

PROLINNOVA

PROMoting Local INNOVAtion
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

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natural resource management

ANNUAL REPORT

2013



*Kenyan farmer innovator discussing her innovation with visitors at the Eastern African Farmer Innovation Fair
Photo: Fabian Odhiambo*

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAS	Aquatic Agricultural Systems
AISA	Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa
ARD	Agricultural Research and Development
CCAFS	Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CCIG	Climate Change, Innovation and Gender
CLIC-SR	Combining Local Innovation Capacity with Scientific Research
CP	Country Programme
EAFIF	Eastern African Farmer Innovation Fair
EED	Evangelical Development Organisation of Germany
EU	European Union
FaReNe	Farmer Research Networks
IED Afrique	Organisation for Innovation, Environment and Development (Senegal)
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (the Philippines)
INHERE	Institute for Himalayan Environmental Research and Education
INR	Institute of Natural Resources
INSARD	Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research and Development
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IS	International Secretariat
IST	International Support Team
ITACC	Innovation Transfer into Agriculture – Adaptation to Climate Change project
JOLISAA	Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture
KEA	Kikandwa Environmental Association, Uganda
LINEX-CCA	Local innovation and Experimentation for Climate Change Adaptation
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
Misereor	German Catholic Bishop’s Organisation for Development Cooperation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
SOLLINKKA	Social Learning LINKing Knowledge and Action
WAIA	Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa
WRC	Water Resources Commission



INTRODUCTION

PROLINNOVA (International network for promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management) continued to be active in 2013 and welcomed a new country platform (CP) from the Philippines into its fold. The PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) was active in providing advice and guidance to the network.

A highlight of 2013 was the Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa (WAIA) that included several workshops and meetings as well as the Eastern African Farmer Innovation Fair (EAFIF) in Nairobi, Kenya, in May. PROLINNOVA CPs from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania were involved in organising these events with support from the International Support Team (IST). PROLINNOVA sought collaboration with many organisations involved in agricultural research and development (ARD) in this endeavour. Encouraged by the success of these events, CPs from West Africa showed interest in hosting a similar event in their region and the idea of a West African Farmer Innovation Fair emerged. This idea was further developed into a concept note and shared among several donors. By the end of 2013, at least two donors, McKnight Foundation and Misereor, had shown their interest in funding the event, which made it possible to make concrete plans for the event in 2014.

Most of the activities of the CPs as well as the IST continued through projects being funded by different donors. Activities in Mali related to Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel (PROFEIS) are being supported by Misereor, Germany. The Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research (CLIC-SR) project, financially supported by Rockefeller Foundation, is being implemented in four countries in eastern Africa - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Local Innovation and Experimentation: an entry point to Climate Change Adaptation for sustainable livelihoods in Asia (LINEX-CCA), financed by Misereor, is operational in three countries - Cambodia, India and Nepal. Two projects in collaboration with the CGIAR research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) also continued in 2013: Social Learning Linking Knowledge with Action (SOLLINKA) in Kenya and Senegal and Climate Change, Innovation and Gender (CCIG) in Cambodia. In addition, PROLINNOVA entered into a partnership with the Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS) research program of the CGIAR to undertake a study on the impacts of farmer-led ARD supported by civil society organisations.

Together with partners in Mali and Burkina Faso, the PROLINNOVA IST submitted a proposal to McKnight Foundation on farmer-led research networks for agro-ecological intensification. The proposal was accepted and began with an inception phase of one year in November.

Two European Union supported projects: Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture (JOLISAA) and Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development (INSARD), in which PROLINNOVA was a partner, were concluded in 2013. Findings of both projects were shared through different communication channels and were presented at several international events during the year.

Currently the IST consists of ETC-AgriCulture, the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction in the Philippines (IIRR) and IED Afrique in Senegal. The International Secretariat (IS) is hosted by ETC.

The annual report for 2013 consists of three chapters: Chapter 1 provides a summary of CP activities as drawn from individual country reports; Chapter 2 highlights network-wide activities that involve more than one CP as well as the IST, at regional or at international level. Chapter 3 provides some general conclusions.

1. COUNTRY PLATFORMS

1.1. ANDES

The Andes platform did not organise any common activities but the partners in the different countries were involved in participatory ARD activities.

AGRECOL Andes Foundation in Bolivia was involved in the identification of biomarkers, developing local forecasts and planning agricultural family and community-based prognosis. This was done in the framework of the Agricultural Risk Management Community (*Gestión del Riesgo Agrícola Comunal*) funded by McKnight Foundation. It has facilitated the implementation of a process of agropastoral systems research in Ayllu Mujlli - Majasaya of Tapacarí Province in Bolivia.

World Neighbors Bolivia has been engaged in collecting the lessons (to be published in 2014) of an action research process in nutrition and food sovereignty with 103 families of five Quechua - Aymara communities of Northern Potosí, with funding from McKnight Foundation. The process emphasised the value of local knowledge and resources as the main strategy to improve family and especially infant nutrition. The project used methods such as participatory action research, visualisation and community videos which strengthened the trust and between the participating families and the facilitators.

Information on the PROLINNOVA-related activities in Peru and Ecuador were not received.

1.2. BURKINA FASO

At the national level and in the framework of the "Greening the Sahel Initiative" project, an exchange visit was organised for innovators of three provinces (Passoré, Nahouri and Comoé). Efforts were concentrated in capturing experiences of farmers' action research as well as in documenting and disseminating farmers' innovations using different media (i.e. documentary films, datasheets, leaflets).

Regular consultations with PROFEIS partners were maintained and, with Diobass support, a Farmer Innovation Day was organised in Nougou.

One PROFEIS-Burkina member participated in the EAFIF and the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in Nairobi in May.

1.3. CAMBODIA

PROLINNOVA Cambodia continued its activities through two projects: Building Climate-Resilient Farming Communities in Cambodia and LINEX-CCA, funded respectively by the German donors EED and Misereor.

Forty-nine researchers, lecturers, development workers, including young development professionals and policy makers, have integrated farmer-led innovation and experimentation to adapt and mitigate climate change into their development agendas. Furthermore, 21 students (including six female) were trained within the project and did their internships on innovative agricultural techniques and experimentation in adapting to climate change.

A total of 384 farmer experiments and demonstration sites were supported in 2013. The demonstration sites included biodigester plants for production of bioslurry and biogas, biochar for improving soil fertility, adaptation of the system of rice intensification and seed selection, biochar application, integrated farming and multi-purpose farming. Additionally, eight platforms and networks are promoting local innovation and participatory approaches in ARD to

adapt to and mitigate climate change. One annual conference was organised at national level for sharing good practices and farmer innovations in climate smart agriculture among farmers, staff of government agencies, PROLINNOVA network members, university/ college lecturers and students. Of the 84 participants, 26 were women. One training session on climate smart agriculture was organised for development professionals, which involved 32 participants, including 12 women. The national working group met three times during the year.

1.4. CAMEROON

The CP continued to identify innovative farmers. Innovations in the domain of agricultural processing for reducing post-harvest losses is crucial to ensure that family farming continues to provide food security. Statistics from *Groupement Interpatronal du Cameroun* of October 2012 mentions that 95% of the food consumed in Cameroon comes from family farming. Post-harvest losses that occur while harvesting, during transportation and at the markets, could be reduced through local-level processing. Two innovators seeking to improve the value chain of their products by processing were identified. One of the (male) farmers transforms raw cocoa into several products in an artisanal way (i.e. into soap) and a woman farmer processes banana peel to make a salt extract (which is still under experimentation).

The International Farmer Innovation Day was celebrated in the district of Abong Mbang (East Cameroon) to raise awareness on smallholders' constraints to access the market. Interviews with the managers of the family farms took place and ideas were exchanged on the future of smallholder agricultural production.

1.5. ETHIOPIA

Activities of the CLIC-SR project were an important part of PROLINNOVA-Ethiopia's work during 2013. The project is being implemented in Tahtai Maichew District in Tigray Region and Enebe Sar Medir District in Amhara Region. Efforts were concentrated on setting up the CLIC-SR project within the Poverty Action Network in Ethiopia (PANE) and in strengthening partnerships with like-minded organisations. A field survey was conducted in both operational areas to assess the communities' perspectives on main changes and challenges. Promising local innovations were identified for documentation. Consultative meetings were conducted in both areas with multiple stakeholders with the aim of starting up Participatory Innovation Development (PID). In addition, training was conducted in the two areas with the aim of building the capacity of local farmers in innovation and joint experimentation in response to locally perceived changes. Farmers were the main participants in this training conducted in collaboration with responsible stakeholders such as agricultural institutions, government agencies and local community members.

Representatives from PROLINNOVA-Ethiopia participated in the EAFIF and the IPW in Nairobi in May. A group of men and women farmer innovators also participated in the EAFIF. The International Farmer Innovation Day was celebrated in Ethiopia by organising a consultative meeting in Axum on 7 December, on the theme "Farmers' innovation improves their resilience to change", in collaboration with the Axum platform members.

1.6. GHANA

During the National Farmers Day on 6 December, eight farmer innovators (out of a total of 69 innovators in the competition) were given awards in collaboration with the Centre for Development Studies and the University of Bonn, Germany.

1.7. INDIA

PROLINNOVA-India continued implementation of LINEX-CCA activities. It participated in diverse activities during 2013. Some among them were: 3rd Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation

Forum held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on “Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development”; Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa workshop on 28–31 May in Nairobi; expert consultation on “Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security” in Bangkok, Thailand, on 11–12 December. Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE), coordinating organisation of PROLINNOVA–India, participated in a national workshop on “Outscaling Farm Innovation” at the National Agriculture Science Centre Complex, New Delhi, on 3–5 September and made a presentation on the work of the PROLINNOVA network.

INHERE also contributed an article to the *New Agriculturist*, an on-line journal, on nutrition and food security in a mountainous region, in which links with PROLINNOVA–India and working with PROLINNOVA concepts such as PID were mentioned.

International Farmer Innovation Day was celebrated at INHERE’s training centre in November. Government officials, farmers and NGO members discussed the need for and the importance of farmer innovation and knowledge creation together with men and women farmers.

1.8. KENYA

PROLINNOVA–Kenya took the lead in organising most of the WAIA events, including the EAFIF, and was host to the IPW in May. All CP partners worked together to make the events a great success. The importance of supporting farmer innovation was placed firmly on the ARD agenda throughout the WAIA.

The CP partners were also engaged in activities related to the CLIC-SR project. Field studies to draw out communities’ perceptions of change were carried out in two selected counties. Several among these innovations were documented and selected for showcasing at the EAFIF. Research on one of these innovations – millet nurseries and transplanting techniques – is being done jointly by the innovator, other farmers, scientists and extensionists.

PID training for CP members and partners of the CLIC-SR project was organised through two workshops funded by Nuffic (Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education) and supported by the IST.

A series of meetings and workshops with presentations on small-scale (family) livestock farming were organised to celebrate the International Farmer Innovation Day. Farmers exhibited some of their work and innovations.

1.9. MALI

PROLINNOVA–Mali continued to be involved in the PROFEIS project supported by Misereor. Members of the CP participated in the IPW and EAFIF in Kenya in May.

1.10. MOZAMBIQUE

No annual report received.

1.11. NEPAL

PROLINNOVA–Nepal implemented activities related to the LINEX-CCA project. The main activities in 2013 were in building the capacity of farmer and local stakeholders in supporting joint experimentation based on local innovation. The CP coordinator, two project staff members and a woman innovator visited their counterparts in Cambodia through a cross-visit supported by LINEX-CCA.

The CP coordinator and a woman innovator participated in a workshop organised by the CCIG project in April and shared the experiences of PROLINNOVA–Nepal, including aspects related to gender and PID.

1.12. NIGER

No annual report received.

1.13. NIGERIA

In 2013, PROLINNOVA–Nigeria conducted a survey on goat rearing among women in three local government areas (LGAs) of Kaduna State in northwest Nigeria. One hundred and fifty women were selected randomly from Igabi, Chikun and Kajuru LGAs for the study. The objectives of the survey were to: determine the socio-economic characteristics of women involved in goat rearing; assess the role of local knowledge and innovation in goat rearing; identify critical issues for multistakeholder intervention in goat rearing; evaluate the effects of goat rearing on the wellbeing of the women. Data collected through the questionnaire was analysed and followed by focus group discussions with women in the three LGAs to deepen understanding of the role of local innovation in goat rearing.

1.14. SENEGAL

In Senegal, the CP as a member of PROFEIS and coordinated by Agrecol–Afrique, is supporting community-led initiatives in conserving and regenerating soil and water resources in millet- and peanut-dominated farming systems in Kaolack and Fatick Regions, and in enhancing the value of indigenous woody species in the agroforestry systems of the peanut basin in the Thiès and Diourbel Regions.

As part of the SOLLINKKA activities, a local socio-organisational innovation developed by villagers in Pout Dagné near Thiès to deal with seasonal hunger was documented. In addition, the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research, the national meteorological agency and Agrecol–Afrique on behalf of PROFEIS–Senegal, have set up an innovation platform in the framework of CCAFS West Africa work on “Developing community-based climate-smart agriculture through participatory action research in five CCAFS baseline sites in West Africa”.

A training workshop on PID with a focus on farmer-led joint experimentation was organised by PROFEIS–Senegal. The workshop included fieldwork in Ngouye village so that workshop participants could see local innovations and initiatives related to natural resource management and climate change adaptation and consider how formal research could add value to the local innovation processes. Two processes of farmer-led participatory research started after the training workshop on PID: one on assisted natural regeneration in Kaffrine and one on desalinisation of rice fields in Casamance in southern Senegal.

As a partner of CCAFS, the PROFEIS–Senegal coordinator joined the events organised on 1–6 September by the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research. He hosted a group of visitors from the rice and cereal sectors and the national meteorological institute of Colombia and staff from the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) as well as from the CCAFS West Africa programme to the Kaffrine learning site. The visit gave the Colombians an opportunity to learn from the Senegalese experience in integrating climate information into farmers’ strategies of dealing with climate change.

Besides sharing written and photo documentation more widely, PROFEIS–Senegal undertook other types of activities related to communication and learning to further strengthen the linkages with CCAFS activities in Kaffrine. On 21–22 December, women farmers from Kaffrine visited women farmer innovators in Nghémé near Thiès, who are working with Agrecol–Afrique

in developing organic-farming techniques to produce high-quality onions that can be stored for more than nine months. Onions are an important source of income for women smallholders.

Policy dialogue on the role of smallholder farmers and their innovative capacities in ARD took place at community level during a workshop in June in Thionck-Essyl (Casamance). It discussed local innovation, PID and its role in strengthening local capacities to adapt to climate change. At national level, the PROFEIS–Senegal coordinator made a presentation on smallholder farmer innovation and PID in adaptation to climate change in a roundtable organised in August in Dakar by the EU-funded project INSARD.

The PROFEIS–Senegal coordinator participated in the WAIA in Nairobi in May, including the EAFIF and the IPW.

1.15. SOUTH AFRICA

Partners of PROLINNOVA in South Africa continued to support participatory development approaches that build on the initiatives of smallholders wherever the opportunity arose. The CP coordinator was involved in the final workshop of JOLISAA and participated in some of the WAIA events. Another opportunity in promoting PROLINNOVA's approaches was involvement in the GIZ-funded Innovation Transfer into Agriculture – Adaptation to Climate Change (ITACC) project. The component of the ITACC project being implemented by GFA Consulting, in collaboration with the Institute of Natural Resources (INR) and various other organisations, was looking at the match between the innovations emerging from the various international agricultural research centres and the needs of smallholder farmers. In the process of identifying participants the ITACC South Africa regional workshop to be held in 2014, interactions took place with Monique Salomon who now coordinates a network called Tshintsha Amakhaya. This led to the participation of some new organisations that are well aligned with PROLINNOVA and who could be potential partners for future work. The workshop also renewed contacts with some of the PROLINNOVA partners from different provinces (KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo).

Several joint experiments took place under the various projects and programmes being implemented by PROLINNOVA-SA members. For example, Mdukatshani Rural Development Trust continued to work with farmers on ways to improve the productivity of goat flocks, while INR was involved in joint experimentation with smallholder banana farmers through a project funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC) aimed at strengthening smallholder value chains. The WRC also funded the adaptation of infield water harvesting techniques to local conditions with smallholder crop and livestock farmers.

Maxwell Mudhara (Farmer Support Group at the University of KwaZulu-Natal) and Brigid Letty (INR) are both members of the council for the Southern and East African Association for Farming Systems Research and Extension, which is changing its name to the Innovation Systems Association for Agricultural Development in Eastern and Southern Africa, which reflects the current thinking around research and development processes. This provides some indication of the continued participation of PROLINNOVA-SA in dialogue pertaining to the provision of effective support to recognise and enhance the innovative capacity of smallholder farmers.

1.16. SUDAN

No annual report received.

1.17. TANZANIA

PROLINNOVA–Tanzania partners carried out activities related to CLIC-SR. Field studies on local perceptions of change were done in two districts. Several local innovations to adapt to external

change were documented. PID training was given to farmers and other local stakeholders who were to be involved in the project and seven farmer innovations were selected for joint research.

Two members of PROLINNOVA–Tanzania participated in the IPW and the EAFIF in May. They supported the Tanzanian farmer innovators who joined the EAFIF.

1.18. THE PHILIPPINES

PROLINNOVA–Philippines joined the international network in 2013. The CP hopes to address the need for models of innovation platforms at municipal levels in which other local organisations, such as the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, the Mag-uugmad Foundation and the South Luzon State University have shown interest. The CP has been trying to raise funds for its activities.

The CP celebrated International Farmer Innovation Day in Guinayangan, Quezon, with the participation of innovative farmers and local government units, including staff of the municipal agricultural office.

1.19. UGANDA

PROLINNOVA–Uganda collaborated with Grameen Foundation and AppLab Uganda to identify, document and share farmer innovations with different stakeholders and farmers through the community knowledge workers network. Some of these innovations included: control of diarrhoea in goats using local herbs; treatment for fever in calves; control of mastitis in cows; de-worming of calves; and value addition to banana peelings and palm oil by making soap.

Two farmer (male and female) innovators were supported during 2013 to participate and exhibit their innovations during the annual indigenous food fair organised by PELUM Uganda. The innovations exhibited were processing cake from sweet potatoes and making a rain gauge out of local materials. Ten farmer innovators – two women and eight men – from Uganda were supported to participate in the EAFIF in Nairobi in May.

Kikandwa Environmental Association (KEA), a long-standing member of PROLINNOVA–Uganda, celebrated International Farmer Innovation Day in the framework of its 10th anniversary. Environmental Alert organised a celebration in Mityana in collaboration with KEA, where farmers exhibited different innovations in climate change, pest and disease control and locally improved seeds. The event was attended by policymakers and farmers. Kulika–Uganda organised another celebration in Nakasongola, where farmers exhibited innovations in animal management and climate change adaptation. The event was attended by famers, politicians and community members.

The PROLINNOVA–Uganda partners Environmental Alert and Kulika–Uganda are implementing the CLIC–SR project in the districts of Moyo and Nakasongola. The activities in 2013 included an inception and planning meeting in these two districts to increase the support to and awareness of the project, field studies in both areas to find out communities' perceptions of changes including climate change and developing a paper on mainstreaming PID in local government institutions.

2. NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

2.1 ON-GOING AND NEW INITIATIVES

PID for strengthening resilience to change

In Asia, PROLINNOVA partners in Cambodia, India and Nepal continued implementation of the Misereor-funded project LINEX-CCA. The overall goal of this project is to contribute towards increasing the security of livelihood sources of climate-change vulnerable rural communities, particularly women, who depend on agriculture and the use of natural resources. PROLINNOVA partners organised training workshops in PID and climate change adaptation for farmers and local development stakeholders in the selected field locations. Thereafter, joint experimentation on selected innovations was started up. The lead partners met for a one-day learning, sharing and progress-review meeting in Nairobi in May.

In eastern Africa, implementation of activities related to the CLIC-SR project continued in the four participating countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. This project also intends to strengthen the resilience to change of smallholders and their communities, especially women, by enhancing their innovative capacity and their livelihood security through PID. Field studies on local perceptions of and responses to external change were completed in two selected districts in each country. Preparatory consultative meetings for starting up farmer-led joint experimentation including scientists from research institutions/ universities took place in the field locations. Project partners met at a regional CLIC-SR meeting in May.

Collaboration with CCAFS and AAS

The main activities in terms of SOLLINKKA were connected to the Week of Agricultural Innovation in Africa in May (see below). Social learning mechanisms within PROLINNOVA as a multistakeholder network were documented and shared through various events and publications. Action research in Kenya and Senegal started with identification and documentation of local innovations and training in PID for farmers and other local stakeholders.

The two main activities in CCIG were a three-day workshop on climate change, innovation and gender in April that brought together a small group of researchers, practitioners and innovators to review what is being done currently at the interface of farmer innovation, climate change mitigation and gender justice. This was followed by implementation of three small-scale projects that carried out action research on local innovations that positively impacted on agricultural emissions and gender relations. One of these was in Cambodia, where farmers were involved in experimentation on biochar and bioslurry for soil conditioning, supported by PROLINNOVA partners.

A small team at the IS started work on a study to draw out the impacts of farmer-led agricultural research and development that is/has been supported by civil society organisations. There is an increased interest within formal ARD institutions in research that is more relevant to the needs of smallholder farmers, but there is little documented information on farmer-led ARD supported by civil society organisations that could inform such approaches within formal ARD. This study, which is being undertaken by PROLINNOVA in partnership with AAS and CCAFS, is an attempt to fill this gap in information.

Strengthening farmer research networks

This new project to strengthen farmer-led research networks (FaReNe) for agroecological intensification with PROLINNOVA partners in Burkina Faso and Mali started in November.

McKnight Foundation has provided funds for this project. The project is being carried out as part of the West African Community of Practice within the Collaborative Crop Research Program of McKnight Foundation.

Its objectives are: to identify and analyse existing local innovation and innovations and to improve and spread them through PID and Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs); to create / strengthen farmer-led research networks for taking the lead in PID, LISF management and related innovation activities; to gain deeper insights into the praxis of farmer-led research networks and spread and share lessons widely.

The one-year inception phase involves building relevant partnerships for the project, initiating or strengthening farmer-led research networks, clarifying central concepts and approaches among all partners through capacity building linked to initial pilot activities and jointly designing the implementation phase. This is to be followed by a three-year implementation phase.

2.2 POLICY DIALOGUE AND MAINSTREAMING

Week of Agricultural Innovation in Africa

A highlight of 2013 in terms of policy dialogue was the Week on Agricultural Innovation in Africa. This encompassed the Eastern African Workshop on Farmer Innovation in Africa (EAFIF) on 28–29 May, the international workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA) on 29–31 May as well as several side events. The EAFIF was hosted by PROLINNOVA–Kenya and co-organised with the Netherlands-supported Agri-ProFocus (APF) Agri-Hub Kenya network and other organisations concerned with smallholder agricultural development. It involved 50 women and men farmer innovators from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The fair showcased the creativity and achievements of smallholders in improving their farming and livelihoods. The two-day event called attention to the importance of farmer innovation in agricultural development and brought policymakers and the general public in Kenya in contact with farmer innovators. The AISA workshop was officially opened during the final afternoon of the innovation fair so that the workshop participants could meet and interact with the farmer innovators. The workshop brought together several initiatives and programmes seeking to understand and strengthen multistakeholder innovation processes involving African smallholders. More than 100 ARD stakeholders, including practitioners and policymakers, participated in this event. More details on these events can be found at: <http://aisa2013.wikispaces.com/farmer+fair>

Brussels Briefing on farmer-driven research

In November, experiences and policy messages from PROLINNOVA, JOLISAA and INSARD were shared at the Brussels briefing on the theme “Farmer-driven research to improve food and nutrition security”. This was co-organised by the ACP-EU Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation and INSARD. The briefing raised awareness on the key challenges and opportunities in involving farmers in ARD and in involving formal scientists in farmers' own research and development. It brought several examples of promising approaches in stimulating and supporting farmer-driven research, including local innovation support funds, farmer field schools, PID, multistakeholder platforms for joint learning, and community-driven agroecological research and development based on local social, economic and cultural values. Special attention was given to the role of farmer organisations in ARD.

Publications and presentations

Documenting the experiences, lessons and challenges of PROLINNOVA initiatives through various forms of publication has been a way of getting these messages to larger audiences,

especially policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders in ARD organisations, ministries, NGOs and academia. PROLINNOVA partners collaborated in several publications in 2013, which are listed in Annex 1. All these publications can be accessed through the PROLINNOVA website.

PROLINNOVA partners were invited to several international/regional events at which they presented papers, chaired sessions and provided inputs as resource persons. A list of international events in 2013 to which PROLINNOVA was invited and/or in which it participated is found in Annex 1.

2.3 GOVERNANCE AND NETWORK FUNCTIONING

International Partners Workshop

The IPW took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 27–28 May, and was hosted by PROLINNOVA–Kenya. It was organised during the WAIA so that IPW participants would also be able to participate in some of the other events during that week. In total, 26 participants from the CPs, the IST and the POG joined the workshop. One of the main topics of the workshop was PID as a means to strengthen community resilience to change, in which CPs involved in LINEX-CCA and CLIC-SR shared their experiences and got feedback from others. The participants also discussed how the CPs and the IST could be involved in activities related to the International Year of Family Farming in 2014. They decided that the International Farmer Innovation Day celebrations in the CPs could be used for this purpose. The participants also discussed issues related to fundraising, monitoring and evaluation. The POG, who had met before the IPW, gave a short briefing and discussed ways of obtaining funds for PROLINNOVA’s work, especially core activities such as networking.

Read the IPW report at:

[http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/About Us/prolinnova reports/2013/ipw_report_may_2013_final](http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/About%20Us/prolinnova_reports/2013/ipw_report_may_2013_final)

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group

The 14th POG meeting took place on 26 May in Nairobi, Kenya, before the IPW. Two new POG members joined the meeting: Julian Gonsalves as an independent member and Amanuel Assefa on behalf of non-francophone African CPs. The POG reviewed and conditionally accepted the proposal of PROLINNOVA–Philippines to join the international network. The POG discussed the general progress of the CPs and the IST in terms of activities undertaken. It also reviewed the progress of the different projects that were being implemented under the umbrella of the PROLINNOVA network and gave advice on dealing with some of the implementation challenges. The POG co-chairs Susan Kaaria and Marise Espineli participated in the IPW and briefed the participants on the main outcomes of their discussions. They also announced the vacancies for the francophone African and the Asian seat in the POG. Suman Manandhar from Nepal was elected for the Asian seat and Jean-Bosco Etoa from Cameroon for the francophone African seat. The POG also discussed the possibility of inviting Esther Penunia of the Asian Farmers Association to join the POG to bring in views of farmer organisations.

Country backstopping

The possibility for IST members to make regular backstopping visits to the CPs were limited in 2013 due to lack of funding. Whenever possible, the IST members made use of other work visits to the countries to also fit in some time for meeting with CP partners. The following backstopping visits were made in 2013:

Table 2: Backstopping visits from IST to CPs in the period January - December 2013

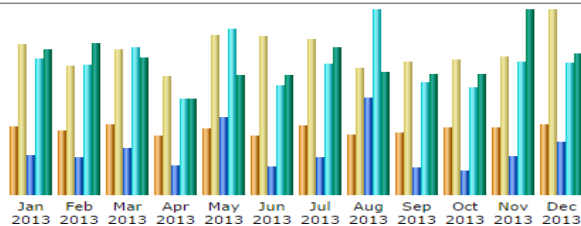
Dates in 2013	Country	Main topics
11-20 January	Cambodia	Support to LINEX-CCA; field visits; general PROLINNOVA Cambodia issues and meeting with partners
21-29 January	Nepal	Support to LINEX-CCA and visits to two field sites; discussions with national working group members; meeting with Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture
14-16 February	Kenya	Support to CP partners related to WAIA events and JOLISAA
17-20 February	Ethiopia	Support to CLIC-SR
20 May – 1 June	Kenya	Support to CP partners related to IPW and WAIA events
1 – 2 August	Senegal	Support to CP partners related to SOLLINKA activities
27 October – 1 November	Kenya	Review progress of CLIC-SR and SOLLINKA implementation; issues related to PROLINNOVA Kenya
1-5 November	Uganda	Review progress of CLIC-SR implementation; general planning for PID tailor-made training funded by Nuffic
3-8 November	Ethiopia	General PROLINNOVA activities; progress of CLIC-SR; new hosting arrangements of CP

Monitoring & Evaluation

The PROLINNOVA e-evaluation for 2013 was held from 21 January to 12 February 2014. In addition to the annual evaluation of international-level activities, the format included items on self-assessment of partnership at the national level and questions on efforts related to fundraising at this level. As a network, PROLINNOVA assessed its performance under the themes: governance, learning and sharing among partners and CPs, capacity building, functioning of the IST and Secretariat, increased international awareness on PID and partnership functioning at the national level. Eight responses from CPs and the IST as groups were submitted. From a scoring range of 1–5 (low to high), the average performance of the network was scored at 2.87. Governance was rated highest at 3.35, whilst capacity building at 2.66 was the lowest score. A score of 3.07 indicated that awareness of PID and PROLINNOVA had increased considerably. Several suggestions for improvement that were drawn through the analysis of the findings were discussed with partners at the IPW. These included the use of Skype for communication between the IST and CPs, creative ways to fund international training of PID, and translation of PROLINNOVA documents into other languages by using volunteers from within the network etc.

Website management

The PROLINNOVA website was maintained and updated throughout the year. Currently, the website has a large collection of publications, reports and other information material related to the network. The web statistics for 2013 are as follows:



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2013	1,463	3,233	14,785	50,214	4.24 GB
Feb 2013	1,375	2,779	13,821	47,958	4.43 GB
Mar 2013	1,522	3,119	17,196	54,590	4.00 GB
Apr 2013	1,261	2,553	10,875	35,423	2.79 GB
May 2013	1,424	3,437	28,750	61,078	3.49 GB
Jun 2013	1,270	3,405	10,450	40,467	3.50 GB
Jul 2013	1,494	3,355	13,896	48,210	4.31 GB
Aug 2013	1,292	2,719	35,718	68,247	3.57 GB
Sep 2013	1,338	2,856	10,076	41,357	3.52 GB
Oct 2013	1,446	2,909	8,735	39,523	3.52 GB
Nov 2013	1,453	2,973	14,049	49,127	5.40 GB
Dec 2013	1,509	3,978	19,629	48,884	4.12 GB
Total	16,847	37,316	197,980	585,078	46.90 GB

The site has had, on average, 1400 unique visitors per month and over 3000 visits per month (*exclusive of those generated by worms, robots or ripples with special http status codes*). This is an increase of approximately 200 unique visitors per month in comparison to 2012.

CONCLUSION

Many of the PROLINNOVA CPs have been exploring creative ways to continue their work related to promoting local innovation despite funding challenges. The fact that 50 farmer innovators from four countries were able to showcase their innovations in Nairobi during the EAFIF was a notable achievement for PROLINNOVA. The collaboration of several organisations in the event point to increased commitment on their part to support farmer-led ARD approaches. Such events are creating spaces for dialogue between farmer innovators and ARD practitioners and policymakers and leading to more positive interactions among them.

There is also a growing interest within formal ARD institutions to find ways of making their research more relevant and useful for smallholder farmers. They are seeking partnerships through which they could engage in processes of farmer-led ARD. This trend is creating more opportunities for PROLINNOVA partners to collaborate with formal ARD stakeholders in facilitating farmer-led joint research processes.

The work done thus far by PROLINNOVA partners on a limited scale demonstrates that recognising and promoting farmer innovation through a process of farmer-led joint research strengthens the capacity of farming communities to cope with and adapt to change. The challenge now is to find ways to scale up PID approaches so that many more farmers and their communities would benefit.

Annex 1

Publications of PROLINNOVA in 2013 (based on information made available to the IS)

- Ng'ang'a T, Thiong'o A, Kamau G, Juma N & Waters-Bayer A. 2013. **Social learning at the Eastern African Farmer Innovation Fair**. *Baobab* 68: 25–27.
- Veldhuizen L van & Waters-Bayer A. 2013. **Scaling up Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs): scenarios for integrating innovative mechanisms to fund innovation by smallholder farmers into mainstream agriculture development and research**. PROLINNOVA Brief. Leusden: PROLINNOVA International Secretariat. 8pp.
- Waters-Bayer A. 2013. **Can innovation fairs stimulate social learning?** *Farming Matters* 29 (3): 26.
- Wettasinha C & Waters-Bayer A. 2013. **Promoting Local Innovation (LI) and Participatory Innovation Development (PID) as a means of adapting to climate change – experiences on sharing and learning within the PROLINNOVA network**. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* 9 (1) Special Issue on Knowledge Management and Climate Change: 108–114.
- Newsham A, van Etten J & Waters-Bayer A. 2013. **CCAFS Science Meeting 5th–6th March 2013, Bodega Bay, California Report on parallel session on vulnerability analysis**. Brighton: Institute of Development Studies. 12pp.
- Macooloo C, Kamau G, Makonge R, Ng'ang'a T, Waters-Bayer A & van Veldhuizen L. 2013. **Agricultural innovation funds at community level**. International Workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa, 29–31 May, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Macooloo C, Kamau G, Makonge R, Ng'ang'a T, Waters-Bayer A & van Veldhuizen L. 2013. **Farmer-managed funds stimulate farmer-led participatory innovation processes**. International Workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa, 29–31 May, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Waters-Bayer A. 2013. **Strengthening local adaptive capacities through farmer-managed research funds**. Agrecol workshop on smallholder farmers adapting to climate change, 18–20 Oct, Germerode, Germany (PPT).
- Waters-Bayer A. 2013. **Local Innovation Support Funds: experiences and lessons**. CTA Brussels Development Briefing on Farmer-Driven Research to Improve Nutrition and Food Security, 14 Nov, Brussels, Belgium
- Waters-Bayer A & Meijboom M. 2013. **Linking farmer innovation with formal research**. GIZ–CGIAR Workshop on “The Innovation System of Demand-Led Agricultural Research”, 19–22 Nov, Feldafing, Germany

International conferences, workshops and other events attended by Prolinnova in 2013 (based on information made available to the IS)

29–31 Jan 2013: **WorldFish Dialogue on Agricultural Research in Development**, Penang, Malaysia: Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, invited and sponsored by WorldFish

18–19 Mar 2013: **CCAFS Science Meeting on “Achieving more impact through connecting, engaging and learning with communities and other key actors”**, Bodega Bay, USA: Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, invited and sponsored by CCAFS

18–20 Mar 2013: **3rd Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, Incheon, Republic of Korea**: Sonali Bisht, PROLINNOVA–India

15–16 Apr 2013: **International conference on “Hunger–Nutrition–Climate Justice: Putting People at the Heart of Global Development”**, Dublin, convened by Government of Ireland, Mary Robinson Foundation, CCAFS and World Food Programme: three members of Prolinnova–Kenya platform: one farmer and two NGO staff members

29–31 May 2013: **International Workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA)**, Nairobi, Kenya: IST and other PROLINNOVA CP members

24–25 June 2013: **CGIAR Research Programmes meeting with donors and partners**, Montpellier, France: Ann Waters-Bayer, IST, invited and sponsored by WorldFish

27–28 Aug 2013: **EFARD (European Forum on Agricultural Research and Development) workshop**, Brussels, Belgium: Ann Waters-Bayer, Gabriela Quiroga and Marianne Meijboom, IST

18–20 Oct 2013: **Agrecol workshop on local innovation to adapt to climate change**, Germerode, Germany: Ann Waters-Bayer, IST

28–30 Oct 2013: **PAEPARD (Platform for African-European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development) reflection workshop**, Nairobi, Kenya: Laurens van Veldhuizen and Ann Waters-Bayer, IST

14 Nov 2013: **CTA Brussels Development Briefing on farmer-led research**, Brussels, Belgium: Marianne Meijboom, Gabriela Quiroga and Ann Waters-Bayer, IST

19–22 Nov 2013: **GIZ–CGIAR workshop on “The innovation system of demand-driven agricultural research”**, Feldafing, Germany: Ann Waters-Bayer and Marianne Meijboom, IST

26 Nov 2013: **EC lunchtime conference on research serving development**, Brussels, Belgium: Ann Waters-Bayer, IST

29 Nov 2013: **Conference “Family farming: A dialogue towards more sustainable and resilient farming in Europe and the world”**, Brussels, Belgium: Gabriela Quiroga, invited and sponsored by the World Rural Forum

11–12 Dec 2013: **Expert Consultation on Strengthening Linkages between Research and Extension to Promote Food and Nutrition Security**, Bangkok, Thailand: Sonali Bisht, PROLINNOVA–India