June 4, 2013

To: Chair, GAFSP Steering Committee

Object: Confirmation of the World Bank’s Readiness to Supervise Burkina Faso’s GAFSP Project Preparation and Implementation

We are pleased to confirm the full support of the World Bank to the Burkina Faso’s GAFSP Request on the Sustainable Water Management and Food Security Project (PAMESAD). If approved, the proposed project will be implemented through the Project Coordination Unit of the Bank-financed Agricultural Productivity and Food Security Project. The World Bank hereby confirms its readiness to supervise project preparation, implementation and evaluation activities.

The Development Objective of PAMEDA is to increase agricultural production and achieve food security in the cereal, horticulture, livestock, and fish value chains in three food-deficit regions of Burkina Faso. By doing so, the project will contribute to the country’s goal of increasing agricultural production, and ensuring its stability from year to year, through the sustainable development of irrigation. It will also address the food and nutritional requirements of an increasing population—especially women and children—and serve the need to mitigate the negative impact of climate change. The project will complement current irrigation and water management projects which do not have explicit targeting of structurally food deficient areas and/or of vulnerable populations at risk of food shortage.

PAMESAD is expected to serve as one of the major tools in the implementation of the National Rural Sector Program (PNSR), thereby contributing to the shared growth agenda of the National Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development (SCADD). The project is also aligned with the World Bank’s Country Partnership Strategy (2013-2016) for Burkina Faso, particularly in terms of its support to the goals of inclusive and sustained economic growth, reduced vulnerability and enhanced gender equality.

The World Bank has followed the preparation of the current GAFSP request, including consultations with major agricultural sector stakeholders in Burkina Faso. We assess the process to the satisfactory and renew our commitment to assist the country in finalizing project preparation, and in implementing project activities toward the successful attainment of PAMESAD’s development objectives.

We wish you fruitful deliberations with the hope that this request from Burkina Faso will received full approval from the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Mercy M. Tembon
Country Manager