



Looking on 10 years experiences of PE

*Laying a foundation for a path way to a
lasting partnership with innovative farmers*

- Ethiopia is one of the founding members of Prolinnova
- The founding meeting was held in Ethiopia in March 2004
- Conducted an assessment – on participatory research
- Pull most of the organizations working on research, education, extension both from Government and NGOs
- We worked for 10 years with different institutional arrangements
- The objective of this presentation is to share on impacts, challenges, lessons and way forward

Introduction

- So far hosted by two organizations in different times (Agri Service Ethiopia (ASE) and PANE)
- Steering committee drawn from various organizations
- Took time to find common working grounds because of diversity in institutional culture and value systems
- Four regional platforms: Commodity based classification
- Two important changes took place in the last 10 years:

1. Moving from a cumbersome national and regional structure in to a project based platform, where interactions limited to players in the work
2. Moving from Agri service to PANE – A process which took long and caused by government policy challenges

Institutional arrangements

- Some issues related to the institutional arrangement
 1. We were aiming at changing the way organizations think and work - in light of prolinnova principles and values. While we expect them to put resources to support the change process,
 2. We put them in the decision making positions (Steering committee)
 3. We operate in a country where NGOs/Gos are used to donor money
 4. The government legislation to govern CSO
 5. PANE not allowed by law to make financial or programmatic engagements with non-PANE members.
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- DGIS- supported activities- set up four regional platforms, providing training in the four platforms, identify local innovation, publish innovation catalogues
- DURAS, DGIS and Rockefeller foundation- Supported the FAIR project in three sites of the country
- Action Aid Ethiopia: Facilitation Communication and Innovation Capacity Advancement (FACICA)
- World Bank/MoA and Oxfam America- supported a national level PID training for senior extension agents
- Together with ETC- coordinate International PID training in Ethiopia
- Rockefeller Foundation: CLIC - SR

Programmatic interventions

- *Increased knowledge and innovativeness*

1. Farmers and partners begun to understand the notion that they have complementary roles in development.
2. Increased recognition of innovators by the community and changed attitudes of the public in general
3. Tremendous mobilization of fellow farmers to show their work, following the recognition of some innovators
4. Increased recognition by research and university

Impacts at farmers level

Increased confidence

- Increased recognition of ones self as an innovator and trainer
 - Innovators trained on water lifting technology and bee hive technology trained hundreds of farmers
 - Before the intervention of PE, these farmers had not spoken about their innovative work even to their closest neighbors.
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Empowerment;

- In a broader sense it could mean better position of farmers in social, economic and political arenas
 - Here how farmers began to enjoy decision-making opportunities in research and development
 - Traditionally decision making on research and development rests on government organizations and other elite bodies
 - Farmers groups in Amaro, Axum and Ambo who participated in the LISF project have enjoyed decision making in setting up research priorities and allocation of innovation funds
 - Farmers passed decisions on 142 farmer innovation projects and approved about 79% of the applications
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Economic Benefits

- PID takes longer time to yield economic benefits mainly because the work partly depends on the good will of the calibrators
 - Secondly, market or business oriented PID cases in Agriculture was not so common in PE
 - However famers in Gojam who arrested haricot bean pest infestation that causes 75% loss of yield is an example
 - *enset* decorticator technology in Amaro, which was developed by innovator farmers and extension workers improve efficiency and decrease women's work load
 - Reducing the orobanche infestation in tomato and cabbage using desmodium as a host plant in Axum.
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Gender equity:

- Changing the equation : Long term efforts of several players
 - Women headed families were marginalized: poor, secondly because the don't express them selves in mixed gender meeting
 - PE had a very clear policy of working with Women innovators equally as it does with men
 - Dozens of women innovators in Amaro, Axum and Ambo were identified and promoted
 - Women innovators made up about 40% of the Ethiopian delegation to Kenya to participate in the Eastern African Farmer Innovation Fair
 - A women innovator from Tigray, who demonstrated Clay made energy saving cooking devise with three partition won the prize in the event
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Better Environmental conditions

- NRM is one of the critical areas of focus of Prolinnova
 - Most of the innovations identified in the Northern part of the country were NRM focused and climate change related
 - Some of the key innovations include:
 - a) Using a local water lifting technology,
 - b) innovative sub surface drainage systems,
 - c) passing irrigation water from one point to another by developing innovative water ways,
 - d) Drip irrigation using local facilities,
 - e) Reclaiming land from river beds and producing high value crops for commercial purposes,
 - f) Shortening the germination period of podocarpos,
 - g) Generating hydro power using local equipment,
 - h) domestication of important herbs which are subjected to disappearance.
 - **These all created entry points to engage experts and policy makers**
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- **Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR):**
- **Ministry of Agriculture**
- **Agriservice Ethiopia**
- **Institute of Sustainable Development**
- **Best Practice Association**

Impacts at Institution
Level

- Policy related and Institutional issues
- Limited scope of innovation
- Limited programmatic scope and resources
- Limited showcase on PID

Challenges

- **Adapting to the changes in context**
- **Advocacy agendas:** Putting the first things first:
- **New agendas of innovation** – how to recognize more local innovation cases that lead to a paradigm shift in economic sense?
- **Internal resource mobilization:**
- **Going beyond the project cycle mentality:**
- **Supporting grassroots organizations:**

Lessons, questions,
wayforward

- Important impacts were noticed at farmers level
- New prolinnova advocates did not come in to the scene
- More efforts still needed to bring a real institutional changes in the major research, extension and education organizations
- The institutional issue of PE does require immediate attention of the core team and ETC to ensure sustainable solutions.

Conclusion
