

Semi-annual progress report: October 2021 – March 2022



*Student researcher in Cameroon transforms cassava peels into edible flour through PID process
(Credit: Belma Njatchou, University of Maroua)*

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SCALING UP LOCAL CAPACITY TO INNOVATE FOR FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY (SULCI-FANS) PROJECT

SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT: 1 OCTOBER 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate for Food and Nutrition Security (SULCI-FaNS) is a three-year follow-on project funded by Misereor, Germany. It is being implemented from October 2019 to November 2022 by Prolinnova Country Platforms (CPs) in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana and Kenya in nine action-learning sites to scale up and consolidate the farmer-led research and innovation approach and results achieved in the previous project. The objectives of the SULCI-FaNS project are:

- 1) Innovation capacities of small-scale farmers, particularly women and women's groups, are strengthened to improve food and nutrition security and resilience of local communities
- 2) CP partners involved in the project have become better able to co-design and facilitate participatory innovation development (PID) and promote local innovation processes
- 3) The process of regionalisation of the Prolinnova network is strengthened and completed in Africa.

The following progress report describes activities and outputs achieved by the CPs, Subregional Coordinators (SRCs) and the International Support Team (IST) members in the period from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

2.0 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED AT COUNTRY PLATFORM (CP) LEVEL

2.1 Farmer-led research

Farmer-led research activities implemented in the six-month period were:

- Continuation of farmer-led joint experiments (PID) processes.
- Documenting the PID processes and outcomes for completed cases
- Disseminating local innovations and PID results at community level and among other stakeholders
- Implementing the Local Innovation Support Facility (LISF) to scale up and scale out PID and innovations to increase food and incomes.

Country-specific achievements are described below.

BURKINA FASO

Activities at the three learning sites centred on validating innovations through experimentation and scaling out proven innovations that use organic fertilisers and pesticides in production, local food processing/preservation techniques and organic vegetable production; providing small inputs to innovators through the LISF; and facilitating local fund mobilisation strategies. The progress and achievements are as follows.

- i) Three groups of women innovators in the Kari site who make organic compost for growing vegetables (tomato, eggplant, lettuce, onions) observed mortality in the tomato plants. However, with support of an agricultural advisor, they experimented and determined the optimum dosage of compost that gives higher yields with less mortality of the plants. The results will help the women to use compost more efficiently and frequently instead of chemical fertilisers.
- ii) Another group has continued in scaling up the processing of moringa and baobab leaves and some local fruits into valued-add food products to improve child nutrition. The group, however, faces difficulty in preserving the juice and syrup products over a long period to maintain quality and are seeking specialised training to address the problem. The group has established a cooperative and has been linked with financial institutions and commercial entities that sell bread, cakes/cookies, thereby expanding their businesses and profits margins. The president of the group remarked:

"If SULCI-FaNS was not on our side, many women would still be in ignorance and the severity of poverty would be more in our households and the future of our children"

- iii) Another group involved in promoting poultry and pig value chains for financial autonomy for rural households has experimented and developed two plant-based ethnoveterinary remedies (powder and liquid forms) for treating foot and mouth disease and African swine fever. The women are happy to find a solution to previous animal mortalities experienced and plan to engage with scientists to validate and disseminate these local remedies widely to other farmers.
- iv) The LISF approach is being piloted with a women's group in the Gourcy site to enable members to access research and innovation resources for their own research. Thus, training was offered on LISF principles and operation, a LISF management committee has been established and beneficiaries for the funds have been selected. An amount of 1,000,000 CFA will be disbursed to 12–25 members per group in four communes as a revolving credit to be re-paid over 3–5 months.

CAMEROON

In November 2021, a session for promoting innovation organised at SOCOOPAACAM cooperative headquarters enabled innovators engaged in joint research to show their innovations to other members. As most of the cooperative members are cocoa producers, innovations shown during this session were local extraction of fresh indigenous tobacco leaves to fight against cocoa insect pests and use of palm salt and palm wine solution to fight against tree stem foam in cocoa. An innovation on removal of cyanide in cassava peels to make them suitable for human consumption was also shared at the event.

The CP has a target to facilitate four PID cases. Three have been completed and documented and the last case, initiated in February 2022, is on processing of three local fruits into hot drinks by Ms Anne Bikene. The fruits are *Gnetum africana* (okok), *Irvingia gabonensis* (ndo'o/ndok) and *Ricinodendron heudelotii* (njansang).

In Year 2, the CP piloted the LISF approach to fund goats distributed to members of the cooperative, who are to pay back offspring to continue the distribution chain to more members. Implementation of the LISF for the cooperative continued during this period with another set of beneficiaries. The third and last phase of goat donations is planned for the next quarter, after which the CP will start distributing the paid-back offspring to other cooperative members.

GHANA

PID processes:

In November 2021, two more farmer-led experiments involving formal researchers to validate and further improve local innovations were successfully completed with field days at each site to share the experiences with other farmers and stakeholders. The PID cases were: testing the effectiveness of sheabutter slurry to control termites in maize, by a female innovator, and improving a local feed supplement for small ruminants, by another female innovator. Results showed that sheabutter slurry was very effective in controlling termites and should be scaled out to address this common menace in the area. The results on the livestock feed supplement improvement showed that trial animals gained weight and became healthier than before. Ms Sadia Issifu, the innovator, remarked gratefully:

"Now we have found a solution to our perennial feed shortage in our community and our animals will no longer roam very far and be stolen by thieves"

LISF implementation and outcomes:

In February 2022, a team comprising of staff of ACDEP, the local partner NGOs and members of the local multistakeholder platforms (MSPs) at the action-learning sites made a joint monitoring visit to 33 innovators (21 female, 12 male) who had received LISF support in Year 2. The team assessed the utilisation of the support and documented the experiences and impacts on the innovators. It offered advice and identified further capacity-building needs to help the innovators develop profitable enterprises around the innovations. Overall, the LISF support is having positive impacts on the lives of the beneficiaries and their communities; as a result, three more innovators were given LISF support to train other farmers on their innovations. With the LISF, the innovators were able to produce more products of their innovations and are selling to others, gaining more income. During the visits and interactions, beneficiaries expressed their appreciation for the LISF support as follows:

“From the sales of my innovative masa cakes, I have been able to raise money to support my grandson who gained admission to the university in Wa and I can also feed myself and grandchildren, who all depend on me since their parents died.” (Ms Memunatu Amidu, Tinguri)

“Through the training I conducted on my innovation on preparation and use of organic pesticides, I have gained recognition and respect in the community. Today, people visit my house to consult me on their farm issues and some of them bring me gifts of appreciation for my time and services to them.” (Yakubu Imoro, Boayini)

“I have no fears in investing resources in my feed innovation for my cattle. Since fencing the pen with LISF support, my animals are restrained, allowing me to feed them well and I am also free to go out and attend to other things without fear of my cattle being stolen or attacked by other cattle.” (Hamidu Anamoo, Boko)

KENYA

PID processes:

Local MSP members and technical support teams in both Kisumu and Makueni sites continued to follow up on the completed and ongoing joint experiments. So far, all joint experimentation cases are completed except two more on ethnoveterinary medicines for poultry, which will be subjected to laboratory analyses in the next quarter to establish their active ingredients including anti-coccidial and anthelmintic properties. Experiments will also be conducted to determine the right dosage for effective treatments. The teams also visited other innovators and monitored progress of their innovations and PID up-scaling activities and outcomes. At the Kisumu site, Denis Otieno could not hide his happiness about the benefits of his innovation of raising sweet potatoes in flower vases, as he narrated:

“We’ve had a very prolonged period of drought in this area than before. It has not affected my potatoes, as you can see for yourselves how green and healthy they are. My family can’t go without food as we cook potatoes from my farm and I also get income from the sale. I have learnt a lot from the joint experimentation process.”

Ms Agnes Kamuya, a contact person for Kasikeu Orphans Caregivers group, whose innovation also underwent joint improvement through PID, also narrated her experience:

“Since we became part of Prolinnova, our group has received recognition from the local authority. Thanks to Prolinnova for promoting our work. We never thought we would reach here with our beads (the innovation) since only few people initially took our work seriously. We are now selling our beads in Nairobi, making it a source of livelihoods. Our children no longer lack school fees and basic needs”

In order to properly implement LISFs to obtain results, Prolinnova–Kenya held a Zoom meeting with Prolinnova–Ghana in February 2022 to learn from Ghana’s experience with operating LISFs under the current and previous projects. Consequently, sensitisation meetings were held in Kisumu and Makueni to expose the local MSPs, innovators and other stakeholders to the LISF approach, principles and how it operates. A call for applications from interested innovators was made during the sensitisation meetings, yielding 31 applications (14 and 17 from Kisumu and Makueni, respectively). Ten applications were approved for LISF support in Kisumu within the reporting period. A member of *Gweno maok tho* who benefitted from the LISF, Dorice Jagongo, remarked:

“Our group innovation has enabled each member to own local poultry in our homes. With the support from LISF, we will now construct a group poultry unit which will ensure safety and productivity of every chicken that members will be bringing back to the group.”

The *Gweno maok tho* (loosely translated as “an immortal hen”) group has 13 members (10 female, 3 male). It is a specialised merry-go-round that started with 6 members, all women, who met once a week and contributed 150 Ksh (1.5 USD) per member, of which 1 USD was saved and the rest handed to the member. They decided later to buy six hens, one hen each. They agreed that every member would bring back to the group a hen once per year, whether the initial one died or not (hence the name: an immortal hen). The group now has 13 members with over 100 chickens and a fishpond (constructed and stocked from the proceeds of the innovation). It had requested LISF support to purchase equipment, tools and other inputs to further develop and scale up its innovation.

2.2 Policy dialogue / advocacy and institutionalisation

Policy dialogue activities implemented included:

- Advocacy meetings with stakeholders from research, development, local government, universities
- Farmer innovation fairs for exhibition of innovations
- Participation and sharing in International Partners Workshop (IPW)
- Joint farmer-led PID processes and trainings with researchers and development experts
- Community radio broadcasts on local innovations.

BURKINA FASO

Local radio broadcasts covering nine provinces in three regions have continued to be the CP's main strategy for advocacy and scaling up the PID approach and disseminating local innovations and results, in view of the insecurity situation in the country. The three community radio stations recorded about 7200 listeners during the reporting period. The president of the network of farmer innovators in the Tibga/Diabo Region of Burkina Faso, Salif Kuela, gave the following testimony:

“For the innovators in the East Burkina area, where insecurity is almost permanent, the radio is the main channel to communicate with the community and to exchange knowledge and problems of development and the future of our children in these unstable times. SULCI-FaNS remains our great remaining hope because many projects have left and relocated their actions in the calmer zones in the interior of the country. SULCI-FANS Burkina is like our Mother; we do not finish thanking. Everything has an end and it is not fatality because there are possibilities to always find a solution to any problem. We should be in solidarity with innovators to help the entire population..... With the support of radio, we are listened to as innovators for the development of our villages, congratulating and encouraging the listeners.”

CAMEROON

Cooperation with stakeholders in agricultural research and development (ARD) towards institutionalisation progressed further. The ongoing implementation of PID with the Department of Crop Production of the National Polytechnic School of the University of Maroua is an example. The strategy remains to invite education institutions to learn how PID works by practising through students. Local representatives of the central administrations were also invited and participated in respective meetings held with the association and the cooperative in Mbalamayo and Mefomo.

GHANA

Participation of innovators in district-level annual National Farmers Day event

In December 2021, innovators, farmers, members of local MSPs and project staff in the two local partner NGOs (NABOCADO and CEAL) participated in the Bongo and Walewale Districts annual National Farmers Day events held in each district of Ghana to celebrate and award best farmers. In both districts, 30 farmers (including 20 women) exhibited their innovations to other farmers, the general public and government officials and received awards from the Ministry of Food & Agriculture in the form of certificates and farm and household items. These events have helped to further expose the innovators and their innovations to district-level stakeholders including political personalities and decision makers, who are beginning to recognise and support the contribution and potential of farmer innovation to rural sustainable food security and livelihoods.

Farmer innovation fairs held at learning sites

Two farmer innovation fairs were held at the action-learning sites in March 2022, bringing together innovators of the previous Proli-FaNS (Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security) and the current SULCI-FaNS project and other innovators to exhibit and share their innovations to the public, development partners and decision makers. Innovators working with the Ethnoveterinary project also showcased their products. Key participants were community chiefs and opinion leaders, district political heads of the two districts (Bongo and Walewale), Department of Agriculture (DoA) heads at district and regional level, Prolinnova–Ghana technical support team, members of the local MSPs at the learning sites, staff of the Ghana Enterprise Agency in Bongo, rural banks in the districts, local media and innovators/farmers.

Products/innovations exhibited were on local food, agro-processing and packaging, environmental protection products, ethnoveterinary medicine, feed supplements, organic weedicides and pesticides,

and post-harvest management. The important role of farmer innovations was portrayed and key ARD stakeholders and decision makers pledged renewed support for farmers' initiatives that harness the vast local resources and knowledge for food and income. The media disseminated the events on radio and in print, whilst innovators sold their products and made business contacts. The Chief Executive of the West Mamprusi Municipal stated at the Walewale innovation fair:

"I have learnt a lot from the event. My attention was first drawn to local innovations as possible solutions to our developmental challenges when I was introduced to this project by CEAL at the beginning of the project to participate in a policy-dialogue, information-sharing and sensitisation meeting at the Municipal Assembly. I have since then directed my planning officer to give special attention to some of these innovations in our planning and implementation of the local government Medium Term Development Plan. The assembly has now picked the process of identifying promising local innovations for possible support to farmers and women in the entire Municipality."

Participation in International Partners Workshop and annual SULCI-FaNS partners meeting

Prolinnova–Ghana participated in a virtual biennial Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW) held in October 2021 and shared a short video on Hamidu Anamoo's feed supplement innovation at the marketplace that preceded the actual meeting. The CP also participated in the SULCI-FaNS annual partners meeting held in November 2022 (details under Regional activities).

Prolinnova–Ghana Strategic Plan

The Prolinnova–Ghana strategic plan 2022–2026 development process, which had started in 2021 led by a subcommittee of the National Steering Committee (NSC), was finalised and the plan adopted to guide future programmes relating to farmer innovation and research and sustaining Prolinnova–Ghana.

KENYA

Policy dialogue and Advocacy Committee meetings

In December 2021, the local steering committees of Kisumu and Makueni each convened a day's session to reflect on and assess achievements in institutionalising the PID approach. They then developed work plans for the final year of the project to ensure sustainability.

Institutional visits and meetings with stakeholders

Kisumu site visit: In November 2021, the CP Coordinator and members of the Kisumu local steering committee paid a follow-up visit to the Chief Officer of Kisumu County DoA for collaboration on LI/PID activities. The outcomes are that the DoA is in the process of profiling local innovations for the county's support, and a focal person from the DoA was assigned to Prolinnova–Kenya. The visit also discussed and planned for the field study visit by the Prolinnova–Sudan and South Sudan team to the Kisumu action-learning site. The team also visited Radio Nam Lolwe (a local radio station) and Nation Media Group in Kisumu for partnerships in coverage and dissemination of local innovation practices in the region. Nation Media Group would cover the field visit by Prolinnova–Sudan and South Sudan to Kisumu. Radio Nam Lolwe agreed to host the Prolinnova–Kenya team for a talk show on local innovations and PID, and to create a running message on local innovations and PID with jingles from local innovators.

Makueni site visit: In January 2022, the CP Coordinator together with staff of Inades-Formation Kenya (local partner NGO in Makueni) and representatives of the Makueni local steering committee engaged local governance bodies of Makueni County on a number of issues. It included planning for a Farmer Innovation Fair in Kasikeu, future collaboration and partnership with the county government of Makueni for promoting local innovation processes in the county and integration of PID approach into the Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security Department and the Natural Resources and Environment Department. The CP coordinator also paid a courtesy call to the new Managing Director of Inades-Formation Kenya, Joseph Munywoki, and introduced Prolinnova–Kenya and its approach and achievements so far, and sought for stronger institutional collaboration.

2.3 Documentation, dissemination and shared learning

BURKINA FASO

Documentation activities centred on updating technical information sheets, preparing brochures and recording the innovation processes using the PID guidelines.

CAMEROON

Three PID cases have been fully documented and posted on the Prolinnova website (www.prolinnova.net/fns):

- 1) Elimination of cyanide in cassava peels & characterisation of the flour obtained, by Ms Fidèle Belomo
- 2) Extract of fresh leaves of indigenous tobacco to control insect pests in cocoa, by Emmanuel Ekani
- 3) Using salted palmwine solution to control epiphytic moss on cocoa tree trunks, by the Cooperative Society of Agropastoral Actors of Cameroon (SOCOOPAACAM).

In February 2022, the CP also shared its experience on Zoom with Prolinnova–Ghana on facilitating the LISF with SOCOOPAACAM Cooperative. The CP in Ghana has rich experience with the LISF, and the sharing helped the CP in Cameroon to improve the organisation and monitoring of its LISF activities. An LISF management committee has now been set up.

GHANA

Two short videos on feed supplementation by Hamidu Anamoo and *walsa* food improvement by Lydia Langha, made during the Prolinnova/A Growing Culture media training in June 2021, were shared with the local-site NGOs for use in sharing knowledge at community level.

A social innovation modelled around the Village Savings and Loans Association support mechanism in the Walewale site was documented. Beyond making contributions for self-help initiatives, the women use the opportunity to discuss issues related to women and innovation development. The documented innovations will be further screened for possible PID and LISF support in the April–September 2022 period. The CP has also prepared five brochures on five innovations, shared them with local stakeholders and distributed them to farmers and ARD stakeholders at the local innovation fairs held in March 2022. The brochures have also been posted to the websites: www.prolinnova.net/fns and www.prolinnova.net/content/briefs-local-innovation-pid-ghana

KENYA

The CP has consolidated all the local innovations identified and promoted from Proli-FaNS to date into a single document. The book will be finalised by the next quarter and shared both electronically and in printed hard copies, and also uploaded to the Prolinnova–Kenya webpage.

In November 2021, Makonge Righa (World Neighbors), Ms Martha Opondo (Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization / KALRO), Ms Mawahib Mohamed (Prolinnova–Sudan) and Vincent Mariadho (CP Coordinator) were hosted by Radio Nam Lolwe for a talk show on local innovations and PID to promote institutionalisation of the approach. Responses and call-in by listeners during the radio discussion showed high public interest in the concept and approach.

2.4 Project coordination, management and M&E

BURKINA FASO

A meeting with the technical coordination of PROFEIS–Burkina Faso in December 2021 reviewed the programme for Year 3 and the end of the project, and planned activities to characterise and document the results of PID processes and LISF experiences.

The Prolinnova SRC in West and Central Africa (WCA), Abdel-Karim Ali, visited Burkina Faso in February 2022. He had a series of meetings with all the key stakeholders and institutional partners of the CP and visited the two SULCI-FaNS sites of Gomponsom and Gourcy in the village of Niésséga. The innovators made presentations on their experiments in progress, including the composting technique using effective micro-organisms as activator.

CAMEROON

The CP project team supervised the overall work of SULCI-FaNS’ administrative and financial follow-up, reporting and planning of upcoming activities including PID implementation with Maroua University and engagement with CP partners. The CP Coordinator also maintained communication with the NSC members and held two meetings of the local MSPs. The CP project team also selected a local facilitator for the SULCI-FaNS final evaluation.

GHANA

In November 2021, the CP held a joint 2-day meeting involving the two local implementing NGOs, local MSP members and the CP technical support team and reviewed achievements and planned for the final project year. Participants agreed on critical activities to undertake to consolidate the success chalked up so far and to fill identified gaps in implementation and monitoring. In December 2021, the NSC held a meeting and reviewed project progress and achievements for both the SULCI-FaNS and Ethnoveterinary projects. They also advised on Year 3 work plans, as well as on policy dialogue and networking strategies. The draft CP strategic plan was finalised and adopted. The local implementing NGOs have also continued to hold review and learning meetings with stakeholders at the action-learning sites, with backstopping and monitoring support by the project team in ACDEP.

KENYA

Local Steering Committee meetings were held in Kisumu and Makueni in November and December 2021, respectively, to evaluate Year 2 (Oct 2020–Sept 2021) and to discuss plans for PID activities for Year 3. The NSC met in November 2021 and hosted participants from Prolinnova–Sudan and South Sudan on a learning & exchange visit. The NSC met again in February 2022 to get the general updates and reports on SULCI-FaNS project implementation and officially welcomed a new member: Joseph Munywoki, new Managing Director of Inades-Formation Kenya. The NSC also discussed general governance issues and ways of strengthening its membership to enhance institutionalisation of the PID approach within mainstream county and national ARD programmes and policies.

Two members of the CP technical support team, Ms Martha Opondo, KALRO Kibos, and Benard Masila, KALRO Katumani, conducted interviews and engaged with local key informants and government officers and selected members of the community to assess the impacts of SULCI-FaNS on household food and nutrition security.

Summary conclusion on achievements and lessons related to Objectives 1 and 2

Significant successes have been chalked up so far on the activities implemented, and some visible outcomes are beginning to show at the household level for many innovators, as they are able to transform their innovations to increase food security and into products that they sell in their communities for income and recognition from other farmers and stakeholders.

Project targets and indicators under Objective 1 are almost achieved. These are the numbers of innovations and PID cases, level of women's involvement and number of people reached on dissemination of innovations. Appreciable capacities have been built in farmers, women and other local research and development stakeholders to be able to adopt or support the project concept and approach, although mainstreaming within relevant institutions is slow and challenging. More women are innovating and experimenting independently to improve household food supply and quality and incomes, as a result of the project's work. The remaining project period will focus on scaling up the innovations and results to achieve spread and impact. The period will also focus on completing outstanding activities and finalising all documentation being developed to capture and share project successes and lessons.

3.0 ACTIVITIES & RESULTS ACHIEVED AT SUBREGIONAL & REGIONAL LEVEL

2021 Prolinnova International Partners Workshop (IPW) in October 2021

The IPW, held virtually on 4–6 October 2021, provided opportunity for representatives from the different CPs to come together and share achievements and experiences on LI/PID activities. It also assessed progress in regionalisation and institutionalisation and made new plans for joint actions to sustain CP-level policy dialogue, networking and regionalisation of the network in Africa. The meeting was preceded by a virtual marketplace on 1 October 2021, where farmer innovations were shared in the form of videos and PowerPoint presentations.

Annual SULCI-FaNS partners meeting in November 2021

The SULCI-FaNS project partners' annual meeting was held virtually on 16–18 November 2021. It was used to share experiences and achievements among the CPs on LI/PID processes, institutionalisation of PID into mainstream research and extension, and facilitating LISFs. It also

strategised to strengthen project documentation and capacity building of the CPs in identified areas. It reviewed financial project performance and discussed project activities for Year 3. Sabine Dorlöchter-Sulser from Misereor joined the meeting and provided the donor perspective on project performance and areas to focus on in Year 3.

Summary achievements of Subregional Coordinators (SRCs)

Activities	Achievements: SRC for WCA	Achievements: SRC for ESA
Documentation, dissemination & advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Took part in virtual EPA (Evidences–Policies–Actions) Forum organised by ACED¹ in Benin and shared PID approach and how it can generate evidence in agriculture through joint research led by farmers. – Collaborated with CP Coordinator in Cameroon in preparing paper on FIPAC (Farmer Innovation Fair in Cameroon) published in <i>Appropriate Technology</i> magazine; article also available on Prolinnova website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contributed to preparation and facilitation of virtual Prolinnova IPW 2021 and marketplace – Facilitated setting-up of Prolinnova webpage on EcoTube website of Access Agriculture – Co-facilitated Nuffic Orange Knowledge Programme TMT+ Study visit by stakeholders from Sudan and South Sudan to Kenya in Nov 2021
Capacity building of CPs governance & M&E systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Worked with project contact persons in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Cameroon and identified their capacity-building and documentation needs for follow-up support by IST and other experts – Followed up with CP in Cameroon on signing of subregional charter and strengthening partnerships and networking with relevant institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Worked with Mozambique team to translate important documents including revised Prolinnova Guidelines 8: “<i>Minimum commitments to sustain the network</i>” – Reviewed Kenya’s communication strategy and other relevant documents – Sought ways to revive CP in Ethiopia, including identifying & contacting potential members
Resource mobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shared funding opportunity with CPs on French Innovation Fund for Development affiliated to the French Agency for Development (AFD): 3 CPs submitted proposals – Strategy for resource mobilisation for CPs started 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supported CP in Kenya to prepare and submit full proposal to the UNDP-AFCIA Adaptation Fund – Shared fundraising opportunities with CPs from <i>Fund for Innovation in Development (FID)</i> and <i>Global Innovation Fund</i> – Helped draft SULCI-FaNS follow-on project proposal to submit to Misereor
South–South backstopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Backstopping visit to Burkina Faso in Feb 2022, with field visits to innovators and meeting Diobass staff (implementing SULCI-FaNS in Burkina) & learning-site MSPs; met with NSC on fundraising, institutionalising PID, policy dialogue & advocacy – Facilitated CP in Ghana to share its experience on LISF implementation with Burkina Faso 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Undertook 4-day backstopping visit to Mozambique in March 2022; met with CP host NGO, made field visit to innovators and advised on improving CP governance
Regionalisation of network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Collaborated with IST members in organising virtual Prolinnova IPW in October 2021 – Tried to revive subregional taskforce & develop subregional policy-dialogue & advocacy strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supported participation of CPs in Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Sudan in IPW and SULCI-FaNS annual partners’ meeting
Challenges & lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CP in Cameroon is reluctant to sign subregional charter due to internal issues; charter will facilitate installation of bodies and structures of subregional platform – Subregional taskforce hardly functions although attempts were made to revive it – Cross-learning between CPs is encouraging and needs to be sustained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CPs in Ethiopia and Tanzania have remained inactive while those in Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Mozambique and South Africa are functional – Mobilising resources to fund CP activities remains a challenge

¹ ACED: Centre d’Actions pour l’Environnement et le Développement durable

Achievements of other IST members (Ann Waters-Bayer, Annie Secretario, Brigid Letty, Chesha Wettasinha and Fanos Mekonnen)

1. Support to SULCI-FaNS project implementation

- Had regular Zoom meetings and email exchanges with project coordinator on matters related to implementation and management of the project
- Supported preparation of SULCI-FaNS annual partners meeting (planning of overall programme and specific sessions, content inputs on presentations etc)
- Participated in SULCI-FaNS annual partners meeting, including facilitation and documentation of sessions, support to compilation and editing of workshop report
- Supported planning of end-of-project evaluation, drawing up terms of reference (ToRs) for the evaluation, circulating ToRs to potential candidates, assessing proposals received and taking part in Zoom meeting to decide on best option and next steps
- Provided inputs to CP coordinators (Cameroon, Kenya) in improving their documentation (a paper and an article)

2. Support to SRCs

- Held monthly e-meetings with SRCs to deal with various issues in the African Prolinnova network in general and the SULCI-FaNS project in particular
- Provided on-going e-mail support on queries from SRCs
- Supported SRCs in preparing for their backstopping visits to Burkina Faso and Mozambique

3. Participation in virtual IPW 2021 and follow-up

- Provided comments on presentations prepared by SRCs, CPs and Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) ahead of workshop
- Assisted in preparing virtual marketplace for CP exchange prior to IPW
- Participated in workshop and provided inputs in plenary discussions
- Assisted in facilitating/ documenting sessions
- Supported SRCs in organising Open-Space session in virtual mode
- Compiled and circulated workshop report
- Followed up on actions from the IPW

4. Fundraising for and implementing other projects involving CPs in Africa

- Continued to revise concept note to i4Ag Fund of GIZ based on further discussions with POG, IST and CP members
- Supported CP coordinator in Kenya in drafting and submitting proposal to UNDP
- Provided comments to SRC-WCA in integrating PID approach into proposal being prepared together with United Purpose in Senegal
- OKP/Nuffic-funded LI/PID training programme for Horn of Africa: arranged field visit for participants from Prolinnova–Sudan and from South Sudan to Prolinnova–Kenya
- OKP/Nuffic-funded LI/PID training for Benin: provided support in organising several sessions where trainees could share the experiences gained through the PID pilots with others in their own institutions as well as in the Prolinnova–Benin network; co-facilitated final closing/ reflection workshop during which participants brainstormed on ways to continue collaborating through Prolinnova–Benin

5. Support to Prolinnova Oversight Group (POG) / Friends of Prolinnova

- Prepared documents for and participated in POG meetings on 23 September and 25 November 2021 and 24 February 2022
- Prepared and circulated minutes of the meetings; followed up on action points
- Supported POG members in preparing their inputs/ presentations for IPW
- Proposed 2 new Friends of Prolinnova who were accepted by POG; occasional contacts with Friends of Prolinnova

6. Interactions with external parties interested in Prolinnova

- Followed up with editor of *Appropriate Technology* on articles from Kenya and Senegal on experiences related to local innovation and PID

- Engaged in discussions with GFAR (Global Forum on Agricultural Research & Innovation) on their invitation to Prolinnova for re-building collaboration and finding areas of convergence, assessed the different options for collaboration and provided feedback to GFAR on possible inputs of Prolinnova

7. Maintenance of Prolinnova website/Facebook page and e-list

- Uploaded documents on website and kept it updated (e.g. news, donors)
- Set up “search” function on website
- Explored options to migrate website from Drupal to Wordpress
- Edited and uploaded CPs’ annual reports, IPW report and SULCI-FaNS partners workshop report on website
- Posted information on activities that took place in network on website and Facebook and through Prolinnova GoogleGroup
- Identified and circulated relevant information on promoting local innovation

Plans for April–November 2022

1. Complete and document PID / farmer-led experimentation cases
2. Support scaling up (expansion) and dissemination of documented innovations and PID results through training and increased LISF support
3. Finalise documentation (brochures, short videos, leaflets, success stories etc) on successful innovations, PID processes and LISF experiences
4. Continue policy-dialogue engagements with relevant local and national stakeholders for institutionalisation of PID approach
5. Continue network regionalisation process, capacity building, networking of CPs, and fundraising efforts by SRCs and other members of the IST
6. Facilitate end-of-project evaluation
7. Hold physical final project sharing workshop
8. Compile and submit final project reports to Misereor and share with project partners

Acronyms

ARD	agricultural research and development
CP	Country Platform
DoA	Department of Agriculture
ESA	Eastern & Southern Africa
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research & Innovation
IPW	International Partners Workshops
IST	International Support Team
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
LISF	Local Innovation Support Facility
MSP	multistakeholder platform
NSC	National Steering Committee
PID	participatory innovation development
POG	Prolinnova Oversight Group
Proli-FaNS	Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security
Prolinnova	Promoting local innovation in agroecology and natural resource management
SRC	Subregional Coordinator
SULCI-FaNS	Scaling Up Local Capacity to Innovate in Food and Nutrition Security
ToRs	Terms of Reference
WCA	West & Central Africa