



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

**Mid-year progress report**

**2006**

Leusden, August 2006

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### ANNEXES

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

APAARI	Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutes
ACDEP	Association of Church Development Projects
ARD	Agriculture Research and Development
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture
CIHEAM	Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Mediterraneennes
CIS-VU	Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam
CRESA	Regional Centre for Specialised education in Agriculture
CP	Country Programme
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DG	Director General
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)
DURAS	Promotion du Développement Durable dans les Systèmes de Recherche Agricole
ECASARD	Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
IAAS	Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIRR	International Institute for Rural Reconstruction
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
INRAN	Niger National Institute for Agronomic Research
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
ISCO	International Soil Conservation Organisation
ISF	Innovation Support Fund
IST	International Support Team
ISWC	Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation
LBL	Landwirtschaftliche Beratungszentrale (Agricultural Extension Centre) Lindau
LEISA	Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGLWG	Northern Ghana multi-stakeholder LEISA Working Group
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSC	National Steering Committee
NOVIB	Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PFI	Promoting Farmer Innovation
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
PROFIEET	Promoting Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in Ethiopia
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
RAE	Red de Agricultura Ecológica – Peruvian Ecological Agriculture Network
RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
SCI-SLM	Stimulating Community Initiatives in Sustainable Land Management
SPC	Secretariat of Pacific Community
ToF	Training of Facilitators
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the progress made within PROLINNOVA in the first half of 2006. Its main purpose is to document and share information on progress made among all partners in the network. Although not strictly a requirement of any of the donors, it also serves to update the donors on programme development.

2006 is a year of outstanding challenges to PROLINNOVA both at international and national levels. DGIS (Directorate General for International Cooperation) thematic co-financing funding is coming to an end in December 2006, instead of December 2007 as previously expected<sup>1</sup>. All partners are therefore trying to implement most of their two years plan in one, while at the same time going through a process of strategic thinking on PROLINNOVA's next four years. This report shows how partners manage to do this.

The present report is divided in four chapters. Chapter II presents an overview of the activities implemented by the now nine country programmes involved in PROLINNOVA. Chapter III highlights the activities undertaken at international level. Finally, Chapter IV draws some general conclusions.

In 2006, the sub-programme for piloting new funding mechanisms to support local innovation know as FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources) develops its full set of activities with (co-)funding support from the French Government through the DURAS programme (Promotion du Développement Durable dans les Systèmes de Recherche Agricole du Sud). Though technically a separate project it is part and parcel of the PROLINNOVA programme and the activities implemented are included in this report where appropriate (country level and the international level). Separate FAIR progress reports are made for DURAS and are available on request.

## **II. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES**

This chapter provides an overview of the activities realised by the nine PROLINNOVA core country programmes in the first half of 2006. Some information is added on the developments in the Andean region where a new regional programme is being build, mostly with local funding.

As can be seen from the reports below, the list of activities implemented by the countries is not homogenous: it reflects the different workplans as developed by each of the country programmes. Country programmes share principles and ideals, and some of the main activities carried out throughout the PROLINNOVA umbrella are indeed very similar in nature. Nevertheless, the specific way they organise themselves and design their workplans change considerably when comparing the sites, ensuring flexibility needed to meet local demands and interests.

### **a. Cambodia**

Cambodia's farmer-led experimentation activities continued in this first half of the year, involving the different partners in the country. The NSC approved 15 proposals for experimentation, focusing on Ecological System of Rice Intensification, Ecological Chicken Raising and Ecological Pig Raising. The proposals include a capacity-building component on farmer-led experimentation. In addition, a farmer-trainer exchange workshop on PID was organised with a total of 64 participants (17 of them women), coming from seven provinces.

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<sup>1</sup> This early end was purposefully chosen by the network as it would allow it to compete in another DGIS call for further 4 years funding.

The CP organised three study visits for undergraduates interested in developing a career in agriculture and rural development. The young professionals had a chance to meet with and learn from farmers and farmers associations on their experimentation, dissemination and innovation processes. In another activity also related to institutionalisation of PID in academic institutions, one field-study trip was organised for 50 students of the Kampong Cham National School of Agriculture, and another one involved 41 students from the Prek Peak National School of Agriculture.

Together with the International University, two field exercises were organised through which 15 students had the opportunity to build their capacity in participatory rural development practices (listening to farmers, taking their needs, interest and knowledge into consideration).

As in previous years, CEDAC has produced and disseminated a farmer magazine, in which farmer experiences are documented.

Cambodia is one of the countries involved in the FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources) sub-programme, co-financed by DURAS. As part of this, a feasibility study was commissioned and initial discussions with partners took place.

#### **b. Ethiopia**

PROFIEET (Promotion of Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in Ethiopia), the platform which implements PROLINNOVA activities in Ethiopia, focused, in the first half of 2006 on organising training and planning workshops in two regions. The first workshop, carried out in January 2006 in Dire Dawa, focused on pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. A total of 21 people, of which pastoralists, extensionists, researchers and local development NGO's staff attended. Innovations were presented at the workshop, of which three have been chosen for further experimentation.

PROFIEET organised a second workshop in May 2006 in Tigray. Thirty two participants attended, including farmers, researchers, extensionists and NGOs. The objective of the workshop was to design a strategic plan for the Ethiopian highland forum. In addition, it served as a platform for launching of the PID process re. four farmer innovations previously selected.

Farmer innovation-related activities in two regions (coffee growing and Ethiopian highlands) were filmed, and a first draft documentary is presently under preparation.

In the context of PROFIEET efforts towards institutionalisation, the country coordinator has briefed the new director general (DG) of the Ethiopian Science and Technology Agency on the principles of the programme. The DG has expressed his interest in cooperation. In addition, PROFIEET members met with the State Minister of Agriculture, who has expressed his intention to collaborate with the programme.

Ethiopia became, in 2006, part of the FAIR sub-programme (replacing Sudan). A feasibility study was commissioned and will be finalised shortly. Two sites (Axum and Amaro) were selected as project site areas.

#### **c. Ghana**

At the end of the year, the PROLINNOVA Ghana National Steering Committee decided to sub-divide the CP into two sub-programmes, one in the South and one in the North, with oversight by one NSC. The Southern zone is coordinated by ECASARD (Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development); the Northern zone is led by ACDEP (Association of Church Development Projects), in close coordination with the Northern Ghana multi-stakeholder LEISA Working Group (NGLWG).

in the Southern Zone, two postponed activities from 2005 activities were finalised, i.e. the publication of a catalogue of innovations and brochure. New activities for 2006 have not yet been started awaiting the clearing of a number of management matters.

In the Northern zone work has progressed smoothly. In March, partners carried out a one-day planning and design workshop which led to the definition of a one-year plan for the development of PROLINNOVA in the zone. In May another planning workshop was organised, this time involving also university and governmental research partners.

PID work has started with two main subjects: the mineral lick ("siella") for livestock and Fonio (*Digitaria exilis*) related agronomic practices. The former has involved collaboration with research and extensionists on identification and documentation of local farmer experimentation, training on participatory video as a documentation and dissemination tool and the actual making of one (video) documentary, presently being edited.

The research on Fonio has included initial research on local knowledge on the plant, community-level planning and experimentation design workshops, and final nomination of 10 farmers to engage in experimentation.

#### **d. Nepal**

Nepal faced a political and social turmoil in the first half of the year. The situation deteriorated to the point that most non-governmental organisations had to close their offices for almost a whole month. Field work in this period was impossible to be undertaken. Because of this, the Nepal CP suffered a delay in implementation of its 2006 workplan.

In this shortened first half of the year, all the partner organisations proceeded with internal awareness raising and training of their staff and field partners (including local NGOs, CBOs and extensionists). The CP has focused on broadening its initial inventory of local innovations, and has documented other 107 innovations. This has been done in three different ways by the different partners: through local NGOs staff members, through local community members and with the support of an MSc student. Several innovations have been selected for further experimentation.

IAAS (Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences) has included PID as part of on-going university courses (Ethnobotany, Conservation Ecology). The IAAS member in the PROLINNOVA core group has drafted both MSc and BSc course outlines on PID/Local innovation. He is presently undertaking internal consultations to try and incorporate these courses into the academic curriculum.

Nepal is part of the PROLINNOVA efforts in experimenting with Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF/FAIR), although it does not receive direct support from DURAS. Nepal's own LISF started two years ago (initially outside PROLINNOVA). It is now being incorporated into the PROLINNOVA Nepal workplan, so that all PID can be financed (and selected) through this Fund.

#### **e. Niger**

The Niger country programme has specific dynamics as activities were foreseen to be funded fully by a new IFAD supported project that builds on previous IFAD projects (PPILDA) with strong PROLINNOVA characteristics. When the start of the new project was delayed, funds were made available through ETC in 2005 to co-fund a 2 day workshop to review experiences with PID in the country and discuss the feasibility and way forward for a PROLINNOVA Niger initiative. In 2006, funds were again made available through ETC for the implementation of a fully-fledged inception phase in the country.

The main activity of the country programme in this first half of the year was the preparation and implementation of a PID training, in June, which counted on 16 participants, from NGOs, IFAD project, ICRAF, IPGRI and CRESA (University).

In July, a first meeting of the National Steering Committee took place. Members are PPILDA (Chair), CRESA's Faculty of Agronomy, INRAN (Niger National Institute for Agronomic Research) and local NGOs.

#### **f. South Africa**

PROLINNOVA-South Africa organised a PID follow-up training workshop in March 2006. It counted on 35 participants (from NGOs, Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Council and farmers). As done in previous years, participants were requested to document local innovations, as part of the training. Some 32 local innovations were documented in this way, and partnerships were formed to continue experimenting on five innovations. Farmer participants raised issues around identifying and documenting innovations and the support they require from extension services for developing them further.

A one-day basic photography training workshop for farmers was held on their request to build farmer capacity in documenting innovative work, involving six farmers from two provinces.

The programme partnership with the Agriculture Research Council was further strengthened. The country coordinator attended two meetings of the National Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) task team of the institution, while also providing inputs and participating at two provincial level ARD awareness-raising workshops. In the second half of the year a PID training with the task team will be organised, and a joint database on local innovations, developed.

Research has commenced with assistance from PROLINNOVA-South Africa on the use of ethno-veterinary medicines and practices by pastoralists in the Mutale area of the Limpopo province. Further research is also being continued on communal grazing at the Northern Drakensberg.

South Africa coordinates the FAIR sub-programme. A feasibility study was completed and discussed in an internal workshop. Two of a total of three "farmer learning groups" have been already established in the FAIR pilot site.

#### **g. Sudan**

The Sudan PROLINNOVA programme has undergone some important staff changes in 2005. As a result of this, the programme only re-started to function in April 2006, when a new MoU was signed with ETC.

Since then the programme has been introduced to stakeholders in the central and northern Sudan, through the organisation of two workshops in these regions. In central Sudan (Sinja), 50 participants (amongst them 13 women) attended the one day introductory workshop, inaugurated by the State Minister of Agriculture. Participants represented different departments of the State Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Irrigation, local farmer unions, pastoralist union and Sinnar University.

In northern Sudan (Dongola), 57 people attended the workshop (20 of them women). Also inaugurated by the State Minister of Agriculture, the workshop counted on representatives of the State Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Wealth and Irrigation, Dongola Agricultural Research Station, Dongola University, farmers and pastoralist unions.

Further documentation of local innovations continued in western and northern Sudan.

Sudan was initially involved in the FAIR sub-programme, but opted to concentrate on strengthening the main PROLINNOVA programme rather than starting up on this sub-programme. Sudan was therefore replaced by Ethiopia in FAIR.

#### **h. Tanzania**

PROLINNOVA-Tanzania, active only since 2005, is coordinated by the secretariat of PELUM-Tanzania. In this reporting period, the coordinating agency managed to ensure active support of more of its NGO members, broadening its constituency base. It has done so by means of informing about PROLINNOVA and introducing its principles and concepts in other PELUM activities, such as the national farmer exhibit. A total of 13 organisations are presently involved in the implementation of the programme.

The CP carried out a follow-up study in two regions of the country: Mbeya and Dodoma with farmers already identified during implementation of PROLINNOVA-predecessor programmes, PFI (Promoting Farmer Innovation) and ISWC (Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation). It was observed that the majority of farmer innovators discontinued formal experimentation. Farmers who innovate making use of local inputs only had a better chance of continuing to experiment, because they did not require external investment.

PROLINNOVA-Tanzania has a specific interest in policy dialogue and organised a one-week workshop on policy analysis, campaign, advocacy and lobbying, in April 2006. A total of 28 participants attended, and jointly discussed on how to influence decision-makers to review governmental policies related to agriculture, environment and natural resources management.

#### **i. Uganda**

The work of identifying and documenting local innovation in the field has continued in 2006, including documentation of urban agriculture innovative practices. PROLINNOVA-Uganda continues to work on joint experimentation, involving a total of 10 selected innovations. One of them was completed, whereas nine are still on-going. To support this work, the CP organised a workshop for farmer facilitators on experimental design, attended by 23 people.

PROLINNOVA Uganda supported farmer exchange visits in the western and south western part of the country, with the participation of 30 farmers. Representatives of the programme also participated at a farmer field school and water management workshop, where they had the chance to disseminate the work done and discuss "local innovation". PROLINNOVA's activities in the country (including farmer exchange visits and workshops) have been documented in video.

Two students from the Vrije University of Amsterdam are presently attached to the programme and are carrying out research on environmental management and social dynamics of innovative communities. Another student is presently doing research on urban agriculture related innovation.

The CP continued to dialogue with policy makers on institutionalisation of participatory approaches in the government (e.g. National Agricultural Advisory Services) and academia. As part of this effort, a presentation was made at Makerere University Kampala, Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation. The policy advocacy work will be continued and strengthened in the second half of the year.

Uganda is also part of FAIR. A feasibility study on the institutional set up and functioning of a Local Innovation Support Fund, to be implemented within FAIR, was completed.



#### **j. Andes**

The initiative for a PROLINNOVA-Andes was taken by the NGOs World Neighbors, IIRR-Latin American and Agrecol, as early as in 2004. In May 2006 the initiators organised (and co-funded) a first inception workshop for the establishment of "PROLINNOVA-Andes", in Lima. RAE (Red de Agricultura Ecológica – Peruvian Ecological Agriculture Network) provided logistical support and the PROLINNOVA IST assisted in its facilitation

During the workshop, 16 participants from Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, approximately one third of them farmers, discussed the principles and initial focus of a PROLINNOVA-Andes. They concluded that the vision and approach fit extremely well to the concerns and interests of the farmers and other stakeholders in the Andean region. Partners committed themselves for joint-fund raising for starting up a programme in the region.

Follow-up activities include the organisation of a farmer innovation fair in Peru, exchange visits between the different countries and country partners and support on writing a full fledged proposal for the region.

### **III. ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

The activities at the international level are undertaken mostly by what is called the International Support Team (IST), consisting of staff of IIRR (Philippines), CIS-VU and ETC Ecoculture in the Netherlands, and LBL (Switzerland), though the latter's involvement has been limited to the start-up phase. Staff of country programmes is involved in international policy dialogues and meetings. Activities at this level are summarised below following the logic of the PROLINNOVA proposal to DGIS-TMF.

#### **a. Support to country programmes**

While the 9 core programme countries are the main focus of this set of activities, increasing attention is given to helping other countries, on their request, to organise themselves for PROLINNOVA type of activities. The support given to Andean partners to organise first planning activities is an example of this and as been reported under country programmes because of its advanced nature. Initial interaction with partners in Mozambique and in the Pacific (as a region) are reported briefly below.

#### **Country backstopping**

To facilitate backstopping by the IST of the work done in the countries, each member of the IST is assigned one or two countries for priority attention in backstopping. This enables building of effective relationships with the respective countries. A large part of the country backstopping has continued to take place through electronic means or telephone consultations (increasingly using web-based phone systems such as Skype), providing information, commenting on papers and proposals, advising re workshop preparation and methodology, and assisting in preparing publications.

Two backstopping missions were undertaken to *Uganda* in January/February and April by a staff member of CIS-VU, the second of which was linked to (and paid by) related activities of CIS-VU in the country. CIS-VU supported a/o in-country PID training and documentation of Uganda experiences, such as through a paper to the 2006 conference of the International Soil Conservation Organisation, ISCO

PROFIEET, PROLINNOVA in *Ethiopia*, received backstopping support in country twice in the reporting period, in February and June 2006, but both tagged onto other assignments by the IST member. Most important activities/issues included attendance of the PROFIEET Steering Committee meeting, monitoring and evaluation/self-assessment, advice in preparation of

proposals for local funding raising, the feasibility study as part of the Local Innovation Support Fund activity, and networking with relevant organisations including RNE.

In March, *Niger* received in country backstopping from ETC. A/o support was given to local trainers in designing an in-country PID training of trainers. This relatively new country has been selected for a second backstopping mission later this year, making use of DGIS resources for 2007 which became available for 2006.

Also in March, *Cambodia* received backstopping from IIRR around the international PROLINNOVA workshop held in the country at that time. A focused backstopping mission is foreseen during the second part of the year.

*South Africa* backstopping mission took place in March/April 2006. The PID follow-up workshop and farmer photography course in Limpopo Province were supported and the backstopper attended the Core Group meeting and discussed M&E, governance (NSC, link with SCI-SLM), policy dialogue, and institutionalisation in ARC.

ETC Ecoculture visited PROLINNOVA *Ghana* in June. The programme in the South was reviewed and a number of steps were agreed upon to address the concerns programme on progress by both POG and IST. The new Northern sub-programme was also visited to further clarify programme and collaboration mechanisms.

Further country back-stopping visits are planned to *Cambodia, Tanzania, Niger, Sudan and Nepal* in the second part of 2006.

In the reporting period, contacts with the *Pacific region* have established, through the SPC and the Farmer First Network in Melanesia. Representatives of both organisations participated on their initiative in the international workshop in Cambodia and a number of joint activities have been agreed upon, including the participation of a Pacific representative in the 2<sup>nd</sup> PID ToF in Uganda this year. An IST member from CIS-VU, undertook a one-week training in farmer innovation methodology in Papua New Guinea, as part of a separate contract with CTA.

Finally, consultations with organisations in Mozambique have led to an initial agreement to support (involving co-funding and IST attendance) a PID/ PROLINNOVA awareness workshop later this year.

### **Fund raising**

The IST staff actively supports the raising of (local) funds in the respective countries, a/o during above missions. No major results were obtained during the reporting period. In addition, the IST is raising funds at the international level to support a number of countries and/or international activities. Annex 1 gives an overview of most recent wider fund raising initiatives and the countries involved as detailed below.

**DGIS-MFS:** PROLINNOVA has been included in the proposal by ETC to the new DGIS-MFS window. The preparation of the relevant documents required major attention from the PROLINNOVA team at ETC as well as the POG and programme partners elsewhere. The design of the PROLINNOVA component was done in a participatory manner, electronically through the annual E-conference in January 2006, and through face-to-face-discussions during the partner workshop in Cambodia. While PROLINNOVA is fortunate to receive support from a wider range of donors, it is also evident that the DGIS funding (in its programme support mode) plays a critical role in providing the foundation on which other components can be build.

**UNEP/GEF** has shown serious interest in co-funding the Local Innovation Support Fund sub-programme to complement the resources made available by the French Government through its DURAS programme. A medium-size 4-year proposal has been prepared for GEF under the leadership of PROLINNOVA South Africa which received first positive feedback. Two countries, however, are facing difficulties in obtaining the formal support letters from GEF focal points. In addition, there is a general uncertainty over the replenishment of GEF funds.

**Misereor, CTA and GFAR** co-funded the annual international PROLINNOVA workshop in Cambodia for a total of approximately EURO 30,000.

In this reporting period, **Misereor** also agreed to co-fund PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel), a new programme to stimulate the creative potential of farmers and other land users formulated by stakeholders from *Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Niger*. PROFEIS is therefore the sister programme of PROLINNOVA in the Sahel, under overall coordination of IED Afrique (Senegal). Consultations with **IDRC** on co-funding are in their final stage. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year, mechanisms for collaboration and/or integration of PROFEIS with PROLINNOVA will be agreed upon (governance/POG, joint activities, joint IST, web site, etc.).

Finally, ETC and IED Afrique were asked to represent PROLINNOVA and PROFEIS in a planning workshop in Senegal for a new initiative to develop blended learning approaches and materials (i.e. combining web-based and other forms of electronic learning with conventional training) related to PID and rural innovation in general, the inception phase of which is funded by **IFAD**. It has been proposed to include a number of PROLINNOVA country-partners in the second, expansion, phase, particularly institutes for higher education.

#### **Electronic learning and exchange mechanisms among partners**

The *PROLINNOVA Yahoo group* continues to play an important role in information exchange on events, publications etc.

In addition, a web-based bulletin board for info exchange is being tested. Its use and effectiveness has been less than satisfactory and the strategy is being revisited.

#### **Programme-wide planning and capacity building workshops**

The annual international partners meeting plays a key role in developing and maintaining programme vision and coherence across the many countries and partners and building ownership of the programme. The 2006 meeting was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 6-11 March.

The main agenda items were:

- Review of experiences with the PID approach as input to joint publication; a visit to farmers involved in Cambodia PID type of activities included
- Design of the Local Innovation Fund Pilots
- PM&E (Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation)
- Results of the mid-term assessment, feedback from the external consultant
- Medium-term strategy as input to the proposal writing by ETC to DGIS-MFS

The full report will be available shortly from the secretariat at ETC or through the PROLINNOVA web-site. The annual meeting always leads to concrete agreements and follow-up action plans. These are summarised for the Cambodia workshop in Annex 2.

The PROLINNOVA Cambodia partners strategically used the event for own policy advocacy purposes. To this end a special meeting was organised with key policy makers based in Pnom Penh allowing them to interact with the international participants. This was attended by the Minister for Agriculture who also opened the event.

Part of the funds that became available in 2006 due to the advanced completion of the DGIS-TMF grant have been used on the specific requests from the partners to organise a second international PID Training of Facilitators. This was held from 26 June to 12 July in Kampala, Uganda, attracting a total of 22 participants (3 women). The course combined detailed exposure to the PID approach with intensive training in design, facilitation and M&E of training events. The training was evaluated very positively by the participants and, even more importantly, a considerable number has started to apply what they learned in their respective countries, as will be further reported on in the 2006 annual report.

Preparations are well advanced for the two other international capacity building workshops planned for 2006, on policy advocacy and on farmer-led documentation methods. The first one will be held from 21-25 August in Tanzania, facilitated by the regional desk of the PELUM network, on behalf of PROLINNOVA-Tanzania. The second will take place early November in Uganda and will be co-facilitated by PELUM Uganda and the IST. NOVIB has responded in principle positively on a request for co-funding this activity but has still to take a formal decision.

## **b. Documentation, analysis and dissemination of lessons learnt**

### **Website management**

In the first half of 2006, the website has been constantly updated by IIRR, including at least one update made per Country Programme (page or sub-section). French, Spanish and Arabic translations of the About PROLINNOVA section have been uploaded to the website since April 2006.

There has been a constant and steady increase on the number of visitors and hits on the PROLINNOVA website. Comparing it with the statistics generated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of last year, figures have shown a dramatic increase in average hits and visits as shown below:

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2006</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2005</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>
Avg. Daily Visit	<b>35.92</b>	17.95	200% increase
Avg. Daily Page Views	<b>116.7</b>	65.09	179% increase
Avg. Visits per Month	<b>1,084.83</b>	539.71	201% increase
Avg. Page Views per Month	<b>3,518.33</b>	1,953.43	180 % increase

PROLINNOVA continues to face the challenge to update information regularly in order to encourage frequent visits to the website. Further challenges include the need to make the website more interactive, and the debate over the possible decentralization of website management, so that CPs can make updates to their specific CP sections directly.

### **PTD/ PID Circular**

As planned the *Participatory Innovation Development (PID) Circular 15*, the annual electronic bulletin with updates on recent publications, resources and events was prepared distributed in March 2006 and accompanies this report. This issue focused on giving an overview of websites and electronic databases for sourcing information or for publishing experiences related to PTD/ PID. In addition, it included information on several recent publications related to PID.

### **Policy dialogue, advocacy and dissemination of lessons learnt**

In this now final year of present DGIS-TMF funding a major effort is foreseen to synthesise and publish lessons learnt. PROLINNOVA plans to publish two so-called "booklets", well accessible publications of not more than 80-100 pages. The first booklet focuses on PROLINNOVA's experiences with its development approach, building on local innovation/PID. The second focuses on experiences around building effective multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Preparations for both booklets are well under way, involving intensive interaction between IST and the country programmes.

In a separate activity but under the joint auspices of PROLINNOVA and CTA, CIS-VU is developing a booklet on farmer innovation methodology training based on a training module used in recent trainings with CIHEAM, Italy.

Under the supervision of CIS-VU a study was commissioned to investigate the position of IK and Participatory Innovation Development in the policies and programmes of a selected group of international agencies. This study will also generate some information on whether changes in this position can be observed in recent years and the factors that led to this changes. It will thus also be a benchmark for PROLINNOVA to assess its impact at the international policy level.

In this first half of the year, PROLINNOVA partners also attended a number of international events to present they key messages of PROLINNOVA:

- Ronald Lutalo (Ugandan programme coordinator) and Will Critchley (CIS/VU) made a presentation on promoting local innovation at the 14th ISCO (International Soil Conservation Organisation) Conference, in Marrakech;
- Loek Sothea (then Cambodian programme coordinator) and Laurens van Veldhuizen (ETC) attended the GFRA Global Partnership Programme evaluation in Rome and shared PROLINNOVA experiences in partnership building;
- King David Amoah (Ghana Country Coordinator) attended the IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) Executive Board discussion meeting on Rural Innovation, in Rome.
- Betty del Rosario (POG Chair), Anton Krone (coordinator FAIR), and Pratap Shrestha (Nepal Country Coordinator) attended a World Bank supported workshop on "Community-Based Innovations" in Malaysia.

The quarterly journal *Appropriate Technology* continues to include a regular section on farmer innovation in each issue with support from the IST (contacts for cases, editing)

The Dutch Journal *Vice-Versa* featured an article on PROLINNOVA and the PID approach as prepared by staff of CIS-VU on the occasion of the International Workshop in Cambodia.

### **c. Programme management**

#### **Network management and administration of funds**

This required considerable attention in the reporting period. Preparation of annual work-plans at all levels was delayed till early 2006 because of the uncertainties around the design of the new DGIS-MFS window and the implications this would have on the implementation of the present DGIS grant. When early in the year the programme decided to reduce its contract with DGIS-TMF from four to three years<sup>2</sup>, the countries and the IST were able to prepare ambitious, but realistic, workplans and budgets for 2006. Partners will as far as possible round-off present grant activities one year ahead of schedule. Apart from supporting the countries in this process, ETC also had to organise an exchange of letters with contracting partners to formalise the change of contracting period from 4 to 3 years.

#### **PROLINNOVA Oversight Group**

The PROLINNOVA Oversight Group, initiated during the 2004 partner meeting is now a well established part of the network and ensures effectiveness of the international programme and accountability to its country-level partners, their constituencies and the donors. It consists of 3 representatives of the country programmes, one from the IST, complimented

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<sup>2</sup> As explained above, this was done to allow PROLINNOVA to be included in another proposal to the same donor.

with three people representing other stakeholders, including donors. The POG held its third meeting in Cambodia following the international partner meeting, on 9-10 March 2006. The main issues covered during the meeting include:

- Revised PROLINNOVA guidelines, now posted on Web
- Mid-term self-assessment as input to the internal programme assessment
- Advice re handling the Ghana CPs
- Advice re linkages between PROLINNOVA and the new PROFEIS programme
- Links with Regional ARD Fora, including APAARI, in preparation for GFAR Conference
- Particular attention to oversight of PROLINNOVA's M&E.

Minutes of the meeting are available from the secretariat.

### **Programme-wide Monitoring and Evaluation**

In this reporting period the so-called mid-term review was successfully undertaken. In view of the early completion of the DGIS grant in 2006, the network judged important to seek external support to the planned internal review. An international consultant was contracted for this. His external assessment was based on the internal reviews undertaken by the CPs and IST organisations, in addition to field visits to some of the countries. The partners internal review was complemented by a well facilitated programme-wide electronic M&E session early January 2006. The results of this were analysed and summarised by IIRR and discussed with the external consultant at the International Meeting in Cambodia. The final report of the review has been published and shared widely.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

Due to the decision of shortening the DGIS-TMF grant period, CPs and the IST have taken upon themselves an ambitious workplan for 2006, which translates in an increasing work pressure. But partners have been showing keen commitment in implementing all the activities planned for, and the PROLINNOVA programmes in all 9 core countries are progressing well.

Measures taken in Ghana, the one country which showed limited progress in the past 2 years, have led to an effective revival of activities. In this third year of operation of the wider programme staff changes in key partner organisations start to take place. While this has been a constraint to effective implementation of work-plans such as reported for Sudan, these are generally considered within limits of what is usual and in all cases partners have been able to contract or appoint qualified new staff.

Though the participatory set-up allows the development of a considerable diversity among country programmes in the activities implemented, the internal network exchange and planning mechanisms continue to ensure a good internal coherence and a good fit with the overall PROLINNOVA framework and ambition.

The programme undertook a major collective fund raising effort in order to prepare the proposal for DGIS-MFS. It was an arduous, but important exercise, as it compelled programme partners to define their 4-year future strategy and main activity lines. It has put the network in a self-reflective and learning mood. We are presently awaiting results of the DGIS-MFS selection process. Crucial though the DGIS support will be, partners are determined to continue PROLINNOVA even if the response is negative. Partners, e.g., already committed to the organisation of the next annual meeting, scheduled to take place in Senegal, March 2007.

## **ANNEX 1. OVERVIEW FUND RAISING EFFORTS JUNE 2006**

## Annex 1. Overview fund raising efforts June 2006

Donor, activity	IST												Profeis				Andes	Status
	IIRR	ETC	CIS/VU	Nepal	Cambodia	South Africa	Tanzania	Uganda	Ethiopia	Ghana	Sudan	Vietnam	Senegal	Mali	Niger	Burkina Faso		
DGIS MFS "core funding"																		result by 01/10
Participatory Video																		?
IDRC Action Research/Fellowships																		sent to IDRC, awaiting response
DURAS Innovation Fund																		approved, started on 09/06
GEF Innovation Fund																		not sent yet, awaiting letter of commitment from countries
NOVIB Workshop on farmer-led documentation																		Approved - workshop at the end of 2006
IDRC Policy																		sent to IDRC, awaiting response
Misereor PROFEIS																		approved, awaiting formal letter
IDRC PROFEIS																		positive response from Senegal office, awaiting feedback from HQ
IFAD PROFEIS																		negative for 2006, potential source for 2007
IDRC Prolinnova Andes																		sent to IDRC, awaiting response
Misereor Prolinnova Andes																		to be followed up by World Neighbors

Leading partner  
Involved partner/country



**ANNEX 2. SUMMARY OF ACTION PLAN,  
CAMBODIA INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

## Annex 2. Summary of action plan, Cambodia international workshop

Action theme	Expected outputs	Next steps	Persons-in-charge	Time frame
<b>Sharing outcomes of the Siem Reap meeting</b>	Workshop report	Submit Workshop summaries Prepare workshop report	All facilitators: World café, Tony  IIRR: Marise/Scott	Now  End of March 2006
<b>2007 workshop</b>	Plan for workshop details	Negotiate time and place, a/o with Tanzania, Nepal, Sudan	Secretariat (Laurens)	October
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Overall M&E framework CP indicators confirmed  ME/Reporting format	Finalise framework  CPs agree on indicators  Identify focal points Draft practical tables for countries to use	Marise, Brigid, Laurens, Rajendra All focal points  CP Ghana, Tanzania IIRR: Marise	Mid April  March 2006
<b>Documentation</b>	PID book	Continue identification of cases, use lists of workshop  Planning of the writeshop; Back to back with other activity  Identify contact person each CP	Editors Scott, Chesha,  IIRR: Scott  Country Coordinators with Chesha	April 2006  Mid-April 2006  April 2006
<b>ISF</b>	Final proposal for GEF	Provision of remaining info, partner and focal point letters to Anton	Anton/Monique, Ronald, Tesfahun, Mabrouk	30 April 2006

Action theme	Expected outputs	Next steps	Persons-in-charge	Time frame
<b>Capacity building</b>	<b>ToF course</b>	Use inputs from world café to design; Circulate revised design Circulate criteria for selection	Marise, Ken, Ronald  Marise CP coordinators	March 2006  First week April
	<b>PM&amp;E</b>	Nominations to IIRR	IIRR: Marise Marise, Laurens (funds)	May 2006
	<b>POLICY advocacy training</b>	Consider option to follow PME course IIRR. Consider meeting of M&E focal points	Monique, Laurent K, Mariana Laurent K	April 2006  As agreed with PELUM
		Contact and plan with PELUM		
		Host and organise logistics		
<b>Involvement of newcomers</b>	Plan for PROLINNOVA Andes	Prepare and organise first inception workshop in the Andes	Mariana, Anna P and Scott  Steve, Tony, Marise	Before June 2006  April 2006
	Increased linkages with Pacific countries	Organise one PC participant to ToF in Uganda Organise ToF in the Pacific, fund raise	Steve, Scott IIRR: Scott ETC: Laurens	2007  Before end 2006, depending on DGIS approval 2007-2010
	Plan for PROLINNOVA Vietnam	Explore possible interest of NGOs to coordinate		

Action theme	Expected outputs	Next steps	Persons-in-charge	Time frame
<b>Institutionalisation in educational institutes</b> (inc. curr. Development)	Concept note including proposed activities; also for raising funds	Prepare draft and circulate  Comment and explore interest of universities  Link with COMPAS in this	Bram  Adam (Niger), Ronald (Uganda), Pratap (Nepal), Koma (Cambodia)  Laurens, Bram	June 2006  July 2006
<b>Farmer mobilisation</b>	One page write-up with "models" of mobilization per country	Prepare short guidelines Write one page on mobilizing farmers Feature in the website Training materials	Monique CP coordinators  Jonathan	End of March 1 <sup>st</sup> July  2 <sup>nd</sup> half of year
<b>DGIS proposal</b>	Strategy paper  Agreed final proposal	Drafting of brief strategy paper for comments by POG/CP  Incorporate results of workshop, circulate next draft for final comments	Laurens  Laurens	May 2006  Circulate before 10 April Send to DGIS before 22 <sup>nd</sup> April
<b>Action research proposal</b>	Concept notes to IDRC for funding	follow-up	Ann W	April/May 2006