

**Trip Report: Travel to Senegal and Mali**  
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**January 16-31, 2010**

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## **1. Terms of Reference**

The trip was jointly financed by the SAGIC/PCE project in Senegal, the SRAI grant from the Syngenta Foundation, and the USAID/Mali Food Security III Associate Award (PROMISAM II). In the report below, needed follow-up activities are listed for each topic discussed.

The terms of reference for the trip were the following:

**Dakar/Syngenta/SRAI:** Participate in a CILSS workshop to review and validate a proposed CILSS strategy for agro-industrial development in the Sahel and West Africa (Jan. 19-21).

**Dakar/SAGIC:** Work with SAGIC/CRE project colleagues, USAID/Senegal staff, Senegalese partners (particularly in the Conseil Présidentiel d'Investissement), and a visiting Malian delegation from APCAM, ROESAO, and PROMISAM II to plan a Senegal-Mali border conference aimed at facilitating agricultural trade along the Dakar-Bamako corridor.

### **Mali/PROMISAM II:**

- Work with IPR/IFRA colleagues on course-development, plans for strengthening library resources (including electronic resources), equipment acquisition, faculty strengthening and faculty exchanges in the agricultural economics program. This work will follow up on progress made by MSU faculty team that visited Mali in December.
- Work with CSA and IER colleagues on and implementation of marketing studies, on training program for CSA staff on food security issues, and planned trip of commissioner to the US in March/April.
- Work with Mali-based team, USAID-Mali, and CPS teams on identifying follow-up actions on the CAADP agenda.
- Work with Bamako-based team on PROMISAM II's quarterly report.

**Mali/Syngenta/SRAI:** Work with Mali-based team on annual report.

## **2. Activities in Senegal (January 17-22)**

During the week of January 17-23, I traveled to Dakar for two purposes:

- Participate (via funding from the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture) in a CILSS regional workshop to discuss and validate a proposed regional program to promote agro-industrialization in the Sahel and West Africa, from January 19-21; and
- Discuss with SAGIC/PCE staff (particularly John Powers), Senegalese partners such as the Conseil Présidentiel d'Investissement (CPI) working group no. 1, and a delegation of Malians led by Abdramane Traoré of MSU's Bamako office, the plans for the proposed Senegal-Mali border conference, to be held in 2010.

### ***2.1 CILSS workshop on agro-industrialization policy for the Sahel and West Africa***

The workshop, sponsored by the CILSS market access program (a close collaborator of our West Africa-based programs), was called to review a draft strategy study commissioned by CILSS on

to promote agro-industrialization in West Africa. The strategy aims to build upon prior work that CILSS had carried out in the 1990s and early 2000s under its PROCELOS initiative, which focused on processing of local cereals. The PROCELOS project has ended, but the network of researchers and processors in the individual CILSS countries associated with the project still exists and provides a basis upon which new efforts can be built.

The conference brought together government officials involved in agro-industry and small-firm development, private entrepreneurs, ECOWAS and CILSS officials, and a few researchers. The draft document elicited lots of comments, and the conference concluded with several recommendations, including:

- The focus of the CILSS initiative should be on small- and medium-sized firms. The participants felt that the smallest (micro-enterprises) have little long-term growth potential, and the largest firms probably don't need CILSS help other than its work in helping create a favorable business climate.
- The proposed project needed to be redesigned to be more consistent with a sector program approach rather than a "classic" CILSS project.
- The background paper should be rewritten in light of a broad range of comments received.

One of my contributions was to put the CILSS team in touch with the broader UNIDO initiative on agro-industrialization in Africa, which is sponsoring a number of analyses (including a book) on the topic and is planning a high-level meeting with senior African leaders in Abuja in early May. Moussa Cissé, the director of the CILSS Markets program subsequently followed up with Patrick Kormawa of UNIDO who is leading that effort and has been invited to attend the Abuja conference. Cissé has requested that our Syngenta project support his travel to the Abuja conference, and Syngenta foundation officials subsequently approved our use of project resources for this purpose.

During the meeting in Dakar, I was also able to brief Moussa Cissé, Dramane Coulibaly and Alhousseini Brétadeau (the Executive Secretary) of CILSS on the plans for the Senegal-Mali border conference (described below), and they expressed CILSS's strong support for that effort.

***Needed follow-up:*** Nango Dembélé to inform Cissé of our agreement to support his travel to Abuja and Staatz to prepare MSU travel notification/authorization.

## *2.2 Work on the Senegal-Mali Border Conference*

**Note:** Abdramane Traoré of MSU's Bamako office has also submitted a trip report that outlines the activities of the Malian delegation that traveled to Senegal to also work on the border conference. This report adds complementary information to that contained in Mr. Traoré's report, which is included in Appendix 1.

This component of my work in Dakar was part of the effort of the USAID/Senegal-financed SAGIC IQC's Projet de Croissance Economic (PCE). The aim of the trip (and that of the Malian delegation) was to advance the planning for a Senegal-Mali border conference targeted at

facilitating trade between the two countries, primarily in agricultural products. PCE works closely with a working group of the Presidential Investment Committee (CPI) that focuses on improving Senegal's trade with ECOWAS countries; therefore, much of the interaction in Dakar was with the CPI working group. While in Dakar, I participated, along with PCE staff and the Malian delegation, in the meetings with the CPI working group executive committee and the full committee on January 21 and 22. Key outcomes of those meetings were agreements on: (a) holding the conference before May—most likely in the second half of April—in either Tambacounda or Kidira; (b) assuring strong participation of private-sector actors involved in the trade in the conference itself and in the conference planning; (c) creation of a Senegalese planning committee, headed by Amadou Dramé of the Chamber of Commerce, who will act as the focal point on the Senegalese side; Moussa Niang of the CSA/Market Information System will also be on the planning committee; (d) designation of Abdramane Traoré as the focal point on the Malian side for planning the conference; (e) sending a delegation of Senegalese to Mali with the next two months in order to work with Malian colleagues on the agenda for the conference; (f) having the conference focus primarily, but not exclusively, on the trade of agricultural products.

While in Dakar, I also had the following meetings to inform various potential partners about the planned conference and to solicit their support:

- Mr. Moustapha Ly, technical advisor in the Ministry of the Interior. Mr. Ly subsequently arranged meetings for me (on Jan. 22) with Birane Niang, Directeur du Cabinet of the Ministry of the Interior, who assured me of the support of the Ministry of the Interior. He then put me in touch with another technical advisor in the ministry, Mr. Momar Dramé, who will be the point of contact within the Ministry for the Senegalese planning committee. The contact information of all these individuals has been shared with PCE and with Amadou Dramé of the Chamber of Commerce, who has promised to follow up with them.
- Dr. Ndiobo Diene, Technical Advisor in the Ministry of Agriculture. This meeting was also attended by John Powers and the Malian delegation. Dr. Diene said that the Ministry of Agriculture would wholeheartedly support the border conference initiative. Amadou Dramé will also follow up with him.
- Moussa Cissé, the coordinator of the CILSS Regional Program on Market Access (who was attending the CILSS agro-industrialization conference). Mr. Cissé indicated that CILSS would strongly support the initiative, and that he would like to participate in the conference.
- Peter Trenchard, of USAID/Senegal. This meeting was held at the PCE offices, with John Powers and Jim Billings. The purpose was to brief Peter on progress to date in planning the border conference and the long-term objectives of the effort.

After leaving Senegal, I traveled to Mali to work with MSU's Mali-based team on several of our food security projects there. While in Mali, Abdramane Traoré, Nango Dembélé and I met (on January 26) with Kafougouna Koné, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Local Collectivities (the equivalent of Senegal's Ministry of the Interior) to brief him on the border conference and to solicit his support and suggestions. The Malian Prime Minister's office had suggested that this ministry be the focal point for contact with the Malian government regarding

the conference. Minister Koné expressed his support for the conference, but asked that we also contact other key ministries involved, such as Finance (which supervises the Customs Service), Transport, Agriculture, etc. Abdramane Traoré subsequently contacted the Malian Chambers of Agriculture (APCAM)—which was represented in the Malian delegation that came to Senegal—and arranged for the President of APCAM to write officially to the various Malian ministries involved to inform them of the initiative and to request their support.

***Needed follow-up:*** Abdramane Traoré to follow up with Amadou Dramé and Moussa Niang regarding planning by the Senegalese committee, including setting dates and an agenda for the visit by the Senegalese delegation to Mali (likely in March).

### **3. Activities in Mali (January 23-30)**

#### *3.1 Syngenta (SRAI) activities*

**Forum de Bamako.** The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Forum de Bamako is scheduled for February 16-20. This is an event organized by Dr. Abdoulah Coulibaly, the director of the Institut de Hautes Etudes en Management, a Bamako-based business school. It is a high-visibility public discussion of key development issues in Africa, and has over the years increasingly attracted high-profile speakers and the international press. The Prime Minister of Mali has agreed to serve as Chairperson of the event, with the report, papers, and conclusions of the forum going to the President (who is also holding a reception for the key speakers). Marco Ferroni, the Executive Director of the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, and Josué Dioné of UNECA are the main speakers on the session dealing with food security, and Dr. Coulibaly had written to Nango asking for a contribution from Nango and me. During my stay in Bamako:

1. Nango and I met with Dr. Coulibaly. As Nango and I had reviewed the program, we felt our strongest contribution would be in the area of food security. But given the limited time in the program for presentations, we suggested that rather than have a separate presentation ourselves, we provide input to Marco for his presentation. (We had earlier discussed this idea by e-mail with Marco.) Dr. Coulibaly agreed, but also asked Nango and me to prepare a paper with a fuller elaboration of our ideas, which would become part of the conference papers that will be circulated to all the participants and sent to the Presidency. We agreed.
2. Subsequently, Nango and I drafted a three-page set of notes on what we saw as some of the most important food policy issues that needed debate in West Africa, and sent it to Marco, who is using this list as background to his presentation.
3. Nango and I began drafting our paper for the conference, which we completed after I returned to East Lansing. We have sent the paper (« Sécurité alimentaire en Afrique de l'Ouest : Enjeux et Eléments Stratégique pour sa Réalisation ») to the conference organizers on February 2, and they have already circulated it to the conference participants.

The other main SRAI activities undertaken during my stay in Bamako were:

1. Writing and submitting the SRAI annual report, which was due on January 31.

2. Arranging for Boubacar Diallo to travel to Lomé on January 28-February 4 to attend an ECOWAS-sponsored meeting on implementation of the regional CAADP plan that had been approved in Abuja in November 2009. Continued engagement with ECOWAS on the CAADP program is an important outreach activity of SRAI.

***Needed follow-up:***

- Nango and John to draft a policy synthesis out of the Forum paper (once the format for PRESAO policy briefs is finalized).
- Revise Syngenta work plan by March 15, following a very positive review of the annual report by Syngenta Foundation (on Feb. 10).
- Continue to monitor requests from ECOWAS for our involvement in the next phase of the West Africa regional CAADP program.

### 3.2 *PROMISAM II*

Most of my time during the trip to Bamako was devoted to the PROMISAM II agenda with USAID/Mali. Key activities were the following:

#### **3.2.1 Senegal-Mali border conference**

As mentioned above, Nango, Abdramane Traoré and I met with the Malian Minister of the Interior to brief him on the plans for the border conference and to ask his suggestions and endorsement. He was very supportive. In subsequent discussions with Jean Harman and Halima Ouattara-Ayanou of USAID, Jean asked that we also coordinate with the Mali “*point focal*” of the *Observatoire des pratiques anormales*, a USAID-supported trade facilitation project under the West Africa Trade Hub in Accra. The OPA monitors trade barriers, including roadblocks, and has recently begun monitoring the Dakar-Bamako trade corridor. The Malian *point focal* is Cheickna Traoré at the Chamber of Commerce.

***Needed follow-up:***

- Abdramane and Nango to arrange to have the President of APCAM to write to the other ministries that the Minister of the Interior indicated needed to be informed about the organization of the border conference.
- Bamako-based PROMISAM staff (Abdramane or Nango) to contact Cheickna Traoré and brief him on the border conference and seek OPA participation.

#### **3.2.2 Meetings with USAID/Mali**

We had two very productive meetings at USAID/Mali with Jean Harman, Halima Ouattara, Gaoussou Traoré, and two new members of the Accelerated Economic Growth (AEG) team: Ralph Conley (who, among other things, is representing USAID at the PRMC meetings) and Karen Ramsey, the new deputy team leader of AEG. Key issues discussed included:

#### ***June USAID/Mali AEG Planning Meeting***

As a follow-up to the December, 2009, partners meeting in Bamako, Jean and her team are planning a brain-storming session, including at least one day with partners and one or more days internal, that would help in planning a major planned expansion of the AEG portfolio over the next two years. Jean very much wants MSU to participate, and has asked that we

help pull together studies and help prepare policy briefs on key issues that would help in the brainstorming process. She is also using the FSG “Lessons Learned” paper as background to her preparation of the discussions. The meeting will likely take place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June.

***Needed follow-up:***

- Reserve this week on the calendar for participation in the meeting
- Begin identifying key documents to make available to USAID
- Design ongoing research and outreach activities between now and June to be able to prepare short pieces that will be helpful to AEG in this process.

***Need to develop a public awareness campaign on meaning of food security***

In response to reported confusion among some local officials, who seemed to confound the notion of food security with cereals banks, PROMISAM agreed to discuss with the Communications Department of the Food Security Commissariat (CSA) the idea of focusing our planned public awareness campaign with them on clarifying the notion of food security. We agreed to work with the Communications Department in developing, via Malian communications firms, a series of TV sketches and radio broadcasts on the topic, along with participation in TV “magazines” on the topic. This activity would be launched in February, with broadcasts taking place starting in April at the latest.. We will also work with the communications department to have outreach to journalists on the concept of food security, including exploring the idea of offering a prize for the best article written on the concept of food security. Jean also has had the Staatz, Boughton, and Donovan book chapter on food security translated into French, which can also be used as part of the outreach effort. We also need to develop a policy synthesis out of this chapter.

***Needed follow-up:***

- PROMISAM to follow up with CSA communication’s department to develop budget for program and then contract with local firm for the production of the sketches (Done by early February)
- Contact, via the Communications Department, the ORTM regarding participating in the TV magazine.
- Work with the Communications Department to plan work with journalists, including the competition for the best food security article.
- Staatz, Boughton and Donovan: Verify French translation of book chapter and develop policy synthesis.

***Discussion of progress with IPR/IFRA***

We briefed USAID team on progress with IPR/IFRA and the planned trip of IPR/IFRA faculty to MSU and Université Laval. We also discussed other possible USAID support to IPR.

***Possibility of Summer Interns***

Jean mentioned that if we had specific tasks at IPR/IFRA or the SAP (see below) where a USAID summer intern would be helpful, she was open to working with us to get one or two MSU students in such positions, which the mission would fund. The interns could focus on things like helping get the IPR/IFRA library materials scanned and catalogued, or giving a short course on internet search techniques for students and faculty. Interns would have to be US citizens, and IPR would need to provide lodging. USAID would provide travel and

stipend. (Subsequent discussions with IPR indicated that the school could provide lodging, via rooms at the Center for Continuing Education [CFC]). Subsequent discussions with Jean Harman indicated that USAID might be able to accommodate student interns in the fall as well.

***Needed follow-up:***

- Campus-based faculty: Develop job descriptions for the interns to send to USAID/Mali
- Contact Steve Esquith (RCAH) for possible undergraduates and Scott Loveridge (AFRE) for possible grad students.

***Trip of the Food Security Commissioner to the US***

(See also section below on discussions with the CSA.) We discussed the planned study tour of the Commissioner and core staff to the Michigan and Washington, tentatively set for April 10-24. Jean suggested that the group be expanded to include several other key food policy decision makers in Mali, and she also indicated that she and Halima could likely participate (Jean for at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Washington). The focus of the trip would be largely on understanding the design of the US food safety net system and those of other countries (alternatives to exclusive reliance on cereals banks), the nature of seasonal inventory holding in the grain system, and the links between analytic programs and policy making. A total of 10 possible participants were identified: Mme. Lansry (the Commissioner), Mme. Dicko Bassa Diané (the head of the CSA's Département Promotion des Echanges—DPE), Mr. Tagalifi Maiga (the economist in DPE), Mme. Diallo Aïssata Traoré of the CSA's Département Planification et Suivi (and PROMISAM II's Point Focal within the CSA), Mr. Modibo Macalou (advisor the President), Mme. Sidibé Faty Dao (Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister), Mr. Oumar Traoré (Coordinator of the PRMC), Mr. Fousseyni Mariko (Director of the Cellule de Planification et de Statistique du Secteur du Développement Rural), Halima Ouattara-Ayanou (our AOTR from USAID/Mali) and (for the Washington portion), Jean Harman.

***Needed follow-up:***

- Campus-based and Bamako-based PROMISAM staff—develop terms of reference for trip.
- Nango: Confirm dates with CSA and other invitees
- Campus-based staff, in consultation with Bamako-based staff—Plan program both for East Lansing and Washington.
- Campus-based staff—Issue letters of invitation so that the participants can begin to get visas.

**3.2.3 USAID Reporting**

While in Mali, I worked with the team to complete a survey for the mission on Mali's progress in implementing its CAADP program (for the mission to report to a regional meeting in Accra in February), and we completed the PROMISAM II quarterly report, which was due at the end of January.

**3.2.4 Meeting at the CSA**

Nango, Duncan and I meet with Mme. Lansry, the Food Security Commissioner, to discuss with her several aspects of our collaboration with the CSA.

- She strongly endorsed the idea of a public information campaign with the Communications Department of CSA on the notion of food security. She is concerned that people are confusing the concept of long-term structural food security with instruments, such as cereal banks, designed to deal with short-term food insecurity.
- We informed her about the progress on the marketing studies, and she reiterated that she wanted empirical information from such studies to feed into a debate “without prior assumptions” about the best tools to achieve food security in Mali. She suggested holding a national workshop to synthesize results of a series of regional workshops the CSA held on local storage of cereals and the role of the “stocks de proximité” (how the cereal banks are now being viewed by the CSA). She suggested holding such a workshop with the Haut Conseil des Collectivités Locales, the highest-level consultative unit in government on local government, as she also sees the role of these local stocks as a governance issue.
- We discussed what she wanted to get out of the study tour to the US. She identified issues of the design of food safety nets, understanding more about where in the food system in the US the main inventories are held, and how the locus of food policy decisions in the US and how empirical analysis feeds into those decisions.

### **3.2.5 Meeting with IPR/IFRA Colleagues**

Nango and I met with several Fafré Samaké, Kardigué Coulibaly, Souleymane Kouyaté and Mamadou Diarra at the IPR Annex to discuss several issues with respect to the MSU-IPR collaboration in helping IPR develop its degree programs in agricultural economics. Key points discussed included:

#### ***Start of the licence program in Agroéconomie***

The first group of 30 students majoring in ag econ. began their studies on December 15. All the courses for the first year have begun except the history of economic thought (that course will start soon) and English. There was an initial delay in getting the English course taught, as they could not attract a University-level English professor at the rate they are authorized to pay for part-time staff (2000 FCFA/hour of class time). They have now identified a high-school English teacher from Koulikoro who will be teaching English. I raised the issue of also getting a Peace Corps volunteer assigned to IPR to teach English, and they were very interested. I subsequently put Fafré in touch with Peace Corps, and he requested placement of a volunteer at the school as an English teacher.

#### ***MSU-IPR Subcontract***

MSU needs to propose a draft subcontract to IPR to cover the project-supported local costs of the program. We agreed to use as a template the subcontract MSU had with IPR under our previous ALO-supported project with IPR.

***Needed follow-up:*** Staatz needs to draft the subcontract and send it to IPR for review  
***c. Computer needs.*** IPR needs additional computers for the program, and we agreed to move ahead with purchase of 40 computers that were budgeted in the original proposal for purchase in year 1. We agreed that the PROMISAM office will purchase these

computers locally based on the specifications provided by IPR. This will allow the purchase to take place more quickly than if we waited for the subcontract to be finalized.

***Needed follow-up:***

- PROMISAM office to get specifications for machines from IPR and get bids.
- Nango to get a special imprest advance to cover cost of purchasing the machines.
- Buy machines, record serial numbers, and deliver to IPR.
- IPR to handle installation (?)

***Vehicle purchase***

We also agreed to move forward with the bus purchase for IPR, as described in the original project proposal. IPR colleagues reiterated the request they had made previously in December for a 4x4 vehicle for faculty involved in the program. I subsequently relayed this request to Jean Harman, but she said the mission would not support this request. She felt that this should be covered by IPR itself.

***Needed follow-up:***

- PROMISAM to review bus specifications with IPR
- Get bids, including comparing costs and delivery times via UN system and local purchase
- Purchase and deliver bus

***Other USAID support for IPR***

USAID seems disposed to provide other infrastructure support to IPR, including a wireless internet connection and some physical facilities. Fafré was planning to meet with Jean Harman to discuss these possibilities.

***Professional Masters Program***

Fafré said that he would like to see the professional masters program in agricultural economics start in Bamako in October. He has asked Kouyaté to develop a business plan for this. Related to this will be developing a marketing campaign to publicize the program.

***Needed follow-up:***

- During Abdoul Murekezi's visit to Bamako in March, review proposed program to begin developing detailed course content.
- Once available, provide feedback to business plan.

***Activity Manager***

We discussed the idea that Scott Loveridge had raised in December that IPR appoint someone as a program manager, whose full-time responsibility would be to help build the program, including serving as the contact point between MSU and IPR, building internships, etc. They all agreed that this needed to be done.

***Needed follow-up:*** Follow up with IPR on identification of someone to play this role.

***IPR faculty visit to MSU and Laval***

We discussed objectives of the trip. Kouyaté identified three priorities for the trip: learning more about the content of different courses at MSU and Laval, learning how the two universities go about evaluation of student performance, and seeing how MSU

develops links with private firms. We agreed that the timing of the visit would include some overlap with the visit of the CSA delegation to MSU during the week of April 12. Kouyaté agreed to prepare draft terms of reference for the trip, which MSU would review and send back comments as part of the process of developing the program for the trip.

***Needed follow-up:***

- MSU faculty need to meet to review Kouyaté's draft terms of reference (received on Feb. 9) and send comments, including draft dates and a draft program.
- MSU needs to contact Laval faculty to arrange visit
- As soon as dates are set, PROMISAM needs to confirm dates with Katibougou staff and write letters of invitation so that they can start procedures to obtain US and Canadian visas.

***Need for short-courses***

We discussed IPR's need for short-courses/modules that could be provided by MSU graduate students and/or faculty.

- One of IPR's top priorities would be a course (for faculty as well as students) on use of the internet for research—something along the lines of Larry Hamm's FIM 424: Information and Market Intelligence in the Agri-Food Industry.
- They were also very open to the concept of a lecture series on "key concepts in economics" and an invited lecture series, with the idea that written summaries and/or filming of the series could be used in subsequent teaching as well.
- Other short-courses can be indentified during the IPR visit to campus, although it would be good to try to identify these short-course needs before April in order to help MSU grad students begin to prepare if they are to teach these during summer 2010.

***Needed follow-up:***

- Staatz to check with Hamm to identify student who might be able to work with him to develop two-week version of his course for presentation at IPR/IFRA
- MSU campus-based faculty to identify other possible course modules MSU grad students could offer in summer 2010 and discuss these with IPR colleagues, then move forward with implementation if agreement is reached.

***Creation of a Malian Agricultural Economics Association***

We also discussed the desirability of creating a Malian Agricultural Economics Association, which could co-sponsor a lecture series at IPR, serve as general support for the program, and create a forum for broader professional discussion and development for agricultural economists in the country. The initial survey of the supply of agricultural economists in Mali, done as background to developing the IPR/IFRA ag. econ. program, could serve as the basis for contacting potential members. Pursuing this could be an activity of the IPR/IFRA ag. econ. program manager.

***IPR candidates for graduate training at MSU***

PROMISAM II has funds allocated for 2 IPR/IFRA staff members to pursue master's degrees at MSU. I discussed the following issues with the two identified candidates and with Fafré Samaké:

- Jacob Coulibaly, who has undergraduate training from the ex-USSR in agronomy. He provided me additional material for his application (list of publications and research projects), which I forwarded to Scott Loveridge. We also discussed and he agreed to Scott's suggestion that he initially come to MSU as a Visiting Scholar, which will allow us time to get all his academic documents from his school in the ex-USSR before beginning his formal academic program. While at MSU as a Visiting Scholar, he can take English courses and enroll in other courses under Lifelong Education. I suggested that he come in April, in advance of the start of ELC courses on May 17, so that he could participate in the visit of the IPR faculty members to MSU.
- Abdramane Berthé, who is currently a macroeconomist at the Central Bank, but who also teaches in the faculty of economics at the University of Bamako. Fafre met with him and agreed that if Berthé signed a letter of commitment to teach at IPR upon his return to Mali, he could be one of the graduate students supported under the IPR component. Berthé has subsequently applied for the Ph.D. program at MSU (he holds a master's in Economics from the University of Abidjan). Berthé was one of the Malian consultants who did much of the economic analysis for Mali's CAADP plan, and I believe he would be a strong student. We can start him under the master's funding from PROMISAM II and then find subsequent funding to cover the rest of his Ph.D. program.

***Needed follow-up:***

- Based on materials received, MSU (Loveridge?) needs to write to Coulibaly, inviting him to MSU as a visiting scholar. Need to check with ISP regarding any visa issues if he subsequently shifts into a degree program.
- Need to review Berthé's application and make a decision on his admission.

### **3.2.6 Meeting with Peace Corps regarding collaboration on local food security monitoring**

Nango, Duncan and I met with Kristine Hoffer and Karim Sanogo of Peace Corps/Mali, who are coordinating the Peace Corps food security initiative, which is being implemented jointly with PROMSAM II and the USAID/Mali financed Shared Governance Program (PGP2)

- Kris described to us the structure of the planned Peace Corps program and how she saw it interacting with the PROMISAM. At the national level, PC has three volunteers (who have dubbed themselves the "Food Security Trifecta") who will help coordinate the program:
  - Becky Kazowitz, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year volunteer, who will work on a "food security toolkit" –analytic tools for the PCVs working on the project
  - Ali Paulson, a 1<sup>st</sup> year volunteer, who will coordinate work on Monitoring and Evaluation
  - David Koh, a 1<sup>st</sup> year volunteer, who will focus on the communication program.

This national structure will be replicated in each of the 5 regions where Peace Corps works (Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou, and Mopti)

- Peace Corps has identified a Peace Corps Response (former 3<sup>rd</sup> year) volunteer, Kevin ???, who would work 6 months as a liaison between Peace Corps/Mali and PROMISAM. The volunteer just finished 3 years in Burkina Faso, where he

helped create a network of volunteers interested in food security projects. He will be work out of the Peace Corps Bamako office, but may spend 1-2 days per week at the PROMISAM office. We also discussed how he can contribute to our other program activities, depending on his skills (e.g., computer skills). There will also be volunteers working as liaisons with two other USAID-funded projects involved in the Peace Corps Food Security program (PGP2 and IICFM, an Abt-Associates project focused on value chain development).

- Kris promised to post to a website a PowerPoint presentation she has developed on the Peace Corps Food Security Program.
- We also discussed the possibility of posting one or more PCVs to Katibougou to teach English and/or computer skills. Karim subsequently followed up with Fafré Samaké, who filled out a request for such volunteers. Since Peace Corps will be expanding substantially in Mali in the next two years, there will be increasing opportunities for such placements of volunteers.
- Kris and Karim promised to send representatives/volunteers to the PROMISAM-organized training session planned for early February in Segou on monitoring the implementation of local food security plans.

***Needed follow-up:***

- Once Kris's PPT is available, share it with James Allen, MSU student who has applied to work with the Mali Peace Corps food security program.
- MSU to coordinate/follow up with PC and IPR regarding placement of volunteers at the school.
- Staatz to send Kris and Karim links to the grain marketing teaching modules developed under the PASIDMA project, for use by the volunteers.

### **3.2.7 Meeting with the SAP (Système d'Alerte Précoce)**

The SAP, Mali's food crisis early warning system, is one of the government services attached to the CSA. Nango and I met with Mary Diallo, the director, to discuss SAP requests for material and technical assistance in the context of PROMISAM II's support to the CSA and its affiliated services. The SAP has already received two notebook computers from PROMISAM II as part of the purchase of equipment in 2009 for the CSA and its affiliated services.

#### ***Equipment requests***

Mr. Diallo said that the SAP's most immediate equipment needs were two computer video projectors and some video cameras to record activities in the regions. (He would ultimately like 8 video-cameras—1 per region, but we told him we we could provide that many). Eventually, the SAP needs 6 more notebook computers. We told Diallo that our current budget did not cover further computers for the SAP beyond those provided via the CSA in 2009. Fortunately, none of the computers destined for the SAP were among those stolen from the CSA in 2009.

#### ***Technical assistance and software***

SAP has the following training needs:

- Document management (particularly electronic document management). This is already included in the 2010 PROMISAM II work plan (training to be carried out jointly with IPR/IFRA librarians)
- Use of SPSS for analysis. The SAP also need 5 legitimate copies of SPSS.
- The SAP also has a program that is used to estimate how vulnerable a given commune is to food insecurity, based on several variables. They got this “Expert Systems” model through some European assistance several years ago, but it is essentially a black box to the SAP analysts. It was last updated in 1997. They would like some technical assistance in understanding and being able to manage and update the model or decide if some other tool is more appropriate.
- SAP is very open to hosting one or more MSU grad students to work with it on analysis, particularly if the student could provide training at the same time in SPSS, other computer skills, and analysis techniques. The SAP database could then be used as part of the students’ thesis. Discussions with USAID/Mali indicated that the mission was also open to having an MSU student as a summer intern work with the SAP.

***Needed follow-up:***

- PROMISAM II staff to get estimates of costs of purchasing projectors and cameras in Mali. MSU campus-based staff to get estimates of costs of purchase in US; based on comparison, make decision and purchase.
- MSU campus-based staff to get estimate of cost of buying 5 copies of SPSS base package for SAP and proceed with purchase if price is reasonable.
- MSU to identify a trainer for SPSS for SAP. This training could be in conjunction with training for IPR/IFRA staff and students.
- MSU to identify a possible technical assistant/consultant on training for document management. PROMISAM II to check with Ibrahim Djiré of UNDP about any local consultants who could do this.
- MSU to identify possible consultants/grad students to work with SAP on the computer vulnerability model.

**3.2.8 Meeting with Souleymane Ouattara of CPS-DR on CAADP follow-up**

Nango, Halima Ouattara-Ayanou (our AOTR from USAID/Mali) and I met with Souleymane Ouattara, the head of the planning department of the CPS-Rural Development, which is the agency in charge of designing the implementation of Mali’s CAADP agenda. Now that the CAADP compact has been signed, the CPS is in charge of developing the detailed investment sub-plans for the national agricultural sector plan (PNISA) that was approved, in its broad outlines, at the national CAADP roundtable in October 2009. The CSA has created working groups for each subprograms and is taking the material from the CAADP diagnostic study and the Revue Sectoriel to develop investment plans by for each priority sub-area. They also are planning to design monitoring and evaluation systems into each subprogram, which means identifying appropriate indicators, including food security indicators, to include in the plans. The intent is to also work closely with the local governments in developing the investment plans so that they are consistent with local food security plans, communal economic and social development plans, and the new PDCAP (Programmes de Développement Communal d’Agriculture et de Protection de l’Environnement), which are being developed with support from the World Bank. These PDCAP currently exist for 50

communes. All this planning and integration will be a time-consuming process. Mr. Ouattara says that the entire process for the whole country will extend through 2011. CPS will be recruiting two experts to work with it on the process, in the framework of the move to a sectoral planning approach.

Mr. Ouattara identified the following areas where the CPS needs assistance, and wanted to explore how much of this could come via PROMISAM II

- Developing monitoring tools and approaches to make sure that appropriate food security indicators are included in the PNSIA
- Disaggregation of the CGE model to do more detailed analysis of the impacts of alternative investment patterns. Disaggregation would be by activity and geographical area.
- Purchasing a copy of GAMS software for the CGE analysis. Currently the work is being done on a “borrowed” copy of the software.
- In-service and eventually longer-term training of CPS staff in various areas of economic analysis and software use.
- Creation of a computing unit within the CPS. He saw the needs as both equipment and training.
- Development of a documentation and communication unit within CPS. He said that the CPS needed to develop a more systematic library (including of electronic documents) concerning all the different development initiatives in Mali, databases, etc.

We agreed to provide the GAMS software and provide help on the disaggregation of the model. The modeling is being done by Abdramane Berthé, the candidate for graduate training at MSU under the IPR project, so this would be an activity that could feed directly into his dissertation research as well. We will also explore with USAID/Mali to what degree we can respond to these other requests. Mr. Ouattara is open to receiving MSU grad students to work with the CPS on the development of the analyses going into the PNISA. This could offer some excellent research opportunities, as the CPS is the center for agricultural statistics and planning in Mali and are at the center of developing Mali’s national agricultural investment plans.

***Needed follow-up:***

- MSU to purchase a copy of the GAMS base package for the CPS.
- MSU to follow up with Kofi Nouve about arranging for his colleague from Burkina to work with Berthé on disaggregation of the model.
- Consider including CPS staff in planned training for SAP and IPR/IFRA on management of electronic resources.
- MSU to discuss, first among ourselves, and then with USAID/Mali, possible additional technical support to the CPS.

### *3.3 Other Activities*

While in Mali, I also carried out the following other activities:

- Nango, Valerie Kelly and I wrote a draft policy synthesis (in French) on key policy conclusions that came out of the World Bank financed RuralStruc study that was jointly

carried out in 2007-08 by IER, CIRAD, and MSU. The policy bulletin is one of five being produced for a major outreach event in Mali (likely in March) on Rural Struct. We had earlier provided comments on drafts of the other 4 policy syntheses produced by our CIRAD colleagues. Based on our draft, Jean-Jacques Gabas, who is working as a consultant to CIRAD, produced a revised version of our policy synthesis.

- Nango and I met with Dirck Minshew of ACIDI VOCA, who was in Mali gathering information for ACIDI-VOCA's bid (along with Booz-Allen-Hamilton) for the next phase of FEWSNET. We said that MSU was not, to our knowledge, partnering with any group on an exclusive basis for the next phase of FEWSNET, but would be willing to cooperate with whomever won the bid. We provided him with contacts in Mali and ideas that we believed ought to be included in the next phase of FEWSNET.
- Nango and I discussed our participation in the planned Market Information System (MIS) conference being planned by Johnny Egg and Franck Galtier for Montpellier on March 29-31. We agreed to participate and to co-sponsor the conference through our Hewlett Foundation project on MIS.
- Discussed briefly with Duncan and Margaret Beaver, who was also in Mali, the strategy for cleaning the data from round 1 of the market-level surveys. Because Sibe Thiam did not know SPSS prior to Margaret's arrival, the training/cleaning went slowly, resulting in a need for our request to Margaret to focus directly on data cleaning herself (and ultimately, scheduling a second visit back to Mali) in order to get the data cleaned before the second round of data collection is completed. This discussion emphasized to me the need to build up local SPSS capacity in our project. Abdoul Murekezi can perhaps play some role here, but we will probably need further training of staff and colleagues in Mali if we are to be able to fully exploit the data we and others are collecting.

#### **4. Concluding Remarks**

AFRE's West Africa Food Security portfolio has an extremely ambitious agenda in the coming months. The opportunities for broader engagement of our faculty and graduate students in research, capacity building and outreach that are very closely linked to immediate policy applications are tremendous. The openness of our Malian colleagues to having MSU faculty and grad students as partners offers rare opportunities to be at the center of some very important policy analyses and policy debates. The challenge for AFRE's FSG will be to be organized enough and have enough (or be able to attract enough) human resources to respond in a timely fashion. If we can do that, the financial resources to carry out the work will probably not be a major constraint over the next couple of years.

**Appendix 1: Trip Report by Abdramane Traoré on the Malian Delegation's Travel to  
Dakar**

## **Rapport de mission**

Suivant ordre de mission n°000011/SG-APCAM du 12 janvier 2010,

EL Hadji Tamboura, Conseiller Technique APCAM  
Souleymane Nimaga, Opérateur économique Bamako  
Dramane Diarra, Opérateur économique Ségou  
Abdramane Traoré, PROMISAM

avons effectué une mission à Dakar (République de Sénégal) du 17 au 24 janvier 2010. La mission avait pour objet de préparer la rencontre de frontière Mali – Sénégal.

Le 19 janvier 2010, la mission a rencontré le responsable de l'équipe chaîne de valeur du projet de croissance économique (PCE) de l'USAID Sénégal.

Après une brève présentation des différentes équipes qui compose le PCE, il a précisé que son équipe dans la réalisation de sa mission envisage d'exécuter un certain nombre d'activités dont entre autres l'appui au développement moderne du corridor Mali – Sénégal. Ainsi pour la fluidification des échanges sur ce corridor la conférence de frontière a été retenue parmi les stratégies envisagées pour atteindre cet objectif.

La délégation a à son tour expliqué les raisons de sa visite qui se résument, compte tenu de son expérience, à l'identification et aux démarches auprès des personnes et organisations sénégalaises indiquées pour la préparation de la conférence de frontière Mali – Sénégal.

Après ses présentations des échanges de vision ont été réalisées et un programme a été proposé à la délégation. Conformément à ce programme la mission a :

- Le 21 la mission rencontré l'équipe de coordination de la sous commission chargée du développement des échanges avec les pays du Comité Présidentiel d'Investissement (PCI) qui est le partenaire de la composante chaîne de valeur du PCE/USAID. La rencontre, qui a porté sur les visions de la préparation de la conférence de frontière, s'est déroulée en présence du chef de l'équipe PCE/USAID et du responsable de l'équipe chaîne de valeur du PCE/USAID.
- Le 22 la mission participé à la rencontre hebdomadaire du groupe des échanges avec les pays du CPI. L'ordre du jour a porté exclusivement sur l'organisation de la conférence de frontière Mali – Sénégal. Après le mot de bienvenue adressé aux missionnaires par le Président du groupe CPI et les présentations, la délégation malienne a informé de la raison de sa visite qui n'est autre qu'un partage de vue sur la bonne organisation de la conférence de frontière Mali - Sénégal. Elle a narré les étapes suivies lors de la préparation de la conférence Guinée – Mali qui pourrait servir d'exemple. D'autres expériences, toutes ayant pour objectif la facilitation des échanges ont été exposées, il s'agit entre autres les bourses régionales des céréales, le lobby auprès des autorités pour la réduction des entraves etc... Après les débats il a été arrêté ce qui suit :

- 1- La constitution par le CPI d'un groupe restreint chargé de l'organisation de la conférence, côté sénégalais. La mission a recommandé qu'un responsable du SIM/CSA fasse partie de ce groupe compte tenu du fait qu'ils sont en contact permanent avec les opérateurs économiques. Ce groupe aura en charge :
  - l'information des haute autorités des ministères ayant sous leur tutelle les agents chargés de la gestion des frontières qui sont la gendarmerie, la douane, la police, les eaux et forêt, les services phytosanitaires afin que ceux-ci puissent participer à la rencontre,
  - l'identification et l'information sur la tenue de la conférence de frontière des opérateurs économiques sénégalais évoluant sur l'axe Mali – Sénégal tout en sollicitant leur pleine implication pour sa réussite qui constitue un gage à la réduction des entraves à leurs activités,
  - la production, conjointement avec les organisateurs côté malien, des documents de la conférence.
- 2- Le mois d'avril a été retenu pour tenue de la conférence, la date serait fixée après concertation.
- 3- La mission a beaucoup insisté sur la forte implication des opérateurs économiques, qui constituent l'un des principaux acteurs, dans le processus.

La mission a par ailleurs rencontré les responsables des organisations des marchands de bétail de Dakar, le 18 ; de Tambacounda le 22 et de Kayes, le 23 janvier 2010.

Lors de ces rencontres la mission leur a informé de la tenue très prochainement d'une conférence de frontière entre le Mali et le Sénégal.

La mission leur a expliqué que la conférence, qui réunira les opérateurs économiques des deux pays évoluant sur l'axe Dakar - Bamako, les services en charge de la gestion de l'axe, les autorités administratives et politiques de part et d'autre de la frontière, a pour objectif d'aplanir les difficultés rencontrées par les opérateurs le long de l'axe. Ils ont tous salué la démarche qu'ils ont trouvée originale. Ils pensent tous qu'une telle rencontre pourrait solutionner les problèmes, généraux et multiformes, auxquels ils sont permanemment confrontés dans l'exercice de leurs activités et qu'ils répondraient tous présents le jour « J » si toutefois le choix porterait sur eux pour prendre part à la rencontre. Les opérateurs de Tambacounda ont souhaité que la rencontre se tienne à Kidira première ville, frontalière sénégalaise, disposant d'infrastructure pouvant abriter une telle rencontre.

Le chef de l'exécutif de Tambacounda, joint par téléphone, a fortement apprécié l'initiative à laquelle il adhère pleinement. Selon lui tous les services concernés relevant de son autorité participeront de manière effective à la rencontre qu'il espère permettrait de résoudre la plupart des incompréhensions existant entre les opérateurs et les agents chargés de la gestion du corridor en général et de la frontière en particulier.

Bamako, le 27 janvier 2010

La mission