

PROLINNOVA

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

Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management

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Cover photo:

Women and men in Boumba Kaina village, Niger, improving the design of their fish-smoking oven through joint experimentation. Photo: Jean-Marie Diop

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACDEP	Association of Church Development Projects
ADCR	<i>Associação para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais</i> (Association for the Development of Rural Communities)
ARD	agricultural research and development
CBO	community-based organisation
CEDAC	<i>Centre d'Étude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien</i> (Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture)
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIRAD	<i>Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement</i> (Centre for International Cooperation and Agriculture Research for Development)
CIS-VUA	Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam
CNRM	Community-based Natural Resource Management
COMPAS	Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development
CP	Country Programme
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (Netherlands)
DURAS	<i>Promotion du Développement Durable dans les Systèmes de Recherche Agricole</i> (Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems)
ED	endogenous development
EED	<i>Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienst</i> (Church Development Service)
IED Afrique	<i>Innovations Environnement Développement Afrique</i> (Innovations Environment Development Africa)
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FLD	farmer-led documentation
FSG	Farmer Support Group
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
IAAS	Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFAP	International Federation of Agricultural Producers
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MFS	<i>Mede Financierings Stelsel</i> (Co-Financing System)
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Novib	Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation
PDA	Provincial Department of Agriculture
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
RIU	Research Into Use



INTRODUCTION

This report presents the progress made by the PROLINNOVA (Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management) network during 2008, with the intention of making this information widely available within and beyond the network.

During this second year under the MFS (Mede Financierings Stelsel; Co-Financing System) grant from the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) to ETC Foundation for the larger programme on “Community-based Natural Resource Management” (CNRM)¹, core activities of the PROLINNOVA network have been consolidated. In addition to the core activities carried out by all Country Programmes (CPs), network members have started up or continued several “subcomponents” or thematic pilots, each involving a subset of CPs whose proposals met the stipulated criteria. The current thematic components are: Local Innovation Support Funds (LISFs), Farmer-Led Documentation (FLD), Climate Change and Local Innovation, HIV/AIDS and Participatory Innovation Development (HAPID), CP cross-visits and Curriculum Development. Annex 1 gives an overview of various CPs’ involvement in these components.

Of these components, the LISF is the only one technically formulated as a separate entity, although still functioning under the larger PROLINNOVA umbrella. Until May 2008, this 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 in four CPs (in Cambodia, Ethiopia, South Africa and Uganda) and with own funding in the case of the Nepal CP. In March, Rockefeller Foundation agreed to provide funds to continue the work in these five countries and to expand into three more countries – Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania.

Meanwhile, the CPs in francophone West Africa (Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger) continued to seek funds for their regional programme PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel). Activities in Mali and Senegal are supported by Misereor (Germany). The other two CPs in francophone Africa have been increasingly mobilising funds locally to support their country-level activities. The CP in Niger continues to receive some funding through the MFS programme.

This report consists of three chapters. Chapter 1 presents an overview of the activities implemented by the CPs involved in PROLINNOVA, drawn from the annual reports presented by each CP. It is important to note that some of the CPs (those not in the core DGIS-funded programme) have very small seed funds from the network (or elsewhere). Chapter 2 highlights those activities which go beyond a single country, involving some or all CPs 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, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in the Philippines and the coordinators of multi-country sub-programmes based in Senegal and South Africa. In Chapter 3, some brief conclusions are drawn.

¹ The COMPAS (Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development) network is also part of this sub-programme.

1 COUNTRY / REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

1.1 Andes

In Peru, RAAA (*Red de Acción en Agricultura Alternativa*; Network for Action on Alternative Agriculture), together with ANPE (*Asociación Nacional de Productores Ecológicos del Perú*; National Association of Peruvian Ecological Farmers), organised informal meetings with other partners to elaborate a workplan, giving continuity to the activities realised in 2007 (training, workshops and an international seminar).

In June, partners in Bolivia (led by AGRECOL–Andes and World Neighbors Bolivia) organised a 2-day workshop on local innovation, attended by 15 participants from NGOs, research and farmer organisations. AGRECOL also compiled cases studies on local innovation, some of them related to new ways of dealing with increased drought resulting from climate change. It produced a concise document in Spanish on key concepts and principles in PID.

In Ecuador, the “Colectivo Agroecológico” (a group of interested individuals working on ecological agriculture and food sovereignty) discussed modalities of better integrating PROLINNOVA-related activities into existing activities in the country.

1.2 Burkina Faso

In May, partners held a planning workshop in Kaya to establish a national partnership and, around it, a short-term operational plan. The approved workplan includes identification and characterisation of innovators and innovations and continuing pilot activities in FLD.

1.3 Cambodia

The National Steering Committee (NSC) discussed concepts of PID, including experimentation documentation and methodology, in a meeting in early 2008. It approved 16 new proposals for joint experimentation.

The policy dialogue in Cambodia with the Ministry of Agriculture led to a decision to join forces in setting up a national fund to encourage and support farmer-led innovation in agriculture and NRM. The CP gave focused attention to institutionalising the PID approach, working mainly with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture (PDAs) in nine provinces. Activities included general policy dialogue, training and providing funding support to small-scale experimentation with the PID approach, followed by joint reflection on experiences gained. In 2009, these experiences will be documented in more detail for sharing within the network and beyond and for identifying areas where additional support would be needed.

In collaboration with a JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency)-supported project, PROLINNOVA-Cambodia organised an exchange visit in February for ten staff members of the PDA (Provincial Department of Agriculture) in Pursat Province. Through several capacity-building and institutionalisation-aimed activities in educational institutions, 131 students and eight lecturers were introduced to PROLINNOVA and learnt from its experiences.

A workshop in February on “Innovation Systems in Cambodia” involved 22 people from 18 institutions, including eight PDAs, three educational institutions, three NGOs and two farmer organisations. A workshop in June to review FAIR 1 and design FAIR 2, organised at the Prek Leap National School of Agriculture, involved 38 participants, including farmers, government officials, lecturers, NGOs, a commune council (Thlok) in Takeo Province and the network Farmer and Nature Net.

In October and November, the National Working Group of PROLINNOVA–Cambodia organised eight Local Innovation Workshops involving 262 participants. Ten farmers from these workshops were selected to join the National Forum on Local Innovation called "Can Farmers be Innovators?" with 136 participants (30 of them women) from 26 institutions in 11 provinces, including farmers, government officials, lecturers and NGO staff. Farmers presented their innovations, and participants selected the most interesting ones. In December, the National Platform workshop on "Promoting Local Innovation in Cambodia" involved 79 participants (including 24 women) from nine provinces and Phnom Penh.

As part of CEDAC's own contribution to the programme, 12 issues of the *Farmer Magazine* were published (8000 copies each) and distributed to donors, government agencies, PDAs, educational institutions and farmers. Over the year, a total of 96 cases of local innovation in agriculture and rural development were published in the magazine and, in December, compiled in a book on farmer innovation.

1.4 Ethiopia

Farmer-led experimentation on water management and beekeeping in Tigray Region was finalised. Three other PID activities (on electricity, beehives and coffee) in the Jimma area continued into 2009.

Three villages were selected for piloting FLD in Tigray Region, and local photographers were trained at each site.

Partners in Ethiopia focused their curriculum-development activities on integrating PID approaches into Farmer Training Centres (FTCs), where frontline extension workers are based; these activities are co-funded by ActionAid. Capacity building involved development agents in crop, livestock and NRM attached to nine pilot FTCs in three districts, but also key district-level government staff so as to increase their support for the FTCs and their new role.

In February, the CP was invited by the Southern Region Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development to take part in the Research, Extension, Farmers Advisory Council (REFAC) meeting in Yirgalem, where the CP coordinator presented a paper on experiences and achievements of the programme.

In April, the CP was invited to contribute to a training workshop at Melkassa Research Centre organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, supported by the World Bank in collaboration with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) as part of the Rural Capacity Building Project (RCBP) working with FTCs in 147 districts. The CP provided inputs for design of a Farmer Innovation Fund within this project.

In September, a national multistakeholder sharing and learning workshop was organised in Ambo (Oromia Region). The 24 participants reviewed the progress of PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia and the extent of institutionalisation of PID by the partner organisations.

An assessment of gender aspects in PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia was made for the International Partners Workshop (IPW) in March in Ghana and a study of gender aspects in a case of PID (dealing with bacterial wilt in *enset* or "false banana") was made for the gender writeshop in November in Uganda. A draft strategy was prepared on how gender can be mainstreamed into the PID process at different levels.

A study on the link between climate-change adaptation and local innovation, made by PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia partners in Addis Ababa University and Pastoral Forum Ethiopia (PFE), covered pastoral community perceptions on changes in their area, causes of their vulnerability to drought, and examples of local adaptation to climate change. The results of the study were discussed at a workshop in October organised by PFE, and follow-up activities were planned.

The CP finalised the two booklets that document experiences from FAIR 1, with support from the Dutch-funded Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network. Two more catalogues on local innovation have been prepared for printing.

1.5 Ghana

The PROLINNOVA–Ghana programme is implemented through two sub-programmes, Ghana South and Ghana North, under the supervision of one NSC.

1.5.1 Ghana South

PROLINNOVA–Ghana South is coordinated by ECASARD (Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development), which is also coordinating the HAPID component. It prepared an inventory of 87 organisations working with people living with HIV/AIDS was prepared. During a one-day inception meeting in July, 30 participants reviewed papers presented by both individuals and organisations, including NGOs and the Ministries of Health and Food and Agriculture. A capacity-building workshop on PID was held for HAPID partners in October. This was co-facilitated by the HAPID international coordinator from South Africa.

Programme partners documented five local innovations and finalised a publication on these. A 4-day training session on PID brought together 50 people, and 25 farmer innovators and agricultural extension officers were trained in participatory video documentation.

Five radio talkshows on local innovation and PID were organised on local FM stations in Cape Coast and Koforidua. These were presented by a team of researchers from the University of Cape Coast, staff from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and two farmer innovators.

Support was given to a student in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension at the University of Cape Coast to investigate the effects of neem, myrrh and pepper on smoked fish – local innovations that had been identified by CP partners.

1.5.2 Ghana North

PROLINNOVA–Ghana North, in collaboration with the IST, hosted the 2008 IPW in Tamale. The additional work involved in organising this event led to delays in implementing other planned PROLINNOVA activities in the region. The decentralised implementation arrangement that was adopted in managing the programme is yielding good results in terms of enhancing the ownership and sustainability of project results on the part of local partners. Three new partner proposals were submitted to PROLINNOVA–Ghana North for possible joint experimentation, while two local partners, Yendi and TAAP (Tamale Archdiocesan Agricultural Programme), continued facilitating joint experimentation related to local innovations: salt licks and neem extracts.

Local partners made considerable efforts to understand and plan the piloting of LISFs. Training was given to 80 fieldworkers in four locations in order to build capacities of new staff in PID, to refresh memory of other staff on PID and to facilitate PID in specific locations identified for the piloting.

ACDEP (Association of Church Development Projects) took part in a 5-day training workshop and planning meeting of the COMPAS–Africa programme on principles, concepts and tools of endogenous development (ED) and how to use the ED training framework/methodology in designing and implementing fieldwork. Likewise, approaches, experiences and results from the PROLINNOVA programme were shared with COMPAS partners.

In October, PROLINNOVA–Ghana North hosted a 10-day cross-visit from PROLINNOVA–Niger, involving two men and two woman, including a farmer innovator. ACDEP produced two handouts: one on “PROLINNOVA activities in Northern Ghana” and one on “Neem as insecticide”.

1.6 Kenya

PROLINNOVA–Kenya focused its activities in 2008 on starting up FAIR. PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management) organised a workshop aimed at building the knowledge of partners on LISF principles and preparing and planning for FAIR implementation. The workshop convened 20 participants: four representatives from community-based organisations (CBOs) in the pilot regions, staff from the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), representatives from six NGOs, including the two implementing NGOs World Neighbors and KENDAT (Kenya Network for Dissemination of Agricultural Technologies), and Task Force members.

FAIR inception studies were made in two pilot sites in Eastern and Western Kenya. There was appreciation for the LISF, as existing funds to farmers are for farm investment rather than farmer experimentation. At each site, during capacity-building workshop for stakeholders, Local Steering Committees were formed – each made up of five farmers, one researcher, one Ministry of Agriculture staff and two NGO staff members – and procedures for inviting and vetting proposals and disbursing funds were developed. KARI, which plays a key role in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the LISFs, facilitated a national workshop with 25 participants, who developed a framework and tools to complement the LISF register.

Farmer innovators fora were held at the two sites to raise awareness on local innovation and LISFs and to enhance buy-in from key (especially government) players. In Eastern Kenya, 55 innovators and, in western Kenya, 120 innovators shared their experiences. A total of 78 proposals were submitted and will be vetted in early 2009. SACDEP (Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme), a local NGO, is leading the work of documenting local innovation in the two sites and beyond.

To mobilise resources for PROLINNOVA–Kenya, a meeting was held with the Director of the Soil Health Programme at AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa), who encouraged the network to register itself.

1.7 Mali

Mali is one of the PROFEIS partners. In 2008, seven additional innovations (all by women) were documented. Joint experimentation was started on eight local innovations. A study trip involving ten farmer experimenters (five from Djéla and five from Kanouala) took place in June. They visited the Regional Centre for Agronomic Research in Sotuba, and had a rich exchange with researchers. Also in June, PROFEIS-Mali partners made a field trip to two sites, Djéla and Kalabougou, to identify main problems faced during the process of joint experimentation and to support exchange between the various teams involved in this. A documentary of this study trip (on DVD) was produced in the national language Bamanan.

PROFEIS–Mali partners attended a training workshop on documentation techniques, organised by Innovations Environnement Développement (IED) Afrique in Senegal.

1.8 Mozambique

In December 2007, the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) had officially welcomed PROLINNOVA-Mozambique into the international network. Since the beginning of 2008, Mozambique is involved in the HAPID sub-programme. It mobilised stakeholders for its implementation and translated key general PROLINNOVA and specific HAPID documents into Portuguese. An inventory was made of organisations that support HIV/AIDS-affected households and work in the area of agriculture and natural resource management (NRM); 34 of these stakeholders took part in the HAPID inception meeting in December.

PROLINNOVA–Mozambique faced a difficult situation in 2008, as VETAID – the NGO initially coordinating the multistakeholder partnership – decided to close its offices in the country. The

NSC asked ADCR (*Associação para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais*; Association for the Development of Rural Communities), a local NGO, to host the network until the end of the year. In December, the partners made an internal evaluation of the situation and asked ADCR to continue to serve as the national secretariat of PROLINNOVA–Mozambique. A new NSC was formed and the number of members was increased from three to four.

1.9 Nepal

An important step in strengthening the multistakeholder platform in Nepal was achieved through gaining the agreement of the Department of Agriculture to join and chair the NSC.

In July, a 2-day training workshop on PID was held for 20 community organisers (7 women, 13 men) from various LI-BIRD projects/programmes. In the same month, the District Agricultural Development Office (DADO) of Mustang organised a day of PID training, attended by 36 participants (8 women, 28 men), including teachers and others involved in local-level NRM activities. In November, a 5-day PID training workshop in Nawalparasi was attended by 18 (6 female, 12 male) fieldstaff members of PROLINNOVA–Nepal’s partner organisations. In the first half of the year, orientation about local innovation and LISFs were given to 462 farmers (110 women, 352 men) in Tuki Sindhupalchowk, including 19 farmer groups.

After the CP assessed gender issues in PID and recognised considerable gaps, the partners developed a conceptual framework for creating an enabling environment for women’s participation in joint experimentation and documentation.

With regard to climate-change adaptation, field visits were made to a flood-affected area in Kailali and to a drought-prone area in Bardia. Farmers in both areas practise various traditional adaptation measures, but no innovations could be identified.

Joint experimentation continued on a bio-briquette moulding machine; the use of water force to make wooden utensils; the use of local resources including solid waste to produce catfish; underground storage of apples in Mustang and exploring possibilities of producing biogas from water hyacinth. In several informal meetings with university faculty members and students, the best way to conduct PID on the effect of herbal manure was discussed. Thesis support was given to a student from the Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS) to study local innovation in apple production and marketing in Mustang District.

IAAS, Tribhuvan University – the main centre of tertiary education in agriculture in Nepal – finalised two courses on Participatory Innovation Research and Development Studies, one at BSc and one at MSc level. Their formal approval by the Faculty Board is expected early 2009.

In September, eight persons (1 woman, 7 men, one of these a farmer innovator) made a week-long cross-visit to Cambodia to learn about that CP’s experience in integrating PID approaches into government institutions.

In 2008, PROLINNOVA–Nepal documented more than 60 local innovations and prepared an innovation database. It published pamphlets on two innovations: the one-ox plough and banana weevil control by applying electric current. The training resource book for PID trainers was improved. In May, the second issue of the *PROLINNOVA–Nepal Newsletter* was published.

1.10 Niger

The Niger CP is part of PROFEIS but, because funding for this is still limited, activities continue to be supported from the DGIS grant. PROLINNOVA–Niger facilitated on-farm joint experiments on five local innovations: a locally developed fish-smoking oven, use of cassava tubers to fatten cattle, use of millet glumes to fertilise cassava, extraction of natron (by a women’s cooperative) and impact of growing Irish potato on upland soils. Results were documented and shared through village meetings, workshops and farmer-to-farmer visits.

A literature review on climate-change adaptation was made in the framework of the regional CIRDES (*Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Élevage en zone Subhumide*; International Research and Development Centre on Animal Husbandry in Sub-Humid Areas) workshop on Livestock and Climate Change in West Africa, held in Niger in February (45 participants). PROLINNOVA-Niger made interviews in national, regional and international organisations working on climate change and made field studies in Tahoua and Maradi Regions. The results were also presented at a CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation) seminar in Burkina Faso on implications of climate change for sustainable agriculture in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ca 150 participants).

In March, a workshop for 41 participants (6 women, 35 men) at University of Niamey focused on joint experimentation and institutionalising PID, using outputs of work in Pole West.

For FLD, the CP organised an awareness-raising meeting for development partners in eastern Niger in March and initial meetings with farmers in three villages in May and June. For documentation, learning and sharing, both traditional (use of theatre, traditional wrestling meetings and weekly markets as communication channels) and modern methods (photography, video and rural press) were used. A training workshop on FLD and local organisation was held in Boumba village, co-organised and facilitated by farmer groups. Thirty participants (15 women, 15 men), including farmers, development workers, municipal staff, researchers and university staff, were trained in photography and participatory video. They jointly set guidelines for use of digital cameras by farmer groups, development workers and municipal staff. An Innovative Farmer Organisation was set up. PROLINNOVA-Niger gave literacy training to 75 farmers, who then applied their new skills in FLD pilots.

In October, two women (a farmer innovator and a staff member of a non-formal education organisation) and two men (from University of Niamey and the national research institute) made a cross-visit to PROLINNOVA Ghana North.

A proposal on FLD and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) was developed and sent to CTA to solicit funding.

1.11 Senegal

Senegal is part – and leading partner – of PROFEIS. In 2008, the NSC (called National Piloting Committee, CNP) held five meetings to discuss and re-define the methodological approach and institutional arrangements and to plan and evaluate field activities. Three additional local innovations were documented and three pilots in joint experimentation were started up. In July, a workshop was held to set up an innovators' network, and two farmer-to-farmer visits were organised in Keur Birima Fall (Thiès Region) and Ndoff (Fatick Region). In partnership with the AGRIDAPE (French acronym for low-external-input and sustainable agriculture) programme of IED Afrique, AGRECOL-Afrique (the NGO coordinating PROFEIS–Senegal) hosted a training workshop on documentation techniques, in which PROFEIS partners from both Mali and Senegal took part. Moreover, a training workshop was organised on joint experimentation. The National Agency for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (ANCAR) and university-based researchers joined the NSC.

1.12 South Africa

Decentralisation of activities at country level has led to active partners in four provinces initiating and implementing own sets of activities. This has meant that institutionalisation of approaches promoted by PROLINNOVA has been more effectively achieved.

PROLINNOVA–South Africa analysed gender issues within a PID case as well as within the provincial PROLINNOVA structures. The analysis was presented at the IPW in Ghana (March) and the gender writeshop in Uganda (November).

In Mpumalanga Province, three follow-up workshops on PID were organised, involving a total of 63 people, 34 of them farmers, the remainder being largely extension staff from the Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA). One farmer who attended the workshops arranged, in turn, a follow-up workshop for 22 farmers from his area and from Mpumalanga and some members of the *Ubukhosi* (traditional authority structure).

The Provincial Task Team (PTT) in Limpopo Province prepared two brochures: one focused on local innovations that offer research potential, the other on innovations ready to be spread. It also printed two posters on local innovations. A 3-day workshop on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Local Innovation Documentation took place at the Madzivhandila College in Venda in September and was attended by 41 people. A mini-workshop for eight farmer innovators (and attended also by 19 PDA officials and three staff from University of Limpopo) was held in December in Limpopo.

In June, the members of the PTTs and the NSC made a field trip to Potshini in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province, where they met with farmers to be involved in the PID initiatives.

A one-day orientation PID workshop was organised in August for North West (NW) Province, followed by a one-day workshop on FLD involving 18 farmer trainers from four villages near Mafikeng. The farmers documented their activities with support from the Agricultural Research Council and Farmer Support Group (FSG). This was challenging, as neither party is based in NW Province.

At the Universities of KZN and Limpopo, concepts of PID and local innovation were included in postgraduate and undergraduate courses, respectively. On behalf of PROLINNOVA–South Africa, partners attended two workshops, in May and June, organised by the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD).

PROLINNOVA–South Africa coordinated international activities under FAIR 1. At country level, this included a reflection meeting held in March. Ford Foundation confirmed support of USD 50,000 for FAIR-related activities over two years (2008 and 2009). In 2008, FAIR funded four experiments (PID cases) in South Africa.

The CP in South Africa is also coordinating the three-country HAPID pilot. The pilot in South Africa is coordinated by FSG, the outreach arm of the Centre for Environment, Agriculture and Development at University of KZN. A survey was made of current activities of organisations in terms of agriculture and HIV/AIDS, and capacity-building workshops were held in three districts where local innovations by communities confronted by HIV/AIDS were subsequently identified. In December, HAPID–SA partners visited Hluhluwe to meet with members of the Oxfam Food Security Cluster and discuss their involvement in the HAPID initiative as well as their broader involvement in PROLINNOVA–South Africa.

1.13 Sudan

In January, NSC members recommended incorporating, linking and studying climate-change impacts in all PROLINNOVA activities. This was partly pursued by linking PROLINNOVA with the climate-change programme of Practical Action, the NGO that coordinates the CP.

A farmers' forum funded by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) was held in February in western Sudan. It aimed at giving more recognition to farmers' role in ARD and in enhancing their self-confidence. It was attended by eight farmers, three local artisans, three facilitators from the agricultural research station and 30 staff members (11 women, 19 men) from the Research Cooperation (El Obied Station) and the Technology Transfer and Extension Administration (TTEA) in North Kordofan State.

In October, PROLINNOVA–Sudan held an agricultural exhibition in Damazien, Blue Nile State. In November, another farmers' forum was held in Blue Nile, attended by 13 people, including three farmers from Kassala State, three farmers from Blue Nile, two blacksmiths, four persons from TTEA (1 woman, 3 men) and a female trainee from the Practical Action Food Security Project. In the same month, a training workshop on documentation of local innovation was held in Kassala.

In November, PROLINNOVA–Sudan took part in the gender writeshop in Uganda and presented a case study on gender issues in PID. This reflected improved planning and implementation of the action plan produced by the participants in the Women's Innovation Workshop in Khartoum in August. The NSC was re-structured by adding four new members, all women, bringing the total number of members to 15.

Research was conducted to validate early-maturing varieties of sorghum and millet selected by farmers. In addition, farmer-led experiments were conducted on terrace shape and on sorghum cultivars in Kassala, on sorghum cultivars in Blue Nile, and on selection of hibiscus varieties for farmer-preferred traits in North Kordofan. Ahmed Hanafi – a former Practical Action team leader and PROLINNOVA–Sudan coordinator, now consultant – made four study visits to monitor and evaluate these experiments.

The book on local innovation in Sudan was translated into Arabic and published.

1.14 Tanzania

Two documentation workshops related to PROLINNOVA were held: a 3-day workshop for Oxfam–Tanzania partner organisations (involving 14 women and 18 men) and a 5-day documentation workshop involving 10 women and 13 men on experiences of MVIWATA (national network of farmers) with farmer-managed saving and credit organisations. A FAIR 2 inception planning workshop was organised, aimed at building the capacities of partners and preparing for FAIR implementation in Tanzania. The workshop brought together ten people (2 women, 8 men) from the key organisations to be involved in FAIR 2.

PELUM–Tanzania organised and facilitated a training workshop on PID (4 female and 20 male participants), on FLD (5 women and 23 men) and on FLD and record-keeping methodologies (13 women, 35 men).

A total of 67 farmers and eight development staff from PELUM–Tanzania member organisations and the wider PROLINNOVA–Tanzania network took part in the National Agricultural Exhibition. A 2-week visit to PROLINNOVA partner organisations was arranged to identify more local innovations in agriculture and NRM and to provide backstopping on PID, LISF, FLD and other farmer-centred development approaches.

The CP underwent an external evaluation by EED (*Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienst*, Church Development Service, Germany), its main donor. This was overall positive on PROLINNOVA's initial results, and EED pledged support for the next three years (2008–10).

PELUM–Tanzania signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agricultural Research Institute and the Livestock Research Centre within Uyole Research Institute in the Southern Highlands to do joint experimentation with farmer innovators and to provide scientific inputs.

PROLINNOVA–Tanzania partner organisations have been included in the national pool of trainers of the Ministry of Agriculture that is training researchers nationwide in people-centred innovation system approaches. For this national training, they developed four modules on Agricultural Innovation Systems and Farmer Innovation and Experimentation.

Various information materials were produced: a catalogue on local innovations, leaflets, posters, a practical guideline for community/farmer mobilisation, newsletters and a video.

1.15 Uganda

The PID activities focused mainly on waste management in urban areas, as part of PROLINNOVA and the Focus Cities Research Initiative (funded by the International Development Research Centre, Canada). Also as part of this partnership, a 1.5-day refresher training on PID (jointly with a team from CIS-VUA) was organised.

In October, ten local innovators from the Focus Cities project area presented their innovations in waste management at the Kasubi Kawaala Day in Makerere, and five other local innovators and one female staff of a partner organisation (Africa 2000 Network) showcased their work at the National World Food Day celebrations in Tororo.

PROLINNOVA–Uganda co-organised a local-level policy and advocacy workshop which included 11 local innovators. The CP also supported the Ugandan National Association for the Blind to document innovations in agriculture and NRM by blind people.

In November, a “sharing event” involving six women and 16 men created a platform for CP partners to share their experiences in promoting local innovation in Uganda.

Twenty CBOs (involving over 160 people, from forest dwellers to wetland managers) exhibited their innovations at the community events marking Environmental Alert’s 20th anniversary celebrations.

Within the FAIR sub-programme, 64 of the 88 applications received were approved and funded. Two students from the Free University of Amsterdam were supported to conduct a study on the effectiveness and impact of the LISF. Lessons from this study were incorporated into the implementation of FAIR 2.

A radio talkshow was jointly organised by PROLINNOVA–Uganda, Environmental Alert and PELUM–Uganda on Rock Mambo radio on the current food crisis in light of the impacts of climate change.

Several local innovations were documented using video in Semuto, Mubende and Moyo.

Dialogue meetings were held with stakeholders from academia (Makerere University Kampala and Ndejje Christian University) on integration of PID within their institutions.

1.16 Emerging Country Programme: Nigeria

In August, the NGO Development Resource Initiative (DRIVE) organised a meeting of stakeholders in ARD, mainly in Kaduna State, to explore interest in establishing a PROLINNOVA network in Nigeria. A member of the PROLINNOVA–Ghana North network with many years’ experience in participatory research and development served as resource person during the workshop. It was attended by 26 people (including 2 women) from farmer groups, NGOs, national research and extension agencies, agricultural colleges and an association of agricultural-input suppliers. The participants agreed to form a “PROLINNOVA–Nigeria Learning Group” and selected five members to finalise the proposal for action and to organise implementation of the planned activities: documenting local innovation, facilitating participatory testing of innovations, building the capacity of Learning Group members in PID approaches, raising awareness of PID among policymakers in ARD, documenting and sharing lessons learned from implementing PID in Nigeria, and mobilising resources for these activities. The Working Group drew up a proposal for an inception phase for PROLINNOVA–Nigeria, which was submitted to the POG in late 2008.

2 NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

2.1 Development of innovative methods and approaches

Piloting Local Innovation Support Funds

PROLINNOVA has been piloting a new mechanism to make funds for agricultural research and development (ARD) accessible to farmer experimenters and local agencies supporting them: the Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF) under the FAIR sub-programme. At the end of March, prior to the IPW, the CPs involved met in Ghana for a "writeshop", during which they finalised the documentation of country-level and international synthesis papers. These documents were printed in South Africa for wider distribution. The writeshop also updated people from the three new CPs joining the LISF piloting on the experiences in the first phase (FAIR 1), allowing them to prepare realistic own strategies. These activities concluded the first phase of the sub-programme funded through DURAS (*Promotion du Développement Durable dans les Systèmes de Recherche Agricole*).

The second phase of FAIR, co-funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, started formally on 1 April. It took quite some time for the PROLINNOVA Secretariat and the eight CPs involved to finalise formal agreements, including 4-year strategic plans and budgets and 2008 action plans and budgets for implementing the sub-programme. The three new CPs (Ghana North, Kenya and Tanzania) moved relatively quickly, implemented their start-up exploratory studies, held stakeholder planning workshops and started capacity building and organisational arrangements at the local level. In these three CPs, implementation of FAIR activities is the responsibility of other partners than the coordinating NGO. In three of the initial five CPs piloting LISFs, the transition from FAIR 1 to FAIR 2 went relatively smoothly, and the piloting work has continued and/or expanded from the work under FAIR 1. During 2008, three telephone conferences were held among FAIR partners to review progress and plan further action.

Progress in two of the five initial CPs involved in FAIR has been below expectations, mainly because of the lack of (the creation of) implementation time/capacity within the coordinating NGO. The PROLINNOVA Secretariat is working with the two organisations to find ways to address the situation. Generally, all CPs underspent considerably the FAIR 2 budget for 2008, partly because of the time needed to prepare new or existing CBOs for receiving their disbursement and the delay in transferring first FAIR advances to the CPs (see below). In view of this, the Secretariat decided to allow all CPs to carry forward into 2009 all unspent resources from 2008 and not to apply the rule in the contracts that sets a maximum for this amount (20% of annual budget). The Secretariat will do its best to prevent the same happening again in 2009–2010.

Farmer-led documentation (FLD)

In FLD, local communities take the lead in documentation processes and use the results for purposes of internal learning and exchange between communities and with development agents and policymakers. FLD is meant to empower community members. Four CPs (in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger and South Africa) started implementing FLD pilots in 2008, with support from the core DGIS funds, and documented their learning processes along the way.

The partnership with PELUM–Uganda and Oxfam–Novib (initiated in 2006) was continued. Through active participation in a PELUM-coordinated FLD Steering Group, PROLINNOVA partners from various CPs, as well as members from the IST, supported the ongoing work of the partnership on FLD. Via the website, PROLINNOVA shared FLD-related news and information with network members and others. The FLD e-list was also maintained.

2.2 Capacity building

Training of PID facilitators

PROLINNOVA did not organise any PID training in 2008. Instead, it began preparations for organising a refresher course for previously trained trainers in 2009.

HIV/AIDS and PID (HAPID)

A subgroup of CPs within PROLINNOVA had jointly developed ideas for learning and action related to HIV/AIDS and PID (HAPID) in 2007. In January 2008, this initiative was launched. The three CPs selected for this component because of the strong interest shown are in Ghana South, Mozambique and South Africa. The pilot aims to: 1) understand the implications of HIV/AIDS on research and development work; 2) understand how local innovation allows households and communities to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS, with special attention to women's roles and decision-making abilities; and (3) develop and share strategies and approaches for integrating local innovation and PID into efforts to avoid/prevent HIV/AIDS and to mitigate its effects.

The three CPs focused on building linkages between PROLINNOVA partner organisations and other local organisations supporting HIV/AIDS-affected households. This was achieved through workshops and smaller meetings and collaborating in identifying innovations by local people in the face of HIV/AIDS. After joint analysis of key issues and challenges, they started to conduct studies on selected cases of innovation and how these can be supported by the agencies concerned. Work in Mozambique was delayed because responsibility had to be transferred to a new partner organisation, after the first one closed its offices in the country.

Gender and PID

In preparation for a joint write/workshop organised with COMPAS, CPs were invited to make an initial assessment on how gender issues are integrated in their programmes. Several CPs presented their findings of this assessment at the IPW in Ghana in March. Based on the discussions at the IPW, five CPs – in Ethiopia, Niger, Nepal, South Africa and Sudan – made a deeper-going analysis and documentation of an existing PID case examined through a gender lens. They presented their cases at the COMPAS/PROLINNOVA gender write/workshop held in Uganda in early November. During this meeting, the participants peer-reviewed their cases, discussed ways of integrating gender aspects into PID and developed a draft strategic plan for "genderising" PID within PROLINNOVA. This plan was circulated among all CPs to be used as a guide to incorporate relevant gender-related activities into their workplans for 2009.

Climate-change adaptation and local innovation

Three CPs are involved in this pilot, which involves exploring and documenting examples of how local innovation can support adaptation to climate change. At international level, a concept note was written summarising the objectives and methodology for the pilots, and providing a quick overview of the debate around the issue of local capacity to adapt to climate change. An annotated bibliographic review was also produced and provided to the CPs to support their country-level analysis.

Partners in Ethiopia, Nepal and Niger made a series of inventories and case studies of local people's initiatives to adapt to climate change and shared the results in meetings and workshops with key agencies in their countries. Plans were made for follow-up, including formulation of recommendations for climate-change adaptation policies and strategies. The partners selected cases for more in-depth study and documentation in 2009.

CP cross-visits

A call for proposals for CP cross-visits was sent to all CPs, together with guidelines that had been prepared by a small task team in 2007. Such visits are meant to be a learning experience for both the visiting and the host CPs. They also provide space to review activities jointly and come up with new ideas and suggestions for further programme development. Two proposals were received in 2008: from Nepal to visit Cambodia and from Niger to visit Ghana North. The visits took place in September and October, respectively; each lasted about a week. One farmer innovator was included in each visiting team. Reports on these two cross-visits from both the visiting and the hosting CPs suggest that this may be a very effective mechanism for peer review and capacity building at relatively modest costs, with co-funding of partners.

2.3 Up-scaling and mainstreaming

Publications

A list of publications finalised in 2008 is given in Annex 2. Publication highlights included:

Preparation of *Innovation Africa* book: The key papers presented at the Innovation Africa Symposium co-organised by CIAT (International Centre for Tropical Agriculture), ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute), IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute), IIRR-Africa and PROLINNOVA in Kampala, Uganda, in late 2006 were compiled into a book. The major editing work was done in the first half of 2008 by two persons in the PROLINNOVA Secretariat. In addition, three persons from the Secretariat and CPs in Ethiopia and Uganda served in the editorial support team. This book covers conceptual and methodological developments in agricultural innovation systems. Four of the 25 chapters are (co-)authored by partners in the PROLINNOVA programme. The book entitled *Innovation Africa: Enriching Farmers' Livelihoods* was published by Earthscan, London, in October.

Printing revised edition of *Recognising Local Innovation* booklet: This was first printed in late 2006 as an intermediate publication for further enrichment by partners of the network. Niger and Sudan provided new material for inclusion in the booklet. This and other comments received were used to revise the text. The booklet was reprinted by IIRR in November 2008; copies are being distributed to CPs through the backstoppers.

Curriculum development

CIS-VUA continued to facilitate exchange between the CPs on their experiences in integrating PID and participatory learning approaches in the curriculum of institutions of higher learning. A revised proposal for funding support for curriculum development activities by interested CPs was submitted to the European Union in June, but was not selected. In preparation for an international workshop on curriculum development to be held in Uganda in early 2009, email contact was pursued with focal persons in universities involved in several CPs.

In several other countries, work with a total of seven universities led to the introduction of PID-related modules or topics within existing courses or curricula, ranging from one session in a technical course to 1–2 week sub-courses in general extension courses.

Links with GFAR, regional platforms and farmer organisations

The POG member, Monica Kapiriri is quite active in bringing civil society concerns into the change process in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and into deliberations within the GFAR (Global Forum on Agricultural Research). The GFAR Executive Secretary made inputs into preparation for the external evaluation of PROLINNOVA.

The second 2008 issue of the FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa) bulletin highlighted several PROLINNOVA publications in a special section on Resources on Farmer

Innovation. During a backstopping mission to Ghana in August, an IST member visited the FARA office in order to strengthen links between FARA and PROLINNOVA. Discussions were also held with staff from the FARA programme for Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa (SCARDA). Possibilities were explored that PROLINNOVA contribute to curriculum review related to ARD, particularly in integrating methods that give key roles to farmers into the curriculum for "Research Methods" developed by RUFORUM, the African Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture.

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) Regional Coordinator for Africa was invited to the IPW in Ghana, but could not attend. Links with IFAP were maintained mainly through Betty Del Rosario (IFAP Regional Coordinator for Asia), a member of the POG.

PROLINNOVA contributed its organisational profile to a workshop on improving agricultural knowledge management (KM), education and learning, organised in December in Mozambique by the CGIAR ICT-KM Programme, the GFAR, the Commonwealth of Learning and the Young Professionals' Platform for ARD. However, no-one from the PROLINNOVA network could attend the meeting. Communication about possible synergies is continuing by email and website links.

Policy dialogue

PROLINNOVA partners from the IST and CPs were involved in international debates on climate-change adaptation and the need for participatory approaches in adaptation efforts that build on local innovativeness and initiatives. These included inputs to the International Seminar on Climate Change organised by CTA in October in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; and to ClimAdapt: Innovative Responses in Sustainable Agriculture, an open-space event organised by AGRECOL (Association for AgriCulture & Ecology) in November in Bonn, Germany. The inputs were based on experiences gained in the initial studies on local innovation in adaptation to climate change, supported under the CNRM New Challenge Fund.

Other key international events to which PROLINNOVA IST members and CP partners contributed in 2008 included: Advancing Agriculture in Developing Countries through Knowledge and Innovation, hosted by IFPRI in April in Ethiopia; Agricultural Education and Training Initiative in Africa, organised by the University of Free State in October in Swaziland; Co-learning, Producing and Sharing Innovations for Agriculture in Dry Land Africa, organised by CIRAD (*Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement*) in October in Burkina Faso; and the World Congress on Animal Production in November in South Africa, where an invited paper on gender, livestock-keeping and local innovation was presented. These and other international events provided opportunity also for informal dialogue with policymakers in ARD.

As follow-up to contacts and collaboration with Research Into Use (RIU) since 2006, a member of the PROLINNOVA Secretariat was invited to attend a 2-day meeting in February, organised by RIU in London, UK. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss information and knowledge services markets and their role in and possible contribution to innovation systems.

A proposal for a policy brief on local innovativeness in managing agricultural biodiversity was prepared for the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and was refined in consultation with GTZ. The brief will be written in 2009.

Dialogue continued with CTA, which confirmed its interest in exploring the possibilities of collaboration with PROLINNOVA and PROFEIS with regards to information management and communication activities.

In order to provide a series of snapshot of the network's visibility, monitoring continued of hits on "PROLINNOVA" and the key concept of "Participatory Innovation Development" found through Google Search and Google Scholar (the latter provides links to articles and more formally published documents). Some results are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Results Google Search and Google Scholar

Date	No. hits through Google Search		No. hits through Google Scholar	
	PROLINNOVA	PID*	PROLINNOVA	PID*
December 2003	20	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
March 2005	99	n.a.	2	15
March 2006	825	444	10	27
April 2007	979	884	29	46
August 2008	5890	1560	72	93

* Search for: "Participatory Innovation Development"

Website management

In 2008, the website was regularly updated by IIRR. The structure of the PROLINNOVA website reflects the fluidity of the structure of PROLINNOVA (new CPs and new sections or themes emerge). Statistics on visits to the PROLINNOVA website are shown in Table 2. The figures indicate higher usage of the website in 2008.

Table 2: Comparison of 2007 with 2008 PROLINNOVA website statistics

	2007	2008
Average No. of visits per day	213	224
Average No. of visits per month	6,462	6,794
Average No. of page views per month	13,551	17,454
Average No. of unique visitors per month	2,455	3,068

2.4 Governance and network functioning

PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)

In 2008, the POG consisted of Scott Killough and Betty Del Rosario as co-chairs, Oliver Oliveros as third independent member, Elizabeth Vargas from Latin America, Pratap Shrestha from Asia, Bassoum Souleymane from francophone Africa, Monica Kaporiri from anglophone Africa, and William Critchley from the IST.

In March, the group came together for a one-day meeting immediately before the IPW in Ghana. It discussed the general development of the network, looked into the *modus operandi* of the POG itself and supported the Secretariat in developing clear guidelines for the external evaluation scheduled for the second half of the year. The POG commented on Terms of Reference for the evaluation, and POG representatives attended a one-day debriefing by the evaluation team in the Netherlands.

By email and Skype, the POG chairs advised the Secretariat during preparations for new elections to replace members whose 2-year terms were coming to an end. The Secretariat called for nominations of candidates for the POG seats that would open up in early 2009 for individuals from Latin America, francophone Africa and the IST and one independent member. In late 2008, preparations were made for reviewing a proposal from a new Country Programme (Nigeria) to the POG for acceptance in the PROLINNOVA network.

International Partners Workshop (IPW)

The 2008 PROLINNOVA IPW took place in Tamale, Ghana, bringing together 34 people (7 women and 27 men) from 23 countries, including farmers, NGOs, and staff of government ministries and extension agencies, research organisations and universities. The meeting extensively

discussed experiences in the various CPs with PID, formulated lessons learnt and mapped out strategies to strengthen PID within the PROLINNOVA network. Participants looked at the relevance of PID for climate-change adaptation, reviewed how gender is integrated in their activities, re-strategised on integrating PID into curricula at centres of higher learning and discussed ways to improve M&E. The Director General of the Ghanaian Ministry of Agriculture delivered the keynote address during the opening session. The workshop report was compiled by the CP coordinator from South Africa and an IST member from IIRR.

CP backstopping

Backstopping visits were paid to all nine CPs in the core programme funded by DGIS, as well as to the CP in Kenya, primarily for start-up of FAIR 2 activities. Some support to the new CP in Mozambique was provided by IST members when the PROLINNOVA–Mozambique coordinator visited South Africa for an NSC meeting and field visit. A partner from PROLINNOVA–Ghana North served as resource person during the workshop organised in Nigeria to start up a new PROLINNOVA network there. The agenda for the backstopping visits were developed together with the CP coordinators in order to provide support in issues that the CP regarded as 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.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Further support and encouragement was given to programme partners in using the M&E frameworks, tools and tables. The M&E guidelines and related tables were discussed at the IPW in Ghana. These were used more systematically for progress reporting in 2008, while assessing their usefulness and possible improvements. Also the partner organisations implementing sub-activities were requested to include relevant information in their reports to the CP coordinators. A thorough review of the tables will be made in early 2009, when the new IIRR M&E person has come fully on board.

At the IPW, Bernard Triomphe, a researcher from CIRAD, explained his plans to spend his sabbatical on supporting development of FAIR's M&E system, with a view to measuring impact at local and higher institutional level. Bernard arranged to work with the CP in Cambodia in developing and piloting the approach. The fieldwork will start in 2009.

In January, the IST facilitated an internal electronic evaluation of international networking functioning in the previous year. Participation was good, and overall feedback was very positive. Several points were raised on the functioning of the POG (e.g. communication of partners with their "representatives") and on the need to strengthen mutual support and exchange between the CPs.

In the last quarter of 2008, two consultants (Martin Adams and Priyanthi Fernando) carried out an external evaluation of the PROLINNOVA network. They visited the work of the CPs in Uganda and Nepal, studied relevant documentation and interacted with resource persons abroad as well as in the Netherlands. The team held a one-day debriefing meeting with the Secretariat and some POG members to discuss its draft findings. The first draft version of the report became available in the first week of 2009.

Fund and contract management

Fund and contract management for DGIS-funded core activities was generally smooth, though sometimes slower than envisaged. Some details in terms of formats had to be re-worked for the reporting under the MFS contract. With a few exceptions, MFS funds were disbursed at the beginning of the year. Formalisation of agreements and contracts for FAIR 2 took quite some time and effort from the side of the Secretariat. This led to considerable delay in transferring

first advances for this sub-programme to two CPs but, by October, this process had been completed for all CPs.

2008 saw an increase in implementation of joint initiatives by several CPs, including HAPID, FLD, studies on climate-change adaptation, and cross-visits between CPs. Annex 1 gives an overview of involvement of CPs in these different components. CPs were selected for involvement in these activities based on interest shown, quality of their proposals *vis-à-vis* agreed guidelines, and budget available. While this process appears to be effective in generating commitment from CPs, it puts a great burden on the Secretariat in terms of processing proposals and, particularly, formalising involvement in each activity through either a separate contract or an amendment to the existing 4-year general PROLINNOVA contract – and this for an amount often not more than EUR 5000. Moreover, within the CPs concerned, there have sometimes not been good communication flows about these additional activities. PROLINNOVA must find ways to simplify this formalisation process, possibly by channelling all sub-contracts through the CP coordinators.

3 CONCLUSIONS

Participatory Innovation Development (PID) and its institutionalisation are at the heart of PROLINNOVA. PID refers to the collaboration between local innovators, other farmers and ARD staff in developing and testing ways to improve agriculture and NRM. The IPW in March played an important role in the discussions on the importance and concerns around PID. Outcomes of the discussions were that PID is about getting researchers, extension staff and other stakeholders to work with farmers; it is about partnerships, in which the role of farmers is important and is given due recognition. Successful facilitation of PID involves continuously looking for ways to reverse the usual imbalances in such partnerships. The role of communication in the PID process was emphasised, as was the need for improving the existing communication tools and channels.

The PROLINNOVA network is currently going through a phase of expansion: both thematically and geographically. The IST and the Secretariat realise the challenge they face in supporting such a growing global network. This aspect has been closely monitored by the POG, and strategies are being developed to address this challenge, including the possibility of more experienced CP partners providing support to emerging CPs and acquiring additional resources to support such backstopping.

By the end of 2008, PROLINNOVA reached an important point in its development. Five years of operation have been completed in the CPs that initially received funding through DGIS – the pioneers in the network. Two years remain in the current MFS funding cycle. While various options and possibilities to continue the efforts to institutionalise PID had already been identified, the external evaluation brought important elements into the discussion on sustainability and growth of the network.

Annex 1: Overview of involvement of Country Programmes in the various pilots/components

Donor, activity	Nepal	Cambodia	South Africa	Tanzania	Uganda	Ethiopia	Ghana	Niger	Sudan	Bolivia	Peru	Ecuador	Mali	Senegal	Burkina Faso	Kenya	Mozambique	Nigeria	Notes
Core-funding																			
DGIS										small gra	small grant				small gra	small gr	small gran	small grant	
PROFEIS Misereor																			
Components																			
LISF FAIR/DURAS																			Ended 1 May 08
LISF Rockefeller																			
HIV/AIDS																			
Gender write/ workshop																			
Climate Change																			
Cross-visits	to Cambodia							to Ghana											
CD/ writeshop																			
FLD pilots																			

Annex 2: Some contributions by PROLINNOVA partners to publications and conferences in 2008

Building the capacity of rural communities to document and share experiences, by Jonathan Bakama, *Tumaini (The Hope) - An Africa 2000 Network Newsletter* 8 (10): 6-8

FAIR – farmer access to innovation resources, by Laurens van Veldhuizen, Anton Krone, Mariana Wongtschowski and Ann Waters-Bayer, *Rural Development News* 2/2008: pp47-52

Farmers call the tune: initial experiences with Local Innovation Support Funds, invited paper by Ann Waters-Bayer presented at Overseas Development Institute (ODI) / Research Into Use (RIU) seminar “Producing policy changes: innovation in the agricultural sector”, 9 May 2008, London, UK

Farmers’ seed management and innovation in varietal selection: implications for barley breeding in Tigray, northern Ethiopia, by Fetien Abay, Ann Waters-Bayer and Asmund Bjornstad, *Ambio* 37 (4): 312–320

From degradation to innovation: the effect of support and funding on promoting local innovation in Kikandwa Environmental Association, Uganda, by Kim Hagen, MSc thesis, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Hibiscus harvester, by Noureldin Ahmed Abdalla, *Appropriate Technology* 35 (1): 64–65

How can technological and socio-institutional innovation processes have more impact at the local level? Invited paper by Ann Waters-Bayer presented at IFPRI Conference on Advancing Agriculture in Developing Countries through Knowledge and Innovation, 7–9 April 2008, Addis Ababa

Learning to find ways to increase farmer access to innovation resources: monitoring and evaluation of Local Innovation Support Funds, by Maxwell Mudhara, Anton Krone, Laurens van Veldhuizen and Mariana Wongtschowski. Participatory Research and Gender Analysis (PRGA) International Workshop “Rethinking Impact: Capturing the Complexity of Poverty and Change”, 26–28 March 2008, CIAT, Cali, Colombia

Participatory grassland research and development by Ann Waters-Bayer, in: International Rangeland Congress (ed), *People and policy in rangeland management: a glossary of key concepts* (Hohhot: Ford Foundation), pp190–206 (in English and Chinese)

Participatory innovation development in water management in Tigray, Ethiopia, by Hailu Araya, Kiflay Tebari, Leul HaileSelassie and Guesh WoldeSelassie, *Rural Development News* 2/2008: 53-57

Promoting neem oil extraction in Ghana, by Timothy Kipo and Joe Nchor, *Appropriate Technology* 35 (2): pp?

Promoting gender equality and empowering women through livestock, by Ann Waters-Bayer and Brigid Letty. Invited paper, World Conference on Animal Production, 23–28 Nov 2008, Cape Town, South Africa

Recognising local innovation in the framework of range co-management on the Tibetan Plateau, by Ann Waters-Bayer and Yan Zhaoli, in: Organizing Committee of 2008 International Grassland/Rangeland Congress (eds), *Multifunctional grasslands in a changing world* (Guangzhou: Guangdong People’s Publishing House), Vol. II, p1128

Sudanese farmer selects for early maturity, by Ahmed Hanafi Abdel-Magid, *Appropriate Technology* 35 (1): 65

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