

<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 2011

April 2011

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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 2011

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. A further modification implemented in May 2010 established a sixth objective by calling on PROMISAM II to carry out a number of background studies on agricultural development/food security challenges facing Mali over the coming 5-10 years in order to assist USAID/Mali in its strategic planning of future investments and activities. A seventh objective covers cross-cutting activities that were implicit in this project and that support the overall project as well as the broader economic growth objective of USAID/Mali-AEG. 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, the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, 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 January-March 2011, by objective as well as by cross-cutting management, administrative, and outreach functions.

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

During the period January-March, 2011, PROMISAM pursued this project objective through the following activities:

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

- As part of the implementation plan for the CSA communication department, the CSA, with PROMISAM support, began running a number of radio broadcasts providing information to the public on the National Food Security Strategy. A 5 minute audio skit (in the national language Bamanan) was produced and aired on 30 local radio stations and the regional stations of the national radio during the month of March 2011.

B. Marketing studies:

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. This work is jointly funded by PROMISAM and the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation-funded GISAMA project, also implemented by MSU. PROMISAM pursued this project objective through the following activities:

- IER and PROMISAM II finalized the data cleaning of the second and third rounds of the farm-level production, agricultural marketing and household income survey;
- Preliminary results from the cereal working paper (in progress), based on the analysis of the first round data, were discussed with focus groups of farmers in the cotton zone to obtain feedback on factors driving the patterns found in the data. These results were also presented to researchers at IER and to students of the new program of agricultural economics and policy analysis at IPR/IFRA Katibougou;
- PROMISAM II continued to conduct preliminary analysis of household income by calculating variables on household farm and non-farm income using the first round data;
- MSU faculty member Duncan Boughton gave a presentation for a Bill & Melinda Gates foundation convening on strengthening farmer organizations, held in Bamako. The presentation covered a brief overview of activities of Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA) in Mali;
- Seven (7) contracts were signed in March 2011 with the Regional directors of planning and statistics of Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti, Gao and Tombouctou to implement the study on the major cereal production basins and their links to major trade routes and consumption centers within Mali and in the sub-region;
- Developed the methodology and interview guides, and identified the sites for implementing the study on the performance of the marketing system in the most vulnerable communes.

Objective 2: Helping develop methods for monitoring the implementation of local food security plans

A. Workshop in Segou on Evaluation of Local Plans:

On January 10, 2011, a workshop was held in Segou to present the results of the monitoring and evaluation exercise reviewing the Segou Region commune level plans.

The following key results were achieved by the municipalities:

Dimensions of Food Security	Planned expenses (FCFA)	Realized expenses (FCFA)	Rate of execution
Availability	15 361 688 200	7 804 552 200	50.8%
Access	722 650 000	223506000	32.0%
Utilization	11700000	8600000	73.5%
Stability	9 542 000 000	9 482 050 200	18.3%
TOTAL	25 581 088 400	9 778 008 200	38.2%

The workshop made the following recommendations:

For local government units (communes, cercles and regions) :

- ✓ Wide dissemination of the food security plan (PSA) documents;
- ✓ Involve all financial and technical partners in the implementation of the plans at the commune level;
- ✓ Use the PSA as an instrument to mobilize the necessary resources to achieve food security;
- ✓ Set up a data collection system on the food security situation of the communes;
- ✓ Create a synergy between PSA and other local development planning instruments, such as the communal plan for economic and social development (PDESC).

For the national government, through the CSA:

- ✓ Establish key technical agencies at the commune levels;
- ✓ Stop using the arrondissement as the local government unit in deploying governmental technical staff; instead use the ratio 1 staff member per commune;
- ✓ Support the development of the new generation of PSAs.

B. Workshop in Segou on Evaluation of Local Plans:

On January 31, 2011, a workshop was held in Koulikoro to present the results of the monitoring and evaluation exercise reviewing the Koulikoro Region commune level plans.

The following results were achieved by the municipalities:

COMMUNES	Planned expenses (FCFA)	Realizations (FCFA)	Rate of realization (%)
Bougoula	264 000 000	55 624 500	21.1
Dio - Gare	165 400 000	25 575 000	15.5
Banco	23 750 000	30 750 000	129.5
Benko	387 750 000	15 188 950	3.9
Massigui	217 000 000	65 000 000	30
Sanakoro -Djitoumou	216 500 000	106 481 480	49.2
ALL COMMUNES	1 274 400 000	298 620 130	23.4

SYNTHESIS BY DIMENSION

Dimensions of Food Security	Planned expenses (FCFA)	Realized expenses (FCFA)	Rate of execution
Availability	598 000 000	95 950 000	16.0
Access	397 000 000	136 749 700	34.4
Utilization	111 400 000	59 513 950	53.4
Stability	168 000 000	6 406 480	3.8
TOTAL	1 274 400 000	298 620 130	23.4

The participants to the workshop were:

- The representative of the governor of Koulikoro;
- The representative of the CSA;
- Representatives of USAID;
- The Sous préfets;
- The presidents of the councils of the cercles;
- The regional director of planning and statistics;
- Representatives of NGOs;
- Representatives of PROMISAM;
- The mayors and the general secretaries of the 6 communes;
- Representatives of women organizations of the 6 communes;
- Representatives of women organizations of the cercle of Koulikoro.

The workshop made the following recommendations:

- Wide dissemination of the process of PSA development in the villages ;
- Take the gender dimension into account in the elaboration of PSA;
- Identify priority problems;
- Disseminate the results of the monitoring and evaluation exercises.

C. Training of Leaders of Women's Organizations in the Concepts of Food Security

Following the different workshops, leaders of women organizations were trained in the concepts of food security. These special training sessions were held to make up for the fact that few women had participated in the evaluation sessions for the local plans held previously in Segou and Koulikoro.;

- 22 women from the 6 communes of the region of Segou were trained on January 11, 2011;
- 27 women from the 6 communes of the region of Koulikoro were trained on February 1st, 2011.

D. Planning for Pilot Study of the Monitoring of Inventories of Local Cereal Banks

During their TDY's to Mali in February, 2011, MSU professors Mark Skidmore and John Staatz met with Mme. Bassa Diané of the CSA, Nango Dembélé, and Salif Diarra of the OMA to design a pilot study to monitor the inventory levels in CSA-supported cereal banks. The Malian government considers the lack of such information on a regular constraint to food security planning and to the transparent management of the local stocks. Based on a concept note developed by Skidmore and subsequent discussions, Diarra and Diané produced a proposal for a pilot study to test the methods for monitoring, using agents from the OMA. The test is proposed for the soudure period (June-August) 2011.

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:

- Acquisition of teaching equipment and library resources to support the program such as a scanner, projector, photocopier, and books ;
- Initiation of the process of replacing the program coordinator, Souleymane Kouyate, who has been nominated the vice rector of the University of Ségou. PROMISAM II staff, in consultation with IPR leadership, interviewed a possible candidate, who holds a US PhD in education, and who is familiar with IPR and with both the Malian and US education systems. A decision on whether he will be hired is pending, as he does not have a background in agricultural economics. IPR also suggested Boubacar Maiga, one of the members of the faculty staff of the program to be the assistant coordinator. The shortage of senior agricultural economists on the IPR faculty makes the identification of a suitable coordinator difficult.
- Putting in place an advisory panel of the new program of agricultural economics and policy analysis.

The main responsibility of the panel is to provide ongoing input by potential employers of graduates from the new program concerning the skills the program needs to provide the students. The panel will be useful not only in advising on program content but also in developing links with external stakeholders to facilitate the creation of internship

opportunities for students, job search networking for graduates, and general support for the program. The following people were suggested to form the external advisory panel:

1. Dr. Bino Témé: Director General, Institute of Rural Economy (IER: Institut d'Economie Rurale)
2. Moussa Alassane Diallo, CEO, National Bank for Agricultural Development in Mali (BNDA: Banque Nationale de Développement Agricole)
3. Fousseyni Mariko : Directeur de la Cellule de Planification et de Suivi - Ministère du Développement Rural (CPS-MDR)
4. One representative of the agricultural and food industry
5. Dr. Massa Coulibaly, a faculty member of the department of Economics and Management at the University of Bamako
6. Boubacar Macalou, Directeur Général du Centre d'Etudes et de Renforcement des Capacités d'Analyse et de Plaidoyer (CERCAP)
7. Dr Fafré Samaké. Directeur Général de l'IPR/IFRA (Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée de Katibougou). He will work with the IPR head of department of social and economic sciences, Coulibaly Kardigué. The IPR representative will play the role of executive secretary of the advisory panel.
8. A representative from the PROMISAM II project.

- Curriculum development:

PROMISAM II contributed to the design of the revised curriculum of the undergraduate program in agricultural economics. The revised curriculum was generated after the stakeholder curriculum workshop held in November 2010 in Bamako.

- Curriculum implementation

As part of the implementation of the revised curriculum, Abdoul Murekezi, an MSU faculty member, taught the first part of the course of principles of microeconomics. The course was given to the first year and second year students of the agricultural economics and policy analysis program at IPR/IFRA Katibougou.

- On-going English training of two IPR junior staff faculty members (Jacob Coulibaly and Abdrahmane Berthé). They continued to take English courses in preparation of beginning their graduate programs in agricultural economics at MSU in Fall 2011.

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

- Nango Dembélé held several discussions with Youssouf Keita of the Ministry of African Integration and with Souleymane Ouattara of CPS-Rural Development regarding the next steps in the the implementation of the recommendations of the CAADP national business meeting.

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

- A Senegalese delegation visited Bamako from March 10 to March 12, 2011. The delegation which comprised two technical advisors of the Prime Minister and one staff of PCE/USAID had some working sessions with the Malian committee in charge of the preparation of the border conference. These working sessions helped to finalize the necessary documents to be presented at the conference, namely the program of the conference, the list of potential participants, the report of the meeting held in Kayes and the final communiqué. The dates and the place of the conference are to be decided by the offices of the two prime ministers. Abdramane Traoré of PROMISAM helped in planning the visit and participated in the different meetings and discussions.

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

- MSU faculty member Steve Miller and Graduate Research Assistant Ramzi Adjao traveled to Mali at the request of the AEG team in February and March to develop an initial benefit-cost analysis (CBA) of priority value chains (i.e., coarse grains, rice, and livestock) in three regions (i.e., Sikasso, Mopti, and Timbuktu) in order to help the mission develop its Feed the Future plan. The initial CBA uses a scenario analysis to estimate potential marginal benefits of improving productivity in production and marketing systems for each of the selected value chains in the three regions, and the impact of these increases in productivity on economic growth and food availability. The analysis is based on a spreadsheet tool for evaluating the potential economic impacts of alternative program investment options that was developed to carry out the analysis. This decision support tool, which was provided to USAID/Mali, allows the user to assign the anticipated productivity impacts at the farm level and the reach of the program in terms of percent of total farmers impacted directly by varying key parameters, in order to estimate gross returns to the potential investments. The tool was developed with the dual goal of being useful for program administrators for planning as well as for evaluators to gauge ex-ante the outcomes.
- A revised draft of the Mali Agricultural Sector Assessment was delivered to the USAID/Mali AEG team in February. Based on comments received by PROMISAM II from the AEG team on that revised draft, final revisions were begun on the document, with the final version to be delivered during the next quarter.

Cross-cutting outreach and administrative activities

- The coordinator of PROMISAM, Nango Dembélé, in his capacity as a member of the CNRA, reviewed 14 proposals for the CNRA in March 2011. The research proposals will focus on the management of natural resources, the resilience of production systems to climate change, producers' vulnerability to climate change induced weather shocks, and conservation of rainwater and soil fertility.

Anticipated Focus of the Work for the Coming Quarter

With respect to farm-level production and marketing surveys:

- Integrate the analysis of the second and the third round of household level cereal production and marketing data into the cereal working paper mentioned above;
- Continue to engage PROMISAM partners, CSA and IER, in data analysis and sharing results and get their reactions and feedback;
- Finish the calculations for crop and non-farm incomes and conduct preliminary analyses of these incomes (shares of different types of incomes, gender breakdowns, inter-annual changes, etc.) for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 cropping years.
- Finalize preliminary analysis of income data of all the three rounds of data and prepare reports of preliminary results using descriptive statistics and crosstabs, and compare them to 2006/07 incomes from the earlier Rural Struc study;
- Test the questionnaire and implement the study on the performance of the marketing system in the vulnerable communes;
- Continue implementation of the study on the production basins and their relationships to major trade routes and consumption centers;

With respect to enhancing the technical and analytical skills of the CSA and related support agencies:

- Hold a nationally televised debate on the concept of food security and its implications for development planning.

With respect to helping develop methods for monitoring the implementation of local food security plans:

- Continue the training of leaders of women's organizations in the regions of Sikasso, Mopti, Gao and Tombouctou.

With respect to providing technical support to Mali's NEPAD/CAADP team:

- Support the CPS-Rural development in implementing its action plan for 2011.

With respect to helping IPR/IFRA Katibougou develop an academic and practical curriculum in Agricultural economics and Food Policy Analysis:

- Identify potential instructors who can teach some of the courses of the revised curriculum during the second semester of the academic year, which will start in June;
- Implement the remaining investments mentioned in the 2011 PROMISAM II work plan (bus, library resources, setting up of the program coordinator's office and classroom at IPR Annex in Bamako, etc);
- Prepare the terms of reference of the external advisory panel for the program of agricultural economics and policy analysis at IPR and request the IPR leadership to submit a formal proposal to put in place the panel by the minister of education;

- Initiate the development of a business plan for the planned professional master's program in Agricultural Economics, to be taught initially at the Bamako Annex. IPR/IFRA foresees this program as a potential moneymaker for the school as significant tuition fees will be charged.

TDYs during the Reporting Period

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

Ramziath Adjao, Graduate Research Assistant, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **February 11 through March 13, 2011.** The trip focused on the following activities: 1) Work with MSU professors Nango Dembele and Steven Miller, and USAID/Mali-AEG staff to develop more detailed terms of reference for an initial benefit-cost analysis of priority value chains; 2) In collaboration with MSU professor Steven Miller and local PROMISAM partners, collect and organize information needed to undertake the initial analysis.

Duncan Boughton, Associate Professor, International Development, Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **March 7, 2011 through March 25, 2011.** This trip was funded by multiple projects. The PROMISAM II work focused on the following activities: 1) Finalize TORs for the DRSPIAP to implement a study of changes in coarse grain production and marketing flows in major cereal production regions consistent with the outcome of the November planning workshop. 2) Develop a methods for a study of the role of the market in food security in vulnerable areas. 3) Consult with IER, World Bank and others on possible expansion of Ruralstruc panel survey. 4) Participate, as needed, with USAID/Mali mission concerning analysis of intermediate analysis of Feed the Future Plan.

Steven Miller, Assistant Professor and Head, Center for Economic Analysis, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **February 15 through March 6, 2011.** The trip focused on the following activities: 1) Work with MSU professor Nango Dembele and graduate research assistant Ramzi Adjao, and USAID/Mali-AEG staff to develop a more detailed terms of reference for an initial benefit-cost analysis of priority value chains; 2) In collaboration with MSU professor Nango Dembele, graduate research assistant Ramzi Adjao and local PROMISAM partners, identify information needed to undertake the initial analysis; 3) Prepare initial benefit-costs analysis.

Abdoul Karim Murekezi, Assistant Professor International Development, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **February 5, 2011 through February 27, 2011.** This trip was funded by multiple projects. The PROMISAM II work focused on the following activities: 1) Teach "Principles of Economics" course to the first year and second year students of the of agricultural economics and policy analysis program at IPR/IFRA Katibougou as part of the implementation of the revised curriculum that was generated after the stakeholder curriculum workshop held in November 2010 in Bamako; 2) Discuss with IPR leadership and PROMISAM team the plans for program coordination with IPR in light of Dr. Kouyaté's new assignment as vice rector of the University of

Segou; 3) Meet some participants of the workshop mentioned above and the leadership of IPR/IFRA Katibougou in the prospect of establishing an external advisory panel of the new program of agricultural economics and policy analysis; 4) Continue with analyzing the second and the third round of household level cereal production and marketing data; 5) Review preliminary results from the first round of household level cereal production and marketing data with IER colleagues involved in the study and the CSA economists; 6) Visit the Koutiala circle in collaboration with IER in order to get a better understanding of the farming systems that can help in the interpretation of the survey results.

Mark Skidmore, Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **February 19 through February 27, 2011.** The trip focused on the following activities: 1) Collect information on local cereal bank inventories so that decision makers have more information on when and where critical food security concerns are emerging across the country; 2) Plan for the implementation of the pilot study; 3) Meet with key partners, particularly Observatoire du Marche Agricole (OMA), to conduct the planning session and organize activities.

Juha Sohlberg, Statistical Specialist, Department of Agricultural Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **January 29, 2011 through March 2, 2011.** This trip was funded by multiple projects. The PROMISAM II work focused on the following activities: 1) Support of farm-level marketing study included in the workplan; 2) In collaboration with IER survey field supervisors, ensure timely implementation of cleaning routines for the final round (round 3) of the farm-level survey and develop cleaning techniques for round 3 of the survey during her absence.

John Staatz, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **February 19 through March 5, 2011.** This trip was funded by multiple projects. The PROMISAM II work focused on the following activities: 1) Support effort to design and test a pilot system for reporting on local-level cereal stocks; 2) support to USAID/Mali in preparing analytic materials for its Feed the Future strategy; 3) work on design and implementation of cereals marketing strategies; 4) support of overall project management.