



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

**Internal mid-year progress report**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDEP	Association of Church Development Projects
ARD	Agriculture Research and Development
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture
CIS-VUA	Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam
CRESA	Regional Centre for Specialised education in Agriculture
CP	Country Programme
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)
DURAS	Promotion du Développement Durable dans les Systèmes de Recherche Agricole
ECASARD	Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
EED	Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienst (Church Development Service)
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
FARA	Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa
FSG	Farmer Support Group
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
IAAS	Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
IST	International Support Team
LEISA	Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGLWG	Northern Ghana LEISA Working Group
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSC	National Steering Committee
NOVIB	Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
RF	Rockefeller Foundation

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the progress made within PROLINNOVA in the first half of 2007. Its main purpose is internally, to document and share information on progress made among all partners in the network. Although not strictly a requirement of any of the donors, it also serves to update the donors on programme development.

2007 is a special year for PROLINNOVA. The new four-year support confirmed by the Netherlands Government allows a further strengthening and expansion of activities in nine countries. At the same time, organisations in a rapidly growing number of other countries show interest in PROLINNOVA type of work, organise themselves for this, and take responsibility for own fund raising. Four countries in West Africa have succeeded already in the latter for their regional programme PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel). Existing Country Programmes (CPs) also increasingly mobilise funds locally to support country-level activities.

In 2007, 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. Though technically sub-programmes like FAIR and PROFEIS are formulated as separate projects, they are under the PROLINNOVA umbrella and the activities implemented are summarised in this report where appropriate. Separate detailed progress reports are made for the respective donors and are available on request.

The present report is divided into three chapters. Chapter 1 presents an overview of the activities implemented by the CPs involved in PROLINNOVA. This does not reflect any assessment by the PROLINNOVA Secretariat or the International Support Team (IST) about activities conducted. It merely summarises reports coming from the CPs. Chapter 2 highlights the activities undertaken at international level. Finally, Chapter 3 draws some general conclusions.



# 1 COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

## 1.1 Andes

Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador are the countries from the Andean region involved in the programme. After some initial activities implemented in 2006, the Andean programme is picking up speed. Main partners decided to work on a country basis, while still planning key activities at a regional level. In all the three countries, partners have implemented several activities related to PROLINNOVA, paid by own resources or/and other donors. PROLINNOVA builds on and strengthens existing initiatives in the region, and therefore starts from previously implemented and on-going activities. We give here an overview and examples of these activities, bearing in mind that much more is actually taking place.

In Bolivia, AGRECOL-Andes and CIPCA (through the “*Plataforma Nacional de Suelos para una Agricultura Sostenible*” – National Platform for Soil Management towards a Sustainable Agriculture) have organised an awareness-raising workshop in Sucre, with 12 participants. From the workshop and later bilateral communication, a workplan has been developed for the second half of the year. AGRECOL, jointly with local government partners, PROSUKO (a project of the Swiss Cooperation) and the CEE (Comisión Episcopal de Educación) had a proposal approved for looking into a system of risk management in three municipalities. The idea is to build this system into local innovation capacities for adapting to climate change, exploring the potential role of local systems of weather forecasting.

In Ecuador, World Neighbors, the focal point organisation, has supported the documentation of 30 local innovation processes related to water management and crop production. With MACRENA (Network for Community-Based Natural Resource Management, a network of NGOs, education institutions and farmer organisations), they developed a first draft of a facilitators’ guide for local innovation in water harvesting. In addition, in the Sierra Central region, several exchanges and cross-visits between farmer innovators were organised.

The focal point in Peru was fully engaged in planning an international seminar for the second half of the year, on local innovation and its potential linkages to agricultural research and development (ARD) in the Andes.

One meeting of “experimenting farmers” (farmer innovators) was organised at regional level, in Potosi, Bolivia, focusing on local innovation aimed at improving diet and soil fertility. A second meeting between farmers from Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru took place in Peru. It focused on discussing “people’s science and innovation” and farmer experimentation. Finally, representatives of the three countries met in April to discuss common activities and strategies.

Partners in the Andes have also interacted with interested Central American organisations (ANAF AE Honduras, REDSAG Guatemala and PcaC Nicaragua) to discuss possible activities in Central America.

## 1.2 Cambodia

*Introduction:* Implementation of activities by the Cambodian CP was delayed this year because of the need to write and approve the next four-year proposal. There is a general increased interest in participatory approaches from the side of provincial departments of agriculture and also from education institutes. Capacity building with these stakeholders is being given increasing attention.

*Developing innovative methods and approaches:* The National Steering Committee (NSC) approved 15 proposals by partners for joint experimentation this year. Building capacity of farmers is incorporated in many of them. In addition, four exchange visits were organised for 52 government extension staff (7 women) on the CEDAC rural development approach, including Participatory Innovation Development (PID). The pilots with Local innovation Support Funds (LISFs) are going well in two of the three selected provinces. Two farmer organisations in one province run a small own LISF and have started rotating the money. In the second province, the pilot is being done through the Department of Agriculture. Nine applications have been selected and two have completed a first experimentation.

*Capacity building:* A two-day training on proposal writing for participatory action research was held with 20 participants (including three women) from partner organisations. A three-day PID training of trainers with 16 participants (three women), mostly from government extension and educational institutes, was also organised.

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* The NSC was restructured and then held two meetings. In Cambodia, all partners involved form together the Working Group (WG) which has highest authority. The WG also met twice, once to review and approve the 2007 plan and budget and once to review and coordinate proposals for experimentation by partners. As part of working with the universities, two study visits were organised involving 93 students and five lecturers from two Schools of Agriculture. This was to expose them to the traditional farming systems and their relevance. In addition, two field exercises were organised for 28 students of the International University, these helped them learn and listen to farmers and others and develop projects on the basis of this. PROLINNOVA Cambodia supports the publication by CEDAC of a magazine on farmer experiences and farmer innovation, for which there is a growing interest.

## 1.3 Ethiopia

*Introduction:* The year started with a series of strategic meetings. Partners revisited the governance structure of the programme, its structure and functioning. The name of the platform was changed from PROFIEET (Promoting Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in Ethiopia) – as the programme used to be called in the country – to PROLINNOVA Ethiopia, so that innovation by pastoralists and other local actors are also included in the name. PROLINNOVA Ethiopia is now organised in a PROLINNOVA Steering Group (with 17 members drawn from government, non-governmental organisations and academia) and a Working Group, consisting of five members which oversee the day-to-day implementation.



*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* For the LISF pilots, partners organised meetings in the two project areas: Amaro and Axum. In Amaro, two Farmer Field School (FFS) groups are in charge of the LISF and have been supported in developing proposals for the fund. In Axum, no formal community-based groups are present and therefore, for legal reasons, the account of a local NGO (Institute for Sustainable Development, ISD) will be used to handle the funds. A Fund Management Committee (five farmers, including one woman) was established and key priority areas for PID were defined. PID experimentation continued to take place, with emphasis on water management/harvesting technologies and beekeeping.

*Capacity building:* A one-day workshop on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Community Development Project was organised by the Ethiopian Information & Communication Technology Development Agency and held in April in Addis Ababa. The major focus was on recognising the potential of indigenous knowledge in developmental efforts and the significance of ICT in its documentation and dissemination. This was attended by several PROLINNOVA Ethiopia partners.

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* A first meeting of the newly established Steering Group was held in May in Addis Ababa, to decide on tasks and responsibilities within the programme. A meeting was held among the PROLINNOVA Ethiopia secretariat, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD), the action-research project Improving Productivity and Market Success of Ethiopian farmers (IPMS) and the Rural Capacity Building Project (RCBP), supported by World Bank and CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), on ways of improving the existing national extension system. RCBP is mainly engaged in providing logistical support to build the capacity of the Farmer Training Centres. The need to improve the extension system was agreed by all partners. The MoARD, a member of PROLINNOVA Ethiopia, has recruited a consultant to review the extension system and come up with recommendations. The group will look at these and prepare a working document. If consensus is reached on the approach, it will be applied in six pilot *woredas* (districts) of Southern and Amhara Regional States.

## 1.4 Ghana

*Introduction:* The PROLINNOVA Ghana programme is implemented through two sub-programmes, Ghana-South and Ghana-North, under the supervision of one National Steering Committee. After some restructuring in Ghana-South in 2006, activities picked up again in 2007 and a new contract was signed with the coordinating partner.

### 1.4.1 Ghana-South

*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* As follow-up to previous work with farmer innovators, group meetings were organised for innovators to share experiences. One new farmer innovation was identified and recorded (production of a truck from scrap metal).

*Capacity building:* Eight staff members of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) received a five-day training in PID and its application in regular extension work.

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* As work with the University of Cape Coast is planned to expand, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to formalise the collaboration, providing an entry point for mainstreaming PID in academic work. Farmer innovations were discussed during a radio broadcast in the Fante language. Further exposure to the work of farmer innovators was through a one-day innovators' exhibition attended by representatives of various stakeholders. MOFA has agreed that its above-mentioned trainees will be tasked to train other staff in PID.

#### 1.4.2 Ghana-North

*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* Four partner institutes started studies of local innovation, based on specific proposals. One of them, building on work with farmers in 2006, will also support innovators through chemical analysis of the innovation involved (salt lick).

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* Eleven partner institutes joined a one-day workshop to strategise and plan activities for 2007. Mechanisms for involving partners in implementation and sharing resources were decided upon. Four proposals of partners for sub-activities were subsequently approved in a meeting of the Ghana-North coordination group, known as the Northern Ghana LEISA Working Group (NGLWG).

### 1.5 Kenya

PELUM (Participatory Ecological Land Use Management) Kenya, the most recent country to join PROLINNOVA, convened a planning meeting in January, which brought together 25 organisations in ARD in Kenya. At this meeting, participants decided to go ahead with developing a proposal for a start-up phase of PROLINNOVA Kenya. An interim task force was formed, and the Sustainable Agriculture Centre for Research, Extension and Development in Africa (SACRED-Africa) was selected to host the interim Secretariat. The interim task force is composed of NGOs (SACRED-Africa, World Neighbors, Resource-Oriented Development Initiative – RODI Kenya, Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme – SACDEP Kenya, PELUM Kenya and ETC-East Africa), Jommo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). In March, the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) officially welcomed PROLINNOVA Kenya into the PROLINNOVA community of practice. Kenya has signed an MoU with the international secretariat for inception support in 2007 and started implementing a series of activities aimed at developing a multi-stakeholder-led proposal. In this first half of the year, the Task Force met five times, and funding was actively sought by contacting potential donors: the Evangelischen Entwicklungsdienst (EED, Church Development Service, Bonn, Germany) and the Maendeleo Agricultural Technology Fund (MATF), based in Nairobi, Kenya.

## 1.6 Mali

The Mali CP is part of PROFEIS, the new PROLINNOVA-linked programme in francophone West Africa. Activities started only this year following the PROFEIS inception workshop in Senegal in late December 2006. In the first half of 2007, identification and *study of local innovation/innovations* has been started, involving six teams of two people each, representing community-based organisations (CBOs), NGOs and government agencies. In March, these 12 people were given a 10-day *training in studying farmer innovation*. This was followed by a workshop in which the 25 innovations identified were reviewed with all involved and six were selected for more detailed characterisation. As a first step in its *up-scaling* efforts, a first national stakeholder meeting was held in Bamako to present PROFEIS and its vision and activities. In the Segou area, the site of most of the activities, PROFEIS was launched during a meeting in March in which 26 participants were informed on PROFEIS, the concept of local innovation and the PID approach. They represented four NGOs, four government agencies, one national research organisation, and one umbrella organisation of 13 farmer organisations from 13 localities.

## 1.7 Nepal

*Introduction:* in late 2006, CARE Nepal withdrew from the programme due to policy constraints. Early this year, a District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) joined the programme.

*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* PROLINNOVA partners provided technical guidance for all the four selected innovations supported under LISF in the year 2006 for improvement through joint experimentation. Potential options for improving these technologies, including ideas from innovative farmers, other users and concerned stakeholders, were collected and a tentative plan was made for the improvement work. In addition, three innovations have been selected for joint experimentation with LISF support this year. Documents are being collected and reviewed as a basis for developing methodologies and a framework for building capacity of innovators, local communities, and CBOs working in the field of agriculture and natural resource management.

*Capacity building:* PROLINNOVA orientation meetings were organised for Ecoscentre staff. These meetings were helpful to internalise the PID within the organisation. PROLINNOVA Nepal also organised a sharing meeting in Kabilash on PID. The half-day orientation programme was attended by 19 farmers. Ecoscentre organised an orientation programme for schoolchildren, teachers and members of the school management committee at Narayani Secondary School in Nawalparasi. One innovators group has been formed, with eight committee members, including three women. The group is in the process of building its institutional capacity and is currently operating under the existing community group.

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* PROLINNOVA partners from the Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS) visited different organisations in Kathmandu in March to develop their capacity in education and research for PID. The organisations visited included: Department of Plant Resources, Nepal Forum for Environmental

Journalists, IUCN, and the Wise Use House. Two courses, one for B.Sc.Ag. and another for M.Sc.Ag. programmes, are being designed to integrate local innovation/PID into agricultural education at IAAS. On PROLINNOVA's request, IAAS requested proposals from IAAS Masters students for conducting thesis research on documentation of local innovation with special reference to factors affecting local innovation and assessment of local innovation documentation, promotion and dissemination processes. So far, two applications have been received.

## 1.8 Niger

*Introduction:* The Niger CP is included in the design of PROFEIS, the new PROLINNOVA-linked programme in francophone West Africa. As the funding level for PROFEIS is still limited, activities in Niger continue to be supported from the DGIS (Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation) grant through ETC.

*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* In one of the two focus regions ("Pole West"), partners have identified and studied 12 new local innovations/innovation processes. Eight have now been described systematically. As agreed in 2006, joint experimentation is being undertaken on four of them, and farmers and experts have been prepared for their role through visits. A more structured Participatory Joint Experimentation training will held in 14–16 July 2007.

*Capacity building:* A group of 10 women innovators working on natron extraction was assisted in forming a small cooperative to improve their work through PID and to organise joint marketing.

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* One meeting of the NSC (attended by six members) has been held to review and approve the 2007 plan and budget, while also the two regional teams had one planning meeting each. Work on local innovations and PID has attracted wider attention, and several new researchers, local development staff and university lecturers have become members.

## 1.9 Senegal

The Senegal CP is part of PROFEIS, the new PROLINNOVA-linked programme in francophone West Africa. Activities started only this year following the PROFEIS inception workshop in Senegal in late December 2006. In the first half of 2007, identification and *study of local innovation/innovations* has been started. As a first step in its *up-scaling* efforts, a first national stakeholder meeting was held in Dakar to present PROFEIS and its vision and main ideas.

## 1.10 South Africa

*Introduction:* The South African CP has started the new phase under a new governance structure: three provincial task teams are now in place, and coordinate activities in three regions: Mpumalanga, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal. They are overseen by a National Steering Committee.

*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* Under the LISF pilots, two experiments have received support and started implementation (use of sunflower for feeding broilers and grass propagation for craft purposes). In addition, 18 applications have been screened and eight of them approved. The LISF team also organised an innovation market in the Drakensberg area to create awareness and call for additional funding proposals. At this event, innovators already funded from the LISF shared lessons learnt and future plans. Finally, three cross-country visits took place, funded by the LISF. The LISF team has established the Sivusimpilo Okhahlamba (“lift my life”) Community Forum that will allow for sharing around innovation and other issues in the FAIR pilot area

*Capacity building:* The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Regional Task Team members, together with PROLINNOVA South Africa’s coordinator and two farmers, attended a Participatory Video (PV) open day, in which discussions took place regarding a possible follow-up course on PV.

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* A workshop to re-awaken interest in PROLINNOVA in KZN was held in Pietermaritzburg in March, and was attended by 12 people, of which three were new members: one from KZN Department of Agriculture, one from the University of KZN and one from the NGO Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA). Several meetings were held to support institutionalisation of the PID approach, including a meeting with the KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture. PROLINNOVA South Africa participated actively in the FARA (Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa) General Assembly and side events, presenting PROLINNOVA’s work and approach, by invitation of the RIU (Research Into Use) programme. In addition, the FARA South Africa day was attended by eleven PROLINNOVA partners, including four farmer innovators. Display material prepared included three videos documenting farmer innovation. A working group has been set up to drive activities related to curriculum development, and it has drawn up a concept note focusing on trying to change WHAT is being learned before trying to tackle changes in HOW it is learned. Related to this, a Farmer Support Group (FSG) member of PROLINNOVA attended a meeting of the National Agricultural Research for Development Task Team (NARDTT). A comprehensive newsletter giving updates on activities that took place during 2006 was prepared and circulated to the PROLINNOVA South Africa network.

## 1.11 Sudan

*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* A book was compiled on local innovation in Sudan. The book is presently in English and will soon be translated into Arabic. It shows high innovativeness by farmers. PROLINNOVA Sudan sees as a long-term challenge to involve agricultural research and extension in PID. It plans to organise fora of discussion for farmers where researchers will be invited to listen to farmer innovators and non-innovators, who will express their needs and perceptions.

*Capacity building:* A PID Training Workshop was held in Kassala State. The five-day workshop was attended by 21 participants (19 men and 2 women) drawn from the Technology Transfer and Extension Administration, Agricultural Research Corporation, Universities, Department of Animal Resources and farmers in the three

States of eastern Sudan. A PROLINNOVA Introductory Workshop was convened in June in Damazein, the capital town of the Blue Nile State in the south-eastern part of the country and was attended by 29 persons (27 men and 2 women) representing the various concerned government and local bodies.

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* A paper was drafted on "Institutionalisation of PID into university curricula and activities". The objective of this paper is to raise awareness among the teaching staff of the Faculties of Agriculture in the University of Sinnar and University of Gazeera. Meetings were held with the staff of both universities; they showed themselves keen to incorporate the new approach into their current courses.

## 1.12 Tanzania

*Introduction:* Activities in Tanzania are co-funded by EED, Germany. This year is the final year of the present EED grant, and partners are organising themselves to prepare a follow-up proposal.

*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* As a result of training in documentation (below), five local innovations were selected for detailed documentation. One case was published in the *LEISA Magazine*. Others are being worked on. Seventeen farmers and seven support staff working with them participated in a five-day field visit to farmer innovators in Dodoma.

*Capacity building* focused on documentation skills, as this was found to be a priority. A five-day workshop was held on this topic, attended by 22 persons (including three women). In addition, the Tanzania participant to the 2006 international Farmer-Led Documentation workshop in Uganda shared his learning through a one-day meeting attended by 24 persons (seven women).

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* One NSC and one core-team meeting were held in March, with good attendance, to review progress made. In May, a larger group of stakeholders was brought together (24 persons, of which seven were women) to assess progress over the last three years and develop a strategic plan for the next three years as input to the proposal to 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.

## 1.13 Uganda

*Introduction:* Since last year, the CP in Uganda collaborates with the Focus City project in Kampala in promoting local innovation and PID within the urban environment. Activities under this collaboration are included below. PROLINNOVA Uganda, in collaboration with three partners, has also mobilised funds from the ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre) small grants scheme for identifying and documenting eco-agriculture initiatives in Uganda. Activities will start in July. Local fund raising remains a priority.

*Development of innovative methods and approaches:* Thirty-one new farmer innovations have been identified and documented, both rural and urban. The urban innovations include social innovation related to marketing and local charcoal preparation. PROLINNOVA Uganda is developing an annual reward system for outstanding innovators. Joint experimentation continues with a total of 21 experiments now being implemented. Uganda is involved in the LISF pilot programme and implements these with four community organisations. Each has received funds to support PID activities and 20 of those have been selected by the communities for support through the LISF.

*Capacity building:* The PROLINNOVA Uganda secretariat made an inventory of further needs for capacity building among partners, with good responses. Planning of subsequent activities is foreseen for the core group meeting in August.

*Up-scaling and mainstreaming:* One NSC meeting and three core group meetings were held in the reporting period for programme guidance and coordination of work. A draft proposal for strengthening monitoring and evaluation (M&E) has been prepared. The draft National Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Policy Document was shared among members, and comments will be compiled and sent to the National Council for Science and Technology. Contacts with Makerere University on developing a new module "Innovation Systems Management" continued. Four farmer innovators were assisted in exhibiting their work at the World Social Forum in Nairobi in January. The PROLINNOVA Uganda secretariat also organised a session on integrating IK in scientific research at the same event. At the international level, the national coordinator contributed to the Knowledge Management for Development workshop held in the Netherlands in June.





## 2 NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 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, as reported above. The IST supported this by operationalising the M&E framework and developing an M&E tool in the form of the LISF register, a MsAccess database. During the international meeting in Senegal, experiences and lessons learnt in the pilots were shared with other countries. The countries involved also met separately in Senegal to coordinate further activities and followed this up with a telephone conference in May. The LISF experiences were shared during the FARA General Assembly in June in South Africa, for which a brochure was designed and produced.

*Farmer-Led Documentation:* FLD is an empowering process in which local communities take the lead role in documentation processes and where results are used by them for purposes of internal learning (within the community) and exchange between communities (horizontal sharing) and communities, development agents and policymakers (vertical sharing). After the international meeting in Senegal, a small working group with members from three country programmes and the IST started developing a proposal regarding the use of FLD pilot funds available in PROLINNOVA and their implementation and monitoring.

In addition, PROLINNOVA supported follow-up to the 2006 FLD workshop in Kampala, Uganda (co-organised with PELUM Uganda and Oxfam Novib). These included:

- With PELUM: Production of a small leaflet on FLD, based on key issues identified by participants of the FLD workshop (May).
- With PELUM and Oxfam Novib: Monitoring and support of three FLD pilots implemented by workshop participants: one in South Africa (by FSG) and two in Uganda (by the Rural Empowerment Network and the Africa 2000 Network). The projects focus on introducing farmers to concepts and methods of documenting their practices. Progress reports are available on request from PELUM Uganda.
- Organisation of FLD introduction workshops at national NGO level, e.g. for partners of PROLINNOVA and PELUM in Tanzania (June).

### 2.2 Capacity building

*International training in PID:* A regional PID training was organised in Senegal in early 2007 as the first capacity-building activity for key partners in the new PROFEIS programme in francophone West Africa. Twenty people participated from Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Niger; they are now playing a main role in activities in their respective countries.

*PID and HIV/AIDS:* A small group with members from Mozambique, South Africa, Ghana and the IST followed up discussions from the 2007 international meeting in Senegal and developed a draft proposal for future PROLINNOVA activities that would

relate PID to HIV/AIDS. It aims at strengthening and adding value to the work of organisations involved in PROLINNOVA and other local organisations supporting HIV/AIDS-affected households, in a limited number of countries, through 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 proposal will be circulated to all CPs to ask for their country-specific action plans and budgets. Implementation is expected to begin in late 2007.

*Gender:* Following up on the international partners meeting in Senegal, another taskforce was formed composed of people from CPs in Mali, Kenya and Uganda and the IST to define specific activities that would help to integrate issues of gender and other forms of social differentiation into PID. As a first step, IST staff in NL met with staff of ILEIA (Centre for Information on Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture) and COMPAS (Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development) to seek collaboration. It was agreed to organise a writeshop so as to stimulate people from the CPs to look at their experiences through a gender lens. Outputs will be shared through a booklet and possibly also articles for the *LEISA Magazine*.

## 2.2.1 Up-scaling and mainstreaming

### *Publications*

A list of publications finalised in the first half of 2007 is given in Annex 1. Main activities in this period can be summarised as follows:

***PID Circular.*** The PROLINNOVA Secretariat arranged with ILEIA that it will include future issues of the *PID Circular* as an insert of 2–4 pages in every second issue of the global *LEISA Magazine*. The next one is foreseen for December 2007.

***Papers from the 2006 Innovation Africa Symposium.*** In early 2007, two members of the PROLINNOVA Secretariat staff reviewed papers submitted to the Innovation Africa Symposium (November 2006, Uganda) for inclusion in a book and for submission to a double-refereed journal (*Natural Resources Forum*) and the *LEISA Magazine*. The book will be co-edited by PROLINNOVA and CIAT-Africa staff members.

***Special issue of Urban Agriculture Magazine.*** The IST worked together with the editor of this magazine, published by RUAF (Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture and Food Security), in preparing a thematic issue on supporting local innovativeness in urban farming systems. The issue will be edited and published in late 2007.

***PROLINNOVA booklet series.*** In order to expand its booklet series on promoting local innovation, PROLINNOVA submitted a proposal to CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation) for co-publishing. This was approved in principle by the CTA Publications Committee. It will include collaboration on five booklets in English and translating these into French and Portuguese. Discussions on operationalising the collaboration are yet to be concluded. In the meantime, work continued on revising the booklet *Recognising Local Innovation*, to be published in

late 2007. International secretariat staff also supported partners in South Africa and Senegal in preparing an article on institutional innovation by women.

**Contributions to other publications/series.** The PROLINNOVA Secretariat staff maintained communication with the editor of *Appropriate Technology* to arrange contributions of articles and photos for this journal's section on "Innovation". It also advised partners in the CPs who are preparing articles for submission to this or other journals. A policy paper on recognising and enhancing local initiatives in dealing with environmental issues, drawing attention to endogenous development efforts, was co-authored by a member of the PROLINNOVA Secretariat and published in English and French by the Drylands Programme of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

**Brochure "PROLINNOVA at work: global partnership to promote local innovation".** The IST staff at the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) published a 14-page brochure "PROLINNOVA at work: global partnership to promote local innovation". This gives an overview of the programme and its main achievements in the period 2004–2006.

**Internship.** During an internship with ETC EcoCulture, Anar Safarov, a student from Dronen Professional Agricultural University in the Netherlands, supported the PROLINNOVA Secretariat in compiling a list of recent publications and audiovisuals on local innovation and PID as an input for the next issue of the *PID Circular*. He also made a master list of PROLINNOVA publications so that all can be included on the PROLINNOVA website, and he provided feedback (as someone new to the topic) for improving the "intermediate" version of the booklet *Recognising Local Innovation*.

#### *Policy dialogue*

**Strategy development.** In the first half of 2007, considerable efforts were made to streamline the policy-dialogue strategy. 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. The latter resulted in the creation of small task force, composed of members from Tanzania, Bolivia and Sudan and from the IST, and in country-specific strategies for policy dialogue, indicating key issues, the target institutions or policies, possible allies, specific activities planned, and indicators for measuring impact.

**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. This resulted in the agreement to collaborate, first evidence of which is given below.

**Input to FARA General Assembly.** As initial collaboration between RIU and PROLINNOVA, a side event on "Overcoming challenges in scaling out agricultural research successes" was organised during the fourth General Assembly of FARA in June in Johannesburg, South Africa. Members of PROLINNOVA South Africa provided important inputs. Other collaborators in this side 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, a member of the PROLINNOVA Secretariat provided a keynote input into DFID's Research Visioning and Strategy Workshop on 7–8 March in London, UK. She 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 to the World Social Forum in Nairobi.** 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 there.

**Dialogue with development funding organisations.** As a follow-up to contacts with the Rockefeller Foundation (RF) Innovation for Development Initiative during the Innovation Africa Symposium in November 2006, the PROLINNOVA Secretariat had extensive email communication and a telephone conference with staff of this new initiative on the relevance of the PROLINNOVA approach. The RF showed particular interest in the LISF pilots. Similar discussions were held with the manager of the Maendeleo Agricultural Technology Fund in East Africa, an initiative of the UK-based NGO FARM-Africa, in order to raise awareness about PROLINNOVA and LISFs and to promote wider support for this approach. Finally, a member of the PROLINNOVA Secretariat joined the POG member from Ethiopia to visit EED in Bonn, Germany. They presented the PROLINNOVA concepts and approach and discussed possibilities of collaboration. This visit is being followed up by submission of proposals to EED from new and emerging CPs.

#### *Website management*

In the first half of 2007, the website has been constantly updated by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) with a total of 31 uploads, including at least one update made per CP (page or sub-section). PROLINNOVA partners (other IST members, CP coordinators and partners) seem to have institutionalised sending of materials for website uploading. There were also suggestions to keep the website "light" to eliminate or minimise problems in access in countries with poor connectivity (i.e. Ethiopia, Cambodia). The structure of PROLINNOVA website follows the fluidity of the structure of PROLINNOVA (new CPs/RPs emerge, new sections or themes emerge, constant changes).

The PROLINNOVA website has generated the following average statistics for the first six months of 2007:

- Daily averages: **231 real visits** per day, **473 pages** visited per day, and **753 hits** per day. These numbers are within the same averages as the full 2006 averages.
- Monthly averages: an average of **6,944 real visits** per month, **14,198 pages** visited per month, and **22,609 hits** per month.

- Average monthly unique visitors: **2,787**.

Comparison with 2006 (1<sup>st</sup> half only, 2<sup>nd</sup> half only and full 2006) statistics:´

	1 <sup>st</sup> half 2006	2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2006	Full 2006	1 <sup>st</sup> half 2007
Avg. daily visits	36	406	221	<b>231</b>
Avg. daily page views	117	921	519	<b>473</b>
Avg. visits per month	1,085	12,170	6,627	<b>6,944</b>
Avg. page views per month	3,518	27,626	15,572	<b>14,198</b>

## 2.3 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 ones. 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 (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources which pilots Local Innovation Support Funds), the expansion of the PROLINNOVA community of practice, and links with regional and subregional platforms for agricultural research and development. Further communication among POG members and with IST members is taking place by email and Skype, primarily on 1) clarifying the structure and roles of the IST, and 2) policy regarding further expansion of the PROLINNOVA community in practice, in view of the considerable time inputs that the IST needs to make in order to give good-quality support to emerging and newly-established Country/Regional Programmes.

### *Partners meeting*

On 19–23 March, the fourth annual international PROLINNOVA partners meeting was held, hosted in Senegal 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. They developed plans for joint future action in these and other activities, e.g. related to promoting local innovation in communities affected by HIV/AIDS. The meeting also allowed people from “new” countries keen to build up PROLINNOVA type programmes, or just starting these, e.g. in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and Senegal, to meet and learn from the more established CPs. A comprehensive report has been prepared by IIRR and ETC, and is available on the website.

### *Country backstopping*

To facilitate backstopping by the IST of the work done in the countries, each member of the IST is assigned one or two countries for priority attention in backstopping. This enables building of effective relationships with the respective countries. A large part of the CP backstopping has continued to take place through electronic means or telephone consultations (increasingly using web-based phone systems such as Skype). Eight country visits took place, including a brief one to the emerging country programme of Kenya.

In February, a backstopping visit was paid to PROLINNOVA *Cambodia*; the main issue discussed here was the piloting of LISFs under the FAIR sub-programme.

PROLINNOVA *Ethiopia* also received backstopping support in-country in February. Most important activities/issues included attendance in a CIDA Conference on Innovation and Extension, taking part in the Coady Institute/Oxfam-Canada meeting on Asset-Based Community Development, and helping to prepare and implement a strategic planning meeting of PROLINNOVA Ethiopia.

Also in February, PROLINNOVA *South Africa* received a backstopping visit to support the first meeting of the new NSC. "New" cross-cutting themes under the new DGIS-funded programme were introduced. The discussion on PID in curriculum development continued.

*Kenya* was visited briefly in March by a staff member from ETC, and two backstopping missions were undertaken to *Uganda* in March and June by a staff member from the Centre for International Cooperation, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (CIS-VUA). In March, the main aim was to prepare for the upcoming PROLINNOVA workshop in Senegal.

*Tanzania* requested a backstopping visit in June to support a strategic planning workshop that reviewed progress over the last three years and formulated new directions. Central point of attention was strengthening of the partnership approach.

*Sudan* was also visited in June. The visit included a review meeting with the authors of the book on innovations in Sudan. A meeting was held with the M&E focal person to clarify roles and responsibilities, and a PID introduction workshop in Damazin was prepared and attended.

### *M&E*

A comprehensive M&E protocol was prepared by the PROLINNOVA Secretariat and, after suggestions for improvement by DGIS, accepted by the latter.

On the request of the countries, the IIRR team drafted operational guidelines to strengthen their M&E. In interaction with the PROLINNOVA Secretariat, this document was developed from a collection of tools and reporting structure into a comprehensive set of guidelines and tools for CPs to design and implement M&E based on CP-defined priorities while maintaining some common format responding to

the overall PROLINNOVA programme objectives design as expressed in the M&E protocol with the main donor.

In January, IIRR also facilitated the annual electronic evaluation. A summary report was prepared presenting the main outcome of this internal evaluation. This was discussed during the partners meeting in March.

It is finally planned to discuss and try out with participants of the international Training of PID Facilitators in July some M&E tools for outcome/performance evaluation. This would act as an example to use the same tool for M&E of training activities in the countries.

#### *Fund and contract management*

This reporting period, being the first under the new four-year DGIS grant, was 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 CI-VUA. In consultation with the POG, several important modifications were introduced into the new contract. The contracting process had several important milestones:

- Preparation of and agreement on a four-year strategic plan based on assessments undertaken at the end of 2006.
- Preparation of and agreement on a 2007 operational work-plan and budget.
- Agreement on contract formulation and signing.

In all cases, this process has been completed successfully, contracts have been signed and first advances transferred to all partners by early May.





### 3 CONCLUSION

The transition from the previous phase that ended last year to the new DGIS-MFS supported four-year programme has been realised very smoothly. The extensive self-assessment and strategic-planning efforts by partners at all levels by the end of 2006 allowed rapid agreement on new work-plans and budgets and thus a continued flow of implementation into the new phase.

The annual international partners meeting in Senegal in March of this year played an important role in this transition. Partners were able to discuss in detail some of the new components and requirements in the next funding cycle and organise themselves in various groups to face new challenges such as the work related to HIV/AIDS.

Interest in PROLINNOVA is growing rapidly as this report shows, particularly from organisations in countries not covered so far under the DGIS agreement but wishing to initiate similar activities. Under the leadership of the POG, a process has been designed for such new countries to join the PROLINNOVA community of practice. Recently, three West African countries, three countries from the Andes and Kenya have thus joined, often mobilising own funding. The growing number and diversity of countries, organisations and sub-programmes in PROLINNOVA poses a serious challenge, however, to the IST and the international secretariat, especially in terms of workload. These therefore continue to try and raise additional resources in order to have the capacity to respond adequately to these challenges.



## **ANNEX 1 Publications in 2007**

Working Paper 11: **Research to promote local innovation: the case of 'siella' mineral lick for livestock in northern Ghana** (PID case study)

Working Paper 12: **Harnessing local and outsiders' knowledge: experiences of multi-stakeholder partnership to promote farmer innovation in Ethiopia** (paper presented at Innovation Africa Symposium)

Working Paper 13: **Recognising and enhancing local innovation processes** (paper presented at Innovation Africa Symposium)

Working Paper 14: **Reflections on FAIR project** (paper presented at Innovation Africa Symposium)

**Participatory research that builds on local innovation in beekeeping to escape poverty.** *Rural Development News* 1/2007: 29–33

**Trees are our backbone: integrating environment and local development in Tigray Region of Ethiopia** (in English + French). IIED Drylands Programme Issue Paper 145, London

**PROLINNOVA at work** (14-p brochure printed by IIRR)

**Natural mineral licks to enhance livestock growth.** In: *Appropriate Technology*, March 2007

**Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships: lessons from PROLINNOVA** (booklet printed by IIRR)

**Recognising local innovation: experiences of PROLINNOVA** (booklet printed by IIRR)

**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

**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 Nov 2005, Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga, p 35

**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 Nov 2005, Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga, p 26

**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 Nov 2005, Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga, pp 20–21

**Updates on PROLINNOVA.** In: *GFAR Newsletter* 19 (April 2007), p 4