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PROMoting Local INNOVation
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

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Action Plan for Prolinnova Cambodia 2008

Implement Agent: Centre d'Etude et de
Développement Agricole Cambodgien
(CEDAC)

Funding Agent: DGIS, through ETC-
Ecoculture (The Netherlands)

I. BACKGROUND OF PROLINNOVA CAMBODIA AND OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENT

PROLINNOVA CAMBODIA is composed of 20 institutions. They are 4 NGOs [Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien (CEDAC), Partnership for Development of Kampuchea (PADEK), Srer Khmer and Akphiwath Strey], 9 Provincial Departments of Agriculture (PDA) of Takeo, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng, Pursat, Battambang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Cham and Svay Rieng, Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Land Improvement (DAALI) and Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), Kampong Cham National School of Agriculture (KCNSA), Prek Leap National School of Agriculture (PNSA), National Farmer and Nature Net (FNN) and Commune Council of Thloak in Takeo.

Since the start of 2007 PROLINNOVA CAMBODIA has been formalized its inception phase to the maturity in which there was a reform has been made. The new structure and the function of the National Steering Committee (NSC) and the National Working Group (NWG) made the activities of PROLINNOVA CAMBODIA going smoothly. Thank to the contribution of PROLINNOVA CAMBODIA members and teams.

By December 2007, the Prolinnova Cambodia has been completed main activity and result as below:

- Capacity building for 178 development practitioners, researchers and farmers were trained in PID and PTD
- National Steering Committee (NSC) and National Working Group (NWG) meet regularly to follow up country program activities, share responsibility and monitor progress
- PROLINNOVA Cambodia built strong relationship with local NGOs (NEDC: Network of Eco-agriculture Development in Cambodia). Together, they worked closely with farmers, focusing on ecological agriculture and natural resource management
- 269 farmers actively participated in the field experimentation to test innovations as well as to further develop existing local practices which organized by partners through Prolinnova and LISF fund support
- 12 local workshops on local innovation have been organized by the 12 partners' institution. There are 449 people participated the workshop.
- A national forum on local innovation was organized at Prek Leap National School of Agriculture. There are 157 people (56 women) participated in the workshop.
- 8 lecturers from high educational institutions of RUA and KCNSA were facilitated to conduct a one-day field study to meet experimenting farmers in Ratanakiri province. They shared their points of view on local innovation and also the results of their formal and informal experimentation
- Two study visits were organized by PNSA, KNSA and IU in cooperation with CEDAC in Ratanakiri province do field exercise. 121 students attended in the event and learnt about traditional farming systems of indigenous communities
- 4 exchange visits have been organized to 7 Department of Agriculture from Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu and Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng and Battambang. There is 102 staff of the department which 15 women participated in the exchange visit. The aim of the exchange visit is to share the experiences of CEDAC in working in agriculture and rural development with the provincial department of agriculture. Leaflets on PROLINNOVA Cambodia were published and widely distributed to partners and stakeholders

- Book in series on “Farmer Innovation” and Farmer Magazine (a monthly magazine) are published and distributed to farmers, extensionists and other development practitioners.

Key Factors for Success

The following key lessons learnt and experiences have been followed to reach objective:

- There are a small group of key person representing different institutions who play leading role in promoting Prolinnova
- Continuous development of team spirit
- Accountability and transparency of decision making and financial management
- Participatory planning and monitoring
- Good reputation of CEDAC in institutional management and implementing ecological agriculture and rural development
- Demo-farm, and publications for exchange experiences among development professionals and farmers
- PROLINNOVA seeks to build capacity of farmers, researchers, extensionists in PID/PTD
- The bottom-up process in management and implementation
- Availability of small grant to implement farmer led experiment

II. PROGRAM GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

The general objectives of PROLINNOVA Cambodia are:

- To build an inter-institutional partnership in promoting local innovation and participatory approaches in agricultural research and development
- To institutionalize participatory approaches in agricultural research, extension and education institutions

Specifically, PROLINNOVA seeks to develop and share user-led innovation approach:

- Show the effectiveness of user-led innovation for sustainable development and build strong farmer-extension-researcher partnerships
- Pilot decentralized funding mechanism to promote local innovation and farmer to farmer extension and experimentation on sustainable land management (SLM)

Capacity building

- Build capacities of farmers, researchers, lecturers, extensionists and policy makers in using participatory approach and local innovation development
- Support the establishment of farmer experimenting and farmer networks

Scaling-up and mainstreaming

- Set up a national platform and networking for learning about promoting local innovation
- Integrate these approaches to farmer-led innovation and experimentation into institutions of agricultural research, extension and education
- Stimulate local, national policy dialogue to favour local innovation

III. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

For the strategic planning in 2008, the following activity will be proposed to:

3.1 Development of innovative methods and approaches

PID and joint experimentation

The main purpose of this activity is to identify the problems and needs of farmers in the topics related to waste management, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land and water management and small scale irrigated system, and access to market or commercialization.

In this regards the National Working Group will play the role as selecting committee to screen the experimentation proposal of the group members. Relevant innovation is invented by farmer and partners through meeting, observation, and documentation. The main activities are undertaken as below:

- The Prolinnova Cambodia's partners assist farmers to identify ideas for doing experimentation through organizing meeting or farm visits
- The partners assist farmers to make the proposal of the experimentation or join experimentation
- Capacity building for innovative farmers (implementation)
- Organizing field visit for the innovative farmers
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Organizing farmer field day
- Documentation of the results of experimentation

Implementation of FAIR project

The main purpose of the project is to undertake national-level activities for capacity building and mainstreaming sustainable land management into national development strategy and policy. The partners of the project will be the Prolinnova working group members, CBOs, and farmer organization. In order to run the project smoothly there are some steps and approaches need to be carried as following:

- The project partners assist farmers and farmers organization to identify key ideas for doing experimentation
- The partners assist farmers and farmer organization to make the proposal of the experimentation or join experimentation
- Set up proposal selection committee
- Organizing and set up fund management committee (at the farmer association level)
- Screening the proposal
- Capacity building for innovative farmers (implementation)
- Organizing field visit to the innovative farmers
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Organizing farmer field day
- Documentation of the results of experimentation

Production and Dissemination of Booklet on Local Innovation

The main purpose is to ensure that references, learning and information materials on local innovation in Khmer language are widely available for farmers, students, researchers and extension workers.

The booklet will be printed annually which contents deal mainly with the documentation of successful technical and social innovations developed or adapted by farmers. There is also needed to produce other visual publication such as posters, brochures, VCD and a wide range dissemination of participatory innovation development.

Innovative policy dialogue methods

The main purpose is to provide adequate information on PID to the national and international partners, farmers, development workers, practitioners, lectures, students and policy maker through dialogue, workshop and meeting. The main activities are:

- Organize local innovation workshops by all partners of Prolinnova
- Organize national innovation workshop by all partners of Prolinnova and other stakeholders
- Participated by partners of Prolinnova Cambodia in the forum organize by CEDAC and its partners

3.2 Capacity building

The main focus of this component is to build capacity of student, lecturer, researcher and extensionist, in participatory innovation development. The key activities are:

Follow up training of trainers on PID

The main purpose of this activity is to build the capacity of staff and farmers on farmer led research and extension approach in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management. Training of trainer on participatory technology development/ participatory innovation development is also organizing. The former trainers from the Prolinnova partners will be invited to join the training. Refresh training and on the job training will be made through the request from the partners and budget available. Moreover, in this year the secretariat plan to give more refresh training on PID and related topics to it partners which this activity will be affiliated to the core team meeting.

Capacity building to students and lecturer

The main purpose of this activity is to build the capacity of students and lecturers on farmer led research and extension approach in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management. The main activities are including training and internship/apprenticeship and study visit for students and new graduates from agricultural universities and colleges. The process of this learning is to give opportunity of the students and lecture to discuss with the farmer and farmer association on farmer led research and extension process and to learn from farmers on how they improve their life through the application of ecological agriculture.

Organizing exchange visit to PDA partnership

Through fund availability from JICA project (ILFARM-TK: Improving Livelihood of Small Farmers in Takeo province), the secretariat plan to provide the opportunity to the PDA (provincial department of Agriculture) to visit CEDAC project in Takeo province. The main purpose of the visit to expose the staff of PDA to the approach of farmer led experimentation. Representatives of working groups and farmer experimenter networks are invited share concrete experiences, key lessons learnt with partners' staff.

3.3 Up-scaling and mainstreaming

The main purpose of this component is to ensure that there is a wider network and partnership for the development of ecological agriculture and participatory local development.

The main activities undertaken and supported by the project are:

- Organizing quarterly national working group meeting to overview progress and planning among members of ProInnova Cambodia
- Organizing bi-meeting of national steering committee to overview direction, main decision making, monitoring and evaluation
- Organizing national platform workshop in order to make awareness among the stakeholders working in PID and related field
- Providing necessary learning and information materials on regular basis, especially Farmer Magazines, Local Development Magazine, booklets and other publications of CEDAC
- Providing support in monitoring, evaluation and documentation of the local innovation.

Mainstreaming the PID/PTD in the educational institution

The main purpose of this section is to wider the awareness on PID/PTD to the educational institutions such as:

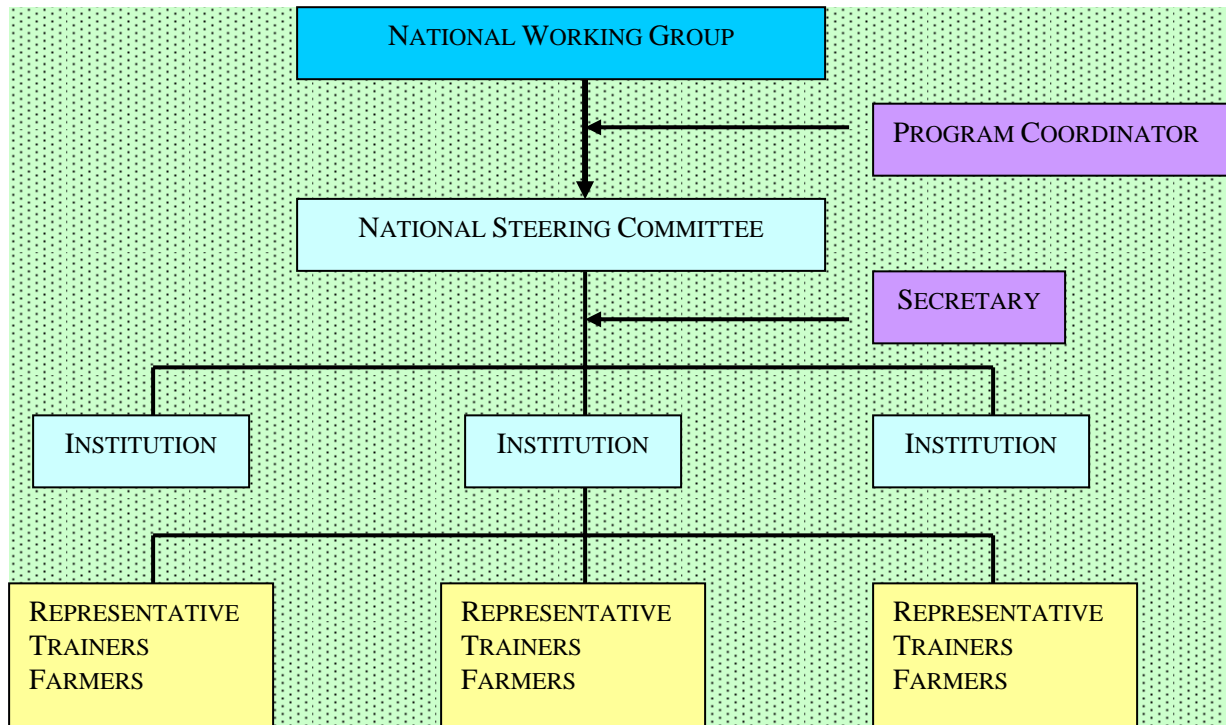
- Organize meeting among lecturers to discuss on curriculum development of PID/PTD
- Exchange visit of student and lecturers
- Connecting the education institution with village based farmer led experimentation or pilot village of the institutions
- Workshop of lecturer at each institution
- Awareness workshop on PID/PTD among lecturers, students, farmers, and NGOs staff
- Conducting monthly student workshop on curriculum of agricultural college/university as well as evaluate the capacity of the students and lecturers

Quality of M&E

The main purpose of this component is to ensure that the program goes smoothly on the path through:

- Organizing meeting of M&E team
- Organize regularly meeting of NSC &NWG in order to update the project progress
- The M&E team will do backstopping the members in every two months.

IV. PARTNERSHIP



The Prolinnova organization includes the following governance bodies:

- **National Working Group (NWG):** The members of NWG include the representative from each institution. The NWG is responsible for the implementation and provision of overall strategy direction. The progress results are updated through quarterly national working group meeting.
- **National Steering Committee (NSC):** 5 people are members of the NSC. They are elected every 2 years by the NWG. The newly elected members of NSC came from (CEDAC, PDA-Takeo, KNSA, PNSA, and DAE-MAFF). The NSC is responsible for day-to-day steering and overseeing the country programme, making decisions, overall management, monitoring and evaluation.

The PROLINNOVA CAMBODIA Secretariat is currently hosted at CEDAC. PROLINNOVA CAMBODIA is committed to work with governmental institutions, researchers, extensionists and farmers in order to build strong relationships between and among them.

ANNEX 1: Activities Planning for PROLINNOVA 2008

No	Key Activities	Results	Time frame												Responsibilities
			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	Development of innovative methods and approaches														
1.1	PID and joint experimentation	15 institutions will be involved in the experimentation				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		NWG for selection the proposal and members monitoring the activities
1.2	Implementation of FAIR project	20 groups of farmer innovators will do the experimentation		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Prolinnova secretariat and its members
1.3	Production and dissemination of booklet on local innovation	200 cases of best practice of farmers	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	CEDAC projects and other partners
		4000 copies of local innovation will be published	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
		320,000 copies of Farmer Magazine will be distributed	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
1.4	Local innovation workshop	15 workshops will be organized this year									√	√		NWG members	
1.5	National forum on local innovation	There is a workshop will be organized nationally in which 15-20 farmers innovators will present their experimentation. It is expected around 150 participants will attended in workshop.											√		CEDAC
2	Capacity building														
2.1	Follow up training of trainers on PID	25 former PID trainers will be invited to attend the training		√											KNSA
2.2	Refresh training with affiliated to the NWG meeting	2 trainings will be organized				√			√						NWG members
2.3	Capacity building to student and lecture	5 exchange visits will be organized by the 5 Educational institutions					√	√	√	√	√				RUA, KCNSA, MVU, PLNSA and IU
2.4	Field study of PDA to Tram Kork	8 field studies will be organized for the PDA		√			√			√			√		CEDAC and PDA
3	Institutionalization														
3.1	Steering committee meeting	Bi-monthly meeting will be organized each year and attended by 5 members	√			√			√			√			CEDAC
3.2	Working group meeting and extraordinary	4 regular working groups meeting and one extraordinary meeting will be organized	√			√			√			√		√	CEDAC
3.3	PROLINNOVA National Level Platform Workshop and awareness workshop on PID/PTD	Each workshop will be organized and attended by 80 people in the workshop											√		PDA
3.4	Monitoring and evaluation	Four times backstopping will be done and one monitoring will be done by member of NSC	√			√			√		√	√			NSC members