



Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program

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Trip Report – Bamako, Mali
18 – 25 June 2005

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Executive Summary

The primary objective of this visit was to participate in the ECOWAS Ministerial Conference on Biotechnology. Only Burkina Faso has set up regulations for testing Bt Cotton. There is a region-wide need for a biotechnology framework to regulate development, introduction and use of GMOs. Mali is now two years behind in testing Bt Cotton. Many NGOs realize that GMOs are coming but they are strident in slowing the development of a regulatory framework. Farmers and their representatives are left out of the loop because there is a dearth of information on biotechnology and GMOs in local languages.

While in Bamako, I completed other SANREM CRSP business as well. I discussed Moussa Keïta's bachelors degree program at Delta-C with the IER Training Director and paid Moussa's inscription and thesis fees. I distributed the SANREM CRSP book to the authors, contributors and key institutions in Bamako. The book was well-received. Before, during and after the Ministerial Conference I met with a wide-range of potential SANREM CRSP collaborators (PRODEPAM, FARA, USAID/WARP, etc) and introduced them to our program mechanisms and its current activities.



Saturday, 18 June, 2005

9:00 DELTA-C w/Moussa Keïta and Boubacar Ousman Touré

Moussa and I arrived early at the “campus” of DELTA-C. It is a two-story villa with offices and classrooms established in 2000. I met one of Moussa’s professors, Deboudien Dembélé, a professor from the Faculty of Law and Economy at the University of Bamako (Mali). The Director, Mamadou Keïta, was on an evaluation mission for World Vision, so we met with the Training Division Chief, Boubacar Touré.

Boubacar described DELTA-C as one of the new types of colleges monitored by the Ministry of Education. It’s purpose is to provide practical education for technicians (like Moussa) and other students not enrolled in the more academic programs of the University. The objective is to provide applied skills rather than the traditional French-type training which emphasizes theory. The particular focus of the college is to develop advanced training, analytic skills, and advisory capacities relevant to local development. They have graduated some 75 students at the Bachelors level since opening (only two full programs have cycled through at this point).

There are four primary programs: a university-level Bachelors program (4 years); post-university training leading to a Specialized Advanced Diploma (DSS-2 years) and a doctorate (not yet operational); short-term training programs; and a consulting service. The Bachelors program has three departments: Project, Program, and Policy Implementation for Local Development; Local Development Studies and Research; and Information, Education, and Communication for Local Development. Moussa’s studies are in the Local Development Studies and Research Department. The DSS has three programs: Land Use and Landscape Planning; Decentralization and Local Development; and Urban Development.

Faculty are normally contracted from the University of Mali (Bamako), although some come from the NGO sector (focusing on participatory skills and community development methods). I met Moussa Touré, Professor of Research Methods; Hamidou Touré (English), and three other faculty members.

In the bachelor’s program, each year students are expected to write an annual thesis as well as complete their course work which is graded. They complete their senior year with a “memoire” or thesis. During the preceding years they are expected to develop analytic and writing skills through the writing of their annual theses. This practical orientation builds on the student’s own thesis topics, predominantly related to their activities as technicians in government service. The focus is on building analytic skills and the ability to self-evaluate their own work. The philosophy of the school focuses on building professionalism and demonstrating the relationship between specializations (particularly how work in one’s own field relates to other sectors). Normally, each student has an advisor from the service from which they come and a DELTA-C faculty member. Salmana Cissé is Moussa’s advisor from IER. The program also includes a three-month internship (usually in the service from which the issue). This experience must be written up and it is expected that the student will become more conscious of the work that they are doing and how it can be evaluated and improved.

Progress is measured quarterly through evaluation forms completed for each module completed by the associated professor. Each year their thesis is also evaluated and overall numerical grades are awarded. The final thesis involves a 6-month internship.

I told them about the SANREM CRSP activities and how we were interested in completing the training of Moussa Keïta. We would need to be kept informed about Moussa's progress on a regular basis in order to justify funding his studies. I volunteered to be an additional thesis advisor so that we could be involved in a more substantial way, as this was the CRSP approach. Boubacar said that DELTA-C was very open to such collaboration. Indeed, he looked on this quite favorably as such a relationship would help to build their programs. He agreed to keep me informed as to Moussa's progress, noting that the evaluations were confidential (normally sent directly to the student's government service training office). After reaching agreement on these issues, I paid Moussa's fees (250,000 Fcfa).

Moussa and I had previously discussed potential senior thesis topics and he will be developing one around the work we had conducted in Madiama. When he is ready for his thesis work it will be a good moment to go back to Madiama to evaluate the progress and impacts of SANREM CRSP activities there. With a little additional financing we could get a quality update on SANREM CRSP accomplishments and their sustainability.

Sunday, 19 June 2005

Completed my Senegal Report and reviewed materials for Mali.

Monday, 20 June, 2005

8:30 USAID/Mali

I met briefly with Gaoussou Traoré and described our program. He said that there was a Biodiversity Threat Assessment and he would try to find me a copy. Ram Shetty and Dennis McCarthy were very busy preparing for the biotechnology meeting and a report on Agriculture and Economic Growth for the new Mission Director, Alex Newton. I saw them in passing. Augustin Dembélé was attending a training session in Kati. I distributed copies of the SANREM CRSP West Africa book.

10:30 IER Headquarters

I met briefly with Bouréma Dembélé and described our new SANREM CRSP activities. He mentioned that he had received the books, but that while the contents were great, they were not well received because the IER logo was not on the book.

I then met with Bakary Sanogo <bakary.sanogo@ier.ml>. He is responsible for IER Training. We discussed the case of Moussa Keïta. He said that the DELTA-C program appeared to be solid and that they had several IER staff there.

12:45 INSAH

Netoyo Laobaïbao was not in town. I met with Boubacar Diallo, responsible for food security issues. He told me that Sibiri Ouadrigo was responsible for NRM, as well as the Réseau des observatoires de surveillance pour l'environnement du Sahel (ROSELT). We agreed to meet Friday when he returned from his current mission. At that time I could meet with the DG.

13:30 PRODEPAM

I met briefly with Ben Lentz and described our program and he filled me in on what was moving forward in PRODEPAM where we might have mutual interests. Willy de Greef is interested in training breeders and varietal trials to support the seed sector. They are working with ASCEMA (the seed association) linking them with other African seed associations. Horticultural breeders are completely missing in the IER ranks. They are setting up the infrastructure for GMO research at Sotuba. Siaka Dembélé is Willy's counterpart at IER (about 6 days a month). They are also interested in cotton issues, particularly cotton entomology. Their livestock feed person is Bernard Hourdin (640-3519). Adama Ballo works with him as coordinator for the Koulikoro region. Aly Coulibaly is at the Nature, Wealth and Power Workshop in Burkina Faso this week, he is responsible for CBNRM issues. Fatamata Salamaita (?) is their IFDC team member who is responsible for land reclamation/erosion control. Biodiversity issues in Mali revolve principally around the Lac Horo (near Timbuktu) and in the Sikasso region. It appears that the two planning awards focused on Mali have considerable overlap with PRODEPAM and USAID/Mali interests.

15:30 CARE/Mali

No one I knew was in the office today at CARE/Mali, but apparently Abdoulaye Touré is in town. I left books for John Davis and Abdoulaye.

16:00 GRAD

I met briefly with Idrissa Maïga who was happy to receive a copy of our book.

16:30 Peace Corps

I met with the Peace Corps director and he was enthusiastic about our SANREM CRSP book on the Madiama experience. He was prepared to buy a set of copies for volunteer training in NRM.

Tuesday, 21 June 2005

9:00 Hotel de l'Amitié

The Conference Ministerielle des Pays de l'Espace CEDEAO sur la Biotechnologie opened with presentations from Mali's Minister of Agriculture, the new USAID Director, Alexander Newton, Madelyn Spirnak (USDA), and A. Coulibaly (West African producers' representative). The later was only programmed at the last minute, due to the threat of demonstrations by NGOs. The Conference for 150 people was transformed into a conference of some 250 to accommodate the

NGO representatives. Monty Jones (FARA) and Bino Témé also made presentations. This is the third meeting since June 2003 in Sacramento (Ouagadougou, June 2004). They are slowly putting in place an action plan at the regional level to build the regulatory framework for biotechnology (as a product).

Stan Wood (IFPRI) gave a presentation on a cost-benefit analysis for the adoption of GMOs such as Bt Cotton. Bonny Ntare (ICRISAT-Bamako) made a presentation on the seed sector. These presentations were followed by that of Harold Roy Macauley, who worked with Peter Gregory to draft the resolution documents to be discussed, improved and approved for submission to the West African Ministers of Agriculture at the end of the Conference.

The afternoon sessions focused on the recommendation papers. Clarification questions provided opportunity for participants to voice their diverse interests in biotechnology regulatory development. Clearly there is a vocal minority (NGOs) who are pushing to delay decisions on the introduction of GMOs. Others were interested in not being left behind as Centers of Excellence in Biotechnology were being established.

Larry and I met Willy De Greef, Janet Carpenter, and the new ABSP II Director. I met with Bonny Ntare and told him about the new SANREM CRSP. I also introduced myself to Alexander Newton. Later we met with Virginie Levasseur and AVRDC International Cooperation Director, George Kuo. Larry discussed coordination of the tomato activities in Mali and the IPM CRSP West Africa proposal development.

Wednesday, 22 June 2005

8:30 Hotel de l'Amitié

The Conference broke out into two working groups: biotechnology and biosafety. Larry and I attended the biotechnology session. The discussion focused on the recommendation papers and final drafting of the recommendations. I found it interesting that the focus was on biotechnology products, not processes. There appear to be two worlds in the discussion: one of scientists; and the other of NGOs. The scientists focused on issues concerning their levels of participation. The NGOs fixed on risks. There is a complete disconnect between the agenda of the biotechnology leaders and the NGO/farmer representatives. These two groups did not seem to be really talking the same language and it appears that neither have any idea what is needed for recommendations for ministers. Many farmer representatives were largely left out of the cacophony. The latter's chief concern was that they knew very little about biotechnology, IPR, etc. and this made it hard for them to either participate in the discussion or to understand it. Clearly, work needs to be done at the local level to provide information and knowledge about biotechnology issues.

During the first pause café, Larry and I met with Monty Jones (FARA) and described our two programs. Monty told us about the CORAF/SADEC/ASERCA Initiative for research financing: a Challenge Program. They have four themes: (1) Integrated NRM (soil degradation; forestry); (2) intensification and diversification for small holders; (3) development of functional markets; and (4) appropriate policies. They are starting with three pilot sites one in each region. The Sahelian Challenge Program will focus on the Kano-Maradi-Katsina region. Another will be

around Lake Kivu, and the last in the Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe corridor. Any one can submit a letter of interest and join in the development of hypotheses to be investigated. Funding will be substantial, well beyond CRSP levels. We should contact Stanford Blade at IITA which lead the Sahelian Challenge Program. Hypotheses will be validated in September and tasks forces appointed to work on particular hypotheses leading to full proposals (\$12-15,000,000 per year for 5 years). CORAF has or is about to release a catalog on cotton in West Africa.

In the afternoon I met with Harry Bottenberg and Robert Kagbo of USAID/WARP and discussed the SANREM CRSP activities. Harry is moving to Accra in July, Robert is already there. I was introduced to the Malian Ambassador to the US H.E. Abdoulaye Diop. Larry Beach and I met for the first time as well. I also spoke with Karim Hussein, OECD Head of Agricultural Transformation and Sustainable Development (Sahel and West Africa Club). He is leaving this post, but suggested that I get in touch with Leonidas Hitimana <leonidas.hitimana@oecd.org> . They have done some interesting work on innovation transfer and more recently on biotechnology issues. He gave me some papers to read. He told me about an ECOWAS cross-borders transhumance corridor project between Burkina Faso and Ghana (contact: Aubin Savadogo livestock@ecowas.org).

As the day ended I met Willy De Greef. He was frustrated as the recommendations were being watered down, dragging out the movement toward a GMO regulatory system.

Thursday, 23 June, 2005

9:00 FAST

I joined the tour to visit the biotechnology laboratory facilities at FAST. They are advancing well and have a strong system in place. The discussion was quite interesting. They are ready to test products for the presence of GMO genes if provided with the standard.

17:30 Hotel Le Loft with John Davis, CARE/Mali

We discussed the activities of SANREM CRSP and of CARE/Mali. CARE is working on health issues and also has some work in the Bankass-Bandiagara area in decentralized NRM. He said that he would on home leave in August but that Aly Djiga and Younousou Tangara would be available to discuss NRM issues. He thanked me for the book and said that this was the sort of thing that not only he, but CARE was interested in.

Friday, 24 June 2005

11:00 PRODEPAM

Larry and I met with Ben Lentz. Larry described the new program of the IPM CRSP and there objectives for the projects that were being prepared for West Africa. He also explained the Leader with Associates mechanism. Having already spoken with Ben about SANREM, I asked

him more about the PRODEPAM activities, particularly those that may have a connection to SANREM CRSP activities. They have a CBNRM component which focuses on:

- (1) Land Use Management Plans. 20 *Communes Rurales* are targeted in 6 regions. They intend to have 20 conventions prepared by August.
- (2) Technical interventions. These are the responsibility of IFDC focusing on the management of degraded lands, erosion control, etc.
- (3) Community advocacy for NRM. This targets development of mechanisms to valorize local resources.

The focus of biodiversity is in two zones: Sikasso and Lac Horo. Some of the technologies which they are promoting include: integrated soil fertility management, salinization, etc. around the irrigated perimeters; rapid composting through chemical additives.

Ben said that there was a movement away from cotton in the Koutiala region. This was happening because of cash flow problems at CMDT. They could only purchase at a set price according to quotas. This meant that in good years, like last year, there was surplus production that simply rotted away.

The poverty regions are Koulikoro, Sikasso, and Segou because of high population pressure. Land was scarce and more intensive cropping systems needed to be developed. However, the culture of the population was such that they were not ready to make great changes in lifestyle (other than a portion of the population getting poorer). Double cropping could be possible, but the second crop would need inputs in a very timely fashion to be successful.

There are off-season potatoes grown in the Sikasso region. Cotton is big in Koutiala. Ben noted that organic cotton would not necessarily be something that women took up. In the cotton region, these field (cash) crops have been for men only.

Ben suggested some people who might be important resources persons and that he would try to have someone participate in next week's workshop at INSAH. Aissetou Nobré (640-4035) was a WID/Extension/Sociologist, very knowledgeable. Aly Coulibaly (640-3358) is their community mobilization specialist in charge of preparing LUMPs. They have local NGO partners such as: INAGEF (Macone Diarra, President, Koulikoro), ACOD-Sikasso, GForce-Segou, SABA-Mopti, and AMRAD-Timbuktu. He suggested that it would be a good idea to contact CMDT (starting with the DG) to inform them about potential work in their zone. Other organizations of potential interest could be APKAM (Chambre d'Agriculture) funded by the World Bank through PASEAOP(sp). There is also CAFO (Coordination des associations femmes et ONG). Rick Beyers at USAID/Bamako is a GIS specialist concerned with monitoring and evaluation.

14:30 INSAH

I met with Sibiri Ouedraogo (coordinator for ROSELT - Réseau des Observatoires du Sahel et Sahara) who would be the contact person for the workshop. Along with Boubacar Diallo (food security) we visited with DG Amadou Moustapha. I presented the SANREM CRSP activities, the current stage of the competitive process for selecting proposals, and presented him with two

copies of the SANREM CRSP book. He was present at the initiation of the SANREM CRSP at INSAH in 1999. Unfortunately, he will not be attending the meeting next week because he will be on mission. However, Netoyo will be back by then.

Sibiri mentioned that there was a transfrontier project of the Fonds d'Italie/CILSS, Projet des Zones à risque élevé environnemental et social (ZARESE). A pilot site for this project was centered in the Sikasso-Bobo region. It might be useful to coordinate efforts with them.

Amadou Moustapha said that the Ministers of Agriculture were ready to go beyond what the panel of experts and the conference had presented them. They wanted a plan of action with specifics – dates, measurable objectives, etc. Of course, given the size of the Conference it had not been possible to draft such specific targets.

Saturday, 25 June 2005

9:00 USAID/WARP with Jorge Oliveira

I outlined SANREM CRSP activities and the current status of the competition for research awards. I offered Jorge a copy of the SANREM book. He described WARP NRM activities. Working in the context of CILSS/Agrihmet/INSAH, Mike McGahuey in collaboration with the EROS Data Center has satellite imagery of all of West Africa from 1960s to 2000s. With ground sites in Niger, Burkina and Mali they are developing a program to explain landscape changes. “Eco-regional” maps. They also have a small program to monitor elephants in the Burkina-Mali corridor with Agrihmet/EROS.

Key contacts concerning corridors include Draman Coulibaly (Food Security/NRM) at CILSS in Ouagadougou and Yamar Mbodj (Ag Advisor-ECOWAS in Abuja). MSU, in collaboration with INSAH is scanning all of their documents to make them available on their website. John Staaz is coordinating this with Netoyo.

With respect to cotton, the Ministers appear ready to move forward with biotechnology opening the way for the full testing and introduction of Bt Cotton and other GMOs. ROPPA, the regional association of farmers organizations (Ndigu Fall) is a key reference point in this debate and on the evolution of the cotton industry. In Senegal, the CNCR (comité national de concertation rurale- originally established by Mamadou Sikasso) has been strongly defending farmer prices and rights in the cotton sector.

Agrihmet uses the radio to reach some 20,000 inscribed farmers (plus others) with regional weather/climate information each 10 days.

List of Contacts

AVRDC – Virginie Lavasseur, George Kuo

CARE/Mali – Abdoulaye Touré, John Davis

DELTA-C – Boubacar Ousman Touré

FARA – Monty Jones

GRAD – Idrissa Maïga

ICRISAT – Bonny Ntare

IER – Bouréma Dembélé, Bino Témé, Lassine Diarra, Bakary Sanogo

INSAH – Boubacar Diallo, Sibiri Ouedraogo, Amadou Moustapha

OECD – Karim Hussein

Peace Corps – Director

PRODEPAM – Ben Lentz, Adama Ballo, Willy De Greef

USAID/Mali – Gaoussou Traoré, Ram Shetty, Dennis McCarthy, Alex Newton

USAID/WARP – Jorge Oliveira, Harry Bottenberg, Robert Kagbo

USAID/Washington – Larry Beach, Janet Carpenter