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QUARTERLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES JANUARY– MARCH 2008

**INITIATIVES INTEGRÉES POUR LA CROISSANCE ÉCONOMIQUE AU
MALI (IICEM)**

Contract: EDH-I-00-05-00005-00, Order No. 05

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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INTRODUCTION

Initiatives Intégrées pour la Croissance Économique au Mali (IICEM), is a three year project implemented by Abt Associates, Inc. and its partners ACDI/VOCA, IBEX, and Sheladia Associates, Inc. IICEM is designed to promote economic growth by increasing efficiency in five value chains: rice, potatoes, mangoes, shallots and tomatoes. The ultimate objective is to increase producer incomes.

This report presents the activities during the second project quarter from January 2008 – March 2008. This quarter's activities focused on ramping up technical activities, activating partnerships with government entities and NGOs, beginning pilots with a number of producer organizations, initial rehabilitation of irrigated perimeters and support to counter season production, and putting in place critical tools to support activities during the first growing season including the Guarantee Fund.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The IICEM project expects to contribute to economic growth by providing technical assistance in five value chains: Rice, mangoes, potatoes, shallots and tomatoes.

The Project's strategic objectives are to:

- Rehabilitate and extend irrigated agriculture and improve the intensification of agricultural production in the targeted zones.
- Ensure access to credit
- Improve market access
- Introduce, transfer and implement improved technologies and all agricultural sectors
- Improve village associations' environmental and natural resource management skills
- Improve the agricultural, commercial and investment environments.

Cutting across these strategic objectives is a special focus on promoting equality between men and women in project activities and building capacity in local institutions to ensure sustainability.

ORGANIZATION OF THE QUARTERLY REPORT

This is the second activity report developed by IICEM. It reports on the activities conducted in the second quarter of project's life (January-March 2008), recalls planned activities, highlights achievements and challenges, and provides recommendations for solutions.

The report's first section describes administrative activities, subsequent sections describe technical activities by value chain and region, and then details activities in natural resources management, grants management and program coordination. Annex one provides tables with supporting data for the technical activities section.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

The team completed inventory for the three offices, and completed distribution of excess property from the predecessor projects to the NGOs and GIEs including PEENAL (Mopti) RGCOP (Tombouctou), GREFA (Sikasso), CONFIGES (Gao) et PDCO (Bandiagara) to support project operations. The only task remaining related to excess equipment will be to inventory non-usable equipment and decide how to dispose of it.

TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES BY REGION AND VALUE CHAIN

PLANNED ACTIVITIES BY VALUE CHAIN: MOPTI, TOMBOUCTOU AND GAO

Rice Value Chain

- Elaborate and sign partnership agreement with partner producer organizations, technical agencies (DRGR, DRA, DRCN, IER, CRRA);
- Establish loan documents for input purchase for counter season (credible client) sites in Tombouctou and Gao regions;
- Plan rehabilitation activities (estimating works costs) and start works on selected sites;
- Establish the funding documents of the two motor pumps of Touara, input loan documents for Touara and Sahona;
- Train pump attendants of Tombouctou and Gao;
- Training input stores managers.

Shallot Value Chain

- Organize a workshop in order to establish contact between the actors in the value chain;
- Identify producers organizations (PO) partner in the Dogon Plateau and the Horo Lake;
- Promote technologic innovations for shallot processing with the organizations working in partnership with IER-TRANS;
- Train Unions in cooperative management;
- Enhance UCAMHO access to processing equipment, and train them in shallot processing techniques.

Potato Value Chain

- Monitor demonstration potato farms in Tombouctou (Kabara, Bourem Inaly, Bori, Lac Horo), and Gao (Djidera, Tondibi);

RESULTS BY VALUE CHAIN IN MOPTI, TOMBOUCTOU, GAO

Rice Value Chain

IR 1. Increased Agricultural Productivity

In Tombouctou and Gao regions, IICEM undertook rehabilitation works in eight irrigated perimeters for 4244 linear meters of channels (3444m covering and 800m in-depth digging) for a total surface size of 371 ha in which 241 ha for PIVs. It is important to underscore that covering channels helps reduce loss of water from 75 % to 10%, and save time for irrigation. In-depth digging helps create water spots for temporary irrigation during droughts.

Thanks to the rehabilitation, the size of Adourourou perimeters were extended from 4 to 11 ha and that of Gourma Foghas from 7 to 15 ha, or an additional surface of 14.5 ha for both sites. The production of the rehabilitated sites has been estimated to 964 tons for the involved PIVs. A more detailed presentation is found in Annex 1, Table 1: Overview of Rehabilitation of Irrigation Sites provides raw data on all irrigation activities.

Three (3) perimeters in (Iloua, Sibou) Tombouctou region and (Gourma Foghas) Gao region started producing counter season rice with the support of the project;

The estimated production level of the 3 perimeters totaling 64 ha reaches about 256 tons of paddy rice with a yield of 4 t/ha. The perimeter of Batteye, in Bourem Inaly (50 ha), and the one of Kano (30 ha) should start their counter season campaign this month (April). Please refer to Annex 1 for more information: Table 2: Surface and Estimated Counter Season Production of Paddy Rice by Perimeter.

Six (6) service contracts was signed with the regional Directorates for rural Engineering (Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti, and Sikasso) and with the Regional Centers for Agricultural Research (Gao and Mopti).

The DRGRs will monitor rehabilitation works on the eight perimeters in compliance with the contract signed for this purpose. The CRRAs of Gao and Mopti are responsible for the demonstration of two varieties of seeds (Nerica 1, Nerica 2), the production of community-based seeds and the in-station production of G4 seed. Annex 1, Table 1: Overview of Rehabilitation of Irrigation Sites provides breakdown per region, types of production, surface, production and the generation of seeds.

IR3. Improved Financial Services

Two applications for funding were developed and will be submitted to the bank « BNDA » in 2008.

The first application will help the Nyèta cooperative purchase Lister TR2 motor pump and benefit from input credit in 2008 for 9 ha exploited by Touara women. The funding is estimated at CFA11m overall with the loan application CFA 3.75 million.

The second application will help the Touara men's cooperative purchase inputs as well as a Lister TR2 motor pump for 16 ha in 2008. The estimated amount for the funding is CFA17.6m, and the amount of the application from the bank is CFA7.7m.

IR 4. Improved Agricultural Environment

Two (2) training sessions were organized for the pump attendants of the PO partners in Gao and Timbuktu regions.

41 pump attendants received training in the basic maintenance techniques of motor pumps for more than 640 ha partner perimeters. The maintenance techniques of six (6) motor pumps for (4) perimeters (Kabara, Iloua, UCUTOHA, Adourourou) were addressed in the first training session.

A training session was organized for the input stores (boutiques d'intrant) managers of Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao.

A total of 24 managers of the eight (8) input stores were trained in marketing management, group purchases and organizational management. IICEM has elected to support eight *boutiques d'intrant* based on the geographical location of partner sites. They are designed to deliver inputs for 924 ha. IICEM staff collaborated with the 1000+S project implemented by IFDC.

Shallot Value Chain

IR1: Increased Agricultural productivity

The project organized a workshop in order to establish business relationships between actors which helped better understand the current development of the value chain through supply and demand, and acquire knowledge on technological innovations enhancing improved productivity and competitiveness of fresh and processed shallot production;

The project selected 3 Cooperatives (Anakanda, Golgou and Dandolie) in Bandiagara commune, with which it will partner in 2008. The following activities were identified by project as possible areas of activity:

- Assess the two main umbrella organizations in the area, the union and the federation, to identify the relationship between the two organizations and PDCo; define how they collaborate currently and where they may be able to merge or work in a more complementary fashion
- Provide access to input credits for seeds, appropriate fertilizers and equipment such as screens and cutters
- Promote small scale storage facilities to increase shelf-life for areas with higher production such as Golgou and Andakanda
- Comply with hygiene standards by using appropriate equipment rather than drying products on mats or rocks
- Train cooperatives and unions in cooperative law, marketing management and the agricultural framework law (the *Loi d'Orientation Agricole*)

IR2. Improved Agricultural Products Trade

The project supported the introduction of a shallot slicing machine at UCAMHO.

IICEM provided the slicer to UCAMHO in order to allow them to dry shallots and avoid being forced to sell fresh shallots into a saturated market. It is essential to increase the number of mechanized slicers or introduce grinders which are faster than hand-slicing in order to work toward having some market power to manage prices in the *Lac Horo* region as producers do currently on the Dogon plateau.

The project developed and issued terms of reference for a study to develop sub regional markets and position Malian shallots on those markets.

The project has identified eight shallot wholesalers and their associates (semi wholesalers) involved in the Bamako – Bandiagara trade that will be IICEM partners. They are all natives of Bandiagara and work with traders based in Bandiagara, upcountry traders from Kayes, Nioro and Nara as well as with foreign traders in Guinea and elsewhere.

Encountered Constraints/Challenges on Shallot Value Chain:

1. Prices and Lack of Market Power. Low prices due to market saturation at harvest time present a major challenge. Market saturation happens when the shallot produced in Bandiagara enters in competition with that of Niono.
2. Financial Weakness of Traders: The majority of the interviewed traders do not have the liquidity to purchase shallots from producers in cash. They therefore buy on credit, and often delay paying beyond the agreed 15 days. At the moment, no trades are done based on contracts though a few producers and traders have succeeded in establishing privileged trading relations over the past few years.
3. FAC-GEST and the Union are the two main organizations involved in shallot business in Bandiagara. They are not working together and FAC-GEST is totally dependent of PDCo for its technical competencies.

Potato Value Chain

IR1: Increased Agricultural productivity

IICEM introduced demonstration potato seeds in eight (8) female groups in Timbuktu and Gao regions. The yield reached 16.5 t/ha, and production is estimated at just over 280 tons.

The goal was to initiate women to the production techniques of this product normally limited to men, and diversify income sources for women. Annex 1, Table 4: Status of Potato Demonstration Farms for detailed results by site.

Recommendations on Value Chain in Mopti, Tombouctou, Gao

- Train cooperatives and producer unions on sound trading relations. The achievement of planned activities requires grouped trainings in the rice value chain, especially on pricing and sales planning for producer organizations.
- Provide project support for UCAMHO to obtain a shallot grinder.
- Support rice husking feasibility study with the Niena female rice producers' cooperative to bring added value to lowland rice value chain exploited by women. Rising prices for husked rice present an important opportunity.
- Conduct an assessment of the two main organizations, UCAMHO and FAC-GEST in order to have an interlocutor in this value chain.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES BY VALUE CHAIN IN THE SIKASSO REGION

Potato Value Chain

- Evaluate the production of the 30 targeted *producers* of URCEP in Sikasso
- Evaluate demonstration potato farms of Sikasso female groups and the northern regions of Mali
- Raise fund for potato trade for « Sinignèsigi » cooperative women, a member organization of URCEP
- Organize marketing days called «2008 potato»
- Relaunch potato exports towards Ghana and assess the potato market of Lomé in Togo
- Monitor and collect potato freight around the sub region
- Monitor the reimbursement of input loans by the 30 targeted producers of URCEP

Mango Value Chain

- Train the members of Yanfolila Cooperative Union's members in cooperative law and cooperative organizations management
- Train mango producers and raise their awareness in the adoption of good agricultural practices
- Train producers in phytosanitary protection of mango
- Support the external audit of 27 orchards out of 97 targeted at organic certification
- Canvass three markets of the towns in the upcountry (Nara, Niore du sahel and Kayes) in order to establish opportunities to sell fresh mango in these markets
- Create an export program for boat mango for about 1000 T of exports to be packed through the Plaza
- Canvass orchards in order to evaluate the level of productivity and maturity dates for the fruit in order to determine the starting dates for the export campaign
- Train pisteurs and packaging agents in harvest and packaging techniques
- Develop loan documents to be submitted to Kafo Jiginew to fund 2 mango processing units
- Support for the development of funding documents for pisteurs

Rice Value Chain

- Rehabilitate Niena plain
- Evaluate needs for seeds and fertilizers for community-based seed multiplication farms
- Evaluate female rice producers' needs agricultural inputs in order to intensify agricultural production
- Carry on the implementation of CSV by female producer organization of the region

RESULTS / SIKASSO REGION

Rice Value Chain

IR1: Increased agricultural productivity

The project evaluated the needs for inputs of community seed multiplication and demonstration farm lands: IICEM evaluated the amounts of agricultural inputs needed for community seed multiplication and demonstration farms of Sikasso region. This activity will be implemented with the Center for Agronomic Research of Sikasso (CRRA) and the Regional Directorate of Agriculture (DRA). IICEM will sign a memorandum of understanding with these agencies to identify specific roles and outcomes. Refer to Annex 1 for more information, in Table 6: Estimated Agricultural Inputs for Certified Seed Production Farms and Demonstration Farms for the 2008-2009 Season.

IR 2: Improved agricultural products trade

The project has supported three (3) female cooperatives in obtaining financing through the storage credit (Credit Stockage Vivrier) system. The stock amounts to 31 tons and CFA 2.2M. See Annex 1, Table 7: Storage Situation and Funding through CSV for more details.

Meeting with the female rice producers' cooperative of Niena (COFRN). The cooperative stocked 12 tons of paddy rice for the ongoing rice marketing campaign thanks to the storage credit system. The stock is scheduled to be marketed in April 2008. Female traders are the customers; they buy paddy rice and then steam-process it. Cooperatives have difficulty marketing rice for lack of customers. Processing paddy will support both fast sale and add value to the product.

Potato Value Chain

IR 1. Increased Agricultural Productivity

The potato production of the 30 targeted producers were evaluated during the last quarter and estimated to 480 tons against an estimate of 446 tons.

The project chose a sample of five (5) producers among 30, and 5 varieties of potato. The evaluation dealt with the surface and production of a seed box. The average yield reached 18.30Tons /ha according to the evaluation of the demonstration farms against 17 Tons/ha as compared to the estimated average of the previous years, or an increase of about 7.64%. The high yield generated by two producers was due to the use of small-sized Motor Pumps. In addition, the use of specific mineral fertilizers for potato also favored higher production. More information is in Annex 1, Table 5: Results of Potato Production in Yields for information by producers and targeted varieties.

In fact, IICEM in order to introduce and disseminate new technologies has sensitized and accompanied the 30 targeted producers in the use of the specific fertilizer called « Hydro complex Partner » for potato production at the detriment of classical formulas called complex cotton and cereal complex. All targeted producers were satisfied with the results of this new fertilizer.

IR2. Improved agricultural Products Trade

The project started discussions with two potato buyers in the region, «la société de Distribution de toutes marchandises en Côte d'Ivoire» « SDTM-CI» for a trade alliance; and Mrs. Sampin in Togo, a known trader.

The project also organized potato trading days in January 2008 bringing together all the actors of the value chain at national level and clients from the sub region including those from Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Ivory Coast.

The potato days gave the following immediate impact:

- A delivery contract of 30 tons of potato signed between a Ghanaian Client and URCEP
- A test delivery contract signed between URCEP and a major trader with the possibility of production of 40 Tons/week in case of success
- The design of leaflets aiming to promote URCEP
- A template purchase/sales contract developed and used by URCEP in the marketing operations
- URCEP members exported 214 tons of potato at an average price of 245 cfa/Kg for a turnover of CFA 52m.

IR 3. Improved Financial Services

IICEM supported 9 female potato marketing cooperatives in obtaining CFA 5.6M *in financing*.

MANGO Value Chain

IR1: Increased Agricultural Productivity

The project provided training for:

- 45 producers, including one (1) woman, member of the Yanfolila planters' cooperatives Union in the law and in cooperative management.
- 104 producers in how to protect mango by means of phyto sanitary treatment. The training helped producers understand the effects of inadequate use of a product and the pre and post precautions to take for the use of phyto sanitary products. Producers were particularly interested in information related to the right dosing and where it should be administered.
- 348 producers in the adoption of good agricultural practices in Dara, Falani, Maconon, M'piébougou and Manacoroni villages.
- 265 producers accounting for 1,131 Ha in the application of good production practices and the respect of Global gap standards. The different training sessions addressed the following issues: How to maintain orchards, the requirements linked to products markets of destination, Global gap's certification, and how to use phyto sanitary products.
- 187 women in selecting fruit for export. Fruit selection criteria, grading, palletizing in compliance with the specification were thoroughly explained and discussed by the trainer.

- 268 pisteurs and harvesters in harvest techniques. Participants were trained in the difference between air and sea mango freight as well as in different maturation durations. Putting mango into boxes was highlighted during the training.
- 156 Global Gap certified producers in monitoring the application of Global Gap's standards including the following companies: AOM and FRUITIERE DU LOTIO for 726 Ha in Mandela, Heremakono, Diomatènè, Samogossoni, Kodialanida, Wahibéra, Finkolo Ganadougou villages and the cooperative of Diomatènè. In Yanfolila, 12 producers benefited from this activity for a total of 55 Ha.
- 51 pisteurs from Bamako among whom 38 women in the mango specification of Mali. This training shall help pisteurs significantly decrease the sorting gaps in the packaging. In addition to this, they are well prepared now to make the difference between the selection criteria of air and sea freighted mangoes as well as the maturity periods of the two types of mango.
- The project helped obtain organic certification for AOM's producers in Sikasso. The following activities were conducted with AOM's producers: Identification of orchards, support and training for producers and also internal audit of applicants. As a result of these actions ninety-seven (97) mango producers obtained organic certificate for 350 Ha. This certification will serve as a purchase guarantee for producers by the exporter, and will facilitate the task of processing cooperatives who received orders for organic mango. The organic mango market is large and offers numerous opportunities.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN KOULIKORO REGION/BAMAKO DISTRICT

Tomato Value Chains

- Elaborate the memoranda of understanding with IER, and OPIB
- Prepare the major partnership with IER and AVRDC to disseminate *Integrated Pest Management* technology in 22 villages of the OPIB zone
- Assess the economic potential of establishing a small-sized tomato processing unit

Mango Value Chain

- Train producers in cooperative management
- Train and build-awareness of pisteurs in the requirements of mango destination markets
- Train and sensitize mango producers in the adoption of good agricultural practices
- Train producers in phyto sanitary protection of mango
- Support the external audit of 27 orchards out of 97 targeted for organic certification
- Monitor the application of Global Gap standards to certified and uncertified producers

RESULTS IN KOULIKORO REGION / BAMAKO DISTRICT

Tomato Value Chain

IR1. Increased agricultural productivity

Elaboration of the Memorandum of Understanding with IER and OPIB. The Irrigated Perimeter Office of Baguineda is in charge of managing the tomato perimeter in order to supply Bamako markets with tomato. IICEM signed collaboration agreements with OPIB and IER.

Dissemination of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology. As part of the implementation of the IPM in the 22 villages, a work program was developed and signed by IICEM, IER and OPIB. Activities are underway and the launching is scheduled for 10th April in Baguineda.

Identification of partner producer organizations. The following villages were selected to work with the project in 2008: Mofa, Kokoun, Tieman and Kogniba. The production and marketing specialists got in touch with actors and groups in order to discuss the timelines of planned activities. The team was accompanied by OPIB's dissemination officer. The meetings were organized by the sector chiefs of OPIB.

IR2. Improved agricultural products trade

Consultation with the executives of the irrigated Perimeter Office of Baguineda (OPIB) in order to identify 4 villages involved in tomato production as part of the capacity building in cooperative management and support for tomato trade.

Meeting with producers and 3 local tomato traders from Mofa and Kokun villages. The local traders buy tomato from producers and transport it to Bamako. There are 13 female tomato traders, but they are poorly organized so they have difficulty overcoming funding and transport constraints.

Elaboration of SOW in order to conduct a comparative study aiming to establish a small-sized artisan tomato paste processing unit. A consultant was engaged in order to achieve that study; the report of which will be submitted to IICEM, which will make the final decision based on consultant's recommendations.

Mango Value Chain

IR2. Improved agricultural products trade

Provide technical assistance in to Task force in preparing an operational plan for the Plaza's 2008 export season. Develop an operational plan for all sea freighted mango exporters. The orders received by exporters were compiled and an operational plan was developed taking into account the amount of time and the period each exporter will use Plaza facilities. This plan establishes the dates the fruit will be received and calculates the timeline for packaging, refrigeration and loading the cartons in containers.

Operators participated in developing the schedule and agreed to work within the schedule to ensure a successful season. Still to be successful within the time limit, management of processes will need to be near perfect. The following companies are involved in this process: IB NEGOCE, SAHEL FRUITS, SCS SYLVIN, DEGUESSI and COFRUIMA for the account of the importer called Bakker. Other European importers are: YAFFA, FLEX MALI, MALI PRIMEURS and BLONBA FRUITS.

Provided material assistance for mango exporters. IICEM project provided 12 packaging tables and a hot water mango soaking tray as part of its support for the mango task force. This equipment will help establish the second packaging center which will be used by operators who are not involved in Bakker's program. The project also ordered 1600 harvest boxes which will be used to supply the Plaza with mangoes.

Canvass upcountry towns' markets for fresh mango markets. IICEM staff canvassed Nara, Nioro du sahel and Kayes where several mango wholesalers, resellers and transporters confirmed the profitability of mango business. Accordingly, GIE Yeleni received an order of 650 Tons to be exported in cartons to these areas, and carried by trucks not exceeding 10 Tons.

Canvass orchards in order to evaluate the level of productivity. Sea mango export requires a judicious organization of the entire system from production to freight. Sea transport companies require very precise planning for packing of mango containers. In order to make this work, the planning depends on the beginning of the campaign, which in turn depends on the period when fruits reach maturity. The canvass that was conducted helped evaluate the starting date for harvests: 24th April 2008 for the Plaza. The air freight from Bamako started in the second week of March. For Sikasso area, the sea freight started on 22nd March for the early variety called « Amélie » with the expedition of two containers by AOM Co.

IR 3. Improved Financial Services

Elaborate loan application documents of about ten pisteurs in Koulikoro proposed by mango exporters, including IB Négoce and Les Ets Yaffa et Frères.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Identification of activities and participatory development of projects:

General assemblies helped identify two activities: A windbreak and quickset edge project in Touara and a windbreak project in Kamala. Local stakeholders selected Eucalyptus sp, upgraded Ziziphus mauritiana, Acacia nilotica and Prosopis chilensis as plant varieties to serve as windbreaks. These windbreaks will help minimize the significant losses in the yield caused by hot wind, and for the entire village irrigated perimeter in Touara, a fence with a wire net will prevent animals from entering.

Finalizing conventions and PGRN:

Two (2) conventions were scheduled to be finalized this quarter out of the five (5) planned in Year 1: Those related to defense of Dogofing and Karbaye mountains in the Mopti region. General assemblies were held in the targeted villages (Karbaye, Guirowel and Manako for Karbaye mountain, and Saré Bambara for Dogofing mountain) to engage the local population in finalizing the conventions.

The following communes were targeted for NRMPs: Zangaradougou and Diomatènè (Sikasso region), Bancoumana and Bougoula (Koulikoro region). The strategy was to make a report to the respective communal councils (in stead of each village of the commune). Table 9 in Annex one provides additional details.

Summary of results:

- 01 local convention was finalized;
- 04 NRMP were restituted and adopted by the competent communal councils;
- 02 project documents were developed.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT

The project has established a grant program with the purpose to build local organizations' capacities based on their commitment to provide service and to achieve sustainable results by the end of the funding in 2010.

Planned Activities

- Finalize the selection process for IICEM's key NGO and GIE partners in Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti and Sikasso regions.
- Elaborate and sign grant agreements with each of the select NGO/GIE partners.
- Validate the technical, institutional and managerial abilities of the selected partner organizations.
- Train selected non governmental organizations for Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti, the dogon Plateau and Sikasso in how to develop the financial and activity reports they will have to produce on a regular basis for IICEM's grant manager, pursuant to instructions in the grants management manual.

Results

The project has officially recruited five NGO/GIE partners for project's grants program and signed grant agreements. Below are the respective selected organizations:

- *The Network of Advisors in Management and Farmer organizations – R.C.G.OP for Timbuktu region;*
- *The Economic Interest Group called Advice in Organization, Funding and Management – C.O.N.FI.GES for Gao region;*
- *The economic Interest Group called – PEENAL for Mopti region;*
- *The non Governmental Organization called Promoting Community Development – P.D.CO for the Dogon Plateau in Bandiagara;*
- *The Grow of Research, survey and Training in Agriculture and Arboriculture – GREFA SARL for Sikasso region.*

The IICEM Grants Manager trained each of the partner organizations in how to develop correct quarterly financial and activity reports.

The selected organizations in Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti and the Dogon Plateau also benefited from technical assistance in Accounting and Business Administration provided by the grants Manager.

PROGRAM COORDINATION

In quarter 2, IICEM broadened and operationalized a wide range of partnerships. In particular IICEM's two regional field offices in Sikasso and Mopti took leadership on coordinate field activities in each of the value chains. Those regional field offices work in collaboration with the regional technical agencies, other projects and programs, NGOs, and producer organizations.

Establishment of an Orientation and Monitoring Committee: IICEM's will implement it's overall partnership with the Government of Mali with the support of an orientation and monitoring committee. In quarter 2, IICEM staff organized a meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture with the Secretaries General of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Economy/Commerce/Industry, the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation, livestock and Fishery. The Secretaries General agreed that the Ministry of Agriculture will lead the Committee and that the Committee will meet once a quarter.

Institutional Partnership with the National Directorates of the involved Ministries: IICEM signed collaboration agreements with the National Directorate of Agriculture (NDA), the National Directorate of Forestry Commission (DRCN), the National Directorate of Rural Engineering (DNGR). IICEM also signed service contracts with the Regional Directorate of Rural Engineering (DRGRs) of Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Sikasso to oversee design and construction, and to provide quality control in connection with rehabilitation of irrigation works.

Partnership with the Regional Centers for Agronomic Research: IICEM signed service contracts with the Regional Centers for Agricultural Research (CRRAs) of Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti and Sikasso in order to test new varieties and develop community based seed production. The partnership with Regional Directorates of Agriculture will aim at monitoring the demonstrations and then disseminate new agricultural technologies.

Partnership with other organizations: IICEM has identified the partners with which it could establish a constant coordination and collaboration. In this respect, a general memorandum of understanding was signed with the World Bank PCDA project, as well as a specific memorandum on funding with PCDA's component 3. Similarly, IICEM signed memorandums of understanding with IFDC (1000+ project) and OPIB. Those memorandums will allow the projects to create complementarities, and minimize implementation cost where possible.

Actions sustainability strategy: In addition to the institutional partnership with the Departments of the involved Ministries, IICEM recently signed grants five GIE/NGO to provide services throughout their target regions. These are described more fully above under Grants Management.

CONCLUSION

During Q2, IICEM achieved some significant results, among them:

- Rehabilitation of 4,000m of key irrigation infrastructure
- Introduction of improved seed and technology to women's cooperatives in potato
- Dissemination of shallot processing technology
- Bringing potato value chain stakeholders together and supporting early export transactions
- Putting in place operational plans for harvest, refrigeration and packaging of mangos for the upcoming export season

IICEM also put in place significant building blocks which will support the rapid ramping up of project activities including:

- Putting in place agreements with NGO partners to oversee and implement activities in each of the project's five focus regions
- Signing collaboration agreements with key government Directorates that will both achieve near term results in implementation, and build capacity and sustainability.
- Building processes for a project orientation and management committee with the Government of Mali

ANNEX I: TABLES

Table 1: Overview of Rehabilitation of Irrigation Sites

<i>Name PIV /Plain</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Kind of rehabilitation</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Covered Surface (ha)</i>	<i>IICEM project's support</i>
Bourem Inaly	Timbuktu	Covering	920	50	Works monitoring, provision of cement, gravels, iron, light materials, masons
Kessoubibi	Timbuktu	Covering	600	40	Works monitoring, provision of cement, gravels, iron, light materials, masons
Sibo	Timbuktu	Covering	135	30	Works monitoring, provision of cement
Adourourou (Tondibi)	Gao	Covering, extension	300	11	Works monitoring, provision of cement, gravels, iron, light materials, masons, gravel and sand carrying trucks rental
UCUTOHA (Tondibi)	Gao	Covering	225	30	Works monitoring, gravel and sand carrying trucks rental
Farawtangam (Tondibi)	Gao	Covering	200	30	Works monitoring, provision of cement, gravels, iron, light materials, masons, gravel and sand carrying trucks rental
Tobon	Gao	Covering	600	30	Works monitoring
Gourma Foghas	Gao	Covering, extension	464	20	Works monitoring, provision of cement, gravels, iron, light materials, masons
Total	394		4244	371	

Table 2: Surface and Estimated Counter Season Production of Paddy Rice by Perimeter

<i>Regions</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Surface (ha)</i>	<i>IICEM's support</i>
Timbuktu	Iloua	27	Train pump attendants, develop financial documents, Maintain the two MPs, advice in agriculture
	Sibo	30	Cover channel, train pump attends, facilitate access to inputs, advice in agriculture
Gao	Gourma Foghas	7	Train pump attendants, cover channel, advice in agriculture
	Total	64	

Table 3: Seed Production Chart¹

<i>Regions</i>	<i>Types of production</i>	<i>Surface (ha)</i>	<i>Production (T)</i>	<i>Generation of seeds</i>
Timbuktu	Demonstration	1.8	7.2	R1
	Production in station	1	5	G4
	Community-based seed production	10	40	R1
Gao	Demonstration	1.2	4	R1
	Production in station	1	5	G4
	Community-based seed production	5	20	R1
Mopti	Demonstration	1.8	7.2	R1
	Community-based seed production	8	32	R1
	Total	29.2	120.4	

¹ For the 2008 campaign, 1314 kg of seeds will be used over 29.2 ha for an estimated rice seed production of 120 tons including 10 tons of G4 seeds produced in station.

Table 2: Status of Potato Demonstration Farms

<i>Regions</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Product ion/ Box (kg)</i>	<i>Estimated yield (T/Ha)</i>	<i>Sown surfaces (Ha)</i>	<i>Estimated Production (T)</i>
Timbuktu	Guindigata	825	16.5	0.5	8.25
	Bourem Inaly	650*	13	0.25	3.25
	Gamahahou/Kabara	850	17	0.5	8.5
	Market gardners/ Kabara**	850	17	15	255
Gao	Tondibi	Non récolté			
	Djidara	950	19	0.5	9.5
	Average yield		16.5	-	284.5

Table 5: Results of Potato Production in Yields

<i>Producers</i>	<i>Targeted varieties</i>	<i>Production/variety (Kg)</i>	<i>Seed box/ha</i>	<i>Yield 2008 (T/Ha)</i>
Djibril Sanogo	Pamina	1450	15	21.75
Salif Traoré	Claustar	845	20	16.9
Siaka Coulibaly	Spunta	820	20	16.4
Kassim Bengaly	Odessa	846	20	16.92
Yaya Traoré	Mondial	972	20	19.56
Average Yield				18.30

Table 6: Estimated Agricultural Inputs for Certified Seed Production Farms and Demonstration Farms for the 2008-2009 Season

Organizations	Surface (ha)	G4 Seeds estimate G4 (Kg)					Fertilizers (bag of 50kg)					
		Kokoni Variety	C74 Variety	Gambiaca Variety	Nerica 4 Variety	Unit/FCFA	DAP C.C	Unit /FCFA	DAP C.C Cost	Urea	Unit /FCFA	Total Urea
Coop/Kléla	3			240		325	6	12500	75000	15	13500	202500
Coop/Kléla	1,5	120				325	3	12500	37500	7,5	13500	101250
Coop/Kléla	0,5		40			325	1	12500	12500	2,5	13500	33750
Coop/Niéna	1				80	325	2	12500	25000	5	13500	67500
Loutana	1				80	325	2	12500	25000	5	13500	67500
Nantoumana	1				80	325	2	12500	25000	5	13500	67500
Total	8	120	40	240	240		16		200000	40		540000

Table 7: Storage Situation and Funding through CSV

Organizations	Participants	Stored volumes (T)	Funding FCFA
Niéna	50	15.745	1102 150
Loutana	48	14.28	999 600
Bamadougou	36	1.574	110 180
Total	134	31.599	2 217 810

Table 8: Evaluation of Needs for Agricultural Inputs for Individual Farms²

Organizations	Agricultural input needs		Funding need
	Complex cereal (Bags)	Urea (bags)	
Loutana	73	159	3 737 000
Niéna	76	97	3 597 500
Nantoumana	65	120	3 020 500
Total	214	1151	10 355 000

² IICEM will support the input funding process through the establishment of a credit line in Kafo Jiginew.

Table 9: Results of NRM Activities

Regions	Sites	Achieved Activities	Results
Sikasso	Diomatène	NRMPs finalized	All the amendments made by the CC were collected during the restitution session. The final version will be transmitted as soon as possible to the CC for adoption.
	Zangaradougou	NRMPs finalized	Final version transmitted to the CC for adoption in the closest session
Koulikoro	Bougoula	NRMPs finalized	All the amendments made by the CC were collected during the restitution session. The final version will be transmitted as soon as possible to the CC for adoption.
	Bancoumana	NRMPs finalized	All the amendments made by the CC were collected during the restitution session. The final version will be transmitted as soon as possible to the CC for adoption.
Mopti	Touara	NRM actions identified and projects developed participatorily	01 Project document elaborated: windbreak and quickset edge. IICEM projet contribution: 4, 983, 850 F CFA Local people's contribution: 2, 286, 614 F CFA
	Kamaka	NRM actions identified and projects developed participatorily	01 Project document elaborated: windbreak and quickset edge. IICEM project's contribution: 1, 040, 000 F CFA Local people's contribution: 810, 000 F CFA