

# PROLINNOVA

PRoMoting Local INNOVAtion  
in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management

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

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANPE	Asociación Nacional de Productores Ecológicos del Perú (National Association of Peruvian Ecological Farmers)
APAARI	Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
ARD	Agriculture Research and Development
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIS-VUA	Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam
COMPAS	Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development
CP	Country Programme
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)
DIO	Veterinary Medicine in Development Cooperation
EED	Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienst (Church Development Service)
ELD	Endogenous Livestock Development
ESAFF	Eastern and Southern African Small-Scale Farmers Forum
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
FARA	Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa
FLD	Farmer-Led Documentation
FTC	Farmer Training Centre
GPP	Global Partnership Programme
IAAS	Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences
IFAP	International Federation of Agricultural Producers
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IST	International Support Team
IWMI	International water Management Institute
KZN	Kwa-Zulu Natal
LEISA	Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MATF	Maendeleo Agricultural Technology Fund
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSC	National Steering Committee
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
PV	Participatory Video
RAAA	Red de Acción en Agricultura Alternativa (Network for Action on Alternative Agriculture)
RAPAL	Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y sus Alternativas para América Latina (Network for Action on Pesticides and Alternatives to Them in Latin America)
RF	Rockefeller Foundation
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development



# 1 INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the progress made within PROLINNOVA during 2007. Its main purpose is to document progress made by all partners and to share this information widely, within and beyond the network.

2007 was a special year for PROLINNOVA. With confirmation of support for a new four-year period by the Netherlands Government, activities for further strengthening and expansion of activities in the nine countries continued with renewed vigour. Several of them also mobilised funds locally to supplement their activities. The four countries in West Africa within the sub-programme PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel) expanded their activities. New countries showing interest in joining the network were supported in establishing their country partnerships. All these countries pursued funding from other sources to embark on more activities.

The sub-programme for piloting new funding mechanisms to support local innovation known as FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources) continued with (co-)funding support from the French Government.

This report consists of three chapters. Chapter 1 presents an overview of the activities implemented by the country programmes (CPs) involved in PROLINNOVA drawn from the reports presented by each country. Chapter 2 highlights those activities which go beyond a single country, involving some or all countries and the International Support Team (IST) at regional/international level. The IST consists of ETC EcoCulture and the Centre for International Cooperation of the Free University of Amsterdam (CIS-VUA) in the Netherlands, and the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction in the Philippines (IIRR). Chapter 3 draws some general conclusions.



## **2 COUNTRY PROGRAMMES**

### **2.1 Andes**

PROLINNOVA–Andes involves organisations in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. Partners decided to work on a country basis, but organise key activities at a regional level. They have implemented several activities paid by own resources or/and other donors.

In Bolivia, AGRECOL-Andes and CIPCA (through the National Platform for Soil Management towards a Sustainable Agriculture) organised an awareness-raising workshop in Sucre and developed a workplan for the rest of 2007. They are working on systems of risk management in three municipalities to build local innovation capacities to adapt to climate change.

In Ecuador, World Neighbors supported documentation of 30 local innovations in water and crop management, and organised several exchange-visits by farmer innovators. With a Network for Community-Based Natural Resource Management, they developed a draft facilitators' guide for local innovation in water harvesting. Ecuador is not financed by the network, but continues to include PID in their programmes and projects.

In Peru, RAAA (Red de Acción en Agricultura Alternativa – Network for Action on Alternative Agriculture) organised a regional seminar on local innovation and its potential linkages to agricultural research and development (ARD) in the Andes. It also developed a 2007 workplan, to be implemented with support of other Andean countries.

At regional level, a meeting of farmer innovators/experimenters was organised in Potosi, Bolivia, focusing on improving diet and soil fertility. A second meeting of farmers from Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru was held in Peru to discuss "people's science and innovation". Representatives from the three countries met in April and again at the Peruvian seminar in August to discuss common activities and strategies.

### **2.2 Cambodia**

The National Steering Committee (NSC) approved 15 proposals by partners for joint experimentation and farmer capacity building. Four exchange visits were organised for 52 government extension staff on rural development and Participatory Innovation Development (PID). Local Innovation Support Funds (LISF) pilots are progressing well in two of three selected provinces, one where two farmer organisations are managing the fund and one where the Department of Agriculture is managing it. A two-day training was held on proposal writing for participatory research and a 3-day PID training of trainers, mostly from extension and educational institutes. Two study visits were organised for 93 students and five lecturers from two Schools of Agriculture. Two field exercises to learn from farmers were organised for 28 students of the International University. Sixteen farmers were selected through local-level fora to present their innovations at the annual national forum on local innovation in November. This even was attended by more than 150 participants from farmer organisations, NGOs, government agencies and educational institutions. PROLINNOVA–Cambodia contributes to CEDAC's magazine on farmer innovation.

### **2.3 Ethiopia**

Partners evaluated the structure, functioning and governance of the CP. The new Steering Group has 17 members from government, NGOs and academia; a Working Group of five members oversees day-to-day implementation. The name was changed from PROFIEET (Promoting Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in Ethiopia) to PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia, so that innovation by pastoralists and other local actors are encompassed. Partners are taking part in a study to seek ways of improving the national extension system.

PID experimentation continued, mainly on water management and beekeeping. The LISF pilots are being carried out in Amaro (southern Ethiopia) and Axum (northern Ethiopia), the former with community-based organisations and the latter with an informal Farmer Innovators Association supported by a local NGO (Institute for Sustainable Development, ISD). The NSC member from the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute is coordinating documentation of the LISF experience.

PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia hosted the international training of PID facilitators. It is giving PID training at Farmer Training Centres (FTCs) in Amhara Region, as a pilot to develop a curriculum for FTCs throughout the country.

## 2.4 Ghana

The NSC supervises two sub-programmes: Ghana–South and Ghana–North. After restructuring in Ghana–South, a new contract was signed with the coordinating partner ECASARD (Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural development) in 2007.

In **Ghana–South**, group meetings were organised for farmer innovators to share experiences. Eight staff members of MoFA (Ministry of Food and Agriculture) received a 5-day training in PID and its application in extension work. MoFA agreed to task them to train other staff in PID. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the University of Cape Coast to formalise collaboration in mainstreaming PID in academic work. Farmer innovations were discussed in a radio broadcast in the Fante language. A one-day exhibition gave further exposure to the work of farmer innovators.

In **Ghana–North**, four partner institutes started studies on local innovation. One, building on work with farmers in 2006, is supporting innovators by making chemical analysis of a locally-developed salt lick. Eleven partner institutes joined a one-day strategic planning workshop and decided on mechanisms to involve partners in implementation and sharing resources. Four proposals for sub-activities were approved in a meeting of the Northern Ghana LEISA Working Group (NGLWG), which coordinates activities in Ghana–North. Farmers, extensionists and other stakeholders of partner organisations were trained in PID.

## 2.5 Kenya

PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management)–Kenya convened a planning meeting in January, where 25 organisations in ARD developed a proposal for starting up PROLINNOVA–Kenya. They formed an interim task force composed of people from NGOs, a university and KARI (Kenya Agricultural Research Institute) and elected SACRED–Africa (Sustainable Agriculture Centre for Research, Extension and Development in Africa) to host the interim Secretariat. It received a small amount of inception support through DGIS (Directorate General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs) PROLINNOVA funds and submitted funding proposals to the Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienst (EED, Church Development Service, Bonn, Germany) and MATF (Maendeleo Agricultural Technology Fund) in Kenya. It started PID training using own funds.

## 2.6 Mali

The Mali CP, as part of PROFEIS, has started identifying and studying local innovation and innovations, after six teams of two people each were given a 10-day training in this. In a workshop, 25 innovations were reviewed and six selected for more detailed characterisation. A national stakeholder meeting was held in Bamako to present PROFEIS. In a workshop in Segou, the site of most of the activities, 26 participants from NGOs, government agencies, national research and farmer organisations learned about local innovation and PID.

## 2.7 Mozambique

In December 2007, PROLINNOVA–Mozambique was officially welcomed into the international PROLINNOVA community of practice. This CP, like those in Kenya, the Andes and francophone West Africa, is not among the original nine CPs receiving core funding from DGIS. It therefore has to pool existing resources of partners and raise funds for pursuing its activities. PROLINNOVA–Mozambique organised a meeting in December 2007 for discussing the future of the network and the developments since its first meeting in December 2006. The CP has also played an important role in developing the concepts and approaches for the work on PID and HIV/AIDS (see 2.2).

## 2.8 Nepal

PROLINNOVA–Nepal partners provided technical guidance to four innovations selected in 2006 for joint experimentation with LISF support; three more innovations were selected for this in 2007.

The CP convened 19 farmers for a half-day PID sharing meeting in Kabilash. It organised orientation meetings for Ecoscentre staff to help internalise PID in the organisation. Ecoscentre gave orientation in PID to schoolchildren, teachers and the school management committee at Narayani Secondary School in Nawalparasi. One innovator group formed and is operating under an existing community group.

PROLINNOVA–Nepal partners from IAAS (Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences) visited various organisations in Kathmandu to make them aware of the potential of PID in education and research. Two courses (for BSc Ag and MSc Ag) were designed at IAAS on local innovation and PID in agriculture. IAAS received two proposals from two MSc students to conduct research on factors affecting local innovation and assessing local innovation documentation, promotion and dissemination processes.

A video on PROLINNOVA–Nepal in Nepali was finalised and distributed to many organisations throughout Nepal. An English version has been made for circulation within the global programme and beyond. The first issue of a half-yearly PROLINNOVA–Nepal newsletter in Nepali was published.

The District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) Mustang joined PROLINNOVA–Nepal in 2007. A district-level sensitisation and coordination meeting was organised to introduce the programme to stakeholders in Mustang. A half-day orientation programme was held in Sindupalchowk for Tuki Sunkoshi, an NGO that has shown interest in joining PROLINNOVA–Nepal.

## 2.9 Niger

Although the Niger CP is part of PROFEIS, the funds are so limited that activities in Niger continue to be supported from the DGIS grant. In one of the two focus regions (Pole West), partners identified and studied 12 new local innovations. Joint experimentation is taking place on five of them. A PID training was held in July with 21 participants, including 8 from farmer organisations. A group of 10 women innovators working on natron extraction was assisted in forming a small cooperative to improve their work through PID in technology and joint marketing. The PID work has attracted wide attention; several new researchers, development workers and university lecturers have become members of the network.

## 2.10 Senegal

The Senegal CP is part of PROFEIS, the new PROLINNOVA-linked programme in francophone West Africa. After the PROFEIS inception workshop in Senegal at the end of 2006, identification and study of local innovation/ innovations was started and several innovations have been documented. A first national stakeholder meeting was held in Dakar to present PROFEIS and its vision and main ideas. The Senegal CP hosted the International Partners Meeting in March 2007.



## 2.11 South Africa

PROLINNOVA-SA set up a new governance structure with three provincial task teams Mpumalanga, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), overseen by a new NSC.

Under the LISF pilots, two experiments were started in using sunflower to feed broilers and propagating grasses for handicrafts. Another 18 applications were screened and 8 approved. The LISF team organised an innovation market in Drakensberg to create awareness and call for more proposals. Three cross-visits were funded through the LISF. The Sivusimpilo Okhahlamba ("lift my life") Community Forum was established for sharing about innovation.

A PROLINNOVA workshop was held in KZN, and three more organisations joined. To support institutionalisation of PID, meetings were held with KZN and Limpopo Departments of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Council, with which an MoU is being prepared. In mid-2007, the CP represented PROLINNOVA in the FARA (Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa) General Assembly and organised a side event with the RIU (Research Into Use) programme. Four farmer innovators displayed their work at the FARA South Africa day. A working group drew up a concept note on curriculum development for PID. The CP produced and circulated two comprehensive newsletters giving updates on PROLINNOVA-SA activities. The KZN Task Team, the CP coordinator and two farmers attended a Participatory Video (PV) open day and planned a follow-up course on PV.

## 2.12 Sudan

The CP compiled a book on local innovation in Sudan and translated it into Arabic. A 5-day PID training workshop was held in Kassala State for 21 participants from the Technology Transfer and Extension Administration, Agricultural Research Corporation, universities, Department of Animal Resources and farmers in eastern Sudan. An introductory workshop was held in Blue Nile State for 29 persons from various government and local bodies. A paper on institutionalising PID into university curricula and activities was written to raise awareness among teaching staff of the Faculties of Agriculture in the Universities of Sinnar and Gazeera, and meetings were held with them to discuss how to incorporate the PID approach into their courses.

## 2.13 Tanzania

Uganda After a 5-day workshop on documentation skills, involving 22 persons, five local innovations were selected for detailed documentation. One case was published in the *LEISA Magazine*. The Tanzanian participant in the 2006 international Farmer-Led Documentation workshop in Uganda reported to a one-day meeting of the network. Seventeen farmers and seven support staff made a 5-day field visit to farmer innovators in Dodoma. In mid-year, a multi-stakeholder meeting was held to assess progress over the last three years and to develop a strategic plan for the next three, as input to a proposal to the co-funder, EED. Staff of the coordinating NGO, PELUM, contributed to the planning and stakeholder workshops of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme in central Tanzania, the Ministry of Livestock, and the Dodoma Municipality.

## 2.14 Uganda

The Uganda CP collaborates with the Focus City project in Kampala in promoting local innovation in the city. It also mobilised a small grant from ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre) to identify and document eco-agriculture initiatives in Uganda. Thirty-one new innovations by rural and urban farmers have been documented; the urban ones include social innovation related to marketing and charcoal preparation. Forty-nine joint experiments are underway. In the LISF programme, the CP works with four community organisations, which have received funds to support their PID activities. PROLINNOVA-Uganda has developed an annual reward system for outstanding innovators.

The PROLINNOVA-Uganda secretariat made an inventory of further needs for capacity building among partners; on this basis, the Core group planned subsequent training activities. Two training workshops – one on PID and one on Farmer-Led Documentation (FLD) – were conducted with 46 participants from NGOs, government agencies and academia.

A draft proposal for strengthening monitoring and evaluation was prepared. The draft National Indigenous Knowledge Policy Document was shared among members, and comments were sent to the National Council for Science and Technology. Contacts with Makerere University to develop a module on “Innovation Systems Management” continued. Four farmer innovators exhibited their work at the World Social Forum in Nairobi, where PROLINNOVA-Uganda also organised a session on integrating IK (Indigenous Knowledge) in scientific research. Farmer innovators also participated at several events such as the National Science Week exhibition and Kasubi Kawaala day. A dialogue between farmer innovators and researchers was co-organised with Makerere University and the secretariat of the National Agricultural Research Organisation.

## 3 NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

### 3.1 Development of innovative methods and approaches

**Piloting Local Innovation Support Funds:** The LISF pilots continued in Cambodia, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda with co-funding from DURAS (Promotion du Développement Durable dans les Systèmes de Recherche Agricole) and in Nepal from the CP's own resources. A tool for monitoring and evaluation was developed in the form of the LISF register, and CPs were trained in using it. The LISF experiences were shared during the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) General Assembly in June in South Africa, for which a brochure was designed and produced.

**Farmer-Led Documentation:** Several activities were undertaken as follow-up to the 2006 FLD workshop in Kampala, Uganda (co-organised with PELUM Uganda and Oxfam Novib). This included production of a leaflet on FLD, monitoring of and support to three FLD pilots in South Africa and Uganda, and introduction workshops at national NGO level, e.g. for partners of PROLINNOVA and PELUM in Tanzania. A call for proposals for pilot FLD projects was prepared and circulated among CPs. A meeting to exchange views and experiences on FLD was organised at the FAO e-agriculture week in Rome.

### 3.2 Capacity building

**International training in PID:** A regional PID training was organised in Senegal in early 2007 for partners of the new PROFEIS programme in francophone West Africa. Twenty people from Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Niger participated.

The third international training of PID facilitators was held in Ethiopia and brought together 18 participants – men and women – from nine CPs. Based on experiences and feedback from previous workshops, this training paid more attention to PID aspects - giving participants more insights and tools for integrating the approach into their work. As always, the workshop also provided sufficient hands-on training practice that would enable the trainees to conduct similar workshops in their own countries.

**HIV/AIDS and PID (HAPID):** A task force formed at the 2007 international partners meeting developed a proposal for PID in the context of HIV/AIDS. South Africa, Ghana and Mozambique were chosen to implement pilots in this HAPID (HIV/AIDS and PID) sub-project. These pilots aim at joint exploration of 1) the implications of the pandemic on PID and 2) the potential contribution of PID in preventing HIV/AIDS and in mitigating its effects at household and community level. The three CPs prepared country-specific action plans and budgets. Implementation of the pilots will begin in 2008.

**Gender and PID:** Following up on the international partners meeting in Senegal, another task force was formed to develop strategies for integrating gender into PID. Collaboration was sought with ILEIA (Centre for Information on Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture) and COMPAS (Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development) to find ways of stimulating CPs to document their PID experiences through a gender lens. A concept note on learning more about gender through documentation was developed by the task force but circulating it to the CPs was postponed until 2008 due to the heavy end-of-year workload of the CPs.

**Climate Change and local innovation:** A concept note and a call for proposals were also developed for initial studies on the link between local innovation and adaptation to climate change. Three CPs will be involved in the pilot to be launched in 2008: Niger, Nepal and Ethiopia. They have prepared specific workplans and discussed aspects such as the approach and methodology for the pilot.

**Cross-country visits:** In order to promote CPs to learn from each other, guidelines for cross visits were developed and CPs were invited to submit proposals. The activities will take place in 2008.

### 3.3 Up-scaling and mainstreaming

#### **Publications**

A list of publications finalised in 2007 is given in Annex 1. Main activities in this period were:

**PID Circular.** The sixteenth issue of the circular was compiled and circulated in December 2007, and posted on the PROLINNOVA website. It was also shared with the subscribers of the global *LEISA* and *COMPAS* magazines.

**Special issue of Urban Agriculture Magazine.** Together with the Cities Farming for the Future programme of RUAF (Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture and Forestry), a thematic issue of the magazine *Urban Agriculture* on Stimulating Innovation in Urban Agriculture was co-edited and published in December 2007.

**Brochure.** A 14-page brochure "PROLINNOVA at work: global partnership to promote local innovation" giving an overview of the programme and its main achievements in the period 2004–2006 was published.

**Contributions to other publications.** Communication was maintained with the editor of the journal *Appropriate Technology* to arrange contributions of articles and photos for the section on "Innovation". A policy paper on recognising and enhancing local initiatives in dealing with environmental issues, drawing attention to endogenous development efforts, was co-authored by PROLINNOVA and published in English and French by the Drylands Programme of the International Institute for Environment and Development.

#### **Policy dialogue**

**Strategy development.** The policy-dialogue strategy was further developed in 2007. This included consultation with the COMPAS Secretariat, preparation of a background paper on policy dialogue, and a mini-workshop on the topic during the international partners meeting in Senegal. A task force consisting of CP and IST members stimulated the development of country-specific strategies for policy dialogue, indicating key issues, target institutions and/or policies, allies, specific activities and impact indicators.

**Collaboration with RIU programme.** The PROLINNOVA Secretariat communicated intensively with the new Research Into Use (RIU) programme funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), including visits from and to RIU. RIU and PROLINNOVA organised a side event on "Overcoming challenges in scaling out agricultural research successes" during the fourth General Assembly of FARA in June in Johannesburg, South Africa. Other collaborators in this event were DONATA (Dissemination of New Agricultural Technologies in Africa), NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development), Picoteam and WRENMedia, which featured the event and farmer innovators in the on-line journal *New Agriculturist*. In addition, innovative farmers participated in the South Africa Day of the Africa Agricultural Science Week. RIU met the costs of their participation and of the posters and video films produced on farmer innovation.

**Influence on DFID research strategy.** Upon invitation of the Head of DFID's Central Research Department, PROLINNOVA provided a keynote input into DFID's Research Visioning and Strategy Workshop on 7–8 March in London, UK. It argued for "investment in enhancing innovation systems to reach development goals" and provided inputs on opportunities and

challenges the development research community will need to address in the next 20 years, and the implications in terms of research agendas and approaches for different stakeholders.

**Contribution at World Social Forum.** The PROLINNOVA–Uganda secretariat organised a session on integrating IK in scientific research at the World Social Forum in Nairobi in January, and facilitated four farmer innovators to exhibit their work at this event.

**Presentation at APAARI Expert Consultation.** On the invitation of APAARI (Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions), the Country Coordinator of Prolinnova–Nepal presented the PROLINNOVA programme and its relevance for the Asia-Pacific region at an Expert Consultation to Review Progress of Agricultural Research Networks and Consortia in Asia-Pacific, in October 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to review the progress of various regional research networks and consortia that work in partnership with APAARI or independently, and to devise a strategy for future collaboration involving various stakeholders in order to meet the emerging research needs identified by APAARI members.

**Participation at GFAR Program Committee Meeting.** As one of the Global Partnership Programmes (GPP) under the Global Forum for Agricultural Research, PROLINNOVA was invited to the Program Committee Meeting in Beijing in November 2006. PROLINNOVA’s presentation at this event was well received by members of the various regional fora and PROLINNOVA was commended for its achievements as a GPP.

**Contributions to Farmer First Revisited Conference.** Several PROLINNOVA partners were invited to the workshop, “Farmer first re-visited: farmer innovation and agricultural research and development twenty years on”, organised by the Institute for Development Studies of the University in Sussex, UK, in December 2007. PROLINNOVA participants presented papers and provided inputs as discussants in various sessions.

**Input into FAO/SARD Policy Brief.** PROLINNOVA was one of the several organisations invited by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)’s secretariat to provide inputs into the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Policy Brief 21 on SARD and scaling up of good practices.

**Dialogue with development funding organisations.** The contact with the Rockefeller Foundation (RF) Innovation for Development Initiative continued after the Innovation Africa Symposium in November 2006; RF showed most interest in the LISF pilots. Similar discussions were held with the manager of the MATF in East Africa, an initiative of the UK-based NGO FARM-Africa, in order to raise awareness about PROLINNOVA and LISFs. A visit was made to EED in Bonn, Germany during which the PROLINNOVA concepts and approach were presented and possibilities of collaboration were discussed. New and emerging CPs (Kenya, Mozambique and the Andes) were stimulated to submit proposals to EED.

Details of participation of PROLINNOVA partners in international events during 2007 are found in Annex 2.

### **Website management**

During 2007, the website has been kept up-to-date by IIRR with more than 50 uploads and nine new pages/sub-sections, including at least one per CP (page or sub-section). PROLINNOVA partners appear to be more prompt in sending materials for website uploading. Suggestions from several CPs to keep the website “light” in order to minimise problems in access due to poor connectivity (i.e. Ethiopia, Cambodia) have been given due consideration. The PROLINNOVA website continues to evolve, keeping abreast of the changes within the programme (emergence of new CPs/RPs, new themes etc.).

The PROLINNOVA website generated the following statistics for 2007:

- Daily averages: **213 real visits** per day, **448 pages** visited per day, and **792 hits** per day. These numbers are comparable to the 2006 averages.
- Monthly averages: an average of **6,460 real visits** per month, **13,550 pages** visited per month, and **24,200 hits** per month.
- Average monthly unique visitors: **2,547**.

Comparison of 2006 with 2007 web statistics:

	Full 2006	1 <sup>st</sup> Half 2007	2 <sup>nd</sup> Half 2007	Full 2007
Avg. Daily Visit	220.91	231.45	195.36	<b>213.41</b>
Avg. Daily Page Views	519.08	473.25	421.77	<b>447.51</b>
Avg. Visits per Month	6,627.42	6,943.67	5,979.80	<b>6,461.74</b>
Avg. Page Views per Month	15,572.33	14,197.50	12,904.60	<b>13,551.05</b>

### 3.4 Governance and network functioning

#### **POG**

The first term of office of the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group came to an end early this year. Election procedures for a new POG were initiated in late 2006 and completed in early 2007. The new POG now has four members from CPs (one from the Andes, one from the Asia–Pacific region, one from francophone Africa and one from the rest of Africa) plus three external members. Immediately after the international partners meeting in Senegal in March, the fifth meeting of the POG was held. The meeting agreed on a new chair and co-chair and was informed of the new PROFEIS programme in West Africa, which it also agreed to oversee under the PROLINNOVA umbrella. Other issues discussed included the FAIR sub-programme, the expansion of the PROLINNOVA community of practice, and links with regional and sub-regional platforms for agricultural research and development.

Making use of the fact that several POG members had been invited to the Farmer First Revisited workshop and would therefore be in the UK at the same time, another POG meeting – the sixth – was organised at the same venue. The POG welcomed Monica Kapiriri (Uganda) the new member from anglophone Africa who starts her term in January 2008. Apart from a general review of PROLINNOVA’s key activities, the POG also discussed the inclusion of Mozambique as a PROLINNOVA country programme and refined the criteria for including new countries into the PROLINNOVA community of practice.

#### **International Partners Meeting**

On 19–23 March, the fourth annual international PROLINNOVA partners meeting was held in Senegal, hosted by IED-Afrique (Innovations, Environnement et Développement en Afrique). Forty people from 20 countries exchanged experiences in recognising and promoting local innovation, building multi-stakeholder partnerships, integrating PID into university curricula and engaging in policy dialogue. Task forces were formed to work further on different activities such as promoting local innovation in communities affected by HIV/AIDS, mainstreaming gender in PID, cross visits among CPs for learning etc. The meeting also allowed people from “new” countries starting up PROLINNOVA-type programmes, e.g. in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and Senegal, to meet and learn from the more established CPs. A comprehensive report was prepared by IIRR and ETC and is available on the website.

### ***Country backstopping***

Backstopping visits were paid to all nine countries (under DGIS funding) during the year. The agenda for these visits were developed together with the CP coordinators in order to provide support in issues they regard important. In addition to these face-to-face meetings, regular support to the countries was given throughout the year using e-mail, skype and telephone. Initial support visits were also made to countries (eg. Kenya) that are in the process of establishing their own PROLINNOVA programmes.

### ***Monitoring & Evaluation***

The PROLINNOVA Secretariat prepared a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) protocol according to the guidelines provided by DGIS. The protocol was commented on, revised and approved thereafter by DGIS.

On the request of the countries, operational guidelines to strengthen M&E of the CPs were drafted. The guidelines include a set of simple monitoring and reporting matrices that are in line with the above-mentioned M&E protocol. Several CPs tested these guidelines for monitoring and reporting during 2007 and provided feedback for improvement.

In January, IIRR facilitated the annual electronic evaluation of the programme. The main outcomes of this internal evaluation were discussed during the international partners meeting in March.

Several M&E tools for outcome/performance evaluation were also included in the international Training of PID Facilitators in July.

### ***Fund and contract management***

Being the first year under the new four-year DGIS grant, the first six months were demanding in terms of contract management. New contracts were signed with the 10 partner organisations coordinating CP or sub-programmes (Ghana) and with the two IST partner organisations IIRR and CIS-VUA. In consultation with the POG, several important modifications were introduced into the new contract. The contracting process with the partners included: a) preparation of an agreement on a four-year strategic plan based on assessments undertaken at the end of 2006; b) preparation of an agreement on a 2007 operational work-plan and budget; and c) agreement on contract formulation and signing.

## 4 CONCLUSION

The transition of the PROLINNOVA programme to the new DGIS supported four-year phase starting in 2007 has been relatively smooth. The self-assessments and strategic-planning efforts of partners at all levels by the end of 2006 enabled rapid agreement on work plans and budgets for the new phase and ensured an unhindered continuation of the programme into the new phase.

The annual international partners meeting in Senegal this year played an important role in this transition. Partners were able to discuss in detail some of the new components and requirements in this new funding cycle and organise themselves in various groups to face new challenges and to expand activities.

Interest in PROLINNOVA is growing rapidly as indicated by this report, particularly from organisations in countries not covered so far under the DGIS agreement but wishing to initiate similar activities. Recently, three West African countries, three countries from the Andes, Kenya and Mozambique have thus joined, often mobilising own funding. Under the leadership of the POG, a process has been designed for such new countries to join the PROLINNOVA community of practice.

The IST and the international secretariat realises the challenge they face in supporting such an expanding global network, in which the number and diversity of countries, organisations and sub-programmes in PROLINNOVA is growing steadily. This aspect is being closely monitored by the POG with strategies being developed to address this challenge. The possibility of older CPs providing support to emerging CPs and raising additional resources to support such facilitation are among the strategies being pursued.

In the policy arena, PROLINNOVA is making in-roads, both at national and international level. PROLINNOVA partners are being invited regularly to present their experiences at various events, some of which are mentioned in this report.

With a good start in 2007, the programme is poised to make great strides in achieving the rather ambitious plans for the years ahead.



## Annex 1: PROLINNOVA publications, papers and presentations 2007

### **Booklets finalised in 2006 but delivered in 2007:**

Critchley W, Verburg M & van Veldhuizen L. 2006. **Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships: lessons from PROLINNOVA**. Silang, Cavite: IIRR / Leusden: PROLINNOVA. 55pp.

Wettasinha C, Wongtschowski M & Waters-Bayer A. 2006. **Recognising local innovation: experiences of PROLINNOVA partners**. Silang, Cavite: IIRR / Leusden: PROLINNOVA. 62pp.

### **2007 publications:**

Beek, S van & Rutt RL. Cleaning, greening and feeding cities: local initiatives in recycling waste for urban agriculture in Kampala, Uganda. *Urban Agriculture Magazine* 19 (study carried out with PROLINNOVA-Uganda).

Critchley W. 2007. **Working with farmer innovators**. Wageningen: CTA.

Critchley W & Brown M (in press). **"Where's muck there's money".....but an anti-social smell as well: a cautionary tale from Jamaica**. *Urban Agriculture Magazine* 19.

Critchley W, Wettasinha C & Waters-Bayer A (in press). **Promoting local innovation in rural agriculture: experience and lessons for urban settings**. *Urban Agriculture Magazine* 19.

FAO (in press). **SARD and scaling-up of good practices**. SARD Policy brief No 1. FAO (in collaboration with PROLINNOVA CISVU).

Hailu Araya, Yohannes GebreMichael, Abera GebreAmlak & Waters-Bayer A. **Participatory research that builds on local innovation in beekeeping to escape poverty**. *Rural Development News* 1/2007: 29–33.

Hailu Araya. 2007. **The story of a smart water harvester in Tigray Region, Ethiopia**. In: *Smart water harvesting solutions for rain, fog, run-off water and groundwater* (Netherlands Water Partnership), pp 36–39.

Karbo N. **Natural mineral licks to enhance livestock growth**. *Appropriate Technology* 34 (1): 46–48.

Letty B & van Veldhuizen L. **Synergies between supporting endogenous development and participatory innovation development as methodologies for understanding and improving rural livelihoods**. In: Haverkort B & Rist S (eds), *Endogenous development and bio-cultural diversity: the interplays of worldviews, globalization and locality* (Compas Series on Worldviews and Sciences 6, Leusden: ETC / Compas; Bern: Centre for Development and Environment), pp 214–222.

Ngubane N. **Farmer Access to Innovation Resources (FAIR): Local Innovation Support Fund pilot in South Africa**. Presentation at Research Into Use Side Event, FARA General Assembly, Sandton, 11 July 2007 (PowerPoint).

PROLINNOVA International Secretariat. **PROLINNOVA at work: highlights in 2004–2006**. Silang, Cavite: IIRR.

PROLINNOVA International Secretariat, 2007. **PTD/PID Circular No 16**. ETC Ecoculture.

PROLINNOVA, Oxfam Novib, PELUM-Uganda. **Farmer led documentation for sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.** 8pp (brochure with CDs).

Ruter D & van Veldhuizen L. **ICT and the facilitation of learning and exchange within international networks: the case of PROLINNOVA.** In: Secretariat of the Pacific Community (ed), *Pacific Extension Summit: Bringing about change - promoting participatory agricultural extension in the Pacific, 21-25 November 2005, Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga*, p 35.

Salomon M. **Up-scaling through local action and global partnering.** Presentation at Research Into Use Side Event, FARA General Assembly, Sandton, 11 July 2007 (PowerPoint).

Saha S. **Integrating Participatory Innovation Development (PID) into research, extension and education.** Summary progress report to the GFAR Programme Committee Meeting, 28–29 November 2007, Beijing, China (Powerpoint and paper, 16pp).

Sharad Rai. **Supporting local innovation in Nepal.** *id21 insights* 68 (Sept 2007), p 3.

Shrestha P. **PROLINNOVA Global Partnership Programme: relevance for Asia-Pacific.** Expert Consultation to Review Progress of Agricultural Research Networks and Consortia in Asia-Pacific, 8–10 October 2007, NAARM and ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India (PowerPoint).

Veldhuizen L van. **Promoting participatory agricultural research and extension.** In: *Secretariat of the Pacific Community (ed), Pacific Extension Summit: Bringing about change - promoting participatory agricultural extension in the Pacific, 21-25 November 2005, Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga*, pp 20-21.

Veldhuizen L van. **Institutionalising participatory agricultural research and extension: lessons and challenges.** In: *Secretariat of the Pacific Community (ed), Pacific Extension Summit: Bringing about change - promoting participatory agricultural extension in the Pacific, 21-25 November 2005, Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga*, p 26.

Veldhuizen L van. **Updates on PROLINNOVA.** *GFAR Newsletter* 19 (April 2007), p4.

Waters-Bayer A. **Enhancing local innovation in agriculture and natural resource management.** In: *CIDA-UPCD Sustainable Rural Agriculture Development Conference Proceedings on Innovation & Extension*, Hawassa University, February 2007 (Awassa: Hawassa University), pp 38–48.

Waters-Bayer A. **Investment in enhancing innovation systems to reach development goals.** Invited paper for Research Visioning and Strategy Workshop, Department for International Development (DFID), London, 7 March 2007. 4pp.

Waters-Bayer A & Bayer W. **Enhancing local innovation to improve water productivity in crop-livestock systems.** IWMI / ILRI Workshop on Harnessing Water Productivity in Crop-Livestock Systems of Sub-Saharan Africa through Improved Livestock and Water Interventions, 24–26 September 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Waters-Bayer A, Wettasinha C & van Veldhuizen L. **PROLINNOVA: building partnerships to promote local innovation processes.** Invited paper for Farmer First Revisited workshop, 12–14 December 2007, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University, Brighton.

Waters-Bayer A & Yan Zhaoli. **Recognising local innovation in the framework of co-management of the rangelands on the Tibetan Plateau.** International Rangelands Congress, China, June 2008.

Yohannes GM & Waters-Bayer A. **Trees are our backbone: integrating environment and local development in Tigray Region of Ethiopia.** *IIED Drylands Issue Paper 145.* London: International Institute for Environment and Development.

### **Video films:**

**Farmer innovations in Okhahlamba (Potschini), KwaZulu-Natal (Mr Thabane Dladla).** Pietermaritzburg: Farmer Support Group. 6 min.

**Farmer innovations, Amazizi, KwaZulu-Natal (Mr Mcijene Mbhele).** Pietermaritzburg: Farmer Support Group. 10 min.

### **Newspaper articles:**

Sénégal: Faire valoir les innovations locale. SudOnline.sn (21 mars 07) ([http://www.sudonline.sn/IMG/article\\_PDF\\_article\\_1394.pdf](http://www.sudonline.sn/IMG/article_PDF_article_1394.pdf))

Sénégal: PROLINNOVA pour une réponse appropriée à la demande paysanne par Wal Fadjri, par M L Badji 22 mars 2007 (<http://fr.allafrica.com/stories/200703220436.html>)

Sénégal: Développement durable : quand l'ingéniosité des paysans dicte la voie à suivre. [http://www.lesoleil.sn/article.php3?id\\_article=23448](http://www.lesoleil.sn/article.php3?id_article=23448)

## Annex 2: Participation of PROLINNOVA partners in international meetings, 2007

Meeting	Organiser	Dates	City / Country	PROLINNOVA participants	From	Sponsor
Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development Conference on Innovation and Extension	CIDA	24 Feb 07	Awassa / Ethiopia	Amanuel Assefa*, Ethiopia Ann Waters-Bayer*, Netherlands Fetien Abay*, Ethiopia Tesfahun Fenta*, Ethiopia	CP IST CP CP	PROLINNOVA CIDA CIDA PROLINNOVA
Research Visioning and Strategy Workshop	DFID	7-8 Mar 07	London / UK	Ann Waters-Bayer*, Netherlands	IST	DFID
FARA 4 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly / Africa Agric. Science Week	FARA	10-16 June 07	Johannesburg / SA	Monique Salomon*, Nono Ngubane**, Anton Krone**, Zanele Shezi**, 4 farmers, 1 ESAFF rep and 4 members of provincial task teams**, (all from South Africa)	CP FAIR IST CP CP	RIU RIU FAIR RIU RIU
Overcoming Challenges in Scaling Out Agricultural Research Successes	RIU	11 June 07	Johannesburg / SA	Monique Salomon**, South Africa	CP	RIU
Harnessing Water Productivity in Crop-Livestock Systems of Sub-Saharan Africa	IWMI / ILRI	24-26 Sept 07	Addis Ababa / Ethiopia	Ann Waters-Bayer*, Netherlands	IST	ILRI
E-Agriculture Week / FLD sharing event	FAO	24-28 Sept 07	Rome / Italy	Miranda Verburg, Netherlands	IST	ETC EcoCulture
Procesos de Extensión y Desarrollo Participativo de Innovación para el Desarrollo Rural en América Latina (PID and participatory agricultural extension in Latin America)	RAAA, RAPAL, PROLINNOVA-Andes, ANPE	17-20 Oct 07	La Molina, Lima / Peru	Elizabeth Vargas**, Bolivia Steve Sherwood**, Ecuador Héctor Velasquez**, Peru	CP/POG CP CP	PROLINNOVA PROLINNOVA RAAA
APAARI Forum	APAARI	8-10 Oct 07	Hyderabad / India	Pratap Shrestha*, Nepal	CP	APAARI

Meeting	Organiser	Dates	City / Country	PROLINNOVA participants	From	Sponsor
GFAR Programme Committee meeting	GFAR	Nov 07	Beijing / China	Shayamal Saha*, Philippines	IST	GFAR
The World on your Plate: Livestock in a Global Perspective / ELD meeting	DIO / ELD	7-10 Nov 07	Utrecht / Netherlands	Jacob Wanyama*, Mozambique	CP (in waiting)	ELD
Farmer First Revisited Workshop	IDS	12-14 Dec 07	Brighton / UK	Amanuel Assefa*, Ethiopia Ann Waters-Bayer*, Netherlands Awa Faly Ba*, Senegal Assetou Kanouté*, Mali Betty Del Rosario*, IFAP Elizabeth Vargas*, Bolivia Oliver Oliveros*, DURAS Scott Killough*, World Neighbors	CP/POG IST CP CP POG CP/POG POG POG	IDS IDS IDS IDS IDS IDS IDS IDS

\* participant was invited/selected by the PROLINNOVA International Support Team or Country Programme

\*\* participant was invited/selected directly by organisers

\*\*\* partial payment by PROLINNOVA

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