

# NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MALIAN FOOD SYSTEMS



## **SYNTHESIS REPORT**

*July 16, 2021, Azalai Hotel in Bamako*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General called for a global summit in September 2021, on the future of food systems. Said summit is supported by an inclusive engagement process for all to take stock of progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In preparation for this historic global summit, a wide range of food system stakeholders from all member states are invited to meet and dialogue to identify the best ways to make their food systems stronger and more equitable and thus lead to progress on all the SDGs by 2030.

Both the national dialogues and the food systems summit reflect the need for change. They have five objectives, namely:

1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
3. Stimulate nature-friendly production
4. Promoting equitable livelihoods
5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

During the national dialogues, key stakeholders from UN member states will work together on these goals to find ways to achieve sustainable and inclusive food systems.

Mali, a Sahelian country already weakened by socio-security crises, terrorism, climate change and more recently the Covid-19 pandemic, must not be left out of this initiative. Hence, Mali sought and obtained support from Sasakawa Africa Association and the Regional Universities Forum to organize a national dialogue on the current state and future of the country's food systems.

The various resolutions resulting from this national dialogue will serve not only to guide future government actions but also to feed into the debates and results expected from the United Nations summit on food systems.

## **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

The overall objective of the Mali National Dialogue was to help redefine the shape, aspects, ways and means of ensuring the sustainability of Mali's food systems in order to guide policy and contribute to the expected outcomes of the United Nations Summit on Food Systems, scheduled for September 2021.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

At the end of the day's work, the participants' inputs on the challenges, achievements and priority actions will be available for each of the five tracks of action on the UN Food systems summit, namely:

1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
3. Stimulate nature-friendly production
4. Promoting equitable livelihoods
5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

## **PARTICIPANTS**

A total of 49 people participated in the work of the national dialogue day from 9am to 7pm. These participants came from the following organizations:

1. Government
2. Universities and colleges
3. Technical and financial partners, NGOs
4. Farmers' organizations
5. The private sector
6. Youth and women's organizations
7. The Embassy of Mali in Italy
8. RUFORUM (represented by its Executive Secretary and members of its secretariat)

## **METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH**

The work of the day was structured around the following activities:

- The opening ceremony
- The presentations and discussions in plenary
- The intervention of panelists followed by discussions
- Breakout sessions followed by restitutions in plenary

## **OPENING CEREMONY**

The opening ceremony took place on July 16, 2021 at the Azalai Hotel under the chairmanship of His Excellency, Mr. Modibo Keita, Minister of Rural Development of Mali (including agriculture).

Three speeches were delivered. They are as follows:

- The speech of the Country Director of SAA Mali;
- The welcome address by the Representative of the Mayor of the commune III of Bamako;
- The opening speech of the Minister of Rural Development.

## **PRESENTATIONS IN PLENARY**

1. Virtual presentation by Dr Sylvanus Mensah representing Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, the Executive Secretary of RUFORUM, on the National Dialogue on Malian Food Systems;
2. Presentation by Mr. Mahamadou Namory Keita, representative of the Ministry of Rural Development, on the preparation of Mali's participation in the United Nations Summit on Food Systems

3. Presentation by Mr. Ali Coulibaly, Ambassador of Mali to Italy on the logistical preparation of the pre-summit to be held in Rome, Italy;
4. Presentation by the National Director of Agriculture Mr. Oumar Tamboura on the current situation and problems affecting agriculture and food systems in Mali;
5. Presentation by Mr. Ali Kone of the Planning and Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Rural Development on the Analysis of Mali's Food Balance Sheet for the period 2015-2018

## PANEL SESSION

The themes developed by the five (05) panelists are:

- Role of Universities in the implementation of sustainable and inclusive solid food systems animated by Professor Bernard SODIO of the Faculty of Science and Technology;
- How to improve inclusiveness in Malian food systems: the contribution of youth, women, small producers and their organizations to the development of food systems in Mali, led by Mr. Abdoulaye Bamba representing farmers' organizations (Association des Organisations Paysannes Professionnelles- AOPP, and the Coordination of the National Producers Organizations - CNOP);
- Contribution of agricultural research to the resilience and performance of food systems led by Dr. Bréhima Koné, head of the Economics of Agricultural Value chains' Division of Mali's National Agricultural Research Institute (Institut d'Economie Rural \_ IER /ECOFIL);
- State of play of the policies needed to strengthen food system interventions in Mali, led by Mr Yacouba KONE, Technical Advisor from the Ministry of Rural Development;
- What can be done to increase access to healthy and nutritious food for all? led by Professor Akory Ag IKNANE, Director of the National Public Health Institute.

The panelists' interventions were followed by a question-and-answer session facilitated by the Country Director of SAA Dr Sokona Dagnoko :

In substance, we retained the following points from these discussions:

- Initiate actions to improve the income of agricultural producers;
- Continue and strengthen actions in favor of the registration of farms;
- Increase efforts to improve agricultural education and training;
- Continue actions to link research to education and training in agriculture;
- Increase efforts to integrate production and markets;
- Support initiatives to increase the amount of land allocated to women;
- Train women and youth in rural entrepreneurship;
- Strengthen the role of the agricultural private sector and promote the creation and/or expansion of agribusinesses;

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND RESTITUTIONS**

Five (05) working groups were formed. Each group dealt with one track of action of the UNFSS:

- Group 1: Track of action n° 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Group 2: Track of action n° 2: To pass to sustainable modes of consumption;
- Group 3: Track of action n° 3: Stimulate a production respectful of nature
- Group 4: Track of action n° 4: Promoting equitable livelihoods
- Group 5: Track of action n° 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

During the restitution, each group presented the results of its work on its track of action in terms of challenges, achievements and priorities.

Following the restitution of the results of the group work and discussions in plenary, three priorities for intervention were retained for each of the five tracks of action as the proposal to be submitted to the Minister as a result of the national dialogue in Mali.

These priorities are described below:

### **Group 1**

- 1. Put in place coordinated measures to ensure access to and sustainable use of safe and nutritious food*
- 2. Carry out a real information, communication and awareness campaign for households: development of national food recommendations;*
- 3. Strengthen the capacities of the structures in charge of the evaluation and management of food health risks;*

### **Group 2**

- 1. To take into account nutrition in all the economic, social and cultural development programs of the local authorities in Mali;*
- 2. Develop the processing, conservation and marketing of local agri-food products.*
- 3. To improve transport infrastructures for a better accessibility of food products to the market;*

### **Group 3:**

- 1. Promote organic crops by integrating sustainable land management and the valorization of agro ecological products;*
- 2. To popularize technological innovations, in particular induced rainfall and adapted agricultural mechanization;*
- 3. Strengthen producers' access to the market through the opening up of production areas.*

#### **Group 4**

1. *Empower women and youth through capacity building for effective access to information, land and credit*
2. *Promote school feeding based on local products with high nutritional value*
3. *Promote social nets for a better social inclusion*

#### **Group 5**

1. *Strengthen the national crisis response system (social, health, food, nutritional and other crises) through the provision of materials, equipment, human and financial resources for prompt action*
2. *Create adequate conditions for the maintenance of communities in their areas as well as for the return of displaced and refugee populations*
3. *Strengthen security throughout the country for peaceful coexistence*

### **CLOSING CEREMONY**

Two (02) speeches successively punctuated the closing ceremony.

They are notably:

- **The speech of the Country Director of Sasakawa African Association in Mali;**

On behalf of the President of Sasakawa Africa Association – Dr Makoto Kitanaka, she thanked all the participants with a special mention to the Ministry of Rural Development for the effective participation of the Minister and his firm commitment to take up the challenge of a quality participation of Mali in the summit.

- **Closing remarks by the representative of the Ministry of Rural Development,**

The representative of the Minister of Rural Development, Mr. Yacouba Koné expressed his satisfaction for the holding of the meeting which was, according to him, a success because it marks a step forward in the preparation of the pre-summit and the United Nations summit on food systems. On behalf of the Minister, he thanked all stakeholders who participated in their meeting for their quality contribution to the success of the event.

#### **The Rapporteurs**

Doua Demba Diallo, SAA  
Abdoulaye Koureissi, SAA