

Commissariat à la Sécurité  
Alimentaire (CSA)

PASIDMA/APCAM/MSU

USAID-Mali



Support Project for the Implementation of a National Food  
Security Strategy (SNSA)

**Progress Report**  
October 2004 - January 2005

Bamako, January 18, 2005

## Title

Support project to the Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire (CSA) (*Food Security Commission*) for the Implementation of the National Food Security Strategy (SNSA).

## Implementing Agency

Michigan State University (MSU) is carrying out the project through the Food Security III Cooperative Agreement between USAID and MSU. APCAM and CSA act as joint supervising institutions in Mali.

## Objectives and components

The support project for the implementation of the SNSA, carried out by MSU, APCAM and CSA, is financed by USAID for one year, from October 2004 to September 2005, and has three essential objectives. They are:

1. To support CSA in establishing and supporting the SNSA's coordinating institutions at the national, regional and *cercle* level and to help at least 2 regions and 3 *cercles* develop, in a participatory manner, their local food security plans.
2. To assist the CSA, in collaboration with the national committee for food security policy coordination, in the second revision of the SNSA and the development of an action plan for its implementation and its follow-up/evaluation;
3. To help the CSA create and support its documentation center.

The project's operational objectives are:

- To establish the project;
- To establish and support, at a technical level, the SNSA's coordinating institutions at the national, regional and *cercle* level,
- To support the CSA in evaluating the SNSA,
- To create and support a documentation center for the CSA.

## Objective 1: Starting the project's activities

The activities planned for the realization of this objective are:

- To start the project's activities,
- To meet with the various partners in order to plan the project's activities.

The following activities have been completed:

### **Starting the project:**

- ' The project's activities began on October 1, 2004;

### **Meeting with partners:**

For a greater synergy between the project and USAID's major programs as well as other programs related to food security, we have met during October and November with:

- ' Trade Mali
- ' Mali Finance
- ' Mali Production (PRODEPAM)
- ' USAID/Mali's Governance team
- ' USAID/Mali's Health/Nutrition Team and two NGOs responsible for the implementation of its program (CARE/Mali and A.T.N.)
- ' The Health Ministry's nutrition work group
- ' World Vision
- ' PRMC's technical secretariat.
- ' SAP and OMA

During these talks, we discussed a methodology for ensuring close cooperation and synergy between PASIDMA's activities and our activities (for example, identification of their intervention regions, their partners, NGOs etc, in order to involve them in the development of the local plans for food security).

## Objective 2: Setting up and technical support of the SNSA's coordination institutions

The activities planned for the realization of this objective are:

- L A workshop to update the commission's staff on food security concepts,
- L Assisting 2 regions and 3 *cercles* in developing their food security plan
- L Training of trainers
- L Monitoring and follow-up missions by PASIDMA and the CSA.

The following activities were carried out:

### Workshop to update the commission's staff on food security concepts:

- ' Workshop to update the commission's and affiliated structures' staff on food security concepts, held October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004 at the CSA.

### Assisting 2 regions and 3 *cercles*:

- ' Mini workshop held November 17<sup>th</sup> 2004 at the CSA to chose the regions and *cercles*. Following this workshop, the regions of Sikasso and Gao were selected. The *cercles* will be selected during regional workshops;
- ' Missions to prepare the regional workshops held in Gao December 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and in Sikasso from January 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. During these missions, potential participants for the regional workshops were identified, workshops' dates were set (Gao, 1<sup>st</sup> week of February, Sikasso, last week of February, 2005) and everyone's responsibilities were defined.

### Training of trainers:

- ' Creation of a training guide and manual
- ' On December 29-30, 2004, representatives for the projects participated in a meeting to plan the departments and affiliated structures' activities for 2005.

### Objective 3 : Supporting the CSA in evaluating the SNSA's five-year plan

The activities planned for the realization of this objective are:

- To revise the five-year food security plan using secondary data and rapid reconnaissance,
- To propose an implementation plan and performance indicators for the monitoring of the five-year plan.,
- A workshop to validate the evaluations,
- A donors' roundtable.

The activities for this objective are planned starting in June, 2005

### Objective 4 : Creating and supporting the CSA's documentation center

The activities planned for the realization of this objective are:

- Training the manager of the center,
- Providing equipment to the center (computers, other equipment (e.g., shelving) and office supplies),
- Establishing partnerships with similar centers in Africa, Europe and the USA,
- Supporting the center in distributing information at the national, regional and local level.

Because the documentation center does not yet have a location, our involvement in this activity has been limited to providing input in the choice of the librarian.

As part of the support of the CSA's staff, in addition to the planned activities, the project coordinated the participation of the CSA's communication department head in a conference organized by the CTA in Maputo, Mozambique, November 8- 12, 2004. The topic of the conference was: "The Role of Information and Communication Tools in Food and Nutritional Security Achievement in ACP Countries".

Considering the exceptional agricultural events in 2004/2005, characterized by a locust infestation and a short rainy season, USAID requested MSU's participation in finding strategies to reduce the effects of these events. Thus, Valerie Kelly and Mbaye Yade, both from MSU, were designated to address this request.

The activities planned for the realization of this objective are:

- L** Helping the CSA compile and distribute consistent information regarding the evolution of the food situation to all actors;
- L** Identifying intervention approaches aimed at addressing acute food insecurity and that contribute at the same time to the achievement of long-term, structural food security;
- L** Discuss with the SAP and the PAM how to develop suitable methods to follow-up and evaluate the impacts of emergency aid.

The following activities were carried out:

**Development and distribution of the "Flash" information bulletin about the food situation:**

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- ' The first issue of "Flash" was published on November 15, 2005. Its publication was suspended due to the commissioner's orders

**Identification of intervention approaches:**

- ' Several meetings were held with the CSA, the DNSI, the DNA, the SAP and the CILSS to encourage a technical meeting (planned for January 2005) in order to develop a "consensual" cereals balance sheet report
- ' The methodological workshop (see objective #2 above) identified the need to develop options to improve food security other than free food distribution (e.g. Food for Work) as a major task for CSA. The commissioner adopted this approach during her presentations of the SNSA in Mopti and Gao in December 2004.

**Work on developing methods for monitoring and evaluation of the free distributions:**

- ' Discussions with the PRMC technical staff in order to ensure better coordination between this team and CSA in the planning and the implementation of future emergency actions.
- ' Discussions with SAP, FEWS, PAM, GTZ and a PRMC consultant on the current monitoring/evaluation methods for free distributions and the identification of possible improvements.