

FAIR

Farmer Access to Innovation Resources

“Exploring with farmers alternative ways of stimulating local innovation and participatory research and development (R&D)”

Piloting Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs)

PROLINNOVA is piloting LISFs to:

- Establish sustainable community-based funding mechanisms to promote stakeholder-led R&D processes
- Evaluate, document and share experiences with these mechanisms
- Enhance livelihood security and environmental management by local people
- Build replicable models for local control of R&D.

Local Innovation Support Funds are being piloted in eight countries. Each pilot has its own institutional arrangements, creating local opportunities for farmer participation and management of the LISFs, and demand-driven research in general. In each country, distinction is made between community-level LISFs that share and manage resources to accelerate innovation at the local level, and a sustainable institution-based facility at higher level, co-managed by farmers, that catalyses and funds the community-based LISFs.

PROLINNOVA
PROmoting Local INNOVAtion
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management



Involvement of farmers in community-based LISFs and in co-managing a higher-level institutional support facility builds their capacities in R&D issues and thus empowers them to be partners with formal R&D institutes in agenda setting and R&D implementation. This may enable also regional and global level involvement, as promoted by the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR).

Typically, an LISF makes funds available to farmers for innovation-related activities such as:

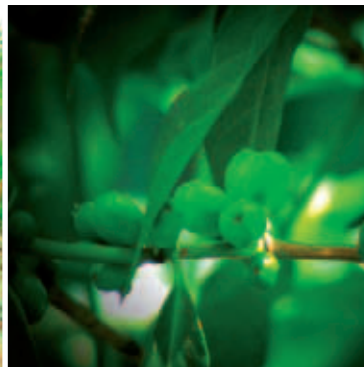


LIFS Screening Committee assessing applications in South Africa

- Farmer-to-farmer exchange to stimulate learning and innovation
- Joint experimentation based on an individual's or group of farmers' initiative, including:
 - documentation of farmer innovation and adaptation
 - payment for involvement of development agents and/or scientists, e.g. travel, accommodation, assistance in designing and monitoring experiments
 - exploring local innovations to validate and/or improve them
 - disseminating results of local innovation processes

In the present pilots, the spectrum of experimentation and innovation includes:

- efforts in livestock and range management and crop development,
- pest and disease control
- development of the natural resource base
- development of farmer-based institutions





All initiatives are designed to develop local people's capacities to strengthen or expand their livelihood options as well as withstand threats such as HIV/AIDS.

To date, results have been very encouraging, with LISFs enjoying strong farmer representation and ownership across gender and social groupings. The pilots and the LISF arrangements are being closely monitored by the partners to assess the potential for scaling up of this approach to R&D. A detailed monitoring tool is being used by all Country Programmes, and a model for assessing impact at community and higher institutional level is being developed.

PROLINNOVA Promoting Local Innovation		Andico Farmers Aid (Project ACT) Tanzania	LISF Registry - Grant Application		
Application #	5	Thandanani Mazizi Cooperative	Requested Amount	4,450.00	
Application Date	2007/02/02		Approved Amount	2,456.00	
Current Status	Approved		Fund Disbursement Date	2007/02/25	
Applicant Applicant Type: <input type="text" value="Thandanani Mazizi Cooperative"/> Gender: <input type="text" value="Male"/> Age: <input type="text" value="35"/> Female members: <input type="text" value="10"/> Male members: <input type="text" value="10"/>		Notes on Applicant: Note to an organization to visit a project in Lushoto to learn about product development & marketing and institutionalisation.			
		Add New Applicant... Edit Current Applicant... Edit Any Applicant... Show/Hide Quick Notes			
Co-applicants (if desired)					
Co-applicant Name		Co-applicant Type			
SG		NGO			
Application #		6	Thandanani Mazizi Cooperative	Requested Amount	0.00
Application Date		2007/02/02		Approved Amount	0.00
Current Status		Pending Screening		Fund Disbursement Date	

For long, farmers have been only marginally involved in multi-stakeholder R&D processes. As R&D resources have been and are largely controlled by others, the farmers' role in defining R&D activities has been very limited. At the same time, it is increasingly clear that they are innovators and freelance researchers in their own way. The LISF approach now has the potential to alter the landscape of agricultural research, give farmers the lead in defining and implementing activities and thus generate many benefits to resource-poor farmers.

FAIR is an ambitious, long-term initiative that has the potential to yield rich and far-reaching rewards for farmers. **PROLINNOVA** is keen to share its experiences and encourage others to join in these efforts to refocus resources into farmer-driven research. For some time, further donor support is needed to deepen and expand the footprint of **FAIR**.

FAIR pilot activities:

Country and Location	Coordinating NGO
Cambodia <i>10 provinces, mainly in the central, eastern & south-eastern parts</i>	Centre d'Études et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien (CEDAC)
Ethiopia <i>Amaro, Southern Region Ambo, Oromia Region Axum, Tigray Region</i>	AgriService Ethiopia (ASE)
Ghana <i>Northern Ghana (Upper East & Northern Regions)</i>	Association of Church Development Projects (ACDEP)
Kenya <i>Busia and Nyando Districts (Western Region) & Machakos and Mwingi Districts (Eastern Region)</i>	World Neighbors
Nepal <i>Ilam, Sunsari, Siraha, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Chitwan, Palpa, Parbat, Mustang, Bardia, Jajarkot, Humla, Kailali, Achham & Doti Districts</i>	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
South Africa <i>Uthukela District, (Amangwane & Amazizi Areas)</i>	Farmer Support Group (FSG)
Tanzania <i>Dodoma Region in the central part & Mbeya Region in the Southern Highlands</i>	PELUM Tanzania
Uganda <i>Mukono, Nakasongola, Wakiso, Mityana, Kayunga, Mubende, Rakai, Luwero and Masaka Districts in the Central Region</i>	Environmental Alert (EA)

Further information and contact details:

More information on the FAIR initiative and LISFs can be found on <http://www.PROLINNOVA.net/pilotinglisf.php>

Should you be interested to learn more about LISFs or wish to contribute to this effort, please contact the Prolinnova Secretariat at PROLINNOVA@etcnl.nl

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**Ontwikkelings
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