

Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform Annual Report for 2019

1. Introduction

This is the annual report for the Prolinnova–Uganda Country Platform (CP) for 2019. It presents the key achievements, challenges and perspectives during the reporting period. Notable is that, during the reporting period, the CP was largely constrained in terms of funding to effectively deliver on its aspirations. Despite this, the CP Secretariat at Environmental Alert ensured that the CP remained visible and active among the members, key stakeholders and partners. This was achieved through facilitating and supporting networking activities among members for information sharing and exchange, largely through online interactions and participation in activities led by CP members.

Furthermore, greater focus and effort were invested into resource mobilisation and fundraising as part of the development of the Prolinnova-Uganda CP programme.

2. Achievements and perspectives

The key achievements registered during the reporting period are detailed in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Key achievements during the reporting period

Key activities	Key achievements
A) Networking (at local, national, regional and international level) and policy dialogue (partnerships or collaboration with public institutions or actors; policy workshops at local, national, regional or international level)	<p>The following engagements were conducted by the Prolinnova–Uganda CP and its members as part of networking:</p> <p><i>Key results from the engagement</i></p> <p>i) The Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat participated in the National Agroecology Actors Symposium (NAAS) held on 30–31 May 2019 and organised by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM–Uganda). The symposium aimed to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To provide a multistakeholder platform for learning, experience and knowledge sharing, harmonising understanding and dialogue on agroecology in Uganda;</i> <i>To initiate the process and generate key inputs toward development of a national Strategy for Scaling up Agroecology in Uganda;</i> <i>To establish a National Agroecology Actors Platform for continuous learning, experience sharing, influencing engagements and multistakeholder co-creation for scaling up agroecology in Uganda; and</i> <i>To disseminate and discuss various agroecology-related research findings.</i> <p>The symposium was attended by about 360 (250 male and 110 female) participants including farmers, private sector, research and academia, government institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international agencies, media and the general public. The key outcomes from the symposium were creation of a deeper, harmonised understanding and appreciation of agroecology by the different stakeholders as a result of dissemination of research findings and farmers' lessons; a clear roadmap for developing the National Strategy on Scaling up Agroecology in Uganda; launching of the National Agroecology Actors Platform (NAAP); and a communiqué on Scaling up Agroecology. Further details are available in the report at: https://www.pelumuganda.org/communique-of-the-1st-national-agroecology-actors-symposium-30th-and-31st-may-2019-kampala-uganda/</p>

	<p>ii) The CP Secretariat took part in the Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW) held on 13–17 May 2019 in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal, at Sahel Vert Agroecology Training Centre in Centre Mampuya. The objectives of the meeting were: to discuss the progress of the Promoting local innovation for Food and Nutrition Security (Proli-FaNS) project; to receive feedback from the Prolinnova Oversight Group; to review the status of regionalising the Prolinnova network in Africa; and to review the Prolinnova network strategic plan 2016–20. The meeting generated various actions, which were documented along with the proceedings in a detailed IPW report. This was circulated among the CP members through the Googlegroup e-list. The detailed IPW report is available at: https://www.prolinnova.net/content/may-2019-ipw-and-proli-fans-partners-meeting-senegal</p>
<p>B) Capacity strengthening (training and other forms of capacity development) & organisational development (building support groups, strengthening leadership, building / improving image or brand)</p>	<p>i) Capacity building for Prolinnova–Uganda CP members</p> <p>The Secretariat and another member of the Prolinnova–Uganda CP (i.e. Kikandwa Environment Association) benefited from an interactive training on <i>‘Lobbying, Policy Analysis and Advocacy’</i> held on 10–11 October 2019. The training targeted at enhancing knowledge and skills for civil society organisations (CSOs) to effectively engage in influencing duty bearers to actualise climate-change resilience actions at national and community levels. The two-day training was organised by Environmental Alert, with funding from DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency) through Care Denmark & Care International in Uganda under the <i>Strengthening resilience and promoting inclusive governance for women and youth in vulnerable communities</i> (STRENPO) project¹.</p> <p>The training was attended by 30 participants drawn from: Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Network members; Uganda Forest Working Group members; Prolinnova members, other like-minded CSO networks whose engagements contribute towards building resilience to climate change. Two staff members at the secretariat and one Prolinnova-Uganda CP member benefited from the knowledge and skills, which they can apply in the future through structured engagement with duty bearers and decision makers for influencing decisions for promoting local innovation in climate-change adaptation at community level.</p> <p>ii) A 2-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on Integrated Soil and Nutrient Management (ISNM) was conducted by Wageningen University in collaboration with the Kawanda Agricultural Research Organization and Environmental Alert within the framework of the <i>Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading (STEP-UP)² Project in Uganda</i>. It equipped 30 participants with additional knowledge and skills in ISNM. The participants comprised banana farmer innovators and representatives, processors, district and sub-county extension staff from STEP-UP project sites of Birere, Rugaaga and Rwimi in Isingiro and Bunyangabo Districts.</p>
<p>C) Fundraising (at local, national, regional and international level) and managing Local Innovation</p>	<p>The following fundraising initiatives were conducted during the reporting period through generation of concept notes/proposals in response to funding calls:</p> <p>i) A consortium concept note (CN) was developed involving: A Growing Culture (AGC), Prolinnova–Uganda c/o Environmental Alert and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). The CN was titled <i>‘Innovation and Climate Adaptation: Women Smallholder Farmers Lead the Way’</i>, with activities/outputs to targeted for implementation in Uganda and Kenya. The proposed project is for two years with a total budget of USD 600,000. AGC as the lead partner is marketing this CN to</p>

¹ Further information about the project is available at: <http://envalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Leaflet-STRENPO.pdf>

² Further information about the project is available at: https://leap.iamb.it/?page_id=313

<p>Support Funds/ Facilities (<i>LISFs & other forms of supporting local innovators</i>)</p>	<p>potential development partners. Its fate is yet to be shared by AGC.</p> <p>ii) A consortium proposal that involved 21 research, academic and civil society organisations in Europe and East Africa (i.e. Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) was prepared as response to the European Union Horizon 2020 call published in 2019. The proposal is titled <i>‘Traditional Ecological & Indigenous Knowledge based Bio-Solutions & Business Models to Diversify Revenues in East African Rural Communities (TEKBioMEs).’</i> Three Prolinnova–Uganda CP members (i.e. Environmental Alert, Makerere University and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARO)–Kawanda) were involved in preparing the proposal and are partners in the research consortium coordinated by <i>Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF; Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research)</i> based in Germany. The proposed 5-year project has a total budget of € 68,970,000. The proposal was submitted and is awaiting decision to inform next steps.</p> <p>On another note, the Prolinnova–Uganda Secretariat pursued strategic engagements that provide the framework for future collaboration, thereby building into fundraising and development of the CP activities. These included the following:</p> <p>i) Review of the Prolinnova International network 5-year strategic plan, 2016–20. The agreed actions in this respect, as derived from the IPW in Senegal, were implemented during the reporting period. The feedback and comments on the strategic plan made by the participants during the IPW were integrated into the draft revised/new strategic plan for the Prolinnova International network for the period 2021–25. The advanced draft is available for final inputs. This was done by a task team that comprised <i>Joshua Zake (coordinator), Naaminong Karbo, Chanthang Tong, Chesha Wettasinha and Ann Waters-Bayer.</i></p> <p>ii) Development of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with strategic partners. MoUs with the following strategic partners were initiated:</p> <p>a) PELUM–Uganda</p> <p>A 5-year MoU was endorsed between Environmental Alert (host for Prolinnova–Uganda Secretariat) and PELUM–Uganda. This MoU provides an overarching framework for collaboration and partnership between Environmental Alert and towards achievement of the shared goals and aspirations in the agriculture; environment and natural resources; and land management subsectors based on their respective institutional mandates. This MoU provides the framework for the two institutions to work jointly in partnership to contribute towards addressing the following common concerns/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Escalating land degradation and soil fertility depletion;</i> • <i>Climate change and variability impacts;</i> • <i>Limited consideration of concerns & issues of smallholder farmers and/or land/natural resource users during policy formulation and implementation at different scales;</i> • <i>Limited investment in innovation and technology development for sustainable utilisation and management of the land, environment and natural resources;</i> • <i>Limited budget and related investments in the land, environment and agricultural sectors;</i> • <i>Inadequate implementation of existing policies and laws in the land, environment and agricultural sectors.</i> <p>b) Makerere University, School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (SFECS)</p> <p>The Prolinnova–Uganda Secretariat held a meeting with the Dean of SFECS at Makerere University, during which an agreement was reached to develop a MoU between SFECS and Environmental Alert, the host for Prolinnova–Uganda, targeted at developing a framework for structured collaboration for advancing farmer innovation in Uganda. A draft MoU in this respect was developed and is under review by both parties.</p>
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<p>D) Governance of Prolinnova–Uganda CP</p>	<p>During the reporting period, the Prolinnova–Uganda CP Secretariat organised a Steering Committee³ meeting on 18 December 2019. The meeting provided opportunity for sharing updates from programme implementation and information sharing & exchange, key challenges and opportunities. For instance, the Steering Committee was informed about the following strategic engagements, which are going on in the sector:</p> <p><i>i) The review of the National Science and Technology Policy for Uganda. This initiative is by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MoSTI)</i></p> <p><i>ii) Uganda Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) for climate change adaptation targeting the Forestry, Agriculture, Water & Energy sectors. This initiative is coordinated by MoSTI and the Uganda National Council of Science & Technology (UNCST), with financial support from the Global Environment Facility and executed by United Nations (UN) Environment, in collaboration with the UN Environment DTU (Technical University of Denmark) Partnership, Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development (UDP). This is a strategic programme on “technology transfer” (in UN language), designed to support countries to carry out TNAs within the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and under the Paris Agreement – to avert the risks and impacts of climate change and to reduce national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. TNAs present an opportunity to track evolving needs for equipment, techniques, innovations, practical knowledge and skills that are necessary to mitigate GHG emissions and/or reduce vulnerability of sectors and livelihoods to the adverse impacts of climate change. The TNA process is country driven, aligned to national development objectives and heavily dependent on engagement with relevant stakeholders. In August 2018, stakeholders identified four priority sectors, namely: Agriculture, Forestry, Water and Energy for the TNA process in Uganda. National experts were since engaged to identify potential technologies for prioritisation in the respective sectors.</i></p> <p><i>iii) The Uganda Organic Agriculture Policy was approved by Cabinet. It is due for official launching by MAAIF and partners on a date still to be communicated.</i></p> <p>The detailed presentation is in the report presented by the Prolinnova–Uganda Secretariat, available at: http://envalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Prolinnova-Uganda-CP-Progress-Updates-18-December-2019.pdf</p> <p>The Steering Committee also approved the application from a new member – Horizont 3000⁴ – to join the Prolinnova–Uganda CP.</p> <p>Some of the agreed actions as guided by the Steering Committee included:</p> <p><i>i) Pursuance of structured collaboration with strategic partners such as: Makerere University; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF); Mukono Agricultural Zonal Research (MUZARDI), UNCST, PELUM–Uganda, MoSTI.</i></p> <p><i>ii) Participation of Prolinnova–Uganda CP members in the ongoing policy reviews e.g. science and technology policy, coordinated by MoSTI.</i></p> <p>On another note, the Prolinnova–Uganda Secretariat engaged the Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) to appoint another focal person to represent UNFFE on the Steering Committee as the current chair. This was based on the fact that the earlier</p>
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³ The Prolinnova–Uganda Steering Committee has nine members; for further details, see: <https://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>

⁴ This is an Austrian NGO working in the area of development cooperation with the mandate of member organisations of the Catholic development sector, with specialty in monitoring and implementation of projects as well as provision of experts in developing countries. Horizont 3000 promotes farmer innovation through the Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) approach. Further information about Horizont 3000 and the ERI approach is available at: <http://www.horizont3000.at/en/> and <http://www.horizont3000.at/en/eastafrica/projects/eri>, respectively.

	focal person, Ms Christine Nakato, is no longer on staff at UNFFE. In this context, Mr Ssentogo Daudi was appointed by UNFFE as their representative on the Prolinnova–Uganda Steering Committee.
E) Membership coordination, servicing and mobilisation	<p>i) The members of the Prolinnova–Uganda CP are informed about what is going on in the network at national and international levels. This was achieved through information sharing and exchange from the Prolinnova International Support Team to the members through the website, social media platforms and the Googlegroup. Besides, the network is also continuously introduced and presented to stakeholders during the various national stakeholder engagements related to agriculture, environment and natural resources, where the CP Secretariat was invited to participate.</p> <p>During these engagements, the network’s lessons and best practices from previous engagements (as described in the published information, education and communication materials) were disseminated among the partners. Hence, this has helped to keep the CP alive even when there are no running projects coordinated through the CP Secretariat.</p>

3. Difficulties/challenges

The following are some of the challenges and difficulties faced by the CP during the reporting period:

- i. *Inadequate funding for the Prolinnova–Uganda CP limits it from implementing undertakings and aspirations as described in the strategic plan of the international Prolinnova network.* This is being addressed through advancing programme development through concepts/proposal writing and also pursuing collaboration with strategic partnerships.
- ii. *Delayed disbursement of funds by MoSTI to support implementation of activities/outputs under leadership of Environmental Alert and the National Agricultural Research Laboratories, Kawanda.* This has subsequently delayed implementation of the planned activities/outputs under the STEP-UP project in Uganda.

4. Self-assessment of network functioning

Overall, the Prolinnova–Uganda CP is functional, as its governance structures – especially the Steering Committee and Secretariat – are still actively pursuing their roles and responsibilities. Thus, a Steering Committee meeting was held in December, during which members were updated about what is going on and the related emerging issues for the network at the country and global level. Through this engagement, the CP Secretariat received strategic guidance on how to address the emerging issues. Furthermore, the CP Secretariat actively pursued regular coordination engagements among the members of the Steering Committee, core team and CP. Besides, the members have their independent programmes/initiatives within which farmer innovation is promoted at different scales. The Secretariat has pursued various opportunities for fundraising as part of programme development through collaboration with various strategic partners at national and international levels. Unfortunately, these have not yet yielded positive results, thus constraining the Ugandan CP in terms of financial resources to facilitate effective implementation of its strategic objectives and aspirations at the national and local levels.

5. Conclusion

During the reporting period, Prolinnova–Uganda remained active and alive through interactions among the CP Steering Committee members and other CP members, partners and stakeholders at the local, national and international levels. Some of the members implemented various activities within their own programmes/projects, which promoted the Prolinnova concepts, principles and approaches. The

CP Secretariat participated in activities led by CP members and thereby facilitated the members' knowledge and understanding of Prolinnova.

Moving forward, the CP and its members will tap into existing opportunities at the national and international levels to advance development of the CP, in ways that fit into the aspirations laid out in the strategic plan of the Prolinnova international network, e.g. promoting and mainstreaming Participatory Innovation Development (PID) in national policies and programmes, while addressing the underlying issues pertaining to innovation in ecologically sound agriculture and natural resource management based on the national and local context in Uganda.

6. For more information, contact:

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