

TRIP REPORT
USDA CSREES Higher Education Challenge Grant

**New Paradigm for Discovery Based Learning:
Implementing Bottom-Up Development
by
Listening to Farmers' Needs
and
Using Participatory Processes and Holistic Thinking**

**Washington D.C. 10 March through 12 March 2009
Mali 12 March through 27 March 2009**

(arrive Mali 13 March 2009 9:30 pm, depart 26 March 11:30 p.m.)

DRAFT

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Required Output of Each Faculty Member and Student Traveling on Grant Funding

2.0. Executive Summary (1 page summary of the highlights of the visit)

This page will be written last and will include the following points.

- Summarize results of malaria integrated management in Sanambele, esp. Work in village junior high with students and teachers, progress of Women's Association Handicraft Enterprise, progress in monitoring mosquito larvae and Biocontrol treatment of the larval rearing areas in village.
- World Bank Washington D.C. and Bamako results
- Progress report on Borko seed potato work
- Overall highlights of progress toward deliverables of current Challenge Grant and followup on previous Challenge grants
- Follow up on progress from HED training grant for Malian scientists and engineer.

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A draft must be completed before leaving the country. The electronic version (may not include all Appendices) is given to Belco Tamboura (leader of the Mali Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Incubator Center), Dr. Kadiatou Gamby and the US project director (Dr. Florence Dunkel) and your institution's P.I. for the project you are on if it is different from yourself. A hard copy of the Executive Summary is given to USAID-Mali Accelerated Economic Growth Group (AEG).

These reports will be placed on our project website and specifically e-mailed to each project leader at each institution in our project.

***Student Journals:** In addition to the trip report, each student is required to keep a daily log of reflections, cultural observations. Copies of these will be turned in with the trip report, but not placed on the website unless the student him or herself decides to enter the observation.*

4.0. Objectives of Visit

4.1. Provide assistance for Mali Agribusiness Center: An Entrepreneurial Incubator with project policies and approaches and opportunity to update US partners on issues and recommendations.

- Explore the recommendation of “place” for the Center.
- Determine how to move forward with time commitment of Center leader / Incubator manager dedicated, approved by parent organizations (IER and IPR/IFRA).
- Follow-up on suggestions given to Center by USAID and World Bank.
- Provide assistance in funding flow for Seed Potato Incubator.
- Assist Center member, Keriba Coulibaly, in reconfiguring his M.S. thesis proposal to make the main focus a holistic process at the village level.
- Introduce Center to the Women’s Association Handicraft Enterprise as a replicable model for other incubators in the Center to introduce as a revenue stream.

4.2. Provide assistance to the Sanambele Women’s Association Handicrafts Incubator in facilitating a more efficient cash flow for the villagers of Sanambele

- 4.2.1. Facilitate economic development in Sanambele beyond the Women’s Association
- 4.2.2. Learn what we, as westerners, can learn from the villagers of Sanambele in regards to cultural wealth and happiness
- 4.2.3. Understand role of the Mali Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Incubator Center in facilitating a ready cash flow in the village of Sanambele (i.e. establishing “who belongs, who controls, who gains”)
- 4.2.4. Pursue the villager’s interests and needs by facilitating participatory meetings with diagrams regarding malaria management and the impact the current Handicraft Enterprise System has had on the Women’s Association.
- 4.2.5. Assess Women’s Association’s need for further development of current Handicraft Enterprise System
- 4.2.6. Observe the accessibility of Moneygram in Diallakoraba, Sanankoroba, Bamako, and other surrounding villages/cities of Sanambele.
- 4.2.7. Provide ideas for the women in obtaining marketable products such as jewelry that can enhance their crocheted items and better material to utilize in the Handicraft Enterprise System.
- 4.2.8. Bridge communication gaps between MSU and Sanambele, as well as communication gaps between the Mali Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Incubator Center and Sanambele.
- 4.2.9. Discuss microfinance loans and the accessibility of telephones in Sanambele.
- 4.2.10. Introduce catalog created by Wendy Nickisch and Ada Giusti to the Women’s Association to increase ordering efficiency.
- 4.2.11. Provide a list of current orders and order form for the Sanambele Women’s Association to make picking the orders up more efficient.
- 4.2.12. Meet with Plan Mali and Peace Corps representatives to discuss their possible future involvement with the project.

- 4.2.13. Establish organization of the current project within the Mali Agribusiness Center in regards to debriefing faculty and students involved in the Handicraft Enterprise System in Mali.

5.0. Accomplishments of Objectives

Summary by undergraduate Montana State extern, Wendy Nickisch. *“Thus far (48 hours after arrival in Mali), I have already learned more from the Malians than I could have imagined. There appears to be an “organized chaos” within Bamako, Diallakoraba, and within Sanambele that suits the villagers. Each person has a smile on their face and is ready to help assist a foreigner until the foreigner is completely satisfied, or has gotten where he/she needs to be. They are very honest people and are only trying to make a living based on an honest and hard day’s work. Their work ethic is extraordinary. There were no jewelry items that appeared to be extraordinarily unique that would make the Women’s Association more profit and benefit the Handicraft Enterprise System. A primary goal that was set at the beginning of the 2008 Fall Semester was to make Sanambele a model village for other villages to learn about reaping benefits of globalization. With the development of the Handicraft Enterprise System, Plan Mali and Peace Corps representatives will be met and their future involvement in the project will be discussed.”*

5.1. By objective, what was accomplished?

Provide Center with assistance with project policies and approaches and opportunity to update US partners on issues and recommendations.

- Explore the recommendation of “place” for the Center. The importance of having an actual physical place for the Center has been advised now from several sides. The Center itself is ready to have a place they can call theirs. World Bank Washington, Incubator Center leader, Seth Ayers, suggested that this is one of the factors that contributes to success of an incubator. Aissata suggested that possibly IER will be willing to provide some space for this physical place of the Center. USAID, Accelerated Economic Growth group leader, Jean Harmon, seemed very uncomfortable with the lack of a physical place for the Center. In the past she contributed furniture, an air conditioner, and computer supplies for the Center’s office. Belco said this is being stored at ENI until the physical place for the Center is found in Bamako.

Right now Belco has an ideal situation with a small inner office which includes the router for the Center’s high speed Internet connection and a large conference room that could easily seat 30 people. The only problem with this is that this arrangement is 1 hour by car from Bamako in one of the buildings on the campus of IER/IFRA-Katibougou. Belco’s office seats comfortably 5 persons and is located inside the conference room which is equipped with tables and chairs. This unit is on the first floor of a building behind and to the east of the main administration building.

- Determine how to move forward with time commitment of Center leader / Incubator manager dedicated, approved by parent organizations (IER and

IPR/IFRA). Some Center members strongly sense that their time spent with US students to helping them on the Center's Incubator projects is free time or vacation time and cannot be counted as "work time."

Florence entered into a conversation with Dr. Kadiatou Gamby, Director of Fruit and Vegetable Research for IER and Bourama Dembele, director of Research for IER. Both independently stated that the work of Aissata Thera and Abdoulaye on the seed potato project with Borko, the tomato virus work, and the general progress toward a plant disease clinic are part of their normal work. My sense was that as long as the work with US students and faculty moves forward Aissata and Abdoulaye's work on these 3 projects, there should be no conflict of interest between "work for IER" and "work for the Center". With respect to Keriba Coulibaly, Florence met in person with the IER-Sikasso supervisor of Keriba and separately with Kadiatou Gamby. They both said, separately, that because Keriba has not finished his degree, he is still in a student status. Therefore, all of Keriba's work with the Bambara village of Sanambele on a holistic site analysis and impact assessment of progress toward two parts of the village's holistic goal is part of Keriba's normal IER work.

At IPR/IFRA Florence met with Dr. Mamoutou Traore regarding the conflict of interest suggested by Belco Tamboura, Sidy Ba, and Adama Berthe. Dr. Traore said that there is no conflict of interest and he would be willing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect. Florence drew up the memorandum (Appendix *****add right number*****). When presented to Dr. Traore, he said he thought the memorandum was fine and he would be willing to sign it but suggested that Dr. Fafre Samake should be the one to sign it since he is the Director General. The only possible meeting time that Dr. Samake had was on Friday, March 28, the day following our departure from Mali. Florence tried to change the departure day of her ticket to accommodate Dr. Samake's schedule, but this was not possible.

Many of these meetings were complicated because of the week long Biennial National Science Symposium of IER during our visit. The meeting did bring many people to the plenary session. Florence attended the plenary session and visited most of the booths including the booth of Dr. Gamby, Aissata, Abdoulaye and others in the IER fruit and vegetable program. Posters from our seed potato (projects when the Minister of Agriculture visited the booth.

- Follow-up on suggestions given to Center by USAID and World Bank. During the meeting at USAID-Mali with Jean Harmon, leader of the Accelerated Economic Growth (AEG) Group, she made it crystal clear that the next step in our relationship needed to be taken by the Center themselves. Jean explained that she had informed the Center in January 2009 that there may be funding available from USAID-Mali. To be considered for funding, the Center would need to present to the AEG team a completed business plan. This plan would need to be presented within three months of the announcement of the offer. Therefore, to be considered

for funding the Center would need to provide Jean Harmon a completed business plan on or before 15 April 2009. Then, Jean Harmon continued to explain that USAID-Mali was in no way guaranteeing any funding and they indicated that it would be at least 6 months before any indication would be given if any funding would be available. As a final note, Jean Harmon indicated that she was not interested in hearing from any of the Americans with regard to this process, only Malians.

The meetings with World Bank (WB), both at WB headquarters in Washington D.C., and at World Bank offices in Bamako resulted in specific suggestions for the Center. These were: 1) to work toward having a physical place for the Center to establish a sense of place; 2) to engage a single person for 6-12 months as a salaried facilitator to have the Center as his/her only job/project; 3) to network with other incubators, especially those in Africa, via the incubator website set up by World Bank. **add specifics about the WB seed potato project in Niono that Aissata and Adama are working with***

The interaction with World Bank began in January 2009 when Dr. Rikka Rajaharthi found the Web-based information of our project and contacted Dr. Florence Dunkel regarding the incubator activities of the Center that were linked to US universities. Rikka invited Florence to present the incubator-linked-to-university teaching/research activities concept and results. This presentation was given by Florence at the World Bank symposium series on Innovative Agricultural Systems. The PowerPoint slides were prepared following guidelines for this symposium series provided by World Bank. The final version of the slides is available on the New Paradigm project website www.montana.edu/mali. The important conceptual/philosophical result of this symposium was that the World Bank program leaders assembled for Dr.Dunkel's presentation acknowledged the importance of our approach and also shared the difficulties they have in implementing this approach with their current structure. Our underlying philosophy is that real change is initiated by the village or community members themselves. In order to provide any meaningful assistance, one needs to work directly with the villagers. To be effective this means at least a 10 year commitment, and an extended period of listening and trust building. The World Bank generally has a 3 year commitment with the NGO that they fund conducting all of the face-to-face interaction with the local community. World Bank admits that this is not long enough to establish much of a relationship. The problem is that when the funding is finished (at the end of the 3 years), the NGO disappears and there is no long-term connection. The World Bank recognized that the beauty or secret of our New Paradigm program is that it does not disappear after the program's funding disappears. The main reason for this seems to be the connection with the teaching and learning process at the universities participating in the grant. Dr. Rajaharti has applied for funding to create a source book for WB about this concept. If funded, Dr. Dunkel will be submitting a paper about this Incubator Concept linked to the US Universities' Teaching and Learning Process.

- Provide assistance in funding flow for Seed Potato Incubator. During a tour of the tissue culture and seed potato laboratory and greenhouses of Adama Berthe at IPR/IFRA it was determined that the next major input of funding the Center will be needing from their part of the USDA New Paradigm grant will be for diagnostic supplies to certify the seed potatoes *Ralstonia solanacearum* free and for a computer for Adama capable of connecting wirelessly to the Center high speed internet connection. Although Adama has sufficient seed potatoes of generation zero and enough plantlets to make the meristem tissue cultures of the potato plants and has an estimated supply, 80,000 seed potatoes, generation zero for the Borko farmers. The certification, however, should ethically be done by a lab different from the lab that produced the seed potatoes. This could be Aissata and her laboratory. Aissata however will need to assembly all the supplies she needs for the certification process. The funding for most of this Aissata already has in the New Paradigm grant.
- Assist Center member, Keriba Coulibaly, in reconfiguring his M.S. thesis proposal to make the main focus a holistic process at the village level.

We will be determining a schedule for completion of the M.S. and if this is successful, continue on for the Ph.D. Cliff Montagne and I will serve as his US advisors and a third professor from University of Mali from ISFRA will be selected to be on the committee.

Sanambele village will serve as the site for the analysis. Keriba has spent this week learning all the projects that have been underway with the US universities' faculty and students, with PLAN Mali, and with projects the villagers initiated themselves. Keriba is learning to know the villagers and their celebrations and their hopes for the future. A plan for facilitating holistic discussions and planning with Sanambele in the next year will be developed during this visit. Keriba has suggested that the funding reserved for his visit to the US be invested in funding transportation between Sanambele and his office at IER in Sikasso, about a 3 hour journey by car.

Keriba will use the holistic analysis outline detailed by Alan Savory and Jody Butterfield in their text published in 1999. Keriba as successfully completed 4 credits of holistic thought and management at Montana State University with Dr. Cliff Montagne in 2007. This outline will emphasize traditional values, other values of the community, resources, goals of the community. Specifically, this will include cropping and storage systems, enterprise systems (including shea butter and handicrafts), nutrition and other aspects of health, adult educational systems in the village, and formal preschool through 9th grade educational systems in the village. The holistic process detail current events for celebrating the rich cultural wealth of the village that exist and explore additional opportunities for celebrating the culture in arts, performing and craft work.

To assist Keriba in this holistic analysis of villagers planning process and its impacts, US university students will be sharing their research with him in specific

areas. A few of these students will have the opportunity to assist Keriba in his master's work. One of these is Wendy Nickisch who is currently working with him in the village. In July, we anticipate that Pauline Powers-Peprah will be assisting him in exploring women's issues and malaria management especially with young children. Tiphani Lynn and Eva Mends are assisting understanding the scientific basis of traditional plants used for malaria in Sanambele. Several students currently in PSPP 465R at Montana State University are providing Keriba with information on nutritional content of cowpeas, grasshoppers, peanuts, chicken and bones.

So far we have not talked a lot about nutrition, but we have made many observations. One of these is the kids are eating a lot of peanuts raised in the village. Yesterday Bourema Coulibaly's family made peanut butter, but the kids are not allowed to just eat a spoonful of it and there is not usually bread to put it on. Peanut butter traditionally is used in the sauce, so the sauce is high protein.

Simultaneously, Montana State "nutrition-in-Sanambele" students are in Montana obtaining the nutritional content and doing a complete protein (amino acid analyses) analysis of the results they find on the web and in peer refereed journal articles. For nutritional information on insects, termites and grasshoppers are the most commonly available. Grasshoppers are what the kids catch and roast over a fire for themselves. All villagers asked say they do not prepare termites for food because they are just too small in size.

We have had a lot of chicken in the past few days. The kids are given the bones to chew the knuckles and the marrow. The family dog gets the rest. Everyone gets some of the sauce from cooking the chicken. We had about 5 chickens total for 40 people for 3 meals, so you can estimate the percent each person gets. The chief of the family and guests, Wendy, Keriba, and I received a leg or piece of thigh a piece each meal. There is a distinct hierarchy of who receives what part of the chicken.

Hawa Coulibaly now has an adult education classroom (dirt floor thatched roof, circular hut) for teaching women who did not go to school (all women over the age of 25). She has posters she made by hand and designed for health, pregnancy, and teaching Bambara. This is quite an amazing village.

We have had informal interviews with the director of the primary and the secondary schools and will give a lesson with the microscope donated by one of the former PSPP 456R students, Tiphany Lynn. This lesson is initially planned for 9th grade, but the final decision will be up to the director of the secondary school of Sanambele.

- Introduce Center to the Women's Association Handicraft Enterprise as a replicable model for other incubators in the Center to introduce as a revenue stream.

Keriba has participated in the Women's association process of receiving orders from the US and of filling orders. He has also participated in the collaborative development of a catalogue for the women to use when filling orders. He has also observed how the women in the handicraft group present new products for inclusion in the catalogue. Keriba has been part of the establishment of direct connections for ordering materials. This includes placing an order by phone and sending payment by Money Gram. Delivery of orders is still dependent on persons traveling. In addition Keriba with the Montana State PSPP 465R student and me have conducted an impact analysis of the handicraft enterprise initiated by Dr. Ada Giusti and me in 2007-2008. The details of this impact assessment will be available below.

4.2. Handicrafts incubator

Main objectives of facilitating a ready cash flow for the villagers of Sanambele through the development of a more efficient Handicraft Enterprise System:

- 1). Facilitate rural economic development in Sanambele
- 2). Learn what we, as westerners, can learn from the villagers of Sanambele in regards to cultural wealth and happiness
- 3) Establish the role of the Mali Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Incubator Center in the role of facilitating a ready cash flow in the village of Sanambele (i.e. establishing "who belongs, who controls, who gains")
- 4) Pursue the villager's interests and needs by facilitating participatory meetings with diagrams regarding malaria management and the impact the current Handicraft Enterprise System has had on the Women's Association.
- 5) Assess the Women's Associations' needs for further development of the current Handicraft Enterprise System
- 6) Observe the accessibility of money grams/money orders in Diallakoraba, Bamako, and surrounding villages/cites of Sanambele.

While in Diallakoraba, Mr. Martiko, our driver on 13 March 2009, asked around about accessibility of money grams within Diallakoraba while Florence and I shopped around the market looking for marketable items that would be available for the women to purchase. Unfortunately, there are no money grams available in Diallakoroba. On 20 March 09 we visited Sanankoroba to determine if Money grams or Western Union were available in that town. They are not. So the closest accessibility for sending payment for orders is Bamako. The women indicated that this was not a problem.

- 7) Train the women in obtaining marketable products such as jewelry and better material to utilize in the Handicraft Enterprise System.
- 8) Bridge communication gaps between MSU and Sanambele, as well as communication gaps between the Mali Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Incubator Center and Sanambele.
- 9) Discuss microfinance loans and the accessibility of telephones in Sanambele.
- 10) Introduce the catalog created by Wendy Nickisch and Ada Giusti to the Women's Association to increase ordering efficiency.
- 11) Provide a list of any current orders for the Sanambele Women's Association to make picking the orders up more efficient.

- 12) Meet with Plan Mali and Peace Corps representatives to discuss their possible future involvement with the project.
- 13) Establish organization of the current project within the Mali Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Incubator Center in regards to debriefing faculty and students getting involved in the Handicraft Enterprise System in Mali.

5.2. Impact assessment and what do you recommend for the future (specifically and in general)?

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF HANDICRAFT ENTERPRISE

In order to further develop the Handicraft Enterprise System, a focus group survey focused on the Women's Association was taken. The women stated that the cash flow has had a very beneficial impact on the village as a whole. One woman stated that this money is more than the agricultural brings into the village. The cash flow allows the women to purchase medicine, food, and other necessities. The money has solved many problems according to the Women's Association. They feel that if marketability increases and more clients are accessible, the handicraft enterprise will only continue to grow. They agreed with the idea that a MoneyGram should be used to send funds to the village. It was decided that **Bourama Coulibaly** would travel to Bamako when the money transfer has happened. The money from the handicrafts has allowed the villagers to purchase cellular phones and so the microfinance loans are not even necessary. With communication gaps being bridged through the cash flow allowed by the handicrafts, it appears that we are more connected with the villagers. The women and the elders even asked what appropriate times are to call us in the United States just to talk. The women stated that villagers are able to go to Bamako daily if need be so the access to money gram would be very efficient and therefore the money would go straight to the villagers in order to increase efficiency. Different materials were suggested to use by the women in creating products. The very innovative women had new products already to show us. One woman had wool pants for a small boy and one woman even crocheted slippers. The innovation of the women was amazing to observe, implying the impact and entrepreneurial spirit within the village has definitely spread. By diversifying materials used to create more products, the women agree the enterprise can expand. The women were willing to travel to Bamako to meet an American to drop off an order and since cellular phones are used in the village and numbers were exchanged, efficiency is well on its way in the development of the Handicraft Enterprise. A new order was placed using the catalogue that was introduced. The catalogue appeared to make ordering efficiency and gave the women a better idea of exactly what the Americans want. The women were shown different jewelry pictures and sample jewelry that is profitable to them if sold to Americans for profit. They were anxious to travel to Bamako to purchase jewelry to have us bring back to America.

Postscript: In May 2009, this very process was accomplished successfully. The payment of the new crocheted items picked up in March was sent by MoneyGram to Bourama and Hawa Coulibaly verified that the Women's Association did receive the payment. This happened thanks to the cell phones of Keriba Coulibaly in Sikasso and Hawa and Bourama Coulibaly's cell phones in Sanambele.

6.0. Daily log of activities. What was done when, visits, meetings, cultural experiences, other things related to visit objectives or helpful information for the faculty and students who will follow you here to Mali.)

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Wendy departed from Bozeman. Florence departed from Washington D.C. following her presentation at World Bank. Florence tested the wheelchair and handicapped capability of Dulles Airport and all went well. Florence and Wendy met at the gate in Dulles.

Friday, March 13, 2009

The Paris Airport wheelchair and handicapped transfer also went well. Arrived on time Belco met us with truck. Belco was tired. Planned to take weekend off with exception of skype with Ernie and me on Saturday. Belco met briefly with Florence to come to concensus about who they were to meet with and to divide up the task of contacting people by e-mail.

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Skype with Ernie regarding the Center and also publications. Phone connection with Belco because electrical lines were out at Katibougou. Took car to market at Diallakoroba. Market research. Had Malian dress made for Wendy while we waited. Drove to Sanambele to simply say hello. Mme. Miriam Traore was only person nearby. We left message of our arrival in Mali with her.

Sunday, March 15, 2009

Worked on trip report and setting up e-mail request for meetings. Wendy also worked on French and Bambara and her journal. We met with petit commercant who has assisted with extern project for 10 years. Mr. Diallo provided a good demonstration of customer relations and selling handicrafts. Skype conference was held with Wendy, Florence and Nancy Beckage. Another skype conference was held with Bob Diggs and Florence regarding the recent update in the website.

Monday, March 16, 2009

At 2:00 pm Florence and Wendy left for the Musee National Du Mali with our driver, Mr. Mariko. When we got there, we found out it was unfortunately closed but we were able to walk around the courtyard and sculptures and a model African bus in front of the restaurant portraying public transportation. We then traveled to the Mali School of Medicine where we walked around. We were able to look into a Malian university classroom, which was shocking to an American university student. It was interesting to get a new perspective on learning and education in other countries and will furthered Wendy's discovery-based learning. Florence and Wendy walked to a local grocery store and purchased some mangos and bananas and walked upstairs to dinner. Later Wendy worked on her journal and her French.

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Met with World Bank representative and Florence gave the same presentation to him as was given to the World Bank representatives in Washington D.C. Mr. Olivier was very enthused about the project and the holistic approach taken by the project and hopes to instigate the same

methods for future projects carried out by the World Bank in Mali. Wendy discussed the micro finance loans with Mr. Olivier and the World Bank's association with such loans. Mr. Olivier discussed micro finance loans but in the World Bank in Mali is not associated with such loans. Mr. Olivier gave Wendy two brochures for two programs associated with such loans and rural economic development (PACR and PCDA). Wendy emailed the two programs but has not heard back from either of them to date. After the World Bank meeting, Belco, Florence, and Wendy went to the United States Embassy to meet with USAID. It was made clear at this meeting that the only way for the Mali Agribusiness Center to move forward is to complete a business plan and to submit the plan to USAID before the deadline of April 14th 2009. Belco mentioned the Center is working on the business plan with aspirations of completing the plan by April 12th 2009. We then met with Peace Corps representative, Yacouba Kone, so Florence could discuss the impact the diagrams prior externs created to develop malaria management in rural villages. Mr. Kone did not have any formal results and was unsure of the overall impact the diagrams have had. Wendy discussed the small enterprise system portion of the Peace Corps and Mr. Kone discussed the trading was within Mali itself and was not global as of yet. I received an email address of the Howa's, a colleague of Florence's, who is in charge of the small enterprise system portion of the Peace Corps but have not heard back from her to date. That night, Keriba Coulibaly arrived at the hotel at 10:30 pm. Wendy went to bed while Keriba and Florence went to dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Keriba, Florence, and Wendy got a taxi and headed to the Ministry of Education (associated with Plan Mali) to discuss their involvement in Sanambele. The meeting was in French so I am not sure what was formally discussed. Keriba and Florence went to the Science Conference at IPR while Wendy stayed in the hotel to work on the trip report. It rained tonight at 10:30 pm.

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Keriba, Florence, and Wendy traveled to **Kouricoba ???** to meet with Belco's supervisor to have his supervisor sign an agreement to release Belco and other Center members to work. (Florence will have to write more about this)

That night, Keriba, Florence, and Wendy discussed the Focus Group Survey Keriba would be translating to the women regarding the Handicraft Enterprise System. The goal of the survey will be to assess the impact the Handicraft Enterprise System has had on the villagers and give suggestions to the Women's Association to increase efficiency of the current system. Tomorrow we leave for Sanambele!!!!

Friday, March 20, 2009

We left for Sanambele at approximately 1:30 pm. We arrived to find open arms of the Bourama Coulibaly family who welcomed us into their home. Keriba, Florence, and Wendy lounged in the shade talking with the women and children who were not in school or working at the current time. Wendy drew pictures in the sand and the children were very helpful in helping her learn certain Bambara words. That night Wendy experienced her first Sanambele meal of tou. After dinner, Wendy spoke with Salif, a 15 year old who was playing a hand held poker game. She read the English words to him and the spoke briefly in French. The middle school aged kids are fluent in French and Bamabara. They are slowly learning English and as Salif said, "I love learning English."

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Milk and bread were served for breakfast. After breakfast, Wendy walked around Sanambele with a camera in her hand greeting the villagers. At least 30 children followed her asking to have their photo taken. Wendy continues, *“As I was exploring the village, I saw three boys playing a game with a rock and design that looked like hop scotch that had been drawn in the sand. They were hopping on one leg and kicking a rock to the next square. I drew a hop scotch design in the sand and taught the children how to play hop scotch. I also taught some of the younger girls a “hand clapping game” I called “kela-fela”.* After entertaining the children, Keriba, Florence, and Wendy walked down to the local river that was almost completely dry. Wendy asked the name of the river and was informed it was called the Zangolo River. The river was definitely under a mile from the village and is predicted to be the primary source of the mosquito problem in Sanamble. After returning from the river, a small meeting was being held in our host family, Boroma Coulibaly’s, courtyard. Hawa Coulibaly greeted us and we were informed she had joined an exporting union in Bamako exporting shea butter. We explained briefly the goals we wanted to accomplish while in Sanambele to three of the elders who were present at Borema Coulibaly’s. Keriba explained in Bamabara that we brought greetings from the program members in the United States and from the President of MSU, we wanted to continue the malaria eradication project and assess the villager’s malaria management, we wanted to assess the impact the Handicraft Enterprise System has had on the village, we have more orders for handicrafts and we need to pick up one placed by Ada, we want to present a microscope to the school that will hopefully be able to diagnose malaria in the future, we have a video of the village to present. The elders said that any gifts given are good but they appreciate the visits we make even more. We thanked them and addressed that Sanambele has a message to reach citizens in the United States, as well as rural areas, in the importance of values, tradition, and traditional medicine. The villagers gave Wendy her Sanambele name of Hawa Coulibaly. Later that day, the focus group survey was given to the Women’s Association to assess the impact of the Handicraft Enterprise. After the survey, the results were analyzed by Wendy. It was perceived that the Handicraft Enterprise has had a HUGE impact on village life. The women addressed that the cash flow has helped them purchase necessities for daily living and has helped pay for school fees to send their children to school. One woman stated that this enterprise brings in more money than does the agricultural business. The enterprise system has given the women confidence and empowerment. The catalog was introduced to the women and it was perceived as helpful when placing orders. Different materials such as cotton and wool were addressed as other materials to purchase to increase marketability in the U.S. A money gram was discussed and since Hawa Coulibaly and Borema both have cellular phones, communication gaps are slowly being bridged. The women agreed with the idea of the money gram and they thought it would increase efficiency. Borema Coulibaly agreed to be the “Record Keeper” and would disperse the money evenly to the women when the money gram was received. Proper record keeping will increase efficiency and keep the system fair and accurate. The women mentioned that someone is always traveling to Bamako so money gram and communication will be easier. The money provided by the enterprise has given the women independence and freedom to travel to Bamako for medicine and other necessities more easily. After the assessment of the Handicraft Enterprise System, malaria management was discussed. The women said no one gets malaria in the dry season and the only way to diagnose malaria thus far has been symptoms.

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Wendy continues, *“We met with the village elders and the chief to give them the microscope. They appreciated the gift very much and they said that any gift that benefits the school benefits the entire village. They appreciated the visit we had made and appreciated even more our hopefulness that the children will continue to value their elders and traditional based knowledge will continue to intertwine with the new knowledge the children will learn in school. Florence and Wendy placed an order utilizing the catalog. The women showed us a variety of new products they had been working on in the last year. We explained they should make larger purses and then we explained the jewelry. We showed them the necklace that Florence had as an example and showed them pictures. Florence drew an order for the jewelry and then gave them \$100 to purchase it. This was not the method I had in mind and in order to invest in the enterprise, I was hoping the women would buy jewelry and then sell it to use for twice as much. By investing their own time and money into the enterprise system, they would develop even more confidence in the business and increase the entrepreneurial spirit within the village. This is what I believe Ada Giusti also had in mind when she gave us \$200 to purchase jewelry from the women. I explained this to Keriba and he then translated it to Bambara to explain to the women. I thought I was clear in my explanation but a few days later I found out other wise. After the order was placed, Florence got ready to leave for Bamako for a few days for meetings. Wendy stayed in Sanambele with Keriba for the next two days. A few of the women also traveled to Bamako to purchase jewelry in the market. “*

Monday, March 23, 2009

Wendy and Keriba remained in Sanambele while Florence attended IER and Center meetings at IPR.

Wendy writes, *“I went to the local river to get GPS coordinates of nearby water sources but the GPS system was not cooperating and I was unable to track any coordinates. I took photos of a stream (that was dry) running to the river and local run offs from showers around the village instead. After I took photos of possible mosquito larvae habitats, Keriba and I went to the school to show the teachers how to use the computer to increase efficiency within the school systems. I showed them how to type, save a document, reopen a document. They were VERY excited about this and said it would make their lives a lot easier and more efficient. I then showed them how to use the Paint accessory and showed them how to play a DVD on the Windows Media Player.”*

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Wendy continues, *“Florence came back and she shared that she had picked up the biocontrol material for use in pools and ponds used for swimming to kill mosquito larvae (*Bacillus thuriengensis israelensis*, B.t.i.). We discussed malaria management techniques and then discussed the lesson that will be given in the school. We brought the microscope to the school and the elders presented it to the school staff. Florence discussed microscopes to the 7th graders and drew an “e” and had the children look at the microscope. The next station set up was red blood cells infected by malaria in a PDF file on Florence’s lap top. The children were not able to see the “e” very well so I created an algae slide and showed the Biology teacher how to create a slide. He was VERY excited about this slide and then we allowed the next group of students to look at the algae under the microscope. After these school children left the Biology*

teacher and I worked on creating different slides to view under the microscope. He went outside and grabbed an onion. He created a slide but could not focus it. I focused the microscope to see the onion in focus and he nearly jumped with joy when he observed the fibers under the microscope. I have never seen children or teachers so excited about learning and it got me excited that the handicrafts are bringing money to help with school fees to invest in education. That night, the children asked me to read an English book that they had and then I went to bed.”

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

In the morning we went to the river with Hawa Coulibaly and Bourama Coulibaly with a hand-made sampling spoon to sample the river for mosquito larvae. This method was very successful and some of the mosquito larvae were placed in sample vials. Bourama Coulibaly placed a cup of B.t.i. in the river in order to kill the mosquito larvae. B.t.i. was also placed in a small run off from a shower within the village.

The women came back with \$100 worth of jewelry from Bamako and \$100 worth of random crafts purchased with their own money. There was a communication error involved in the translation and I believe the order Florence filled out only caused confusion. The women thought the order was for Ada instead of buying quality jewelry and selling it to us for more than they bought it for. The other half of the initial \$200 from the International Food Bazaare given to Florence and Wendy to purchase jewelry from the women was given to the women to make up for the \$100 of their own money spent on the handicrafts in the Bamako market. It was decided a money gram would be sent with another \$100 dollars to cover the other half of the jewelry since the women said that after transportation costs they only profited 500 Fcfa from the order. In hind site, I should have made sure the order was clear and should have made it clearer because it is evident that something was lost in translation.

We finalized the order that was received but not paid for. Along with the \$100, money for the handicrafts will be placed in the money gram to be picked up by Berema Coulibaly.

7.0. List of Persons Met (complete name with correct spelling, their title, organization, physical address, phone, e-mail)

Mr. Diallo Boubacar, petit commercant face a la Hotel Plaza, Bamako Nariella, Mali, phone: 223-7-637-0610.

Mme. Hawa Coulibaly, President of the Sanambele Women’s Association, Leader of School for Women in Sanambele, Farmer and rancher in Sanambele, phone 7-882-6609 (ask for 7th grader Oumar Samake, her grandson, to help with translation from Bambara into French.)

Mme. Oumou Diakete, Ministry of Education leader of le nivous fundamental, consultant to Plan Mali and their work in Sanambele

Olivier Durand, Senior Agricultural Specialist, Agriculture and Rural Development, The World Bank, Africa Region AFTAR, Bamako, Mali, tel: 223 20 70 22 23/ 79 39 04 00; Fax 223 20 22 66 82; e-mail: odurand@worldbank.org; www.worldbank.org/ard

Dr.Kadiatou Gamby, director of fruit and vegetable research in Mali and IPM CRSP regional? Project.

Mr. Simon Goita, Assistant director of the elementary school in Sanambele (Directeur adjoint premier cycle a Sanambele) and teacher of 3rd and 4th grade.

Le Loft, Hotel and Restaurant, Rue Achkabad /No. 687, Bamako, Mali, tel. 223 20 21 66 90/91/92; fax: 223 20 21 49 21; e-mail: leloft@orangemali.net

Mr. Moussa Keita, director of the elementary school of Sanambele (Directeur du Premier Cycle de Sanambele), phone: 223-7-612-4427.

Mr. Boubacar Kone, biology teacher of the junior high in Sanambele, phone: 223-7-607-7253.

Mr. Yacouba Kone, program assistant trainer Agriculture and Natural Resources Management, B.P. 85, Bamako, Mali; tel 223 221 44 79; cell 223 675 21 86; fax 223 221 33 69, e-mail ykone@ml.peacecorps.gov

Mr. Drissa Mariko, chauffeur, face a la Hotel Sarama, Bamako (Nariella), Mali, phone: 223-7-309-9889.

Mr. Mohamed Samake, Assistant to the head tailor in the weekly market of Diallakoroba. Clothes mad while you wait.

Mme. Alima Samake, English teacher in junior high school in Sanambele, Phone: 223-7-9025034. (went to school in Dialakoroba)

Dr. Fafre Samake, Directeur General, Institut Polytechnique Rurale et Institute pour la Formation Recherches Applique (IPR/IFRA), Katibougou

Mr. Mamadou Sissoko, Director of the Junior High in Sanambele (Directeur le Deuxieme Cycle de Sanambele), phone: 223-7-605-0331; e-mail: madouskou2008@yahoo.fr

Mr. Bourema Traore, Head Tailor in the weekly market of Dialakoroba. Clothes made while you wait.

Mme. Miriam Traore, farmer and wife Bourema Coulibaly, Village of Sanambele, Mali

Dr. Mohamedou Traore, Directeur General Adjoint, Institut Polytechnique Rurale et Institute pour la Formation Recherches Applique (IPR/IFRA), Katibougou

The following is communication assistance for the future.

Phone Calls to Sanambele:

The best time to call Sanambele is 7 to 9pm, Mali time. Those with phones are Karim, Bourama Coulibaly, and Hawa Coulibaly (223 788 6609). Bourama Suliman may answer the phone if the phone is hung from the ceiling/or shade by the little village store.

The following is an additional list of persons met with during two Village of Sanambele meetings, 20-21 March 2009

20 March 2009 Greetings made in Village of Sanambele (Keriba Coulibaly [ABC member] who did translation for the meeting has the complete people list):

1. Chief of the village = Chiakia Coulibaly
2. Ourabaja Traole = wife of current chief of Sanambele
3. Bourema Coulibaly's family (location of the MSU Maison de Passage)
4. *Maimouna Coulibaly – one of the 2 original women doing crochet
5. Hawa Coulibaly – President of Sanambele Women's Association; one of the 2 original women doing crochet in Sanambele
6. *Mousouni Samake – member of Sanambele Women's Association but not a crocheter; widow of the former chief who died in 2009
7. Barou Doumbia
8. Mamadou Coulibaly
9. Lasine Doumbia
10. Mamoutou Samake
11. Selaha Samake
12. Miriam Samake = the first wife of Bourama Coulibaly
13. Korotoma Samake = second wife of Bourama Coulibaly
14. Children: Keriba Coulibaly (nephew of Bourama Coulibaly)
15. Children: Moussa Coulibaly (nephew of Bourama Coulibaly)
16. Children?: Koneba Coulibaly
17. Children = Arimatou Coulibaly
18. *Children: Fatmata Sako = daughter of Bourama Coulibaly; daughter of Bourama Coulibaly
19. ** Children: Fatou Samake
20. ** Children: Kadiatou Coulibaly
21. Children: Oumar Samake, Grandson of Hawa Coulibaly; in 7th grade; speaks French well and is ready to talk on phone when I call Hawa Coulibaly
22. Children: Asatu Diarra = young woman living at Bourama Coulibaly's home and often photographed with the crocheted dress.
23. *Korotum Samake = one of the women crocheters in the Women's Association
24. *Fatoumata Diarra = first and second grade teacher
25. *Asatan Samake = preschool teacher
26. *Aja Doumbia = one of the women crocheters in the Women's Association
27. *Jelica Samake

28. *Miriam Coulibaly = woman who crocheted and simultaneously danced in the film
29. *Saly Traore = one of the women crocheters in the Women's Association; has a 2 year old and will be birthing in May 2009.
30. *Coura Coulibaly
31. *Aishata Coulibaly = young woman who lives in Kalabankoro, a suburb of Bamako, and has 2 young boys; Brourama
32. *Moumoini Coulibaly = grandbrother of Bourama Coulibaly
33. Bakary Diarra = Husband of Hawa Coulibaly

*Present 20 March 2009 for first greeting by Florence , Keriba Coulibaly, Wendy Nickisch

**Present 21 March 2009 at general meeting

8.0. Visit-specific Appendices For example tables, figures, photos (an extensive photo documentation is requested) maps, descriptions of village, collaborators information, interview questions (survey instruments), research protocols.

Appendix 8.1. Price comparisons

Thongs, Diallakoroba market without bargaining, 1,200 cfa = \$2.40

Cotton printed material, 54 inch wide, made in India, 4 yards = 2,000 cfa = \$4.00

Making of a dress from material, 3 pieces, skirt wrap around, top with fancy sleeves, machine embroidery, scoop neckline, hat, 750 cfa = \$1.20.

Taxi from Hotel LeLoft in Bamako (Mr. Mariko) to Diallakoroba and return, 30,000 cfa = \$60 plus gas is paid for this.

Taxi from Hotel LeLoft (not Mr. Mariko) to Commerçant meeting at Hotel Plaza for 1 hour and deposit at Restaurant Asia. 4,000 cfa = \$8.000

From the paved road to Sanambele 15 km 2 ways or 1 way? ??? 10,000 or 20,000?

Taxi in Bamako (Mr Mariko) from Hotel LeLoft to Musee Nationale and then up the escarpment to the University of Mali Institute of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and return to the Hotel, total time 2.5 hours, 10,000 cfa = \$20.00

Taxi from Le Campanard to Hotel LeLoft 1,000 cfa = \$2.00

Appendix 8.2. Bambara vocabulary

Bambara Basics for the New Paradigm Faculty and Students

Level 1

(required to learn and use for all visitors to Bambara village)

Ini che = thank you (when speaking to one person)

im se = you are welcome (for woman speaking)

Im ba = you are welcome (for man speaking)

Au ni che (when speaking to a group) Thank you.

GREETINGS (to each person being greeted, one should use all the appropriate questions in this order.)

Ini sogoma (good morning)

Ini telin (or ini cle) (good afternoon from noon to 3pm)

Ini wule (good evening from 3pm to about 9pm)

Ini su (good night)

A ka kene = how are you?

Imoo so ka kene = How is your wife?

Imoo sooo ka kene = How are your wives?

I che ka kene = How is your husband?

Demi senou ka kene? = how are your children?

1 = kele

2 = fele

3 = saba

4 = nani

5 = wuru

6 = duru

7 = wolungfela

8 = sege

9 = conontong

10 = tong

Bambara Basics for the New Paradigm Faculty and Students

Level 2

Hagaut = please

After a good meal say:

Farah = I am full

1. A barika = Thank you.

2. Allahkaneme = May God bless you.

3. Allakasinetanoya tom = May Allah bless the next week of yours

Numbers (Only the basic formula is given here. With this background, students and faculty should be able to count to 1,000)

11 = ton ne kele

12 = ton ne fela =12

20 = mugan
21 mugan ne kele
30 = be saba
31 be saba ne kele
100 = kemi
101 = kemi ne kele
1,000 = wakele

Ceiling for shade = gwa
Chair = segelan
Chicken = chea
My back = n ko
My one bone in my back is broken. = n barasa kele karela.
Very grave = karela
Frog = touri
Gigi = fish
Tong = grasshopper

Appendix 8.3. Suggested Timetable for completion of M.S. degree thesis by Keriba Coulibaly. (Approved by Dr. Cliff Montagne and Dr. Florence Dunkel)

April 2009. Complete site description with information already obtained by Keriba and assistants. Use basic holistic site analysis by Savory and Butterfield 1999.

May 2009. Conduct baseline assessment of uptake of knowledge about the malaria cycle, diagnosis, and prevention. Conduct baseline assessment of adoption of preventative measures.

June 2009. Write up baseline assessment of uptake and adoption during dry season.

July 2009. Conduct Malaria uptake and adoption with Pauline Powers-Pepurah during malaria season.

August 2009. Write up results for malaria assessment during wet season.

September 2009. Conduct baseline assessment of the attitude of young persons, to traditional ways/wisdom in the face of rapid modernization such as electricity for the school and a library, and cell phones.

Appendix 8.4.

Focus Group Survey – Impact Assessment Instrument and Results

Assessment: Accessibility vs. Wealth

Goal: The goal of the focus group survey was to assess the impact the Handicraft Enterprise System had on the village of Sanambele.

Number of Respondents r

I. Handicraft Enterprise Assessment:

1) Do you feel enough money is coming into the village because of the Handicraft Enterprise System?

The money has been very beneficial to the women and the village as whole. It is a huge portion of their income and may even bring in more cash than agricultural products. It is very empowering and beneficial. The money has been invested into small enterprise systems in the village and given to villagers who have aspirations for trade and then paid back with some interest.

All 17 respondents said that the Handicraft Enterprise has been beneficial. Being able to invest the profits from the Handicraft Enterprise is a big benefit.

2) Is the money from the Handicraft Enterprise System a large part of the village wealth or a small part?

As mentioned earlier, it is a very large part, perhaps more than agricultural products.

Profits from the handicrafts are a big part of their income. Now, they can even buy condiments from the market instead of growing all of them. Hawa Coulibaly says that the handicrafts are a big income and can solve many problems in the family.

3) What do you feel could make the enterprise more efficient?

More clients and marketing in the U.S.

The first thing is to have a lot of customers. Moussouni Samake is not one of the handicraft makers, but she encourages all the women to do this. Bourema Coulibaly, one of the men farmers would also like to learn how to do this.

Natural fibers can *****

4) Do you know what a money gram is?

Yes, and they whole heartedly agree that this would increase efficiency and would be willing to travel to Bamako to pick up the order. It was arranged the Bourema

Coulibaly would be the one to record the orders and the amount each women would make and disperse the money when the money order was received.

5) Are you willing to use a money gram to receive the funds from the enterprise?

Yes.

The women agreed perfectly. All the time, infact everyday, someone from the village goes to Bamako. Hawa Coulibaly agreed to be the person to receive the funds.

6) How often does a villager go to Bamako?

Daily

7) Has the money from the enterprise helped in any other aspects of village life other than malaria management?

It has had a huge impact and has made it easier to buy bed nets, help with school fees, and marriages.

The profits can be used in many ways. For example, student fees and tuition can be paid. Marriage and health problems can be solved by the profits from the handicrafr.

8) Does having money make malaria management easier or is being so far away from medical facilities still make it difficult?

Malaria medications still have not been bought to have access right away when a child comes down with malaria. It was explained that some medicine should be bought for safe keeping so accessibility to Bamako will not be an issue and the child can get treated immediately.

II. Malaria Management

1) How many households have obtained bed nets, free or bought?

Unanswered

2) Has anyone gotten malaria during the dry season?

No.

3) What is the number of deaths of the last wet season?

They were unsure and had hard time reminiscing about the hard times.

4) Where do you see the most mosquitoes during the dry season?

No.

5) Where do you see the most mosquitoes during the wet season?

Vague answer. Everywhere.

6) How is malaria diagnosed?

Symptoms.

7) Have the posters created by the children in March 2008 been useful in malaria management and shared with families?

Yes.

8) How effective have the malaria lessons been in helping fight malaria?

Very much.

9) Are the younger school children able to address issues to elders in a respectful way about malaria or does traditional based knowledge over ride the lessons being taught to the children?

The lessons being taught are being addressed and respected. The traditional based knowledge is also addressed and respected.

8.5. General Observations from Sanambele and Bamako

In Sanambele:

- 20 March 2009, the heart of the dry season in Mali, it rained in the evening following about one hour of lightning.
- The water in the well used for drinking water, just outside the courtyard of Bourama Coulibaly's compound is 7 meters deep (measured by F. Dunkel with a rope.)
- Children are mainly not seen in play, they are must often observed doing the work of their parents, along side their parents.

Hawa Coulibaly has joined a shea cooperative. There are 51 members of the cooperative in Sanambele. Hawa is an active member and has sent her shea butter there. It seems that the headquarters is in Sanankoroba, one of the cities between Sanambele and Bamako, on the main paved road. For more information see section 9.0 of this report.

9.0. Professional items (biological samples, equipment, supplies) given and received.

- Compound monocular microscope with 10 x 40x and 400x oil immersion given formally to the village by Montana State University (organized by Tiphani Lynn undergraduate student conducting independent research with Sanambele this semester). Microscope was formally given by representatives of the Council of Elders to the school to use during the school year. While the school is out of session, July and August, it is the height of the malaria season for Sanambele. The headmaster, Mr. Mamadou Sissako, agreed that the health clinic should have access to the microscope and slides to diagnose malaria.
- Bacillus thuriengensis israelensis (B.t.i.), biological control for mosquito larvae, given to the village farmers, Karim Coulibaly and Bourema Coulibaly and the President of the Women's Association to use for dry season mosquito management.
- Florence purchased 2 kg of shea butter from Hawa Coulibaly. This shea is from her new association with the cooperative described below and in section 8.5 of this report. This shea is an order of magnitude better quality than shea previously sampled in Sanambele. The following is the label of the 1 kg plastic container in English:

Union des Societes Cooperatives des Productrices de Beurre de Karite de Sanankoroba
Beurre de karate ameliore
100% prte

Vertus:

Bon a manger

Rend la peau lisse

Protégé contre les intemperies

Lutte contre les courbatures et les rhumatismes

Contient les vitamines A, E, et F

Sanankoroba route nationale numero 7 a 30 km de Bamako, Cercle de Kati, Region de Koulikoro.

Telephone 75 23 39 40 / 75 23 32 86

Partenaires: Ben-Ba, Cesvi, SOS Sahel et SUCO

The following is the label of the 1 kg plastic container in Bambara:

Yiriwasso

Situlu bo cogo kura

Tulu Geregere

Nafaw:

A dumuni ka di

A be firikolonugu

A be farikolo tanga fine ani fen werew ma.

Abe fari mugu ani fasa dimi kele

Witamini A, E, ani F baba

- Demenbagaw: Ben-Ba, Cesivi, SOS Saheli ani Siko

For those reading this document as a model trip report, please note:

Please also include a header (using the header function) with the date of the draft and the location of the file and name of the file. For the header use font size 8.

A draft must be completed before leaving the country. The electronic version (may not include all Appendices) is given to Belco Tamboura (leader of the Mali Agribusiness Entrepreneurial Incubator Center), Dr. Kadiatou Gamby and the US project director (Dr. Florence Dunkel) and your institution's P.I. for the project you are on if it is different from yourself. A hard copy of the Executive Summary is given to USAID-Mali Accelerated Economic Growth Group (AEG).