

PROLINNOVA Kenya

Achievements and Challenges

2007-2014

Presented at

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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Background

- **2006: Meeting convened in Nairobi by Sustainable Agriculture Center for Research, Extension and Development (SACRED) co-facilitated by Kenyan organizations and PROLINNOVA Uganda**
- **Formation of interim task force consisting of 9 organizations: SACRED Africa, World Neighbors, PELUM Kenya, SACDEP Kenya, RODI, ETC- EA, JKUAT, KARI and KENDAT**

Cont...Background

- Task force was to prepare the country program format; Propose the institutional structure of PROLINNOVA Kenya and Organize a stakeholders workshop to create awareness on the network and discuss how the Kenya chapter would be organized and operated
- PK launched in early 2007 at a workshop in Thika, Kenya financed by P-International, attended by over 40 participants, including Laurens van Veldhuizen from the Netherlands [International Support Team]
- Draft annual plan was prepared to guide activities

PK Achievements -farmer/community

- **Local structures-** local Steering Committees (LSC) formed. Fundamental in promoting farmer-led innovation and experimentation by identifying farmer innovators; and linking them to relevant stakeholders at the local level.
- **Improved incomes-** increase household incomes through use, promotion and adoption of local innovations.
- **Gender empowerment-** paid specific attention to women - supported women farmer innovators with funds to enhance their innovations. Women have taken key leadership positions in the LSC -this has further strengthened their capacity and ensured they actively and equally participate in development initiatives
- **Spread of innovations-** Innovations are being adopted by other farmers and integrated in their daily farming and livelihood activities.

PK Achievements - Organisation and policy level

- **Acceptance of farmer-led innovation** –created lots of enthusiasm among various stakeholders that has supported promotion of farmer-led innovation and experimentation. Farmer-led innovation is being accepted and appreciated by various stakeholders. In the last 3 years there has been increased visibility of PK in the country and this has opened new doors and possibilities for further partnerships. For example, the National Council of Science and Technology (NCST).
- **Formation of farmer innovators association-** Farmer innovators have formed a Kenya Farmers Innovation Association that will play a key role in promoting local innovation and farmer-led experimentation and connecting innovators to other relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Bureau of Standards and research institutions.

PK Achievements - Organisation and policy level

- **Institutionalization of Local innovation and participatory Innovation development (PID)** – acceptance of farmer-led innovation and PID among various organisations and modalities are underway among these organisations to integrate local innovation and PID within their institutional framework.
- **PROLINNOVA Kenya registration:** officially registered as a company limited by trust. Registration provides PK with a legal mandate to transact activities . PK lost many opportunities as donors are not willing to support organisations that are not registered nationally. Reserve the name as unscrupulous people can easily register PK and use it for their own gains.
- Requires PK to restructure and strengthen its organs to be able to better meet its mission and goals and fulfil the registration requirements.

Lessons and prospects

- **Farmer innovation and PID promotion** is still relatively new in mainstream Agriculture research and development (ARD) organisations. Need to continue and intensify efforts to promote PID Requires PK to expand and broaden its reach to target as many and as diverse ARD stakeholders as possible.
- **Use of PK members** – PK members and partners are the foundation and strength of the network. Consequently, specific strategies need to be developed to tap into the strengths and exploit opportunities with PK members to promote farmer-led innovation and experimentation.
- **County governments** –new Kenya constitution structure that has a devolved government structure. PK will have to focus promotion of PID within the new structures and ensure institutionalization of PID.

Lessons and prospects

- **Organisations engaging in farmer innovations** – Innovation is currently becoming a key issue within the development sector. Consequently, many organisations including donors and other international development agencies are focusing their attention in promoting innovation. Since PROLINNOVA Kenya has been in the “innovation” sector for a while it can easily establish linkages with other organisations to promote farmer innovation and experimentation.