

Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS)

Progress report for the quarter May–July 2018

Compiled by Joe Nchor, ACDEP

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Women innovation group show their "Goama" bio-pesticide prepared from herbs for controlling caterpillars, locusts and butterflies in their market vegetables: tomato, cabbage, egg plants and leafy vegetable, at the Gomposom learning site of Burkina Faso (Photos: Siaka Bangali, national coordinator of Proli-FaNS Project).

PROLI-FANS PROJECT: PROGRESS REPORT FOR 1 MAY TO 31 JULY 2018

INTRODUCTION

This quarterly progress report for Proli-FaNS is a consolidation of activities and outputs achieved by the project partners in the period from 1 May to 31 July 2018. The partners are Prolinnova Country Platforms (CPs) in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya. The other partners are the Prolinnova subregional coordinators (SRCs) for the West & Central Africa and the Eastern & Southern Africa Prolinnova platforms, and the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST) based at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands. The Association of Church-based Development Projects (ACDEP) in Ghana coordinates the project on behalf of the Prolinnova network.

The three objectives of the project are:

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.*

PROJECT FIELD ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNTRY PLATFORMS (CPS)

1. FARMER-LED RESEARCH

Under this activity area, the CPs continued to work in their project learning sites by monitoring, backstopping and documenting the participatory innovation development (PID) or farmer-led experimentation processes and outcomes. Some CPs facilitated community-level dissemination and learning sessions among farmers and women on the improved innovations from their concluded PID processes. A few other CPs initiated the process of selecting new innovations for another round of PID.

Burkina Faso

The results of five innovations developed through joint experiments in the Gourcy and Gomponsom action-learning sites are being integrated by the five women's groups into their food security, nutrition security and livelihood improvement activities. The innovations investigated and improved are on food processing, nutritional enhancement for children and mothers, soil fertilisation with different types of bio-compost, and pest control in market vegetables using bio-pesticides (see cover photo). The salient results achieved for promotion and continuous integration into family food security and livelihoods systems are:

- Four types of good-quality compost were produced and validated by INERA (national agricultural research institute) and marketed in bags of 50kg for 2500F and 100kg for 5000F CFA for organic producers in major cities of the country.
- Two new enriched flour formulations for preparation of porridge for malnourished children based on local food materials (millet, soya, milk and moringa leaves) have been produced.
- One new strategy of animation and sensitisation of mothers and fathers to prevent and treat child malnutrition while respecting their family dignity has been developed
- One knowledge-sharing strategy (module) on the types of processing of cereals into enriched flour for porridge for malnourished children has been developed.
- Four millet-based baby porridge formulations enriched with other local oilseeds such as peanut, cowpea or bean, and moringa were developed and sold in the local markets and health centres.
- Bio-pesticide innovation: harvesting methods of herbs for formulation of pesticides were identified and tested; the dosages of the herbal remedies were evaluated to be effective against pests associated with cowpea, tomato, cabbage and eggplant.

The CP will continue to provide necessary support to the innovators and new adopters to scale up on the products from the experiments.

Cameroon:

The University of Dschang student investigating beekeeping and breeding performance on the male beekeeper's innovation has completed the research and thesis and is now preparing for his defence in the next quarter, involving the university and Prolinnova–Cameroon. The other joint research process involved a man and wife in collaboration with the University of Maroua focusing on reducing the bitterness of cocoa cake by natron and studying its effect on the nutritional quality of chocolate. The laboratory analyses are led by the University of Yaoundé 1, the laboratory of the food and nutrition research centre of the Institute for Medical Research and Medicinal Plant Studies (IMPM) and the analytical laboratory of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). The final results are still being analysed, to be processed for sharing within the next quarter.

Ethiopia:

Alem Birhan Self Help Community Based Development Association (ABSHCBDA) organised a day's consultative workshop on establishing farmer field schools (FFSs) at district level in July. The aim is to facilitate engagement of stakeholders in promoting farmer innovation. A total of 23 (21m/2f) people attended the consultative meeting. The workshop participants included: ABSHCBDA Board members and staff, ESM District Agricultural Office staff members and innovative farmers from three FFSs, Enebse Sar Midir (ESM) learning site District Chief Administrator and District Communication Officer, Mertulemariam Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College Dean and Vice Dean, and Mertulemariam Agricultural College Dean and Vice Dean. ABSHCBDA also organised a very intensive training on local innovation and food and nutrition security for local farmer representatives and ABSHCBDA staff members in June. The training also informed them on PID as an accepted approach to attain food and nutrition security within Ethiopia. Mr Atalay Yigrem, ABSHCBDA General Manager, facilitated the training session.

Four local innovations are being investigated through PID at the Axum learning site. They are on: i) integrating *gesho* (hops) as multipurpose tree; ii) intercropping cereals, legume, vegetables and/or spices; iii) crop and plant protection; and iv) generating income through determining sex of chicken eggs. The topics for PID in ESM will be determined in Year 3.

Ghana:

Processes were started for another cycle of PID or joint experimentation at the two action-learning sites. These involved meetings of the field implementation teams with innovators and community members leading to selection of four priority innovations (3 from Bongo site and 1 from Yendi site) using the project selection criteria. In the next quarter, the teams together with their local multistakeholder platforms (MSPs) and the innovators will jointly design and plan the experiments and start the experimentation or value-addition processes. The implementation teams visited project communities and monitored and supported the six pioneer PID innovators to integrate and scale up their businesses or livelihood activities using their PID results obtained. The teams also monitored and supported the adoption by other farmers and women of some disseminated innovations so as to improve their food and nutrition security and income situation. The following outcomes were achieved through the monitoring and support visits:

- The improved soap-making women's group in Yendi site, which undertook PID, had made 15 production rounds of the improved soaps and sold them to customers. Two other women from the community and another from a nearby community were trained by the innovation group on the improved soap-making technique.
- Five male farmers have adopted the improved innovation on preserving dry cassava chips with chili pepper developed at the Yendi site and are using it to store cassava and maize produce.
- The woman innovator associated with improved *wasawasa* food in the Yendi site recorded a significant increase in patronage and profit since adopting the PID results she jointly worked to obtain. With increased profits, she was able to buy and stock the main food materials (*dawadawa* yellow powder, millet, soybean and maize) to ease daily cooking for sale and consumption. Five women from her community have adopted the improved recipes and preparing for sale and for home consumption.

- At the Bongo learning site, the field team organised community viewing sessions on a video documentary produced earlier on a sheabutter processing and marketing innovation using PID. This enabled over 150 women in three communities to learn about the innovation for possible adoption. In another community where the *tree chief* institutionalisation social innovation was developed, the community has observed a reduction in indiscriminate cutting of economic trees due to a stricter enforcement of the local bylaws by the tree chief – a self-motivated community volunteer who draws his authority and support from the community chief and members. The bylaws were developed through the PID process.

Kenya:

A total of eleven innovations (7 in the Kisumu site and 4 in the Makueni site) are undergoing joint experimentation, aiming to be completed by December 2018. Five innovations are by women and six by men. The site implementing teams are monitoring, recording data and providing technical support to the experimenting innovators, as well as facilitating community interactions for learning on the processes. The detailed description of the status, progress and achievement of the farmer-led experimentation will be captured in the Year 2 Annual Report to be submitted by October 2018.

2. ADVOCACY

Burkina Faso:

A mini-fair for farmers' innovations was organised in July in the Gourcy learning site in Zondoma Province, jointly by the National Steering Committee (NSC), the two MSPs and the national coordination of PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel) Burkina Faso. It involved 300 participants including political and technical and administrative authorities at the provincial, communal and village levels; producers (farmers, herders, market gardeners, farmer organisations), NGOs, projects and development partners in the North Region. The event shared information, products and innovative recipes, as results from experiments of farmer researchers and producers. The fair also drew the attention of the administrative and political authorities to the importance and effectiveness of farmers' innovations in agro-silvo-pastoralism and the importance of value-added local food products for nutritional enhancement of the population.

Testimonies shared by two innovators attracted the interest and commitment of the political and technical authorities to get involved and support awareness-raising among producers to enhance wide adoption of innovative products, techniques and recipes in the agro-silvo-pastoral and nutritional fields. This is particularly in the fight against malnutrition of children through adding value to local agricultural products using innovative formulations to enrich flour fed to children. For more visibility of the innovations of Proli-FaNS and farmer-led research and development activities, the broadcast media (Savane FM Gourcy), the print media and the news agency of Burkina Faso (AIB) provided media coverage on the exhibitions and event. Innovators and members of the NSC also granted interviews to political and technical authorities including the Prefect of the commune of Gourcy and the High Commissioner of Zondoma Province. Radio re-broadcasts were carried out in the week following the fair to share information to the population on the outcomes.

Ethiopia:

Preparations were made to organise a farmer innovation fair at district level in the ESM action-learning site, including production of leaflets and posters. The fair is scheduled to be held in August 2018.

3. DOCUMENTATION

Burkina Faso:

Twenty selected farmers' innovations were documented using Prolinnova Guidelines No. 16. Beyond this, presentation sheets have also been developed to make farmers' innovations better known in detail. Thus, the mode of use and the contacts of the innovators are included in these sheets that the

CP in Burkina Faso elaborated for sharing during farmer events in the villages, the communes, the province, the region or the country (Burkina Faso).

Ethiopia:

Forty local innovations were selected for documentation with assistance of the CP coordinator and the learning sites coordinators, using the Proli-FaNS criteria for selecting or prioritising innovations for development or promotion. Twenty innovations each were selected from each of the two sites, Axum and ESM. To document the innovations, eight university students (2f/6m) were taken from both learning sites after the local innovations had been selected and, based on their related fields of study, the students were assigned innovations to document. The students were given training on the general concepts of local innovation and PID. Furthermore, Hailu Araya (former CP coordinator) together with the site coordinators and the new CP coordinator, gave them orientation on how to document the local innovations using the guidelines provided by the Proli-FaNS coordinator, as well as the necessary points to include in the documentation reports. The full reports would be ready in the next quarter.

Ghana:

The CP started process documentation on the six completed PID cases with assistance from the technical support team, leading to draft reports. The drafts were peer-reviewed and further improved towards final reports on the PID cases, to be published in booklets soon for dissemination and advocacy activities on PID and local innovation. A ten-minute video documentary was also produced by the ACDEP documentation unit on the soap-making PID process undertaken with the Sunson women group in the Yendi learning site. The video will be shared with stakeholders to show the project's achievements, posted on the Prolinnova website and on YouTube and also used for advocacy work to enhance institutionalisation of the PID approach in Ghana. This is the second video documentary, after an earlier video produced on improved shea butter processing and marketing through PID.

Kenya:

During the monitoring trips and meeting with innovators, emphasis and guidance on farmer-led documentation was vigorously pursued. On 10 July, a video film was made on four innovations undergoing PID in Makueni site to document the innovations. The process of finalising the video is ongoing. A similar video will be made in Kisumu soon.

4. PROJECT COORDINATION AND MONITORING

Burkina Faso:

The coordination team of the CP in Burkina Faso and some students and technical service institutions were engaged to collect information for the documentation of the 20 innovations selected by the CP. The monitoring team visited three provinces under Proli-FaNS and met with innovators and used focus group discussions and individual meetings to collect the information.

Cameroon:

Monitoring: The period was marked by the supervision of the students involved in the PID processes. In addition, the CP coordinator monitored and advised on ongoing local innovation by participating innovators and collected information and data to document local innovations and PID processes, in order to establish a database.

NSC meeting: On 31 July, the CP organised a joint meeting of the NSC and the Prolinnova–Cameroon CP members. They reviewed the Year 2 (August 2017 to July 2018) achievements under Proli-FaNS and Prolinnova more widely, and also reviewed and approved the Year 3 work plan and budget. The participants in the meeting discussed possible strategies of raising funds to increase the resources for the CP, as well as ways to address challenges (delays) the CP had faced with the partners in the PID processes, particularly with the University of Dschang.

Ethiopia:

Familiarisation & monitoring visit: The new CP coordinator (Beza Kifle) was assisted by the former coordinator (Hailu Araya) to visit the Axum and ESM action-learning sites in June and July respectively. She was introduced to farmers, visited innovations and arranged for documentation of the prioritised local innovations.

NSC meeting: The NSC and Technical Advisory Group held a meeting on 13 June and discussed project management issues and planned support to the new coordinator. They also discussed the outcomes of the Proli-FaNS partners' meeting held in May in Nairobi to enable effective field implementation to achieve the CP's targets for Proli-FaNS. They looked at priority activities and issues for Year 3 and the SRC gave them an update on the subregional platform activities. Six key members attended the meeting, including the NSC Chair, coordinator for the Eastern and Southern Africa Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP) and the ex-CP coordinator. Assignments and follow-up activities were:

- Yohannes GebreMichael to support the new coordinator in field visits and documenting PID processes;
- Elias Zerfu to provide monitoring and evaluation (M&E) support and ensure narrative reports are based on indicators before submission to ACDEP;
- Hailu Araya to help complete the PID activities in the Axum site and their documentation;
- Sarah Assefa to help in project coordination, while Tafesse Mesfin and Tesfahun Fenta will provide support in developing concept notes for fundraising;
- Members to hold review meetings every two months to improve implementation of the Proli-FaNS project. The learning site coordinators (Hailu Legesse, Atalay Yigrem) will participate in the meetings to report on progress on PID and innovation activities as well as challenges in their sites.

Financial backstopping visit: The CP hosted James Japiong, ACDEP Finance Manager, for a financial backstopping visit on 24–27 July. Participants in the training were Beza Kifle (CP coordinator), Mifta Ahmed (part-time finance officer), Hailu Araya (former coordinator) and Hailu Legesse (Axum learning site coordinator). The ESM learning site coordinator could not attend because of other engagements. The visit helped all participants to acquire knowledge and skills to improve on financial management, budgeting, budget control and financial reporting related to the Proli-FaNS project.

Ghana:

NSC meeting: The CP held an NSC meeting in July and reviewed Year 2 achievements and discussed priority activities for Prolinnova and the Proli-FaNS project for Year 3. They approved the budget and work plan for Year 3. They made recommendations towards strengthening the Prolinnova network and Proli-FaNS activities in Ghana, including the following:

- Partnerships with local NGOs should target those with adequate own funding to achieve sustainability and effective integration of the results after the project ends;
- The CP should focus on upscaling of successful women's innovations for greater impact;
- The CP should explore joining bigger national platforms including the Ghana National Learning Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture as opportunity for sharing, learning and policy influence;
- Year 3 project activities should focus on consolidating achievements made so far, through documentation and dissemination activities, holding experience-sharing events with farmers and stakeholders and decision-makers in agricultural research and development (ARD), and helping successful innovators and groups commercialise their innovations for higher benefits.

Financial backstopping visit to Prolinnova–Ethiopia by ACDEP Finance Manager: The project funded a four-day backstopping visit by James Japiong in July to Ethiopia to support Best Practice Association (BPA) staff and the Proli-FaNS project team to improve on financial management and reporting on Proli-FaNS, which are major weaknesses of the CP. Key capacity weaknesses were identified in areas of preparing quarterly financial reports, proper accounting on advances received, operating a good internal control system, handling foreign exchange rates and preparing quarterly budgets within the project budget. James held intensive training and coaching sessions and also reviewed project documents with the participants, ending with recommendations to the CP for sustainable solution of their issues and capacity weaknesses.

Kenya:

African CPs' annual meeting: On 22–25 May, Prolinnova–Kenya (PK) in collaboration with World Neighbors (PK hosting organisation) hosted the Proli-FaNS workshop, International Partners Workshop (IPW) and Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) meeting. The participants reviewed progress made on Proli-FaNS by the CPs for improvements and also reviewed and discussed the process and progress of regionalising the Prolinnova network in Africa. Twenty-seven participants from African CPs, the POG and IST members attended the meeting.

Local Steering Committee (LSC) meetings were conducted in Kisumu and Makueni Counties on 4 May and 8 June, respectively, where coordination, progress of PID processes and documentation, among other project tasks and issues, were discussed.

NSC meeting: On 19 June, the NSC met and discussed fund mobilisation, Proli-FaNS project updates and M&E framework, farmer innovation fair and Intellectual Property Rights as key coordination and project issues. The meeting constituted a sub-committee to plan for a farmer innovation fair to be held in Kisumu in November 2018 in connection with of the International Farmer Innovation Day (29 November). The subcommittee held its first meeting on 17 July to plan for the event and discussed matters such as the theme of the event, mobilisation and publicity, and responsibilities of key partners and stakeholders for the event.

Monitoring: In May and July, the CP coordinator and Kisumu LSC visited innovators in their respective sites to assess the progress of the joint experimentation processes. The visit culminated in an open forum meeting with the innovators participating in PID processes to share progress and learning. In June, INADES Formation (PK partner) and the Makueni LSC held a meeting with the innovators participating in PID processes to get a feedback from them on progress and to jointly generate a monitoring schedule for the PID processes. Again in July, INADES Formation, Makueni LSC and the CP coordinator made a monitoring visit to the site and assessed progress and backstopped the joint experiments taking place there.

5. PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING PROJECT OBJECTIVES BY THE CPs:

Progress made by the five CPs in the last quarter of Year 2 towards achieving the project objectives is described below. The Year 2 annual report will provide more detail in this regard.

- **Burkina Faso:** Five joint experiments have been successfully concluded and their results have been shared and promoted and are being used by the innovators and smallholder farmers to improve food and nutrition security and incomes. The CP has thus achieved its target number of PID cases. The innovators, including women, have built skills in experimentation and now have more confidence and trust in their own innovative and experimentation capabilities. Through local innovation and PID activities, farmers, extension workers, researchers and development institutions have established stronger partnership that will sustain support to communities' food security and livelihood improvement activities. Efforts to mobilise local funds have not been successful yet, but the CP is working with the subregional coordinator to realise this.
- **Cameroon:** Eleven innovations identified have been validated by the local multistakeholder platform. These are four men's innovations and seven women's innovations. Two innovations are being subjected to joint research processes. An innovation on the Fonge beehive has been widely promoted and disseminated. The target number of five PID cases to be undertaken may not be achieved by the CP at the end of Year 3 because of limited capacities and experience of the host NGO staff and the technical support members in the Prolinnova approach and in participatory and farmer-led research and development.
- **Ethiopia:** The CP has faced challenges in the CP coordination and Proli-FaNS implementation partly because of weak CP structures and governance issues. However, with the renewed commitment of the stakeholders following replacement of the CP coordinator, the CP is poised to make positive changes and improve on its achievement in the last year. Key plans include:

- FFSs have been set up to enhance engagement, as learning centres on farmers’ local Innovation and for dissemination of the concept of local innovation to all farmers;
 - At the Axum learning site, women farmers had developed six of the local innovations identified and had been involved in developing seven other local innovations identified. At the ESM site, women farmers had developed three of the innovations identified and 18 women had been involved in the development of eight innovations by mixed-gender groups.
 - The documentation of 40 local innovations will be finalised in August 2018.
 - In order to improve the Proli-FaNS management, the NSC and Technical Advisory Group have shared roles and made stronger commitment for success and impact.
- **Ghana:** Six PID cases have been completed and are being shared through community meetings and other dissemination methods. Four more PID cases to meet the CP’s target are being designed and planned for Year 3. As a result of the improvements or value additions to the original innovations through PID, the women innovator in *wasawasa* food has diversified her menus and is now making a higher income from increased sales, while ten women have joined her trade. The soap-making women’s innovation group and the sheabutter processing women’s group have built better technical skills and stepped up commercial activities in their enterprises and are earning higher incomes than before. Nineteen other innovations have been documented, of which 10 have been disseminated and promoted for adoption. Two video documentaries have been produced on two PID cases to facilitate dissemination. Farmers and women, as well as local ARD partners in the learning sites have embraced the PID and local innovation approach for food and nutrition improvement, and their partnership have become stronger than before. Local funds have not yet been mobilised. However, ACDEP, the local veterinary services and the Animal Research Institute are jointly working on a research proposal to submit to Misereor to validate and promote farmers’ ethnoveterinary innovations to improve the health and productivity of smallholders’ animals.
 - **Kenya:** A total of 31 local innovations have been identified (19 Kisumu and 12 Makueni), of which 11 are undergoing PID (7 in Kisumu and 4 in Makueni). The target number for PID processes is 10. The documentation process is still underway: 13 of the documented innovations are by women. Through PID, the communities have built some skills and confidence and have adopted the local innovation approach as an effective way to achieve food and nutrition security. There is an increased number of women innovators sharing their innovations both in their informal women’s group meetings and in their neighbourhoods. Rural communities around the project learning sites are slowly adopting some of the local innovations promoted. For example, in Kisumu, the use of the plastic chicken brooder, poultry medicine “*Ajujo manyasi*”, hanging gardens and two-in-one energy-saving stove have shown good adoption rates. In Makueni, the organic fruit fly trap, improvised incubator (relay hatching) and poultry medicine, among other local innovations, are being adopted by other community members. On fund mobilisation, PK is following up on its application to the National Research Fund, after making an unsuccessful attempt to secure funds through a Commonwealth Foundation grant.

6. KEY CHALLENGES REPORTED BY THE CPs

- **Burkina:** Late receipt of quarterly funds and wet/peak farming season affected field activities.
- **Cameroon:** Difficulty in working with the University of Dschang, delaying PID progress.
- **Ethiopia:** Delayed implementation of ESM site activities because of long absence of the site coordinator on a course. Disrupted implementation because of CP coordination staff changes.
- **Ghana:** Busy farming season affected the participation of farmers and extension staff, and slowed down rate of implementation in the quarter. Late submissions of financial and narrative reports by project partners to ACDEP have continued to affect timely submissions to Misereor and fund disbursements from Misereor to ACDEP and to the project partners.
- **Kenya:** Late disbursement of funds from ACDEP, affecting timely implementation of season-timed activities.

PROLINNOVA SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES

a) West & Central Africa Prolinnova Platform (WeCAPP)

1. Policy dialogue and networking

- The SRC had email and phone exchanges with AgriProFocus Benin (through Marcel Djihoun) and scheduled a meeting in August to see how the two networks can collaborate to promote local innovation in Benin and other countries in West & Central Africa where AgriProFocus operates.
- The SRC contacted Access Agriculture in Benin (through Florent Okry) and discussed ways to operationalise the existing memorandum of understanding between PROLINNOVA and Access Agriculture at the level of the West & Central Africa subregion in the next few months. We will discuss soon how we can promote local innovation in Benin through a PROLINNOVA platform.
- The SRC also contacted the Beninese Network for Sustainable Management of Genetic Resources JINUKUN (through René Segbenou), which is the focal point of the Coalition for the Protection of African Genetic Heritage (COPAGEN). The objective was to discuss the issue of local innovation in the sectors of local seeds, sustainable management of genetic resources, promotion of food security and adaptation to climate change. The collaboration of PROLINNOVA with AgriProFocus, Access Agriculture, JINUKUN/COPAGEN will be further strengthened during the next quarter.

2. Documentation

- The SRC took part in the annual Proli-FaNs Partners Workshop in Nairobi in May, and co-moderated sessions and translated presentations and discussions in French for francophone partners. He translated into French and shared the PID process documentation guideline.
- He shared with the French-speaking partners an article published by a friend of PROLINNOVA about co-authorship in participatory research. This aims to inform them about the norms, principles and ethics related to co-publication and recognition/acknowledgement in the context of valuing the results of the joint experiments in progress in the different countries.
- As usual, he also translated several emails into French during the quarter to facilitate information access to the French-speaking partners. The SRC also sent many email reminders to Proli-FaNS coordinators to encourage and motivate them to follow the local innovation and PID documentation guidelines proposed by ACDEP.
- The SRC helped the Cameroon platform review the dissertation of a Masters students involved in the PID cases initiated.

3. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

The SRC had telephone conversations with partners in the subregion, especially those involved in the Proli-FaNS project, to learn about the progress of their activities and to provide them with advice for a better completion of their respective PID cases. He noted overall during the quarter that PID processes are being actively implemented by CPs, and difficulties are being progressively addressed.

4. South–South backstopping

The SRC sent a reminder email to INADES Formation Togo about setting up a PROLINNOVA platform in Togo, but did not yet receive an answer from them. He also sent a reminder email to partners in Niger, who had expressed their willingness to re-launch their CP. In Benin, he had phone and email exchanges with a list of 11 people motivated to be part of a platform in this country. He is planning a visit soon to Cotonou to meet actors as well as some structures like CEBEDES ONG, AgriProFocus, Access Agriculture and JINUKUN / COPAGEN to see how a platform to promote local innovation and PID in Benin can be launched. Other technical support during this quarter was limited to advice and encouragement given to the subregion's CPs through emails and phone calls.

5. Fundraising

The SRC was involved in a fundraising initiative with Zacharia Malley (PROLINNOVA– Tanzania). It was a concept note in response to the call for ideas made by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food:

“2050: Visions for Global Food Processing Systems”. Unfortunately, the concept note was not selected. There are plans to improve it in order to use it to apply for other calls for proposals for which it will be relevant.

The SRC had email exchanges and a Skype discussion with Catholic Relief Services – Caritas France (through Mrs Chloé Bonnemains), which wants to implement an agro-ecology 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 agro-ecology”*, with a provisional budget of 530,000 Euros. PROLINNOVA in West & Central Africa has been asked to be a partner of the project through its CPs in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, which are among the target countries of the project. These CPs could benefit from financial support in the context of training stakeholders on implementing joint experimentation and policy dialogue on agro-ecology. Other areas that could be developed with a potential funding focus are development of training curricula, the delivery of training to actors of various backgrounds, the implementation of joint experiments (involving extension officers, formal research experts and decentralised community agents etc), the organisation of exchange visits and policy dialogue (advocacy and lobbying) through farmer innovation fairs, farmer-led documentation and upscaling.

b) Eastern & Southern Africa Prolinnova Platform (ESAPP)

The major accomplishments in the quarter include participation in the Nairobi meetings, updating the subregional draft charter, backstopping Prolinnova–Ethiopia and preparing the Prolinnova network annual report for the subregion. The following are the detailed outputs achieved.

Governance and networking

- Following the voluntary resignation of Hailu Araya as CP coordinator, the SRC assisted the Prolinnova–Ethiopia NSC in seeking and interviewing candidate for staff replacement. Qualified candidates were not attracted by the benefit package. The NSC appointed Ms Beza Kifle, a young professional with little experience but with high enthusiasm and potential. Thereafter, the SRC provided orientation to the new coordinator on Prolinnova and Proli-FaNS, and helped her prepare the CP’s annual report to present at the Proli-FaNS partners meeting in Nairobi.
- The SRC participated in the annual Proli-FaNS partners and African regionalisation meeting in Nairobi and facilitated sessions of the partners meeting, presented a report on progress of the regionalisation process, presented and facilitated a review of the draft subregional charter and participated in the POG meeting.
- The SRC prepared the annual Prolinnova network report for the subregion using the reports of the ESAPP member CPs as base documents. The report is now being finalised after receiving comments from the IST.
- Following the review of the ESAPP draft charter at the Nairobi meeting, the SRC improved the documents and now plans to meet with his counterpart for the WeCAPP in October 2018 to exchange and standardise the two charters for uniformity.

Documentation

The ESAPP brochure has been shared with the member CPs for comments, but no comments have been received thus far, only an improved photograph sent from Sudan. The draft document will be sent again to the subregional taskforce for comments and endorsement, after a new chairperson has been elected for the taskforce and the committee starts to function properly.

Monitoring and backstopping of Prolinnova–Ethiopia

The coordination of Prolinnova–Ethiopia deserves close support, since the new coordinator needs time to take full control of her responsibilities. Hence, the SRC held frequent meetings with the new coordinator to offer technical support and to guide her in PID, local innovation and documentation activities at the two learning sites. As a result, documentation of the local innovations near Axum is taking shape through the assistance of Aksum University students. In addition, researchers from Bahirdar University have shown interest to visit the second learning site (ESM) to engage and support

the PID processes there. The researchers would assist by choosing from the local innovations based on their areas of training, interest and capacities (including women-focused, short-cycle experiments, low cost) for the experimentation processes. The SRC plans to support the CP coordinator to facilitate PID for four innovations in the Axum site in the coming project year.

Way forward

In the next half year, the SRC will develop and implement an action plan for the final year of the project including finalising the charter and helping to establish the subregional governance body. A systematic and effective engagement with WeCAPP will also be an important agenda for the upcoming year, in order to work toward the formation of an African regional network. In addition, backstopping support to the CPs, with particular attention to Ethiopia will be prioritised. Fundraising, communications and networking shall be other major action areas. Particular emphasis will be given to raise funds for ESAPP in the final year of the project.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM AT KIT

The following is a summary of the activities undertaken by the Prolinnova International Support Team (IST) members attached to KIT, Chesha Wettasinha and Ann Waters-Bayer, in the period May–July. The main outputs achieved in the quarter were the Proli-FaNS annual partners meeting, the African Regional Meeting and the POG meeting, which took place on 22–25 May in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, the team provided regular support to the Proli-FaNS coordinator at ACDEP and to the two Prolinnova SRCs in Africa.

a. Proli-FaNS partners meeting and African Regional Meeting, 22–24 May, Nairobi

- Chesha and Ann supported Joe in the final preparations for the two-day meeting of Proli-FaNS country partners.
- They helped in finetuning the agenda for the meeting, especially time allocation of sessions, to be able to cover the vast content within the two days allocated for the meeting.
- Both took part in the meeting, facilitated some sessions (gender in PID, M&E, prioritising project focus and activities for final year of the project) and engaged with the partners in small groups as well as in plenary discussions.
- Ann and Brigid Letty from Prolinnova–South Africa prepared a session on documenting PID processes, which was then integrated into the session on sharing PID experiences. Chesha and Ann also held a side meeting with Joe and the new Proli-FaNS coordinator from Ethiopia, Ms Beza Kifle, in order to give her a quick orientation about the project.
- Chesha and Ann then took part in the Regional Meeting of African CP partners that took place the day after the Proli-FaNS meeting. They supported the SRCs in preparing and conducting the regional meeting and in the discussions regarding the next steps in the network’s regionalisation process.
- They provided comments on the workshop report prepared by the Kenyan partners in World Neighbors. They followed up on the action points from the meeting delegated to them, and also reminded others regarding their implementation of some of the action points.

b. General support to Proli-FaNS coordinator and Prolinnova SRCs for Africa

In addition to the above, Ann and Chesha provided support to Joe, Georges and Amanuel, mainly through email, as and when needed. This included:

- Support to make the necessary administrative changes in the Proli-FaNS activities to be carried out by Prolinnova–Ethiopia and to give necessary inputs to the new coordinator;
- Giving feedback on the Terms of Reference for the backstopping trip of James Japiong to Ethiopia on matters related to financial management;
- Together with Brigid, updating the guidelines for PID documentation based on the feedback received at the May meeting;

- Providing comments to Georges on his French translations of Prolinnova/Proli-FaNS documents (workshop materials including draft subregional charter and PID process documentation guide);
- Supporting Amanuel Assefa and Chris Macoloo (POG co-chair) in their efforts to contact CPs about the taskforce representatives in Eastern & Southern Africa;
- Providing the SRCs with information about potential sources of funding through calls for proposals and linking them with relevant partners.

In addition, Ann provided some advisory support directly to the new coordinator of Prolinnova–Ethiopia, responding to her questions through email correspondence.

While in Winnipeg, Canada, in July, Ann met with Michael Salomons and Stefan Epp-Koop of the Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB) to update them about Prolinnova – and specifically about Proli-FaNS activities – as follow-up to the participation of Chris Macoloo in the CFGB-supported conference in Arusha in 2017 on behalf of Prolinnova/Proli-FaNS. This was with a view to possible fundraising by the CPs in the Eastern & Southern Africa subregion, where CFGB supports several agricultural development projects.

c. Coordination and management support

- *Project reporting:* Chesha prepared a short narrative report on the activities undertaken by the team at KIT in the period February–April 2018. She also supported the financial officer at KIT to prepare the financial report for that period.
- *Proli-FaNS reports:* Ann and Chesha gave feedback to Joe on the quarterly reports (February–April 2018) of the project partners. They supported Joe with content and editorial support on the consolidated report for that period.
- *Prolinnova website and Yahoo group:* Annie Secretario at the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in the Philippines and Ann, working from her home office in Germany, continued to provide support to all the CPs in preparing and uploading news and documents onto the Prolinnova webpage, and Ann continued to share relevant news and publications via the Prolinnova Yahoo group.
- *Long-distance support to the CPs and ACDEP:* Ann and Chesha maintained communication, mainly through e-mail, with ACDEP and the CP partners and supported them as and when necessary on Proli-FaNS implementation and reporting.
- *POG meeting on 24 May in Nairobi:* Ann and Chesha, together with the POG co-chairs, prepared the agenda and the background documents for the face-to-face POG meeting. They also sent out the invitations and followed up with those who were coming to the meeting. They participated in the one-day POG meeting, prepared the minutes of the meeting and circulated them to the members together with the list of action points.

OUTLOOK FOR YEAR 3

Significant results and targets have been achieved so far by the end of Year 2 of the project in the area of engaging women and men in PID and local innovation activities and building their capacities in the methodology and approach for self-empowerment towards achieving sustainable food and nutrition security, especially by women. Going into the last year of the project, the CPs intend to consolidate these gains by focusing more on documenting the processes and results and using the products to engage in policy dialogue and advocacy for mainstreaming within ARD institutions. They will also be working on scaling up and disseminating the PID outcomes and local innovations developed to many more farmers in the project communities for wide-scale adoption or adaptation.

The SRCs will continue to provide capacity support to CPs and strengthen networking among them, while also working further towards establishing a regional (Africa) network, including finalising the charters and harmonising them as a guiding constitution for the future Prolinnova–Africa.