



Participatory Innovation Development (PID) for climate-change adaptation (CCA)

– rationale and potential –

PROLINNOVA International Partners Workshop, Bamako, 12–14 March 2012

PROLINNOVA International Secretariat, ETC AgriCulture, Netherlands



Adaptation and innovation in the face of continuous change

Building on results of PROLINNOVA / COMPAS / RUAF
Workshop “**How to adapt and innovate in response to
change in development trends, thematic interests and
donors’ agendas: the case of climate change**”, Doorn,
Netherlands, 15–17 Feb 2011

Exploring the linkages between PROLINNOVA and the
new donor agenda of Climate-Change Adaptation (CCA):

What is the role of grassroots innovation and
participatory innovation development (PID) involving
farmers and rural communities in processes of adapting to
climate change?



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in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management

- Promoting participatory approaches that build on farmers' **own innovative capacities**
- Enhancing local capacities to interact with others in **adapting to change** in agriculture and NRM
- Integrating these approaches into mainstream programmes and organisations of agricultural research & development, i.e. **institutionalisation**

This is an ideal approach to apply in helping to strengthen local resilience to climate change !



Reminder: What PROLINNOVA does

- **Creating the evidence:** studies of local innovation efforts, PID on the ground, and **documenting** this all
- **Sharing the evidence:** publications, media
- Establishing **multi-stakeholder platforms** for planning and learning: working groups, steering committees, workshops
- **Capacity building:** training and working with universities and colleges to include PID in teaching and research
- **Policy dialogue and mainstreaming** PID at local, district, national and international level



PROLINNOVA & climate-change adaptation (CCA)

From 2008 onwards:

- Extensive **literature review** on grassroots adaptation initiatives in the face of CC
- **Field studies** with communities in Ethiopia, Nepal and Niger
- **Workshops** in these countries: PROLINNOVA partners and other agricultural and CC-related organisations
- **Policy brief** on strengthening local resilience to climate change



Examples of farmer adaptation to CC: Nepal

Diversity of adaptation / innovation cases:

- Reduction in tillage and mulching of garlic to cope with less rain
- Additional millet crop in winter
- Hanging nurseries on platforms to protect seedlings against floods
- Own crossbreeding to develop maize varieties that withstand lodging



Examples of pastoralist adaptation to CC: Ethiopia

- Developing own **cut-and-carry** feeding system
- Creating private and community **waterpoints**
- Increasing **market interaction** (credit, vehicle use)
- Changing **herd composition**
- **Settling** on islands in dryland lakes
- **Diversifying** livelihood sources by men & women
- Empowering **traditional institutions**

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Ethiopian pastoralists' cut-and-carry innovation



**Combining technical and socio-organisational
innovation (collective action within community)**

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Some examples from other countries

- **Niger:** Donkeys as dowry for young women to cover long distances to waterpoints
- **India:** Flood protection by planting bamboo
- **Jamaica:** Protecting banana plants from high winds
- **Indonesia:** Fencing for flood protection; early-maturing beans; moving houses



Issues involved in local adaptation to CC

- Vulnerability to CC is due to **multiple factors**.
- “Traditional” practices emerge from **dynamic local innovation**.
- **Women’s innovation** is often invisible.
- **Adaptation** to CC and other changes **never ends**.
- **Not all** local innovations have **positive** impacts.
- Local innovation being done with **limited options**, **less systematic**, **not widely shared**.

Building resilience by strengthening local adaptive capacity (PID)

- **Recognise** and respect local adaptation and innovation efforts
- Assist smallholders to **improve** and/or validate local innovations / adaptations
- **Spread** successful locally developed innovations / adaptations
- **Introduce** new ideas / practices / formal science into farmer-led processes of joint innovation / adaptation
- Create direct local **access to resources** for experimentation, innovation and adaptation funds (LISFs)



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Applying the PID approach to CCA

All of the usual PID work as just described **plus**:

- Link community-based organisations, farmer groups & support agencies with **sources of information** on CC
- **Build local capacities in participatory tools** for CC-related analysis (vulnerability / risk assessment)
- Support CC-related **local analysis**
- **Build local capacities in agro-meteorology** and link with indigenous forecasting practices

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Strengthening community resilience

- Important to promote PID within a **community framework** with other members – not only innovators – also actively involved
- Especially important for CCA: to go beyond individuals to build **self-organisation** and **community adaptive capacity**
- This may mean broadening PROLINNOVA partnerships to include people working on community mobilisation – focusing on the “**social economy**”



Local adaptive capacity seen more widely

Local adaptive capacity depends on:

1. Ability to **live with change and uncertainty**
2. Ability to **access and combine diverse sources of knowledge** for innovation
3. Ability for **self-organisation and networking**

Adapted from Folke *et al* (2003), Building resilience and adaptive capacity in socio-ecological systems



Local adaptive capacity:

Ability to *live with change and uncertainty*

- Nurturing diversity: encouraging different ways of doing things
- Participatory vulnerability / risk assessment & management
- Development of trust within the community
- Disaster early-warning systems and rapid feedback for change

Local adaptive capacity:

Ability to *access & combine diverse sources of knowledge*
for innovation

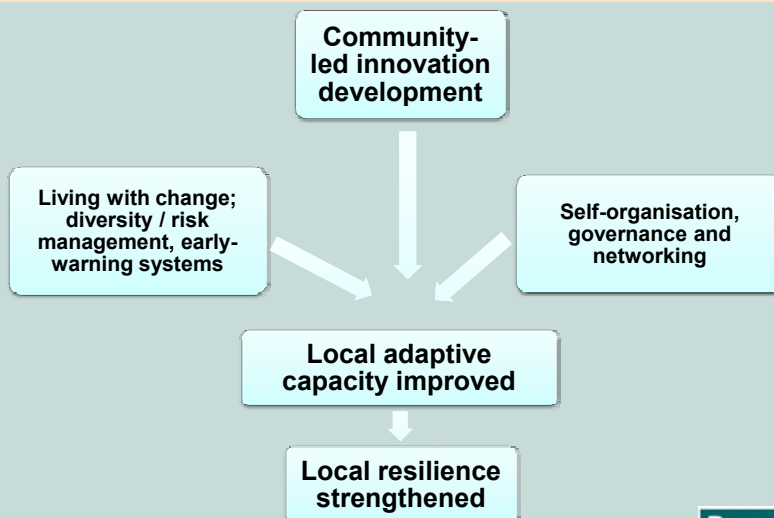
- Local innovation and its recognition
- Links to information sources and services
- Collaborative experimentation / PID
- Capacity for monitoring
- Literacy

Local adaptive capacity:

Ability for *self-organisation and networking*

- Local mechanisms for governing natural resources
- Conflict management
- Equity in resource access and allocation
- Interaction with external agencies

In summary



Current PROLINNOVA initiatives related to CCA

- 1) **Asia: LINEX-CCA: Local INnovation & Experimentation** – an entry point to **Climate-Change Adaptation** for sustainable livelihoods in Asia (Cambodia, India, Nepal), funded by Misereor, 1 Jan 2012–31 Dec 2014
- 2) **Eastern Africa: CLIC: Combining Local Innovative Capacity with Scientific Research – Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change** (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda), funded by Rockefeller, 1 Mar 2012–28 Feb 2015

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Regional approach as part of new PROLINNOVA strategy

PROLINNOVA strategy paper 2011–15: Create fora and opportunities for learning, sharing and promotion of joint innovation processes at regional level:

- Set up **regional platforms** with “virtual” secretariats in Asia, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa, South America
- Seek **multi-country cooperation** in regional sub-programmes
- Intensify **South–South** backstopping and networking
- Strengthen links with the **regional ARD fora**



Parallel regional review & planning meetings

- 1) **Asia**: LINEX–CCA (Suman)
- 2) **Eastern Africa**: CLIC (Teresiah)
- 3) **Southern Africa**: (Brigid)
- 4) **West Africa**: (Assétou)
- 5) ???