

PROLINNOVA Mozambique Feedback on the Cross-visit to Prolinnova South Africa

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WORKSHOP
Netherlands, 22-26 July 2010

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Background

- Period: 22 to 29 July, 2009
- Number of visiting team members: 05
- Names of visitors:
 - ❖ MS Gilda Fafitine (*ADCR, HAPID Project Coordinator*)
 - ❖ Nelson Mesquita (*ISPG, Lecturer*)
 - ❖ Vicente Zefanias (*Government extension services*)
 - ❖ Virgilio Mahuai (*CCM, NSC Chairperson*)
 - ❖ Romuald Rutazihana (*CP coordinator*)
 - ❖ Mr Custodio Romão (*Driver*)
- Areas (provinces) visited:
 - ❖ Limpopo (22-26 July)
 - ❖ Mpumalanga (26-29 July)

BACKGROUND (cont.)

- Hosting team (6 members) in Limpopo province
 - ❖ Ms Rendani Nematikanga (*IKS & Innovation Division, Limpopo Dept of Agriculture*)
 - ❖ Ms Refiloe Thobejane (*IKS & Innovation Division, Limpopo Dept of Agriculture*)
 - ❖ Richard Chuene (*IKS & Innovation Division, Limpopo Dept of Agriculture*)
 - ❖ Ernest Letsoalo (*Centre for Rural Community Empowerment, Univ. of Limpopo*)
 - ❖ Koketso Mphahlele (*Centre for Rural Community Empowerment, Univ. of Limpopo*)
 - ❖ M Masingi (*Intern at the Centre for Rural Community Empowerment, Univ. of Limpopo*)

BACKGROUND (cont.)

- Hosting team in Mpumalanga province
 - ❖ Khensani Sambo and Ecolink staff
 - ❖ Brigid Letty (Prolinnova SA coordinator)
 - ❖ Nono Ngubane (Farmer Support group)
 - ❖ Plus the Limpopo team

Objectives of the visit

- 1) To learn from PROLINNOVA South Africa how to manage multi-stakeholder partnership involved in PID process
- 2) To exchange on FAIR/ LIST, FLD and HAPID pilot projects
- 3) To participate in the PROLINNOVA S.A NSC meeting in Nelspruit
- 4) To learn more about how NSC works
- 5) To exchange on the sustainability of the network (i.e fundraising).
- 6) To create a mutually supportive link between these two networks

ACTIVITIES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Thursday, July 23rd, 2009

Visit to Diphagane Garden Project : 70 km outside Polokwane.

Project background and progress up to date

- A group of 06 farmers (05 women and 01 man) produce vegetables: beetroot, onions, spinach, cabbage, tomatoes, etc. For pest control, they use a mixture of 06 plants, they produce themselves
- The innovativeness of the practice lies in the fact that in the beginning, the farmers used a solution from one plant, the results were not satisfactory; they gradually added other plants until they reached the current mixture of six plants, results of which are considered to be excellent in controlling pests.

Joint experimentation (PID process)

- At this moment, a joint experimentation to determine the level of efficacy of this bio-pesticide at different concentrations: 100%, 75%, 50% with 0% as control is being conducted and involves the farmer group, Univ. of Limpopo, Limpopo Dept of Agriculture and PROLINNOVA SA.
- (Video)

Bi-Monthly PID Reflection Meeting in Palaborwa city

Friday, July 24th, 2009

- Participants : from government institutions- Provincial and Municipal Departments of Agriculture, Division of Indigenous Knowledge and Innovations as well as some local agricultural training institutions.
- No farmer representative was present.
- The main purpose of this meeting was for all partners to give feedback on the progress of local innovation related activities in their respective workplaces.
- PROLINNOVA had been or was to be involved in supporting some of them.

Visit to Palaborwa (cont.)

- The participants were informed that a (loose) innovator platform already existed and mechanisms should be created to allow strong interaction between the platform (farmers) and IKS officers.
- Intellectual Property Rights was another issue raised by the participants. All emphasized that there was a need for innovations to be registered.
- After the meeting, we visited a farmer who had a nursery of various indigenous and medicinal plants in his compound. The farmer worked with a project that encourages farmers to multiply and protect endangered trees such as the baobab and medicinal plants or fruit trees.

Visit to Mpumalanga province

Monday, July 27, 2009

Visit to Bambanani community project

- A group of ten women produce vegetables and provide several social and other services to community.
- Farmers use a mixture of tobacco, khaki boss grass and cattle dung for pest control. They use ash to control pests on tomato and cabbage. Vetiver grass is used to control erosion. This grass is also used for decoration and for making various utensils. Farmers also use seeds of various trees to make different handicraft.

Background to Bambanani project

- The group is supported in its activities by the NGO Eco-Link, the main PROLINNOVA SA partner in Mpumalanga province. Unfortunately, when the ARC technician who was supporting PID in the project left, all PID activities stopped.

Participation in PROLINNOVA SA NSC meeting

On Monday afternoon, the NSC opened its meeting. Its agenda comprised feedback and upcoming activities as well as other general matters.

The presentations that most retained Prolinnova Mz's attention were:

- Presentation and discussion on the progress with FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources)
- Presentation and discussion on the progress of the HAPID (HIV Aids and PID) project, and
- Innovation Symposium that was to be held in October in South Africa.

Lessons learnt

- There is decentralization of responsibilities at PROLINNOVA SA
- Entry point for PID experimentation is indigenous knowledge.
- The issue of intellectual property is being dealt with.
- Multistakeholder partnership is strong in Limpopo province, while very weak in Mpumalanga. In Limpopo government is fully involved in the process. The joint experimentation on bio-pesticide in the Diphagane Garden Project is a good example of a successful multi-stakeholder partnership

Meeting our objectives

1) To exchange on FAIR/LISF and HAPID pilot projects

- **FAIR/LISF:** To most of the Mozambican visitors, FAIR/LISF was something new. They asked questions to Nono who was very patient with them and explained in detail what this is all about. Some documentation was even distributed to all participants.
- **HAPID:** According to the new Mozambican HAPID coordinator, before Nono's presentation on the HAPID project, it was not very clear to her what to look for when visiting innovators.

Meeting our objectives (*cont.*)

2) To learn more about how the NSC functions

- The NSC meeting provided some indication of how the NSC is constituted and how it functions.

3) To participate in the PROLINNOVA SA NSC meeting in Nelspruit

- On his way back to Mozambique, the chairperson of PROLINNOVA Mz NSC said to us: "I know now how I'll be organising NSC meetings. Every participant must have a well clear task. This must come also in the NSC job description that we must prepare as soon as possible."

Meeting the cross-visit objectives (*cont.*)

4) To create a mutually supportive link between these two networks

- Exchange on activities of the two networks helped to understand constraints and problems faced by each Country Programme. And Prolinnova SA:
 - ❖ offered to sponsor one participant from Mozambique to take part in the Symposium on Innovation that would take place in Pretoria in October 2009. Unfortunately, no one was ready to participate.
 - ❖ offered its visitors important documentation on LIS: booklet on IK and innovations in Limpopo province, documentation on FAIR/LISF, etc.

CONCLUSION

- A cross-visit is more than a training course. You learn from other people's successes, their failures, the constraints and challenges they are or have been facing. You learn from what you see or hear around you. You share and you learn.

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