

Prolinnova–Bolivia activity report for the year 2018

by German Jarro, Prolinnova–Bolivia coordinator, 28 February 2019

During the year 2018, the main activities carried out by Prolinnova–Bolivia were those described below:

- A latent concern of the network members is that there were no funds to allow programming activities such as face-to-face meetings; some members of the CP do not have offices in the city of Cochabamba, where meetings are normally held.
- Through the efforts made by PRODII (Integrated Interdisciplinary Development Programme), it was possible to channel resources to be able to rent a small liaison office in the city of Cochabamba, starting in August 2017. This office offers a space for face-to-face meetings of the CP members.

During one of the meetings, the functioning of the network was discussed. The idea arose to strengthen own experiences along the lines of those made in Africa with respect to Local Innovation Support Facility/Fund (LISF). To do this, it was important to know what experiences were made in Africa. Not having documents on this in Spanish, PRODII provided funds to pay a consultancy service to translate into Spanish some documents referring the the experiences made with LISFs in Africa.

- After the documents had been translated into Spanish, a network meeting was held to become acquainted with the documents and the LISF concept and to analyse and reflect whether these could be applied in Bolivia. The partners agreed on promoting similar experiences in Bolivia.

The NGO partner World Neighbors was asked to draw up a proposal, which was to include a joint budget by the member organisations for subsequent implementation. The proposal was formulated, but the implementation did not happen.

- Having become aware of the FONTAGRO (Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology) call for proposals, the Country Platforms in Bolivia and Peru, with the support of Ms Sylvia Sarapura from the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands, started to develop a proposal in response to this call and spent several days working on this via Skype. However, in the end, it was not submitted because the guidelines for the call had not been followed on account of an oversight.
- Finally, the network members in Bolivia were thinking of taking part in a training on the regulatory framework of Law 777 “*Sistema de Planificación Integral del Estado*” (SPIE; Comprehensive State Planning System), a new regulatory framework that seemed to be interesting for them, since this new planning system includes territorial integrated development planning with a livelihoods approach. This approach is innovative in that the network could support the planning processes; unfortunately, it could not be carried out.

Outlook

The person in charge from PRODII who had led the Country Platform has now become Executive Director of the Agrecol Andes Foundation. He called a working meeting of the network, which did not take place in account of the partners’ multiple activities, but a second meeting was planned to define the actions to take.

Conclusions

Prolinnova–Bolivia has been making efforts to maintain its members, but did not have funds to be able to implement planned activities in 2018. In the upcoming meeting, the next steps for the network will be defined.