et souveraineté alimentaire : Revisitons les concepts](#). PROMISAM Note d'information No. 2012-1. Prepared for planned March 2012 outreach symposium.
- [Les grandes réussites du secteur agricole malien : Regard sur les 30 dernières années](#). PROMISAM Note d'information No. 2012-2. Prepared for planned March 2012 outreach symposium.