

PROLINNOVA Guidelines 5:

Code of Practice for Participatory Innovation Development (PID)

The practice of Participatory Innovation Development (PID) under the umbrella of the PROLINNOVA network is inspired by the following vision, mission and goal:

Vision: *A world in which women and men farmers play decisive roles in agricultural and natural resource management (NRM) innovation processes for sustainable livelihoods*

Mission: *To stimulate a culture of mutual learning and synergy among diverse stakeholder groups to actively support and promote local innovation processes in agriculture and NRM*

Goal: *To contribute to equitable and inclusive development of resilient and sustainable farming communities making environmentally sound use of available resources*

The network seeks to empower small-scale farmers and their organisations, with particular attention to empowerment of women and youth; to facilitate multistakeholder collaboration and shared learning in ARD; to promote ecologically oriented development of small-scale family farming and community-based natural resource management (NRM); to ensure network ownership by the members and good governance; and to encourage open innovation (“copyleft” – see PROLINNOVA Guidelines 3).

PID refers to farmer-led processes of experimentation and investigation together with other actors in innovation processes, e.g. formal scientists in research centres or universities, specialists from any organisation (agricultural advisory service, NGO, farmer organisation, private-sector organisations etc) who are willing to provide technical support along the path of further developing the local innovations. PID refers to collaboration in all kinds of innovation (technical, social, institutional, agribusiness etc).

The practice of PID embraces the following values and strategies:

Values

- ◆ Respect knowledge and expertise of all partners and apply appropriately as the situation demands
- ◆ Provide all partners an equal opportunity to participate in making decisions about topics and methods of PID, including decisions about giving credit for achievements and disseminating findings
- ◆ Promote beneficial effects of PID on the livelihoods of women and men farmers
- ◆ To the extent possible, avoid or minimise any negative impacts of PID on agriculture, natural resources and farming communities.

Strategies

- ◆ Start by discovering what local people are doing and exploring to solve local problems or pursue new opportunities, local innovation and initiatives
- ◆ Orient research toward development action that will enhance the wellbeing of the local people
- ◆ Engage in PID in such a way that local innovative capacities are recognised and enhanced
- ◆ Engage farmers, other community members and other partners in discussion to confirm results and findings of PID before sharing these more widely
- ◆ Promote institutional change at community and higher levels to sustain the PID process, including structures for decision-making that are socially equitable
- ◆ Disseminate findings by publishing and sharing through appropriate media and language, taking into account PROLINNOVA Guidelines 3.