Ms Jane Jagero from Kisuma, a member of a farmer innovators’ group in Kenya, explaining her innovation in extracting glucose from cassava (Photo: Chesha Wettasinha)

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INTRODUCTION

The Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS) project was funded by Misereor/Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid (KZE) with a budget of €756,000 for a 3-year period from 1 August 2016 to 30 September 2019. It was implemented by Prolinnova Country Platforms (CPs) in five African countries – Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya – and coordinated by the Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP), a Ghanaian non-governmental organisation (NGO), on behalf of the Prolinnova network. The other partners in the project were the Prolinnova subregional coordinators (SRCs) for the West & Central Africa (WCA) and the Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) Prolinnova platforms, and the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST) with main base at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands.

The specific objectives of the project were:

1. Rural communities develop their innovative capacities to effectively improve food security, nutrition security and nutritional diversity.
2. Women are more widely recognised as innovators and are supported in further developing their innovations, from which they control the benefits.
3. Subregional Prolinnova platforms support CPs to develop capacity for collective learning, mobilising resources and effective policy dialogue.

This final project report describes the overall changes made in the situation of the target groups at the project’s action-learning sites, achievement of the project objectives, risks encountered and measures taken. The report also describes the key external stakeholders and actors and the roles each played, as well as the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes used to measure and assess results. It includes a section on sustainability and a summary assessment of the effectiveness, relevance and lessons learned from the project. Other documentation on the project written by the Subregional Coordinators is provided in annexes.

1.0 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE REPORT WAS PREPARED

The Proli-FaNS project coordinator based at ACDEP in Ghana compiled this report with support from the Prolinnova SRCs for WCA and ESA and from Ann Waters-Bayer and Chesha Wettasinha of the IST and the ACDEP Executive Director. The CP coordinators prepared their final project reports using their quarterly and annual progress reports, M&E and training reports, CP-level M&E data, and reports from focus group discussions (FGDs) on project outcomes. These were all inputs for this final overall project report. Other main sources of information were the end-of-project external evaluation report; reports of the two PID training workshops for anglophone and francophone CPs; reports of the annual Prolinnova International Partners Workshops (IPWs) and Proli-FaNS partners meetings held in Ghana in 2017, in Kenya in 2018 and in Senegal 2019; and participatory innovation development (PID) process reports and success stories provided by the CPs.

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1 Prolinnova: Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management (www.prolinnova.net)
2.0 CHANGES IN PROJECT CONTEXT DURING THE 3-YEAR REPORTING PERIOD

2.1 How general conditions in the project settings changed for the target group

Within the project period, there were both positive and negative political, economic and social factors pertaining to the CPs and action-learning sites. Negative factors that slowed project activities during some periods included: i) terrorist attacks in northern Burkina Faso and ii) ethnic/political unrest and unstable conditions in areas close to the learning sites as a result of political elections that took place in Kenya and Ethiopia in Year 2 of the project. However, these changes did not adversely affect the project in a significant way. Rather, the combined external political, social and institutional factors as well as staff changes have had an overall positive influence in the achievement of project objectives. Major changes that occurred in the situation of the target group in each country as a result of the project interventions are described below.

Burkina Faso

Proli-FaNS activities at the learning sites had significant influence on local and regional authorities in areas, partly because some of the project participants are municipal councillors. This made it possible to advocate at community level and among agricultural research & development (ARD) stakeholders, local authorities and policymakers to promote PID as an approach to improving food and nutrition security in rural areas. The insecurity situation in the north of the country caused by militant attacks from Mali and Niger persisted throughout the project period. This affected agricultural and other economic activities and hampered local development activities, sometimes compelling postponement of project activities until peaceful conditions returned through the intervention of security agents or local authorities. Despite these challenges, the project has created significant positive changes for project beneficiaries, as described later in this report.

Cameroon

The project has made it possible to highlight the idea of local innovation in the work of small-scale farmers. This hitherto less-known concept is increasingly of interest also to extension workers, local researchers in government institutions at the action-learning site Nkomé and surrounding communities as well as some academic staff at Dschang University and Maroua University. As a result, the approach of promoting local innovation and PID has become more widely known, embraced and supported by local ARD stakeholders, and is embraced also by farmers, leading to improvement in food security and incomes and to diversification of local diets of some innovators and other community members who have taken up the innovative ideas. In addition, women innovators have become very proud and appreciated to see their pictures in the local innovation catalogue produced by the CP. Farmers, both women and men, can now present and share their innovations more confidently at local and national farmer events and occasions. The staff members of COSADER, the host NGO of Prolinnova–Cameroon, and staff of other CP partner institutions are now more informed and influenced by the principles and concepts of Prolinnova than previously and are applying these principles and approaches in other projects and activities.

Ethiopia

There was a change in the Government in Ethiopia in 2018, with complete restructuring of ministries and ministers and changes made or being planned in laws, including the civil society law that had restricted the functioning of NGOs and development networks in past years. The restructuring process and changes are promising as they offer prospects for providing a more supportive policy environment for farmer innovation and farmer-led research and development.

The occurrence of the fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) in the 2017 and 2018 growing seasons affected the entire country and caused significant economic losses; FAW is a significant challenge to food production. Some of the innovative farmers in the action-learning sites succeeded in controlling the FAW with their own organic pesticides made from local botanicals, which drew research interest to develop and promote the biopesticides.
The most significant positive social change brought about by the project is that the approach of promoting local innovation and PID has attracted the interest of local authorities in the two action-learning sites on account of the project’s influence on the public agricultural extension officers, who have become more responsive to farmers’ real issues and needs, whilst recognising farmers’ innovative ways of addressing their farming constraints.

Additional positive changes are that the farmers involved in the cases of local innovation and PID are even more creative in developing innovations and sharing them with others. Also their capacity has been developed by their participation in various trainings and workshops. The farmer innovators identified by the project are eager to improve their existing innovations and to develop new ones. In addition, awareness of local innovativeness has increased among other farmers in the area, and some of them are also developing innovations and making them known to others. Most of the farmers involved in the Proli-FaNS project are showing progress by improving vegetable production in their gardens and increasing the number of meals consumed by their families each day. In addition, the women are improving their food processing.

**Ghana**

Since 2017, the Government of Ghana has implemented a major agricultural policy dubbed “Planting for Food and Jobs” which provides 50% subsidised chemical fertilisers to all farmers for crops cultivation. So far, the programme has greatly increased cereal crop production in the country and boosted food security and incomes of the rural small-scale farmers in the short term. The programme is also providing jobs and livelihoods in agriculture for the many unemployed youth in urban and rural areas. However, the Government’s over-promotion of chemical fertilisers and other inputs under this programme for food production on the fragile soils with low organic matter in the northern savannah zone, including the two action-learning sites of the Proli-FaNS project, has negative environmental consequences and cannot guarantee long-term sustainable production to feed rural and urban people. The Proli-FaNS project grasped this as an opportunity to prioritise, develop and promote local innovations and advocate for organic food production and preservation methods in order to strengthen farmers’ adaptive capacities and resilience against soil fertility decline and climate-change effects.

The introduction of the concepts of local innovation and PID under Proli-FaNS at the learning sites played a significant role in increasing farmers’ interest and use of their innovations and local resources and inputs to improve farm productivity, nutrition and incomes. Particularly the PID processes helped women improve their food-processing methods for more nutritious local foods to feed their families. Involvement of women and promotion of their innovations in their locations and to the general public have significantly enhanced the women’s social status and motivated them to innovate further and to commercialise their innovations for greater benefits to the household. This has attracted more attention and support of development stakeholders and local government authorities to women’s food security and livelihood activities, thereby empowering the women and reducing the gender inequality embedded in many development interventions.

**Kenya**

The introduction of Proli-FaNS has made community groups (male and female small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fishers and youth) appreciate the approach of promoting local innovation and PID. This is especially so because the approach is led and driven by the community members themselves and supports the identification of appropriate solutions for agricultural improvement, particularly to contribute to household food and nutrition security. Furthermore, targeting women innovators in the project has resulted in changing some of the negative perceptions that women lack capacity to innovate or be creative. The level of adaptation and adoption of local innovations among the local innovators and other community members in the project’s action-learning sites has also improved immensely, thus making significant positive impact on local agricultural production and food security. The level of appreciation of local innovation and PID by the community groups has been enhanced through the joint experimentation processes. The described changes collectively add positive energy to
the implementation and achievement of the project’s objectives, particularly on strengthening the innovative capacity of rural communities to effectively improve local food and nutrition security.

### 2.2 Personnel changes and their implications for the project

Personnel changes that have occurred within the project partner organisations and the measures taken to address or minimise the effects on project implementation are described below.

- **Kenya**: The first Prolinnova–Kenya’s part-time national coordinator, Caroline Kibii, resigned in June 2017 only two months after she was employed. This slowed down the CP operations and the pace of field implementation in the last quarter of that year. In November 2017, the CP filled the position with a full-time coordinator, Vincent Mariadho; this led to resumption and improved coordination and implementation of the project activities. Within the intervals where there was no dedicated CP coordinator, Righa Makonge, World Neighbors-Kenya Senior Program Manager played the role.

- **Ghana**: ACDEP’s bilingual officer, Ms Wilhelmina Ofori-Duah, who provided part-time French–English translation services to the project, left ACDEP in December 2017 following expiration of her contract with ACDEP. Georges Djohy, SRC for West & Central Africa, provided critical translation support to ACDEP, in addition to local experts in Ghana who carried out smaller translation tasks. From Year 2 onwards, the local NGO partner at the Yendi action-learning site (EPDRA: Evangelical Presbyterian Development Relief Agency) suffered funding challenges and consequent resignations of key field staff. Project implementation and results were affected, so that Prolinnova–Ghana fail to achieve its target in PID cases; but the overall project objectives were not seriously affected.

- **Ethiopia**: In March 2018, i.e. in Year 2 of the project, the Prolinnova–Ethiopia coordinator (Hailu Araya), who was also the director of Best Practice Association (BPA), the organisation hosting Prolinnova–Ethiopia, resigned from both positions. He was replaced by a BPA Acting Director, Yosef Garedew, and a new Prolinnova–Ethiopia coordinator, Ms Beza Kifle, who joined BPA in Quarter 4 of Year 2 of the Proli-FaNS project. Coupled with an already weak CP governance body (the National Steering Committee, NSC), the change in project coordination had an adverse effect on project implementation and results. This is because the new CP coordinator, who lacked previous experience in Prolinnova work, needed a long time to become acquainted with the concepts and approach. Moreover, she did not receive the necessary technical support from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the NSC in carrying out the project activities. This situation seriously affected project performance in Ethiopia and led to a failure to achieve Proli-FaNS targets in terms of women’s participation.

- **Subregional coordination**: Amanuel Assefa and Georges Djohy were recruited in May 2017 as part-time subregional coordinators (SRCs) for Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) and West & Central Africa (WCA), respectively. On 31 March 2019, in the final year of the project, Amanuel voluntarily resigned from his position because he lacked sufficient time to effectively carry out his duties under Proli-FaNS. Brigid Letty, Prolinnova–South Africa coordinator, was officially engaged from 1 April 2019 as a temporary replacement to continue and complete the subregional activities for the remaining project period. The changes and transition slightly affected the pace and implementation of some subregional activities, including monitoring visits to CPs in ESA.

- **International level**: In July 2017, Pratap Shrestha from USC Canada (now called SeedChange) took over from Ann Waters-Bayer as co-chair of the Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG), the governance body of the Prolinnova International network, together with Chris Macoloo as other co-chair. Ann still remains in the POG as representative of the IST and, as an adviser to the international Prolinnova network, has provided tremendous support to ACDEP and the SRCs.
3.0 IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT AND ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES

3.1 Extent to which the project objectives have been achieved

Objective 1: Rural communities develop their innovative capacities to effectively improve food security, nutrition security and nutritional diversity.

Activities implemented to achieve this objective were: participatory identification, validation and documentation of relevant local innovations including short descriptions of how these innovations work and the benefits gained; production of information material such as catalogues, brochures, policy briefs, calendars, posters and video films on selected innovations for wider dissemination and policy dialogue/advocacy; facilitating farmer-led experimentation (i.e. PID) processes on selected innovations to increase their benefits; and dissemination of the innovations and PID outcomes to local communities, ARD stakeholders and local policymakers to stimulate wider joint experimentation and upscaling. Women’s innovations and women innovators were prioritised in all activities in order to address current gender imbalance in food and nutrition security and access to income in the rural households. The achievements made by the end of the three-year project are as follows.

i) Identification and documentation of local innovations: A total of 150 innovations were selected, profiled and validated with community members and local stakeholders (93.8% of the project target of 160 innovations) and shared. The numbers of innovations identified and documented per CP were: Burkina Faso 20, Cameroon 18, Ethiopia 31, Ghana 40 and Kenya 41. The CPs in Burkina Faso and Cameroon operated in one official action-learning site each and were given a target of 20 innovations each, while the other three CPs had two learning sites each and therefore had targets of 40 innovations each. The final innovations promoted are in the domains of local nutritious foods, food processing, crop improvement, crop storage, animal health and husbandry, soil fertility and water conservation, environmental conservation, socio-institutional organisation and income generation through value addition. The CPs produced and shared information materials such as catalogues, brochures, policy briefs, calendars, posters, leaflets and video films on the selected innovations and used these documents at various local, national and international sharing/learning events to promote wider dissemination and policy dialogue/advocacy on promoting farmer innovation and PID. Some of the information products have also been shared on the Proli-FaNS webpage. Farmers whose innovations were selected, shared and promoted under the project felt a great sense of motivation and pride to continue innovating and sharing their innovations with many other farmers and outsiders so as to inspire others to try out and adapt the new ideas and approach.

ii) Dissemination of innovations: Using various appropriate channels including community sharing sessions, field days, exchange visits, radio broadcasts, community video viewing and farmer innovation fairs (FIFs), information on the local innovations was disseminated to local communities, ARD stakeholders and policymakers (mainly at county/district level) and to the general public. Thus, of the 150 identified innovations, 114 innovations (76 by women, 38 by men) were shared with about 13,000 men and women farmers. The details per CP are: Burkina Faso-320; Cameroon-1,000; Ethiopia-575; Ghana-10,500 and Kenya-1,000. This greatly exceeded the expected target of 600 farmers. The numbers of innovations shared per CP were: Burkina Faso 20, Cameroon 18, Ethiopia 10, Ghana 29 and Kenya 37. The participatory dissemination modes used helped to engage farming communities and other ARD stakeholders to increase their awareness, knowledge and appreciation of local innovation and the PID approach for achieving food and nutrition security of rural people. Tables showing classification of the innovations and modes of dissemination of the innovations by each CP can be found in the annexes to this report.

iii) PID processes: By the end of the project period, 35 prioritised innovations (just short of the project target of 40 innovations) were jointly selected by the local multistakeholder platforms (MSPs) using the project guideline and criteria, and subjected to PID to add value and increase benefits to the innovators. The PID processes were facilitated by formal researchers, extension officers and nutrition and women’s enterprise experts, who were co-researchers together with the farmers. The processes
and results of the PID were shared at learning and sharing events, which – according to the FGDs and monitoring visits – triggered out-scaling and experimentation by other farmers. Twenty-three of the innovations that underwent PID (62% of the total) had been developed by women / women’s groups. They were on nutrition improvement, food diversification, agro-processing economic enterprises and crop storage, among other topics. Although the CPs met or came very close to their target for PID cases (Burkina Faso 5 out of a target of 5, Cameroon 4/5, Ethiopia 6/10, Ghana 9/10, Kenya 11/10), the CPs in Cameroon and Ethiopia faced considerable capacity challenges that affected the quality and results of the PID. The CP in Cameroon lacked staff experienced in PID, while the new CP coordinator in Ethiopia – likewise inexperienced – did not receive the expected field support from the TAG. The CPs have produced process documentation reports and catalogues on their PID cases, describing the roles of the different actors and other key aspects (see annexes to this report). Some of these documents have also been posted on the Proli-FaNS webpage and the CP pages of the Prolinnova website.

Facilitating PID processes has helped build farmers’ capacities to innovate and experiment to improve their existing innovations. The CPs have reported on specific impacts of PID processes on food security, nutrition and incomes of innovators and their families as follows:

- **In Burkina Faso**, a women’s group has increased the production scale of, use and promotion of bio-pesticide and bio-compost developed through PID, thereby increasing food and vegetable production and incomes in an environmentally sustainable way. PID has become a working mechanism for rural women engaged in local agro-enterprises in the project area. Their creativity and innovative capacities to develop and use their innovations to improve agriculture and nutrition has increased. Using the approach has led to an enhancement of both quality and quantity of marketed agricultural products of the women innovators who developed improved types of bio-compost and bio-pesticides and the other farmers who have taken up these innovations.

- **In Cameroon**, a beekeeper who had been supported through PID is earning higher income from honey products and the sale of improved beehives and bee colonies to other beekeepers and to farmers who have started to take up beekeeping.

- **In Ethiopia**, farmer-led experimentation has helped to add value to women’s innovations by diversifying local diets and increasing income through vegetable production.

- **In Ghana**, women’s skills in agro-food processing techniques have been significantly improved, enabling them to increase their scale of production and better meet their families’ food security and livelihood needs. PID increased interactions and cooperation between farmers, women in particular, and other development agents such as extensionists, researchers, nutrition experts.

- **In Kenya**, women’s experimentation and innovation skills have been built, and they have received better support and are now more valued and respected by men and other ARD actors. This has motivated their peers, who were reserved and cautious at the beginning of the process, to finally join local innovation and PID activities to improve their own situation.

CPs’ reports and results have indicated growing interest and collaboration between local ARD practitioners and communities on farmer-led research and local innovation, showing promise and potential for out- and upscaling the approach in future to impact even more greatly on food and nutrition security and income generation. Through increased involvement of women and men farmers in local innovation and joint-experimentation processes and dissemination of the findings, more community members readily accept that local innovations are useful and beneficial to the community as a whole. Innovations promoted or further developed under Proli-FaNS have led to increase in consumption of nutritious and diversified local foods, and improved incomes for women and men. This is due to the innovation/experimentation skills acquired in local food processing and in producing and preserving agricultural products, including the use of organic fertilisers and pesticides to be able to produce and consume good-quality and safe vegetables. Testimonies to this are captured in Box 1 below.
Box 1: Impacts of local innovation and PID on food and nutrition security

**Burkina Faso**

Women innovators said in FGDS: "Proli-FaNS is unique in our area with regard to its implementation, its approach and its principles as well as the trust it has established between different actors and the equality of exchange in conducting experiments. Also with regard to the way it takes into account the interests of women and children in terms of food, nutrition and ethics. Our children and also we, the women, have regained good health and our work (innovation) is valued by the communities, the nutritional services of the health centres and other actors in the rural world. Such a project is salutary for the development of African women and the improvement of living conditions of rural households in general." (Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator).

**Cameroon**

After combining his two innovations – the Fonge beehive and the multiplication of bee colonies – Serge Ayangma became the sole supplier of hives colonised with bees in Cameroon. To date, he has sold more than 1200 empty Fonge hives and 185 colonised Fonge hives to other beekeepers, in addition to his own activities in honey production and marketing. His income from selling honey and beehives with and without colonies helps him meet the food needs of his family and to pay for the schooling of his children, and he has also been able to purchase a plot of land in Nkométoù on which he built a house for his family.

**Ethiopia**

Gebreyesus Tesfaye is a small-scale farmer who has developed a bio-pesticide that can control fall armyworm (FAW). He started developing his bio-pesticide in 2015 to control insects in his crops, using leaves of about 45 different plants plus goat urine and salt. He selects plant varieties with leaves that have a bitter taste. His bio-pesticide is in liquid form. In Tigrigna, it is called “tsere balie”, which literally means bio-pesticide. The innovation was identified under the Proli-FaNS project in 2016 and promoted through farmer field schools (FFSs) and FIFs. When the new pest, FAW, appeared in his area in the 2016/17 cropping season, Gebreyesus tried his homemade bio-pesticide and found that it is also effective in killing FAW. The treated plants – mainly maize and teff – remain healthy and are therefore stronger and more resilient to drought. The innovator and other farmers in his community say that they can now produce more grain and have attained greater food security and nutrition for their families. This innovation has benefited not only his community but also people who live further away in the towns of Shire and Axum, who have learned about the bio-pesticide from Gebreyesus during an FIF organised by Prolinnova–Ethiopia.

**Ghana**

When speaking about the contribution of local innovation to her food and nutrition security situation during an FGD, Ms Fuseini Adamu, a local bean-cake (kooshie) seller in Zang Community in Yendi Municipality said: “After the joint experimentation process on innovative methods to improve the nutritional content of my kooshie and fortify my other home dishes by incorporating soybeans and poringa leaves, my daughter’s chronic anaemia, which often got us going to hospital for blood transfusion, has ceased. Also, my income has doubled, as more people are now buying my kooshie because it is more nutritious and tasty than before.”

Also Ms Asoo Awine, a subsistence female farmer in Yidongo–Tamolga Community in Bongo District said that much of her sweet potato used to go waste after harvesting, but she has found heaven after jointly experimenting with the female agricultural extension and nutrition officer to process the perishable produce into value-added nutritious recipes and products such as cakes, flour and drinks. She now adds the flour to prepare many of the family’s staple foods, making them more nutritious and palatable. She has also started preparing and selling drinks made of sweet potato daily in the local school and community centre. She earns good extra income from these drinks, which makes her better able to care for her two children, who are now attending school more regularly.

**Kenya**

Ms Rebecca Dero was using the sack-garden technology to grow a variety of leafy vegetables and tomatoes, a technology promoted by Kisumu County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries under the Community Feeding Programme to increase family food and nutrition security. The sack garden has a middle column made of stones and pebbles into which water is poured to reach all corners of the sack. However, over the years, Rebecca discovered that often the water trickles down very fast to the
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Objective 2: Women are more widely recognised as innovators and are supported in further developing their innovations, from which they control the benefits.

The activities to achieve this objective were identifying, documenting and sharing women-specific innovations with other community members and the public, and recognition of and awards to outstanding women innovators by relevant government institutions and other bodies at community and higher level. Achievements made are described below.

**i) Selecting, documenting, developing and sharing women’s innovations:** Of the 150 innovations that were identified, documented and disseminated by the five CPs, 76 (50.6%) were by women. This achievement is slightly below the project target of 80 women innovations to be identified, documented and promoted. The specifics for CPs are: Burkina Faso 17, Cameroon 8, Ethiopia 10, Ghana 20 and Kenya 21. Ethiopia and Cameroon had lower figures because of cultural constraints and weaker capacities of the technical staff on gender integration. Also, 23 of the 35 innovations that underwent PID (65.7%) were those of women. Women’s participation in local innovation and PID processes have motivated and enabled them to acquire new skills to develop more nutritious and diversified foods and to transform their innovations into more profitable enterprises to contribute to family food security and incomes.

**ii) Recognition and awards to women innovators:** During the project period, 50 outstanding women innovators were recognised for their innovations and received awards, mainly from government institutions. The breakdown is: Burkina Faso 7 women, Cameroon 4, Ethiopia 7, Ghana 17 and Kenya 15. The awards, which included farm inputs, processing equipment and/or certificates, were given at International Farmer Innovation Day (IFID) celebrations, FIFs, national farmers days etc. Thus, only 62.5% of the target of 80 women awarded was achieved, because of the reasons stated earlier. In addition to these awards, many other women were honoured by government organisations, research institutes, traditional authorities, political leaders and civil society organisations during community innovation sharing sessions, presentations on local radio stations and innovation fairs. A list of the women awardees under each CP and the innovations awarded can be found in the annexes.

The social status and confidence of rural women as key partners in the development process and major contributors to family food security and incomes have been enhanced by deliberately targeting and prioritising their innovations, as well as by promoting and featuring outstanding women innovators and their innovations to ARD stakeholders and the public. Supporting women to share their innovations on public occasions also earned them more respect from men, traditional leaders and ARD actors. It revealed their potentials and capabilities to innovate in farming, food processing and agro-enterprises and encouraged more women to come “out of their shells” to innovate and experiment in order to find way to improve their livelihoods. Several women innovators, including the awardees, have also stated that they are now better supported and involved in decision-making processes at household and community level. Box 2 below captures achievements under this project indicator.
Box 2: Women’s recognition according to CPs’ progress reports and success stories

Burkina Faso
There is a very strong social and moral recognition of women innovators by the opinion leaders, elected officials and religious and local authorities for their innovations and also for their capacity-building support (training and sensitisation) to prevent child malnutrition in households. This has helped create high awareness of fathers and mothers in households about prevention of child malnutrition in the affected villages and in other families close to the affected villages.

Cameroon
The Proli-FaNS project made it possible to connect innovative producers with agricultural research institutes. These relationships led to further development of women’s innovations, thereby putting the spotlight on their innovative capacities and potentials. According to Ms Catherine Ngah, an innovator in snail farming, her joint experimentation with Obala Agricultural College has helped her construct a more secure and comfortable pen close to her house for raising snails, and introduced papaya leaves to diversify the feed for snails. Snail farming has contributed directly to improving the food security of her family, and income from selling snails provides cash for buying foodstuffs such as rice and fish that she and her husband do not produce. Rearing snails close to her house has provided the innovator’s family and her customers improved access to animal protein as compared to collecting them in the forest, where the increasing human population pressure and destruction of the snails’ habitat is reducing their number.

Ethiopia
Through the Proli-FaNS project, farmer innovators have established or strengthened linkages and networking with relevant organisations such as agricultural advisory services, local government agencies, research institutions and universities through project activities such as meetings, training sessions, workshops, experience-sharing visits, FFS establishment at district and ward level, and facilitating PID. These activities had impacts in terms of developing the farmers’ capacities and improving the food and nutrition security of the farmer innovators, their families and their communities. The farmers gained additional income from selling products resulting from their innovation, giving them the opportunity to improve their innovations by working in teams (i.e. FFSs) and in linkage with different relevant institutions. The farmer innovators have also gained more recognition from Government Ministries for future potential support to scale up their innovations for greater benefits.

Ghana
The Asongtaba Women’s Group innovating with sheabutter in the Bongo site has been recognised for its achievements by being registered with the Department of Cooperatives to operate as a legal cooperative society. The members can now access credit facilities to support their businesses. Their innovative enterprises have been recognised by KOICA (Korean International Cooperation Agency), through which they received organisational development and entrepreneurship training and a sheabutter milling machine.

Kenya
The recognition of women innovators has raised their social and economic profiles within their areas and motivated them to engage more in local innovation processes. The women at the action-learning sites have now incorporated innovations as key discussion issues during their group meetings to discuss development issues. At the time of project inception, most women were shy about sharing their innovations but, through the Proli-FaNS project, a change in local perception of women’s roles and stakes in farming has come about. Now, more women are openly sharing their innovations with their peers and encouraging them to try out and adapt the innovations. Some of the women innovators are being invited by local government departments and other organisations to offer training on their innovations. This has attracted other women who were initially not direct participants in the project to come out to share their innovations.

Objective 3: Subregional Prolinnova platforms support national CPs to develop capacity for collective learning, mobilising resources and effective policy dialogue.

The project set up multi-CP platforms in two subregions: West & Central Africa (WCA) and Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA). Each subregional platform is managed by a part-time SRC. The SRCs facilitated joint learning, information dissemination and networking among CPs, provided capacity building in CP governance and technical implementation, and supported fundraising initiatives and
policy dialogue at national, subregional and regional (African) level to promote local innovation and farmer-led joint research. Two subregional taskforces set up to help the SRCs implement subregional activities. Key achievements made during the project period are described below.

**Communication and networking:** By sharing information, developing and sharing project guidelines, and translating documents and reports into English or French, the SRCs have ensured improved networking and information sharing and learning among the CPs. The CPs in the Prolinnova network and the Proli-FaNS project have become better linked and coordinated, and the information flow and exchange between Proli-FaNS CPs and other CPs in the network has increased. Furthermore, the SRCs have developed subregional charters in order to consolidate the subregional platforms as part of the process of regionalisation of the Prolinnova network in Africa within the framework of the Prolinnova strategy for 2016–20. The Prolinnova IPWs / annual Proli-FaNS Partners Meetings held in Ghana in 2017, Kenya in 2018 and Senegal in 2019 were used to further enhance learning and networking among the CPs and to give more credence to farmer innovation and the farmer-led research approach in ARD at international level.

**Capacity building:** Support to the project CPs from the SRCs, the IST, ACDEP and other occasionally appointed experienced South–South backstoppers helped in restructuring and strengthening project coordination and governance at CP level, thereby making a positive impact on project implementation and strengthening capacity of the CP partners to better manage PID-oriented projects. CPs – including those not involved in field-level project activities – that benefited from backstopping and mentoring support were the ones in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sudan and Tanzania in ESA and in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal in WCA. However, despite this backstopping, the governance of the CP in Ethiopia continued to be poor. PID trainings were organised for CP coordinators in the two subregions and replicated by the coordinators at country level (including NSCs) and with MSPs and technical teams working in the action-learning sites. These trainings, coupled with a constant review and attention to gender at the annual partners’ meetings and SRC/IST backstopping of the CPs, helped to improve facilitation of gender-responsive PID processes, mainstreaming gender issues in PID and identification of more women’s innovations linked directly with food and nutrition security.

**Fundraising support:** The support by the SRCs and IST to the CPs’ fundraising initiatives such as identifying calls for proposals, formulating projects, developing concept notes and proposals, and making submissions to funding partners has helped increase interest and capacities in seeking funding sources and writing proposals. As a result, several proposals (at least two per CP) were submitted to various donors. Apart from the three proposals to Misereor and the proposal from the CPs in Burkina Faso and Senegal to McKnight Foundation for a second phase of the Farmer-Led Research Networks (FaReNe) project, none of the other proposals were approved within the project period to respond to the €50,000 target expected to have been raised by at least three of the five participating CPs. There is a need for more active acquisition, thinking “out of the box”, seeking funding opportunities in other thematic areas than only agricultural production.

**Conclusions on achievement of the project objectives**

By the end of the 3-year period, all three project objectives have largely been achieved, with the highest achievement made under Objective 1, in which the project made an immense contribution to discovering farmer innovation, creating awareness about the PID approach and improving the capacities of women and men innovators and other community members to engage in joint experimentation and innovation. This led to a significant level of adaptation and adoption of promoted or improved local innovations in farming, food processing and agro-enterprises and resulted in reported improvements in food and nutrition security and food/diet diversity at the household level and increased community resilience to climate-change effects. The evidence for these achievements came from the CPs’ M&E data, the FGDs to assess development outcomes of the project and the findings of the end-of-project external evaluation.
Objective 2 was fairly well achieved in terms of targeting, involving and helping women to develop their innovations to improve their situations. However, the CPs and their field staff were limited in their capacities to prioritise women’s issues, effectively address gender inequalities in food and nutrition security and empower women in economic terms. Hence, the project could not fully achieve its gender targets and the expected results. Future projects will give more focused attention to building gender capacities at all levels in order to be able to address better the challenges affecting women in terms of food security and their economic and social status.

Objective 3 focused on building CP capacities through supporting governance, project coordination, joint learning, networking, policy dialogue and fundraising – was fairly well achieved, given the short duration of the project. The efforts of the SRCs, IST and POG in setting up the subregional platforms and working towards a Prolinnova network in Africa have led to promising results. Achievements in terms of raising supplementary funding to support Prolinnova work were limited: only some support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and small grants from Misereor to hold the annual international meetings of partners could be gained. However, the foundation has been laid for advancing the regionalisation agenda during subsequent projects.

3.2 Activities achieved over the project period and outputs generated

By the end of the Proli-FaNS project in September 2019, the key activities that were implemented and the respective outputs generated are outlined in the table below. None of the activities or outcomes deviated from the original plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key activities implemented</th>
<th>Outputs generated</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Community consultations, sensitisation and planning held at 8 action-learning sites in project countries</td>
<td>Communities became aware of Proli-FaNS and concepts of local innovation and PID, and committed to participate; preliminary innovations identified; profiles of action-learning sites drawn up, which serve as baseline information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Project guidelines developed, shared and posted to website</td>
<td>8 guidelines were developed through support of the POG, IST and SRCs: on identifying local innovations, documenting local innovations, documenting PID processes, communication within Proli-FaNS and Prolinnova network, setting up local MSPs and NSCs, M&amp;E, and operating Local Innovation Support Facilities (LISFs). The tools enhanced project/CP coordination and Proli-FaNS implementation. The tools remain relevant and will be used in future follow-on or similar projects under Prolinnova.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Relevant innovations selected, validated, profiled and disseminated</td>
<td>A total of 150 innovations (target 160) were selected and profiled, of which 114 (target 160) were shared using various methods such as national/international farmers days, policy workshops, farmer fairs, radio, FFSs and exchange visits. Many other farmers became aware of the innovations and showed interest in trying out or adapting them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Eight local multistakeholder platforms (MSPs) set up at all action-learning sites (one per site)</td>
<td>This facilitated increased participation and learning among local ARD stakeholders on local innovation and PID to support institutionalisation of the approach; MSP guidelines were developed and shared with members and local NGO partners to sustain the concept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Local innovations documented in various forms and shared with farmers, ARD stakeholders and the public</td>
<td>Documentation products including brochures, leaflets, video films, posters and catalogues were used at local, national and international events to promote the PID approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. PID processes conducted with innovative women and men</td>
<td>35 of the innovations (target: 40) were further improved with research scientists and development experts; this increased the value and benefits of the innovations to the innovators. Their capacities in farmer-led experimentation were built to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. PID training given at international, national and learning-site level for field staff, technical teams, local MSPs and community groups</td>
<td>enhance their resilience to change. CPs prepared PID process reports to promote learning and mainstream the approach.</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local capacities were built to sustain the approach. The training led to better planning of PID processes on innovations prioritised in the community. The reports on the international training-of-trainers workshops were shared with the CPs as resource materials.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Advocacy and policy-dialogue activities carried out to recognise women innovators and promote institutionalisation of the PID approach</td>
<td>50 women (target 80) were awarded certificates and other items by government agencies at major local/national events. National farmers’ days, FIFs and IFID events were used to create awareness about local innovation and PID, share innovations and influence policy. Launch of the project at national and regional levels in each country helped publicise it for more stakeholder support. Engagement of university lecturers and students and formal researchers in PID processes contributed to institutionalising the PID approach. These activities helped increase stakeholders’ awareness and strengthened links between farmers, ARD partners and local government authorities to sustain the PID approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Project M&amp;E and CP governance strengthened</td>
<td>NSC s and CPs were restructured and strengthened through support of SRCs, IST and South–South backstoppers, resulting in improved governance of the CPs and improved project implementation for better results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Annual IPW / Proli-FaNS partners meetings held in Ghana, Kenya and Senegal</td>
<td>Hosted by Prolinnova–Ghana in Tamale in 2017, by Prolinnova–Kenya in Nairobi in 2018 and by Prolinnova–Senegal in Toubab Dialaw near Dakar in 2019, the meetings facilitated exchange of experience and learning among CPs and contributed to improving implementation and results of Proli-FaNS as well as the network regionalisation process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Two subregional Prolinnova platforms set up in line with the Prolinnova international network’s 2016–20 strategy to establish a regional Prolinnova–Africa network and regional structure to take over roles of the IST</td>
<td>The WCA and ESA subregional platforms, SRCs and subregional taskforces performed their roles leading to: • Improved coordination, networking, communication and learning among CPs in the respective subregions • Increased technical support to CPs on governance and Proli-FaNS implementation • Subregional-level joint proposals and CP-level proposals developed to source additional funds • Agreement reached with Agrecol Association (Germany) to serve as Northern Focal Point of Prolinnova network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. End-term external project evaluation conducted January–April 2019 by consultants from University of Parakou, Benin</td>
<td>The lead consultant shared the findings of the draft report with CPs in May 2019 at annual meeting of project partners in Senegal. The final report was submitted to Misereor in June 2019.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3 Unintended effects

None of the project partners encountered additional unintended effects, either positive or negative, as a result of project implementation or activities.

### 3.4 Risks and/or unexpected opportunities

The project encountered the following risks in its implementation, to which the partners responded with appropriate measures in order to avoid or reduce the negative effects of these risks on the project.
**Security threats**
During the project period, parts of Burkina Faso close to its borders with Mali and Niger and close to its two action-learning sites were increasingly exposed to terrorist attacks operating from the neighbouring countries. The security threats, fear and attacks by these militia on civilians in some communities closer to the learning sites often hampered staff movements, development activities and agricultural and other economic activities of inhabitants, and contributed to annual food shortages in these parts of the country. As a response measure, the project partners at the learning sites resorted to holding community meetings only with small numbers of people and using these to communicate with the larger number of groups and individuals involved in the project. In future projects, the CP will select and work in communities and provinces that are less risky in terms of terrorist activities.

Also the general elections held in Kenya in 2017 created an unstable atmosphere and a negative impact on project implementation during that period. The anxiety created by the election process reduced the pace of implementation, as heightened political activity affected project coordination and farmers’ activities. Things were normalised by the end of 2017, and Prolinnova–Kenya has been introducing the concepts of local innovation and PID to the new political leaders, through whom it is gradually creating micro-platforms for policy dialogue for prioritisation and inclusion of local innovation in the country’s development agenda as a means to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of rural communities.

**Project staff changes / attrition**
Staff changes in Kenya and Ethiopia, in particular, affected project implementation in some periods. Because of the low level of funding under Proli-FaNS, Prolinnova–Kenya had initially hired a part-time coordinator for the project, but two successively resigned their positions shortly after being hired. This threatened the project in its early period, until recruitment of a permanent coordinator whose remuneration is supplemented from other projects. The CP is also using services of staff of its member organisations to provide support in the coordination and implementation of the project. In Prolinnova–Ethiopia, its first project coordinator resigned in the middle of the project and was replaced by a younger and less experienced person without adequate technical support from the NSC, TAG or SRC. This situation adversely affected project implementation and results in Ethiopia. Furthermore, the resignation of Amanuel Assefa as the SRC for ESA only six months before project completion posed another threat that slowed down the subregional activities and affected overall results. He was replaced on an interim basis by Brigid Letty, Prolinnova–South Africa coordinator, who continued the subregional activities during the remainder of the project period.

**Inadequate knowledge in PID concept by CP partners and implementing teams**
At the early stages of the project, members of field implementation teams and local MSPs, who are based on the ground and should serve as the main drivers of PID, did not have adequate knowledge of the concepts of local innovation and PID to be able to facilitate gender-sensitive PID processes. The PID trainers from technical support teams of the CPs also needed more capacity building. In some cases, the design and execution of PID processes did not meet project requirements and standards. Initially, most farmers also understood the project as one meant to supply inputs and financial assistance/credit, as usual. This misunderstanding and the capacity challenges initially posed significant risks to the farmers’ and local ARD stakeholders’ acceptance of and cooperation in the project approach. However, with continuous awareness creation on the approach, capacity building and sharing of experiences from successful innovations and PID, participation increased over time and women issues were also better addressed under the project.

4.0 INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS AND ACTORS

4.1 Team members with whom the project activities were implemented
ACDEP was responsible for the overall administration and management of the project, and was supported by the following team members from ACDEP and the Prolinnova network:
• **Joseph Nchor**, ACDEP staff member, was the fulltime project coordinator. He was responsible for overall project implementation and coordination with the five project-implementing NGO partners in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya, and for reporting to Misereor.

• **Malex Alebikiya**, ACDEP Executive Director, provided overall managerial oversight and technical expertise for the achievement of the objectives and the meeting of the targets, and ensured the project’s successful implementation and reporting to Misereor.

• **James Japion**, ACDEP Finance Manager, worked halftime as financial manager of the project. Supervised by the Executive Director, he worked closely with the project coordinator, the SRCs and the financial officers of the CP host organisations in each of the five countries. He reported to Misereor scheduled finance officer and coordinated fund disbursement to project partners.

• **Subregional Coordinators**: Georges Djohy worked as SRC in WCA and Amanuel Assefa (and subsequently Brigid Letty) in ESA. Brigid served as interim replacement after Amanuel resigned in March 2019. They were responsible for coordinating, facilitating and supporting capacity building, joint learning, fundraising, policy dialogue and networking among all the CPs in their respective subregions. They supervised project activities in the different countries in their subregions and provided technical support to the CP partners to achieve the project objectives.

• **CP coordinators**: Five project CP coordinators were paid out of the project budget on a part-time basis to implement project activities in their respective countries and regularly reported on their achievements to the project coordinator and the SRCs. They were: Siaka Bangali (Diobass), Burkina Faso; Jean-Bosco Etoa (COSADER), Cameroon; Hailu Araya followed by Ms Beza Kifle (BPA), Ethiopia; (ultimately) Vincent Mariadho (World Neighbors), Kenya; and Joseph Nchor (ACDEP), Ghana, who was both overall project coordinator and the project coordinator in Ghana.

• **CP Financial Officers**: The accounting officers of the project host NGOs in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia and Kenya worked on a part-time basis to ensure the financial management of the project according to Misereor’s rules and requirements. They collaborated with their respective CP coordinators and reported to the project’s financial manager in ACDEP.

• **International Support Team**: Chesa Wettasinha and Ann Waters-Bayer, hosted by KIT, provided technical support to the project coordinator in ACDEP in general project implementation and in organising the annual international meetings of partners. They helped prepare all the project guidelines and the M&E plan and other M&E tools, and they facilitated training of CP partners in local innovation, PID and gender issues. They invested considerable time in supporting documentation and reporting by the project coordinator and the CP coordinators. Annie Secretario of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in the Philippines supported the Proli-FaNS project and the wider Prolinnova network in managing the website through posting of project information, reports, videos and other documents.

• **Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG)**: The project was implemented under the overall guidance of the POG, the governance body of the Prolinnova international network. The main person interacting with the ACDEP Executive Director was Chris Macoloo, POG co-chair from Africa. The POG met regularly to discuss and provide advice on CP governance matters.

### 4.2 Other actors involved in implementing the project

Other key actors who cooperated with the CP host NGOs in implementing the project are outlined below. They provided support in capacity building and in governance and coordination of the CP and of the project and facilitated field activities, joint learning, policy dialogue and advocacy activities.

• Member institutions of Prolinnova CPs and NSCs, which include governmental institutions of research, extension and education, farmer organisations, national NGOs and private-sector actors. They provided support in governance, project coordination and technical implementation through their representatives.

• The CPs’ core working groups or technical teams with members from research, extension, academia and development agencies and individual specialists in agriculture, food systems,
nutrition and gender/women’s empowerment. They assisted the CP host NGOs in planning, training and implementing project activities at the action-learning sites.

- At the learning sites, local MSPs were set up with interested persons from agricultural extension agencies, formal research, local government authorities, private-sector businesses and community-based organisations (CBOs), which collaborated with and supported the CP host NGOs and field implementing NGOs in facilitation, learning and advocacy activities at the local level (District, County etc).
- Community beneficiaries made up of innovative women/women’s groups, male innovators, other farmers and traditional rulers. They collaborated in local innovation and PID activities, dissemination, learning and scaling out successful innovations to other farmers and communities.

### 5.0 PROJECT MONITORING & EVALUATION

**Assessment of outcomes and impact, and persons involved in the M&E process**

Project M&E activities and processes that were undertaken to assess outcome and impact, including the persons involved in the processes are described below.

**Regular M&E:** The monitoring framework was designed to include project targets, indicators, methods and frequency of data collection pertaining to each of the project objectives, to guide the collection of quantitative and qualitative data to assess changes and effects in terms of outputs and outcomes. The CPs designed their own simple tools to collect data and used these for their quarterly and annual progress reports to ACDEP. They also collected the quantitative data on the indicators and updated the project M&E table for their annual reports. The CP’s focal points for M&E, together with site-based NGO implementing staff and MSP members, collectively or individually monitored field activities and recorded and transmitted data to the CP coordinators, who analysed and used the data for progress reporting and for project reviews and planning. Using the project M&E framework enabled the project partners to assess project progress and impact on a quarterly and annual basis. However, M&E management was generally weak in the CPs because of capacity challenges and inadequate attention paid to it by the CP coordinators. This led to inconsistent data being reported and inadequate reporting on qualitative results and project outcomes. The SRCs provided capacity support to staff of the CP host organisations and technical teams during their monitoring and backstopping missions to address critical M&E challenges and gaps. However, this assistance was inconsistent and not sufficiently well planned to make the needed improvements.

**CPs’ quarterly and annual reviews:** The CPs also used quarterly and annual review and planning meetings involving members of the NSC, technical team (or core group), local implementing partners and local MSPs to review progress and share experiences and achievements as part of the ongoing learning process and to assess outcomes and impacts of the project. This allowed the CPs to make changes and refocus their workplans in order to achieve the planned targets and expected results.

**IPWs / Annual Proli-FaNS partners meetings:** These events – held in Ghana in 2017, in Kenya in 2018 and in Senegal in 2019 – enabled assessment of achievements, weaknesses and constraints of the project, and were also opportunities for mutual learning among the CPs. These meetings provided feedback lessons that contributed to improving the ongoing project implementation and the results.

**CPs’ internal self-assessments:** In the last quarter (May–July 2019), all CPs conducted self-evaluations at their project sites using FGDs, in-depth personal interviews and observations to assess the extent of achievement of the objectives and goal at the outcome level. The assessment focused on two project outcomes: (i) *Increased capacity to innovate at community or local level (increased community resilience)* and (ii) *Improved food and nutrition security status in the community*. The cumulative results from this exercise have reinforced the reporting on project achievements included in the earlier sections of this report.
The POG and the IST provided continuous oversight, advice and feedback on the project through the reports submitted and issues brought to their attention by ACDEP or at the IPW or other meetings. The management and technical role played by the POG and IST was timely and useful in dealing with field implementation issues and contributed significantly to the overall success of the project.

Financial management, budget transfers and expenditure performance were monitored quarterly by the ACDEP Finance Manager and the project coordinator. Explanations were sought from CPs where required. The Finance Manager provided support to financial management, accounting and financial reporting to BPA (host NGO of Prolinnova–Ethiopia) during a 3-day backstopping visit in July 2018. Also as part of the financial monitoring, funds were provided to COSADER (coordinating NGO in Cameroon) for an audit of the Proli-FaNS project in Year 2, which was duly executed and an audit report submitted to ACDEP.

External evaluation: An end-of-project evaluation of the project was undertaken from January to April 2019 by a consultant team led by Rosaine Yegbemey from the University of Parakou, Benin. The evaluation assessed the extent to which the planned project results (i.e. goal, objectives, outcomes, outputs, activities and effects) had been achieved. The evaluation approach/ methods used included: i) interactions with the project coordination team at ACDEP, IST members based in Europe, and the two SRCs based in Ethiopia and Benin, through Skype or phone; ii) in-person or virtual interviews with key resource persons such as representatives from the technical partners, SRCs, CPs and collaborators (e.g. researchers, traditional leaders and development experts); iii) field visits to Burkina Faso and Ghana (i.e. in two of the five CPs in the project), where team members conducted FGDs and individual in-depth interviews during meetings in the field with different stakeholders of the project. The lead consultant presented the findings at the Proli-FaNS partners meeting in Senegal in May 2019 and, after receiving feedback, finalised the report, which was submitted to Misereor in June 2019.

6.0 OUTLOOK / SUSTAINABILITY

Overall sustainability of the positive effects

The project partners strived to ensure sustainability of its outcomes and the approach after the funding period under three key dimensions described below.

Environmental and social sustainability: The project guidelines and criteria designed for identifying local innovations for promotion or development for food and nutrition security ensured that the selected and prioritised innovations were environmentally sound and contributed to mitigating or addressing climate-change effects on agriculture, food security and livelihoods in the learning sites. Thus, innovations were selected that sought to enhance the conservation, protection and productivity of the environment and local natural resources, including sustainable harvesting/ harnessing/utilisation of local products and resources to contribute to the wellbeing of women, men and children. This can be seen in the list of innovations in the annexes. The innovations were also generated and “owned” by farmers themselves, using available local resources without significant reliance on external chemical inputs that could have long-term harmful effects on human health and the environment. Furthermore, women’s confidence and innovation capacities were increased through the PID activities, thus empowering them to continue to innovate and improve their food and nutritional situation in a sustainable way. Therefore, the impact of the innovations on rural communities’ food, nutrition and dietary diversity has been positive, as already elaborated in this report, and would remain sustainable since the innovations come from the farmers / women themselves, who have control over the benefits.

Institutional sustainability: The project has set up structures at field, national and international level and pursued strategies for institutionalising the approach of promoting local innovation and farmer-led research and development for food and nutrition security by local agricultural research, extension and educational institutions and NGOs to achieve scaling up for greater impact and sustainability. As an implementation strategy, all the CPs worked in partnership with local NGOs that already existed and were operating in the learning sites. This arrangement not only ensured more efficient implementation
of project activities, but also strengthened the capacities and enhanced the interventions of the local ARD actors for greater positive impact and sustainability of farmer-led development initiatives.

At the project coordination level, all the countries restructured their national MSPs, NSCs and technical/core teams to broaden and diversify the membership so as to enhance learning and to institutionalise the PID concepts and approach within institutions of agricultural research, development and education. The persons involved actively and voluntarily participated in the CP governance issues, training, field facilitation, learning and advocacy activities at the local (district/county) and national level and are motivated to continue in these roles afterwards. At the field implementation level, local MSPs with representatives from ARD institutions, traditional authorities, local government, the private sector and farmer-based groups have been set up at each learning site and will continue to monitor and support PID processes whilst integrating the results to enhance their own development interventions and approaches. Thus, the establishment and functioning of these structures and voluntary self-motivated resource teams and learning groups at various levels within each CP offers hope for continuous capacity-building support to farmers on local innovation and PID to scale up and sustain the positive changes made under the project.

**Financial sustainability:** Although the relatively low level of funding for project activities limited the scale of capacity building and reach in implementation, the host NGOs in each country supplemented and augmented their budgets with their own resources and staff. Local implementing NGOs/ CBOs at the learning sites also augmented project funds with their own resources to be able to achieve expected results. The SRCs and IST provided capacity building to CPs through which they identified project ideas and developed and submitted funding proposals to identified international donors. This helped mobilise new resources to supplement the project budget and to continue to support local innovation and farmer-led research activities after the current project. Although most of these proposals have not been approved, the prospects are positive, given the CPs’ heightened interest, capacities developed and the imperative need to source additional funding to sustain project results. In addition, IST members found ways to backstop CPs by “piggybacking” visits on other trips to the countries.

In summary, the project has undertaken important measures and strategies in environmental, social, structural/ institutional and financial dimensions to ensure sustainability of the positive changes made and sustainability of the project approach. However, it is still necessary to scale up the approach of promoting local innovation and PID in order to achieve long-term impact for family farmers. Another funding phase would be needed to consolidate the outcomes in order to sustain the changes achieved under the Proli-FaNS project.

### 7.0 SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

**How effective was the project?**

The implementation structure of the Proli-FaNS project proved effective in achieving the intended objectives, which also resonate well with the current global quest to ensure food and nutrition security in poor rural households. The achievements made in meeting the project objectives have laid a strong foundation for scaling up the PID approach in a next funding phase for greater impact.

**How relevant are the project outcomes?**

The enthusiasm and active participation of the innovators and other stakeholders bear witness to their appreciation of the project’s relevance for addressing rural food security and nutritional needs through harnessing women and men’s indigenous knowledge and endogenous development. The project has contributed much in changing the mindsets of farmers to give more value to their own innovations and practices, whilst drawing in stronger support of ARD stakeholders to work together with farmers to further develop and promote the local innovations in order to achieve food security and poverty alleviation more sustainably. In its structure and mode of implementation focused on identifying, developing and promoting farmer innovation, the project was farmer-centred and farmer-driven, and has led to greater interest of rural communities in using their locally available resources and their
innovative capacities to improve their situations. It has likewise changed the perceptions of the involved ARD actors with regard to small-scale farmers’ ingenuity and innovativeness.

**Will the results achieved be sustainable for the target group?**

Rural women are key players in meeting household food and nutrition security needs and ensuring family wellbeing. Given the priority attention and capacity building directed to women to develop their innovations in improving nutrition and dietary diversity, the results achieved at community level have very high chance of sustainability. The women innovators are already supporting other women in their vicinity in trying out new techniques and recipes and engaging in local innovation to solve their livelihood issues. The approach of working with local MSPs and working through existing field-based NGOs at the learning sites should also contribute to sustaining the results. However, given the short duration of the project phase, further support would still be needed to consolidate these initial achievements, particularly in further building the capacity of women and women’s groups to experiment and innovate in order to attain better food and nutrition security. This would help them innovate also in transformation and commercialisation activities and in scaling up their innovations so as to strengthen community resilience to climatic and other changes being experienced in the rural areas.

**What are the lessons learned from the project?**

The project has demonstrated that the PID approach can harness farmers’ own technologies and practices and empower them to achieve sustainable food and nutrition security and economic gains. Implementing the project has provided valuable experiences and lessons and has built capacities of project partner organisations to give greater value and attention to farmer innovation and participation in ARD interventions so that these succeed and lead to sustainable results. Going forward, future projects should look at: i) supporting women and men to scale up and commercialise some of their innovations; ii) building more capacities in field facilitators on the PID approach and gender integration; and iii) giving priority focus to policy dialogue and advocacy at the local and national levels to attract greater institutional and political support for farmer innovation and farmer-led joint research. To be able to achieve this, there is also a need to build skills of farmer innovators and other ARD actors in diverse forms of documentation of innovations, PID processes and their outcomes.

### 8. COOPERATION WITH MISEREOR

**How do you rate cooperation with Misereor overall during the completed project phase?**

ACDEP, the host organisation of the project, and the other project partners – namely the five CPs, the two SRCs and the IST – enjoyed cordial and fruitful cooperation with Misereor during the entire project phase. The orientation given by Misereor (Christine Floeter) at the inception workshop (Accra, November 2016) about administrative and financial management issues was very timely and helpful for informing the project partners about procedures and reporting to meet Misereor’s requirements and deadlines. Throughout the project, Misereor staff members were always accessible to ask questions and discuss challenges encountered during project implementation. They gave useful advice and detailed comments on reports and proposals. The regular and timely disbursement of funds to ACDEP for the project partners, once the reporting requirements had been met and the request for transfer made, facilitated smooth implementation of activities. The visits to ACDEP by Sabine Dorlöchter-Sulser in 2017 and Susanne Oster in 2018 for programme and financial management and for supervision, respectively, and the field visit by the former to Prolinnova–Ethiopia in November 2017 provided good opportunities for mutual learning and sharing perspectives with the Proli-FaNS coordination and partners, including farmers in the field.

Whilst appreciating and commending Misereor for ensuring the successful implementation of Proli-FaNS, we wish to make the following recommendations for consideration during a follow-on project:
• Given the challenges faced with delays in quarterly financial reporting from the partners and the lengthy transactional processes between banks in Ghana and those in the countries where the CPs are located, which often created delays in requesting funds from Misereor and subsequently delayed transfers to project partners, we recommend that disbursement schedules as stipulated in the project contract be amenable to the situation of the partners and the circumstances in the partner countries. For example, two instalments of six months instead of transferring on a quarterly basis could be considered. This would allow more time to implement activities for better results and timely reporting by the partners and coordinating agency (e.g. ACDEP in this case).

• The visits by Misereor to ACDEP and the project partners have been particularly useful, encouraging and mutually beneficial. Misereor could increase the number of its missions to the partner countries to take part in project activities and events, which would also afford opportunity for CP partners and other stakeholders to learn from Misereor’s perspectives and experiences.

Acronyms

ACDEP Association of Church-based Development Projects
ARD agricultural research and development
BPA Best Practice Association
CBO community-based organisation
CP Country Platform
ESA Eastern & Southern Africa
FAW fall armyworm
FGD focus group discussion
FFS farmer field school
FIF Farmer Innovation Fair
IFID International Farmer Innovation Day
IPW International Partners Workshop
IST International Support Team
KIT Royal Tropical Institute (Dutch acronym)
M&E monitoring and evaluation
MSP multistakeholder platform
NGO nongovernmental organisation
NSC National Steering Committee
PID participatory innovation development
POG Prolinnova Oversight Group
Proli-FaNS Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security
Prolinnova Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM
SRC Subregional Coordinator
TAG Technical Advisory Group
WCA West & Central Africa
ANNEX 1: Report on achievements of the Subregional Coordinator (SRC) for West & Central Africa (WCA) for the period May 2017–September 2019 – by Georges Djohy

Policy dialogue and networking

The SRC promoted the Prolinnova vision, principles and values through various meetings and training events he attended: A training event was held on 5–8 October 2017 in Rome, Italy, on designing and implementing communication strategies based on social media. Through a call for applications for which he was selected, he received financial support from Global Forum for Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) to take part in this training, which gave him the opportunity to be part of the GFAR social reporter team to provide media coverage of the 44th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS44) held on 9–13 October 2017. Another training event organised by the National Institute of Agricultural Research in Benin (INRAB) in Bohicon (Benin) on 12–14 January 2018 provided a good opportunity for the SRC to strengthen exchanges with Benin’s Prolinnova focal point and other ARD actors, with a view to contributing to the success of national initiatives to set up a Prolinnova CP in Benin. Participating in this event was also a good opportunity to better understand participatory ARD approaches and ongoing reforms in Benin, which would give Prolinnova the opportunity to influence decision-making in the future so that farmers’ creativity can be better taken into account in the new ARD approaches.

The SRC wrote and published blogs on various topics related to farmer innovations, gender and sustainable livelihoods. These blogs refer to the activities and principles of Prolinnova in the context of promoting food security and adaptation by small-scale farmers, men and women, to the adverse effects of climate change. The blogs were published on the GFAR, CFS/FAO and CABI plantwise websites. They were shared on the Twitter and Facebook pages of the West & Central Africa Prolinnova Platform (WeCAPP) and on the Prolinnova website, and widely disseminated by the FAO Pastoralist Knowledge Hub through its weekly news review. This is a significant contribution to policy dialogue, which necessarily involves dissemination of Prolinnova’s achievements and values in forms accessible to decision-makers, media and other actors and networks that also carry out advocacy and lobbying, and which are in search of evidence to feed their arguments.

The SRC discussed opportunities for collaboration and/or funding with various subregional and international partners met at various occasions. In the context of his visit to Rome in October 2017, he communicated with partners from GFAR, IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), WRF (World Rural Forum), Oxfam International, Compassion in World Farming, Swedbio, ActionAid, SIANI (Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative), ROPPA (Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest / Network of Peasant Organisations and Producers of West Africa) and ILC (International Land Coalition). Exchanges will be intensified with these actors during the follow-on project, and memoranda of cooperation will be considered to formalise as much as possible the collaboration with some of them. On the occasion of his training in Bohicon, the SRC had the chance to collaborate with about 30 participants from several organisations (universities, rural agricultural research centres, advisory services, farmer organisations, NGOs and independent consultants) who were for the most part sensitive to a farmer-led innovation approach. He exchanged and maintained contact with these people to interest them in being part of a CP of actors to promote local innovation and PID in Benin.

The SRC promoted close contact and maintained communication with many actors also about setting up a CP in Togo and reactivating the dormant CP in Niger. He also discussed possibilities of operationalising the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Prolinnova and Access Agriculture through joint activities and projects.

Together with the SRC for ESA, the SRC for WCA promoted regional interactions through regularly informing each other by email of their respective activities and periodically discussing possibilities for joint activities. The opportunities for collaboration were still being explored when the SRC for ESA resigned from his position. The SRC for WCA then kept contact with Brigid Letty (Prolinnova–South Africa) who took over the position of SRC for ESA, and continued seeking collaboration.
Documentation

The SRC translated, printed and disseminated policy briefs, working papers, guidelines and other Prolinnova documents produced during the Proli-FaNS project. Considerable efforts were made in translating into French and distributing various Prolinnova documents. For example, 13 Prolinnova guidelines were translated into French and compiled into an easy-to-use booklet in French. The Prolinnova and Proli-FaNS guidelines and the booklet were sent through email to active francophone CPs in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal, as well as to the dormant CP in Niger and the emerging CPs in Benin and Togo. The documents were posted on the Prolinnova website for easy access to as many people as possible. About 2500 copies each of Prolinnova’s 2011 and 2013 policy briefs were printed for wider distribution at national and international events. All this contributed to networking, advocacy and lobbying. The SRC also contributed to designing, translating and disseminating various templates for monitoring, reporting and oral communication within the project.

The SRC provided support to the Proli-FaNS country coordinators to better document local innovations and PID processes and to prepare their progress reports. He submitted regularly his activity and financial reports. He reported on the Prolinnova regionalisation process in the WCA subregion in both French and English and shared all documents with the IST, POG and CP partners in the WCA subregion to receive comments for improvement and for better collaboration. He took advantage of visits to Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Mali to encourage CPs in their efforts to document and disseminate local innovations. He also shared with them some tips for improving documentation and dissemination of farmer innovations and PID results at subregional level. Ideas for publication and co-publication of PID results at subregional level were developed, as well as tips for strengthening the publication of blogs and magazine articles that could improve policy dialogue in the WCA subregion.

The SRC developed, translated and shared with partners a draft charter for the Prolinnova subregional platform in WCA. The initial version of the document submitted to partners was read and amended by many of them, including Ann Waters-Bayer, Jean-Marie Diop, Christophe Ouattara, Jean Bosco Etoa, Djibril Thiam and Naaminong Karbo. An improved version was prepared and shared with CPs in the WCA subregion and to an expanded list of participants in the 2018 Nairobi workshop, to facilitate discussion and adoption of the document. Harmonisation issues with the charter for ESA delayed the finalisation of the document, which will likely be done during the follow-on project.

The SRC shared short videos prepared by Proli-FaNS partners on the WeCAPP Facebook and Twitter pages. He translated PowerPoint presentations of the Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe) project, which were uploaded onto the Sphaera platform set up by McKnight Foundation, the donor for this project. He made regular reminders to encourage partners to be timely in meeting various deadlines. Some specific reminders and encouragement emails were regularly sent to Proli-FaNS coordinators in order to motivate them to follow the local innovation and PID documentation templates proposed by ACDEP. The SRC helped CPs to improve abstracts, dissertations and other documents prepared through Proli-FaNS activities. All documents developed or co-developed, translated into French and shared with CPs in the WCA subregion and other actors, contributed to improving access to information and responsiveness of partners. This was also reinforced by email, telephone and WhatsApp exchanges, in order to inquire about the difficulties and challenges encountered by CPs in implementing their activities. The SRC (co)moderated sessions and translated presentations and discussions in French for francophone partners during various Proli-FaNS and Prolinnova events.

The SRC shared with francophone partners some articles published by the Friends of Prolinnova about co-authorship in participatory research, with the aim to inform them about the norms, principles and ethics related to co-publication and recognition/acknowledgement in the context of valuing the results of local innovation and PID processes.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

The SRC used phone, email and WhatsApp communication to discuss project issues with partners in the WCA subregion during Proli-FaNS implementation. With the members of the subregional taskforce, CP coordinators and Proli-FaNS country coordinators, the telephone was a major support
for rapid decision-making. In fact, electronic communication is still very limited in several countries and the ability of partners to respond quickly to requests from the SRC is still to be improved. To avoid delays and facilitate decision-making, the SRC therefore relied on telephone communication from Benin and even on roaming (outside Benin) in order to be in harmony with the subregional partners and to be able to respond to requests from the POG, IST and ACDEP. Although responsiveness of CP partners to emails has improved over time, emails do not yet seem to be the easiest means of communication in the subregion.

The SRC carried out contact and backstopping visits to Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Mali. Although electronic connectivity is still limited in WCA, the SRC was able to hold some Skype meetings with various partners including ACDEP, IST, POG and WCA taskforce members. These meetings contributed greatly to decision-making within the subregional network. Access to information has been improved considerably in WCA but still needs to be further strengthened in the years to come.

The SRC mobilised annual reports from CPs in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali and Senegal, and prepared the 2016, 2017 and 2018 annual subregional activity reports, which were made available in both English and French, posted on the Prolinnova website, and shared with WCA partners, IST, POG and ACDEP.

The SRC created social media fora to improve information sharing and decision-making in WCA. WeCAPP now has a Whatsapp group that allows quick exchanges with WCA taskforce members for rapid decision-making. It is also a forum where various useful calls for proposals and other relevant opportunities are shared. A Twitter account (@Prolinnova_WCA), a Facebook account (WCA Prolinnova) and a Facebook page (Prolinnova WCA) have been created for WeCAPP, where information intended for the general public is published. A WhatsApp group (Local Innovation) was created for favouring discussions among stakeholders in Benin for the purpose of setting up a CP.

South–South backstopping

The SRC discussed with WCA taskforce members and CP governing and coordinating bodies to retain some topics of interest on which concept notes and proposals could be developed in the subregion: (i) farmer cyclical and transitory food security, linked to hunger gaps and debts in small-scale farming; (ii) farmer seed systems and local seed conservation and management mechanisms by smallholder farmers; (iii) systems for access, management and conservation of productive water in the context of cropping and market gardening; (iv) social innovations in connection with social economy and entrepreneurship for change, involving all innovations by which families, villages or communities develop and implement saving systems and solidarity to solve specific problems in their areas; (v) agroecology and resilience to climate change by scaling up existing agroecological innovations and experimenting with new ones.

The SRC supported CPs in aligning their structure and functioning with Prolinnova guidelines. Through emails and a standard organisational chart presented in a subregional action plan, WCA partners were invited to update the structure and re-launch the functioning of their country networks. Through an identification form coming from the POG, CPs in WeCAPP submitted the necessary information related to their current structure and composition at country level. Some platforms that had previously some difficulties in this direction, notably Burkina Faso and Cameroon, also succeeded in sending information on the composition of their governance and management bodies. The information currently available on the Internet allows an easier identification of CPs. Through support from the SRC, the CPs annually access and submit their minimum commitment reports to Prolinnova’s decision-making bodies. The SRC supported the CP in Cameroon in improving its administrative procedure and financial management documents. The edited documents were submitted to the POG for validation. This is in line with the support of the SRC to the CPs in the timely preparation and submission of their reports and other documents.

The SRC alerted regularly CP partners on calls for proposals and provided support to developing relevant concept notes and proposals. With the CP coordinators in Burkina Faso and Mali, he arranged Skype and email exchanges as part of the preparation and submission of a concept note for the second
phase of the FaReNe project. Despite some misunderstandings in the process, discussions with the SRC helped CP partners to initiate a joint concept note, which was submitted to and accepted by the McKnight Foundation.

During a visit to Ethiopia, the SRC strengthened links with his colleague in ESA. A collaborative plan was discussed towards improving partnership and networking between the two subregions and setting up a regional Prolinnova platform in Africa.

**Fundraising**

The SRC co-developed with the SRC for ESA, with support from the IST (Ann Waters-Bayer), a concept note to mobilise additional funds for financing the participation of some Prolinnova partners in the Proli-FaNS partners meeting and African CPs’ meeting in Nairobi in 2018.

He translated into French a concept note developed by the IST on crowdfunding and prepared a two-pager for faster reading by CP partners. These translated documents as well as the English versions were shared with WCA taskforce members and CP coordinators in WCA for comments and decision-making on availability to be included in this project. The departure of Gabriella Quiroga and Ingrid Flink from KIT (host organisation of the international secretariat) affected progress on this initiative.

He was involved in a fundraising initiative with Prolinnova Tanzania (Zacharia Malley) and the IST (Ann Waters-Bayer) – preparing and submitting a concept note in response to the Global Alliance’s call for ideas for the future of food: “Call for Ideas – 2050: Visions for Global Food Processing Systems”. Unfortunately, the concept note was not accepted. There is a plan to improve it so that it can be used to apply for other calls for which it may be relevant.

The SRC had email exchanges and Skype discussions with Catholic Relief Services – Caritas France (through Ms Chloé Bonnemains), which wanted to implement an agroecology networking project in the Sahel. It is a multi-country field project entitled “Improving food security and resilience of vulnerable populations in the Sahelian zone through the promotion of agroecology”, with a provisional budget of €530,000. The SRC had extensive discussions with Caritas partners and put them in contact with the targeted CPs in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal to take advantage of this opportunity. They can thereby leverage to promote local innovation, PID and Prolinnova values in general.

The SRC developed two other concept notes during implementation of the Proli-FaNS project. One was for the second phase of the FaReNe project, at the request of McKnight Foundation. Unfortunately, misunderstandings arose between actors (Mali CP, Burkina Faso CP, SRC, IST and McKnight Foundation partners); as a result, this concept note was no longer submitted. However, Burkina Faso partners used it to contribute to the joint concept note developed with the Mali CP, which was submitted to and approved by McKnight Foundation. The original concept note could still be modified and submitted to other donors interested in promoting farmer-led research networks and local innovation development. The second concept note was elaborated on “Promoting Local Innovation in Water management in family Farming in the Sahel” (Proli-WaFaSa). This was submitted to Misereor/KZE, which commented on the note and requested a full proposal. The final proposal and revised budget were submitted to the donor, and the final decision is being awaited. The Proli-WaFaSa project, which will cover Senegal and Burkina Faso, aims to identify, improve and disseminate innovations on small-scale local water management for agriculture, in order to allow a large number of family farmers (male and female) to use these endogenous solutions to combat food insecurity and promote resilience to climate change.

The SRC is working on the idea of organising the second West African Farmer Innovation Fair (FIPAO II) during the implementation of the follow-on project to Proli-FaNS. Efforts will be made now to prepare the related concept note and launch the initiative for mobilisation of funds and actors.

**Constraints**

The SRC carried out many activities to support CPs during the implementation of Proli-FaNS. Most CPs in WCA have improved their level of structuring and governance. The CPs are now more or less in harmony with the principles and rules collectively decided within the Prolinnova network. Access
to information is one of the major areas of work, and some successes have been recorded. The language barrier is gradually being lifted and participation of WCA CPs in common efforts to regionalise the international Prolinnova network are becoming more noticeable. However, much remains to be done on training and other forms of capacity building, and WeCAPP plans to make more effort in this area to allow CPs to better implement PID and write more concept notes and proposals to generate funds.

The SRC will also be more involved in backstopping for PID implementation and documentation, and also fundraising through transformation of ideas collectively retained into concept notes and then into relevant proposals. Communication, dissemination of achievements through ICT and the use and updating of the Prolinnova website will also need to be improved during the follow-on project. The contact and backstopping visits to CPs will be continued during the next years. Collaboration will be established and extensive exchanges will be undertaken with various partners. The main results expected from the work of the SRC as listed in the Terms of Reference for his recruitment were achieved, except that the dormant CPs in Niger and Nigeria were not successfully reactivated and new CPs have not been set up in Benin and Togo. The follow-on project will be a phase of reinforcement of the achievements and initiation of new projects in the framework of the progressive establishment and the anchoring of WeCAPP in the WCA subregion.

The SRC faced no major constraints in the performance of his duties. He fulfilled his responsibilities within the limits of the resources allocated to him, with the collaboration of the various partners in the Prolinnova network. However, some misunderstandings in relation to the FaReNe II and Prol-WaFaSa projects have recently affected communication and trust between actors in two CPs in WCA. Improvement in this regard will be sought during the follow-on project.

ANNEX 2: Report on achievements of the Subregional Coordinator (SRC) for Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) for the period April–September 2019 – by Brigid Letty

Introduction

This report covers the period from April to September 2019, after Brigid Letty had taken over as Acting Subregional Coordinator (SRC) for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) upon the resignation of Amanuel Assefa. Initially, it was anticipated that her appointment would run until end of July 2019 but it was extended to end of September, as the Proli-FaNS project received a no-cost extension. This report provides a summary of SRC activities undertaken during this period.

Achievements, key challenges and perspectives

General coordination of Prolinnova CPs in ESA

Brigid sent out email communication to CPs to encourage some joint activities and to gather information. She requested input in terms of possibilities for fundraising, finalisation of the Eastern & Southern Africa Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP) brochure and opportunities to interact more effectively with the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS).

Regarding the ESAPP brochure, the initial draft was revised and circulated for comment. Some CPs still need to confirm the content of their pages so that the brochure can be finalised and put into use.

Brigid informed CP coordinators of a webinar organised by AFAAS on the topic ‘Using ICT for Effective Knowledge Management’ that took place on 23 May 2019.

Unfortunately, no progress was made with finalising the subregional charter. This will need to take place in collaboration with Georges Djohy, the SRC for West & Central Africa.
Attending and supporting IPW / Proli-FaNS workshop in Senegal

Brigid attended the Prolinnova International Partners workshop (IPW), which was held in conjunction with the Proli-FaNS partners’ workshop in Senegal in May 2019. Besides providing support during the workshop, she also worked with Georges to prepare templates and guidelines to facilitate CP reporting and inputs (including the gathering of additional information through focus group discussions to support M&E and impact assessment). This included working with other Prolinnova members to revise existing guidelines to prepare Prolinnova Guidelines 17: Selecting host organisation for a Prolinnova Subregional or Regional Platform.

Prolinnova representation at events

Via Ann Waters-Bayer, Prolinnova was invited by Elfrieda Pschorn-Strauss, Regional Coordinator, Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI) to join an SKI event. Brigid assisted with arranging for Joseph Righa to attend the event in Lusaka, Zambia, in August 2019. The event included a process with SKI partners to develop a strategy for promoting agroecology in the region.

Networking with regional structures

Through the AFAAS mailing list, Brigid came across the call for inputs for the Three-Year Strategic Plan (2019–2022) of the Southern African Regional Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (SARFAAS). She provided input to Andrianjafy Rasoanindrainy and Verona Parkinson that highlighted the promotion of local innovation and joint experimentation processes.

Fundraising

Brigid made inputs into the following fundraising activities: She provided comments and inputs to the Proli-FaNS II proposal submitted to Misereor. She worked with Chesha Wettasinha and Mozambique partners to submit the Nuffic Tailor-Made Training (TMT) proposal with the local NGO Kulima as the requesting organisation. More recently, discussions have been initiated with University of Hohenheim to respond to the EU call CE-SFS-36-2020: Diversifying revenue in rural Africa through bio-based solutions; the proposal is due in January 2020 and should allow for the involvement of a number of Prolinnova CPs. The proposal development is being coordinated by Sajid Latif (University of Hohenheim, Agricultural Engineering) and GFE (Research Center for Global Food Security and Ecosystems) at the University.

Backstopping support

The development of the funding proposal submitted to Nuffic for their TMT programme allowed for strengthening of linkages with Prolinnova–Mozambique. This has been challenging since Romuald Rutazihana withdrew from the network in January 2019 both as NSC chairperson and as member of the ESA subregional taskforce. With the involvement of Domingos Tsucana and the NGO Kulima in the submission of the Nuffic proposal, it became necessary to ensure that the platform retained the status of “active”, which required an annual report for 2018. Despite his resignation, Romuald assisted Domingos with drafting this report, which was indeed submitted. There has been interest from organisations in Zimbabwe to establish a Prolinnova CP but there has not been any progress with this during the period April–September 2019. These discussions will be continued.

Conclusions

Given that Misereor has approved the follow-on project to Proli-FaNS – called SULCI-FaNS (Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security) – there is opportunity and need to strengthen the subregional platforms and to see them operating as structures that can take over the roles that were previously played by the Prolinnova Secretariat, which had been based in the Netherlands. SULCI-FaNS will provide the impetus to drive regionalisation, supported by additional projects that can allow for the involvement of additional African CPs.