

PROLINNOVA

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

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Promoting Local Innovation in Ecologically-Oriented Agriculture and
Natural Resource Management

INTERNAL MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

2009



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACDEP	Association of Church Development Projects
ADCR	Associação para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais (Association for the Development of Rural Communities)
ARD	Agriculture Research and Development
ARSI-PID	Awareness Raising, Scaling out and Institutionalisation of Participatory Innovation Development (project)
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CD	Curriculum Development
CDWG	Curriculum Development Working Group
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture
CIRAD	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (Centre for International Cooperation and Agriculture Research for Development)
CIS-VUA	Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam
COMPAS	Comparing and supporting endogenous development
CP	Country Programme
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
FSG	Farmer Support Group
FTC	Farmer Training Centre
IAPS	Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (the Philippines)
IS	International Secretariat
IST	International Support Team
JOLISAA	Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture
LEISA	Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development, Nepal
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
Misereor	The German Catholic Bishop's Organisation for Development Cooperation
MFS	Mede Financierings Stelsel (Co-financing System)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
NOVIB	Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation
NWG	National Working Group
OECD	Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation
Oxfam	Oxford Famine Relief
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
RF	Rockefeller Foundation
ToF	Training of Facilitators
UDS	University of Development Studies, Ghana
UNAC	National Union of Mozambican farmers



INTRODUCTION

This report presents the progress made within PROLINNOVA (Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management) in the first half of 2009. Its main purpose is to document and share information on progress made by all country programmes (CPs) as well as in network-wide activities. Although not a strict requirement of any of the programme's donors, this report serves to update them on programme development.

2009 is the third year in which core activities of PROLINNOVA are being implemented under the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS)'s grant to ETC Foundation under the larger co-financing system (MFS)-funded (sub-) programme on "Community-based Natural Resources Management"¹. In addition to the core activities which involve all CPs, there are several sub-activities or thematic pilots which continue to be implemented in selected CPs. These pilots are: Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs), Farmer-led Documentation (FLD), Climate Change and Local Innovation, Participatory Innovation Development (PID) in the face of HIV/AIDS (HAPID), Curriculum Development (CD) and country cross-visits. Annex 1 provides an overview of CP involvement in key activities and thematic pilots.

The LISF sub-programme is funded by Rockefeller Foundation under the project known as FAIR-II (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources) and is being implemented in eight countries: Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, South Africa, Ghana-North, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. FLD pilots continue in Niger, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Sudan. The HAPID activities are being conducted in South Africa, Ghana-South and Mozambique. Pilots that study how climate change is being addressed through local innovation continued in Nepal, Niger and Ethiopia. In this period, partners of PROLINNOVA-Mozambique undertook a cross-country visit to South Africa.

Mali and Senegal as CPs in PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel) are being supported by Misereor. Niger continued to receive partial funding through MFS. Meanwhile, three of the PROFEIS countries (Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger) have been included in a study on area-based development and community-driven climate adaptation funded by the World Bank and coordinated by ETC and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

PROLINNOVA is a partner in the new European Union supported project on "Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture (JOLISAA)". The proposal got approval in early 2009 and implementation is scheduled for early 2010.

The 18 CPs that currently form the PROLINNOVA network are at various stages of development and are funded through diverse means. Only nine of the 18 CPs actually get MFS funding for a substantial part of their work. The others get smaller amounts as seed funding through the MFS and source funds through other channels as mentioned above and in Annex 1.

The International Support Team (IST) consists of ETC-EcoCulture and the Centre for International Cooperation, Free University of Amsterdam (CIS-VUA) in the Netherlands, and the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction in the Philippines (IIRR). The International Secretariat (IS) is housed at ETC. Annex 2 gives a short update of PROLINNOVA – from its inception to now – putting the information in this report in a broader perspective.

This mid-year report for 2009 consists of three chapters. Chapter 1 presents an overview of the activities implemented by the country programmes (CPs) currently involved in PROLINNOVA drawn from data provided by each country. Chapter 2 highlights network-wide activities that involve more than one CP as well as the IST, at regional or international level. Chapter 3 draws some general conclusions.

¹ Comparing and supporting endogenous development (COMPAS) network is also part of this sub-programme.

1 COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

1.1 Andes

Due to delays in reporting, no information could be published on the progress made in PROLINNOVA activities in the Andean region from January to July 2009.

1.2 Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is one of the PROFEIS countries and was selected for the study on area-based development and community-driven climate adaptation. A national launching workshop for the study took place in May this year with 23 participants from a diverse range of institutions: international organisations, ministries of environment, economy and finance, secondary and higher educational institutions, research and development organisations and civil society projects.

Identification and characterisation of innovators and innovations continues, while the FLD pilot started up in 2008 is moving along slowly.

1.3 Cambodia

Cambodia is actively pushing forward the PID agenda. In the first half of 2009, 10 proposals for joint experimentation were submitted by partners. Four of the experiments were in soil fertility management under the System of Rice Intensification; one experiment was on ecological chicken raising; five experiments were related to crop management. 128 farmers in total will be involved in joint experimentation to test innovations as well as to further develop existing local practices.

Cambodia was selected for the spade work related to developing a framework for assessing the impact of LISFs. In this connection, PROLINNOVA-Cambodia organised a consultation workshop on "How to assess the impact of LISF" on 26 June 2009 at the CEDAC Institute for Local Development. The LISF impact assessment framework and guidelines developed in draft form were presented at this workshop and ideas for improving them were elicited from the participants. 28 participants (including 9 women) from the provincial departments of agriculture, universities, NGOs and commune councils attended the workshop.

Study visits were used as a means of building PID capacity among students and teachers of national schools of agriculture. Two such visits were organised on 12-15 March 2009 (46 students including 12 women and 4 lecturers including 2 women) and on 18-22 May 2009 (28 students including 6 women and 9 lecturers including 3 women).

The Provincial Department of Agriculture of Kandal province joined PROLINNOVA-Cambodia. Meanwhile, due to reorganisation within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Department of Agronomy and Agriculture Land Improvement has been replaced by the Department of Rice – now a partner of the CP.

In the period January-July 2009, three national working group (NWG) meetings were convened to monitor progress of PROLINNOVA activities. New National Steering Committee (NSC) members were elected in the first meeting in January. LISF implementation and experiences were prominently featured in each of these meetings.

Five issues of the farmer magazine – which included 32 cases of farmer innovation – were published and distributed with the contribution of CEDAC.

1.4 Ethiopia

With financial support secured by REST (Relief Society of Tigray) through Oxfam-Novib, PROLINNOVA-Ethiopia was able to publish another catalogue of local innovations. 1000 copies were printed and distributed to various institutions in Tigray and other regional platforms of PROLINNOVA-Ethiopia.

Agri-Service Ethiopia, on behalf of PROLINNOVA-Ethiopia, concluded an agreement with Action Aid Ethiopia to implement a project entitled ARSI-PID (Awareness Raising, Scaling out and Institutionalisation of Participatory Innovation Development). The project's emphasis is on enhancing farmer innovation and indigenous knowledge. A key activity is improving the curricula of Agricultural Training, Vocational, Educational and Training colleges and Farmers' Training Centres (FTCs). The ARSI-PID project is currently being piloted through the FTCs in six districts.

Several capacity development activities were undertaken in this period. Members of PROLINNOVA-Ethiopia shared their experience in local innovation, PID, indigenous knowledge and documentation of local innovation(s) with agricultural and water development experts of the southern Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development in Awassa and Butajira. 35 experts (including 7 women) participated at the event in Awassa on 21-23 May and 32 experts (of which 5 were women) were present at Butajira.

A sensitisation seminar was held on 12-13 July 2009 at Ambo University. Participants were drawn from district offices of agriculture and rural development, Ambo University and the Plant Protection Research Centre. The president of Ambo University has shown a keen interest in launching an MSc programme that incorporates aspects of LI.

The LISF pilots in Ambo and Amarro were evaluated through stakeholder meetings. On the request of farmers, a researcher from the Ambo Plant Protection Centre provided a basic training on Bacterial Wilt and its management. A booklet titled, "A Fund to support Local Innovations: Experience of a farmer in Tigray" was prepared in three languages – Amharic, Tigrigna and English. 300 copies were printed with support from the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network and distributed to regional platforms, districts and colleges.

Two staff members of Mekele and Jima universities were nominated to participate at the curriculum development workshop in Uganda organised by the International Secretariat (IS).

The NWG met two times in this period – in February and July respectively. The meetings were used to reflect on the work done in 2008, plan for 2009, evaluate the progress of the regional platforms and to discuss matters related to on-going activities such as FAIR-II, PID training, documentation of LI etc. The CP coordinator met with officials of the Southern and Amhara bureaux of agriculture to strengthen ties and cooperation with PROLINNOVA.

1.5 Ghana

The PROLINNOVA-Ghana programme is implemented through two sub-programmes, Ghana-South and Ghana-North, under the supervision of one NSC.

1.5.1 Ghana-South

Due to communication and coordination bottlenecks which delayed the release of funds, Ghana-South did not realise many of the activities planned for this period. In addition, one of the members from the department of agriculture most actively involved in PID activities has taken time off for studies. The PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) is in the process of consulting with the NSC and the coordinating NGO in Ghana to get more insight into the causes for delayed programme implementation, fund disbursement etc.

1.5.2 Ghana North

Within the period of reporting, PROLINNOVA-Ghana North continued implementing planned activities. Mainstreaming PID into institutions such as the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, University of Development Studies (UDS) and the Savannah Agricultural Research Institute continued. The CP supported the Agricultural Research Institute in Nyankpala (Tamale) and farmers from Wapuli to participate in the competition of innovations organised by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research as part of its golden jubilee celebrations.

PROLINNOVA-Ghana North has been interacting with UDS's Faculty of Agriculture to explore possibilities for collaboration and for including LI/PID in teaching and research at the university. One of UDS's staff members participated at the International CD workshop in Uganda.

LISFs are being piloted in four areas. Capacity building within these pilots included training of farmers, CBOs and facilitating agencies on the principles, objectives and main features of LISF. Emphasis was given to developing good LISF proposals. 24 of the 70 proposals forwarded have been approved and funded.

Four posters, one booklet, two video clips and one handout on experiences in LISF and PID were produced for wider sharing.

PROLINNOVA-Ghana North in collaboration with CHF (Canadian NGO) and the Association of Church Development Projects (ACDEP) organised a two-day workshop for farmers, development workers and researchers on the theme 'Livestock development in northern Ghana – constraints & prospects'. The workshop stimulated discussion on the important role of ethno-veterinary innovations in the livestock sector of Ghana. The event was given coverage through national television and newspapers.

Members of the CP – North Ghana LEISA Working Group members, members of the core management team, collaborating partners and representatives of LISF management committees – participated in a meeting in May that reviewed the 2009 activities.

1.6 Kenya

PROLINNOVA-Kenya concentrated its efforts on inventorising local innovation and support to LISF. Although SACDEP (Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme) had been given the lead role for this activity, it could not continue due to limited time and staff engagement. Kenya Agricultural Research Institute has been given the mandate to take over this activity. 53 LISF proposals received from the eastern and western regions have been vetted and eight of them will be supported.

1.7 Mali

Mali is one of the PROFEIS partners. The activities in 2009 relate to the continuation of the eight joint experimentations started in 2008. In addition, a training workshop on joint experimentation for 12 farmers in the village of Sarro was conducted in May. It focused on the control of Striga on Millet and was facilitated by researchers from IER (Institut d'Economie Rurale).

PROFEIS-Mali organised a 3-day workshop in Segou in April to reflect on what had been achieved in 2008 and to discuss plans for 2009. This event was attended by 25 people. An information sharing workshop organised in Bamako in May attracted 50 participants who were provided information about the PROFEIS programme in Mali.

1.8 Mozambique

The process of identifying and documenting local innovations related to agriculture and NRM is being conducted in six districts of Gaza province, namely Xai-Xai, Guija, Chokwe, Chibuto, Bilene and Chigubo. The HAPID sub-project is studying existing coping mechanisms; seven local innovations have been identified in three out of the four districts, where the study is being conducted.

Key capacity building activities undertaken in the period include a PID training course (9 NGO participants – 3 women and 6 men), a capacity building & planning workshop through the HAPID sub-project for 30 participants from NGOs, CBOs and government institutions including 14 women and 16 men, and a cross-country visit to South Africa in which 6 people (5 men and 1 woman) from partner organisations visited Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces in South Africa.

Two new members – CIC-Batá and UNAC – joined the PROLINNOVA-Mozambique partnership this year. CIC-BATÁ is a Spanish NGO, whose main Mozambican partner is UNAC (National Union of Mozambican farmers). UNAC is an umbrella organisation for more than 300 farmer organisations nationwide. A joint proposal on LI submitted to the “Fundacion ICO” has been approved: four workshops on local innovations will be conducted covering all provinces in the country. PROLINNOVA-Mozambique submitted another proposal on rehabilitation and protection of biodiversity for sustainable development to the Ministry of Environment.

The NSC had two regular meetings during this period to assess progress in implementation of the 2009 action plan.

1.9 Nepal

Several capacity building activities were undertaken in the first half of 2009. These included a PID orientation course for seven women’s groups (283 women) in Chitwan, a PID orientation course for staff of the District Agricultural Development Office in Chitwan, an orientation on LI for community-based partners of Tuki Association in Sindhupulchowk (163 participants – 46 women and 117 men). The revised PID training resource book reflects the experiences gained through in-country training.

Documentation of local innovation continues with more than twenty innovations documented (both process and outcomes) in this period. A new catalogue of innovations (in Nepali) together with pamphlets and brochures on local innovations were published and disseminated. More copies of the video on PROLINNOVA-Nepal were produced and distributed within the country.

The CP was involved in hosting several important international events in this period. Together with PROLINNOVA International, CIAT-Asia and ICIMOD, it co-hosted the Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium from 4-7 May in Kathmandu which brought together nearly 100 participants from 25 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Using the occasion to profile the experiences of local innovators to an international audience, PROLINNOVA-Nepal organised the first-ever local innovator’s fair from 2-4 May in Kathmandu. The event was used to influence policy makers and to create awareness about LI among the general public. The fair was opened by the Minister of Agriculture who, together with several high-level policy makers, interacted with the local innovators at the fair. The event was given live TV coverage.

PROLINNOVA-Nepal was also host to the 2009 International Partners Workshop (IPW) which took place from 8-11 May in Pokhara. The CP was also involved in organising a one-day reflection workshop for CPs involved in piloting LISFs, which took place immediately after the IPW.

One NSC meeting and two NWG meetings were held in the period. In addition, an annual review and planning meeting for monitoring and evaluation of the CP was held in April 2009 and was attended by all NWG members.

Early in 2009, Pratap Shrestha, Executive Director of LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development) and the CP coordinator of PROLINNOVA-Nepal, announced his resignation. He was replaced by (Ms) Rajju Malla Dhakal, who took over in May 2009. However, Pratap continues to be a special advisor to LI-BIRD and has been providing support to the new CP coordinator. Meanwhile, Suman Manandhar – PROLINNOVA-Nepal country secretariat office coordinator also left to take up a new position elsewhere. The NWG is working on a suitable replacement.

1.10 Niger

Niger is a CP within PROFEIS. Facilitation of joint experimentation related to five local innovations in four villages of Gaya, Boboye & Madarounfa departments continued in 2009. Findings of three of these joint experiments – improved local oven for fish smoking, use of cassava tubers in cattle fattening and use of millet glumes to manure cassava fields – have been documented in the form of posters and disseminated within the communities and beyond. The improved oven has been adopted by members in seven neighbouring communities. The joint experiment related to extraction of natron by a women's cooperative and growing Irish potato on uplands is still going on.

Farmer groups involved in these joint experiments continue to document the process and the findings using digital cameras. They currently have over 200 photos, which are used for sharing and learning within the communities.

An interesting spin-off of the PID and FLD process is the move towards literacy training of community members. 45 women and 30 men are currently learning to read and write with support from the non-formal education department of Gaya in collaboration with PROLINNOVA-Niger.

On 30 March 2009, PROLINNOVA-Niger organised a national sharing and learning workshop on PID and adaptation to climate change. 45 participants attended the workshop which was officially opened by the Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development. Researchers, NGO workers, development agents, farmers, community and municipality leaders and media (radio and television) personnel were among the participants. One member of PROLINNOVA-Niger participated at the International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change in Bangladesh in March.

As one of the countries included in the study on area-based development and community-driven climate adaptation, PROLINNOVA-Niger organised a national launching workshop in March. Stakeholders from universities, research institutes, government ministries and departments, NGOs, farmer organisations, municipalities, village institutions etc. participated at this workshop. The first phase of the field studies were undertaken after the launching workshop.

PROLINNOVA-Niger has invested considerable time and energy in capturing its experiences in various forms such as laminated posters, CD-ROMs, participatory videos etc.

Two meetings in Pole West and one meeting in Pole East held in this period have been used for coordination and sharing among PROLINNOVA partners and for monitoring progress of activities.

1.11 Nigeria

PROLINNOVA-Nigeria was welcomed into the PROLINNOVA network by the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) in February this year. A planning meeting was convened in May 2009 in Kaduna with 18 members comprising of 5 women and 13 men. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the work plan for the year and to reach a common understanding of LI and PID approaches. The participants shared their experiences in identifying local innovators and their innovations and listed the activities for the rest of the year, which included identification of local innovations and innovators, documenting and sharing these innovations, and analysing and selecting innovations for joint experimentation.

1.12 Senegal

Senegal is one of the PROFEIS partners. The three joint experimentations started in 2008 are ongoing, while three new joint experiments have been initiated in this period. The latter are related to papaya production, desalination of rice fields and re-introduction of traditional rice varieties. During the first half of 2009, two farmer training workshops were conducted, facilitated entirely by farmer innovators including several women. These events stimulated effective sharing between men and women farmers.

Innovations continue to be identified and five of these related to soil management, control of desalination and value addition of local products through processing methods have been documented. Networking among men and women farmer innovators has been pursued in 2009, for instance in Mbalamsone (Département of Mbour, Region of Thiès) and Thionck-Essyl (Région of Ziguinchor). Other key activities include the sharing and exchange of information through articles, posters, folders, etc.

On 17 March, Senegal organised a national launching workshop for the area-based development and community-driven climate adaptation study. 26 participants from 16 organisations – extension, research, education and farmer organisations – attended the workshop.

1.13 South Africa

PID features prominently within the CP's activities. A proposal from the Centre for Rural Community Empowerment to undertake a case of PID as an MSc Thesis was approved. Four new PID proposals were approved and grants disbursed. Three PID cases initiated through 2008 funds continued in this period. A field visit to support a PID pilot in Limpopo Province took place in February. A visit to meet the farmers involved in the FLD pilot in North West Province was undertaken in March.

In terms of mainstreaming and institutionalisation, PROLINNOVA-South Africa was involved in the following activities in the period January to July: full paper and description of the poster on gender and innovation and a paper on FLD experiences; attendance of National Advisory Council on Innovation workshop in Pretoria; looking for opportunities to establish a provincial task team in the North West province; preparation of an Memorandum of Understanding between Limpopo Department of Agriculture and PROLINNOVA-South Africa.

Capacity building activities included a one-day orientation workshop for officials and farmers in White River on 29 July and preparation for a PID workshop focusing on joint experimentation scheduled on 8-10 September 2009 in Limpopo Province. PROLINNOVA-South Africa hosted colleagues from PROLINNOVA-Mozambique who visited Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces on a cross-country visit.

One member of PROLINNOVA-SA took part in the international CD workshop in Uganda.

Related to FAIR, an innovation market held on 30 April was attended by 47 farmers. This also included visits to the homes of two of the farmer innovators. Fourteen cases of joint experimentation or activities to stimulate innovation are in the design or implementation process.

The CP coordinator undertook a number of activities in this period: sourcing and circulation of resource materials sent by ETC to the provincial task teams, preparation for and participation at the IPW in Nepal, attendance at the JOLISAA Meeting at University of Pretoria; preparations and arrangements for the field work to be undertaken by a MSc student from Wageningen University, the Netherlands, in August.

1.14 Sudan

During the first half of 2009, PROLINNOVA-Sudan continued with activities related to PID: participatory research on early maturing varieties of sorghum and millet in collaboration with El Obeid Agricultural Research Station in North Kordofan; improving the design of the traditional churner for ghee production together with women users and researchers; joint experimentation related to biological weed control, early cultivation, pest resistance etc. in North Darfur, Blue Nile and North Kordofan. The socio-impacts of a local water harvesting technology is being documented through FLD.

PROLINNOVA-Sudan has signed a MoU with the National Centre for Research to support research projects that are related to appropriate technology and PID. The project proposals will include PID, FLD and community-based adaptation to climate change. This is evidence of the interaction between men/women farmers and formal researchers, extension agents and other actors in the PID process.

Building capacity in PID continued in the first half of this year. A training workshop for facilitation of PID was held in Khartoum from 5-9 April 2009. This workshop was organised in collaboration with the National Centre for Research who wanted to improve researcher's communication skills and to enhance their understating of a bottom-up approach to ARD. The challenge for PROLINNOVA-Sudan is to find ways to follow up on all the training conducted so far and to assess how much of the learning is being put into practice.

PROLINNOVA-Sudan participated in the CD capacity building workshop organised by the IS in Uganda in March.

1.15 Tanzania

PROLINNOVA-Tanzania continues its support (financial and technical) to ongoing joint experimentations in Mbeya and Dodoma regions. Fiver farmer groups who got their LISF proposals approved were provided facilitation support.

Eight farmer innovations and successful farming practices were documented by farmers, edited by PROLINNOVA and published through PELUM-Tanzania's quarterly newsletter on sustainable agriculture known as "*Kilimo Endelevu*". The newsletter was distributed widely to farmers through PELUM-Tanzania and partner/member organisations.

The upscaling and mainstreaming of farmer-led and participatory approaches into research and development includes different activities. 300 PROLINNOVA calendars and 200 FAIR/LISF posters were produced and distributed to PELUM-Tanzania member organisations, PROLINNOVA partners and farmers. A five-day multi-stakeholder partnership workshop was organised in February 2009 on the theme of innovation systems in ARD. Two five-day backstopping and coaching visits were organised to Caritas Sumbawanga a partner of PROLINNOVA Tanzania and to the LISF pilot in Mbeya.

1.16 Uganda

This half year has seen some staff changes within the CP. Resignation of the coordinator hampered implementation of the country programme and delayed disbursement of funds to partners.

As a means of promoting learning and information exchange on local innovations and to stimulate innovation, PROLINNOVA-Uganda organised a farmer to farmer visit on 3-5 March (15 farmer innovators including 4 women and 11 men) and an exposure visit for innovators (30 community representatives) in waste management on 23 March.

The PROLINNOVA programme and its approach were given publicity through media events organised in the period 3-11 March.

A training workshop to support LISF management was given to 25 participants from partner organisations.

2 NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

2.1 Development of innovative methods and approaches

Piloting Local Innovation Support Funds

Piloting of LISFs under the FAIR-II sub-programme of PROLINNOVA, co-funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, continued into its second year in eight CPs. With organisational arrangements in place at local level in the countries, a substantial number of proposals from farmers/farmer groups have been supported. Each country is developing and fine-tuning its own mechanism for managing the LISFs and capacity is being built at local level for this purpose.

Six of the eight CPs met during a one-day reflection meeting in Pokhara, Nepal, soon after the IPW on 12 May 2009. This was an excellent opportunity to assess the progress in each country and to exchange experiences with each other. An inventory of the opportunities as well as the challenges within each CP was compiled through a group exercise. Each country representative made a short presentation showing how LISFs fit into the larger PROLINNOVA/development pathway that is in place. It was agreed by all that embedding LISFs into the existing PROLINNOVA framework, for example in supporting joint experimentation and PID, should be given attention. One session during the meeting was dedicated to M&E of LISFs, particularly in view of the framework for impact assessment to be developed (more details in section on M&E below).

Farmer-Led Documentation

Three of the four pilots on FLD which began in 2008 continued into 2009 in Ethiopia, Niger and South Africa. Niger completed the pilot but incorporated FLD into their work plan for 2009 as an integral part of PID. Experiences of joint experimentation are being captured by the farmers using digital cameras. Ethiopia too concluded the FLD pilot in which three women farmer innovators documented their experiences using digital and video cameras. In addition, a young woman was trained as a community photographer. The women's stories are to be used for broadcasting on local radio. South Africa also concluded its pilot and held a community workshop in April to share experiences. The pilot in Burkina Faso took time to get off the ground and is still not operational.

The proposal presented by Sudan to undertake a FLD pilot related to a joint experimentation in water harvesting was approved and implementation began in this period.

The partnership with PELUM-Uganda and Oxfam-Novib on FLD initiated in 2006 continued with PROLINNOVA providing input through its presence in the steering committee.

2.2 Capacity building

Refresher workshop for trained facilitators

Preparations for a refresher training workshop for graduates of the three international PID-ToFs (Training of Facilitators) held in 2003, 2004 and 2006 got underway. The workshop scheduled for August 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya, will be organised by the IST in collaboration with PROLINNOVA-Kenya. Since the workshop will also be a means of assessing how the trained facilitators have used their skills to build in-country PID capacity, a pre-refresher assignment was prepared and sent to potential participants for their feedback.

Additional funding for this event was raised through a proposal presented by ETC to PSO (an association of around 50 Dutch development organisations) through its LWT (*Leerwerk Traject* or Learn Work Trajectory).

PID and HIV/AIDS

Mozambique, South Africa and Ghana-South continued implementation of the HAPID pilots that were initiated in 2008. These pilots attempt to investigate the role that local innovation and PID can play as a tool for mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS or even for reducing the risk of infection.

Mozambique held a capacity building workshop in Xai Xai from 27-31 January. Brigid Letty, the international HAPID coordinator from South Africa, attended the workshop and provided support to ADCR, the coordinating organisation. ADCR has since initiated the process of documenting cases of local innovation related to HIV/AIDS, involving a number of other NGOs and networks in the Ghaza area. In South Africa, staff from FSG (Farmer Support Group) worked with staff and members of various NGOs and CBOs in four provinces within KwaZulu-Natal to identify and document cases of local innovation related to HIV/AIDS. Michael Loevinsohn, a member of the HAPID international support team, spent a few days with the FSG team in June 2009 while they were deepening their understanding of the cases that had been identified thus far. Due to some institutional complications in Ghana South, there has been little progress with HAPID beyond the capacity building workshop held in 2008. Some cases of local innovation have been documented but their linkages with preventing or mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS are not particularly clear. The exact manner in which the initiative is finalised will depend on outcomes of discussions with the NSC in Ghana.

Gender and PID

Drawing on the framework for integrating gender into PID developed in 2008, CPs incorporated various gender-related activities into their 2009 work plans. As recommended by the participants of the gender writeshop of November 2008, gender was included as a plenary session in the 2009 IPW agenda, instead of as a parallel session. During this session, CPs reviewed gender within their country programmes and presented what they had achieved during 2008 and what they were planning to do in 2009. Developing catalogues of women innovators, getting women innovators involved in joint experimentation, documenting cases of women's innovation, incorporating gender aspects into in-country PID training courses were some of the activities mentioned.

Climate change

An initial phase of the study on climate change and PID was finalised in early 2009 with the elaboration of a summary paper presenting and discussing the results of work done in three countries (Nepal, Niger and Ethiopia). Partners met at the Third International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change, in Bangladesh, in February, and had the opportunity to discuss the potential of this thematic area to PROLINNOVA's objectives. Following requests of the three involved CPs, an extra "study phase" was developed, allowing partners to go back to the field and carry out in-depth studies on the link between local innovation and climate change adaptation, document these and disseminate findings to a larger group of environment and agriculture-related organisations. This second phase has already been finalised in Niger and is underway in Ethiopia and Nepal.

Cross-country visits

The presentations given by participants of the two cross-country visits during the 2009 IPW reignited the interest of other CPs to undertake similar visits. Mozambique was the first CP to present a proposal in 2009 for a cross-country visit to South Africa. Partners of PROLINNOVA-Mozambique who are starting up their CP were keen to learn from their colleagues in South Africa who have several years of experience. The cross-country visit took place from 22-29 July with a team of six persons from PROLINNOVA-Mozambique driving overland to South Africa and meeting with PROLINNOVA members in Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. A report on the cross visit is being prepared with input from those involved in the visit. This report will be shared with other CPs and posted on the website.

2.3 Up-scaling and mainstreaming

Publications

A list of publications finalised in the first half of 2009 is given in Annex 3.

Curriculum development

In March 2009, two major activities were conducted in Uganda as part of the PROLINNOVA CD multi-country thematic initiative: (a) Sustainable Land Management training; (b) CD workshop. The activities were sponsored by the PROLINNOVA IS with co-contributions from the nine CPs represented, namely Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The CD workshop, in particular, provided the opportunity to share lessons and best practices on integration of PID approaches into agricultural education and training curricula. It also allowed discussion on fund raising and means to strengthen the PROLINNOVA network and communication around the theme of CD. The major output of the workshop was a framework course on Participatory Approaches in Agricultural and NRM focusing on PID methodology. A CD Working Group (CDWG) was also formed to lead the CD team. After the workshop, a founding statement of a Community of Practice for PID in Higher Education was drafted.

Although the overall CD team and the CDWG did not actively communicate/ interact between March and June, the CD activities at the level of the individual CPs continued independently.

Policy dialogue

Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium Together with ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) and CIAT-Asia (International Centre for Tropical Agriculture), PROLINNOVA IST and PROLINNOVA-Nepal organised the Innovation Asia Pacific Symposium (IAPS) from 4-7 May 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The event was supported by Research Into Use (UK), CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation) and the International Development Research Centre's Delhi office. Nearly 100 participants from 25 countries, mainly in Asia and the Pacific, attended the meeting and shared their experiences. A thought-provoking key note address from Jacqui Ashby of CIP (International Potato Centre) set the pace for a lively and stimulating symposium which discussed and debated issues related to innovation systems in ARD along six themes: 1) Concepts and methods in innovation systems approaches; 2) Building and maintaining partnerships in innovation; 3) Strengthening adaptive capacities through local innovation processes; 4) Private-sector engagement for market-oriented innovation; 5) Building capacity and mainstreaming innovation systems approaches; and 6) Policy dialogue and institutional change to support pro-poor innovation.

OECD Expert's Meeting Innovation for Poverty Alleviation A PROLINNOVA representative was invited to join the international expert's meeting on Innovation out of Poverty, organised by the OECD secretariat in Paris from 6-7 April 2009. Twenty experts on agricultural innovation approaches met in an effort to assist the OECD secretariat in preparing for a Council of Ministers' discussion on the topic later in the year. The brief from the meeting recommended an innovation systems approach to ARD, although the continuing debate between science-led versus multistakeholder-led innovation processes was evident (briefing note available).

Dryland Expert's meeting, Both Ends PROLINNOVA participated at the expert meeting "Green Revolution in Drylands: what does that mean?" convened by Both Ends in the Hague, the Netherlands, on 27 May 2009. Together with policy makers from the European Commission and the Dutch Ministries of Development Cooperation and Agriculture and Fisheries, the meeting discussed among others the Agricultural Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) approach versus more farmer-led approaches to ARD. A central recommendation was to get better insight into actual field realities and to learn from local experiences. The need to invest in activities that have proven successful, while not losing sight of the people who stay behind while successes spread was noted (A detailed report on this meeting is available)

Dialogue with DGIS on measuring impact On 12 June 2009, a meeting of approximately 15 staff members of DGIS and external resource persons facilitated by Wageningen University and Research (WUR) shared concerns about decreasing public support for development cooperation in the Netherlands. They analysed contributing factors through three related policy issues: actual impact of development cooperation work, how to measure impact including longer term issues and unintended impact, and the challenge to communicate the impact story to the wider public.

Website management

In the first half of 2009, the website was regularly updated by IIRR. The structure of the PROLINNOVA website reflects the dynamic nature of the programme which deals with the emergence of new CPs/RPs, new pilot activities, changes within CPs etc. Some key statistics related to the PROLINNOVA website in Table 1 below indicate that the usage of the website has steadily increased from 2007 to 2009. The number of unique visitors to the website in the first half of 2009 was 3642.

Table 1: 2007, 2008 and 2009 Website statistics

	2007	2008	1 st Half 2009
Average daily visits	231	224	315
Average monthly visits	6,492	6,794	7,743
Average page views per month	13,551	17,454	19,878

2.4 Governance and network functioning

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)

Several changes took place in the POG as members whose two-year term expired were replaced by others through new elections. The POG presently consists of Scott Killough (External member), Susan Kaaria (external member), Oliver Oliveros (external member), Sabine Di Prima (IST), Héctor Velásquez Alcántara (Andes), Pratap Shrestha (Asia-Pacific), Saidou Magagi (Francophone West Africa) and Monica Kapiriri (rest of Africa). The POG met in this composition for the first time in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 7 May 2009, one day ahead of the IPW. The new group chose Susan Kaaria as co-chair with Scott Killough.

The main points discussed by the POG were the gender strategy, the representational role of POG members, communication between the POG and the CPs, structure and roles of POG

subcommittees, the annual report on activities at CP and international level, specific issues related to CP and IST functioning, the interim report on CP expenditures, priorities for use of CP funds not spent in 2008, outcomes of the internal e-evaluation (January 2009) and the external evaluation (March 2009 report), and some key issues in the “PROLINNOVA beyond 2010” concept note, preparing for the discussion on this during the IPW.

International Partners Workshop (IPW)

The annual PROLINNOVA IPW took place on 8–11 May 2009 in Pokhara, Nepal. It was shorter than the customary IPW because it was held immediately after the Nepalese Farmer Innovation Fair and the IAPS, which demanded much time of the PROLINNOVA people involved as organisers and participants.

The IPW was hosted jointly by the partners in PROLINNOVA–Nepal. Most CPs was represented by one person, usually the programme coordinator. Unfortunately, participants from Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria could not attend due to visa restrictions. A total of 25 people took part (9 women, 16 men) from ten CPs, including two independent members of the POG, three Netherlands-based IST members and Bernard Triomphe from France (at the start of his sabbatical with PROLINNOVA).

The IPW began with a well-organised field visit to innovative farmers/communities in and around Pokhara. Energised by this visit, the participants worked intensively and covered many aspects of the programme, sharing and learning from each other. Not only did the group discuss matters related to on-going activities within CPs, they also took time to look beyond the present and envision PROLINNOVA beyond 2010. Many ideas were generated during the meeting and compiled in a draft document. A strategy development team consisting of four people supported by the POG chair took the responsibility to continue working on the draft document and finalise it before the end of 2009.

Country backstopping

Backstopping visits were made to five CPs during this half year (see Table 2 below), one of which received two visits, the costs for which were covered from other sources.

Table 2: Backstopping visits from IST to CPs in the period January to July 2009

Dates (2009)	Country	Main topics
25 February-12 March	Uganda	Support to international curriculum development workshop and Sustainable Land Management training course Country programme management (a/o coordination, workload, partnership issues, linkages with SCI-SLM sister programme)
20-25 April	Cambodia	Training of NGO staff in sustainable land management as extension of visit for student supervision
23-30 April	Sudan	2 PID lectures at National Centre for Research Programme development; review of M&E tables, support to NSC meeting; review of PID, FLD and gender sub activities
18-24 April	Tanzania	Support to LISF pilot work including field visits and partner’s meeting Support to PROLINNOVA-Tanzania for the meeting and presentations at Sokoine University of Agriculture Review of first draft PID policy development guidelines
25-29 April	Kenya	Support to LISF pilot work including field visits and partner’s meeting Programme management and task group meeting
18 May-26 June	Cambodia	Support to LISF activities as part of developing an impact assessment approach

As usual the agenda for these visits were developed together with the CP coordinators in order to provide support in issues they regard important. In addition to these face-to-face meetings,

regular support to the countries was given throughout the period using e-mail, skype and telephone.

Monitoring & Evaluation

This reporting period had a number of important activities related to M&E. The external evaluators of PROLINNOVA, Martin Adams and Priyanthi Fernando, forwarded their final report as a draft for comment. This report generated more than eight pages feedback from all corners of the network, mostly to rectify and/or complete information. The revised and improved final report was then presented to the DGIS and other relevant stakeholders. The evaluators strongly recommend a continuation of PROLINNOVA – in its present form – for at least another 5-10 years. The evaluation concluded though that more effort would be needed to have an impact at the level of national governments.

The annual electronic evaluation (through two rounds of e-consultation) was conducted with the participation of CPs and IST partners in January 2009. The evaluation focused on five broad issues: governance of the partnership, learning and sharing among members and CPs in the network, capacity building, functioning of the IST and IS, and international awareness on PID as a result of the network's activities. In general, the respondents were positive on how the network functions in terms of governance, capacity building and the support role of the IST and IS. They felt there was room for improvement in the interaction between CPs and the POG and among CPs. The findings and recommendations were fed into the related discussions at the IPW.

Based on feedback from partners in using the existing M&E formats and guidelines in preparing their annual reports for 2008, the IST made a revision of all the tables. The revisions focused on sections of the tables and details that were not sufficiently clear. The main logic of the M&E formats is now fairly well understood and therefore more meaningful to the partners. M&E, in general, and the tables in particular, continues to receive attention during country backstopping visits.

Finally, Bernard Triomphe, a researcher from the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD) assisted the IST in the development of an M&E system for LISFs, focusing on measuring impact at local level. The work was undertaken as part of his sabbatical, during which he worked with Cambodian partners in piloting the methodology in two provinces. In the second half of the year he will consolidate the results in the form of guidelines for use by CPs and work with Ethiopian partners in a second pilot round.

Fund and contract management

Fund and contract management was generally smooth in this period. The fact that new and innovative sub-activities are implemented by partners based on their show of interest leads to extra administrative work as formalisation requires additional contracts or amendments to contracts. In this period, ETC had to interact more closely with two partners, each coordinating a CP, as the quality of coordination was showing considerable decline. In one of the countries, the partner NGO has taken serious measures to address the situation whereas the situation in the second country is still being monitored closely.

3 CONCLUSION

The PROLINNOVA network continues to forge ahead in promoting local innovation and PID – at national, regional and international level. As witnessed during the IPW in Nepal, the CPs are eager to share experiences and learn together in order to pursue PROLINNOVA's mission – to foster a culture of mutual learning and synergy in local innovation processes in agriculture and natural resource management.

With this round of the DGIS-MFS funding coming to an end in 2010, most CPs have another year and a half to consolidate work they have undertaken in this phase of the PROLINNOVA programme. However, the future of PROLINNOVA is high on the agenda of all CPs and the IST and thinking about how PROLINNOVA should and could move towards a community of practice has already begun. A strategy paper being developed by the PROLINNOVA network intends to describe this process of change.

The challenge of dealing with an ever-expanding network will have to be dealt with creatively, but energy, enthusiasm and commitment is abundant within the PROLINNOVA family.

ANNEX 1: INVOLVEMENT OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES IN ACQUISITION AND IN DIFFERENT PILOTS/COMPONENTS

Involvement of CPs in acquisition and in different pilots/components of Prolinnova in the period January to July 2009

Donor, activity	Nepal	Cambodia	South Africa	Tanzania	Uganda	Ethiopia	Ghana	Niger	Sudan	Bolivia	Peru	Ecuador	Mali	Senegal	Burkina Faso	Kenya	Mozambique	Nigeria	Notes
Core-funding																			
DGIS										small grants	small grant				small grants	small grants	small grants	small grant	
PROFEIS Misereor																			
Other sources						Action Aid											Fundacion ICO		
PROFEIS IDRC																			Awaiting final approval
Country proposals to EED																			Tanzania approved and ongoing; others pending
PROFEIS Misereor																			New proposal submitted 2009
JOLISAA I-EC																			Approved - start in 2010
Components																			
FAIR II/LISF Rockefeller																			
HAPID																			
Climate Change																			
Cross country visits																		to South Africa	
CD/Writeshop																			
PID-TOF refresher/ PSO																			
Climate Chg adapt.study/ World Bank																			
IAPS/RIU, CTA and IDRC																			Nigeria could not attend due to visa restrictions
FLD pilots																			

marked in RED - in acquisition

ANNEX 2: PROLINNOVA UPDATE JULY 2009



In several countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, diverse organisations have joined forces to promote local innovation in agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). After analysing their own experiences in agricultural research and development (ARD), they have drawn up their individual PROLINNOVA Country/Regional Programmes (CPs/RPs) as well as joint international activities for mutual learning and policy dialogue. This Global Partnership Programme (GPP) is a Community of Practice that is built from the bottom up, in the spirit of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)

PROLINNOVA is an NGO-initiated programme to build a global learning network to promote local innovation in ecologically-oriented agriculture and NRM. The focus is on recognising the **dynamics** of indigenous knowledge (IK) and enhancing capacities of farmers (including forest dwellers, pastoralists and fisherfolk) to adjust to change – to develop their own site-appropriate systems and institutions of resource management so as to gain food security, sustain their livelihoods and safeguard the environment. The essence of sustainability lies in the capacity to adapt.

The programme builds on and scales up farmer-led approaches to participatory development that start with finding out how farmers work out new and better ways of using and managing natural resources. Understanding the rationale behind local innovation transforms how research and extension agents view local people. This experience stimulates interest on both sides to enter into joint action. Local ideas are further developed in a process that integrates IK and scientific knowledge. Joint action and analysis lead to joint learning and further action.

How it all started

PROLINNOVA was conceived in late 1999, when Southern and Northern NGOs – supported by GFAR, the NGO Committee (NGOC) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs – met in Rambouillet, France, to see how participatory approaches to ARD based on local initiatives could be scaled up. Participants asked ETC EcoCulture, a Netherlands-based NGO, to help launch a GPP built up from country level. NGOs in Africa and Asia facilitated multi-stakeholder design of Country Programmes (CPs), which then designed international activities to reinforce their own. The PROLINNOVA partners are developing country-specific ways to:

- document local innovations and experiments by resource-poor farmers and communities;
- strengthen partnerships between farmers, development agents, research scientists and other actors to refine local innovations and to encourage others to try them out;
- create wider awareness of and skills in participatory innovation development (PID) through a variety of learning mechanisms;

- develop and expand mechanisms that give farmers more influence over formal research, extension and education; and
- integrate local innovation and PID approaches into formal agricultural research, development and education institutions.

PROLINNOVA seeks to:

- demonstrate the effectiveness of farmer-led participatory innovation for sustainable development
- build farmer-extension-researcher partnerships
- enhance capacities of farmers, researchers and extension agents in participatory approaches
- pilot decentralised funding and other mechanisms to promote local innovation
- engage in national and regional policy dialogue to stimulate and enhance local innovation
- set up platforms for reflection, analysis and learning about promoting local innovation
- integrate participatory approaches to farmer-led innovation and experimentation into research, extension and education institutions

Participatory design of the GPP

In 2003, key stakeholder organisations in ARD in Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda – supported by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) – collected in-country experiences in recognising local innovation and promoting PID. They held workshops to analyse their experiences and developed plans to scale up these approaches. Since 2004, DGIS (Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation) partly funds these CPs to realise their plans and supports similar processes in Cambodia, Nepal, Niger, South Africa, Sudan and Tanzania. In 2006, a francophone programme PROFEIS was launched to expand activities in the West African Sahel to include Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso. An Andes programme was launched in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. In 2007, CPs in Mozambique and Kenya joined the network and, in early 2009, in Nigeria. A similar initiative has started in the Pacific Islands.

The activities of the CPs/RPs differ according to their experience and self-identified strengths and weaknesses in recognising the dynamics of IK, engaging in PID and scaling it up. However, common elements include:

- developing inventories and databases of local innovations, innovators and organisations working together with them
- bringing farmers, extensionists and scientists together to plan and implement joint experiments, starting from jointly prioritised local innovations
- creating national and subnational multi-stakeholder platforms to share information about local innovation and to learn jointly about PID and its institutionalisation
- building capacity to identify and document local innovation and engage in PID, through training workshops for farmers and scientists
- participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) of joint activities, outcomes and impacts
- creating awareness (through innovator fairs, publications, mass media etc) and engaging in policy dialogue with decision-makers in agricultural research, extension and education to create enabling conditions and policies for PID.

At annual meetings since 2004, the country-level partners define the international networking, learning and other support mechanisms needed to reinforce their work. Participatory planning at international level thus mirrors the approach at national and grassroots level: the partners develop and own a programme based on their self-defined needs and interests.

Structure of the decentralised programme

In each country or region, a local NGO convenes the major ARD stakeholders. It serves as secretariat for a **National Steering Committee (NSC)** made up of people from government research, extension and education, other NGOs and farmer groups. The NSC defines the CP/RP activities, ranging from farmer-led research to policy dialogue; gives strategic guidance; helps mobilise resources; and is the apex structure for accountability. A smaller core team is responsible for coordinating implementation of CP/RP activities.

The **International Support Team (IST)** supports the country and regional activities through programme coordination, capacity strengthening, coaching, web-based knowledge management, policy dialogue, networking and publishing. The IST comprises IIRR in the Philippines, ETC EcoCulture and CIS in the Netherlands, and the coordinators of the FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources), PROFEIS and HAPID (HIV/AIDS and PID) subprogrammes.

The **PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)** serves as governance mechanism to ensure accountability of the GPP to the CPs, their constituencies and donors. The POG is made up of four people from CPs, one from the IST and three independent persons, elected by the CPs and the IST to serve two-year terms. The POG meets face-to-face at least once a year and communicates otherwise by email. It has drawn up several policies and guidelines for the GPP, to be found on the PROLINNOVA website.

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)

- **Hector Velasquez**, Peru (hvelasquez@raaa.org.pe)
 - **Magagi Saidou**, Niger (saidmague@yahoo.fr)
 - **Monica Kapiriri**, Uganda (mkapiriri@yahoo.co.uk)
 - **Oliver Oliveros**, France (oliveros@agropolis.fr)
 - **Pratap Shrestha**, Nepal (pshrestha@libird.org)
 - **Sabina Di Prima**, Netherlands (s.di_prima@dienst.vu.nl)
 - **Scott Killough** (Chair), USA (skillough@wn.org)
 - **Susan Kaaria**, Kenya (s.kaaria@fordfound.org)
- Secretariat: Ann Waters-Bayer & Chesha Wettasinha

Participatory learning and mentoring

In March 2004, CP partners first met in Ethiopia for an international workshop hosted by PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia, coordinated by AgriService Ethiopia (ASE). Local farmers explained how their innovations help them achieve food security. Government and NGO participants from each CP shared experiences in farmer–extension–research–education partnerships in innovation and planned international activities.

Capacity-building formed part of this plan of action. IIRR offered international training of PID facilitators in the Philippines (2004), in Uganda (2006) and in Ethiopia (2007). The participants then trained research and extension staff in their own countries.

In June 2005, the CP coordinators met in Uganda to learn from experience in enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships and to harmonise their PM&E activities. The NGO that coordinates PROLINNOVA–Uganda, Environmental Alert, hosted the meeting. It was held prior to the Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) General Assembly, so PROLINNOVA partners could also attend the pre-plenary meeting to set up an NGO ARD consortium in sub-Saharan Africa.

The March 2006 international meeting was hosted by PROLINNOVA–Cambodia, coordinated by CEDAC. Participants updated each other on progress and discussed PM&E, information-sharing strategies, piloting Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs), process documentation and resource mobilisation.

The international meeting in March 2007 in Senegal was hosted by PROFEIS, coordinated by IED–Afrique, and in April 2008 by PROLINNOVA–North Ghana. This meeting in Tamale was preceded by a “writeshop” on CP experiences in piloting LISFs. The May 2009 meeting was hosted by LI-BIRD in Nepal.

On request of the CPs, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)–Tanzania organised an international training workshop in mid-2006 on policy dialogue. This was followed up by mini-workshops on policy dialogue and curriculum development during the 2007 meeting in Senegal.

A writeshop on gender issues in PID, based on the principle of learning through joint documentation by CP partners, was held in November 2008 in Uganda.

South–South mentoring and cross-visits between the CPs/RPs enhance mutual learning and strengthen capacities to build partnerships in ARD.

Multi-country thematic initiatives

CPs with common interests in specific themes have joined forces in their own initiatives:

- **Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs).** FAIR won a two-year grant from the French-funded DURAS (Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems) for action research on LISFs in Cambodia, Ethiopia, South Africa and Uganda. The Nepal CP joined with own resources. Using locally-managed funds, farmers finance their own research and learning activities in agricultural innovation. The first phase was coordinated by PROLINNOVA-SA. Rockefeller Foundation is supporting continuation and scaling-up of LISF piloting for three years, including also the CPs in Kenya, Ghana-North and Tanzania.
- **Farmer-led documentation (FLD).** *Insight* and COMPAS (Comparing & Supporting Endogenous Development) piloted participatory video in Ghana to allow innovators to make films to share with other farmers and influence policy. In 2006, PROLINNOVA, PELUM-Uganda and Novib held an international FLD workshop in Uganda. Pilot activities are underway in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger and South Africa.
- **HIV/AIDS and PID (HAPID).** In 2008, a 2-year study, coordinated by PROLINNOVA-SA, started in Ghana, Mozambique and South Africa to explore implications of HIV/AIDS for PID and possibilities of using PID in working with communities confronting HIV/AIDS.
- **PID and climate change.** In early 2008, a 15-month study started in Ethiopia, Nepal and Niger to explore how farmers, including pastoralists, are innovating in the face of perceived climate change.
- **Curriculum development (CD).** To reinforce current activities in several CPs to integrate PID approaches into agricultural education and training curricula, these CPs have been exchanging course designs and materials, most recently at a workshop in Uganda in March 2009, and have drawn up a joint proposal to fund CD activities. CIS coordinates this initiative.

Policy dialogue

Often with GFAR support, PROLINNOVA takes part in various international ARD fora. At the 2003 GFAR meeting in Kenya, ASE told how the CP was set up in Ethiopia. At GFAR 2004 in Mexico, Environmental Alert presented PROLINNOVA-Uganda. At the 2005 European Forum on ARD in Switzerland, LI-BIRD and Farmer Support Group presented their partnership experience in Nepal and South Africa. At GFAR 2005 in Morocco, POG Chair Betty Del Rosario and in 2006 in the USA Laurens van Veldhuizen (IST) reported on PROLINNOVA progress. CEDAC presented Asian PROLINNOVA experiences to APAARI (Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions) in late 2006, and LI-BIRD to APAARI in late 2007.

In June 2007, PROLINNOVA-SA presented the GPP at FARA's Fourth General Assembly in South Africa, at an event organised by UK-funded Research Into Use (RIU) on "Overcoming Challenges in Scaling Out Agricultural Research Successes". RIU funded small-scale farmers to prepare posters, brochures and video documenting local innovation, to showcase their work at the Africa Agricultural Science Week, and to attend the FARA event.

Wider sharing and learning

Working with **existing electronic networks and databases** serving like-minded groups, PROLINNOVA shares concepts and experiences in participatory innovation. To bridge the digital divide, printed matter is also disseminated and linkages sought with other media, e.g. radio. Information about PROLINNOVA activities is spread through inputs to magazines (e.g. *Appropriate Technology*, *LEISA Magazine*, *Rural Development News*) and electronic newsletters. The **PROLINNOVA website (www.prolinnova.net)** is the main tool for wider sharing. The CPs asked IIRR to manage the website, so they can focus on action on the ground, but increasingly take their own initiative in filling the CP webpages. The PROLINNOVA e-list (yahoogroups) serves as an open platform to discuss ARD that builds on local innovation.

PROLINNOVA collaborated with IIRR-Africa and the international research centres CIAT-Africa, IFPRI and ILRI to hold the **Innovation Africa Symposium** in 2006 in Uganda (www.innovationafrica.net), funded by Rockefeller and Ford Foundations and World Bank. With CIAT-Asia and ICIMOD, it co-organised the **Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium** in May 2009 in Nepal (www.innovation-asia-pacific.net).

Several PROLINNOVA partners joined the **Farmer First Revisited** conference held in December 2007 at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in the UK (www.farmer-first.org). Their contributions appear in the book with this title published in early 2009.

PROLINNOVA is partner in a new European Union supported research project on "**Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture**" (**JOLISAA**), coordinated by CIRAD (France).

Sources of programme support

After inception funding from IFAD, DGIS is the main donor. GFAR, CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation), French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rockefeller Foundation, Misereor, ActionAid, EED (Church Development Service), the World Bank and RIU support specific activities, projects or CPs. Interest of international and national agencies in PROLINNOVA is growing, as reflected in more and more requests for information and collaboration, and in increasing donor support. Both the international secretariat and individual CPs mobilise funding. The partners in the IST and CPs cover over one third of total costs themselves. Funds continue to be sought for new national platforms and thematic initiatives.

Some PROLINNOVA publications and papers

- *Developing technology with farmers: a trainer's guide for participatory learning.* ZED Books, London, 1997 / reprint IIRR, Silang, 2004 (also in Spanish & Arabic)
- Grassroots Innovation. *ILEIA Newsletter* 16 (2), 2000.
- *Farmer innovation in Africa: a source of inspiration for agricultural development.* Earthscan, London, 2001.
- *PTD for agricultural improvement: challenges for institutional integration.* IIRR, 2002.
- *Advancing PTD: case studies on integration into agricultural research, extension and education.* IIRR, 2003.

- *IK Notes* (World Bank 2004–06):
 70. Ethiopia: a woman innovator speaks
 71. Participatory video: rural people document their knowledge and innovations
 72. Regional radio in Tunisia
 74. Building multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote farmer experimentation and innovation in Ghana
 76. Promoting local innovation: enhancing IK dynamics and links with scientific knowledge
 77. Burkina Faso: indigenous innovation in farmer-to-farmer extension
 78. South Africa: a smallholders' innovative approach to producing and exporting fruit
 85. Innovation Support Funds for farmer-led research
 96. Ethiopia: Endogenous and modern innovations: differing perspectives
- Participatory approaches to ARD / Farmer innovation as entry point to participatory research and extension / PTD where there is no researcher / Developing partnerships to promote local innovation. In: *Sourcebook on participatory research and development for sustainable agriculture and natural resource management*. CIP-UPWARD, 2005.
- Social dimensions in ARD: how civil society fosters partnerships to promote local innovation by rural communities. Keynote, EFARD, Zurich, 2005.
- Recognising and enhancing local innovation. Lead paper at Innovation Africa Symposium, Kampala, 2006
- *Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships*. IIRR, 2006
- *PTD/PID Circular* (since 1994)
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 - No. 14: Annotated list of journals, 2005
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- *Innovation Africa: enriching farmers' livelihoods*. Earthscan, London, 2008.

CONTACT ADDRESSES

Country Networks

- BOLIVIA** c/o World Neighbors–Andes
Contact: Sergio Larrea (slarrea@wnandes.org)
- BURKINA FASO** c/o Réseau MARP
Contact: Mathieu Ouedraogo (ommb@fasonet.bf)
- CAMBODIA** c/o Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC)
Contact: Yang Saing Koma / Sam Vitou (yskoma@online.com.kh / samvitou@online.com.kh)
- ECUADOR** c/o World Neighbors–Andes
Contact: Stephen Sherwood (ssherwood@wnandes.org)
- ETHIOPIA** c/o AgriService Ethiopia (ASE)
Contact: Tesfahun Fenta (tfenta@yahoo.com)
- GHANA NORTH** c/o Association of Church-Based Development Projects (ACDEP)
Contact: Malex Alebikiya / Joe Nchor (amalex@acdep.org / nchorjoe@yahoo.com)
- GHANA SOUTH** c/o Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development (ECASARD)
Contact: King-David Amoah / George Ofosu (ecasardghana@yahoo.com)

- KENYA** c/o Kenya Network for Dissemination of Agricultural Technologies (KENDAT)
Contact: (Ms) Pamela Marinda (ayiera@yahoo.co.uk)
- MALI** c/o ADAF-Gallé
Contact: (Ms) Assétou Kanouté (adafgalle@afribone.net.ml)
- MOZAMBIQUE** c/o Association for Rural Community Development (ADCR)
Contact: Romuald Rutazihana (rutaromuald@hotmail.com)
- NEPAL** c/o Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
Contact: (Ms) Rajju Malla-Dhakal / Suman Manandhar (info@libird.org / rmdhakal@libird.org / smanandhar@libird.org)
- NIGER** c/o TATTALI / Regional Centre for Specialised Education in Agriculture (CRESA)
Contact: Saidou Magagi / Salaou Barmou / Adam Toudou (saidmage@yahoo.fr / ppilda@intnet.ne / atoudou@refer.ne)
- NIGERIA** c/o DRIVE (Development Resource Initiative)
Contact: Yemi Adeleye (yemiolayemi@yahoo.com)
- PERU** c/o Red de Acción en Agricultura Alternativa (RAAA)
Contact: Hector Velásquez (hvelasquez@raaa.org.pe)
- SENEGAL** c/o AGRECOL–Afrique
Contact: Souleymane Bassoum (agrecol@sentoo.sn)
- SOUTH AFRICA** c/o Institute of Natural Resources (INR)
Contact: (Ms) Brigid Letty (lettyb@ukzn.ac.za)
- SUDAN** c/o Practical Action–Sudan
Contact: Noureldin Ahmed (noureldina@practicalaction.org.sd)
- TANZANIA** c/o Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)–Tanzania
Contact: Yakobo Tibamanya / Laurent Kaburire (info@pelumtanzania.org / laurentkaburire@yahoo.co.uk)
- UGANDA** c/o Environmental Alert (EA)
Contacts: Grace Maiso (gmaisoo@envalert.org); Alex Lwakuba (alwakuba@yahoo.com)

International Support Team (IST)

- Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR)**
Contact: Anton Krone (antonkrone@wol.co.za)
- HIV/AIDS and PID (HAPID)**
Contact: (Ms) Brigid Letty (lettyb@ukzn.ac.za)
- Promoting Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in the Sahel (PROFEIS)**
Contact: Bara Guèye (baragueye@orange.sn)
- International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)**
Contact: (Ms) Emily Oro (emilyoro@gmail.com)
- Centre for International Cooperation (CIS) Vrije Universiteit (VU) University Amsterdam**
Contact: Will Critchley / (Ms) Sabina Di Prima (wrs.critchley@dienst.vu.nl / s.di_prima@dienst.vu.nl)
- ETC EcoCulture / ETC Foundation**
Contact: Laurens van Veldhuizen / (Ms) Ann Waters-Bayer / (Ms) Chessa Wettasinha / (Ms) Mariana Wongtschowski / Jean-Marie Diop (l.van.veldhuizen@etcnl.nl / ann.waters-bayer@etcnl.nl / c.wettasinha@etcnl.nl / m.wongts@etcnl.nl / jm.diop@etcnl.nl)

Anyone can subscribe to the PROLINNOVA electronic listserver by contacting annie.secretario@iirr.org and/or to the PID Circular by contacting the PROLINNOVA Secretariat.

PROLINNOVA International Secretariat c/o ETC EcoCulture

Kastanjelaan 5, POB 64, 3830 AB Leusden, Netherlands
Tel +31-33-4326024 / Fax +31-33-4940791
Email: prolinnova@etcnl.nl Website: www.prolinnova.net

ANNEX 3: CONTRIBUTIONS BY PROLINNOVA PARTNERS TO PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES 2009

Alternative Approaches for the development of Innovation in sustainable Land Management in Southern Africa. By Maxwell Mudhara, William Critchley, Ann Waters-Bayer and Wendelin Tuyp. SADC Regional Conference on Sustainable Land Management. Sustainable Land Management in the Dry lands of Southern Africa: the Practicalities (7-11 Sept, 2009) Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Namibia-Country Pilot Partnership Programme for Integrated Sustainable Land Management (CPP-NAM: ISLM Programme) Windhoek. 2009

Building partnerships to promote local innovation processes, by Ann Waters-Bayer, Chesha Wettasinha & Laurens van Veldhuizen. In: Scoones I & Thompson J (eds), *Farmer First Revisited: innovation for agricultural research and development* (London: Practical Action Publishers, 2009), pp144–150

Climate change vulnerability and risks in local communities of Nepal: farmers innovations and local solutions, by Bimal R. Regmi, Lalita Thapa, Rojee Suwal & Sandhya Karki, LI-BIRD, Nepal. Paper presented at Third International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change, 18–24 Feb 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Doing gender in participatory innovation development – the case of PROLINNOVA, by Monique Salomon, Demekech Gera, Siham Osman, Saidou Magagi, Anuja Shreshtha, Rendani Nematikanga & Chesha Wettasinha. Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium, 4–7 May 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal (book of abstracts)

Enhancing local innovation to improve water productivity in crop-livestock systems, by Ann Waters-Bayer & Wolfgang Bayer. *The Rangeland Journal* 31 (2009): 231–235

Innovative approach to produce bio-gas from water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*): learning from Beesh Hzari Lake, Chitwan, Nepal, by Ram Chandra Khanal, Basanta Rana Bhat & Rajan Ghimire. Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium, 4–7 May 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal (poster)

Integrating innovation system concepts into an academic institution: experiences of IAAS, Nepal, by Dharma Raj Dangol. Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium, 4–7 May 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal (poster)

Local Innovation Support Fund: sharing experiences from Kenya, by Pamela Marinda & Qureish Noordin (book of abstracts)

Local Innovation Support Funds: towards farmer-centred sustainable innovation processes, by Anton Krone, Laurens van Veldhuizen & Mariana Wongtschowski. Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium, 4–7 May 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal (poster)

Opportunities for innovation in catfish enterprise in Nigeria, by Oluyemi Adeleye, Remi Osijo & A Aderonpe. Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium, 4–7 May 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal (books of abstracts, accepted as poster)

Promoting gender equality and empowering women through livestock, by Ann Waters-Bayer & Brigid Letty. In: Moyo S, Swanepoel F, Strobel A & McDermott J (eds), *The role of livestock in developing communities: enhancing multifunctionality* (in press)

Recognising local innovation in livestock-keeping – a path to empowering women, by Brigid Letty & Ann Waters-Bayer. *South African Journal of Animal Science* (in press)

Role of local innovation in climate-change adaptation, by Yohannes GebreMichael. International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) 16th African Regional Committee Meeting, 22–25 April 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

Supporting or enhancing local innovation as a tool for ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources by Brigid Scogings (Nee Letty), Nomaphelo Ngubane-Shezi & Zanele Shezi, 4th Biennial Landcare Conference, 15 July 2009, Polokwane, South Africa.

The path of water: dynamics of the innovation process with rural women in the highlands of Peru, by Hector Velasquez, Luis Gomero & Ingrid Ventura. Innovation Asia-Pacific Symposium, 4–7 May 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal (poster)

Use of innovation support funds to create conditions for smallholder farmers to innovate: Preliminary insights from a pilot in South Africa by Maxwell Mudhara & Nomaphelo Ngubane. Partners in Development: 43rd Conference of the South African Society of Agricultural Extension. 12-15 May 2009. Potchefstroom, North West Province. 2009.

What can local innovation contribute to adaptation to climate change? by Mariana Wongtschowski, Miranda Verburg & Ann Waters-Bayer with Yohannes GebreMichael, Mebratu Kifle, L Thapa, Suman Manandhar, A Shrestha, Saidou Magigi, Abdou Dan Gomma. Paper prepared for Third International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation, 18–24 Feb 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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