

PROLINNOVA

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

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Leusden, The Netherlands, April 2005

*In memory of Father Yves Marché, PROLINNOVA Tanzania coordinator,
who passed away on 25 August 2004.*

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDEP	Association of Church Development Projects
ARD	Agriculture Research and Development
ARTC	Agricultural Research and Technology Corporation
ASE	Agri-Service Ethiopia
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIAT	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (International Centre for Tropical Agriculture)
CIS-VUA	Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam
Compas	Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development
CRESA	Regional Centre for Specialised education in Agriculture
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
ECASARD	Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / Church Development Service
FARA	Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa
FSG	Farmer Support Group
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GOAN	Ghana Organic Agriculture Network
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IIRR	International Institute for Rural Reconstruction
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
ILEIA	Information Centre for Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture
INADES	African Institute for Economic and Social Development
ISF	Innovation Support Fund
IST	International Support Team
ITDG	Intermediate Technology Development Group
LBL	Landwirtschaftliche Beratungszentrale (Agricultural Extension Centre) Lindau
LEISA	Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Uganda)
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Ghana)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services (Uganda)
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation (Uganda)
NCC	National Coordinating Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PROFIEET	Promoting Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in Ethiopia
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
PV	Participatory Video
R&D	Research and Development
SCI-SLM	Stimulating Community Initiatives in Sustainable Land Management
TMF	Thematische medefinanciering (Theme-based co-financing)
ToF	Training of Facilitators
ToR	Terms of Reference
TTEA	Technology Transfer and Extension Administration
UCST	Uganda Council for Science and Technology
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

I. INTRODUCTION

PROLINNOVA is an international programme to develop and institutionalise methodologies and partnerships that promote processes of local innovation in environmentally-sound use of natural resources.¹ It hopes to achieve that: 1) environmental and rural development policies in the countries involved give due importance to approaches that promote local innovation (Participatory Innovation Development, PID); 2) Natural Resource Management (NRM) programmes in these countries include PID components on a regular basis; and 3) sustainable multi-stakeholder partnerships are established for country-level planning and implementation of PID programmes and relevant policy design. PROLINNOVA is one of the Global Partnership Programmes that emerged from the consultations under the Global Forum for Agricultural Research.

From 2004 to 2007 the main activities foreseen are in the area of capacity-building, training and coaching, policy dialogue, institutional development in civil-society organisations, process documentation and publications. Funds made available by the Dutch Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) through “theme-based co-financing” (TMF) allow the development of country programmes in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal, Niger, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. ETC Foundation and CIS-VUA (Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam) in the Netherlands, IIRR (International Institute for Rural Reconstruction) in the Philippines, and LBL (Swiss Centre for Agricultural Extension) in Switzerland provide international support.

This report presents the progress made within PROLINNOVA in 2004. Its main purpose is to document and share information on progress made among all partners, and it will also serve to update the donors on programme development.

In this reporting period, two crucial activities took place within PROLINNOVA at the international level, i.e. the international workshop of all partners in Ethiopia (March 2004) and the international training of facilitators (ToF) in PID in the Philippines (June 2004). The first one helped to build a common framework among partners in the various countries and to arrive at agreements on the functioning of the programme. In the second event, two people from each country were given the relevant training to become key resource persons for PROLINNOVA in their respective countries.

With respect to country-level activities, it must be pointed out that in 2004 new formal agreements had to be reached with the three countries that completed their inception planning in 2003 (Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana), based on their planning for the next four years. Agreements also had to be reached with three new countries (Cambodia, Nepal and South Africa) for going through their inception planning. As it made most sense to finalise these agreements after the consultations during the Ethiopia workshop, the actual disbursement of money to the countries took place only later in 2004. Implementation of activities in the countries started immediately after completion of this start-up process, though some countries advanced funds from own resources to be able to start even earlier.

The present report is divided into five main chapters. Chapter II reports the activities implemented by the first six country programmes involved in PROLINNOVA while briefly mentioning developments in the three other countries; Chapter III highlights the activities undertaken at the international level; Chapter IV gives a summary of the finances of the programme; Chapter V, finally, draws the main conclusions and indicates the path forward for 2005.

¹ For further general information, please refer to Annex 1.

II. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

This chapter provides an overview of the activities and achievements realised by the different PROLINNOVA countries in 2004².

The list of activities implemented by the countries is not homogenous: it reflects the different workplans as developed by each country programme. Country programmes share principles and overall objectives, and some of the main activities carried out under the PROLINNOVA umbrella are indeed very similar in nature. Nevertheless, the specific ways they organise themselves and design their workplans differ considerably, ensuring the flexibility needed to meet local demands, interests and ownership.

Differences between countries are also due to the length of time that they have been involved in the PROLINNOVA programme. Uganda, Ghana and Ethiopia, having gone through an inception phase in 2003, had clarified their institutional set-up. In 2004, therefore, they tended to focus on capacity-building activities, while consolidating the partnership. For Nepal, Cambodia and South Africa, on the other hand, 2004 was the inception year. The coordinating NGO had to link up with other stakeholders and organise awareness-building workshops. Niger was also supposed to join the programme fully in 2004, but did not have access to the funds (expected from IFAD) to do so. Finally, Sudan and Tanzania, scheduled to begin PROLINNOVA activities only in 2005, already started preparing for their inception.

Beyond these nine countries funded through DGIS-TMF, organisations from other countries approached the Secretariat in the Netherlands for support in elaborating a PROLINNOVA country programme of their own. Some, such as Kenya (coordinated by ITDG-Kenya) and Ecuador (or Latin America – coordinated by World Neighbors and IIRR), are relatively advanced into the process, and have elaborated draft programme proposals. Others, such as Brazil, are still in the process of considering how to best link with the PROLINNOVA programme as a whole. A regional proposal for West Africa (called PROFEIS – Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel) was also developed with partners in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali. This report does not bring further information on these countries yet as the proposals are still under discussion.

The present chapter is organised as follows: under II.a we list the main activities carried out by country programmes (training, institutional set-up, workshops, meetings). Item II.b brings an overview of achievements by the country programmes. Item II.c analyses the 2004 performance, and gives suggestions and recommendations to be followed up in 2005. In addition, Annex 7 brings a list of core team members for each of the PROLINNOVA country programmes.

² For a full account of the country programmes' activities and strategies, please refer to the country programme reports, available upon request from the PROLINNOVA Secretariat (prolinnova@etcnl.nl).

a. Summary of activities per country

1. Nepal

Institutional set-up

In Nepal, five organisations share the day-to-day implementation of PROLINNOVA. Together, they form the National Working Group. These are: Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), which coordinates the programme in the country; Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG); Sustainable Soil Management Programme (SSMP) implemented by Helvetas in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture; CARE Nepal; and Ecological Service Centre (EcoScentre).

A National Steering Committee (NSC), comprising senior decision-makers, oversees the “PROLINNOVA Nepal Initiatives”, as the programme is called locally. The NSC includes members from the Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Department of Agriculture, Department of Forest, Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS), National Planning Commission (NPC), Ministry of Local Development, and one representative from the five PROLINNOVA Nepal working group organisations.

Activities

Most of the first months were used to define and operationalise the PROLINNOVA Nepal Working Group. In the second half of the year, the programme focused on understanding local innovation. In September 2004, people who attended the international ToF course in the Philippines (see Part III of this report) organised an in-country training in Participatory Technology Development (PTD). Thirteen trainees attended this event, from both NGOs and local-level government (extension services). At the training, a strategy for the inventory of local innovations was designed, and a checklist developed for fieldwork. Local partners decided to focus on five different (technical) areas for the inventory: non-timber forest products, agro-processing, crops and horticulture, soil and pest management and, finally, innovations in the Tharu community. The latter has an ethnic focus, looking specifically at a minority and excluded group living in the low areas of the country. In a first effort, partners identified 66 innovations in 14 districts of the country. “Innovations”, in the Nepali context, were then divided in three main groups: “traditional innovations” (transferred from generation to generation), “innovations modified by innovator” on their own effort and, last but not least, “innovations modified by innovator in collaboration with other organisations”.

Simultaneously, LI-BIRD carried out a national review of PTD/PID-related organisations, the initial results of which were presented at the National Workshop. This was held in December 2004 in Kathmandu, and brought together 26 representatives of key stakeholders in the agricultural research and development (ARD) sector. During the workshop, participants indicated what they saw as main challenges and opportunities for the programme in Nepal. Their suggestions and inputs were later translated into a draft workplan for 2005–2007, further elaborated by the Working Group.

Challenges and recommendations

At the PTD training, it was suggested that similar training events should be organised, always in an interactive, workshop mode. Resource persons from both governmental and non-governmental projects, as well as farmer innovators, should be invited to contribute. These training events could eventually be paid or financed through other sources of funding (outside the already existent funds), so as to generate resources for PROLINNOVA as a whole. Training should also be given to district-level extensionists, who play a crucial role in

implementing national policies for ARD. At the National Workshop, high-level policymakers stressed that policies for a more participatory and IK-oriented ARD are already on paper, and that the challenge is to implement them in day-to-day fieldwork at district level.

In 2005, special attention will be paid to continued documentation of local innovation at local level, and publication of both local innovations and the results of the institutional analysis. A three-year PROLINNOVA workplan will be finalised and also used for fund raising. Lack of funds to carry out the programme presents a constant challenge to the country partners. Formalisation of the "PROLINNOVA Nepal Initiatives" will also be high on the agenda: A MoU will be signed between the secretariat and Working Group organisations (based on already existent MoU between LI-BIRD and most of the other organisations). To this end, the programme coordinator will maintain personal close contact with each of the NSC members.

The only planned activity not realised in 2004 was a literature review on local innovation and PTD/PID. This will be done in 2005.

2. South Africa

Institutional set-up

PROLINNOVA South Africa has a core team comprised of the Farmer Support Group (FSG – coordinator), MIDNET, a South African network for NGOs in sustainable agriculture and rural development (secretariat), ARC (Agriculture Research Council Infruitec-Nietvoorby), the Integrated Rural and Regional Development Research Programme, Human Sciences Research Council, the Centre for Rural Community Empowerment, University of Limpopo, and the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape. Two trainers, attached to the group, come from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs and the FSG.

On account of the limited resources available for the first year, it was decided to launch pilot activities in only one province, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), where both the coordinator and secretariat are located.

Activities

After attending the ToF, the South African trainers organised, together with the coordinator and secretariat, a feedback workshop for stakeholders (NGOs, Department of Agriculture, government research), in Pietermaritzburg, KZN, attended by 20 participants. These organisations nominated candidates for a capacity-building programme on PID. This programme, followed by 29 participants, comprised a first PID training, followed by fieldwork to identify and document local innovation. Finally, results from the field survey were presented in a follow-up workshop. On that occasion, participants reflected on their field experiences, and identified issues to be addressed by the programme in the following years.

A core team meeting was held afterwards on 12 November 2004, to review progress made, develop a draft workplan for 2005 and prepare for a two-day National Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for 16–17 February 2005.

Challenges and recommendations

The training programme provided an important input into formulating plans for PROLINNOVA in 2005, to be further developed at the National Workshop in February. Some participants in the training programme nevertheless had to struggle to gain support and permission from their managers to engage fully in fieldwork. They requested that the PROLINNOVA South Africa core team give a presentation to their managers to gain their support.

The National Workshop, which was initially planned for 2004, could not be realised in that year, on account of a late start of the programme and the elaborated process of defining and refining programme responsibilities. Another constraint has been the limited capacity for content support to the secretariat. In response to that, the South African partners expect to hire a full-time programme coordinator in 2005.

In the South African programme, most of the core team members started playing an active role only after the November workshop. It is expected that the core team will further increase its role in 2005, giving strategic direction to the programme. As in Nepal, Terms of Reference are to be elaborated for the collaborating organisations, and the programme coordination will visit top officials to ensure participation and support from current partners as well as from newly identified organisations.

Other main areas for action in 2005 (to be refined at the February 2005 workshop) include: engaging researchers and farmers to document innovation examples, research into innovation processes through pictures/videos, and establishing successful partnerships between researchers and farmers. Building capacities to promote and support local innovation processes is also among the country programme's continued priorities.

3. Uganda

Institutional set-up

The core team of PROLINNOVA Uganda had already been working together since 2003 to implement the programme and its daily activities. Environmental Alert (an NGO) coordinates the country programme, and appointed one part-time staff member to coordinate the programme. Other member organisations in the core team are: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), PELUM-Uganda, the Africa 2000 Network, Africa Highlands Initiative (AHI / CIAT), and the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS).

In 2004 a National Steering Committee (NSC) was also formed with the task to supervise the programme and set its general policies, and in September the group formally met for the first time. It consists of: NARO (National Agricultural Research Organisation, Chair), DENIVA (Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations), Uganda Council for Science and Technology (UCST), CIAT, NAADS, Faculty of Agriculture and Nature Conservation, Uganda National Farmers' Federation, Uganda Local Authorities Association and the MAAIF.

Activities

A survey of local innovations was carried out by PROLINNOVA Uganda partners, resulting in descriptions of more than 50 innovations in different areas of the country. The innovations relate to agriculture, environment and land management, energy and social organisation of local communities. The core team selected ten innovators and visited them in the field for detailed analysis. If they are interested, these farmers will be put into contact (directly or indirectly, through NGOs) with researchers for joint experimentation in 2005.

As in other countries, the Uganda graduates from the international ToF, in collaboration with other resource persons, organised a four-day workshop on PID/PTD and "bottom-up approaches". On that occasion, participants emphasised the importance of further documentation of identified local innovations, building capacity of different stakeholders in identifying local innovation, and strengthening local partnerships. These are to be followed up in 2005.

PROLINNOVA Uganda put a lot of effort into institutionalisation of PID. Meetings were held with various policymakers (such as NARO, UNCT and the National Agricultural Advisory

Services). These were strategic in ensuring strong alliances with these organisations, as well as bringing them fully on board the programme. PROLINNOVA Uganda also supported international lobbying and advocacy by participating in the Annual Meeting of the GFAR (Global Forum on Agricultural Research) Steering Committee, the Annual General Meeting of the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research), and a meeting of the Ecoagriculture Initiative.

Challenges and recommendations

The main challenge faced by PROLINNOVA Uganda in 2004 was to start up the National Steering Committee (NSC), involving senior policymakers. Potential participants had to be contacted and the core team had to await reaction to the invitations.

Clearly, the hectic schedule of core team and NSC members is a constraint to PROLINNOVA activities but, all in all, the core team and the NSC has build up good commitment to the programme, a key condition for its success. Finally, the limited amount of resources available allowed the partners to implement only some of the activities originally included in the overall, ambitious 2004–2007 proposal for PROLINNOVA Uganda.

In 2005, special attention is to be paid to the process of joint experimentation by farmers and researchers, following up with the ten innovators selected. At the same time, institutionalisation, policy dialogue and advocacy remain high on the agenda, and preparation of a policy brief on local innovation is planned.

4. Ghana

Institutional set-up

PROLINNOVA Ghana is organised in three zones: the Southern, Middle Belt and Northern Zone. Each has a working group or team, responsible for day-to-day operations. The overall coordination of the programme at the national level is the responsibility of ECASARD (Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development), which also coordinates the activities in the Southern Zone, while those in the North are coordinated by ACDEP (Association of Church Development Projects), and those in the Middle Belt by GOAN (Ghana Organic Agriculture Network). The zones have independent, yet interrelated, activities.

A nine-member National Coordinating Committee (NCC) was inaugurated in 2004, with the Director of Agricultural Extension of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) as Chair. The NCC deliberated on the Terms of Reference as well as the roles / functions of the NCC. Members are CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research), RTIP (Roots and Tubers Improvement Programme, an IFAD project), FONG (NGO network), VEPEAG, GOAN (coordinating NGO in the Centre), ACDEP (coordinating NGO in the North), ECASARD (coordinating NGO in the South and overall coordinator). Three zonal coordinator teams were also set up to supervise activities at that level.

On account of problems in communication between the different zones and with the PROLINNOVA Secretariat, the institutional set-up in Ghana is being reviewed, and a formal decision on the management and coordination of the programme in the country is to be taken by the NCC in early 2005.

Activities

The Middle Belt Zone has conducted two separate zonal farmer workshops in the Sekeyere West District and Jaman District in the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions, respectively (May 2004). The topics discussed were: utilisation of plants and botanicals to control insect pests

and diseases in crops, utilisation of household-generated waste to produce compost, and group dynamics in cooperative development. In total, approximately 200 farmers were involved, 30% of them women. In the Middle Belt Zone, farmers were introduced to promoting innovation through PTD/PID methodologies, and were trained in group dynamics and leadership tools.

Both the Southern and in the Middle Belt Zones initiated a collection (inventory) of local innovations. The initial reports are to be submitted to the zonal coordinators teams.

Ghana partners also played an important role on the Participatory Video (PV) pilot training, which was held in the Northern part of the country in November/December 2004 (see Part III of this report).

Challenges and recommendations

The main challenge faced by PROLINNOVA Ghana is the internal communication dynamics. Several meetings were carried out to discuss possible improvements, including a national-level meeting in December. At the same time, and very much related to this, since the 2004 Ghana budget and workplan were agreed upon only very late in the year, many activities were carried out without the funds that come through the PROLINNOVA Secretariat in the Netherlands. Several other activities were postponed to 2005.

In 2005, country partners hope to be able to establish zonal working groups to identify and document existing local innovations and, through their dissemination, to institutionalise the recognition and rewarding of local innovators. Facilitation of farmer-to-farmer visits to encourage local innovation and disseminate information on PID, parallel to farmer visits to research institutes, are also priority areas for the Ghana programme.

5. Cambodia

Institutional set-up

PROLINNOVA Cambodia is organised around a “core team” and a “working group”. The small core team of three people from CEDAC (Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture), the Royal University of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Takeo was set up to manage the PROLINNOVA activities in Cambodia. An assistant coordinator/PROLINNOVA secretary was recruited in 2004 and employed by CEDAC.

The working group is the extended core team, which consists of 15 people representing governmental research and extension departments, educational institutions, NGOs and a farmer organisation. The working group supervises and provides strategic direction to PROLINNOVA Cambodia.

Activities

At the first half of 2004, a total of 110 innovations/good practices were compiled through a review of existing publications. In the second half of the year, attention was paid to local innovation in the field and to the participation of farmers in the PROLINNOVA programme activities. A one-day introductory workshop on “local innovation” was organised in May. On that occasion, 18 farmers presented their innovations (as in Nepal, either developed by themselves or part of their ancestors’ legacy). Small prizes were given for the best innovations.

At the same time, as part of another existing project of CEDAC (the coordinating NGO in the country), 33 local workshops on PID were held, and involved a total of 556 farmers and

representatives of local authorities. At these workshops, 76 innovations were presented. It is the intention to follow this up through meetings every six or twelve months, in order to give incentive for sharing and innovation development.

As in most of the other countries, the two Cambodian trainers, upon return from the Philippines, organised a five-day training workshop in PID for the partners: other NGOs, Department of Agriculture, Department of Extension, Royal University of Agriculture, and Kampong Cham National School of Agriculture. A total of 32 PID facilitators took part, eight of them women. The actual documentation of local innovation, as a follow-up to the training, will be carried out in 2005. As a spin-off from the participation of a lecturer from the Royal University of Agriculture in the ToF in the Philippines, two universities (the Royal University of Agriculture and the International University) started to introduce PID into their curricula.

An initial inventory of NGOs, projects and organisations working in Cambodia with participatory approaches to agricultural development and NRM was also produced. In December 2004, a National Workshop was organised, and was attended by 70 people, one third of who were farmers. Participants were able to share experiences in participatory ARD, and discuss the 2005–2007 workplan of PROLINNOVA Cambodia.

Challenges and recommendations

PROLINNOVA Cambodia sees the comprehensive working group (in terms of stakeholder representation) as a great opportunity to gain the commitment of high-level officials to participatory ARD. The local innovations presented at the various workshops aroused interest in and enthusiasm about the programme.

Two major activities were planned, but not fully carried out in 2004: the preparation of an inventory of local innovations and an inventory of organisations practising participatory ARD. The former could not be carried out because of the lack of skill and experience in writing and documentation. The building of capacity to document innovations is therefore high on the agenda for 2005. Simultaneously, partners will put efforts to publish regularly on PID and PROLINNOVA in the country, through cooperation agreements with “Farmer Magazine”, publication of books, etc. The second activity – the inventory of organisations – was started but suffered the consequences of time pressure on the side of PROLINNOVA Cambodia coordination, and will be finalised in 2005.

One challenge in 2004 was to maintain contact with the International Support Team. A backstopper visit to the country in 2005 will allow better interaction between the two levels of the programme.

6. Ethiopia

Institutional set-up

PROFIEET (Promoting Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in Ethiopia) is the name under which the PROLINNOVA programme operates in this country. A National Steering Committee (NSC) oversees programme implementation, while the coordinating NGO is ASE (Agri-Service Ethiopia).

The NSC of PROFIEET is made up of the major stakeholders involved in agricultural research and development in Ethiopia, with the exception of crop farmers: the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organisation (EARO), the Commission for Science and Technology, Mekelle and Alemaya Universities, the Institute for Sustainable Development, SOS-Sahel, FARM-Africa, the Pastoral Forum Ethiopia and ASE. Although the NSC members agree on the objectives of PROFIEET, there are some differences regarding

strategic issues. The PROFIEET secretariat prepared several documents that were discussed during meetings of the NSC in 2004. The NSC members have now agreed to a Terms of Reference and serve primarily as an oversight committee, while the platform coordinator (ASE) carries out the routine tasks. The NSC has recently recruited a part-time programme coordinator, who works with ASE.

PROFIEET has divided the country into four distinct agro-ecological and social settings. The purpose of making this division was to help stakeholders focus on the major commodities and farming systems of each area as well as to use this classification for the formation of regional platforms, which will be more autonomous in the future. The four zones identified by the NSC are: Typical Ethiopian Highlands (two regions were selected from this zone: Amhara and Tigray); Coffee-Growing Zone (including the vast majority of the Oromia Region); Enset-Growing Zone (most of the Southern Region); and Pastoralist Zone (including the pastoral and agropastoral parts of the country, among others, in Afar, Somalia and Borana).

Activities

Up to 2004, activities of PROFIEET were mainly at the federal level. It was a wish of the platform to decentralise itself and come closer to farmers, including pastoralists, as well as to the stakeholders in regional research and development who are the primary actors in the rural development arena. In the first half of 2004, the NSC finalised the planning of five introductory workshops on PROFIEET in the above-mentioned regions. These were designed to start off the multi-stakeholder partnership at regional level by encouraging research and development workers to identify local innovators, who will return with the other regional stakeholders to a second workshop for planning PID experiments.

Four such regional seminars were organised in Amhara, Tigray, Oromia and DireDawa (for the pastoralist areas) under the motto "Bringing PROFIEET to the ground: Linking farmer Innovation to research and development". In total, 33 institutions and 49 participants, both from governmental and non-governmental sectors, were involved in the meetings. A fifth seminar planned in the Southern Region could not be held by the end of 2004 because the local organisers did not have enough time. These seminars are to be followed up by regional training workshops in PID, which were originally planned for late 2004 but had to be postponed to early 2005 because of difficulties in communication and lack of time.

In preparation for the training workshop, PROFIEET partners elaborated training guidelines on PID. A two-day mini-workshop in December played an important role in compiling relevant parts of existing training manuals produced by ETC and LBL, updating these materials and adding Ethiopian cases. The PID guidelines thus developed are now ready to be used in the regional training workshops in 2005, and will be further refined on the basis of comments received.

In 2004, the PROFIEET secretariat supported the Ethiopian Society for Animal Production (ESAP) in preparing their annual conference, focused this year on "Participatory innovation and research: lessons for livestock development". Two papers by PROFIEET members and one paper by a member of the PROLINNOVA International Support Team were presented in the plenary session dedicated to this theme. Members of the NSC were also involved in workshops and meetings related to a new project financed by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) on market-oriented agricultural innovation, the ISNAR (International Service for National Agricultural Research) programme on training in research management and institutional change, and the ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) "Enabling Innovation" research theme. In these meetings, they introduced concepts and experiences in farmer innovation and PID and explored possible linkages with PROFIEET activities.

PROFIEET was responsible for the local organisation of the international PROLINNOVA workshop held in Ethiopia in March 2004. Compilation, publishing and distribution of the workshop report were jointly done by PROFIEET and the PROLINNOVA Secretariat. These activities demanded considerable energy and time of PROFIEET partners in the first half of the year, making it necessary to postpone some of the planned country-programme activities to 2005.

Challenges and recommendations

One of the main challenges faced by PROFIEET was to set up the programme in a non-bureaucratic, yet semi-formal way. This was finally achieved by agreeing on a *modus operandi* for the country programme. In 2005, MoUs are to be signed between PROFIEET at Federal level and the regional institutions that will “host” PROFIEET activities.

As mentioned above, PROFIEET’s involvement in organising the international workshop left less time to organise activities in the different regions in Ethiopia. Also the large distances to be covered and the poor communication slowed down the work. In early 2005, it is expected that an initial identification of innovative farmers (in areas such as crop production, livestock production, land management, water management, and genetic resource conservation) will be carried out. This will feed into the second batch of regional workshops, leading to farmer-led research activities in the field.

As a way to disseminate and raise awareness on the PROLINNOVA approach, PROFIEET will seek contacts with the media (radio and/or television) and stimulate discussion on the concepts and practices of farmer innovation and experimentation.

7. Sudan

PROLINNOVA Sudan is part of the third group of country partners (together with Tanzania and Niger), and was not expected to start implementing the programme in the country until 2005. Nevertheless, and despite very few funds available from PROLINNOVA 2004 resources, Sudan partners were actively engaged in setting up the programme in the country, as well as in participating in international-level activities.

Institutional set-up

ITDG-Sudan acts as the coordinating NGO for the country programme, and works closely with the Technology Transfer and Extension Administration (TTEA) and the Agricultural Research and Technology Corporation (ARTC). Jointly, they facilitated the formation of a National Steering Committee (NSC), presently comprising members of the following organisations: TTEA, ARTC, Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS, a local NGO), Sudanese Organic Agriculture, a local NGO, FAO, IFAD, and ITDG-Sudan. At a national workshop (see below), participants recommended that a member from a training institution should also be invited to joint the NSC.

Activities

PROLINNOVA Sudan partners showed great commitment by making considerable progress in 2004, using mostly their own financial resources. The main activity at country level was the National Workshop, which was held in November 2004. On that occasion, a workplan for 2005 was drafted and approved. At international level, and in addition to participating in the main PROLINNOVA international activities, the Sudan Country Coordinator participated in a FARA workshop held in Ghana in April 2004.

Challenges and recommendations

The political conflict between North and South Sudan resulted in two different delegations attending the ToF course held at the Philippines. While in the Philippines, the workplan for the country programme was prepared as part of the course requirements. The Southern Sudan representative opted to prepare a separate workplan for Southern Sudan.

There is presently no clear idea on how things will proceed, and it will take some time for country partners to tackle the issue³. The current conflict in the Darfur area of Western Sudan is also limiting the scope of mobility, as not all areas are accessible. Funding opportunities were very meagre during 2004 and no donor was ready to support any development activity in the country. This could change quickly, but the situation is not predictable.

PROLINNOVA Sudan will continue carrying out its activities, despite these challenges. A series of state-level workshops aimed at strengthening and grounding the partnership are planned for 2005. The first workshop is expected to be held in Kassala State in March 2005. Kassala governmental organisations (representatives of the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Irrigation for the State) already agreed to co-fund the activity.

Following the state-level workshops (all planned to be held before August 2005), an inventory of local innovations will be presented in a one-day workshop in Khartoum, also to be held in 2005.

8. Tanzania

Institutional set-up

In 2004 a small committee was set-up to plan and raise funds for PROLINNOVA Tanzania with staff from INADES-Formation Tanzania, Sokoine University of Agriculture Institute of Continued Education [SUA-ICE), and PELUM-Tanzania. PELUM-Tanzania is the coordinating agency in the country. This is part of the larger PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management) Network that has been one of the main movers behind the PROLINNOVA programme from the start. In August 2004, the sudden death of Father Yves Marché, the country-programme coordinator, was a serious set-back; the programme that he helped to develop is now being continued by his colleagues.

Activities

The PROLINNOVA Tanzania programme will cover four zones: the Northern Zone (Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro and Tanga), the Eastern and Central Zone (Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida, Pwani and Dar es Salaam), the Southern Highlands Zone (Iringa, Mbeya and Rukwa), and the Western Zone (Mwanza, Mara, Kagera, Tabora, Shinyanga and Kigoma).

The small coordination committee prepared a PROLINNOVA project proposal, which was submitted to EED (Church Development Service, Germany). EED approved it and pledged a total of €141,000 for a period of three years (2005–2007) for supporting PROLINNOVA activities in the country, including a specific component on bio-safety. EED will allocate €64,800.00 to the programme in 2005.

³ Similarly, the World Bank/UNDP-supported initiative entitled JAM (Joint Assessment Mission) decided to work separately in North Sudan and Southern Sudan, even after signature of the Peace Agreement.

Challenges and recommendations

Key activities for 2005 include a/o: an awareness-raising workshop on PROLINNOVA and PTD among potential partners; three zonal "Networking Days" for sensitising, strengthening networks, and sharing best practices and experiences; three zonal workshops on policy analysis, negotiation skills and decision-making processes; inventory of zonal stakeholders working with farmers and already dealing with innovations and local knowledge; and a National Planning Workshop.

9. Niger

PROLINNOVA Niger is coordinated by CRESA, a regional training institute under the University of Niamey. Niger representatives attended the two main PROLINNOVA international activities in 2004. But because of delays in finalising the agreement between IFAD and the Niger Government, IFAD funds – part of which are to cover PROLINNOVA activities – did not reach Niger partners in 2004.

In a visit to the country, IST members were struck by the great enthusiasm of country partners to start activities already in 2004. The PROLINNOVA Secretariat therefore made available a small amount of funds for organising a first awareness-raising workshop in the country. This workshop will take place early 2005 and form the basis for a country workplan. This should be able to mobilise resources locally now that the agreement on the IFAD project has been realised.

b. Main achievements/results

For quick reference, Table 1 presents an overview of main activities implemented and their respective outputs.

Table 1: Main results linked to country activities

Country	Activity	Results	Reporting mechanism/ Means of verification
Nepal	National Workshop: December, Kathmandu, 26 participants attended, including Executive Director of NARI and Director General of Department of Agriculture (government extension system)	PROLINNOVA platform established, sensitisation of key governmental and non-governmental parties and their formal commitment to the programme	National Workshop report
	In-country PID/PTD training: 4-days, September, Terai, 13 participants	Concepts of PID further depicted for the Nepali context, checklist for inventory of innovations, 13 people trained and encouraged to make inventory of local innovations.	Training report, checklist for inventory of farmer innovations
	Documentation of 66 local innovations	Shared understanding of local innovation developed, examples of local innovation at National workshop clarified concepts behind PROLINNOVA	Compilation of documented innovations
	Elaboration of 4-year programme proposal: jointly developed by the 5 working group partners, and based on workshop results	Commitment and ownership of working-group partners for implementing 4-year programme	4-year workplan and full proposal

	Setting up of NSC, first meeting held in December in Kathmandu	Committed NSC of high-level policymakers on ARD	Minutes of meeting
South Africa	Articulation of roles and responsibilities	Strategic directions for the programme defined, and strong partnership formed to support it	Minutes of meetings, present set-up of programme
	July, Pietermaritzburg. Feedback workshop by 2 staff who joined ToF, 20 participants	Sharing of experiences from the ToF course, participants' organisations directly involved in the programme and committed to participate in inventory of local innovations.	Workshop report
	September, Pietermaritzburg, 3-day training on PID, 25 participants from research, NGOs and extension	Participants developed a format to identify and document innovations, which was done in the subsequent months; ownership of the programme by several organisations increased, recognising local innovation became part of organisations' activities	Training report
	November, Pietermaritzburg, follow-up workshop for presentation of innovations, 28 participants	Participants reflected on field experiences, and identified issues to be addressed by the South African programme	Workshop report
Uganda	Survey of local innovation: 50 potential innovations documented and 10 chosen for PID pilots	Links between farmers and researchers strengthened; examples of innovations to illustrate the approach	Survey report
	August, Mukono, 4-day workshop on PID/PTD approaches (PID/PTD), 30 participants	30 new PID facilitators, more partners appreciative of the approach; several partners committed to promoting local innovation and to take lessons learnt back to their organisations	Training report
	Steering Committee constituted, inaugural meeting in September	Semi-formal and strong partnership around PROLINNOVA	Minutes of inaugural meeting
	December, field visits to 10 farmer innovators for analysis and forward planning		Report on field visits
	Several bi-lateral meetings with policymakers (e.g. NARO, UCST)	Policymakers understood the programme and committed to participate actively	Participation of policymakers of SC
Ghana	December, Koforidua, national meeting on PROLINNOVA Ghana organisation	Clearer understanding and division of responsibilities, progress in solving internal problems	Workshop report
Cambodia	Literature review on farmer innovation	110 already-documented innovations/good practices compiled	
	One-day introductory workshop: May, Phnom Penh, 93 participants (37 of them woman, and 40 farmers) from 16 organisations	Main ARD organisations aware of the programme, and encouraged to participate and discuss the approach	Meeting report
	ToF on PID: 5-day course in CEDAC office, 32 facilitators (8 women)	32 new facilitators	Training report

	National platform workshop: December, Takeo Province, 70 participants (11 women and one third of farmers). Under-Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Vice-Governor of province attended.	Awareness and commitment at national level, strong partnership basis laid, workplan 2005–2007 drafted	Workshop report; draft workplan 2005–2007
	Local workshops: As part of existing CEDAC project, 33 workshops for a total of 556 farmers organised and 76 innovations presented	PID mainstreamed within the coordinating NGO	CEDAC project report
	University curricula: two universities (Royal University of Agriculture and International University) introduced PID/PTD into their curricula	PID approach included in the formal education sector as part of university curricula for agriculture students	Adapted curricula
	Working group with 15 members established, met for the first time in September	Strong partnership and commitment of governmental and non-governmental organisations	Minutes of the meeting
Ethiopia	Sensitisation seminars: September to November, four seminars organised in different zones of the country, total of 49 participants	PROLINNOVA “grounded”: fitted to meet local expectations and needs	Seminars proceedings
	Compilation, editing and printing of proceedings of national PROFIEET workshop and international PROLINNOVA workshop	Two books published; information on local innovation, PID and PROFIEET and PROLINNOVA programmes accessible in print and digital form	PROFIEET workshop proceedings; PROLINNOVA workshop proceedings
	PID manual development in Addis Ababa: task force (several NSC members and backstopper) in 2-day workshop and follow-up work	PID manual including Ethiopian cases elaborated, to be used by PROLINNOVA partners in the country and elsewhere	PID manual
	Formalisation of NSC	Strong partnership formed with governmental and non-governmental organisations, which commit themselves to the programme	ToR for NSC
	Support to Ethiopian Society for Animal Production in preparing their annual conference, focused on farmer innovation.	2 papers presented by PROFIEET partners at the meeting, sensitisation of “production sector” of ARD	ESAP Annual Conference report
Sudan	National Workshop: November 2004, 30 participants. Among others, the State Minister of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry addressed the 41 workshop participants.	Commitment at high-level ARD policymakers to the programme, ownership of different partners and awareness built	National Workshop report
Tanzania	4-year programme elaborated	Commitment of country partners, and linkage with other initiatives in the country	Country programme proposal
	Fund raising: €141,000.00 raised (EED-Germany)	Funds guaranteed for the programme until 2007	Country Programme proposal
Niger	Preparations for inception in 2005.	Outline of workplan 2005–2006 prepared for review in 2005 national workshop	Draft workplan and proposal

c. Brief analysis and recommendations for 2005

Generally speaking, 2004 was a year dedicated to awareness-raising. In all countries, great efforts were made to make different stakeholders aware of the relevance of local innovation and the importance of following a different approach to ARD. In most countries these efforts were accompanied by actual studies of local innovation in the field and an initial sharing of the results.

The year 2004 was also when awareness-raising led to commitment: in most of the countries, workshops and bi/multi-lateral meetings encouraged governmental and non-governmental organisations, researchers, extensionists and high-level policymakers to join the programme and to commit their own time and resources. They jointly defined priorities for country programmes, indicating theme areas and organisational set-ups. PROLINNOVA proved to be a jointly-owned programme that allows and encourages flexibility. In Ethiopia, the programme is divided into different (semi-autonomous) regions. In Ghana, the three regions are even more independent. In South Africa, the programme is directly implemented in only one region of the country (although some activities attract people from different areas). In Nepal, the documentation of innovations followed not a regional but a thematic division, as country partners indicated a number of themes they would like to concentrate on. These are but a few examples of differences between the country programmes.

While inclusiveness of different stakeholders was definitely seen as an opportunity, it also became a challenge: many of the country programmes had to put considerable energy and time into deciding how to formalise (or not) their relationship, who to ask to join the NSC etc. Having the organisational set-up confirmed will certainly allow countries to move swiftly in 2005, making use of the political will that has been mobilised in 2004.

Many countries stress the need to mobilise not only policymakers, but the middle management levels in core partner organisations. The fact that several countries succeeded in linking PROLINNOVA to own projects is a sign that the institutionalisation process has already begun "at home".

In 2005, most of the countries expect to move from awareness-raising and identification of local innovation to "action research" in the field. In the country workplans, considerable time and resources are allocated to PID on the ground, in which research or extension agents work with farmers to further experiment with relevant innovations and generate data on their impact. Training, which received great attention in 2004, provides countries with well-equipped facilitators and professionals who are interested and eager to put learning into further practice.

The documentation of innovations carried out in most of the countries in 2004 produced internal reports and interesting cases that were presented at workshops and meetings. All countries, nevertheless, felt the need to improve this documentation so that the results, and those of subsequent PID work, could be shared with a wider audience – using both written and audiovisual means. Country programmes therefore included documentation and publication in their 2005 workplans. This will also allow more fruitful exchange between country programmes. Making better use of the PROLINNOVA website and its pages devoted to reports on country activities is also on the agenda for the coming year.

A major challenge that remains, for countries and the programme in general, is fund-raising. Present funding levels allow the implementation of only a small part of the generally quite ambitious PROLINNOVA country agendas. The fact that some countries could not spend all the resources made available does not contradict this. This underspending was because of the

late start in the year of the country work and because funding levels did not allow setting a person free to coordinate planned activities. Most countries are revisiting this and trying to create adequate coordination capacities. As the Tanzanian case shows, fund-raising at country level can be successful. However, it needs a continuous effort, also in 2005.

The limited resources available have, on the other hand, encouraged country partners to be creative in using own resources to implement activities. In Nepal, for example, some of the organisations in the working group are considering using their own core funds for PROLINNOVA activities. Others, such as Cambodia, build on existing projects to spread the message and practice of PID.

It is evident from the above that setting-up and running a country PROLINNOVA programme is a challenging task with many dimensions. Though not foreseen in the original PROLINNOVA four-year proposal, it has been decided therefore, following a request from one of the countries, to organise in 2005 a meeting of all country coordinators to discuss common problems, exchange ideas and learn from each other. This is foreseen in June, back-to-back with the FARA General Assembly in Uganda.

III. ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

While the main thrust of PROLINNOVA is in the country programmes, a number of activities are undertaken at the international level. These activities aim at providing support to country programmes and creating awareness for PROLINNOVA issues among relevant international agencies. A third set of activities consists of programme management.

The International Support Team (IST), made up of staff members of IIRR (Philippines), LBL (Switzerland) and CIS-VUA and ETC Ecoculture in the Netherlands, plays a major role in these activities. Where possible, however, people in country programmes are encouraged to be involved, e.g. in international policy dialogue and meetings.

a. Support to country programmes

Country backstopping

To facilitate backstopping of the work in the countries, each member of the IST was assigned one or two countries for priority attention. This enables building of effective relationships with the respective countries. A large part of the country backstopping takes place through electronic means or telephone consultations. In addition, country visits specifically for backstopping PROLINNOVA programmes took place as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: PROLINNOVA country backstopping missions 2004

Country and timing	Backstopping organisation	Focus of mission
Niger June 2004	CIS-VUA	Links IFAD project and PROLINNOVA Possibility of national workshop
Uganda September 2004	ETC and CIS-VUA	National Steering Committee Local fund raising, donor contacts Links PROLINNOVA and SCI-SLM (Stimulating Community Initiatives in Sustainable Land Management, to be funded by GEF)
Nepal December	ETC	National PROLINNOVA Workshop Proposal 2005–2007 and workplan 2005

The specific backstopping missions could be limited to three, as IST members were also able to provide backstopping support linked to missions to PROLINNOVA countries as part of other assignments (see Table 3).

Table 3: Country backstopping linked to non-PROLINNOVA missions

Country and timing	Backstopping organisation	Focus of mission
Nepal January	ETC	Introduction to PROLINNOVA Outline of approach for 1 st inception year
Cambodia February	IIRR	Proposal preparation for local fund raising linked to PROLINNOVA Cambodia
Ethiopia March	ETC	Links with local donors and international research institutes
Uganda May	CIS-VU	2004 workplan and budget Timing of backstopping mission in September Introducing new SCI-SLM programme
Ethiopia July	ETC	Support to editor of international workshop proceedings
Ghana November	ETC	Overall programme progress
Ethiopia December	ETC	Support in elaborating PID manual for regional training workshops
Uganda December	ETC	Overall programme progress Meeting with POG member

Fund raising

IST members have supported the raising of (local) funds in the respective countries, such as Cambodia, Ethiopia and Uganda as part of their backstopping missions. Country coordinators have been accompanied on visits to donors and/or have been put in contact with potentially interesting donors known to the IST.

In addition, the IST is raising funds at the international level to support country (sub)programmes and/or international-level activities. Annex 2 shows how, to this end, the PROLINNOVA agenda has been broken down into sets of sub-programmes for separate funding, listed with their main potential funding sources. Table 4 gives an overview of the IST fund-raising efforts in 2004 and the results. These efforts are critical, as PROLINNOVA's main donor – the Netherlands Government – funds only 65% of budgeted activities, requiring PROLINNOVA to continue to mobilise the other 35%, and possibly more, from other sources

Mobilising support for the Innovation Support Funds (ISF) became an important priority after the international workshop in Ethiopia. ISFs would pool resources directly accessible by local innovators to further develop their innovative work, and to draw in and pay for the support of research and extension workers. It would imply putting some research and development (R&D) resources in the hands of farmers. This fund would not be an investment fund but rather would encourage farmers and farmer groups to experiment and innovate by covering certain risks and enabling interaction with external sources of knowledge.

Parallel to this, a much wider group of potentially interested donors is being kept informed of developments within PROLINNOVA. These include a/o the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) managed by UNDP, Rockefeller Foundation, the Belgium Survival Fund, GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) and IDRC (International Development Research Centre) in Canada. It is particularly gratifying to note the efforts of the GFAR Secretariat to support and undertake fund-raising for PROLINNOVA, which is one of the Global Partnership Programmes in its business plan.

Table 4: Fund-raising efforts by the IST in 2004

Activities proposed	Potential donor	Result / status
Policy dialogue, advocacy activities at all level	Biodiversity Fund/HIVOS	Negative; fund design does not allow funding of PROLINNOVA
Innovation Support Fund: pilots in 4 countries	DURAS	Positive; proposal is among the final 12 out of which 8 will be funded
International PROLINNOVA Workshop 2004	Misereor, World Bank, Global Forum for Agricultural Research, CTA	Positive; all contributed, allowing this event to take place without burdening the core funding
PROLINNOVA policy-related research in Ghana, Uganda and South Africa	EU-INCODEV	Negative; proposal found to be too much development oriented. It may be adapted for re-forwarding in September 2005
PROLINNOVA-type programmes in Vietnam and Lao PDR	McKnight Foundation	Under consideration
PROLINNOVA Andes	Yet to be approached	Support to partners in Bolivia and Ecuador to draft proposal
PROLINNOVA West Africa/ PROFEIS	McKnight Foundation, IDRC-West Africa DURAS	Overall proposal prepared; sub-programmes prepared for funding; pre-proposal send to DURAS.
PV to support documentation of local innovation	IDRC, World Bank	Initial contacts have been made; proposal to be prepared in 2005

b. Documentation, analysis and dissemination of lessons learnt

A central challenge for the IST is to create awareness and acceptance of PROLINNOVA's approach at the international level, within international agencies and bilateral donors based in the North. To this end, it undertakes activities to mobilise experiences from the countries and share these electronically within the programme and outside, organise international workshops and training events, maintain a website, produce an electronic newsletter, write papers and articles for workshops and journals, make presentations at conferences, and undertake a number of other policy-dialogue activities.

Electronic learning and exchange mechanisms among partners

For this exchange, a *PROLINNOVA Yahoo discussion group* has been created, which is moderated by ETC. It allows information-sharing not only among partners but also with all people interested in PROLINNOVA (prolinnova@yahoogroups.com). Documents on PROLINNOVA and related issues and notifications of new information on the PROLINNOVA website are sent around frequently and discussions on common concerns are stimulated.

In 2004, the Yahoo group was used a/o to initiate a discussion on the basic concepts of farmer innovation and PID. A concept paper with opening questions for discussion was sent around by ETC; this led to a first exchange of ideas. Other topics discussed, sometimes heatedly, include the priority that needs to be given to change formal research organisations (after a recent report of the InterAcademic Council was shared), the scope for collaboration with CGIAR centres, and the issue of Intellectual Property Rights when documenting IK and farmer innovation.

IIRR undertook a study in 2004 to explore the possibilities to link the information exchange and debate function directly to the PROLINNOVA website. As a result, a pilot will be undertaken on the PROLINNOVA website using a web-based message-board software (Proboard) for review by mid 2005.

International workshop and training events

International workshops and training events are organised to strengthen information exchange within the partnership and to build the capacity of PROLINNOVA partners from the various countries. They also serve, however, to increase national and international awareness of PROLINNOVA in wider development cooperation circles. In 2004, three major events took place. In the view of all involved, these three – particularly the first two – greatly contributed to strengthening the programme and the partnership, to developing a coherent strategy across all countries and to transfer ownership from the first initiators to all partners.

From 8-12 March 2004, the first *International PROLINNOVA workshop* was organised at the Furra Institute of Development Studies in Yirgalem, Southern Ethiopia. During the first three days of the workshop, exchange and learning were effectively catalysed through field studies, technical presentations and discussions on the various key issues involved in promoting local innovation. This generated enhanced understanding and dialogue and increased motivation towards building partnerships at local, national and international levels. A total of 56 people, NGO staff, researchers, farmers, government extension, academics, policymakers and donors attended these first three days of the workshop. A smaller group of 25 people, including representatives from all PROLINNOVA countries, met for a final two days and developed a clear joint action plan. A summary report of the workshop was prepared and widely shared. In addition, ASE and IIRR have recently published full proceedings.

IIRR hosted the first *“PID Training of Facilitators Course”* from 14–25 June 2004. The 12-day programme included four modules: 1) Understanding PID/PTD; 2) PID training development; 3) Towards strengthening PID/PTD in PROLINNOVA country programmes; and 4) Action planning. The course evaluation report shows that the majority of participants rated the over-all management of the course as “very good”, with a good balance of theoretical and practical inputs that were very valuable for their work. As per the objectives set for the course, 53% of the participants rated the course as “generally successful” and 34% as “completely successful”. More importantly, participants from five out of six countries with running PROLINNOVA programmes implemented successfully their own PID training or workshop for local partners after returning to their respective countries. Participants from the three countries starting PROLINNOVA programmes in 2005 intend to do so this year. At the end of the course, a CD-ROM was developed and distributed that contained all the course materials (inputs) and the various outputs produced by the course facilitation team and participants.

In view of the success of the course and the important role it played in strengthening the network, IIRR has prepared – in consultation with other members of the IST – a proposal to hold another course in 2005 with external funding. Necessary modifications to the design and schedule for the course to be offered were made on the basis of feedback from the people and organisations that took part in the 2004 course.

Finally a *pilot training in Participatory Video* was organised in November 2004 to experiment with this alternative way of documenting local innovation and to explore its potential for empowering communities to undertake such documentation. PROLINNOVA Ghana hosted this event, bringing together 14 participants from Ghana (10), Nepal (1), South Africa (1) and the Netherlands. The UK/France-based NGO Insight, specialist in PV, supported this activity. The workshop was funded on a 50%–50% basis by the PROLINNOVA “Unforeseen” budget line and the international Compas programme, which is coordinated by ETC Foundation⁴. Participants were satisfied that their expectations had been met as they had acquired a good deal of experience not only in handling the camera but also in teaching others how to do so. Participants were, however, not always so sure of themselves when it came to editing films

⁴ The pilot training in Participatory Video does not figure in the 2004 accounts, and will be added to the 2005 financial report.

on computer. This was partly due to the limited computer literacy of some participants. The conclusion of the pilot is that PV can be an important tool for empowering communities and that present technologies allow its use at field level. The PROLINNOVA Secretariat is therefore helping the countries interested in continuing this activity by drawing up a joint proposal on PV for fund-raising in 2005.

Website development and management

The PROLINNOVA website that was launched under the IFAD-funded inception phase has been considerably overhauled by IIRR on the basis of a survey carried out during the international workshop in Ethiopia. Annex 3 shows the present opening page. The website now has the following main components:

- PROLINNOVA and its donors;
- Institutionalisation of PTD; information from the “Advancing PTD” study;
- The country programmes;
- News and events;
- Readings and resources;
- Links to other websites;
- Debate;
- Contact us; and
- Picture gallery.

IIRR has created country sub-pages for country programmes. While the idea remains that these sub-pages will be managed directly by the respective countries, most countries preferred IIRR to manage them for the time being. This and the relatively slow feedback from countries with information for the website seem to indicate a lower priority given to this by the country programmes, particularly those in Africa.

IIRR has been working with interns coming from universities from both the North and the South. A development-communications intern from Central Luzon State University in the Philippines has been assigned to work on management of the PROLINNOVA website. Among other things, he is helping to edit certain (assigned) sections of the website and look to consistency of the webpages (language, style etc) and the ease (or difficulties) of navigation.

Monitoring of the hits and visits to the website between August and December 2004 shows that the site was visited 10,611 times. On average, it received 2,122 visits per month or 70 per day. Aside from the initial website page, other popular pages are the news page, the search engine for the PROLINNOVA website, the *PTD Circular* and the list of links to other websites.

PTD/ PID Circular

The former *PTD Circular*, a periodic update on Participatory Technology Development, has been revived by PROLINNOVA. To reflect a wide understanding of innovation in both technological and socio-organisational spheres, the *Circular* is being renamed the *Participatory Innovation Development (PID) Circular*. It will be published at least once a year. In March 2004, *PTD/PID Circular* 13 was issued. Apart from introducing PROLINNOVA, this focused on the “Top Twenty” publications, resource organisations and websites on promoting local innovation in NRM. The next issue, to appear early 2005, will include an annotated list of journals and newsletters that publish articles on farmer innovation and participatory ARD.

Besides appearing on the PROLINNOVA and ILEIA websites, the *Circular* is distributed by email to all who subscribe. Individuals, projects and organisations that can receive the *Circular* electronically are being encouraged to print and circulate printouts for other interested people in their area who do not have access to the Internet or email.

Dissemination of lessons learnt

It is a key role of the IST to disseminate widely the lessons learnt in PROLINNOVA. Although funding levels in 2004 were relatively limited, PROLINNOVA succeeded in producing a substantial number of papers, articles and other publications as summarised in Table 5.

Table 5: PROLINNOVA papers and other publications written / edited by IST in 2004

Publication / topic	Publisher / outlet
<p><i>IK Notes</i></p> <p>70. Ethiopia: a woman innovator speaks</p> <p>71. Participatory video: rural people document their knowledge and innovations</p> <p>72. Regional radio in Tunisia: linking indigenous innovation and formal research and development</p> <p>74. Building multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote farmer experimentation and innovation in Ghana</p> <p>76. Promoting local innovation: enhancing IK dynamics and links with scientific knowledge</p> <p>77. Burkina Faso: indigenous innovation in farmer-to-farmer extension</p>	World Bank Knowledge and Learning Centre, Washington DC:
<p>Four chapters (co-)authored by IST members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing partnerships to promote local innovation ▪ Farmer innovation as entry point to participatory research and extension ▪ Participatory approaches to agricultural research and extension ▪ Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation with pastoralists ▪ Participatory Technology Development where there is no researcher 	In: <i>Sourcebook on Participatory Research and Development for Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management</i> . CIP-UPWARD, Los Banos (in press).
New initiatives in smallholder natural resource management: PROLINNOVA	In <i>PLEC News and Views</i> , New Series 4 (March 2004): 19.
<i>Proceedings of the First International PROLINNOVA Workshop</i>	Agri-Service Ethiopia, Addis Ababa and IIRR, Silang, Philippines, 2004.
Towards the institutionalisation of participatory approaches: the role of partnerships	Paper for the IRSA (International Rural Sociology Association) XI World Congress on Rural Sociology, Trondheim, Norway, 25–30 July 2004.
<i>PID/PTD Circular 13</i>	ETC
<i>Developing Technology with Farmers: A Trainer's Guide for Participatory Learning</i>	ZED Books 1997, re-printed in 2004 by IIRR.

Brief articles about PROLINNOVA also appeared in 2004:

- PROLINNOVA, in *IK Worldwide: Linking Global and Indigenous Knowledge*, March 2004, pp 7–8
- PROLINNOVA, in *IK News Asia: Linking Regional and Indigenous Knowledge*, April 2004, pp 6–7
- PROLINNOVA: promoting local innovation, in *FAO Farming Systems News* (electronic), June 2004
- An expanding network: Promoting Local Innovation, PROLINNOVA, in *GFAR (Global Forum on Agricultural Research) Newsletter*, December 2004, pp 6–7
- Les Global Partnership Programmes du GFAR: La promotion d'innovation en milieu rural (PROLINNOVA), in *La Lettre d'Agropolis*, avril-mai 2004, p 4

Finally, information about and links to PROLINNOVA have been included in the websites, among others, of Agropolis (www.agropolis.fr), CIRAD (www.cirad.org), Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation (www.danadeclaration.org), Development Gateway (topics.developmentgateway.org/poverty), ELDIS (community.eldis.org), GFAR (www.egfar.org), IK Pages (www.nuffic.nl/ik-pages/), International Land Coalition (www.landcoalition.org), Knowledge for Development (www.knowledge.cta.int), LEISA (www.leisa.org), Participatory Learning and Action (www.iied.org/sarl/pla-notes/), RWC Prism (www.wis.cgiar.org/rwc), Support and Liaison Office (www.partnership-programmes.org), The Drum Beat – The Communication Initiative (www.comminit.com/drum_beat.html), Urban Harvest (www.cipotato.org) and WISARD (www.wisard.org).

On 14 June, CIS-VU, together with ETC and ILEIA, organised a seminar for Dutch organisations working in the field of promotion of local innovation and IK in agriculture and NRM in the South. The goal was to learn from each other, share experiences and build partnerships between the organisations in order to increase the momentum for local innovation approaches in the Netherlands and beyond. In addition to CIS-VU, ETC and ILEIA, people from the Institute for Environmental Studies (VUA/IVM), the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) and the Compas (Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development), programme participated. Other Dutch organisations that were unable to send representatives but are interested in being part of this sharing include PAU (Participatory Approaches and Upscaling) / Wageningen University and Agromisa.

Other activities at the international level

PROLINNOVA partners continue to attend, where possible, various international meetings, workshops and other events to present the vision and approach of PROLINNOVA, influence the design of new programmes and seek collaboration with like-minded organisations and networks.

In 2004, these included a/o the following events:

- Meeting with the Director General of ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre) in Leusden, Netherlands, January, ETC and CIS-VUA IST members;
- FARA workshop held in Ghana in April 2004, attended by the Sudan Country Coordinator;
- TerAfrica meeting organised by the World Bank and partners in Paris, France, May, attended by CIS-VUA IST member;
- Conference of Ethiopian Society for Animal Production (ESAP) on Local Innovation and Experimentation by Livestock-Keepers, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, August, keynote presentation by ETC IST member (in addition to PROFIEET secretariat);
- International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP) Global Conference in Mexico, August, paper presented by CIS-VUA IST members;

- International meeting of Ecoagriculture partners in Nairobi, Kenya, September, attended by PROLINNOVA Uganda core-team member;
- Environmental Week organised by DGIS in The Hague, Netherlands, October, attended by ETC IST member;
- Seminar on Promoting Local Innovation by Pastoralists at Centre for Policy Research, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, October, discussion paper presented by ETC IST member;
- Annual meeting of the GFAR Steering Committee in Mexico City, Mexico, October, attended by the PROLINNOVA Uganda country coordinator;
- Regional workshop on Farmer-centred Introduction of Innovations organised by Intercooperation in Bangladesh for its partner programmes in South Asia, November, paper presented by ETC IST member;
- Workshop for ICARDA personnel in farmer innovation methodology in Iran, November, facilitated by CIS-VU IST member;
- International meeting on Endogenous Livestock Development (ELD) hosted by ETC Compas in Leusden, Netherlands, November, attended by ETC IST member;
- Training of 48 students from Mediterranean countries in Participatory Research and Extension in Italy, December, by CIS-VU IST member.

The policy-dialogue activities are to be inspired by a common policy-dialogue framework and strategy. CIS-VUA has drafted a policy-dialogue strategy paper based on the outcome of discussions at the international workshop in Ethiopia. Because of the pressure of work and the failure to find additional funding to support policy-related activities, this paper has not been further developed and operationalised to the extent originally planned.

Level of awareness and recognition at the international level

A first light on the impact that the above-mentioned activities have had on the awareness created on PROLINNOVA and its approach was obtained by a “quick-and-dirty” web search. Using the standard Google search machine, 279 hits were obtained on PROLINNOVA in early 2005, out of which 89 appeared to be the core ones. This is a considerable increase compared to the less than 20 hits realised in late 2003.

Hits on Participatory Innovation Development in Google were 226, out of which 82 are core ones. Most of these dated before the start of PROLINNOVA but had links with people close to it now. Hits on PROLINNOVA in Google Scholar in early 2005 are just two and on PID 15, mostly work by people in the wider network of PROLINNOVA but completed before launching of PROLINNOVA itself.

c. Programme management

Management and administration of funds

A major effort was required in 2004 to prepare and finalise the bilateral agreements (MoU) between the different PROLINNOVA partners and ETC to manage the funds provided to PROLINNOVA through the DGIS-TMF grant. They were signed only after approval of operational workplans and budgets, according to formats developed by ETC and discussed with the partners during the international workshop in March. It has been agreed that each country and each IST member will actively look for co-funding of activities. All are committed to ensure that 35% of the total of the input of the organisations involved will be covered by other sources than the contribution through DGIS-TMF.

A donor group consisting of DGIS, Misereor, the World Bank, the GFAR and CTA covered the costs of the activities in 2004. After receiving the instalments from the main donor, DGIS,

the Secretariat disbursed funds for activities to all countries and partners in the IST, following the procedures of the MoU and based on the operational workplans and budgets.

ETC also developed a simple internal financial management system for monitoring the contributions of the various donors and bringing these together in one overview. This also serves to keep track of the own contributions from each of the PROLINNOVA partners.

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group

During the international workshop in March 2004, the PROLINNOVA partners decided to form a PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) to ensure effectiveness of the programme and transparency and accountability to the country-level partners, their constituencies and the donors. The POG consists of seven members: three from the PROLINNOVA country programmes, one from the IST and three external members. ETC Ecoculture serves as its secretariat.

After a transparent procedure of nominations and voting by the country partners, members of the POG for the first term of two years are as follows:

- Mr Ahmed Hanafi, Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), PROLINNOVA Sudan programme
- Mr Amanuel Assefa, Agri-Service Ethiopia (ASE), PROLINNOVA Ethiopia programme
- Ms Anna Tengberg, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) based in Kenya
- Ms Beatriz Del Rosario, Philippines Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD)
- Ms Monique Salomon, Farmer Support Group (FSG), PROLINNOVA South Africa programme
- Mr Reinhard Woytek, World Bank
- Mr Scott Killough, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), International Support Team.

Ex officio member on behalf of the PROLINNOVA secretariat is Ann Waters-Bayer, ETC Ecoculture.

The POG operates according to Terms of Reference drawn up by the PROLINNOVA partners during the international workshop (Annex 4). The formation of the POG is a major step in moving ownership of PROLINNOVA from ETC and the IST to the partners in the countries. Financial room needs to be made through the 2005 workplan to enable a first physical POG meeting in early 2005 as this was not foreseen in the original budget.

IST meetings

On 7 March and 14 March 2004, the IST had meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Members of the IST that attended these meetings were ETC, CIS/VUA and IIRR. The position and the role of the IST within PROLINNOVA were discussed, as well as the tasks and responsibilities of the IST. As a result, the backstopping tasks were divided between the different members of the IST. Agreements were also reached on communication and information sharing. The IST will strive to meet face-to-face three times during the initial four years, always around important international events. The IST furthermore decided that it will aim for half-year reporting to the donors, whereby the first half-year report will focus on main developments and the second report will be the more extensive annual report. The first half-year report for 2004 was made in July and distributed widely.

Programme-wide Monitoring and Evaluation

During the international workshop in March 2004, an important step was taken in developing a programme-wide M&E approach. Partners discussed in detail the M&E requirements at the various levels. The country programmes and the IST have been charged with operationalising the agreed framework (Annex 5) at their respective levels. IIRR, the IST

member based in the Philippines, has agreed to coordinate M&E programme-wide and monitor the implementation of agreed M&E activities.

From 14 to 17 December 2004, PROLINNOVA country coordinators and IST members undertook an electronic M&E session using the Yahoo group. The focus was on the development of PROLINNOVA as an international partnership, leaving evaluation of the country programmes to the respective countries. This virtual M&E discussion was organised in two rounds. The first one aimed at mobilising the widest possible feedback from partners on the questions related to the progress made in 2004 in building PROLINNOVA into an international partnership. In the second round, an overview of all responses in the first round was circulated together with a draft summary and analysis of the responses for comments and further analysis. In total, 13 people contributed their assessments to the virtual meeting, many in both rounds, some only in the second round. Out of these, seven contributors were from six Country Programmes, while the others were from IST organisations (IIRR, CIS-VUA and ETC Ecoculture).

The overall unanimous conclusion is that PROLINNOVA has made significant progress in 2004 towards becoming a strong international partnership. The face-to-face meetings during the international workshop in Ethiopia and the ToF in the Philippines played a key role in this. The creation of the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) and the associated rules for governance of the programme were also considered to be very important. A great variety of other factors are mentioned as having further contributed to the progress made by PROLINNOVA (e.g. the improved website, effective communication from the secretariat, and the PV training). The only constraints mentioned that were hindering further progress were the low level of funding and the management of the information sharing. A full report on this electronic M&E event is available.

IV. OVERVIEW OF FUNDING AND RESOURCES

PROLINNOVA mobilised funding for its activities in many different ways. Three main categories of funding sources can be distinguished. The first is the main donor, presently the Netherlands Government through the DGIS-TMF programme. Several donors that fund specific activities and sub-programmes form the second category: in 2004, these included Misereor (Germany), the World Bank, CTA, and GFAR. The third category is the own contribution by PROLINNOVA partners in the countries and at the international level, mostly in the form of staff time and/or provision of facilities. This last category also includes costs of tickets and/or DSA for international advocacy activities paid by host organisations or others.

The PROLINNOVA financial report 2004 (Annex 6) gives a complete overview of the income and expenditures in the reporting year. These figures are summarised in Table 6. The table shows that there is considerable underspending at the level of the country programmes. This is caused by the fact that the first part of the year was spent finalising the administrative requirements between the countries and ETC, a process that needed the input of the international workshop in March. Actual implementation of activities therefore did not start before May or June in most countries. In addition, as already stated above, the start of the whole Niger programme – part of a larger project funded by IFAD – was postponed to 2005 for administrative reasons between Niger and IFAD.

The activities at the international level, with the exception of the ToF, led to considerable overspending because of the time needed to realise the administrative arrangements and, particularly, to complete the work on the workshop proceedings and to prepare the various papers, including the series of *IK Notes* for the World Bank IK website. Overspending was covered by own contributions of IST member organisations.

Table 6: Summary financial report for 2004 (all figures in €)

	Budget***	Total expenditure	DGIS-TMF	CTA	Misereor	World Bank	GFAR	Own Contribution
Country programmes	177,694	113,855	65,866					47,989
International activities*	186,631	220,422	119,417					101,005
International workshop	52,586	87,042		8,492	20,000	23,000	9,943	25,607
Training of facilitators	58,356	49,881	41,583					8,298
Unforeseen**	23,763	0						
TOTAL 2004	499,030	471,200	226,866	8,492	20,000	23,000	9,943	182,899
Percentage of funds		100%	48%	2%	4%	5%	2%	39%

* Refers to: country backstopping, lobbying and advocacy at international level, programme management, communication, travel expenses and publication costs.

** Costs related to the Participatory Video pilot will be included under this budget item in the 2005 financial report.

*** The budget was modified slightly in 2004. This version was finalised based on the 2004 workplans of the country programmes.

The resources saved in the ToF will be used in 2005 to cover specifically agreed activities: the expenses involved in IIRR's role as overall M&E focal point, a contribution to the cost of the POG face-to-face meeting in February 2005, and, partially, the second ToF, to be held in the Philippines in July–August 2005.

The breakdown over the sources of funding in 2004 shows that DGIS-TMF covered 48% of all costs for that year, other donors covered 13%, while the remaining 39% constituted own contributions at all levels.

Finally, Table 7 gives the cumulative figures for 2003 and 2004. PROLINNOVA started operations in 2003 with the inception phase and participatory planning in three countries. The IST also published a book with first experiences in institutionalising participatory research and extension, which formed the starting point for PROLINNOVA activities in the years to come. Activities in 2003 were funded by IFAD and CTA. The table shows again the relative importance of the various sources of funding, if considered over these two years.

Table 7: Total expenditures 2003–2004 (all figures in €)

	Total	DGIS	IFAD	CTA	Misereor	World Bank	GFAR	Own contribution
Expenditures 2004	471,200	226,866		8,492	20,000	23,000	9,943	182,899
Expenditures 2003	200,514		86,350	36,344				77,820
TOTAL	662,913	226,866	86,350	44,836	20,000	23,000	9,943	251,918
Percentage of total	100%	34%	13%	7%	3%	3%	1%	38%

V. THE WAY FORWARD

During 2004, a strong foundation has been laid for PROLINNOVA to operate as a coherent international programme. The international workshop in Ethiopia and the training of PID facilitators in the Philippines gave PROLINNOVA a common framework in terms of content and organisation. The preparation of formal agreements with all partners based on good workplans and detailed budgets finalised the process of structuring the collaboration and ensured agreed rules of the game for the next four years.

With the establishment of the PROLINNOVA website, the Yahoo discussion group and the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group, good communication, information sharing and supervision mechanisms have been established that will support implementation of activities and learning at all levels. This is not to say that there is no room for improvement. Better communication between countries for experience-sharing and learning is a priority for 2005. This will be tackled by making better use of the website to disseminate and exchange relevant documentation. In addition, a face-to-face meeting of country coordinators is planned for June 2005, backstopping missions by IST members will continue, and a second version of the ToF is to take place in July–August 2005.

Partnership building at country level has also progressed well in almost all countries. Clearly, this is a complex and time-consuming process, particularly where it involves both governmental and non-governmental organisations. The process, however, has already proved its value to the country programmes, which can now count on firm commitment and support of a range of stakeholders to the implementation of PROLINNOVA. Partners in the various countries own their programmes and are themselves mobilising resources – also from their own funds – to ensure its implementation.

The three countries that started their activities in 2003 – Ethiopia, Ghana, and Uganda – are set to move beyond awareness-raising, capacity-building and study of local innovation towards farmer-led research and development work on the ground. This set of activities will have a direct impact on the livelihoods of participating farmers and their peers, but will also be the learning ground for generating experiences and data to support the awareness-raising and policy-dialogue activities at other levels. To do this effectively, Ghana needs to overcome the first challenges in its partnership and learn from these, while Ethiopia needs to continue decentralising activities and responsibilities to the regions chosen by the NSC.

Three countries – Cambodia, Nepal and South Africa – started activities in 2004 according to plan. All three moved beyond the foreseen inception-planning activities and completed a number of capacity-building and field-study activities. Learning from the experiences in the first three countries, they will be able to “catch up” and initiate farmer-led research and development already in 2005. In the final three countries – Niger, Sudan, and Tanzania – considerable work has already been done to prepare the ground for launching PROLINNOVA programmes in 2005 and these country programmes are expected to be able to move swiftly.

It is clear that the present partial, four-year, nine-country DGIS-TMF support – though obviously very much appreciated – is only enough to cover a basic set of activities for keeping the partnership together and working. If the countries are going to carry out their ambitious plans to change attitudes, behaviour and action in agricultural research and development by a multitude of stakeholders, their funding base needs to be strengthened urgently, while expanding the time-horizon beyond the four years. Efforts by individual country programmes to generate resources locally will need to be complemented by efforts to generate resources at the programme level. The present strategy to formulate funding proposals on sub-sets of activities, such as international workshops, participatory video, innovation support funds and action research on partnerships, will be continued. At the same

time, it essential that at least one other regular donor of international agricultural research and development, e.g. among those actively involved in the GFAR process, joins DGIS in providing programme-wide support

Looking at the great interest that has risen in other countries to join the programme, the numerous 2004 publications linked to PROLINNOVA and the numerous emails received through the website, it is evident that the ideas are already spreading quickly. It is now up to the partners to concentrate on implementation at national level, generating experiences and conducting pilots to feed the debate in the international and national policy arenas, while simultaneously capitalising on the commitment and interest of the many stakeholders.