

# Prolinnova-Uganda Country Platform Activities and Governance, since Internal Partner's Workshop held in 2019.

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hosted at Environmental Alert.



# Outline of the presentation



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## A) Introduction

- This is a summary of the **Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform (CP) for 2019**. Thus, its by large derived from the Prolinnova-Uganda CP Annual report, 2019.
- It presents the key achievements, challenges and perspectives during the reporting period. **Notable** is that, during the reporting period, the *CP was largely constrained in terms of funding to effectively deliver on its aspirations*. Despite this, the CP Secretariat at Environmental Alert ensured that the CP remained visible and active among the members, key stakeholders and partners.
- This was achieved through *facilitating and supporting networking activities among members for information sharing and exchange, largely through online interactions and participation in activities led by CP members*.
- Furthermore, greater focus and effort were invested into resource mobilisation and fundraising as part of the development of the Prolinnova-Uganda CP Program programme.

## B) Achievements and perspectives

i) The Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat participated in **the National Agro-ecology Actor's Symposium (NAAS)** held on 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 and organized by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM-Uganda).

The key outcomes from the symposium included *creation of a deeper, harmonized understanding and appreciation of agroecology by the different stakeholders as a result of dissemination of research findings and farmers lessons; a clear roadmap for developing the National Strategy on Scaling up Agroecology in Uganda; Launched of the National Agroecology Actors Platform (NAAP); a communique on Scaling up Agroecology.*

ii) The CP Secretariat took part in the **African Prolinnova CPs Meeting** held on 13–17<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal at Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre in Centre Mampuya.

## B) Achievements and perspectives

### iii) Capacity building for Prolinnova–Uganda CP members

- The Secretariat (2) and members (1) of Prolinnova-Uganda CP (i.e. Kikandwa Environment Association) benefited from an interactive training on, '**Lobbying, Policy analyses and Advocacy**,' held on 10-11<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The training targeted at enhancing knowledge and skills for *civil society organizations in respect to effectively engagement for influencing duty bearers to actualize climate change resilience actions at national and community levels.*
- **A 2 days - Training of Trainers (ToT) on Integrated Soil and Nutrient Management (ISNM)** was conducted by Wageningen University in collaboration with the Kawanda Agricultural Research Organization and Environmental Alert. Thus, the ToT equipped 30 participants with additional knowledge and skills in ISNM. They comprised of banana farmer innovators, representatives, processors, district and sub-county extension staff from project sites of Birere, Rugaaga and Rwimi in Isingiro and Bunyangabo districts.

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## B) Achievements and perspectives

### iv) Development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with strategic partners.

Thus, MoUs with the following strategic partners were initiated:

**a) PELUM-Uganda** - A 5 years MoU was endorsed between **Environmental Alert (the host for the Prolinnova-Uganda CP Secretariat)** and **PELUM-Uganda**. This MoU provides an overarching framework for collaboration and partnership between PELUM-Uganda and Prolinnova-Uganda CP towards achievement of the shared goals and aspirations in the agriculture; environment and natural resources; and land management subsectors based on their respective institutional mandates.

**b) Makerere University, School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (SFEGS)**. The **Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat** held a meeting with the **Dean of SFEGS at Makerere University**, during which an agreement was reached to develop a MoU between SFEGS and Environmental Alert, the host for the Prolinnova Uganda CP, targeted at developing a framework for structured collaboration for advancing farmer innovation in Uganda, through research & development. A draft MoU in this respect was developed and is under review by both parties.

## B) Achievements and perspectives

v) **Popularization of the CP and Mobilization of new members /partners.** This is continually done through the website and social media platforms. Membership has been maintained at 40 member organizations.

vi) **Prolinnova Uganda Platform members** (e.g. PELUM-Uganda, NARO, MAAIF, Horizont 3000, Makerere University) and partners (A Growing Culture, ...) **continued to implement activities, which promoted farmer innovations and agroecology** for food security, nutrition and sustainable environment and natural resources management.

vii) **A second contact for Prolinnova Uganda CP** was elected by the members of the Steering Committee and Core team. **Thus, MAAIF – represented by Mr. Alex Lwakuba as a Focal point.** This will further enhance information exchange among members, partners and stakeholders at different levels.

viii) The **Prolinnova Uganda CP Secretariat** provided technical inputs into the **brochure and Charter** for the eastern and southern Africa sub-regional platform (ESAPP).

## B) Achievements and perspectives

ix) Continuously resource mobilization efforts/initiatives as part of program development for the Country platform. Thus, some of the proposals prepared and submitted include:

a) A consortium concept note was developed involving: *A Growing Culture (AGC), Environmental Alert C/o Prolinnova Uganda CP and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)*. The concept was titled, '*Innovation and Climate Adaptation: Women Smallholder Farmers Lead the Way*,' with activities/outputs targeted for implementation in Uganda and Kenya. The proposed project is for 2 years with a total budget of 600,000 USD. AGC as the lead partner is marketing this concept to potential development partners. The fate of this concept is yet to be shared by the AGC.

b) A consortium proposal that involved 21 research, academic and civil society organizations in Europe and East Africa (i.e. Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) was prepared as response the European Union Horizon 2020 call published in 2019. The proposal is titled, 'Traditional Ecological & Indigenous Knowledge based Bio-Solutions & Business Models to Diversify Revenues in East African Rural Communities (TEKBioMEs).' 3 Prolinnova Uganda CP members (i.e. *Environmental Alert, Makerere University and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARO) – Kawanda*) were involved in the preparation of the proposal and are partners in the research consortium led & coordinated by LEIBNIZ-ZENTRUM FUER AGRARLANDSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (ZALF) e.V. based in Germany. The proposed project is for 5 years with a total budget of 68,970,000 Euros. The proposal was submitted and waiting for decision to inform the next steps.



## c) Difficulties/challenges

- *Inadequate funding for the Prolinnova–Uganda CP limits it from implementing undertakings and aspirations as described in the strategic plan of the international Prolinnova network.* This is being addressed through advancing programme development through concepts/proposal writing and also pursuing collaboration with strategic partnerships.
- Delayed disbursement of funds by the Development Partners to support implementation of activities/outputs for running projects.

## D) Network functioning/Governance

- 1) Two Prolinnova Uganda CP Steering committee meetings held
- 2) Regular communication and coordination with Prolinnova Partners and stakeholders at the national, sub-regional and international levels – largely through online platforms. This has kept the country platform alive & active.
  - The google group for the members was updated and all members now receive notifications on their emails via the Google group
- 3) New focal persons identified as replacement of focal persons who had moved as members on the Steering Committee. Thus, Ms. Christine Nakato is no-longer staff at Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE). She was replaced by Mr. Ssentogo Daudi was appointed by UNFFE as their focal point staff to represent them on the Prolinnova Uganda CP steering committee engagements. **NB:** UNFFE is the Chair of the Steering Committee.
- 4) A second Contact to serve as a contact person from Prolinnova International Support Team and Oversight Group was nominated, i.e. Mr. Alex Lwakuba, Commissioner-Crop Production in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries.
- 5) Preparation of the Prolinnova Uganda CP consolidated annual report, 2019.

## E) Future Outlook

- **Moving forward**, the CP and its members will tap into existing opportunities at the national and international levels to advance development of the CP, in ways that fit into the aspirations laid out in the strategic plan of the Prolinnova international network, e.g. *promoting and mainstreaming Participatory Innovation/Technology Development (PID/PTD) in national policies and programmes, while addressing the underlying issues pertaining to innovation in ecologically sound agriculture and natural resource management based on the national and local context in Uganda.*

## F) Important references for further information

- National Agro-ecology Actor's Symposium (NAAS) Report, available in the report at: <https://www.pelumuganda.org/communique-of-the-1st-national-agroecology-actors-symposium-30th-and-31st-may-2019-kampala-uganda/>
- IPW report, 2019 is available at: <https://www.prolinnova.net/content/may-2019-ipw-and-proli-fans-partners-meeting-senegal>



Thank you for listening!!

Asante sana!!