

PROLINNOVA

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

PROLINNOVA International Partners' Meeting

Radach Memorial Centre, Tamale, Northern Ghana
March 31 – April 4, 2008



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Acronyms

ACDEP	Association of Church-based Development Projects
ASE	AgriService Ethiopia
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CD	Curriculum Development
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture
CIPCA	Centre for Research and Promotion of Indigenous Peasant People
CIRAD	Centre International de Recherche en Agriculture pour le Développement
CIS	Centre for International Cooperation
COMPAS	Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development
CP	Country Programme
CRESA	Regional Centre for Specialised Education in Agriculture
CSO	Civil-Society Organisation
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DoA	Department of Agriculture
ECASARD	Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
ED	Endogenous Development
EED	German Church Development Service
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
EU	European Union
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
FLD	Farmer-Led Documentation
FSG	Farmer Support Group
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GO	Governmental Organisation
HAPID	HIV/AIDS in Participatory Innovation Development
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IED Afrique	Innovations, Environnement et Développement en Afrique
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INRAN	Niger National Institute of Agronomic Research
ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research
IST	International Support Team
KULIMA	Organisation for Integrated Socio-economic Development, NGO
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARP	Méthodes Accélérées de Recherche Participative
MVIWATA	National Farmers Network Tanzania
MoFA	Ministry for Food and Agriculture (Ghana)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
PM&E	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
PROLINNOVA	Promoting Local INNOVATION in ecologically-oriented agriculture and NRM
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
SA	South Africa
SACRED	Sustainable Agriculture Centre for Research and Development in Africa
ToF	Training of Facilitators

Key note address, 2008 PROLINNOVA INTERNATIONAL Partners Meeting

Mr. Chairman, his Excellency the Ambassador of Netherlands, Hon. Regional Minister for Northern, Region, Participants to the 2008 International Prolinnova Meeting, Regional Director of Agriculture for Northern Region, Director of Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture UDS, Executive Director of ACDEP, Distinguished invited Guests, Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a delight to be here today and especially at the 2008 International PROLINNOVA meeting. I understand this meeting is being attended by participants from over 16 countries. I wish here to add my voice to that of the Regional Minister in welcoming our international participants to Ghana for the 2008 International Prolinnova Meeting.

Mr Chairman, I understand the acronym "PROLINNOVA" means PROmoting Local INNOVAtion in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management. With this meaning, the acronym seem to encompass all that we ought to be doing as development workers in the agriculture and natural resource sectors. I am inclined therefore to believe that those who put this acronym together have clear ideas about how to approach agriculture and natural resource management in a holistic and sustainable manner.

Mr Chairman, agriculture, as the lead sector for socio-economic transformation of many developing countries, puts an arduous task on the key players in the sector to make these countries a food secure place and ensure a sustainable agriculture and rural development. This desire rests on the successful dissemination of innovations for sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. It is in this light that I consider this Prolinnova meeting very important to all those responsible for the management of agriculture and natural resources in our respective countries. The meeting I believe shall provide an opportunity for participants to articulate ideas for learning and sharing. Through this dialogue process, our countries will be making improvements, in the areas of agriculture and natural resource management. I am also reliably informed that prior to this opening ceremony, an advanced party had been meeting in this same vicinity since 27th March in a write shop on Local Innovations Support Fund (LISF). I commend the efforts of the initiators of this very important forum.

Mr Chairman, the critical issues at this meeting I understand will centre on the sustainable management of our natural resources including agriculture. This issue has taken centre stage because it is at the core of the development agenda of most of our countries that deal with policy coherence, equity, comprehensiveness, harmonization and coordination for effective use of resources. Ghana is a free and democratic country striving to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and enter the middle-income class by the year 2015. The backbone to achieving this, Mr. Chairman, is agriculture. It therefore goes without saying that managing our natural resource, which is predominantly agriculture, is paramount.

Unfortunately, Mr Chairman, our agriculture today is threatened by deforestation, desertification and serious erosion. In addition to deforestation, the disappearance of ground cover in general, poses a very serious threat. Deforestation

is proceeding much faster than reforestation. In less than a generation, we have seen wooded environment literally disappear. Human activity such as bush fires, woodcutting for household use, animals foraging on foliage and shrubs, mass clearing of trees for agricultural production, to mention a few are the main causes. It is common today to hear farmers lament, "Formerly, the earth yielded in abundance, it was not exhausted as it is today, and the forest was as abundant as the animal life it protected."

Ladies and Gentlemen, the renewed global effort to revamp agriculture under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADDP) under the NEPAD and our own Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategies calls for all African countries to rethink critically the issues of agricultural development. It calls for hands on deck and active collaboration to enable us meet the goal of halving the number of hungry citizens in our countries by 2015. All efforts should therefore be made to protect the natural resource that can contribute to the achievement of our development goals. We need to understand that when we take care of the land, the land would take care of us. No amount of external inputs like fertilizer can change the trend if we don't learn to manage our natural resources more prudently. The Ministry of Food & Agriculture through our extension delivery system is engaging communities in serious analyses of the causes and effects of human activities on the environment with a view to coming out with community action plans to protect the environment for improved livelihoods. Activities like bush fires could be curtailed if communities understand the causes and effects of their actions and are prepared to act responsively.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to take the opportunity to re-assure our collaborating partners of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) commitment to a strong cooperation for the promotion of local innovation in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management. I am aware of the challenges involved in managing cooperations in a productive sector like agriculture with many actors, and with the private sector as the main player. However, the importance of involving beneficiaries in their own development cannot be over emphasised. We want a development that is within the farmers' reach, a development we can master. As a result, Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen the use of Participatory Technology Development /Participatory Innovation Development concepts are therefore more called for than ever. PRA tools that were used mostly by Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are now being used effectively by MOFA in the Northern, Upper east and Upper west regions to mobilise communities for community based self-development. The just end FARMER Project was very instrumental in articulating and providing funding for this purpose.

Mr Chairman, I wish to mention here that Ghana is extremely honoured to host this meeting and I hope the meeting and the actions that follow would further promote agricultural development in our various countries. I urge all participants here, to use this forum to contribute effectively to the development agenda of the agricultural sectors of our countries through sharing of experiences and ideas. The optimum goal should be seen as improving livelihoods in a sustainable manner.

On this note Mr. Chairman, I wish all participants to this meeting the best of deliberation. Thank you and May God bless us all.

Introduction

The PROLINNOVA (**P**romoting **L**ocal **I**nnovation in ecologically-oriented agriculture and natural resource management) programme was initiated under the umbrella of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) by the stakeholder group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The programme is now in its second phase of implementation with core-funding support from the Netherlands Directorate for Development Cooperation and co-funding from other donors for specific components or country programmes (CP)s..

This report covers the proceedings of the PROLINNOVA International Partners' Meeting (IPM) held at the Radach Memorial Centre, Tamale, Ghana North from March 31 to April 4, 2008 hosted by the Association for Church-based Development Programmes (ACDEP), the coordinating NGO of PROLINNOVA North Ghana. This meeting, like those before it, provided an excellent opportunity for partners from different countries to meet face-to-face, take stock of the programme, share experiences, learn from each other, brainstorm on relevant issues and make plans for the short and longer-term.

The first international partners' meeting was held in Ethiopia in 2004 and was hosted by *AgriService Ethiopia*, the NGO coordinating the country programme. Having experienced the value such a meeting adds to sharing and learning within the network, the partners requested for such a meeting to be held annually. In 2005 an IPM was held in Uganda, hosted by Environmental Alert. CEDAC took the lead in organising the IPM in 2006 in Cambodia, whilst the meeting in 2007 was hosted in Senegal by Innovations, Environnement et Développement en Afrique (IED Afrique).

The participants of the 2008 IPM in Ghana comprised of:

- One or two representatives each from the PROLINNOVA CPs under the Dutch government grant (Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda), in most cases, one from an NGO and one from a government organisation. Ghana as the host of the event was entitled to more than two CP participants;
- Four members of the International Support Team (IST): one from ETC EcoCulture, one from the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), one from the Centre for International Cooperation (CIS) and one from the Farmer Access to Innovation Resources programme (FAIR)
- Members of the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG).

The list of participants is given in **Annex 1**.

This report is structured following the flow of the workshop:

Day 1: Opening Programme, info market and review of past year

Day 2: Mini-workshops on PID-related issues

Day 3: Field visits

Day 4: Emerging Concerns

Day 5: Monitoring and Evaluation and joint planning

Evaluation of workshop, and closing

More details about the programme can be found in **Annex 2**.

Day One: Opening day

Official Opening

Dr. N. Karbo, Director of the Animal Research Institute in Accra chaired the opening session. The keynote address of the Hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture, Mr. Ernest Debrah, was read on his behalf by Dr. Gyiele Nurah, Chief Director of the Ministry for Food Agriculture (MoFA) in Accra.

Other speakers included Mr. B. A. Tampuri, Deputy Regional Coordinating Director, Reg. Coordinating Council, NR welcoming the participants on behalf of the Regional Minister and Prof. David Millar, Executive Director, CECIK, Mr. Malex Alebikiya, Executive Director, ACDEP, and Mr. Laurens van Veldhuizen, PROLINNOVA International. They were joined at the “high table” by Mr. Sylvester Adongo, Regional Director of Agriculture, NR and Dr. Thomas Bayorbor, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Development Studies.

Two farmers, Mr. Wumbei Suuba from Wapuli and Madam Ashietu Alhassan from Dulizugu, also addressed the gathering on their experiences in agricultural innovation, in their native languages with English interpretation.

More details of the opening session are found in **Annex 3**. PROLINNOVA

At the end of the opening session, the guests and participants were invited to visit the information market which had been set up earlier in the day. The market included materials such as books, reports, posters, brochures and videos etc. illustrating various aspects of PROLINNOVA’s work. This was an excellent start to the sharing and learning process that continued throughout the event.

PROLINNOVA Action Plan from Senegal 2007 IPM

This session facilitated by Assetou Kanoute of ADAF Galle from Mali was a quick assessment of the progress in relation to the action plan made during the 2007 IPM in Senegal (see **Annex 6a** for the 2007 action plan updated with the most recent information). Having looked at each item of the 2007 plan participants concluded that progress was encouraging as most action points had received serious attention.

Some specific points noted by the participants were:

- The routine Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) course run by IIRR in Philippines remains of interest to CPs. It is their responsibility to send people to this course, if interested
- Should we try to involve university lecturers in PID training courses?
- Write-ups of experiences of farmer mobilization - do we want to make a contribution? There was going to be a concept note (framework) developed for other CPs to use, but this was not prepared. A lower priority apparently.
- Action research proposal – the idea was to secure funds to get some PhD students, but this was put on hold – perhaps outdated according to the IST. Can be taken from the action list
- Country cross-visits – a/o plans to travel to Mozambique to see innovations related to HIV/AIDS and also provide support to PID / HIV course as resources; P-Mozambique to visit Limpopo Province.
- Skype addresses needed to be obtained and exchanged to enable to engage regularly
- How do we encourage learning and exchange between countries? Cross visits as now being planned such as between Mozambique and SA. can be a useful tool
- Guidelines on quality control for international PROLINNOVA documents have been prepared and sent around (emails from Chesha). CPs are encouraged to check these and see whether they can be adapted for use for quality control of country documents
- Policy dialogue workshop – would we want to participate if it were arranged for 2008? Discuss during open space!

Electronic evaluation

Philip Peñafior of IIRR discussed the results of the electronic evaluation conducted in January 2008. The evaluation consisted of six main areas, namely (1) Governance, (2) Learning and sharing information, (3) Capacity building, (4) IST, (5) Publications, (6) International awareness of PID and PROLINNOVA and (7) Other concerns. From the e-evaluation report that was shared and discussed, the following were the main conclusions and insights identified:

1. PROLINNOVA as a network is becoming more democratically governed, with the expansion of the Programme Oversight Group (POG) which has now a regional representation, and with a bottom-up participatory approach to governance.
2. There is a lot of opportunity for sharing of experiences, materials and learning from each other through the improved use of communications (skype, e-mail), and the internet/website. The international partners' meeting also served as a venue for learning exchanges. The M&E framework is helpful in documenting progress as well as lessons.
3. While the ToF on PID have provided another opportunity for partners to improve their skills, and the backstopping activities have been improved to enhance capacities of CPs and country partners, it was also noted that the number of capacity-building activities in 2007 decreased as compared with the past years.
4. Secretariat and IST support have improved and is much appreciated by the CPs especially in providing timely information and enhanced backstopping, as well as in undertaking new initiatives.
5. The website has improved and there's a lot of useful materials and publications, however the spread is very limited (i.e. only to those who know PROLINNOVA).
6. There is an increasing awareness on PROLINNOVA among international and local organizations, through the efforts of both the Secretariat and the CPs.
7. POG members could be very active. This is a positive indication of commitment to the whole PROLINNOVA network. The NSC members are as equally active but sometimes some members are too busy that they are not able to participate in local PROLINNOVA activities, and sometimes the NSC secretariat fails to coordinate proper communication.
8. Understanding PID is a continuing challenge. While PID is clear to some with LI as the entry point, to others there is too much focus on LI (local innovations).
9. While backstopping activities by the IST have improved, some CPs felt that there should be more than one backstopping activity during the year to provide more opportunities for learning.
10. While the M&E Framework helped in documenting and generating lessons, there is a need for training on this aspect especially on the more qualitative aspect of generating lessons.

Philip also discussed the recommendations he gathered from the e-evaluation exercised. These recommendations were compiled in **Annex 4** as part of the e-evaluation report shared with the participants.

There were some recommendations that for future e-evaluations the CPs may participate in providing some suggestions on what areas to assess in the PROLINNOVA network.

Feedback from the POG

Scott Killough, current Chair of the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group, POG, provided updates from the POG after it had its meeting the day before the IPM opening, covering a/o¹:

- Feedback on POG activities over the past year.
- Summary of the objectives and key responsibilities of the POG – from the TOR
- Current POG membership – presently 9 members; Monica Kapiriri joined the POG this year representing non-Francophone Africa. Pratap Shresta joined to become the Asian representative.
- POG 2007 / 08 meeting dates in Mar 07, Dec 07, and Mar 08.
- Fairly newly established POG sub-committees responsible for certain themes e.g. policy, M&E, fundraising, financial matters, new CPs, publications (details on PROLINNOVA website)
- For 2008, the planned external evaluation of PROLINNOVA, part of the agreement with DGIS, requires POG attention.

¹ Full text of his and all other power-points used during the IPM are available on the PROLINNOVA website: http://prolinnova.net/2008_IPM_Ghana/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=26.

In the discussion it was noted that CPs seem to battle with establishing effective national multi-stakeholder platforms while the POG seems very effective at international level. This might be because at a CP level there is more diversity in view points / objectives. Country coordinators have a large role to play in finding windows to engage, because members of CPs are generally involved in own work.

Day Two: Mini-workshops on PID-related issues

Participatory Innovation Development (PID) is at the heart of PROLINNOVA. It refers to the collaboration between farmers, innovators, and ARD staff in developing and testing ways to improve agriculture and NRM. The second day of the IPM was set aside to share experiences in implementing PID, draw out lessons learnt, and find ways to strengthen PID implementation in the field.

Mini-workshops on PID experiences

The initial plenary was facilitated by Pratap Shrestha of Li-Bird from Nepal. Initial discussions with Monica Kapiriri (POG member), and Nono Ngubane (SA), animated the group. See box on the right.

The discussion on PID experiences was then continued in 3 parallel mini-workshops. In each of these, four participants presented their PID case studies. The box below lists the case studies and their presenters. Powerpoints of each presentation are available on the PROLINNOVA website.

DISCUSSIONS WITH MONICA KAPIRIRI AND NONO NGUBANE

What impact do we as PROLINNOVA want to see?

Do we want to see a whole lot of innovations documented (appropriate technologies to be shared i.e. technology transfer) or do we want to leave behind groups of people who are able to think and innovate.

Why do we identify local innovations?

So that we can identify innovative people that we can involve in group discussions to think of ways to overcome challenges.

Local innovation (as a process) is very applicable as a mechanism to address climate change

As people are confronted with new climates (e.g. less rainfall), they will have to find ways to adapt – for this they need to be able to innovate.

	Case study	Presenter
1	Hibiscus Harvester (Enjaz), Al Manna, Sudan	Najeeb Ibrahim Bakheet Noureldin A Adallah
2	“Siella” Mineral Lick for Livestock Development in Northern Ghana	Joe Nchor
3	Use of a mixture of neem leaves potion and the potion of a local herb called “Nyanya” to determine its efficacy as an organic pesticide, Ghana South	George K. Ofuso, Ruth A. Tagoe, Ankai Taylor, J.W.K. Woodee
4	Fish Smoking in Niger	Magagi Saidou, Adam Todou
5	Local Poultry Management for Reduced Chick Mortality	Ronald Lutalo
6	Various Experimentations on Chicken Raising, South Africa	Brigid Letty
7	Communitarian Baskets: Rural-Urban Partnerships	Myriam Paredes
8	A net for fodder/forage feed to goats and sheep, Nepal	Basanta Rana Bhat
9	Innovations on raising chicken by using different kinds of feed, Cambodia	Sam Vitou
10	Bacterial wilt control in enset in Ethiopia	Teklu Tesfaye
11	Climate risk management based on local knowledge: Bio-Indicators by the “Yapuchiris” (those who know), Bolivia	Elisabeth Vargas

After clarifying the case studies each mini-workshop proceeded to formulate general lessons learnt, observations and challenges for sharing in the plenary later that day.

Main issues from the mini-workshops

Workshop 1 formulated the following key lessons and recommendations

- Researchers often seem to dominate in the PID process, this is problematic
- Bolivia – farmers have selected representatives with capacities to support / share with others (process is farmer-driven, but supported by NGO)
- Some farmers try to solve problems themselves first rather than drawing in outsiders immediately
- PID can be done without researchers – the farmers become the researchers
- Research needs a broad definition: developing things that work
- Power imbalance is apparent in the cases
- How do we move from experimentation to adoption and sharing, still not addressed?
- Need to set up objectives that we revisit regularly to see whether they are being
- Documentation of PID and its results should be accessible for farmers
- Local Innovation Support Fund is good model for creating right environment for farmer-led PID as farmers control the PID money
- Training in PID in the CPs should be targeted on action, lead to PID implementation – maybe involve people that are to be partners in a PID process and use training to clarify roles

Workshop 2 continued with its lessons and suggestions

- PID sometimes more controlled by scientists than farmers
- Undertake activities such as farmer cross visits to stimulate interest in innovation and experimentation
- Share information from other innovations as way of stimulating innovation
- Differences between PID and farmer led research – we need to be clear of our working definition
- Need to seek to address power imbalances
- Sharing outcomes can be enhanced by actively involving multiple stakeholders – in some cases other stakeholders only came in at the end
- If PID is not scientific enough it may not be accepted by the scientific world
- Is verification of innovations right?
- In several cases it is questionable whether farmers will be able to continue to use this process to deal with another challenge without us facilitating the process
- PID must be linked to livelihoods benefit and impact
- Giving recognition to farmers roles stimulates innovation
- Who should one link-up with within departments to introduce PID to have impact (management & fieldworkers)?
- Should we focus only on involving vulnerable groups
- PROLINNOVA funds have been used to pay for the time of stakeholders who are not mandated to participate in research activities
- Some innovations can solve conflict between men and women
- Some PID experiments look at a number of parameters simultaneously

Workshop 3 had lessons and recommendations and general issues as follows:

- Participation of communities is essential right from start to end
- Selection criteria for PID among local innovations is important – what are priorities to take forward
- Role of stakeholders needs to be clearly defined
- Farmers should take always the lead in the PID process? Why than call it PID – why not then call it farmer innovation development? PID is about *joint* experimentation!
- It is important not to work with individual farmers if one wants them to lead and direct the PID process.
 - More cost effective
 - Perhaps more likely to allow farmers to drive the process
 - Is it more likely that more farmers will benefit from the process
- Purpose of PID should be clearly defined to all stakeholders
- There should be benefits linked to the innovation for them to be easily adopted
- The issue of IPR needs to be addressed in PID
- Empower all stakeholders on PID

- Identify opportunities that can trigger development of innovations (not just addressing problems or challenges)
- Find means of linking local innovation to the market
- Disseminate LI that might be useful elsewhere
- Our capacity in documenting social / organizational innovation needs to be developed
- One needs to consider the whole process steps - What exists already as IKS, what the farmer has done on his own to innovate and then what is being done as PID, joint experimentation.
- Why do researchers seem to dominate process?
 - Sometimes this is due to the farmers' perspective – look-up to all outsiders as teachers – sometimes need to empower farmers so that if they do not agree with an aspect of how the experiment is being set up they will speak up
 - Example (farmer – Paul) – *farmers had innovation and experiments ongoing, then university researchers came in doing parallel work similar to what farmers had been doing – if look at results, the researchers are not doing well because they failed to involve farmers in identifying sites, inspection, monitoring -so farmers just sit on the wall and watch but in the end it is them who do not benefit from the research*
- Perhaps we need to be aware of the continuum of research that can be called PID – how active a role the various stakeholders can play in planning and implementing (e.g. Niger – *there was no innovation, but there were constraints with the traditional methods so researchers developed new ideas and farmers took those ideas and re-constructed them using own materials) and evaluated them according to criteria they had defined originally.*
- Communication is perhaps the basis of the issue – what system / process is in place to allow for power imbalance reversals
- Should innovations have a price tag?
- Will all effective local innovations lead to a need to address marketing issues? But innovation is not only market driven - people might have other factors affecting their decisions. Livelihood improvement is about a range of things including social issues, economic issues, etc.

Plenary discussion on PID after groups presentations

After the rich discussions and sharing in the 3 workshops, the final plenary discussion zoomed-in on a number of common concerns.

The role of the researchers in PID: On the one hand people feel that researchers do (over-)dominate the PID process? Why does this happen? Scientific training plays a role, leading to focus on various protocols for research. Their skills allow them to influence decision making and they end up doing most of the work. But PID is about getting researchers, extension staff, others to work with the farmers, it is about partnerships, so their role is important and needs to be recognized.

Community participation in PID needs to be qualified: We continue to use words such as participation, farmer-led, with various understanding. Does farmer-led imply that farmers control everything? Of course there are various levels of farmer participation. IN PID we refer to farmer-led to distinguish PID from other participatory approaches.

Linking PID with markets: While people agree that we need to strengthen the link of PID with market opportunities and market innovation, marketing innovation is not the only purpose of PID.

Issue of power balance: Recognize the issue of power when people and institutions start collaborating in PID. Part of the facilitation of successful PID is in continuously looking for ways to reverse the usual imbalances in the partnership.

Finally the role of communication in the PID process was emphasized.

Outsider's feedback on status of PID in PROLINNOVA

Bernard Triomphe, a researcher from CIRAD in Montpellier and relatively new to PROLINNOVA, had been tasked to follow the discussions in the 3 mini-workshops and the plenary and present his views on the issues raised and

the direction PID development takes in PROLINNOVA. **Annex 5** present the full text of his comments and insights. Some of his main points are summarized below. Generally participants appreciated the mirror put in front of them by Bernard and agreed with his critical observations and suggestions.

- We often need to deal with both social and technical innovations at the same time
- Authors mentioned on PID presentations don't show that it is a partnership process, partners in PID are not co-authors
- Do we confuse innovation an invention?
- There is marginal participation of the private sector in the PID partnerships so far.
- Farmers are not just producers so why do we seem to focus mainly on innovations related to production?
- We talk about farmers but do not specify the type of farmers we work with
- Don't do PID for PID's sake – sometimes we might find that research station research or technology transfer are more appropriate for addressing a particular condition
- Should we be asking the question of what is good PID, or does this simply kill the diversity of the process?
- Do we spend time monitoring changes to the environment that originally resulted in the development of the innovation?
- Should LI be the entry point or should PID simply be an effort to solve a particular condition – perhaps we shouldn't limit ourselves to improving existing innovations
- Are there intrinsic differences between involving outsiders in social innovation processes and processes of developing technical innovations – perhaps less space for involvement of outsiders in terms of the former
- In documentation of processes, how does one ensure that one hears multiple voices? PID cases to be included in booklets should include some form of multiple voices (e.g. quotes from farmers about how they felt about the process)
- Dissemination of local innovations is no different from conventional technology transfer approaches unless one is only documenting / sharing the generic aspects
- There are researchers studying innovation processes and their insights might benefit this process
- Need to share and socialize inventions before they can be called innovations
- We cannot call traditional practices innovations until they have been assessed in terms of social, economic and cultural relevance

The day ended with an introduction into the next day field study and organising the study teams.

Day Three: Field visits

The three sites for the field studies were as follows:

- a) Wapuli – two hours drive from Tamale. Participants were expected a/o to study a PID type of action research process on development of a local saltlick and interact with farmers and with the staff of the Animal Research Institute (ARI). Activities included a trip to a natural saltlick area.
- b) TAAP/Mile7 – located in the peri-urban area of Tamale. Participants here were expected to observe neem oil extraction developed by the Delizugu women, and also to interact with the women and the TAAP management. Another activity here was visit to a community-based livestock healthcare delivery approach in Golinga and to meet the management of Presby Mile 7.
- c) Bolga – two hours and 20 minutes from Tamale. The site was Kunkua, where CECIK, a COMPAS affiliated NGO had worked using what is called “Endogenous Development” approach. Participants would study this approach, meet traditional landlords and learn about the preservation of Sacred Groves. Activities included interaction with women hat weavers.

In all three sites participants were asked, in the context of yesterday's PID discussion, to study the innovation process that is taking place in the areas and the role of the different actors. The three teams formulated their main observations for presentation and discussion the following day.

Day Four: Emerging Concerns

Feedback from the field visits:

Ronald Lutalo summarized feedback on the PID process on local salt licks at Wupuli:

- People saw livestock licking rocks in river bed – now local farmers have developed own licks using that material and adding other ingredients such as fish bones and medicinal plants and using cassava to bind the material into a block.
- The innovation is farmer led (ingredient of the block is evolving and initiated by farmers), the idea of making the salt lick into blocks was facilitated by extension officers and validation and chemical analysis by researchers. Outsiders initially introduced the concept of the lick block, rather than this being the farmers' idea, but that is not be a problem.
- This is a cooperative initiative through the Wapuli Bullock Farmers Association; Group cohesion, trust and protection is very strong; that is important
- There is the potential of institutionalizing with the District Agric Office
- Men and women are both involved in the process.
- Farmers are using money generated from sale of licks to run a savings and credit facility, but have not yet invested their savings into any business.
- There is good, PID type of interaction between farmers and of support organization (Animal research) in coming up with the idea of the block, fetching fish bones, assisting with chemical analysis of the blocks, helping find ways to harden the blocks, etc.
- The stakeholders, farmers and researchers, seemed comfortable with the roles that they were responsible for (did not seem to be power imbalances)..
- We need to have a common and clear understanding of the terms / concepts that we use.

Paul Mugume gave a presentation on the visit to the TAAP/Mile7 site

- The process had not gone beyond LI at the neem site, no PID yet.
- There was also only a case of LI at the second site
- If you do things you've seen elsewhere, is it really innovative? What has value been added to what you have seen elsewhere?
- Participants from elsewhere in Africa had seen similar groups in their own regions far ahead of this group – need to look for ways to link such groups to existing technologies rather than reinventing the technology – this is the role of the organizations supporting such groups
- At the second site, the innovation was combining the two systems: more modern veterinary care and ethno-vet practices. The community-vet decides on a case-by-case basis which of the systems to use.
- Are we always aware with whom we work? In the first project, the group leader is the chief's second wife, has status and this is not a random event. This may have negative or positive effects!
- The community-vet had been selected by the community to attend the training and yet there was someone else in the village operating as a traditional healer – to what extent are we aware of such relations and potential conflicts that might exist?

Observations from group 3 by Myriam Paredes Chauca (visit to the sacred grove)

- Saw the endogenous development approach rather than going to see PI or PID.
- Met a land priest who gave explanation of local cosmovision, the gods, and sacrifices for the land, etc.
- Met a second group of women involved in hat weaving.
- Visited a gene bank where indigenous material is being protected. There might be opportunities for links to innovation and technology development so that seed can be preserved for longer.
- Visited a sacred forest, had a short explanation about why it was sacred; it had a completely different environment.
- Had a short briefing on the work and approach of COMPAS.
- Went to a place where people had domesticated crocodiles and are using them to attract tourists. This had a spiritual basis as the leader of the community had been saved by a crocodile and thus they had an affinity / respect for crocodiles, so this is a good case of endogenous development combining spiritual/cultural, innovation and development (income from tourists)

In the plenary review of above observations it was concluded that

- It is possible to have true partnership in the PID process-roles, partners being comfortable with each others role and respect each other.
- Farmer led innovations seem to dominate in the three sites. The subject matter is in the hands of the farmers, then sustainability is guaranteed
- But we should not call adoption of practices from elsewhere innovation because there is no added value in the process.
- Importance of farmer to farmer linkages needs facilitation by extension /research
- There is value in combining new science-based and traditional practices such as in the community-vet case.
- There is the need to know who you work with in PID: who are the farmers, their socio-economic position, status in the village etc.
- Endogenous development, culture and spirituality, create important role for local leaders. But are there equality issues? How to ensure equal sharing of benefits?
- Again the relevance noted of the need for looking for linkages between research and extensions; involve extension in the PID process for easy up-scaling
- The added value of CECIK support in the site of endogenous development was not fully clear or understood.

Parallel Sessions on HIV/AIDS, Climate Change and Curriculum Development:

In three parallel groups participants were briefed on a number of new initiatives within the PROLINNOVA programme, both in terms on their content, the issues involved, and in terms of activities being undertaken. Each group was to identify, if necessary, possible next steps.

a) *PID and Climate Change* (facilitated by Tesfahun Fenta and Pratap Shrestha)

Three countries are involved in this sub-program (Niger, Nepal & Ethiopia). There was discussion about the purpose of the project. CPs shared what they are planning to do. They discussed the key concepts, ways to ensure that the other CPs can benefit as well as the way forward. PID and climate change is really a cross cutting issue of interest and application to all CPs. Many are already involved in the discussion. One of the purposes of today is to bring out the issues more explicitly and to share experiences with the other CPs.

The sub-project provides an additional focus on PID in climate change adaptation and hopes to find cases that demonstrate that this is an area where LI can be promoted and used for livelihood improvement. The objective is also to mainstream PID in Climate Change (CC) programs.

The 3 CPs plan to start by building partnerships, creating awareness on CC, identifying interested partners, and conducting a literature review. Thereafter a pilot site will be selected to do a study of and document LI related to climate change adaptation with scope for building on this through PID.

There was a lively discussion about what CC adaptation means for poor farmers as well as the type of approach that should be taken. In synthesis it was suggested that:

- Begin with selecting study areas – especially those most vulnerable to CC and more cases of CC seen so more interest shown by farmers
- Have a time-line study with farmers / pastoralists to track changes over last 20 years (causes, impacts, etc) – to see how people have adapted over time
- Supplement with information obtained from scientific studies that have been conducted
- Learn how adaptation has taken place and determine what the need is for PID in the current context (building on gaps that are identified)
- Process needs to be farmer led – based on farmers perceived needs.

What is the way forward to benefit other CPs?

- Regular sharing from pilot CPs to other CP – a mechanism for sharing and for other CPs to provide input and feedback to the pilot CPs is essential. Task for the IST.
- See how other CPs can bring out LI and PID that is more related to CC as part of their regular work
- Share the PID and CC proposal with the other CPs)

Need to find out who is doing what (other CPs) and draw them into the process.

The process is being coordinated by Mariana. She has been working on a overview document of developments thus far and has found that there is little documentation on experiences of support to farmers on CC adaptation. Mariana will circulate the document once it is complete.

b) PID and HIV/AIDS (facilitated by Brigid Letty)

Brigid Letty presented the rationale, main ideas and activity plan for the HAPID sub-programme on (HIV/AIDS in Participatory Innovation Development) involving Mozambique, Ghana and South Africa (full text of her interesting powerpoint available on the website). Main issues from the discussion in this parallel session are summarized in the box below.

In the case of SA, there will also be a literature review undertaken to inform understanding. A research assistant will assist the partner organisations to document innovations related to HIV/AIDS.

The importance of involving community members, farmers and CBOs in workshops was highlighted otherwise the impact on farmers is only an indirect one, i.e. that the project will hopefully influence the development approaches of organisations to make them more effective.

The complexity of HIV/AIDS and the close relationship with poverty and livelihoods was highlighted. The need to document coping strategies and adaptations as well as “pure” innovations was also highlighted. The need for process documentation was also highlighted – what has led to the development of the innovation, who was involved, what were their roles, etc. The focus of the study is to create awareness and find ways for organizations to stimulate and support local innovation that prevents risk of infection or mitigates effects of infection – it is not the purpose to develop a catalogue of coping strategies per se.

The proliferation of CBOs and groups that has developed in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic is itself a social innovation.

Some of the CPs not directly involved would be interested and would benefit from the findings, so mechanisms need to be put in place to facilitate sharing. Kenya, for example, would like to share and is interested in using the existing proposal to try and access funds to undertake similar activities. CPs with a particular interest can be part of the HAPID email group, while key documents can be circulated to all CPs on completion and posted on the website. It may also be useful to create intermittent links between the HAPID group and the gender group.

Documents that need to be shared actively and posted on the website are:

- The proposal (which needs to be revised to reflect current thinking about innovation related to prevention as well as mitigation)

FLIPCHART NOTES

- Methodology of the HAPID study:
 - Partnership building
 - Capacity building
 - Study cases of local innovation
 - Formulate implications
 - Sharing
- Importance of assistance for documentation support
- Link with NGO networks, research group, HIVAN, government projects / agencies to allow mainstreaming later – sometimes it may be difficult to involve all partners in the field (do not all operate in same places)
- HIV/AIDS organizations seem interested
- Complex relationship between HIV/AIDS and agric/NRM
- Focus on coping strategies and not too narrow a focus
- Attention to what to do with documented cases / materials generally
- Social / institutional innovation particularly relevant
- *What do we need to learn?*
- *How do we mainstream the results into PROLINNOVA?*
- Actions
 - Sharing all key documents to all countries (proposal, international review, PPT)
 - Link gender group
 - Expand HAPID group to include interested countries – they will receive more operational documents

- The international review by Michael Loevinsohn
- The power point presentation from the parallel group discussion.

Sudan would like to be involved in the HAPID group. While the resources have been allocated already, there is still an opportunity for sharing of country experiences. Tanzania would also like to see whether they can get funds from elsewhere to participate.

c) PID and Curriculum development (facilitated by Bram Buscher)

In this session Nageeb shared experience of Sudan on bringing PID into the university. Efforts made by the university to complete the knowledge triangle (farmers – extension – researchers) were also shared.

A proposal for a international program to strengthen PROLINNOVA work on PID Curriculum Development has been written and the session was therefore mainly to review and elaborate this proposal and see which CPs would like to participate (over and above those originally included). The group suggested having a workshop on experiences with CD for PID, possible timeframe – end of 2008, to allow for sharing of experiences and learning. There was some discussion about potential sources of funding for such an activity.

The group discussed the development of training modules and the possibilities for more experiential learning. For example, Nepal has already developed a module which could be shared with others. Documents could be shared electronically to facilitate the process, especially in this period until additional funds are sourced.

Niger did a workshop on LI and PID at the university and they are ready to implement PID in the aspect of practical training. If modules are available they could be used in the short term. They plan to place students in areas where PROLINNOVA partners are working on PID so that they can study together with extension staff and researchers.

In SA – two people are including PID modules in universities and the plan is also to allow for sharing of experiences of incorporating modules into curricula. There is also a need to create meaningful linkages for students to be part of a real process. Sometimes lecturers interested in this are not in the agriculture field. It might be possible for individuals who feel unsupported in this approach to link with individuals from other departments that are also interested in the process.

The importance of involving stakeholders, including farmers and their organizations should also be involved in this process. For teaching, formal and non-formal organizations should be linked to allow for more participatory education.

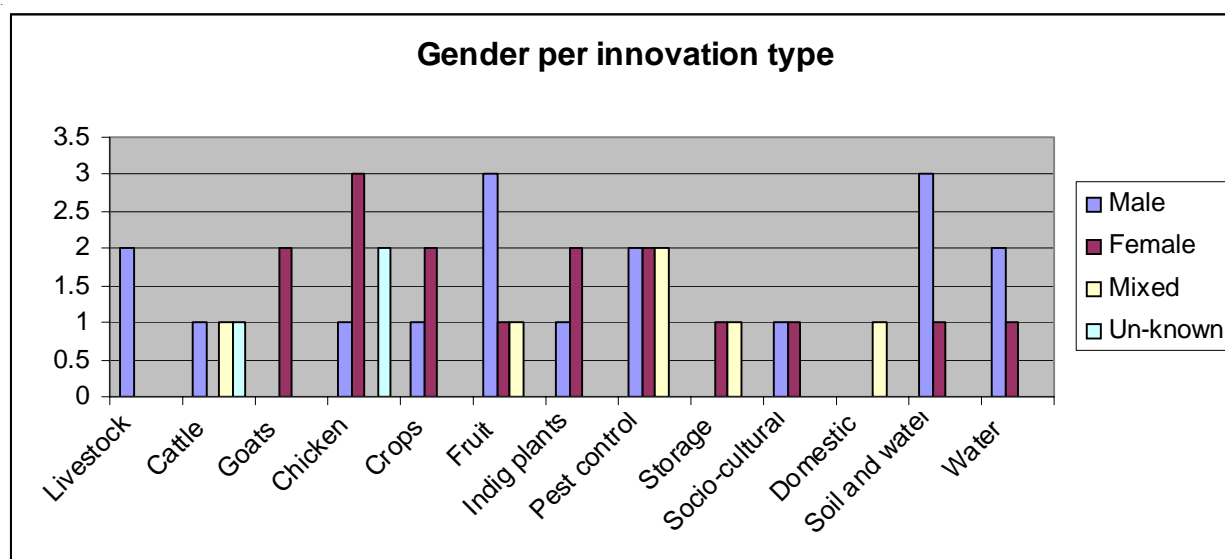
The University of Development Studies in Tamale, Ghana, has also managed to include PTD modules and to bring some lecturers into the PID process. It has started to identify areas for student involvement in research, inclusion of modules, etc.

Discussion on Gender and PID

This session was done in plenary and facilitated by Myriam Paredes, Ecuador. She started by giving a short background to the session. In preparing for this session, all CPs were invited to nominate a gender focal person who would undertake an initial assessment on how gender is incorporated into the main PID-related activities. Three countries responded to the invitation and were provided a list of guiding questions to support the assessment. The findings of these 3 assessments were presented to the IPM now as an input for this discussion on gender and PID. There are plans to host a gender writeshop later in the year, which will provide an opportunity for other CPs to bring in their inputs on gender and PID. Powerpoints on all three presentations are available on the PROLINNOVA website.

The South Africa assessment, undertaken by Monique Salomon was presented by Brigid Letty. Main issues raised included:

- Gender is not yet being addressed formally. While there is some kind of gender awareness, race is still more of an issue than gender;
- The awareness on gender is that “Gender as a numbers game; equal representation and gender balance”
- While the country programme coordinator is a female, most provincial and national structures are male-dominated;
- The Gender Ratio in participation to various PID workshops: Female 1/3, Male 2/3
- There is a good gender balance in terms of innovations, however this is only accidental because of urban male migration: *women consist the majority of agricultural work force and are the ‘default’ beneficiaries of research and extension*
- In describing male and female characteristics, male are supposed to be less creative, more daring (off the edge innovations), eager to claim innovations, don’t want to share; while women are supposed to be more creative, they tweak existing technologies, they are shy and not confident about their own innovations but are keen to share;
- Male innovators are more prominent at innovation markets (*possibly related to how women feel about own innovations*)
- In the LISF, gender is not a criterion for assessing applications, of the 7 of 49 applications approved: 2 were male, 2 were female and 3 were mixed groups
- However there are specific constraints facing female innovators: more at risk if eccentric, ‘witch’, and lack of access to funding, inputs and technical support
- Most innovations documented coincide with traditional gender domains (box below):



- But there are some ‘cross-over’ innovations, one reason is the impact of HIV/AIDS which has implications for gender – it results in changes in traditional inheritance, ownership of land, cattle etc.
- Some suggestions:
 - Include gender, poverty/vulnerability and HIV/AIDS as criteria in PID call
 - Consider “vulnerability” rather than “gender”
 - Research and capacity strengthening is needed in terms of “the gendered nature of innovation in agriculture and natural resource management”

Timothy Kipo presented the findings from *the assessment in Ghana North*

- Unwritten understanding of division of labour between men, women and children
- Differences between roles of men and women in the household
- The gender of innovators is often determined by the nature of the job (traditional domains)
- Unequal decision-making capacity of men and women
- Women have access to land, but no control over it – and has to approach a man to get access
- Women’s involvement in rearing children hinders their involvement in innovation
- Identify where each sex has a comparative advantage

- Men are more willing to share than men
- *Why is most work in NG focused on livestock, which excludes women?*
- *What is done to encourage the involvement of women?*

In a third presentation Tesfahun Fenta summarised *the findings from Ethiopia* (on behalf of Demekech Gera who did the assessment)

- Roles and activities of men and women differ according to traditions, cultures, etc
- Consider national strategies and their focus on the gender perspective
- Talk about it as a cross-cutting issue, but little attention has in fact been given to gender despite this
- In fact very few female innovators have been identified and supported.
- Female-derived innovations – cooking pans, drip irrigation, bee hives

After the case presentations the plenary broke into small buzz groups and were given the assignment to identify one major learning point from the presentations and give recommendations to strengthen the gender perspective in PID/ PROLINNOVA.

Key learning points mentioned:

- Integrating practically gender issues in our daily PID/PROLINNOVA work is still an issue of concern and challenge.
- There is no systematic direction on gender in the country programs
- The analyses in the 3 countries describe the status-quo, not the reasons behind this!
- Traditional and cultural barriers are still major factors that hinder women participation. But if culture is critical how to respond? While respecting culture we can play a role in changing it too!
- A focus on vulnerability is more inclusive than just gender; which are vulnerable groups and how can we involve them? Youth may be an equally important group to focus on.
- Gender is not just about women but the roles, relations and benefits of all gender groups (youth) in the innovation. We are still not fully aware of this.
- To this end we need to consider qualitative indicators outside of numbers for assessing focus on gender. Yet, the simple quantitative analysis presented from the 3 countries is already a major step. The numbers to flag some of our weaknesses.

Recommendations

- Address gender issues right from the beginning; planning through implementation and the M&E system
- Gender should be major criteria for competitive grants and be taken up by the relevant CPs in LISF implementation
- Can countries act on above findings? CPs to work out mechanism to change peoples' attitude about gender and to support gender awareness and capacity building of partners
- Criteria need to be developed on how to ensure gender participation in PID
- Involve the youth and pass out the knowledge and skills acquired to generations
- Target more vulnerable groups in PID so that they get the benefit
- Include qualitative indicators in PID related to gender.
- Integrate gender analysis to understand roles, relations, benefits and develop tools to address the imbalances and the benefits
- Gender analysis should be included in the M&E systems; this has partly been done
- The PROLINNOVA external evaluation later this year should look at gender issues.

The group formed last year to look into gender in PROLINNOVA is not very active. Yet to carry above recommendations forward such a group is needed. This group should also be involved in deciding about a gender write-shop later this year. Pamela Marinda and Assetou Kanoute volunteered to help form a new group on gender in PROLINNOVA with Assetou as point person.

Update on FAIR and feedback from the LISF writeshop

An intensive write-shop to document experiences with the Local Innovation Support Funds pilots had just been completed in Tamale prior to the start of the IPM. Anton Krone briefed participants on the outcomes of this

writeshop. He started by giving an introduction into the concept of the Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF). With Rockefeller Foundation support, which has just been approved, the LISF pilots will involve 3 additional countries.

Key characteristics of the LISF pilots in the existing 5 countries were summarized as follows:

Country	Disbursement trigger	Structuring mechanisms	Type of research funding	Scale
Cambodia	Farmer & Farmer Association apply	Farmers operate financial/ economic services: saving & lending	Loan plus interest (2-4% pm); if failed loan, no interest	Three provinces
Ethiopia North	Farmer applies to NGO	From NGO to group/ individual	Grant; 20% equity contribution	1 District/ wareda
Ethiopia South	Farmer applies to CBO	From CBO to	Grant; 20% equity contribution	1 District/ wareda
Nepal	Farmer applies to Prolinnova Committee	Contract, deposit in account or cash in stages from NGO	Grant	National
South Africa	Farmer applies to multi-party panel	Contract with farmer from NGO, moving to CBO/?	Grant; 20% equity contribution	Three villages
Uganda	Farmer applies to Group LISF Cmte set up by CBO	Contract with farmer, CBO bank account	Part loan, part grant, variable across sites	Four districts

A total of 160 grants have been given to farmers through the LISF pilots in the 5 countries as follows:

Country	Level of operation	Applications	Approved	% female (individ. apps)	Range of size of award (US\$)	Observations
Cambodia	Group-based	81	57	30	9 – 105	Individual processed through group
Ethiopia North	District	10	10	20	75 – 285	
Ethiopia South	District	11	10	25	220 - 310	All groups of 4-5 people
Nepal*	National	39	21	0	48 - 730	groups
South Africa	Local	53	7	20	728-2334	Mixed/unisex groups & individuals
Uganda	Local	80	55	47	23.5 – 117.60	Three group application
TOTAL		274	160			

Paul Mugume then presented experiences of his CBO in Uganda with piloting an LISF (powerpoint on the PROLINNOVA website):

- The CBO he belongs to (NACIA, a farmers organisation) was visited by Environmental Alert (EA) the coordinating organisation and informed of the FAIR project
- The CBO drew up and rules and regulations based on existing documents given by Ea as well as their own ideas about things such as size of grants to be awarded
- Went on to inform CBO members of the initiative, amended the rules and regulations, including the pay back policy and then put out a call for applications
- EA then met with executive committee to ascertain capacity to handle funds and a contract between EA and the CBO was entered into. A separate account was opened for the LISF. The CBO reports to EA on the financial expenditure.
- Applications were screened and funds were disbursed and the committee then started monitoring
- He remarked on the short- and long-term benefits of the LISF, which seemed to be mostly technical benefits directly related to the experimentation / exploration that had been funded
- Challenges include (1) scattered plots, (2) delays in submissions of applications, (3) long distance to bank
- Lessons learnt – farmers can solve own problems, local knowledge may solve problems quicker than scientific knowledge, assistance going directly to farmers is quicker and is at less cost than funds going through conventional channels.
- Conclusion – general observation in Uganda is that the youth is not easily drawn in

The write-shop identified a number of important general lessons on LISF implementation from the analysis across all participating countries (powerpoint by Anton Krone on the website):

- LISF management needs to be decentralised as much as possible
- It is most effective to work with CBOs with R&D experience and capacity
- There is a need for complementary activities such as capacity building and farmer mobilization in case good CBOs with this type of experiences do not exist.
- Payback of funds should be encouraged but to what extent depends on what funds were used for;
- Many costs are hidden and are covered by other sources, but need to be monitored and calculated
- LISF piloting is a complex process that needs time to understand, clarify roles, etc
- Partner selection is essential
- In only 4 of 160 funds was there evidence of fund leakage
- Need to improve M&E and process documentation
- Need more attention on livelihood security
- Need to strengthen the involvement of formal research sector to enable mainstreaming
- Repayments already happening are a good indicator of sustainability
- Strategies for sustainability at higher level not yet developed; perspective for institutionalization of the LISF “project” that level still unclear.

The general discussion that followed was lively. Here are some of the main points discussed

- Submissions by farmers in Uganda – are they verbal or written. In this community there are some illiterate people, but they have children that can help. Where there were no children, the committee assisted the applicants with filling in the forms.
- Used project guidelines as well as own rules and regulations to decide which submissions would be funded
- Why such a low rate of approval in SA compared with the other countries? SA has extreme case of supply-driven development. Seem to be fairly low levels of innovation than in other countries. Some challenges with communication experienced initially to get people to understand the nature of the project
- Different CPs developed new ideas about a model for operating the LISF - this was open at the initial stages in order to facilitate learning. There has been some discussion about private or public good – is LISF funding to generate information to be shared? Funders want to see development beyond the initial innovator – if the information is applicable to the whole community, then one may not ask the innovator to pay it all back. Cambodia looked for ways for farmers associations to replenish the funds so that other farmers can also benefit.
- Why are we making farmers pay if researchers don't have to pay back their funds and just have to be accountable for them? Perhaps it's a mechanism to prevent farmers from expecting handouts for research. If I have to repay it, do I have the right to decide to tell the farmer how he uses it. Often it's been farmers' own

choice to make applicants repay the funds. We should also remember that they are only paying the direct costs and not the hidden costs, which are much larger. In Uganda, the pay back policy was not part of the guidelines given, it was something innovated by the farmers in their general member as a way for the next person to be able to benefit, considering the limited amount of funds available. In Uganda, it is common practice that if government is to build a health centre, community must make a contribution. For example, community brings bricks, government brings cement and iron. There have been a number of projects of handing on the gift / paying back. They looked for a way to allow other farmers to benefit. The money is not being paid back to PROLINNOVA but it is being paid back to the farmers group / CBO. Thus it is a grant to the CBO, but to the farmer it is a loan / partial loan.

- Have you dealt any cases of social innovation where funds are used for social exchanges rather than experimentation? Any experiences? Yes, cases from SA include LISF funding for learning about group organization.
- We need to learn from the current project now that we are moving into the next phase – need to look at the different roles of stakeholders engaging in joint investigation. Should we be supporting farmer experimentation or should we support joint experimentation. Perhaps it's a gradual process of moving from farmers own to a point of involving other stakeholders.
- Introducing LISF grants, money, can affect power dynamics in the community. Are we aware of that? How to we handle this?

Finally, participants' recommendations on the Local Innovation Support Fund pilots included:

- There should be clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in joint experimentation
- The decentralization process should include –governance and finances
- If countries are comfortable with their own processes then there is no need for standardization
- Link LISF with micro-credit institutions to share experiences and get support
- It is important to present and distinguish LISFs as very different from the usual revolving fund used for investments. We need to clearly differentiate supporting farmers' innovation and experimentation from income generating activities. But as far as LISF grant leads to income generation, some pay back is possible.
- Look at sustainability of the process to benefit the majority but not few communities working with existing NGOs. How do we design the process of scaling-up?
- Reflect on the process of systematically transfer responsibility to farmers on the Project
- Reflect on the modalities for disbursing LISF to farmer innovators.
- Give more time for feasibility studies and planning of LISF pilots.
- Capacity building for farmers in creative thinking for new ideas.
- Continue to strengthen and support farmers own management processes.

Open space session

Four topics were proposed for discussion, sharing of experiences and generation of new ideas in a world-café type of open space event.

- a) Farmer's organizations within PROLINNOVA (Governance, PID partnership, national level advocacy)
- b) Farmer led documentation-how to make it part of PROLINNOVA and PID?
- c) Do we need an international policy with capacity building event in 2008-why, what issues?
- d) PID and communication

The following summarises the outcome of these discussions.

a) *Farmer's organizations within PROLINNOVA (Governance, PID partnership, national level advocacy)*

- There is a need for participation of farmers at all levels from the designing/ planning, implementation to M&E stage. At the moment, farmers' involvement at all the stages is not adequate.
- Farmer organizations can serve as training grounds for university students
- There is the need to build the capacity of farmers
- Recognize and appreciate the various levels of the development of farmer organizations accordingly
- Farmer organizations should play a more prominent role in the dissemination of best practices scaling up the process
- Farmer organizations have a main role in policy influencing

b) Farmer led documentation in PID.

FLD does not stand alone but it should be part of a wider participatory development process. It could make use of stories, drawings or mapping of events. In FLD, the content is farmer-determined.

FLD combines both local (e.g drama, songs) and modern tools in the documentation process.

FLD in PID seeks to achieve the following:

- People involved in the PID record for themselves that which they find important
- It serves as a basis for sharing information or ideas on innovations
- For recognition of farmer innovation
- To influence others for adoption of the innovation
- To attract support from services providers
- FLD for M&E of impact assessment for donor use
- PID and literacy training.

There can be costs if modern FLD tools are used such as cameras. Practice has shown that in some cases farmers find ways to recover these costs by using the tools for other purposes too.

Documentation in PROLINNOVA so far remains too extractive. Therefore there is a continued need to emphasize the use of the need FLD linked to LI/PID.

c) Do we need International Policy Capacity event in 2008? Why? What are the issues?

Yes! There is a need for a capacity building event on international policy advocacy in 2008.

Why? What are the issues?

- To strengthen capacities of collaborating partners on policy dialogue strategies
- To present evidence and tangible facts on the ground to convince policy makers to support PROLINNOVA initiatives. e.g existence of so many PID cases and best practices on the ground.
- To present PID concepts for translation into government development interventions/programmes
- To present Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF) concepts for more support from existing government programmes for up scaling purposes
- To strategize for scaling up of LISF and PID concepts and approaches
- For evidence-based advocacy

d) PID and Communication

Why communication in PID?

- PID involves many stakeholders and there is a need to understand each other in the process. Currently we are not taking sufficient advantage of existing communication tools/channels-changing technology
- Communication is more cost-effective in networking (national and international level)e.g West African Countries negotiating with World Bank for cotton prices
- Trained communicators should be self –learning

How/why support PID through Communication?

- Linking innovators with media and other stakeholders
- PROLINNOVA to build people's capacities for communication skills at local level
- Encourage publication and research for communication
- Stimulate dialogue on PID among farmers, researchers and other stakeholders
- Experiment with and use different communication channels –drama, story telling, TV, video etc
- Develop user- friendly channels of communications to suit specific target groups
- Interactive methods rather than traditional methods
- Electronic media is much cheaper

Day Five: M&E and joint action planning

Briefing on the three parallel groups yesterday (Climate Change, HAPID and Curriculum Development)

As there was not enough time Thursday in the program to have a plenary briefing on the main results of the 3 parallel groups, participants agreed to start 30 minutes earlier to day for such briefing. Observations from the brief plenary discussion following the briefing have been incorporated in the notes on the 3 groups under Day 4.

Monitoring & evaluation

This session was facilitated by Philip Penaflo and Ronald Lutalo. In the 2007 IPM, there was an agreement for the need to develop more practical M&E tools to support the process of M&E. The IST developed and sent around a number of M&E tables for use by countries and added a short “manual” on how to use these. They are not final, but rather are there to be tested and tried out. They are to be used to measure / quantify our results. The request is to add relevant tables with available data to the annual reports. In the last annual reports that were submitted, not all CPs managed to complete the M&E forms and this session was primarily to understand the difficulties in using the developed formats.

The participants' comments included:

- In Uganda the tables were shared within the working group and steering group to get input from members. They found it quite difficult to localize documentation such that farmers can also have input.
- Ghana North was not able to do this and the M&E person did not do it so the CP tried to do it. He found to be under time pressure and the information received back from members was incomplete. They found it necessary to get information from different members, which meant that they all had to have an understanding of the tables and how they work. This needs to be the task of a specific person. In the case of Ghana North it is someone from the University.
- CPs need to consolidate the information from the different partners responsible for certain activities, but it is often difficult to find the information. This is more difficult when country programs are decentralized.
- It is thus needed to organize collecting information right from the start so that it is easy to complete the data when needed by the end of the year
- In South Africa, the problem is also with timing and other pressures. It was difficult to get all the reporting done in December / January and it would be useful if it could be done at another time, perhaps 3 months later.
- Some countries did not try to complete them at all. For a number of reasons – language, lack of information from partners
- In the case of PROFEIS, many of the questions were not relevant so were not filled in. Another problem was that of language and most of the partners do not speak English. Similarly a problem for Cambodia who plans to translate the material.
- In those that did manage to complete the tables, there are inconsistencies in disaggregating information, i.e. male and female. There is a need to make basic data sheets such as attendance sheets better to allow for this information to be completed more effectively. This can also only work if the partners in the program are feeding the necessary information to the secretariat.

In the discussion the following emerged:

Need for tables: Generally the tables are felt to be necessary in order to be able to get quantitative data than is generally contained somehow within the narrative report. It is perhaps best to fill in the data into the tables first and then report and comment on the tables in the narrative report. In other words, with the tables we do not need to repeat the basic data in the narrative report.

The tables also affect the way you plan and whom you invite, so it is a good tool to inform the way we carry things out. They make us more conscious. We must perhaps prepare table formats for our partners to complete? (See below)

Frequency and timing of filling in the tables: The bottom line is that the tables where relevant need to be ready in January of the year to feed into the annual review and reporting process. This does not mean that CPs need to

fill in the sheets in that month. Well organized CPs and M&E focal points can fill in the relevant sheets throughout the year, e.g. when a key activity has been completed. If relevant information is available in the office filling in the sheets is not so much work.

Role of partners in use of the M&E tables: Not all partners are involved in all activities – CP coordinator needs to know which tables to send to each partner. Most people argued that it is not useful, too intimidating in fact, to send present M&E tables to partners. CP coordinators just have to ask the partners implementing activities to use a reporting format that supports these tables. And make sure partners do report with enough detail! In other words CPs need simple activity reporting internalized by each partner

Complexity of the M&E tables and manual: Many participants felt that the 10 tables relevant for CPs are too complex. Others argued that this may seem initially so but once one start using the tables their logic becomes evident quite quickly, though some entries are indeed still not fully clear. Niger has already included a PME workshop for all partners in its planning so that all are aware of what is needed. Most other countries should be able to mobilize an M&E resource person to help in reviewing the tables and adapting them to local needs and possibilities.

M&E of farmer innovation and PID: The M&E tools and tables shared focus on M&E at (country) prograee level. They help to keep track of how implementation of planned activities is progressing and whether we are moving towards reaching program objectives. Tools and formats for monitoring of innovations at the field level, of joint experiments and their results are different. CPs are encouraged to give this country specific attention.

Summary of findings and way forward on M&E:

- If the M&E focal point is active and different from the Programme Coordinator use of the M&E tools will perhaps be more smoothly
- Timing of the reporting is problematic – but the response is that this is not difficult if it were a separate focal point – and in future, any activity could be reported on at the time of the activity - annual reports are required at a certain time, so we cannot really change the submission date for the reports and tables
- Partners need to have a separate reporting format to enable collection of necessary data and consolidation at a CP level.

People who have questions on the format of the tables were invited to discuss this directly with Philip.

PROLINNOVA external evaluation

Laurens, reminding everyone that while we need to learn for ourselves we also have to be accountable to our donors, briefed participants on the external evaluation lined up for this year. This will be undertaken by a team of two people. One will know about PID, the other may not. The evaluators will look at how we implement our project – how active is our partnership, what activities do we do (outputs), but also at whether we are meeting our objectives? Thus we need to show outcome. They will come at the end October / November.

On each M&E table, there is already space to enter information on outcome for each activity – this is what the evaluators will be interested in. So we need to look into this. How can we be sure that we are meeting our objectives? CPs are encouraged strongly to consider doing activities to monitor outcome (e.g. circulate a questionnaire for workshop participants to see what the outcomes of this are). Laurens will follow this discussion up through an Email to all CPs.

Output versus Outcome

Output – immediate result of an activity (e.g. number of people trained)

Outcome – the effect of the output

Two CPs will be visited by the evaluation team but others will be contacted by email or skype.

Management of CP partnerships (facilitated by Brigid Letty)

The participants were asked to consider the aspects of managing the multi-stakeholder partnership in the country programs as in the matrix below. They were asked to break into groups of four people representing 3 or 4 CPs

and discuss the various aspects, documenting things of interest worth sharing as well as issues / weaknesses that need to be addressed.

<p>Structures / platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition (No. of organizations & kind) • Geographical spread of the CP and the various structures • NGO or government led? • Any form of decentralization? 	<p>Decision-making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who makes decisions? • How are they taken? • In terms of partners, whose voice is being heard / taken into account – whose is not?
<p>Sharing of tasks & responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of member ownership – how would you rate it, how do you measure it? • Does members' time need to be paid to participate or is PROLINNOVA / PID incorporated into work programs • Extent of sharing of the budget - and who? 	<p>Financial management & accountability (M&E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are funds managed? Consider mechanisms that would allow for decentralisation • What mechanisms are in place to ensure accountability (e.g. office bearers) • Who is responsible for M&E and how?

Following the group discussions, the participants came together again to share the outcomes of their discussions.

Group 1

- CPs have a diverse range of organizations
- Most of the CPs are NGO led
- Most are fairly decentralised
- No payment for time, except in Nepal where there is payment made for time spent on PID activities
- Financial management – responsibility of the body undertaking national coordination (coordinating organizations - university, 3 NGOs)
- There might be difference between level of ownership shown by the individuals and the organisation that they represent.

Group 2

Structures and platforms

- Most CPs have NGO led programs – in Niger it is led by a government department (host organisation)
- In Ghana – there are 2 programs (north and south), which was made necessary because of the great distances that made communication difficult
- MOUs between hosts and partner organisations allows some level of decentralization
- It is mainly the steering committees that make decisions, after consultation with partner organisations; some CPs have a secretariat as well as a NSC
- Niger has an annual meeting for all stakeholders that allows all to participate, Sudan – farmers and pastoralists have not participated to date, although efforts have been made to include them

Sharing of responsibilities and tasks

- Sharing of responsibilities is a big challenge, members claim not to have time for PROLINNOVA activities, unless there is a small incentive; in Tanzania the strategy to motivate people to participate has been to share tasks between Pelum and non-Pelum members and to pay a per diem of 45 dollars – this takes care of dinner and any accommodation which is everyone's responsibility
- With most CPs, steering committee members don't have enough time to attend meetings so work is left to PC – members often don't respond to calls for input from them
- In the case of Niger – they have an active working group that takes decisions
- In Ghana North – tasks are shared between different stakeholders but some partners lack commitment

Financial management and accountability

- Host institutions in most CPs receive the money – partner organisations then get the amount needed to implement specific activities. Kenya – secretariat has been doing that and has not yet decentralized financial management
- With host organisations handling funds, this causes delays when funds are needed for a particular activity
- Other issues raised - coordination – members felt that work to be done by PC is a lot and requires a fulltime coordinator and yet funds are generally not available for this
- There are some other costs not normally included in budgets – e.g. to pay facilitators, to cover administrative costs
- M&E – In most CPs, the PC did the M&E, some CPs had separate focal points that helped. In some the steering committee participated
- Ghana – need to have a very strong M&E system in place especially if program is decentralized.

Group 3

Structures

- Composition – different stakeholders (whole range including farmers organizations (FOs) – but they did not have much influence or power)
- Decentralisation and spread of programme varies from CP to CP
- Sometimes people who are responsible for documenting and signing MOUs in partner organisations are absent - so a question of level of commitment – what can be done?

Sharing of responsibilities and tasks

- Sharing tasks – varied between CPs – in some CPS, the coordinating organisation is doing the bulk of activities, in others it was more shared, ownership by local innovators -generally they are outnumbered by other actors
- In terms of budget sharing – looked at total budget, noted that there are different forms of contribution by different organizations (e.g. staff time)

Decision making

- NSC is taking most decisions, other parties taking decisions at local level, but FO still having little influence; decisions taken by consensus, some CPs – researcher dominated

Financial management and accountability

- Financial management – varied, in PROFEIS reporting is from CP to regional Coordinator, other CPs reports to the secretariat at ETC. CPs have to report to executive directors of their organizations too.
- In terms of roles, what mechanism for accountability? Felt it was not the case as NSC is represented by different stakeholders but not accountable for finances?!
- If a partner is carrying out an activity the funds are transferred
- Accountability – reporting and auditing done by the coordinating organisation
- M&E – who is responsible – focal points

Group 4

- Wide coverage of activities puts more pressure on CP coordinators - discussed why? Decided there should be a balance between number of regions and ability to manage them
- Selection of partners is essential for success of network (take into account if wanting more regions)
- Start by focusing on one area and then scale up is the best strategy

In the final general discussion advice was asked from Laurens regarding sharing of tasks and responsibilities and resources. How should this be done? Some coordinating organisations have the bulk of the budget and rest is shared out as and when input from partners is required. If there are 5 organisations – should it be divided into 5 equal parts?

What is fair in a partnership programme? Clear is that organizations do not become active partners by just sitting in a NSC. Sharing responsibilities, tasks and resources is central part of the partnership approach.

- To what extent it can be done depends if coordinating agency is also an implementing organization. It then needs resources for coordination and implementation of its tasks
- It depends also on whether salaries of members need to be covered. For some organizations this is not needed as salaries are covered by core funding. In such cases they do not high level of resources to implement activities
- Other than this – project funds should be shared equally as much as possible.
- It is fair to exchange funds for actual activities, separate from the coordinating budget
- Cambodia -50% goes to partners 30% goes to common activities such as training and workshops, and 20% goes to coordination
- We may need some mechanism to continue this discussion after the workshop, but it does make us stop and reflect.

Wrap-up and Action Planning

Bara Gueye facilitated the wrap-up and action planning session. He identified a number of themes for activities that should take place at an international level (i.e. all countries involved). See **Annex 6b** for the 2008 PROLINNOVA ACTION Plan.

Evaluation and closure

Laurent Kaburire facilitated the evaluation session and asked participants to identify criteria for the evaluation. They mentioned content, duration of workshop, process / facilitation, group dynamics, food, logistics, group dynamics / participation, sharing and learning during the workshop, field visits.

The participants were then asked to rate the IPM on each criterion with the following result:



The criteria were measured from 1 to 10 where 10 is the highest. Most of the criteria ranged from 7 to 9 except for food and logistics which were distributed from 1-7.

In his final closing remarks Malex Alebikiya, Executive Director, ACDEP, came back on above feedback from participants on logistics and food and explained how the organizers had worked both before and during the IPM with the director of the centre to ensure quality service but that unfortunately this had not given the effect hoped for.

Annex 1: List of participants in PROLINNOVA International Partners' Meeting

No.	Name	Organisation	Email address	Country
1	Noureldin Ahmed Abdalla	Practical Action	noureldina@practicalaction.org.s d, nour58@yahoo.com	Sudan
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3	Bram Buscher	CIS-VU	be.buscher@dienst.vu.nl	Netherlands
4	Adam Toudou	CRESA / Université de Niamey	atoudou@refer.ne cresany@refer.ne	Niger
5	Anton Krone	FSG, Save Act	antonkrone@wol.co.za	South Africa
6	Assetou Kanouté	ADAF Galle	adafgalle@afribone.net.ml	Mali
7	Basanta Rana Bhat	Ecocentre	ecocentre@wlink.com.np	Nepal
8	Brigid Letty	Institute of Natural Resources	lettyb@ukzn.co.za	South Africa
9	Elizabeth Vargas Sola	CIPCA (PROLINNOVA–Andes)	elivargass@yahoo.com	Bolivia
10	Monica Kapiriri	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)	mkapiriri@yahoo.co.uk	Uganda
11	George Ofuso	ECASARD	fosuko@yahoo.com	Ghana
12	Laurens van Veldhuizen	ETC EcoCulture	l.van.veldhuizen@etcnl.nl	Netherlands
13	Laurent Kaburire	PELUM–Tanzania	laurentkaburire@yahoo.co.uk	Tanzania
14	Mathieu Ouedraogo	Réseau MARP	ommb@fasonet.bf patemathieu@hotmail.com	Burkina Faso
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18	Nono Ngubane	Institute of Natural Resources	NgubaneNN@ukzn.ac.za	South Africa
19	Philip Penaflor	IIRR	philip.penaflor@iirr.org, philip.penaflor@gmail.com	Philippines
20	Ronald Lutalo	Environmental Alert	rlutalo@envalert.org	Uganda
21	Saidou Magagi	INRAN/PROLINNOVA Niger	saidmag@refer.ne	Niger
22	Paul Mugume	Farmer	rlutalo@envalert.org	Uganda
23	Sam Vitou	CEDAC	samvitou@online.com.kh	Cambodia
24	Dr. Pratap Shrestha	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)	pshrestha@libird.org	Nepal
25	Scott Killough	POG, World Neighbors	skillough@wn.org	USA
26	Souleymane Bassoum	Agrecol–Afrique	agrecol@orange.sn	Senegal
27	Stephen Ruvuga	MVIWATA	saruvuga@yahoo.co.uk mviwata@africaonline.co.tz	Tanzania

Annex 2: Programme of PROLINNOVA International Partners' Meeting

Day 0 – Sunday 30 March

0. Informal evening meeting for personal introductions and welcome

Day 1 – Monday, 31 March

1. Information Market (ACDEP and all)
2. Opening Session (ACDEP)
3. Revisiting the Action List from the IPM 2007 (Assetou Kanoute)
4. Summary of Electronic Review and follow-up discussion (Philip Penaflor)
5. Feedback from the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (Scott Killough)

Day 2 – Tuesday, 1 April

6. Sharing of PID Experiences:
 - Group Work/Discussion of cases
 - Sharing key observations in the plenary
 - Wrap-up in light of the innovation systems approach (Bernard Triomphe)
 - Ways forward to expand and improve PID
7. Field Work Planning (ACDEP)

Day 3 – Wednesday, 2 April

8. Field visits

Day 4 – Thursday, 3 April

9. Feedback session from the field visits (Laurens van Veldhuizen)
10. Parallel working groups on HIV/AIDS, Climate Change Adaptation and Curriculum Development
11. Discussion on Gender (Myriam Parede)
12. Presentation of main learning points from FAIR Writeshop (Anton Krone and Paul Mugume)
13. Open Space

Day 5 – Friday, 4 April

14. Feedback from the Thursday's Parallel session (Philip Penaflor)
15. PROLINNOVA M&E (Philip Penaflor and Ronal Lutalo)
16. Management of PROLINNOVA multi-stakeholder partnerships
 - Learning from CPs
17. Wrap-up and Action Plan (Bara Gueye)
18. Evaluation and closure of the workshop (Laurent Kaburire and Philip Penaflor)

Annex 3: Opening Program

	Undertaken by	Title
Opening Prayer, introduction of Chairman	Dr. Joy Bruce	Managing Director, Rural Consult
Chairman	Dr. N. Karbo	Director, ARI
Introduction of dignitaries	Dr. N. Karbo	Director, ARI
Welcome Address by Regional Minister, Northern Region.	Mr. B. A. Tampuri	Deputy Regional Coordinating Director, Reg. Coordinating Council. Northern Region
View of PROLINNOVA Global	Mr. Laurens van Veldhuizen	Prolinnova ETC
View of PROLINNOVA Ghana	Mr. Malex Alebikiya	Executive Director, ACDEP
View of COMPAS -Ghana	Prof. David Millar	Executive Director, CECIK
Message by two farmer innovators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Wumbei Suuba 2. Madam Ashietu Alhassan 	Farmer, Wapuli Farmer, Dulizugu
Keynote address by Minister for Food & Agriculture	Dr. Gyiele Nurah	Chief Director, MoFA, Accra
Words of thanks and closing prayer	Mr. Timothy Kipo	Manager, TAAP. Tamale

Annex 4. Summary of Recommendations of the 2008 E-Evaluation and strategic issues for discussion at the Ghana International Partners' Meeting in April 2008

<p>1. Governance</p>	<p>a) On POG: POG to follow-up the not so active members; more visibility on ground by regional POG members; rotation of regional representatives to the POG by nomination.</p> <p>b) On Annual Partners' Meetings: More room for sharing among CP/RP programs; background papers needed to simplify discussions; follow-up process to update matters discussed especially the action plan; if possible phone conferences could be held.</p> <p>c) On Participation: 1. Bigger opportunities for the participants in the region in the planning of actions; 2. participation by the CP/RP coordinators in the POG decision-making particularly those related to methodologies and approaches; more participation by partners and communities in decision-making (CP); 3. to facilitate execution of projects prioritized by PROLINNOVA (Andes); 4. there is a need to adapt some variations in management to suit country culture and level of development – stringent procedures are causing management stress.</p> <p>d) On Funds management/ accessing: Funds not commensurate with action plans, more understanding and flexibility needed; collaboration between ETC and the CPs or IST in funds accessing; improve community control of funds</p>	<p><i>for discussion within the POG</i></p> <p><i>The PROLINNOVA Secretariat already provided a guiding structure for CP sharing during the Ghana IPM in April 2008</i></p> <p><i>For discussion in the Ghana IPM:1. Structure for planning in the region, or to take place during the IPM?2. Mechanisms for CP/RP coordinators participation or input in the POG decision-making particularly on methodologies and approaches – also to represent partners and communities.3. c/o POG4. for clarification</i></p> <p><i>For discussion within POG with input from ETC; collaboration in funds accessing can be discussed between the CPs and the IST</i></p>
<p>2. Learning, sharing of information among partners and countries</p>	<p>a) On the website/Internet technology: 1. IIRR to create back-up capacity/person for periods when web master is not available; need to improve further on the website, e.g. delay in uploading information from CPs, some documents cannot be opened after downloading); need to provide information to non-English readers, e.g. webpage in Spanish, French, etc.; promote the use of SKYPE tool in communications.</p> <p>b) On information sharing/country exchanges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. continue sending updates to CP members, use of yahoo mail and indicating what documents have been sent in the website; 2. information should be shared only with those concerned; 3. increased participation of host country CP during international meetings; 4. more TOTs; 5. need for more sharing from pioneer CPs on LISF operationalisation; 6.. information and discussion on particular topics be addressed directly to key CPs for a more directed exchanges using the e-group; 7. promote virtual meetings; adequate sessions for sharing and learning, including field visits; 8. Can we have regional meetings? 	<p><i>c/o IIRR, being done already Webpages in Spanish and French – no capacity at IIRR, for decision within the network (e.g. volunteers to develop webpages in Spanish and in French) Skype is downloadable at the internet, everyone is encouraged to use it for easy communication.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Reminder to everyone</i> 2. <i>Reminder to everyone</i> 3. <i>c/o host country and ETC</i> 4. <i>consult POG and secretariat re: budget implications</i> 5. <i>c/o pioneer CPs on LISF</i> 6. <i>Reminder to everyone</i> 7. <i>c/o CPs</i> 8. <i>for discussion during the IPM</i>

	c) On the M&E Framework: need to check CPs and M&E focal points on its usefulness; need further	<i>IST focal point to discuss with CP M&E focal points</i>
3. Capacity-Building	a) On Participation in workshops and other capacity activities: 1. capacity-building on various issues, but focus on the CPs; 2. prioritize more active CPs, and focusing on training staff and extensionists; 3. more international capacity-building activities; 4. capacities related to linking local innovation and poverty; 5. online courses for broader participation; 6. thematic permanent discussion be promoted; 7. strategy/tool to assess impact of training on CPs; 8. funding support for active CPs for MSc and PhD studies.	1. <i>For discussion - suggestions on what issues; may need a committee to handle.</i> 2. <i>Policy from the POG, also depending on the kind of capacity-building activity</i> 3. <i>For discussion – suggestions on what activities and how</i> 4. <i>Maybe the next phase of PROLINNOVA, start delveloping concept and proposal now</i> 5. <i>Maybe related to item #1, what courses? Moderator?</i> 6. <i>For discussion, what themes? How? Online?</i> 7. <i>CPs could be creative in assessing impact of their training, but IST could help develop tool</i> 8. <i>For discussion within POG</i>
	b) On Backstopping: 1. increase backstopping activities, i.e. two (2) backstopping per year; 2. explore possibility for other PROLINNOVA members in backstopping PROFEIS countries.	1. <i>For discussion, but case-to-case depending on CP needs</i> 2. <i>For discussion</i>
4. Secretariat and IST Support	a) On the secretariat support: 1. Regular updating of the network members by the secretariat on new initiatives (HIV/AIDS, MDGs, etc.); 2. Further sharpening of priorities for secretariat: What do CPs feel that the secretariat could do less? b) Sharing of tasks with CPs: 1. Stronger sharing of tasks among country partners, e.g. writing of proposals (South Africa, Ethiopia); 2. tighter formats for CPs for planning, reporting, other additional activities. c) Funds: Enhance fund raising to suit limited activities (CPs), or to cover time spent by secretariat. d) Backstopping: Despite limited funds, backstopping activities still need to be prioritized to quickly and strongly strengthen CPs understanding on PID, LISF approaches and operationalization as well as lobby strategy for institutionalization capacities of the processes into local institutions.	1. <i>c/o ETC</i> 2. <i>Suggestions from CPs</i> 1. <i>attention CPs</i> 2. <i>attention CPs</i> <i>c/o CPs and ETC</i> <i>c/o IST</i>
	a) Logistics: more efficient logistical support in international trainings/meetings, i.e. tickets and reimbursements.	<i>Reminder to all concerned</i>

5. Publications and documentation	<p>a) CPs contribution to publication: Encourage more CP contribution to the publication.</p> <p>b) Publication of materials in other languages: Publication in French, Spanish, Arab, and popularization in local languages for spread, including the young.</p> <p>c) Distribution Policy: need for a clear distribution policy, even beyond the network.</p>	<p><i>Attention CPs</i></p> <p><i>Attention concerned CPs</i></p> <p><i>c/o IIRR</i></p>
6. International Awareness on PID/PROLINNOVA	<p>a) Partnership with international research organizations: more involvement of international R&D organizations with a non-threatening or non confronting approach.</p> <p>b) On Policy dialogue: to engage more effectively with bilateral and multilateral organizations, NGOs and government for information and policy dialogue (PROFEIS).</p> <p>c) Farmer-to-farmer sharing: promote encounters among peasants on PID.</p> <p>d) PID Cases: need for more PID cases, for purposes of marketing innovation, capturing donor support (particularly IFAD)</p>	<p><i>c/o CPs at the country level, and the POG and Secretariat at the international level</i></p> <p><i>c/o CPs at the country level, and the POG and Secretariat at the international level</i></p> <p><i>c/o CPs</i></p> <p><i>Coming from the CPs, but consolidated for publication by the secretariat</i></p>
7. Others	<p>a) further understanding of PID vis-à-vis local innovations with emphasis on the “S”;</p> <p>b) the evolving nature of PROLINNOVA as a network that involve multi-stakeholder participation, and consequently the need for skills on network management;</p> <p>c) how to continue to enhance country sharing activities including country visits and sub-programme activities as well as on-line discussions;</p> <p>d) <i>more PID cases to support advocacy work with policy makers and research organizations; advocacy work on how to enhance existing initiatives by the people not only innovations should also be considered; and how to further enhance funding support to partners.</i></p>	<p><i>For discussion/clarification</i></p> <p><i>For POG and Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Already covered in #3 Capacity-Building</i></p> <p><i>c/o CPs</i></p>

Annex 5. Feedback and comments to PROLINNOVA partners at the Ghana IPM 2008 from a first time visitor, by Bernard Triomphe, CIRAD, 1st April 2008

The following are the redacted notes of the observations shared orally on Tuesday April 1st afternoon in plenary session, as a follow-up and wrapping-up of group restitutions and discussions based on the presentations of a number of PID cases during the morning. PROLINNOVA

Where I am speaking from?

It is always useful to clarify from what perspective one is speaking from. I am a researcher, neither ashamed of it nor particularly proud of it it is simply part of my professional identity, and it obviously influences my outlook on what I have been observing these past 2 days. Yet I am also a PID practitioner, who has personally faced a number of challenges and issues you are facing in your projects, and who actually faces recurrent criticism from his more academically-oriented colleagues about PID. So despite the fact I am external to PROLINNOVA I am probably only a half-outsider.

By sharing candidly and not very diplomatically my observations with you, I have no intention of judging anybody. So please take my remarks for what they are: a simple instant reaction to what I have had the rare privilege of listening to since this morning. Unfortunately, I was not able to listen to all 11 cases, as there were parallel sessions going on. Nor did I visit any of the programmes on the ground. So please forgive the partial picture I have of what has been presented and discussed so far. Fortunately, a number of key issues I wanted to tackle have already been covered during the group restitutions and subsequent discussions we just went through before tea break.

1. Common ground

Among the issues that made me feel at home immediately among you, I want to emphasize the following aspects:

- The shared belief in the intrinsic value of indigenous knowledge and innovation, which is something that a number of researchers share with you, believe it or not.
 - the huge diversity of contexts in which you are operating, and the influence this has on the PID process, including the cultural / institutional factors.
 - The recognition of the multifaceted nature of innovation, in its technical and social/ organizational dimensions (and most often than not, in its mixed nature).
 - The realization that behind innovation, a powerful driving force is the need to adapt to, or to survive in a rapidly changing environment (and let's not forget that access to markets, or fairer access than the prevailing one, is frequently a core concern for farmers!)
 - The intense discussions & frequent tensions existing in your projects and CPs about the roles played by the various stakeholders & about the existence of marked power imbalances, and how best to deal with them.
- The critical role of training stakeholders in PID, of developing and using quality training materials based on good examples, and the importance of how training is done (such as in-action rather than in the classroom).

2. What surprises me

I want now to turn my attention on what surprised me in your presentations and discussions.

Below are some of the issues I would especially like us to reflect on at this time:

- A small detail for sure, but a striking one: why so many presentations with sole authors? This is a practice one may expect from researchers presenting their results, but not from people involved in PID. Why not systematically propose collective authorship, reflecting the collective nature of PID processes?
- I was rather surprised by what seems a relatively marginal participation of the private sector actors in the partnerships that PROLINNOVA focuses on.
- Also, there seems to be a lot of emphasis (too much?) on technical innovation related to production issues, but much more marginal work on other types of innovations, be they related to product

transformation, market access, social issues, etc.. Let's not forget that farmers are not only ag. Producers, but rural dwellers and consumers of diverse products and services! This technical emphasis is a bit surprising given the high profile of NGOs in PROLINNOVA, as they are supposedly much more interested in social processes than are conventional ag. research and extension agencies.

- I have not seen any quantification in the presentations I was able to listen to: neither of results, of impacts or problems that justified the PID process to start with.
- There is a constant reference to “farmers” or “communities” but without ever clarifying who the specific farmers or communities we are working with are: the poorest / most vulnerable ones, the women, the young?
- Also, there does not seem to be enough space for, or attention paid to farmers’ / local organizations roles in the PID process (with a few exceptions such as Bolivia)
- There is insufficient reference in my view to the context leading to PID, as well as to the purpose of innovation. This leads to a potential risk: that innovation or PID may be tackled for its own sake, rather than as a way of solving an existing problem or reaching a higher-level objective / purpose.
- The intensity of questioning / criticism about the role of research and its status in PID processes was a bit surprising to me. Not that there are not good reasons to question research, but if as most of you claim, research is an accepted, needed partner as part of a multi-stakeholder partnership, then maybe we should be careful when criticizing harshly it generically “you the researchers” or personally, by criticizing the individual researchers who do accept to come on-board PID processes. Let's be careful not to go from criticism to mutual mistrust and eventual conflict. So my question is: do we actually understand and respect enough each other's specific roles / missions / cultures in a partnership?
- Finally, there is very little reference in the presentations to what is being done on institutionalization, on long-term capacity building of stakeholders, even though these are key objectives of the PROLINNOVA program.
- Some time when listening to the discussions, I have the feeling we may be a bit confused
 - between innovation, invention, and local practice. Briefly, innovation refers to an invention that has found a public; ie an invention that has been socialized. A local practice is simply that: somebody doing something specific in a given context and with a given rationale. But it is not necessarily an innovation by itself, even though it may be viewed as an innovation by others.
 - Between what constitutes the starting point for PID and partnership (ie the status of the power relationships among stakeholders, the existing initial capacities, the initial level of understanding about PID), and what could be designed as the desired outcome of a successful PID process: more balanced relationship, increased capacity of each stakeholder and of the partnership itself

3. Food for thought

Below are a few topics I believe may require open debate at some time.

What is good, “true” PID?

Behind this question which refers to something I heard in one of the group discussion, the issue is, can there be PID standards, without running the risk of endangering the very notion of local innovation processes and its diversity of contexts, modalities? Shouldn't we always consider the opportunity and value of engaging in PID vs. complementary or even different ways of solving problems?

Identifying innovation and diagnosing problems.

My point is that a lot of investments seems to have gone in identifying local innovations but is there enough being made on monitoring / assessing a constantly changing environment, which will allow to assess the value and need for specific innovations.

About the PID process

A major question is how we pilot such processes in order to adjust them if and when they deviate from desired outcomes / processes (such as imbalances in partner's participation). Of course, this is where there is a

strong role of M&E. But we should not forget the critical role played by the internal mechanisms put in place for the governance of PID processes.

I feel a need to systematize PID experiences dealing with social / organizational innovations: is there anything different from conducting PID on technical innovation? Another need would be to reflect on the differences in PID process between what could be called incremental innovations (akin to relatively minor adaptations of existing practices) and more “radical” innovation, implying system-wide changes in power relationships, or in access to resources

About the PID documentation process

I would challenge you to better reflect in your documentation of PID the diverse views of the various stakeholders involved in partnership: we seem to hear mostly the voice of the facilitators or the researcher, but where is the voice of the other stakeholders? The image I would use is that of polyphony, as beautifully put into practice in the musical tradition of SA folk music. Also, there is a need to adopt a long-term perspective in documenting process and innovation outcome. But then the question is: when is t0 for an innovation: the time when we identify the local innovation, or well before that? Also, there is a need to provide sufficient information to get away from local experiences and towards genericity of the innovation / process, so that it can be assessed outside the specific context within which it was generated

Linking empirical results and conceptual findings on innovation processes

There are a lot of synergies and sources of inspiration in the specialized literature that has accumulated on innovation processes: here I refer to the sociology of innovation, to the relationships between science and society, to the many experiences documented by scientists and academics. So my advice: do not fear to read and establish these linkages, there are some good thinkers out there, who have invested heavily in analyzing PID-like approaches in the fields of health, education, politics, etc. Not all of them are easy to read, but isolating ourselves from this wealth of experiences does not help us in achieving our shared goals

PID and Innovation systems (not mentioned orally)

What's the link between PID and Innovation systems (IS)? Although I am hardly a specialist in Innovation systems, which is why I opted for not delivering my observations in the IS perspective, as initially requested by the PROLINNOVA secretariat. In my view, PID actually focuses on the process of developing innovation, whereas IS looks at the overall innovation scene (actors involved, with the interactions they entertain with each others, driving forces, etc.) in which innovation takes place. In addition, PID often focuses on processes taking place at relatively small scales (such as a community, or a cluster of communities), where existing IS studies tend to focus so far on larger scales, i.e. sectoral or sub-sectoral innovations taking place at the level of an entire country. Hence my feeling is that IS is pretty much a useful analytical framework with which innovation processes may be characterized, very much like Farming Systems has been a framework to understand how farms and communities operate.

General discussion

Below are some comments that were voiced by participants following BT's presentation.

- we can and should provide quantitative data
- sometimes we are too fixated on PID, whereas there might be other ways of handling things, without actually engaging in a PID process
- we agree about the importance of understanding sufficiently both the context and the overarching purpose of innovation.
- There is a bias (Among farmers? Supporting PID teams?) towards sharing with others only the parts that work, and not mention what is less shining
- we need a shift in our emphasis towards farmer / stakeholder empowerment thru PID, rather than looking at innovation itself

- we indeed need to explain our use of key words when we share among ourselves, to make sure we understand what we mean
- There is indeed a danger in trying too hard to disseminate local innovations across borders
- we need to document the multiples voices present in each PID experience

Doubts were also mentioned. A major one relates to concepts and semantics at the heart of PROLINNOVA, i.e. what actually constitutes an innovation in a given place? The discussion was lively, and we collectively tried to differentiate among the following: local practice (something farmers do, which might or might not be “extraordinary” and “new”, local invention (made by an individual farmer to solve a problem or adapt to a new situation), local innovation (which according to BT may be differentiated from local invention by the fact some kind of socialization process takes place beyond the inventor him or herself).