

Michigan State University and its Partners' Achievements in Mali







Students from IPR/IFRA and University of Segou



J'ai beaucoup appris en ces trois jours de formation sur la recherche de données sur les analyses sur Excel, et pour finir, faire des présentations avec PowerPoint. Je souhaiterais que cette formation soit une continuité dans à l'avenir.

-Aminata Mariko

I've learned a lot over the three-day training, how to search for data on the internet, how to analyze data with Excel, and prepare a PowerPoint presentation. I wish this training will continue in the future.

Photos: Ladji Diarra (2018) Cover photo: Abdramane Traore (2008) Cette formation a été pour nous avant tout une ouverture d'esprit, un éveil de conscience et un apprentissage de base du logiciel Excel et des méthodes de recherche des données économiques fiables pour toute comparaison en matière de développement.

—Bogoba Togola

This training was a great mind opener, and an opportunity to learn Excel and reliable comparative research methods for economic development.



Je serai capable de bien traiter les données. — Hawa Traoré

From now on, I'll be able to accurately perform data analysis.



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Dr. Nango DEMBELE Mali Minister of Agriculture

La contribution de Michigan State University (MSU), dans la définition et la mise en œuvre des reformes politiques et institutionnelles en matière de sécurité alimentaire, au Mali et en Afrique sub-saharienne, est inestimable. En termes d'acquis, MSU a accompagné le Gouvernement du Mali à la création et la mise en place de l'Observatoire sur les Marchés Agricoles (OMA), du Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire (CSA), du Programme Economie des Filières (ECOFIL) à l'Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER), du Programme d'Agroéconomie de l'IPR de Katibougou, etc. Dans le domaine du renforcement des capacités MSU a également contribué à la formation de nombreux cadres et chercheurs maliens. Je souhaite que MSU puisse continuer d'éclairer les réflexions sur les questions de sécurité alimentaire.

MSU's contribution in defining and implementing political and institutional reforms about food security in Mali and in sub-Saharan Africa is invaluable. MSU has helped the Malian government with the creation and setting up of the *Observatoire sur les Marchés Agricoles (OMA)*, the *Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire (CSA)*, the *Programme Economie des Filières (ECOFIL)* at the *Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER)*, the *Programme d'Agroéconomie de l'IPR de Katibougou*, etc. MSU has also contributed to the capacity building with training of many Malian staff and researchers. I hope that MSU will continue to enlighten our thoughts on food security issues.

Overview

MSU faculty from the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics have collaborated with Malian colleagues since the mid-1980s on a series of research and capacity building efforts aimed at strengthening understanding and institutional capacity for improving agricultural productivity and food security in Mali. Early work with a consortium of government agencies and donors proved instrumental in enabling the successful liberalization of Mali's staple cereal markets, beginning in the mid-1980s.

This shared experience has enabled MSU to gain the confidence and trust of a broad range of stakeholders in government, the private sector, farmer organizations and the donor community. As a result, a shifting array of foreign assistance partners - including USAID, EU, FAO, IFAD, AGRA and the Syngenta, Hewlett, and Gates foundations has called on MSU to provide technical support for a variety of efforts to improve agriculture and food security in Mali. While MSU cannot and does not claim sole credit for these achievements. MSU has contributed important, well-recognized empirical and scientific support for a series of reforms and the institutions required to sustain them. The following lists highlight some of these major, collective achievements.

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MSU office team in Bamako, 2018

Dr YENIZIE KONE, Chief of Party
ABDRAMANE TRAORE, Dissemination Specialist
NAMAN KEITA, Survey Coordinator
AMDIOU ASSIMA, Statistician
LADJI DIARRA, Accountant
AMADOU DIARRA, Consultant
INAH NIARE, Secretary
MAMOUTOU TRAORE, Driver
HAMA GUINDO, Logistician

Institutions created with MSU technical support

- Observatoire du Marché Agricole (OMA), Mali's price information service, which monitors 77 agricultural markets throughout Mali. OMA's early reports contributed to the confidence required to liberalize cereal markets in Mali. Subsequently, they have provided ongoing critical information help to shape food policy in Mali, support discussions at the Council of Ministers meetings, improve the competitiveness of markets by leveling bargaining power among participants, and provide bankers objective information to value cereal inventories pledged as collateral for loans.
- Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire (CSA), which implements Mali's National Food Security Plan, including its early warning and response system (the Système d'Alerte Précoce (SAP).
- Economie des Filières (Ecofil), a new division of the Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER), Mali's agricultural research institute, which studies agricultural marketing, agribusiness processing, farm input supply and value chain dynamics in Mali.
- Agricultural economics and agribusiness program at the Institute Institut Polytechnique Rural/Institut de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée (IPR/IFRA), Mali's agricultural university.
- Local Food Security Plans developed by each of Mali's 703 communes during the mid-2000s, as well as plans developed for each circle and region.



Discussions to facilitate commercial exchanges between Mali and Senegal in Kayes, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Mali, Madame Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé and her counterpart in Senegal, Maître Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye.

(Photo: Abdramane Traore, 2011)

Policy reforms supported

- Cereal market liberalization, 1980s and 90s, and ongoing cereal marketing policies throughout the 2000s.
- Expanded regional agricultural trade by Mali through the West African Regional Market Information Network (RESIMAO) and regional traders' network (ROESAO), which significantly expanded information flows about market opportunities across West Africa. Both organizations grew out of regional market outlook conferences originally organized by MSU with USAID/Mali funding, and are now implemented on an ongoing basis by Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and West African Monetary and Economic Union (UEMOA).
- Trade and border control reforms that led to the opening of the Guinean market to Malian cattle exports at the end of the 1990s.
- **National food security strategy** formulation and implementation, 2000s.
- Development of Mali's CAADP national agricultural investment plan (which guides current government investments) and its coordination with the ECOWAS regional agricultural investment plan.



Agro-input dealer, Segou (photo: Veronique Theriault, 2013)

- Provision of **ongoing technical support to USAID/Mali** in the development of its Feed the Future strategy, including carrying out a major agricultural sector assessment in 2011 and modeling the impact of various possible USAID investments.
- Fertilizer subsidy reform, ongoing.
- **Pesticide policy reform,** recently initiated on market monitoring and combatting fraudulent products.

Names of the projects and programs in French

1985–1988 Projet : Sécurité alimentaire, Etude du système de commercialisation des céréales au Mali à la veille de la libéralisation du commerce des céréales.

1988–1998 Appui d'un assistant de MSU au Système d'Information du Marché céréalier (SIM) dans le cadre de sa mise en place et de sa fonctionnalité.

1998–2001 Projet d'Appui à la mise en place du Système d'Information Décentralisé du Marché Agricole (PASIDMA).

2004–2007 Projet de Mobilisation des initiatives en Matière de Sécurité Alimentaire au Mali (PROMISAM) phase I.

2008–2011 Projet de Mobilisation des initiatives en Matière de Sécurité Alimentaire au Mali (PROMISAM) phase II.

2011–2014 Programme de Renforcement et de Recherche sur la Sécurité Alimentaire en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRESAO).

2015 Année préparatoire du projet PREPOSAM.

2016–2020 Projet de Recherches sur les Politiques de Sécurité Alimentaire au Mali (PREPOSAM).

Malian scientists training

We have trained 6 BScs, 19 MScs, and 5 **PhDs.** These graduates have served in a variety of national and international roles, including Director General of Mali's food security stock management agency (the Office des Produits Agricoles du Mali, OPAM); Minister of Agriculture; Minister of Livestock and Fisheries; Food Security Commissioner; Chief Food Policy Advisor to the AU; and a large number of agricultural scientists and policy analysts working at the Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER), IPR/IFRA, the Office of the President, OMA, Ministry of Agriculture, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA); International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), United Nations International Development Organization (UNIDO) and Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel (CILSS).

In addition, 7 Ph.D. students and 9 M.Sc. students of other nationalities (including Americans) carried out their thesis research at MSU using data from the Malian projects. They now hold key positions in USAID, various NGOs/PVOs, foundations and universities.

These graduates possess a wealth of knowledge about Mali on which USAID and other organizations continue to draw from.



Training of students from IPR/IFRA and the University of Segou (*Photo: Ladji Diarra, 2018*)



Millet hooping in Diabougou (Photo: Amidou Assima, 2018)

Transplanting rice in Koulanbawèrè (Photo: Amidou Assima, 2018)

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