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## **Trip Report**

**Mali**

**21 – 30 August 2011**

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### **IPM CRSP Associate Awards:**

#### **Mali: Building Local Capacity in IPM Solutions**

USAID/Mali Associate Cooperative Agreement No. 688-A-00-10-00015-00

#### **IPM CRSP Africa Food Security Initiative (IPM CRSP AFSI)**

USAID/EGAT Associate Cooperative Agreement No. EDH-A-00-08-00015-00

Prepared by Larry Vaughan

Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIREd)

International Affairs Offices

526 Prices Fork Road (0378)

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA 24061 USA

**Country(s) Visited/Dates of Travel:** Mali

**Traveler Name and Affiliations:** Larry Vaughan, IPM CRSP Associate  
Program Director

**Purpose of Trip:**

Mali associate award – Hold workplan meeting for Malian partners working on the Mali IPM CRSP associate award.

Food Security Associate award – Discuss ongoing research and upcoming activities

**Sites Visited:**

Mali – Bamako, Ségou

**Description of Activities/Observations:**

I departed the United States *Sunday 21 August*, arriving with on Monday evening the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

***Tuesday 23 August***

Morning meeting with Colonel Bakaye Thiero, Director General of the *Office de Protection des Végétaux* (OPV). I went to OPV with Issa Sidibé of OHVN, who has been a valuable liaison for the new partner institutions being brought into the IPM CRSP through the Mali associate award the project. We met with the DG to discuss the need to name a new coordinator at OPV for the project. Abdoulaye Cissoko was the original project coordinator for OPV, but he was re-assigned in May 2011 to another project associated with the *Direction Nationale d'Agriculture* (DNA). Abdoulaye, who helped get the contract set up between Virginia Tech and OPV in March 2011, died of a heart attack the Saturday before I arrived. We spent a few minutes talking about Abdoulaye. The DG appointed Yves Dakono at the new OPV coordinator for the associate award. Yves has thus been named the *Chef du volet de formation de producteurs et de vendeurs de produits phytosanitaire* (head of grower and pesticide vendor training). Yves met with us, as did the Associate DG, Zoumana Berté, and the OPV accountant Broulaye Coulibaly. I promised to send the French invoicing template to everybody. Because OPV established a dedicated account for the project, I said that OIRED would provide an advance on its annual budget so that it has capital to make project expenditures. (I had been told on a previous trip that OPV could not pre-finance its activities.) We discussed the immediate tasks for OPV, which comprised participation in the training of trainers hosted by OHVN in late September/early October, then carrying out a pilot vendor training at headquarters. The OPV trainers will carry out farmer training with the budget available and will receive a second allocation when the first is spent and training has been successfully demonstrated. We ended the meeting at 10am.

Because it is close to OPV, Issa and I paid an unscheduled visit to the *Direction Nationale d'Agriculture* (DNA), to see if project coordinator Bokary Timbo was available for a quick discussion about the status of document signatures required for

contract preparation. Bokary was on a mission, which explained why I hadn't received response the previous week about my intent to meet with DNA. The Director General was leaving for a council of ministers meeting, but he invited us to come back at noon. In the meantime I called Mamadou Augustin Dembelé, the Mali associate award's AOTR, to see if a meeting at USAID was warranted and to get clarification about a request received about the project budget. I then called Halimatou Traoré, laboratory director of the *Laboratoire Central Vétérinaire* (LCV), to see if we could move our meeting to the morning, allowing me to go back to DNA at noon.

Issa and I arrived at the pesticide residue analysis laboratory (LTCQE) of LCV at 11am. Safiatou Dem, director of the pesticide laboratory was on travel. I discussed with Halima the status of project tasks, particularly those related to the final set-up of the gas chromatographs, completion of the business plan, and presentation of the strategic plan to LCV's American collaborators. Upon returning to DNA at 12:30pm, we found that the ministers' meeting had not finished, so we went on IER as planned.

In the afternoon at the *Institut d'Economie Rurale* station at Sotuba, I met with chief of the fruit and vegetable laboratory Kadidiatou Gamby. I arrived with Issa Sidibé from OHVN. She showed us the latest tomato trials, some of which showed resistance to bacterial wilt. Other varieties were heavily attacked by the disease. She noted that the price for 80kg of tomatoes, which can be as low as 2000CFA during the height of the dry season production period was currently 40,000CFA.

After Issa left, Madame Gamby and I discussed progress on the long-term training program of the Mali associate award, spending plans and invoicing, status of the vehicle order, and progress on the potato IPM package for the W. Africa regional program. We discussed the need for regular communication between Malian and American collaborators, and frequent updates of progress for all three IPM CRSP projects in which IER participates. Madame Gamby showed me the draft report on the potato IPM work.

With respect to degree training, Abdoulaye Camara had just left as planned to start his master's degree at the University of Ghana in Accra. Mamadou Traoré and Binta ready to begin a DEA (*Diplôme d'Etudes Avancées*) at the University of Bamako. Liliane Sonogo is starting a technical degree program at the polytechnic institute at Katibougou.

Later in the afternoon, I met with IER research technician Sidiki Traoré to go over the recent installation of millet varietal trials and other experiments on blister beetle management supported by the AFSI associate award. I left IER at 5:30pm.

After returning to the hotel I telephoned Moro Traoré at IER/Sikasso about collecting samples of rice leaf to test the pilot version of the rice yellow mottle virus immunoassay.

### ***Wednesday 24 August***

At 8:20am I had a meeting at OHVN met Issa Sidibé, and we went to meet the Director General, Issa Djiré for a planning meeting for Year 3 of the Mali associate award. Also attending were:

Associate Director General Mamadou Lamine Sylla,  
Bourema Ouattara, head of accounting  
Ma Kone Diallo, division chief of marketing chains, commercialization, and promotion of agricultural credit (*Chef de division de promotion de filières, marketing, commercialisation, et du crédit agricole*).  
Mamadou Camara, head of the seed program  
Sékou Cissé, Chef de division du conseil rural  
BenMohamed Bili, extension head (*Chef de vulgarization*)

The DG opened the meeting, highlighting the long partnership with Virginia Tech and the value of IPM CRSP to OHVN's program. He highlighted the importance of vegetable production for economic well-being of producers in the OHVN zone and the predominance of women in this value chain. He also talked about the importance of the training program for pesticide safety, which is a part of the Mali associate award. I discussed funding issues regarding the Mali Associate project and the planning being undertaken for the final year of the project. The group discussed the training program to follow the October training of trainers. We also discussed the re-estimation of performance indicators for OHVN's contribution to the Performance Management Plan (PMP).

Wednesday afternoon at 2:00pm, the project held a workplan planning meeting at IER/Sotuba. The project's AOTR, Mamadou Augustin Dembelé attended. Also attending were:

Kadidiatou Gamby, chief of the IER fruit and vegetable research laboratory  
Issa Sidibé, chief of development research, OHVN  
Yves Dakono, project coordinator for OPV  
and IER technical staff – Aminata Dollo, Sidiki Traoré, Alihoun Diarra,  
Aissata Thera, Binta Diallo, and Mama Diarra.

We discussed the tasks for activities for the Year 3 workplan, focusing on the IER-led research program. No one from LCV was able to attend, so the capacity building of the pesticide residue laboratory was not discussed. A re-orientation of some activities was proposed to better align the project with the Feed the Future Initiative.

### ***Thursday 25 August***

Kadidiatou Gamby, Halimatou Traoré, and I went to USAID/Mali for a 10:10am meeting with Augustin, Gaoussou Traoré (interim head of the economic growth team), Baou Diane. We discussed the pace of implementation and the large pipeline. Gaoussou gave me the task of preparing a spending plan by the next morning. We ended the meeting at noon. On the way back to Sotuba, I worked with Halima on the most immediate tasks for LCV for the month of September.

In the afternoon we held a meeting at IER/Sotuba to review and revise the Performance Management Plan. For the most part same team members attended as the day before. OPV, IER, and OHVN were represented. I brought to the hotel the blister beetle light traps that had been stored at Sotuba since last October to evaluate them for the upcoming experiments in September.

### ***Friday 26 August***

I sent the spending plan to USAID at 7:30am. I had a 10:00am meeting with the DG of DNA, Daniel Kelema and the project's coordinator at DNA, Bokary Timbo. We discussed the necessity of signing the documents necessary to complete the contract. The DG was reasonably hesitant about the terms of the certifications and representations document that must be signed with a contract. I reviewed them with him. I spent the afternoon on project tasks and communicating with the office.

### ***Saturday 27 August***

I worked on project correspondence and began preparing soil samples from Sikasso for shipment

### ***Sunday 28 August.***

The rice leaf samples were delivered about 8:30am, too late for processing before leaving Bamako. Issa Sidibé and I left for Ségou in the afternoon for our meeting at the Office du Niger (ON) Monday morning. Overnight I prepared the rice leaf samples for the RYMV immunoassay.

### ***Monday 29 August***

08h30 meeting at Office du Niger headquarters in Ségou with President Director General Amadou Boye Coulibaly. In advance of my trip, OHVN's DG sent correspondence to ON's President Director General Coulibaly requesting a meeting to facilitate project implementation. Ilias Goro, the project's contact person was absent because he had not yet returned from a short-term training unrelated to this project. Therefore, we met with the PGD only. I described the documents that are required to be completed so that the contract can be issued by Virginia Tech, including the ones that had been sent but not yet acknowledged. These first three documents had been sent a week before our meeting. We discussed the remaining documents, including the certificates and representations that Virginia Tech must attach to all subcontracts. He said the project bank account would be completed by the end of the week. Issa and I related the project performance indicators that need to be updated for the workplan based partly on ON's planned contribution to pesticide safety training, but also including any promotion of tomato virus area-wide management.

We returned to the hotel, packed, and left for Bamako at 10:15h. We arrived on the south side of Bamako at 1500h. On the road I re-bagged soil samples from the AFSI Sikasso rice seed production activity. Upon arriving in Bamako we went to DHL. The cost of shipping the samples was more than I could withdraw from an ATM in one day. I also thought it best to consult with the soil testing lab to see if I could reduce the amount of each sample to save money on shipping. Shipping will await my return.

Issa and I had a debriefing at OHVN headquarters and a brief meeting with Sylla, the Associate DG. I took a half day at a hotel near the airport so that could develop the virus samples that Moro Traoré had sent me from Sikasso Sunday morning. The tests were a success. I got consistent positive reactions (blue spots) in the same places on two identically prepared nitrocellulose membranes. These results meant that the immunoassay kit needs little further optimization. The kits can be prepared at Virginia Tech to bring with me on my net trip and used for the rice yellow mottle virus survey.

2245h Air France flight to Paris

***Tuesday 30 August***

Delta flight 37 to Atlanta, Arrive in the Roanoke Virginia in the late afternoon.

**Abbreviations:**

AEG USAID Accelerated Economic Growth

AFSI. African Food Security Initiative. (IPM CRSP associate award)

AOTR. Agreement Officer's Technical Representative

DG Director General

DNA *Direction Nationale d'Agriculture* (Mali)

IER. *Institut d'Economie Rurale* (Mali)

LCV *Laboratoire Central Vétérinaire* (Mali)

LTCQE *Laboratoire de Toxicologie et du Contrôle de Qualité Environnementale*  
(LTCQE)

OHVN Office de la Haute Vallée du Niger

OIRED. Office of International Research, Education, and Development. Virginia  
Tech

OPV *Office de Protection Végétaux* (Mali)

PMP Performance Management Plan

RYMV rice yellow mottle virus

USAID. United States Agency for International Development

VT. Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia USA

WASA. West African Seed Alliance

## Contact List:

First Name	Last Name	Institution
Zoumana	Berte	OPV Associate Director General
Ben Mohamed	Bili	OHVN, Head of Extension ( <i>Chef de vulgarisation</i> )
Mamadou	Camara	OHVN. Seed program chief
Sékou	Cissé	OHVN. <i>Chef de division du conseil rural</i>
Broulaye	Coulibaly	OPV. Accounting Administrator
Yves	Dakono	<i>Chef Cellule Suivi Environnemental</i> , OPV. Bamako
Ma Koné	Diallo	OHVN. <i>Chef de division de promotion de filières, marketing, commercialisation, et du crédit agricole.</i>
Alihoun	Diarra	IER/Sotuba. Research technician
Baou	Diane	USAID/Mali AEG team
Mama	Diarra	IER/Sotuba. Sociologist technician
Issa	Djiré	OHVN, Director General
Nantoumé Aminata	Dollo	IER/Sotuba. Researcher
Aminata	Doucouré	IER/Sotuba sociologist
Kadidiatou	Gamby	Chief of the Vegetable and Fruit Research Laboratory. IER/Sotuba
Ilias	Goro	Office du Niger, Directeur d'Appui du Monde Rural
Daniel	Kelema	DNA. <i>Directeur General</i>
Moussa	Noussourou	IER/Baguineda. Researcher
Bourema	Ouattara	OHVN chief accountant
Issa	Sidibé	<i>Chef de Recherche Développement</i> OHVN
Mamabou Lamine	Sylla	OHVN, Associate Director General
Aissata Traoré	Thera	IER/Sotuba. Researcher
Bakaye	Thiero	OPV. Director General
Bokary	Timbo	DNA project coordinator
Binta Diallo	Traoré	IER. Research technician
Gaoussou	Traoré	USAID/Mali Interim Chief of the Accelerated Economic Growth Team
Moro	Traoré	IER/Sikasso
Sidiki	Traoré	IER/Sotuba. Research technician
Youssouf	Traoré	WASA National Coordinator