

**Report on Trip to Mali**  
**May 27 - June 3, 2000**  
USAID Grant No. LAG-G-97-00002-00  
SM-CRSP Project *Decision Aids for Integrated Nutrient Management*

**Traveler:**

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**Objectives:**

The primary objective of this travel was to work with Dr. Mamadou Doumbia and his colleagues to organize the data collected in 1998 and 1999 into to a report format that would be useful to the Soil Management CRSP program. A second objective was to discuss and plan work for the 2000 crop year.

**Itinerary:**

May 27 - 29	Travel to Bamako, Mali
May 29	Discussions with Mamadou Doumbia in Bamako
May 30	Sotuba Station; discussions with Aminata Sidibe and Mamadou Doumbia
May 31	Sotuba Station; discussions with Adama Coulibaly and Mamadou Doumbia
June 1	Sotuba Station; discussions with Mamadou Doumbia
June 2	University of Mali, Katibougou
June 2 - 3	Return travel to College Station, TX

**Report:**

The first three days in Bamako were spent with Dr. Mamadou Doumbia and his colleagues who are working on the core experiment, Ca and Mg movement study, and the on-farm composting projects. Annual Reports for 1998 and 1999 have been late and fragmented. In particular, we worked to reformat and review the data and develop a key which would allow the U.S. collaborators to utilize the data in their portions of the project. This work was accomplished in cooperation with Dr. Doumbia, Aminata Sidibe, and Adama Coulibaly. Some of the analyses are still not completed but most of the 1998 and 1999 data were reviewed and reproduced. Data were copied onto hard copy and on disc for transfer to the appropriate investigator. Reports were sent to Dr. Frank Smith and Dr. Dan Israel at North Carolina State University upon my return. The missing data and reports are to be completed and sent to Texas A&M University by July 31, 2000. The reports may be late if a shipment of KCl does not arrive on schedule.

Activities for year 2000 were discussed. All of the work initiated in 1998 will be in the field for a final year. The core experiment will be planted and analyzed again this year along with the Ca and Mg movement study and the on-farm composting work. This will provide three years of data from each portion of the field studies.

We discussed the role of the Malian collaborators in the next phase of the project. They would like to continue to work with the Soil Management CRSP but feel that the work with NuMaSS would be more appropriate and of higher value to Mali if adapted to rice and cotton.

The reason given is that most of the fertilizer in Mali is purchased and used in the production of these crops and not on sorghum and millet.

Chemical and equipment purchases at the IER Soil, Water and Plant Laboratory at Sotuba are still a problem. Arrangements were made to supply a number of critical items to the laboratory.

At request of faculty at the University of Mali, Katibougou, Dr. Doumbia and I drove to Katibougou on June 3 to meet with officials of the University. The University is located about 50 km northeast of Bamako and was the university where most of the students receiving advanced degrees at Texas A&M University received their Bachelor of Science degrees. Dr. Mamoudou Seydou Traore has been working with Mamadou on the composting of household waste. The University requested a formal working relationship with Texas A&M University. I agreed to deliver a letter from the President of the University to Dr. Ed. Price, Assistant Vice Chancellor, International Programs for his review and response.

**Contacts in Mali:**

IER - Bamako

Dr. Alpha Seydou Maiga, Director General  
Dr. Ibrahim N'Diaye, Scientific Coordinator

LaboSEP - Sotuba

Dr. Mamadou Doumbia, Soil, Water, and Plant Laboratory  
Miss Aminata Sidibe, Soil Chemist  
Mr. Sibiry Traore, GIS Specialist  
Mr. Adama Coulibaly, Agronomist

Segou

Mr. Jacques Gigou, Soil Scientist

University of Mali - Katibougou

Dr. Mamoudou Seydou Traore