

**Michigan State University
Food Security III Cooperative Agreement**

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**Strengthening the Capacity of the
Malian Government to
Implement its National Food Security Strategy
(*Stratégie Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire*)**

1. Introduction:

In 2002, a new country strategic plan of USAID/Mali was approved for the period of 2003-2012. One of the strategic objectives is to accelerate the economic growth of the country by focusing on interventions aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and farmers' income. The performance goal of the economic growth strategic objective is to enhance food security and agricultural development.

After taking office in June 2002, President Amadou Toumani Touré addressed a policy letter to the government ("*Lettre de cadrage, October 2002*"). A key concern of the President in this letter was the need to avoid food crises and to move from an approach of food crisis management to one of fostering *structural* (long-term) food security. Food security always been a national concern in Mali given the high sensitivity of the production of food staples to rainfall fluctuations and trade policies.

On November 20, 2002, the government of Mali adopted a national food security strategy (SNSA). This strategy is an expansion of the former food security coordination program widely known as *Programme de Restructuration du Marché Céréalière* (PRMC) initiated in the early 80's. The PRMC is supported by all the former major food aid donors of Mali, including USAID.

Under the PRMC a national food security, management system was established composed of the following instruments:

- * A national food security stock (SNS),
- * A market information system (OMA),
- * A famine early warning system (SAP);
- * A food security fund (FSA),
- * A common counterpart fund (FCC), and
- * A joint donor-government food security management committee.

Under the PRMC centralized food security system with a nearly exclusive focus on cereals, overlooking the multiple dimensions of food security. The 2002 national food security strategy tried to address this shortcoming by including the multiple facets for food security in Mali (multiple products, issues of governance, health, nutrition, etc.)

The Office of Food Security created in October 2002 is now housed with the newly created Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire (CSA) in the Office of the President. The CSA is responsible for the coordination of the government actions to implement and monitor this strategy. In December 2003, the GRM requested USAID/Mali's assistance to strengthen its capacity to implement the national food security strategy and has reinforced this request in June 2004.

The institutional framework for the management of food security under the SNSA was adopted by decree No. 03-176/P-RM on April 25, 2004. This decree creates various advisory bodies: The National Food Security Council, the National Technical Committee for the Coordination of Food Security Policies (CTCPSA), the Regional Food Security Committee, and the Local and Communal Food Security Committee. The process of establishing these bodies is currently under way.

To that end, and in response to the Government of Mali, USAID shall assist the government in the following three key areas. All work shall be conducted in Mali, using as much local expertise as possible.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE 1:

Operational establishment of the coordination and technical advisory bodies of the institutional framework for the management of food security in Mali

The operational establishment of the coordination and technical advisory bodies of the institutional framework for the management of food security in Mali created to help monitor and evaluate the implementation of the SNSA.

Performance Requirements

The technical assistance team shall not be directly involved in the day-to-day implementation of the activities of the SNSA member bodies, but rather to play guidance, advisory, capacity development and facilitation role.

Technical assistance at a minimum shall include the following areas:

- Limited technical support to establish Technical Secretariat of National Technical Committee for Coordination of Food Security Policies;
- Training of trainers in the preparation and adoption of a work plan/program and in the analysis, monitoring and evaluation of the food security ;
- Support awareness campaign of SNSA in selected regions/circles/communes

Assist two regional and 3 cercle-level SNSA action plan development processes

At the regional and local/commune level, the technical assistance team is expected to identify partner institutions (i.e. the local units of the market information system-OMA/ULCD, the local

Chamber of Agriculture) and develop tools so that these institutions become effective stakeholders in the SNSA and reliable service providers to commune and circle-level governments.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE 2

Help Mali, through the Technical Committee, in conducting the following specific activities

The second objective will result in the development of an integrated and vibrant food security plan for Mali while simultaneously building the analytical capacity of the Food Security Commissariat.

Performance Requirements:

Assist the CSA, through the Technical Committee, in conducting the following specific activities:

- Assess the first 5-year food security plan using secondary data sources and rapid appraisals;
- Organize a workshop to validate the assessment findings;
- Elaborate an action plan for the implementation of the 5-year plan;
- Prepare a multi-year performance monitoring plan of the SNSA, including the definition of performance indicators;
- Help organize a donor roundtable for the funding of the 5-year plan.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE 3

Creation and strengthening of the documentation center of the Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire

Performance Requirements

The performance requirement focuses on the creation/strengthening of the documentation center of the Office of Food Security.

The assistance will consist of at a minimum:

- Furnishing the center with the needed computer equipment and office furniture/supplies;

- Establishment of links and relationships with similar centers in Africa, Europe and the United States so as to draw on lessons learned in the implementation of food security policies elsewhere in the world;
- Assisting the center in the development of services for the CSA, the various advisory bodies at the national and regional/local levels, the private sector and the donor community in Mali;
- Design and provide training to the center manager on technical and necessary support services.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE ASSISTANCE TEAM

The Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire (CSA) will be the institutional base for the technical assistance team under this agreement. The administrative and logistical management of the assistance team will be the responsibility of the CSA.

USAID and the Office of Food Security will monitor the implementation of the activities ensuring all performance objectives are met in a timely manner.

4. Timetable of specific activities:

See following page

5. Duration of the assistance:

The assistance program to the Food Security Commissariat is expected to last one year from October 2004 through September 2005.

Timetable for Project Activities

Objectives/Activities	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1- Operational establishment of the coordination and technical advisory bodies of the institutional framework for the management of food security in Mali												
1.1 Limited technical support to establish Technical Secretariat of National Technical Committee for Coordination of Food Security Policies	x	x	x									
1.2 Training of trainers in the preparation and adoption of a work plan/program and in the analysis, monitoring and evaluation of the food security				x	x							
1.3 Support awareness campaign of SNSA in selected regions/circles/communes			x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
1.4 Assist two regional and 3 cercle-level SNSA action plan development processes							x	x	x	x		
2- Help Mali, through the Technical Committee, in conducting the following specific activities:												
2.1 Assess the first 5-year food security plan using secondary data sources and rapid appraisals	x	x	x	x								
2.2 Organize a workshop to validate the assessment					x							
2.3 Elaborate an action plan for the implementation of the 5-year plan						x	x	x				
2.4 Prepare a multi-year performance monitoring plan of the SNSA, including the definition of performance indicators									x	x	x	
2.5 Donor Round Table												x
3 - Creation and strengthening of the documentation center of the Food Security Commissariat												
3.1 Providing the center with the needed computer equipment and office furniture/supplies		x	x									
3.2 Establishing links and relationships with similar centers in Africa, Europe and the USA				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3.3 Assisting the center to develop services for the Ministry, the various advisory bodies at the national an regional/local levels, the private sector and the donor community in Mali				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
3.4 Providing training to the center manager			x	x	x							
4- Meeting to develop an operational plan for implementing the project												
4.1 Meeting with various partners for planning the project activities	x											