

# **Prolinnova Network Strategic Plan, 2021-25** ***(draft of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020).***

**Enhancing capacity to innovate: key to sustainable development**

**Presented during the African Regional Partners e-Workshop 2020**  
**26-28<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

By Joshua Zake, Executive Director, Environmental Alert and  
Prolinnova Uganda Country Platform Coordinator

P.O. Box

11259 Kampala, Uganda, Tel: 0414510215;

Website: <http://www.envalert.org>

Email: [ed@envalert.org](mailto:ed@envalert.org) or [joszake@gmail.com](mailto:joszake@gmail.com)

**C/o PROLINNOVA-Uganda Country Platform Secretariat,**  
hosted at Environmental Alert.



# OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION



**A) Introduction**

**B) Conditions influencing the strategy**

**C) Methods and approach**

**D) Strategic Direction**

**E) Organization structure and roles**

# A) INTRODUCTION

- This is the revised 5 year strategic plan for Prolinnova Network, 2021-25, the last version as at 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- It was revised to respond to the key emerging issues (challenges & opportunities) in the operating landscape and also provide strategic direction for Prolinnova in the next 5 years.
- The Prolinnova Strategic plan therefore provides the overarching framework for development and implementation of the various Prolinnova Country Platform Programs to respond to respective country and sub-regional context while contributing towards the vision and mission statements for Prolinnova.
- Besides, it provides guidance in respect to institutional organization, leadership and governance within the Country Platforms, Sub-regional and International for effective functionality in respect to communication, coordination, networking and outputs implementation towards Prolinnova's aspirations in the next 5 years.

## B) CONDITIONS INFLUENCING THE STRATEGY

- i) The current Prolinnova Strategic Plan will expire by the end of 2020.
- ii) Many Northern donors increasingly favour market- and business-centred approaches, with decreasing attention to issues of equity and inclusion in development.
- iii) Formal research organisations receiving public funds are coming under greater pressure to produce results that have a positive impact in development. They have increasingly recognised that agricultural research approaches with an innovation systems perspective, in which innovation come from various sources (beyond formal research) & involves multi-stakeholder interaction, have a wider and more lasting positive impact.

## B) CONDITIONS INFLUENCING THE STRATEGY

iv) Donor agencies – both governmental, private & philanthropists prefer to allocate funds directly to organisations in the South.

v) Other opportunities include the following:

- *The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–28), - overseen by FAO and IFAD and promoted through World Rural Forum (WRF) on behalf of civil society;*
- *Greater use of information & communication technology (ICT) for development;*
- *African Union (AU)–European Union (EU) collaboration in ARD (“co-creation of knowledge”)*
- *Growing interest in farmer-led multistakeholder approaches to ARD in Europe*

## C) METHODS AND APPROACH

- i) Rapid assessment of performance | respect to aspirations in the current Prolinnova Strategic Plan, 2016-2020 – during the International Partners Workshop held in 2019. This helped in identification of achievements, emerging issues and underlying gaps in respect to performance across Prolinnova CPs.
- ii) Establishment of the Drafts Team, under the coordination of *Joshua Zake*, and comprised of *Karbo Naminong, Joshua Zake, Chantheang Tong, Chesha Wettasinha and Ann Waters-Bayer* – which integrated the suggestions and developed the revised strategy.
- iii) The revised strategy was submitted and discussed by the Prolinnova Oversight Group for further comments and inputs, which were integrated to generate the current version of the revised Prolinnova Strategy, 2021-25.

# C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION



## Vision

- A world in which women and men farmers play decisive roles in agriculture and NRM innovation processes for sustainable livelihoods.

## Mission

- To stimulate a culture of mutual learning and synergy among diverse stakeholder groups to actively support and promote local innovation processes in agriculture and NRM.

## Goal

- To contribute to equitable and inclusive development of resilient and sustainable farming communities.

# C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## Objectives

- a. To develop new methods & approaches to enhance local capacities to innovate in agriculture & NRM & provide evidence their of effectiveness
- b. To strengthen capacities of ARD actors to support local innovation & farmer-led joint experimentation
- c. To scale up & mainstream participatory approaches to agricultural innovation in ways that enhance local innovative capacities
- d. To strengthen MSPs in promoting LI & farmer-led participatory research
- e. To influence national & subnational policy processes that favour development & promotion of identified LI by small-scale farmers, including but not limited to market-oriented innovations, by actors along agricultural & NR value chains
- f. To communicate PID evidence and knowledge products locally and internationally.



# C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## Main concepts

- **‘Small-scale farmers’** (or “**farmers**”) refers to resource-poor crop-based and mixed crop-livestock farmers, pastoralists, fishers & forest users, & includes artisans & small-scale processors operating at local level, involved in food processing, storage & marketing.
- **Local innovation** (without "s") is the process by which people develop new and better ways of doing things in their locality – using own resources & on own initiative. LI often occurs in the face of new challenges or opportunities & involves informal experimentation by the resource users.
- The outcomes or products of this innovation process are local innovations (with "s") that have been developed by individuals or groups or communities & are understood & owned by local people.

# C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## Main concepts Cont

- **Participatory Innovation Development** is an approach to ARD based on farmers' motivations & ideas about how to face a local challenge or capture an opportunity to improve livelihoods. It involves partnership between farmers, development agents & wherever possible – scientists. It includes not only “hard” technologies but also “soft” socio-institutional & cultural innovations such as changes in gender roles (e.g. women taking on ploughing responsibilities). At the heart of PID is farmer-led participatory research or joint experimentation, in which farmers together with other stakeholders investigate possible ways to improve the livelihoods of local people.

# C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## Main concepts Cont

- **Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs)** comprise three or more types of actors who have an interest (stake) in improving local livelihoods through innovation in agriculture and NRM. They include the primary stakeholders – women and men farmers – as well as researchers, agricultural advisors, educators, policymakers, private entrepreneurs and consumers.
- **“Partnership”** refers to the process whereby the actors jointly plan and implement activities in order to achieve a shared goal or objective. To be able to collaborate, they mobilise and share resources and agree on how these will be managed.

# C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## Main concepts Cont

- MSPs often operate as a “**platform**”: a mechanism for periodic sharing and negotiation among partners that enables dialogue to take place and agreements to be reached about action to be taken, as well as self-assessment of the successes and challenges. MSPs can be at different levels (local to international) throughout the network and for different purposes.

# C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

## Core values

- a. Social equity & respect.
- b. Commitment.
- c. Transparency & accountability.
- d. Sustainability.
- e. Partnership.

## Principles

- a. Integration:
- b. Shared learning.
- c. Good governance.
- d. Ownership.
- e. Open-source innovation (“copyleft”).

## C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

### **Prolinnova Network outcomes:**

- 1) Farmer innovators are supported by all relevant stakeholders (including social entrepreneurs and agri-food businesses) in PID activities.
- 2) A growing proportion of young people (under 35 years of age) are involved in PID activities related to agriculture and agri-food enterprises.
- 3) More women innovators are recognised and become actively involved in agroecological farming to increase food and nutrition security of communities

## C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

### **Prolinnova Network outcomes:**

- 4) Farmer-led joint research processes lead to establishment of social enterprises that ensure social solidarity and benefit sharing within the communities and thereby increase community resilience
- 5) LISFs are more widely used to support farmer innovators' activities.
- 6) Policies are changed to include PID and other farmer-led approaches to research and innovation and to ensure sustainability of LISFs.
- 7) Diverse partners share resources, responsibilities and recognition in effective MSPs operating at various levels: subnational, national, regional and global.

## C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

### **Prolinnova Network outcomes:**

- 8) Educational institutions (and all other partner organisations) promote participatory approaches and use PID-related materials in their work.
- 9) Capacity of CPs and (sub)regional platforms is built in openness, inclusiveness, fundraising, networking, applying PID methodologies and influencing policy in ARD.
- 10) Local innovation/PID approaches are integrated into agricultural research institutions and rural advisory services at different levels from district/county to international.
- 11) Information about local innovation/PID is shared with a wider audience, including consumers, thro focused communication strategies using modern (e.g. social, mass) media and conventional communication methods



# C) STRATEGIC DIRECTION

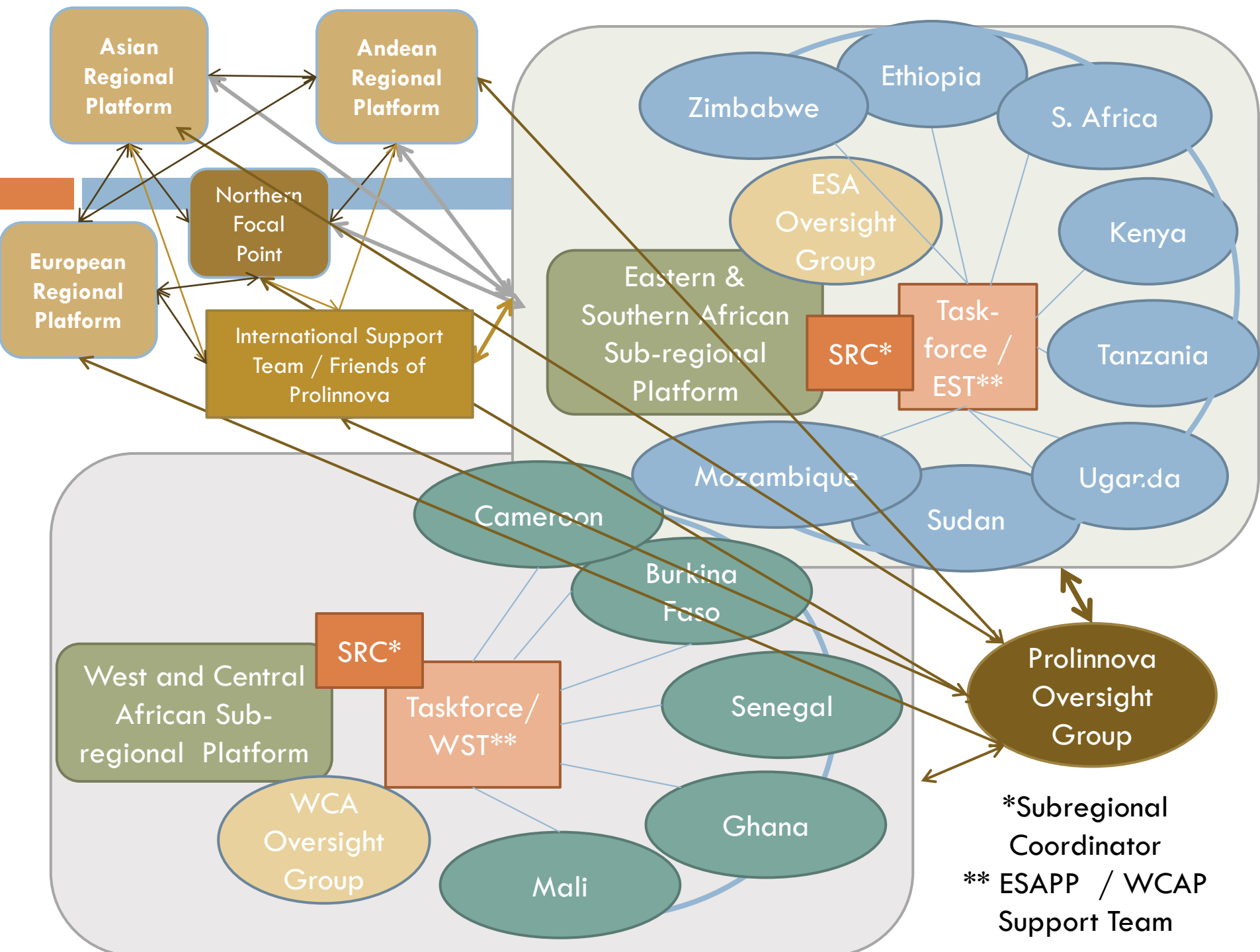
## Thematic focus:

1. *Sustainable agriculture;*
2. *Sustainable Natural Resources Management;*
3. *Innovative methodologies;*
4. *Resilience, land degradation and climate change;*
5. *Nutrition and health;*
6. *Urban/peri-urban agriculture;*
7. *Gender issues in innovation processes;*
8. *Youth Innovation in agri-food systems;*
9. *Small-scale farmer involvement in local value chains.*

# E) ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND ROLES

The Prolinnova Network strategic Plan enlists various leadership and governance structures clearly stipulating their respective roles. The following are some of the structures:

1. *Prolinnova Oversight Group*
2. *Regional and Sub-regional platforms*
3. *Friends of Prolinnova*
4. *National Steering Committee*  
*Country Platform Secretariat*
5. *Country Platform Coordinator*
6. *Core Team*





Thank you for listening!!

Asante sana!!