

<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 October – December 2011

January 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, October – December 2011**

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

PROMISAM II began in December, 2008 and is currently funded through May 31, 2012 (a no-cost extension having been granted in July 2011). 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. 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 October-December 2011, 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 October-December 2011, PROMISAM pursued this project objective through the following activities:

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

During the quarter:

- PROMISAM staff involved OMA staff in an international workshop on African Agricultural Information Systems (MIS), co-organized by MSU, CIRAD, and RESIMAO, with financial support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, CTA, and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). The workshop, which was held on Nov. 3 – Dec. 2, brought together over 60 MIS researchers, practitioners, and policy makers from across Africa, Europe, the Americas and India including staff from the UN Economic Commission from Africa (UNECA). UNECA is also working closely with CTA, CIRAD and MSU to facilitate the creation of an Africa-wide network of MIS, and has involved the OMA in those efforts. While the Bamako workshop and the UNECA efforts are not financially supported by USAID/Mali, they illustrate how MSU/PROMISAM has leveraged its links with other funders and organizations to help support the work of the OMA, consistent with the objectives of PROMISAM II.
- Nango Dembélé, along with staff from the OMA and CSA, participated in the *Bourse Internationale des Céréales*, organized by the NGO Afrique Verte/ Mali and co-sponsored by the Permanent Assembly of the Malian Chambers of Agriculture (APCAM) and the CSA, on 13-14 December in Bamako.

## B. Marketing studies:

The project's marketing studies focused on three elements: the study of the evolution of major grain production basins in Mali (cereal market dynamics); providing input to the Ministry of Agriculture on Cereals Marketing Policy Reforms; and analysis of farmers' marketing behavior, with an emphasis on the interactions between coarse grains markets and the market for cotton.

### *Market Dynamics*

- During quarter, four of the seven regional rapid reconnaissance studies of cereal marketing channels were completed, the other three having been completed the previous quarter. These studies, carried out in conjunction with the CSA and drawing on local consultants, focused on the changing nature of cereals marketing channels in the regions of Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Sikasso, Segou and Tombouctou. All reports are available on the project website ([http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam\\_2/index.htm#rp](http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/index.htm#rp))
- PROMISAM staff, working with the national consultants who had prepared the regional reports, drafted a national synthesis report based on the regional studies. On October 24-25, the project held a workshop with the regional consultants to validate the draft. Based on feedback received, the national synthesis report was revised, with the final version being completed in December. It is available on the project website at: [http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam\\_2/synth%C3%A8se\\_nationale\\_recon\\_bassin\\_dern\\_version%20%20fevrdoc.pdf](http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/synth%C3%A8se_nationale_recon_bassin_dern_version%20%20fevrdoc.pdf).

### *Cereal Marketing Policy Reform*

PROMISAM involved OMA colleagues in the design and production of a report to develop proposals for the reform of grain marketing policy in Mali. This study was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture of Mali. PROMISAM/MSU staff members John Staatz, Nango Dembélé, Boubacar Diallo and Abdramane Traoré were co-authors of the study, and Salif Diarra, Pierre Traoré and Abdoulaye Arby of the OMA also contributed. The study was jointly funded by the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. The reports produced by this study are available at [www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/srai](http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/srai). During the quarter, SRAI staff also responded to questions raised by the mission and the IICEM project concerning the report's recommendations.

### *Farmer-level study*

This study, implemented in partnership with the CSA and the Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER), covers 450 households in 3 zones of Mali. This work is jointly funded by PROMISAM II and the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation-funded GISAMA project, also implemented by MSU. PROMISAM pursued this project objective through the following activities:

- Data analysis both in Mali and on campus (including involvement of the graduate research assistants working on the projects). Among the topics receiving special attention are an analysis of the sources of women's income and of off-farm income, interactions between of cotton participation and coarse grain productivity, factors affecting rice sales in the Office du Niger, the impact of different farm practices on farm income, and an analysis of the factors affecting farmers' income diversification strategies in the cotton zone.

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

With the end of the activities of monitoring and evaluation of the local food security plans in the test communes during the last quarter, this activity was completed during the quarter with the holding of a validation workshop of the methodology used in the test communes for monitoring and evaluation of food security plans. The workshop, held in Segou on 19–20 December 2011, focused on lessons learned in the evaluation of the plans in the test communes and modifications needed in the approach if it were to be scaled up to evaluate the local plans nation-wide. During the workshop, discussions were held on the challenges faced by each participant in the implementation of the methodology, participants made suggestions for amendments and improvements, and these suggestions were summarized in the workshop and incorporated into the manual for monitoring and evaluation, which was finalized and sent to the CSA.

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

Major achievements and activities in support of this objective included:

- Continued the acquisition of books related to agricultural economics to support the program;

- Processing the purchase order for a bus and a 15-passenger van for IPR. These will allow the students in the agribusiness program to travel easily to Bamako for classes at the IPR Annex and to incorporate field visits into the curriculum.
- On-going graduate training of two IPR junior staff faculty members (Jacob Coulibaly and Abdrahmane Berthé) at MSU

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

No activities were carried out under this objective during the quarter, as none were requested by the NEPAD/CAADP team.

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

This set of activities was completed in May, 2011, and no further activities under this strategic objective are currently planned.

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

The final French translation of the Mali Agricultural Sector Assessment was completed in November and is available at:

[http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam\\_2/MSU\\_Mali\\_Ag\\_Sector\\_Assessment\\_2011\\_Fre.pdf](http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/promisam_2/MSU_Mali_Ag_Sector_Assessment_2011_Fre.pdf)

During the quarter, PROMISAM staff continued to provide feedback on various FTF and CAADP issues to USAID/Mali staff upon request.

**Cross-cutting activities**

In September, Veronique Theriault (Ph.D. in Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Florida) joined the MSU faculty as an Assistant Professor, International Development. Dr. Theriault’s Ph.D. dissertation focused on cotton policy reform in West Africa (including Mali), and we anticipate that in the coming months she will become part of the campus-based faculty contributing to PROMISAM II.

During the quarter, the in-country project coordinator, Nango Dembélé, continued to contribute to agricultural research in Mali through his participation in 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.

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

Priorities in the coming quarter will include the following:

- **With respect to enhancing the technical and analytical skills of the CSA and related support agencies:** Writing research reports related to topics covered by on-going data analysis, in collaboration with OMA, CSA, and IER partners.
- **With respect to the development of an academic and practical curriculum for the University of Bamako/ IPR Katibougou in Agricultural Economics/Food Policy Analysis:**
  - Hiring a local consultant to work with IRP/IFRA faculty on a 5-year action plan of the program, including a medium-term staff development plan;
  - Complete renovations of the IPR Bamako annex classroom and coordinator's office for the program to allow courses in economics to be taught in Bamako, where local instructors are more available than in Katibougou.
  - Continuing to support the graduate education of the two IPR/IFRA junior faculty members at MSU.
- **With respect to providing analyses to assist USAID/Mali-AEG in planning its future investments**
  - Develop outreach material for Malian stakeholders from the now-complete Mali Agricultural Sector Analysis

## **TDYs during the Reporting Period**

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

**Duncan Boughton**, Associate Professor, International Development. Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **Mali October 10-28, 2011.**

- Meet with local staff and USAID/Mali concerning possible outreach activities built around newly translated Agricultural Sector Assessment.
- Work with in-country team and local counterparts to review draft reports and progress on marketing studies and discuss next steps to ensure completion on schedule.

**Eric Crawford**, Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food & Resource Economics, Michigan State University. **Mali October 2- 9, 2011.**

- Meet with PROMISAM staff, senior leadership of IPR/IFRA, and USAID/Mali concerning activities in support of IPR/IFRA.
- Work with in-country team and local counterparts to review draft reports and progress on other parts of the PROMISAM work plan.

**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**

- [Rapport de l'atelier de formation des responsables des organisations feminines de la region de sikasso dans les concepts de securite alimentaire. Sikasso, le 20 juillet 2011.](#)
- [Rapport de synthese de l'atelier de formation des femmes dans les concepts de securite alimentaire des regions de Mopti, Tombouctou et Gao. Juin 2011.](#)
- [Rapport de l'atelier de formation des responsables des organisations feminines de la region de Kayes dans les concepts de securite alimentaire. Kayes, le 13 Avril 2011.](#)
- Mali Agricultural Sector Assessment 2011. Michigan State University Food Security Team. April, 2011. (Slightly revised in November 2011.) French version: [Évaluation du secteur agricole du Mali 2011](#). November 2011.
- [Annual Report. October, 2010 – September, 2011.](#)
- [Reconnaissance rapide des axes et circuits de commercialisation des céréales au Mali : Région de Gao.](#)
- [Enquête sur la reconnaissance rapide des axes et circuits de commercialisation des céréales au Mali : Région de Kayes. Octobre 2011.](#)
- [Reconnaissance rapide des axes et circuits de commercialisation des céréales dans la région de Koulikoro.](#)
- [Etude sur les bassins de production des spéculations céréalières dans la région de Mopti. Novembre 2011.](#)
- [Rapport provisoire de l'étude portant sur la reconnaissance rapide des axes et circuits de commercialisation des céréales au Mali : Région de Ségou. Juin 2011.](#)
- [Reconnaissance rapide des axes et circuits de commercialisation des céréales dans la région de Sikasso.](#)
- [Rapport de l'étude sur la reconnaissance rapide des circuits de commercialisation des céréales dans les cercles de Diré, Goundam et Niafunké – Région de Tombouctou. Novembre 2011.](#)