

**Strengthened Networks of Regional Market Information Systems
and Traders' Organizations in West Africa (MISTOWA)**

Third Quarter (Jul-Sep 2004) Report

**Submitted to
USAID West Africa Regional Program (WARP)**

by

IFDC

*An International Center for Soil Fertility
and Agricultural Development*

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NOTE – Following the signing of the Contract Agreement on August 24, 2004, it was agreed that formal quarterly project reporting would begin with the October-December, 2004 quarter. This brief report covers project activities for the period, August 24 – September 30.

October 12, 2004

MISTOWA Project Quarterly Report for the Period, Jul-Sep 2004

Introduction

The USAID West Africa Regional Program (WARP) signed a Cooperative Agreement with IFDC on August 24, 2004 to undertake the project “Strengthening Networks of Market Information Systems and Trade Organization in West Africa”. The objective of the project, which ends in September 2008, is to strengthen market information systems and trade organizations for improved trade in agricultural commodities in West Africa. The project will work with the **regional** market information systems, producer and trade organizations (1st tier partners and beneficiaries) and their **national affiliates** (2nd tier partners and beneficiaries) to share relevant market and other information and improve their ability to trade with each other. The ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be the millions of **producers and traders** (3rd tier beneficiaries), who through access to market information, technology, processing, market conditions and networking, will increase their incomes and access to food. During the initial period (2004-06), the project will focus on Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal and a commodity portfolio consisting of maize, rice, cassava, cattle, tomato, onion, cashew, shea and fertilizer.

Because of the late start of the project into the third quarter, it was agreed that formal quarterly project reporting would begin with the October-December, 2004 quarter. **This brief report therefore covers project activities for the period, August 24 – September 30.** It is made up of three parts: Mobilization Activities, Project Implementation Activities and Annexes. The annexes include descriptions of project-related travels and accounts of consultations with partners, specialized reports and summary of upcoming events resulting from the consultations.

Mobilization Activities

The following tasks were successfully completed:

- Discussed with WARP. Expectations, substantial involvement and reporting requirements were explained
- Prepared a revised and condensed project Scope of Work (SOW) for the Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) and Contract Officer (CO) as attachment to the Contract Agreement (CA)
- Prepared a 2004-05 procurement plan for approval
- Revised and submitted a first year (Oct 04-Sep 05) work and performance and monitoring plans
- Completed SOW and job description for key project staff
- Hired Finance and Admin Officer and all support staff for the Accra office. Identified candidates for key positions in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal.

- Finalized SOW for STCs for first work plan
- Prepared sub-grantee contracts for Geekcorps and AMEX International
- Continued discussions with Agriterra to agree on the modalities for their support for the Producers' Organizations component of the project.
- Contacts made with project partners to serve on Project Advisory Committee
- Concluded rental acquisition and rehabilitation of project office in Labone and equipment and communications installations are underway
- Banking, legal, financial, procurement and personnel systems installed.

Project Implementation Activities

The following tasks were initiated:

- Relative to PIR 1: Increase efficiency of Regional MIS
 - Setting up a project resource center by developing the regional portal website, a regional market data warehouse and a service center.
 - The MIS Unit Manager and staff had a series of discussions with a number of private sector providers. They included brainstorming sessions with Busy Lab (Mark Davies & staff) to reflect on how to set up the center and to link up with on-going initiatives. It also includes discussions with GTZ (Marc Bernard) and Daniel Annerose, MANOBI.
 - Developed SOW for Geekcorps' assistance in setting up the center and in training partners
 - Reviewed software and hardware needs for setting up the project resource center
 - Studied the GTZ/ONASA/CTA proposals for developing the RESIMAO platform for adaptation
 - Initiated a training workshop planning and annual general meeting for RESIMAO members
 - Undertook feasibility studies for setting up or using existing ICT (V-sat, GSM, satellite radios) in Benin and Nigeria
 - Meeting with RESIMAO to review work plan
 - MISTOWA staff traveled to Mali and had discussions with RESIMAO leadership with the participation of MIS managers from Senegal and Niger.
- Relative to PIR 2: Improved Capacities of Regional Trade and Producer Organizations:
 - MISTOWA staff had preliminary work planning discussions with the leadership of producer organizations (ROPPA and RECAO). Their involvement in the baseline studies of membership and project activities were discussed. Immediate felt need is the holding of annual general assemblies, and organizational management training for the members.
 - Similar work planning discussions were held with ROESAO, the regional trade associations.

- In collaboration with the MIR (regional inputs markets project), MISTOWA worked with the national agricultural input associations to form a regional federation of input dealers (AITA) to be launched in Ouagadougou in early October.
- Relative to PIR 3: Improved West African Trade Environment:
 - Preliminary discussions held with WATH and ECOWAS and recently with WAEMU to see how project could benefit from the trade facilitation activities (customs trade information system, governance in road transport and improving SPS standards).
- Relative to PIR 4: Nigeria
 - Visited USAID mission, ECOWAS and potential partners to discuss project issues.
 - In early September, a team from MISTOWA visited Nigeria to assess the situation for implementation. At the USAID mission, the team met with Andy Levin and Abdul Gudugi to explain MISTOWA and how it would work in Nigeria to complement other on-going and future USAID projects. Andy suggested that MISTOWA coordinates all MIS-related work in Nigeria including the IITA Dawanau Market project and the six USG-launched IT Community Resource Centers implemented by Total Service Solutions.
 - In early September, MISTOWA in collaboration with DAIMINA made an assessment of the Dawanau market and submitted a report (Annex 2). It also organized the inaugural meeting of the National Market Information Systems (NAMIS) to vet the work plan for 2004-05.
 - A visit to Dawanau market and the IT Community Resource Centers were planned for October during the week of the WARP TAG meeting in Abuja.
 - Visited DFID in relation with the multi-year, multi-million, Pro-Com (Pro-poor Commodities) project for Nigeria. Chemonics won the project and MISTOWA will collaborate with them when implementation starts.
 - Visited ECOWAS in Abuja and had discussions with Dr. A.O. Afolabi, Director of the ECOWAS Community Computer Center.
 - Offered a closer ECOWAS support for MISTOWA including housing a MISTOWA staff at the ECOWAS Community Computer Center office in Lome.
 - We discussed the status of ECOWAN, which will link all national ECOWAS offices and projects such as SIGOA-TOPS and RFSIS by V-Sat, hence serve as tools for collection and dissemination of MIS and trade data.
 - Discussed administrative and logistics issues with the DAIMINA COP.
 - Since the USAID-funded DAIMINA project would end in September 2004, some of the staff will be retained by MISTOWA to work on MIS, Trade Associations and Producer Organizations for a quick start of MISTOWA in Nigeria.
 - The IFDC office will house MISTOWA staff.

Annex 1: MISTOWA-related Trip Reports

Annex 1.1: Abuja, Nigeria

Traveler(s): Patrice Annequin (DCOP & MIS Unit Manager), Dan Waterman (IFDC HQ Support to MISTOWA), Rob Groot (IFDC Africa Support to MISTOWA)

Destination: Abuja, Nigeria

Dates: Sep 1-5, 2004

Purpose of the trip:

- Discuss with USAID Nigeria mission, DAIMINA (IFDC-implemented Agricultural Inputs Market Project), ECOWAS and other potential players, MISTOWAS's objectives and the important role for Nigeria in it.

Major Activities and Conclusions

- USAID mission in Nigeria fully briefed about MISTOWA. Mission suggested to MISTOWA to coordinate all MIS-related work in Nigeria including the IITA Dawanau Market project and the six USG-launched IT Community Resource Centers implemented by Total Service Solutions.
- MISTOWA staff, in collaboration with DAIMINA and the Dawanau Market Development Association (DMDA) will make an assessment of the market as first step of the baseline study.
- MISTOWA staff, in collaboration with DAIMINA and the National Market Information Systems (NAMIS) will hold an inaugural steering committee to vet the 2004-05 work plan.
- ECOWAS reiterated its support for MISTOWA including the possibility of housing a MISTOWA staff at the ECOWAS Community Computer Center office in Lome for closer collaboration.
- DAIMINA project staff with the relevant expertise will be retained by MISTOWA to work on MIS, Trade Associations and Producer Organizations for a quick start of MISTOWA in Nigeria.

Major persons contacted

- Dr. Andy Levin, Agricultural Development Officer, USAID/Nigeria
- Dr. Abdulkadir Gudugi, Agricultural Economist and DAIMINA CTO, USAID/Nigeria
- Mr. Guys Sneyers, Senior Project Support Officer, SPFS, FAO
- Dr. A.O. Afolabi, Director ECOWAS Community Resource Center
- Mr. John Chamberlain, Director, Total Service Solutions, West Africa

- Dr. H.B Singh, COP, DAIMINA project
- Dr. Alkeleri, Project Director, DAIMINA
- Mr. Godson Ononiwu, NAMIS National Coordinator

Implications of trip to Project:

The trip afforded opportunity for MISTOWA staff to brief USAID/Nigeria and potential partners of the project, particularly as it relates to Nigeria in general and USAID goals. We obtained leads as to which partners to work with in Nigeria and what facilities are readily available for a quick project start. Meeting project partners and beneficiaries to explain the project has renewed their confidence and a sense of project ownership. Project staffing issues, logistics and baseline studies were finalized during the trip.

Annex 1.2: Cotonou, Benin

Traveler(s): Kofi Debrah (Interim COP), Patrice Annequin (DCOP & MIS Unit Manager), Yachina Dete (Website & Database Manager), Constant Dangbegnon (Participatory process specialist, IFDC Lome) and Gregoire Houngnibo (Agronomist, IFDC Cotonou)

Destination: Cotonou, Benin

Dates: Sep 25-26, 2004

Purpose of the trip:

- To explain MISTOWA to mission and potential partners and for MISTOWA to have a better understanding of mission goals to identify points of mutual interest.
- To interview potential candidate for the post of Producer Organizations Advisor to be based in Benin
- Visit the facilities of MISTOWA MIS- partner (ONASA)

Major Activities and Conclusions

- A useful meeting and interaction with USAID mission Director and key staff. It provided the platform to explain MISTOWA and the possibilities of mission buy-in and support. The mission director asked for a concept note based on discussions. The Dutch Embassy official who was invited to join the discussions at the USAID mission expressed interest in the project and possibilities of buying into its activities in Benin.
- The MISTOWA team had preliminary discussions with Mr. Charles Noatin, Secretary General of FUPRO (one of the largest producer organizations in Benin) in relation with the position of Producer Organizations Advisor. Although found suitable, a decision would be taken with Agriterra's (a Dutch NGO collaborating on the project) involvement as it is agreed that they will support the producer organizations component and contribute to ICT for producer organizations.

- The Benin MIS (ONASA) gave the MISTOWA team, a demonstration of their capabilities. It revealed that Benin is slightly ahead of some RESIMAO member countries in the collection and dissemination of market information. They are at the stage of promoting the transmission of market information through SMS messages to a pilot group.

Major persons contacted

- Mr. Rudolph Thomas, Mission Director, USAID/Benin
- Mr. Bill Bradley, Agricultural Governance Specialist
- Mr. Pieter Blussé, 2nd Secretary and Rural Development Advisor, the Netherlands Embassy, Benin
- Mr. Gaston Dossouhoui, Director Benin MIS
- Mr Charles Noatin, Secretary General, FUPRO

Implications of trip to Project:

The trip afforded opportunity for MISTOWA staff to have a better understanding of the mission's goals and expectations from the project. It culminated in the development of a concept note for working in Benin for the mutual benefit of WARP and the country mission. It also raised the interest of the Netherlands embassy in Benin with a possibility of buying into the project. The trip was also useful from the viewpoint of meeting and having discussions with a future project staff and for assessing on a first-hand basis, the capabilities of ONASA, the Benin Market Information System.

Annex 1.3: Banikoaro, Benin

Traveler(s): Patrice Annequin (DCOP & MIS Unit Manager), Yachina Dete (Website & Database Manager), Gregoire Houngnibo (Agronomist, IFDC Cotonou) and Abdoulaye Mouphtaou (ONASA/Benin MIS).

Destination: Banikoara, Northern Benin

Dates: Sep 15-18, 2004

Purpose of the trip:

- To meet local stakeholders to explain MISTOWA and to solicit collaboration
- Assessment of the ICT environment, current and potential commodities and other stakeholder readiness for collaboration. The objective is to use the area as MISTOWA pilot zone.

Major Activities and Conclusions

- The Banikoara region is very suitable and favorable for MISTOWA pilot activities. It has an enthusiastic local government, strong producer organization, V-Sat facilities,

community radio stations and cyber cafés and opportunities for cross-border trade involving several commodities on the MISTOWA priority list.

- With additional funding from the Benin mission, and most probably the Netherlands Embassy in Benin, it is possible to establish a MISTOWA project quickly in Northern Benin

Major persons contacted

- Sadibaré Sanie Sabbi, Mayor of Banikoara
- Ourou Yerima Bakoukoré, 1st Deputy, President of the Local FM Radio
- El Hadj Bani Sambo Djobo, 2nd Deputy, Livestock
- Sidiki Tanko, Program Planner, Radio Banikoara
- Zandé Karé, Manager, Cyber café Banikoara
- Nansommé Ouro Soré, Manager, UPC (cotton producers) Banikoara
- Leigh Brottem, Peace Corps Volunteer, Banikoara
- A representative of the Reforestation project, Banikoara

Implications of trip to Project:

The trip afforded opportunity for MISTOWA staff to assess first hand, the trade, commodities and communication environment in the Banikoara area. Although a cotton producing area (contributing about a third of the national production), it is a potential breadbasket with excellent trading opportunities with neighboring countries. The major commodities are maize, rice, livestock, shea, cashew, mangoes, vegetables and sunflower. These commodities cover the interests of the MISTOWA project as well as the USAID mission objectives. The mayor of Banikoara is eager to participate in the project so as to open market opportunities. A well equipped FM radio station with synchronization with selected RFI programs with a World Space satellite receiver. Internet access exists through V-Sat provided by UNESCO, whose operational costs are entirely covered by the local producer organization, NGOs and projects. In terms of quickly establishing MISTOWA, the Banikoara region is a low hanging fruit ready to be picked.

Annex 1.4: Dakar, Sénégal

Traveler: Patrice Annequin (DCOP & MIS Unit Manager)

Destination: Dakar, Senegal

Dates: Sep 20-21, 2004

Purpose of the trip:

- To meet with stakeholders (IDRC, Manobi and Senegal MIS) and discuss first year MISTOWA activities
- To discuss staffing and office space for MISTOWA staff in Senegal.

Major Activities and Conclusions

- IDRC will provide office space beginning January 2005 and a second beginning April for MISTOWA staff. This arrangement will facilitate interactions with IDRC and linkages with producer and trade organizations and public and private MIS providers.
- Manobi (private) and the public sector Senegalese MIS are exploring joint activities to demonstrate private-public sector partnership in MIS provision to serve as model for other countries. In the partnership, the public sector rural and urban enumerators would collect data and use Manobi services for processing, dissemination and revenue generation.
- Two candidates were identified for consideration as MISTOWA staff

Major persons contacted

- Claude Brinad, Regional Coordinator, IDRC
- Laurent Elder, Project Officer, IDRC
- Daniel Annerose, Director Manobi
- David Boggio, Deputy Director, Manobi
- Saliou Diouf, CMA WCA
- Moussa Cissé, Head of Senegal MIS

Implications of trip to Project:

Senegal is one of the MISTOWA focus countries where IFDC does not currently have an office. The offer of office space by the project's technical and donor partner (IDRC) is important for a smooth installation of MISTOWA. IDRC has several on-going projects and activities related to ICT and market development in Senegal and other parts of West Africa and will be willing to work with MISTOWA in the Banikoara region of Benin. Discussions with Manobi (private sector MIS provider and MISTOWA partner) indicate the need to clarify relationships with MISTOWA. Assurance given that with technical support from Manobi, Zadi and BusyLab, the MISTOWA Resource Center can be set up and operational within three months.

Annex 1.5: Mali and Burkina Faso

Traveler: Patrice Annequin, Deputy COP & MIS Unit Manager

Destination: Bamako, Mali and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Dates: 26-30 September 2004.

Purpose of the trip:

- To present to key implementing partners (RESIMAO, ROPPA, ROESAO, RECAO) the finalized MISTOWA project's summaries and principles, the FY 2005 work plan and prepare regional meetings with their respective national members.

- To seek collaboration with CILSS under the 5 million Euro EU funded MIS project
- Meeting with IFDC staff, technical partners (Geekcorps), and donors (EU, USAID/WARP SO6)
- Discuss MISTOWA field staffing issues with partners

Major Conclusions

- Successful and collaborative preparatory meetings with RESIMAO, ROPPA, ROESAO and RECAO regional leaderships. Project vision and structure, organization, staffing and summary, PIR and work plan accepted with only minor changes and suggestions. Regional meetings planned with the 4 key partners and their national platforms, to be held in November / December 2004.
- EU (and USAID WARP SO6) is eager to see a close collaboration between MISTOWA and CILSS regarding MIS and trade development activities, with IFDC playing a leading role. A joint work plan should be submitted as soon as possible to EU under the 2004-2008 Convention awarded to CILSS (regional MIS, food security).
- Obtained a better understanding of activities of Agrhytmet from Jorge Oliveira, former head of Agrhytmet and staff of WARP Food Security and Natural Resource Program. Advised MISTOWA to capitalize on CILSS historical expertise and knowledge of MIS and market in the Sahelian region.
- Potential candidates for positions in Mali and Burkina Faso identified and contacted.

Major persons contacted

In Ouagadougou

- Mahamadou Magha, ROPPA, coordinator
- Ousseini Ouedraogo, (new) ROPPA information and communication officer, CET (Technical Executive Committee)
- Stephane Devaux, EU Food Security Programs and Aid Expert
- Alain Houyoux, EU special adviser for food security
- Musa MBenga, CILSS, executive secretariat
- Issa Martin Bikienga, CILSS Program Leader
- Dramane Coulibal, officer in charge of CILSS MIS
- Sylvain Roy, IFDC / MIR COP

In Bamako

- Souleymane Keita, ROESAO, secretary general
- Gagny Timbo, RECAO, regional coordinator
- Salifou Diarra, RESIMAO, regional coordinator
- Moussa Cissé, CSA/SIM Senegal
- Sani Laouali, SIMA Niger
- Pierre Traoré, OMA Mali
- Francis Keita, OMA Mali
- Moussa Cissé, CSA/SIM Senegal
- Sani Laouali, SIMA Niger
- Pierre Traoré, OMA Mali

- Francis Keita, OMA Mali
- Jorge Oliveira, USAID/ WARP Food security & NRM adviser
- Ian Howard, GeekCorps Mali program coordinator
- Ibrahima Coulibaly, AOPP Mali, CNOP Mali President, ROPPA board member
- Gagny Timbo, regional coordinator
- Sekou Oumar Tall, president of RECAO and APCAM
- Mamadou Chabi, president of CAB, Benin

Implications of trip to Project:

The trip afforded opportunity for MISTOWA staff to have the first official meeting with the implementation partners after the award. Useful to the extent that it removed doubts from partners minds as to the commitment of MISTOWA to work in partnership with them. It also permitted MISTOWA to explain the revised work plan for their review and acceptance. Information provided by partners on their activities relative to the project is useful for joint planning of activities (see Annex 3). The Geekcorps activities in Mali, focusing on community radios and digital program production and broadcasting should be of high interest for the project, especially in mangoes / shea / cashew production zones where Geekcorps has some of their 6 volunteers working.

Annex 2: Assessment of the Dawanau Grain Market, Kano, Nigeria

A report by
Henry Ekpiken and Saibu Auwal (IFDC DAIMINA project)
on behalf of MISTOWA)

Introduction

Following the Kano Sabon Gari market fire outbreak in early 1985 which destroyed most part of the market, grain marketers and merchants under the leadership of Alhaji Uba Ahmed decided to move to a more convenient location where they could carry on their business. A piece of land was provided for them at Dawanau by the then Chairman of the Dawakin Tofa Local Government Authority (DTLGA). Dawanau market started operations on May 13, 1985. Presently, the market, reputed to be the largest grains market in sub Saharan Africa is affectionately called “The West African Grains Market”. The market, which started in 1985 with about 350 dealers and 300 shops now has more than 50,000 dealers, 6,000 locked up stores and more than 10,000 open shops. The market, which spans over 3km² is operated daily and around the clock. The DTLGA has over the years provided some infrastructures like boreholes and open wells for the use of the grain dealers. However, the dealers have now developed most of the other infrastructures that is available in the market. They have in place a well organized security network made up of vigilante groups that patrol the market after closing hours, and are paid by the dealers.

Overview of market activities

The major types of commodities sold at Dawanau market include: maize, cowpea, sorghum, millet, groundnut, rice, sesame, wheat, acha, cassava chips, gari, soybeans, yams, hibiscus, locust bean, cotton seed, Irish potato and pepper. Most of these are procured from different parts of Nigeria and Niger Republic. All market functions are performed in the market and include:

Wholesalers: Wholesalers are involved in bulk procurement of grains and other crop produce.

Commission Agents: Buy on behalf of wholesalers and the major processing companies such as Olam, Nestle, Cadbury and the Milling Companies.

Middlemen: Provide the linkages and the channel between wholesales and retailers/consumers.

Retailers: Procure from wholesalers through middlemen or directly.

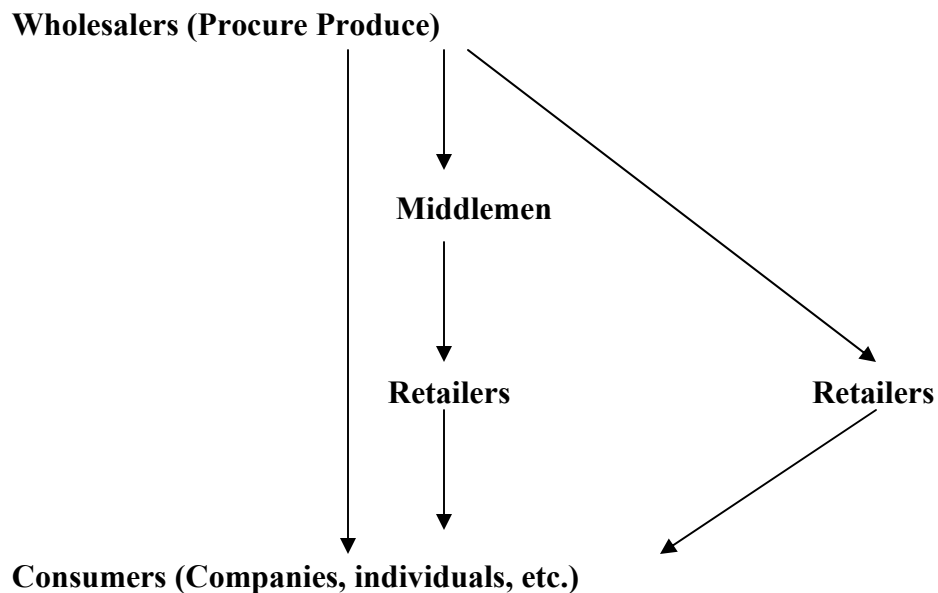
Laborers: Are hired to load and off-load grains and other produce and also to add value and repackage the produce.

Transporters: Owned trucks and trailers used for conveying produce.

Other allied services: Such as banking, bag and bagging, post-harvest and storage pest products sale, weighing services and market information services operate in the market.

Marketing Channels:

The grain traders at Dawanau market procure their crop produce from different parts of the country, mostly through commission agents and sometimes on their own. The dealers then add value to the produce where the need arises and sell it through middlemen or directly to retailers and other end users. A typical marketing chain that exists at the Dawanau market is shown below;



It must however be noted that the middlemen make up most of the source through which wholesalers dispose of their grains and other crops.

Trade Volumes and Market Prices: Due to the lack of an organized market information system at Dawanau market, it is difficult to estimate the volume of grains and other farm produce traded at the market. However, based on discussions with some of the market leaders, it is estimated that;

- At least 100 trucks (30 tons each) loaded with grains are taken out of the market daily.
- Business transactions of over N5 billion are made per annum.

Average prices of major commodities traded in the market in 2004 are shown below:

January

September, 21

Commodity	Price (N/ton)	Price (N/ton)
Maize	22,000.00	37,000
Cowpea	36,000.00	46,500
Red Beans	46,000.00	47,000
Groundnut (shelled)	85,000.00	23,500
Sorghum	22,000.00	31,000
Millet	24,000.00	28,500
Soybean	48,000.00	49,000
Wheat	40,700.00	73,000
Sesame	80,000.00	76,000
Rice	68,000.00	85,000

Note: 1 bag is 100Kg, and 10 bags is 1 ton

Destination of Produce: Interested buyers from all parts of Nigeria, Africa and some European countries patronize the Dawanau market. The main commodities for export include sesame, cowpea, rice, cassava chips and yams and their destination include:

- The domestic Nigerian market
- West, North and Central Africa
- Europe
- Arabian Peninsular

Institutional Arrangements

The Dawanau market has a number of institutional arrangements of which the most important is the Dawanau Market Development Association (DMDA). DMDA is an apex association, which federates about 24 different commodity associations. A Chairman heads each of the associations. DMDA leadership is made up of 17 members drawn from the various zonal associations. Membership is in excess of 50,000 members. Current chairman and secretary of DMDA are:

- Alhaji Mohammed Abdullahi Koya, Chairman (Tel: +234 80370001180)
- Alhaji Ahmed Iman, Secretary (Tel: +234 8036148344)

Local Government Council: The Dawakin Tofa Local Council collects revenue (N3/bag) from each bag loaded unto a truck as well as monthly tax of N60.00 for each shop. Even though the LGC provided some boreholes in the market years ago, there is no constructive effort to provide additional infrastructure or services to the market, which is the largest source of revenue in the area.

Kano State Government: Apart from the collection of annual ground rent and income tax from the market, the State Government has not done much to improve the quality of services and infrastructure at the market.

Kano Agricultural & Rural Development Authority: Has identified the market as very important to agricultural produce marketing in the state. Dealers from the market are often invited for seminars or workshops on marketing or when there is the need for data on crop produce.

Security: Hired vigilante groups provide Security in the market. The market also benefits from the presence of a police station responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

Federal Government: There is no evidence of Federal government presence in the area except for routine data collection by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development officials.

Financial Institutions: There is one commercial bank in the market area where dealers deposit their monies after sales. However, discussions have shown that the dealers are not getting the required services expected from a commercial bank.

Community Internet and Communication Center: The market has since September 13, 2004 been endowed with an information center, ICT4D Resource Center for farmers. This is an USG-financed and IITA, IFANET implemented project that has come to its end. The center which benefits from an installed V-sat is now managed by DMDA with technical assistance from the IFANET project. The project manager is Gafar Ajao (waf_project@yahoo.co.uk) Tel +234 8023172549.

Implications for MISTOWA

A formal market information service is either not available in the Dawanau market or if it exists the information is unreliable. As a result, the Dawanau market is isolated from other markets in the domestic, regional and the global market. It is indeed fortunate that a V-sat and a number of computer workstations are now available in the market and is managed by the Market Association. The MISTOWA project will work with the members of the association to be involved in the collection and dissemination of market information and also benefit from and use information from other sources through the information center. In addition, MISTOWA in collaboration with relevant partners will among other things:

- Provide organizational management training for DMDA, as this and its member associations are in the early stages of development and lacks what it takes to function effectively.
- Strengthen the capacities of the trade association members to use the tools available at the Resource center to access the internet, receive information and to post business deals among other needs;

- Assist the DMDA to be linked with the regional trade and business associations in the West African sub region and the global market.
- Involve members in the collection and transmission of market information and trade monitoring.

Annex 3: Table of upcoming events (October – December 2004)

ACTIVITY	LOCATION AND PROBABLE DATES	COMMENTS
1. Participate in WARP Board Meeting	Dakar, scheduled for 19-21	Use occasion to follow up on contacts made by an earlier mission with MISTOWA partners and to seek their collaboration; also finalize MISTOWA staffing in Senegal.
2. Joint IFDC/MISTOWA, EU and CILSS work planning meeting	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (one day meeting between 25 th and 27 th October) to be confirmed.	Under the coordination of ECOWAS (Yamar Mbodj). Objective is to discuss collaboration between MISTOWA and CILSS with respect to MIS and trade development activities and the recent EU grant to CILSS under the 2004-2008 Convention to cover regional MIS and food security.
3. ROPPA Executive Committee Meeting with participation of ROPPA national delegates, their information & communication staff (10), executive secretariat staff (5), an advisors female members of the College des Femmes.	Banjul, The Gambia (3 day-meeting in November) to be confirmed	MISTOWA will piggy-bag on the meeting and have a planning meeting on project implementation.
4. RESIMAO/MISTOWA/CTA Organized Regional Training Workshop for MIS managers	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 23-25 November 2004 (to be confirmed).	Training contents being developed with RESIMAO. Opportunity for a combined RESIMAO/MISTOWA consultative meeting to make operational the network and its regional coordination.
5. ROESAO General Assembly and Work Planning Meeting.	Lome, Togo (30 Nov-02 Dec) to be confirmed. .	MISTOWA will piggy-bag on the meeting and have a planning meeting on project implementation. 25-30 delegates expected. General Assembly will elect a new Board and validate an updated work plan.
6. RECAO Work Planning Meeting	Venue to be determined (3 days anytime between 10-20 December). To be confirmed.	MISTOWA will intervene for a day to discuss project implementation. Other days for RECAO business.
7. Start baseline surveys to establish indicator benchmarks	Project offices	With AMEX STCs and project field staff
8. Start work on establishing the MISTOWA Resource Center	Accra	With Geekcorps STC, BusyLab, etc