

<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 (PROMISAM)</p> <p>MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY</p>
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PROMISAM

PROJECT TO MOBILIZE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES IN MALI

(Projet de Mobilisation des Initiatives en Matière de Sécurité Alimentaire)

http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mali_fd_strtgy/index.htm

Quarterly Activity Report October - December 2005

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Contacts:

In Mali: BPE 2906, Bamako, ACI 2000, Mali:

Niama Nango Dembélé (dembele@msu.edu; tel. 223-222-3419)

Abdramane Traoré (traore_abdramane@yahoo.fr; tel. 223-222-3419)

In the USA:

Dept of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University

East Lansing, Michigan, 48824-1309

John Staatz (staat@msu.edu; tel. 1-517-355-1519)

Introduction

PROMISAM's goal is to help support Mali in the implementation of its national food security strategy, or SNSA, through collaborative efforts with the *Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire* (CSA, or Food Security Commission) in the Office of the President. The 2005/06 PROMISAM work plan has 3 objectives:

1. Help local communities (communes, *cercles*, and regions) develop their own local-level food security plans. This objective is achieved through training of trainers (mayors, NGO members, other members of civil society) in concepts of food security and in food security planning. They in turn return to their home communities and work with the local populations to develop the local plans. During 2005/06, this effort will focus on completing the process begun in year 1 of the project in the Gao and Sikasso regions and extending it into the regions of Kayes, Kidal, Mopti, and Tombouctou. Included in this effort will be helping the CSA to develop appropriate food security indicators to monitor the current food security situation in the country (*tableau de bord*) and measure the impact of the implemented plans.
2. Strengthen the CSA's Communication and Information Service's outreach efforts.
3. Work with the market information system (*Observatoire du marché agricole*, or OMA) and the early warning system (*Système d'alerte précoce*, or SAP) to improve the timeliness and assure the quality of their publications on the food situation in Mali.

Achievements during the Period October 1 – December 31, 2005

Activities and achievements for the quarter are described below in terms of the objectives and intermediate results listed in PROMISAM's 2005/06 work plan (available at:

http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mali_fd_strtgy/PROMISAM_WorkPlan_yr2_08_05_final.pdf)

Objective 1: Development of Local Food Security Plans

Activities under this objective focused on completing the local plan development process in the Gao and Sikasso regions begun in year 1 of the project and starting the process in the Mopti and Tombouctou regions.

Result 1.1: Training of trainers

- In the Sikasso region, the project held the final sessions to train trainers in those *cercles* that were not covered in year 1 of the project. This training took place from Oct. 1-Oct. 11 in the *cercles* of Kolodièba, Kadiolo, and Bougouni:
 - Training of 60 trainers in the *cercle* of Kolondièba (12 women and 48 men), from 14 communes;
 - Training of 54 trainers in the *cercle* of Kadiolo (6 women and 48 men) from 12 communes;
 - Training of 98 trainers in the *cercle* of Bougouni (19 women and 79 men) from 26 communes.

- PROMISAM and the CSA carried out an initial mission to the Mopti and Tombouctou regions during the period December 19-25 to contact local officials, explain the joint CSA/PROMISAM approach to the development of local food security plans, and solicit their support. The mission was very well received, and the CSA/PROMISAM team, in conjunction with local officials, carried out the initial planning of the training of trainers sessions that will be carried out during the first quarter of 2006.

Result 1.2: Development of Food Security Plans at the Commune, Cercle, and Regional Levels

During this quarter, the project provided technical support to ongoing development of commune- and *cercle*-level plans in the Gao and Sikasso regions, culminating in the completion of the local and regional-level plans for the Gao region.

Specific activities included:

- ✓ Technical support from September to November 2005 for the development of the food security plans of the communes and the *cercles* of the Gao region;
- ✓ Holding of the *cercle*-level synthesis workshops in the Gao region to review the commune-level plans and develop the *cercle*-level plans (September and October 2005);
- ✓ Holding of the regional workshop to synthesize the *cercle*-level plans and develop the regional plan for Gao (November 19-22, 2005).
- ✓ Technical support for the ongoing development of the commune, the *cercle* and regional plans for the Sikasso region.

Intermediate result achieved:

All the commune, *cercle*, and regional food security plans for the Gao region were completed and approved at the local levels. These plans are now available on the PROMISAM webpage (http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mali_fd_strtgy/plans/index.htm#gao). They are already serving as a reference point for organizations planning development actions in the region. For example, in December, 2005, PROMISAM was contacted by Catholic Relief Services to inform us that CRS planned to use the local-level plans to identify where to implement its new activities in the Gao region.

Result 1.3: Information made available to all participants planning food security activities to facilitate the articulation between the local and national food security plans

In this area, PROMISAM focused on facilitating two-way communication between the local levels (communes, *cercles*, and regions) and the national level about the structure and objectives of the various food security initiatives at each level. Activities included:

- ✓ Providing Information during the local-level training of trainers sessions in the Gao and Sikasso regions about the SNSA, the National Food Security Plan (PNSA), and the role of the CSA.

- ✓ Diffusion of the commune, *cercle* and regional plans for Gao region through the PROMISAM web site and distribution and outreach to various organizations (USAID, USAID partners, other NGOs and PVOs such as CRS (see above), other communes, and the WFP).
- ✓ Meetings in early November with the USAID/Mali-supported PGP (governance) project to discuss collaboration, and the subsequent participation of a representative of the PGP in the Gao workshop that reviewed and approved the local-level food security plans for the region.
- ✓ Presentations (December 9 and December 12) to USAID/Mali partners of the local-level planning activities and discussion of ways in which synergies between the other partners' activities and those of PROMISAM/CSA can be achieved.

Intermediate results achieved:

As a result of these activities, the local-level plans now reflect a better understanding of the national programs, and the local level plans for Gao are available and are beginning to be used by different agencies as a basis for planning local-level interventions.

Result 1.4: Strengthened capacity of the CSA to manage and implement the decentralized SNSA

To achieve this intermediate result, PROMISAM focused on working with the CSA and the national SAKSS committee to develop indicators of the current food security situation in the country (*tableau de bord*) and impact indicators for activities taken to implement the SNSA and the PNSA.

Activities undertaken during the quarter included:

- ✓ Holding of the first meeting of national SAKSS committee, which is chaired by the CSA (December, 2005).
- ✓ Participation in meetings with the CSA on planning the implementation of the PNSA
- ✓ Production of a technical report for the CSA concerning the tools available to the Malian government to manage food security. This report is serving as input for the preparation of the February 2006 meeting of the National Food Security Council (chaired by the Prime Minister).

Intermediate results achieved:

- The national SAKSS committee has adopted a set of impact indicators to monitor the effects of the SNSA.
- An updated national *tableau de bord* for the month of December, 2005, was prepared.

Objective 2: Strengthening the CSA's Communication and Information Service's Outreach Efforts

PROMISAM's efforts in this area focused on continuing to strengthen the CSA's Documentation Center and the training of journalists in concepts of food security in order to improve the quality of press coverage of food-security-related issues in Mali.

Result 2.1.1: The resource center becomes completely operational

Activities to support this intermediate result included provision of equipment and supplies to the Documentation Center (for storage and classification of documents) and making arrangements with a local ISP to host the CSA's website (www.csa-mali.org) on a Malian server. (The transfer from the MSU to the Afribone server will take place in the first quarter of 2006).

Intermediate results achieved:

The Center increased the number of documents it has available and expanded content on its webpage.

Result 2.1.2: The Documentation Center effectively supports food-security programming at the local level through the exchange of documents and information with CLICs, cyber-café, and similar centers across the country.

Activities to contribute to this intermediate result focused on building effective working relations between the Documentation Center and the USAID-supported Community Learning and Information Centers (CLICs). During the quarter, the Center's director met with the CLIC's person in charge of computer services and they agreed to develop cross-links between the CSA and CLIC websites and to include local CLIC staff in future local-level training of trainers sessions. The CLICs are now the first link listed on the "links" page of the CSA webpage.

Result 2.2.1: Training of local journalists and radio personnel in concepts of food security

Activities focused on the organization and holding of a training workshop for Bamako-based journalists on concepts of food security. This workshop was held in Bamako on November 30. PROMISAM also participated in a CSA-press roundtable held at the CSA on November 1. The objective of the roundtable was to give the press information on the CSA's mandate and structure.

Intermediate results achieved:

- 39 journalists from both the written and electronic media participated in the Bamako workshop on concepts of food security
- Several newspaper articles appeared in early December on the concept of food security, based on concepts discussed in the workshop.

Objective 3: Improving the Timeliness and Quality of the OMA and SAP Publications

Result 3.1: The bulletins OMA and SAP are produced and diffused in time

Activities in this area focused on working with the OMA and the SAP to identify the causes of the delays in their publications and developing proposals for the solution of the in the short-, medium-, and long-term. The project also provided limited financial support to the OMA to deal its short-term data-transmission needs from its local offices, which were contributing to the delay in publications.

Intermediate results obtained:

- The OMA developed a report diagnosing the main causes of its delays in production of its monthly reports. The principal constraint is the breakdown of data transmission equipment in some of the OMA's decentralized offices (ULCD) across the country. As a short-run solution, PROMISAM has provided funding to allow these ULCD to transmit their reports from local cyber-café's. As a result, the delay in publication of the OMA monthly bulletins has fallen from 3 months behind to one month behind (e.g., the November bulletin appeared by the end of December). The longer-term solution will require repair and/or renewal of the ULCD transmission equipment, but this is beyond the financial capacity of PROMISAM to address.
- Discussions with the SAP indicated that the SAP does not believe that its monthly bulletin is published late, given the SAP's participatory methods. Indeed, the time of publication is explained by the sequential nature of consultations (at local, regional, and national levels) called for in its current methods for producing its monthly reports. At this stage, PROMISAM does not propose any short-term actions for SAP at this level.
- The SAP's methods for developing its reports are more broadly understood by local authorities and the press through the SAP's presentations of its methods at the training-of-trainers sessions and the journalist's workshops organized by PROMISAM in Bamako in November 2005. A second workshop is planned for journalists from the regions of Segou and Koulikoro during which SAP's methods will be presented.

Administrative Actions

Important project administrative actions taken during the quarter included:

- A restructuring of the project's website to increase visibility of project results.
- Obtaining USAID authorization for purchase of 2 project vehicles and placing of the orders
- Connection of the PROMISAM office to high-speed internet, which also allows free voice-over-internet communication with the MSU East Lansing office.

One TDY from campus-based staff, that of John Staatz, took place during the quarter (December 3-17).