

## Michigan State University: Food Security III Cooperative Agreement Increasing the Impact of the Research of INSAH and its West African Partners by Making it More Accessible via the Internet

The INSAH/MSU project has three objectives for FY 07 focused on the development of the INSAH website ([www.insah.org](http://www.insah.org)):

- Make INSAH data bases and research reports easily accessible through its website
- Improve the capacity of INSAH's staff to maintain the website
- Provide training for researchers, policy analysts, and other stakeholders in the use of the improved website.

Increasing the impact of research conducted by INSAH and its W. African partners can contribute to enhanced productivity of smallholder-based agriculture, improved policy environment, improved natural resources management and biodiversity, and improved water supply and sanitation, depending on the research results that are made more available via the Internet.

Accomplishments from October 2006 – September 2007 included:

- Completion of programming for (a) the socio-demographic and economic profile database and (b) the decentralized updating of the expertise and document data bases.
- Purchase of hardware (scanner, server, and projector). The new server has been installed at AFRIBONE, a Bamako-based Internet Service Provider. To date, the scanner has been used to scan an additional 272 documents.
- INSAH/MSU/DASC teams have conducted formal presentations on the use of the INSAH website at NARS in Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso and also for a group of 40 professionals attending INSAH's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. During the year over 100 persons (primarily NARS researchers and university professors) have been introduced to the INSAH website, AGORA, and the Food Security Information Portal through INSAH presentations. In addition, FAO has added a formal link from their technology website to INSAH's site.
- Research and library staff at INSAH (10), IER (7), IPR de Katibougou (6) and INERA (15) have been trained in decentralized updating of the expertise data bases that contain researcher vitae and descriptions of technologies and/or decentralized posting of documents to the website.
- The document data base (e-library) has been expanded to include non-INSAH publications and now contains 878 documents (175 new references added this year, most of which have the full document available in electronic form).
- In response to a need expressed by the USAID/WA-funded WACIP project for a site providing "one-stop-shopping" for documents on cotton sector development and policies, INSAH offered to develop a cotton thematic library within its overall document data base. MSU assisted INSAH by testing the decentralized procedures for posting cotton documents and contributing a variety of their own working papers as well as links to work by other organizations such as FARM, the World Bank the European Union and Oxfam, which are active in cotton research of relevance to W. Africa. INSAH trained library personnel at IER (July) and at INERA (September) to post their institute's reports and publications. To date, IER has posted approximately 30 documents, giving priority to documents for the cotton library. INERA is expected to begin posting documents as soon as a letter of understanding between INSAH and INERA is signed.
- Both IER and INERA have been enthusiastic about the prospects of posting their reports and publications on the INSAH website. Interestingly, neither institution sees any problem with posting documents on INSAH's website so long as their institution is clearly identified in the listing. This has been accomplished by attaching an institutional logo to each document as shown below:

	ISN: 2134	Year: 2003
	Document title:	Mise au point de méthodes de lutte intégrée économique contre les adventices du cotonnier : projet
	Document author:	Collectif author: Institut d'Economie Rurale. Programme Coton, Sikasso(ML)
	Details on:	

MSU received a no-cost extension for the project through December 2007, which will provide time for INERA to add documents to the site. Although we are pleased with the progress and the enthusiastic response to the website, much work remains if other NARS are to be trained in the use and decentralized management of the website and if those who have already been trained are to rapidly do the data entry needed to add more publications. For this work to continue, INSAH and its NARS partners will need some financial support for training missions, data entry, and scanning of documents .