



## **PROLINNOVA**

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

# **2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACDEP	Association of Church Development Projects
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
ARD	Agriculture Research and/or Development
ASE	Agri-Service Ethiopia
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIAT	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (International Centre for Tropical Agriculture)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIS-VUA	Centre for International Cooperation, Free University Amsterdam
CP	Country Programme
CRESA	Regional Centre for Specialised Education in Agriculture
CSO	Civil-Society Organisation
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
DGIS	Directorate General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
ECASARD	Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
EED	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst / Church Development Service
FAIR	Farmer Access to Innovation Resources
FARA	Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa
FSG	Farmer Support Group
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
IAAS	Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
INADES	African Institute for Economic and Social Development
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IST	International Support Team
ITDG	Intermediate Technology Development Group
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
KCNSA	Kampong Cham National School of Agriculture
LBL	Landwirtschaftliche Beratungszentrale (Agricultural Extension Centre) Lindau
LI-BIRD	Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development
LISF	Local Innovation Support Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation (Uganda)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PID	Participatory Innovation Development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PPILDA	Projet de Promotion de l'Initiative Locale pour le Développement de l'Aguié
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
PROFIEET	Promoting Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in Ethiopia
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
PV	Participatory Video
R&D	Research and Development
RUA	Royal University of Agriculture
SA	South Africa
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
TMF	<i>Thematische medefinanciering</i> (Theme-based co-financing)
ToF	Training of Facilitators
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

## I. INTRODUCTION

PROLINNOVA is an international programme to develop and institutionalise methodologies and partnerships that promote processes of local innovation in environmentally-sound use of natural resources.<sup>1</sup> It hopes to achieve that: 1) environmental and rural development policies in the countries involved give due importance to approaches that promote local innovation (Participatory Innovation Development, PID); 2) Natural Resource Management (NRM) programmes in these countries include PID components on a regular basis; and 3) sustainable multi-stakeholder partnerships are established for country-level planning and implementation of PID programmes and relevant policy design. PROLINNOVA is one of the Global Partnership Programmes that emerged from the consultations under the Global Forum for Agricultural Research.

This report presents the progress made within PROLINNOVA in 2005. Its main purpose is to document and share information on progress made among all partners and to inform the donors on programme development.

By the end of the year, all partners initiated a mid-term self-assessment with support from the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in the Philippines, as foreseen in the proposal to DGIS (Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation). These self-assessments were critically reviewed by an external consultant in early 2006. While the report of this external reviewer could not be taken into account when writing this report, the conclusions of the partners' self-evaluations have been taken into account in the relevant parts of this report.

The present report first presents developments and achievements at the level of the Country Programmes and indicates recommended lines of action. The support role of the International Support Team (IST) and its activities at the international level are discussed in a separate chapter, while the final chapter presents general directions for 2006 and beyond. A systematic comparison of achievements in relation to expected outputs is done through the M&E protocol table in Annex 2.

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<sup>1</sup> For further general information, please refer to [www.Prolinnova.net](http://www.Prolinnova.net), and Annex 1.

## II. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

### Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the activities realised by the nine PROLINNOVA Country Programmes (CPs) in 2005, in alphabetical order. As mentioned, details of activities and a systematic comparison with expected outputs are given in Annex 2. Detailed activity reports as well as annual progress reports per country are available from the country coordinator and the PROLINNOVA international secretariat at ETC EcoCulture.

It is important to note that the list of activities implemented in each country is not the same: it reflects the different work plans as developed by each CP. Within the overall PROLINNOVA framework, each CP finds specific ways to organise itself and to operationalise its activities. This allows flexibility in meeting local demands and interests.

To realise their activities, the CPs have appointed specific staff members for coordination and have mobilised funds, partly through DGIS. The flow of mobilised funds generally, and the DGIS funds through ETC EcoCulture specifically, did not encounter any major constraint in 2005. The change of key staff in at least three of the coordinating non-governmental organisations (NGOs), however, has led to the related delays in 2005, as reflected in the reports below.

### Cambodia

#### *Achievements*

After completion of the inception planning in 2004, a three-year MoU was signed with CEDAC (Cambodian Centre for the Study and Development of Agriculture), the NGO that coordinates PROLINNOVA in Cambodia. In 2005, the number of organisations involved expanded to 15: four NGOs; five Provincial Departments of Agriculture; two Departments of the National Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), the Kampong Cham National School of Agriculture (KCNSA), the Farmer and Nature Network (FNN) and the Commune Council of Thloak in Takeo.

The follow-up training of trainers (ToT) on PID was conducted in May/June 2005. It focused on "How to work with farmer experimenters" and included 26 participants. PROLINNOVA–Cambodia also organised a new ToT on PID, hosted at KCNSA in September, for 45 people from different stakeholder groups, including two representatives of farmer organisations.

The CP continued its work with educational institutions. Thirty-three young graduates from the agricultural university and colleges were trained in participatory approaches to agricultural development and PID. In addition, 19 lecturers from RUA and KCNSA were supported in doing field studies in Kampong Thom Province in order to interact with experimenting farmers. The lecturers were later invited to take part in a training workshop in December 2005 to develop a PID curriculum. The work of PROLINNOVA–Cambodia has led to introduction of a course on participatory action research at the Faculty of Agriculture and Rural Development of the International University as part of the BSc and MSc programmes. A similar course was also introduced at the RUA Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.

At field level, eight groups of experimenting farmers (involving 105 families) were supported to conduct farmer-led joint experimentation. The topics of experimentation were varied (see Box 1) but focused mainly on ecological agriculture. Governmental and non-governmental PROLINNOVA–Cambodia partners facilitated this activity. Village workshops were organised to promote awareness of local innovation, indigenous knowledge and best practices. A total of 800 farmers from various regions of Cambodia participated in 19 workshops. The most

promising local innovations were documented and then posted in CEDAC's own *Farmer Magazine*, which has 8000 subscribers and were later compiled into a book on *Farmer Innovation* (available in Khmer only). One inter-provincial workshop on women and promoting local innovation was conducted in March in Prey Veng Province to raise awareness on the role of women in this connection; 45 of the 54 participants were women.

Finally, a national workshop on local innovation was held in November. It brought together 144 participants from all stakeholders and partners. The one full-day dialogue aimed at exchanging knowledge, best practices and local innovation. During the workshop, 20 farmer innovators presented their experiences.

### **Box 1: Local innovation in Cambodia**

Mr Srey Sokhoeun lives in Prek Raing village, Tek Ho Commune, Rolear B'ear District in Kampong Chhnang Province, where the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is currently applied. SRI comprises an ensemble of techniques including the use of local selected seeds, compost, row planting and single seedling. The requirement of fertiliser is very important to improve the soil and to increase the yield. Yet compost was felt to be not enough...

Faced by this crucial challenge and through knowledge acquired from his father-in-law, Mr Sokhoeun tried to use bats' excrement as fertiliser.

He tried to further develop this knowledge to make it more useful for farmers in his village. On his own initiative, he built a nest of bats from the leaves of sugar palm trees. About 60 stems with entire palm leaves (dry leaves) gathered in 15 bunches are hung around the palm trunk. In that way, the stems protect bats from snakes, ants and other predators. The bananas are used to attract the bats. Mr Sokhoeun prepares also the area below the tree to make easier to collect excrement. He presently gets around 3 tons of bat excrement a year.

Mr Sokhoeun uses this rich fertiliser in his rice field and sells some of it to his neighbours. Every year he gains about 1,200,000 Riels (300 USD) from selling the fertiliser. But he does not stop there: Mr Sokhoeun also sells bat meat, which is traditionally believed to prevent and cure hemeralopia (day blindness).

Source: Sam Sophall, PDA-Kampong Chhnang in PROLINNOVA-Cambodia 2005 Annual Report

### ***Challenges and recommendations***

PROLINNOVA-Cambodia has developed rapidly over the last two years. It has learned that designing the programme together and sharing resources and decision-making power are key to ownership. However, finding time for key meetings and activities remains a challenge for partners.

PROLINNOVA-Cambodia is eager to build a platform at the grassroots level of farmer innovators and field staff, by organising series of workshops in which farmers meet and learn from each other. Twenty of such local workshops on local innovation will be organised in different regions in Cambodia in 2006. The CP also believes it should further accelerate its joint experimentation component by further decentralisation of funds to its partners.

## **Ethiopia**

### *Achievements*

In the first half of 2005, PROFIEET (Promoting Farmer Innovation and Experimentation in Ethiopia), the platform which implements PROLINNOVA activities in Ethiopia, gave continuity to the regional activities started in 2004. The strategy is based on the firm belief of PROFIEET that the PID processes must be decentralised and grounded in and adapted to local realities. Three regional training workshops were carried out in the coffee-growing zone (20 participants), the pastoralist area (21 participants)<sup>2</sup> and the typical Ethiopian highlands (20 participants). The events were designed using the PID manual that PROFIEET had compiled in 2004. In the workshops, farmers, formal researchers and extensionists also reviewed proposed innovations and selected three per zone for wider dissemination and/or further joint experimentation. A full description of the innovations will figure in the innovation catalogue to be issued in 2006.

PROFIEET worked closely with the NGO FARM-Africa to promote the idea of farmer participatory research and participatory extension in the 25 Vocational Agricultural Colleges of the Ministry of Agriculture. They prepared a proposal to institutionalise PID in these colleges where extensionists are trained. A meeting with the State Minister of Agriculture was organised to solicit support from him for the proposal for co-funding by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency). The meeting gave PROFIEET an opportunity to introduce its mission, basic concepts and principles at the highest possible level of agricultural policy in the country.

PROFIEET supported a “learning and sharing write-workshop” for Novib-Oxfam partners and government counterparts on *Knowledge Management: Sustainable Agriculture and Gender*, in December. It was organised by Agri-Service Ethiopia for Novib-Oxfam partners and counterparts to share knowledge (good, bad and new practices) on sustainable agriculture and gender. At this workshop, PROFIEET presented a paper on “Farmer innovation approach: harnessing the local and experts’ knowledge systems”. Finally, Dr Getenesh Sentayehu, one of the NSC members, represented PROLINNOVA in a workshop organised by CIAT on marketing of high-value crops, held 3–7 October 2005 in Colombia. The workshop looked at how to enable poor farmers to benefit from the production of high-value crops.

### *Challenges and recommendations*

PROFIEET has implemented a substantial part of the activities planned for 2005. However, the decentralisation of activities to the regions was not without problems. Limited interest at regional level and/or lack of communication contributed to the delay of some of the training and planning workshops and the subsequent activities foreseen. PROFIEET has learned that it should focus on not more than three regions.

The CP expects to pay particular attention to documentation of PID and local innovation throughout 2006. It will produce a documentary film on innovation cases, which will be used to support country-level policy dialogue.

## **Ghana**

### *Achievements*

PROLINNOVA–Ghana faced a number of constraints that led to a temporary slowdown of activities. There were communication problems both within the country and with the international secretariat. To be able to address these issues better, the Chair of the

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<sup>2</sup> The pastoralist workshop is reported here despite of the fact that it was held at the very beginning of January 2006, as it was part of the process of three regional workshops and most of the preparation work was done in 2005.



PROLINNOVA–Ghana NSC was invited to attend the international PROLINNOVA meeting in Entebbe and to discuss the Ghana programme with the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG). This discussion was fruitful and, upon the Chair's return, the NSC took a number of steps to re-strengthen the CP. A short transition contract was drafted to enable the NSC to act in this and to consolidate a few selected activities.

In late 2005, PROLINNOVA–Ghana organised a farmer-innovator workshop to review local innovations identified in 2004. About 25 innovators from Central, Western, Volta and Eastern Regions presented and explained their innovations. An additional 75 participants including farmers, researchers, extensionists, policymakers and people from civil-society organisations (CSOs) joined (part of) the event. A catalogue of most valuable innovations will be prepared as a concrete output. PROLINNOVA–Ghana also contributed substantially to the Ghana World Food Day activities in 2005.

PROLINNOVA partners in Northern Ghana organised a major national workshop on participatory research and extension with about 300 participants. While funded from other sources, this activity was so much in line with the PROLINNOVA agenda that the IST sent a representative to support this policy event and to give one of the keynote addresses.

#### *Challenges and recommendations*

The Ghana programme needs to consolidate the re-strengthening measures taken. Part of this is the organisation of the programme into two sub-programmes, one in the South and one in the North, with oversight by one NSC. The Southern zone will (continue to) be coordinated by ECASARD (Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development); the Northern zone will be led by ACDEP (Association of Church Development Projects). The Zones will have separate work plans and reports but will, wherever possible, try to learn from each other.

## **Nepal**

#### *Achievements*

PROLINNOVA–Nepal's structure and *modus operandi* were further developed in 2005. As a result, the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS) joined the CP's Core Group. IAAS is preparing a draft curriculum for BSc courses on PID. The CP has also begun the process of hiring a full-time programme assistant.

The national review of PID/PTD (Participatory Innovation/Technology Development) experiences in the country initiated in 2004 was finalised in 2005. Documentation of local innovations continued in different areas, broadening the scope of the 2004 survey to include, among others, medicinal plants and storage structures. Before collecting the data on local innovations, a checklist for innovations and innovators was refined and staff received orientation on the process of field documentation. Every organisation in the Core Group organised an in-house training for this purpose.

An important activity in Nepal was the implementation of a pilot Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF). All administrative procedures have been developed and the first five grants have been made to communities and groups, out of 23 applications. This pilot is generating important lessons for other countries planning to initiate a LISF with co-funding from DURAS (Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems), a project of the French Government.

PROLINNOVA–Nepal supported a three-day exhibition on indigenous and traditional technology organised by Parbat Chamber of Commerce in coordination with Micro-enterprise Development Programme in Pokhara (June), which attracted 10,000 visitors. Among the 41 stalls, farmers collaborating with PROLINNOVA–Nepal received two stalls and displayed their

innovations. The 22 innovations that were displayed were also documented with the help of the checklist prepared for field documentation.

#### *Challenges and recommendations*

The Nepali partners felt that formalisation of the partnership between the organisations in the Core Group was needed in order to be able to move and use funds, and establish a clear division of roles and responsibilities. However, formalising the partnership took time and resources. It was complicated to establish cooperation modalities between the partners in the group. The issue was solved at the end of the year, when all partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development), the NGO that serves as PROLINNOVA–Nepal Secretariat.

The Nepali partners emphasised in their mid-term assessment the need to move in 2006 beyond documentation of local innovation towards PID work on the ground and prioritised the strengthening of farmer organisations towards the formation a national platform of farmer innovators.

### **Niger**

The Niger CP has specific dynamics, as activities were foreseen to be funded fully by a new IFAD-supported project (PPILDA: *Projet de Promotion de l'Initiative Locale pour le Développement de l'Aguié*) with strong PROLINNOVA characteristics. When the start of the new project was delayed, funds were made available through ETC in early 2005 to co-fund a two-day workshop to review wider experiences with PID in the country and to discuss the feasibility and way forward for a PROLINNOVA–Niger initiative. This workshop was held in June and coordinated by CRESA (Regional Centre for Specialised Education in Agriculture), a semi-autonomous institute under the University of Niamey. Representatives of all key organisations and relevant projects attended the event and generally supported the launching of PROLINNOVA–Niger. A general structure and action plan were agreed upon.

While part of the action plan will indeed be funded by local partners, including PPILDA, the PROLINNOVA Secretariat agreed to allocate some DGIS resources (€15,000) to the plan. In 2006, the Niger CP will organise a ToT in PID. The trainees will subsequently support a process of documentation of innovations and PID on the ground.

### **South Africa**

#### *Achievements*

PROLINNOVA–South Africa had to postpone its first National Workshop from late 2004 to February 2005. Twenty people from various stakeholder groups took part and agreed on a comprehensive action plan for the next years. Twenty-one of the local innovations identified through a series of workshops in KwaZulu-Natal Province in 2004 led to the publication in early 2005 of a catalogue with photographs; this was launched during the National Workshop. Similar products are expected from the series of workshops that are taking place in Limpopo Province in November 2005 and March 2006.

In 2005, a Programme Coordinator from the Institute of Natural Resources was selected and appointed to assist the Country Coordinator in the Farmer Support Group (FSG), the NGO that coordinates the PROLINNOVA activities in South Africa. The Programme Coordinator played the main role in designing, organising and facilitating the PID sharing and learning workshop in Limpopo Province in November. Eight farmers (three women and five men) and 24 research and development (R&D) practitioners from NGOs, government agencies and universities attended the workshop. Then, as part of their regular work, they documented local innovations, profiled innovators and initiated partnerships between farmers and researchers as assignments for the follow-up workshop in 2006. The farmers requested

training in photography at the next workshop, so that they can document their own innovations.

PROLINNOVA–SA convinced the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to incorporate PID into its programme to build the capacities of researchers in Agricultural Research for Development (ARD). An MoU is being drafted to formalise PROLINNOVA's role in this programme. In 2005, 30 participants in this ARD programme were introduced to the PROLINNOVA programme and to PID; further training in PID is foreseen for 2006.

PROLINNOVA–SA has taken the lead in reviving PELUM<sup>3</sup> in South Africa and in mobilising farmers within ESAFF<sup>4</sup>. It also played a leading role in developing the FAIR (Farmer Access to Innovation Resources) proposal for piloting LISFs, to be submitted to DURAS (see Section III-a on fundraising).

### *Challenges and recommendations*

The CP found it difficult to combine the demands from PROLINNOVA-related initiatives and opportunities with those of their own institutions. It was in response to this that a Programme Coordinator was hired. She is gradually improving communication among the members of the Core Team, calling for progress on action items and picking up on discussions that had 'gone quiet'.

For advocacy and policy dialogue, PROLINNOVA–SA follows the strategy of informal discussion and building relationships with representatives from organisations at different levels, before engaging top management and pursuing more formal partnerships (creating a critical mass within an institution).

In 2006, PROLINNOVA–SA will strengthen the PID work on the ground as follow-up to the sharing and learning workshops in the two provinces. A workshop is being prepared to be held in Limpopo Province in early 2006; here, the outcomes of the field work conducted since the 2005 workshop will be presented and the way forward to strengthen partnerships will be discussed. Attention will also be given to building capacities of farmers by offering them training in local documentation through photography and by supporting regional meetings of innovators (the Limpopo Farmer Forum).

## **Sudan**

### *Achievements*

The PROLINNOVA programme in Sudan formally started as of January 2005, though an inception workshop was already organised in 2004, to a large extent with local resources. Practical Action (formerly Intermediate Technology Development Group, ITDG), is the lead agency for the programme in Sudan. In 2005, staff changes, including the departure of the PROLINNOVA CP coordinator, complicated the implementation of activities and it took until the end of the year to recruit a new coordinator and to bring him up to date with the programme.

In spite of this, three regional workshops were convened in 2005: in Kassala (60 participants, 30% women), Darfur (57 participants) and Kordofan (57 participants, 40% women). In these workshops, the PROLINNOVA programme was introduced to relevant stakeholders. At the end of each workshop, a local steering committee was formed to take responsibility for implementation of activities in the region.

In May, the PROLINNOVA CP coordinator and one of the NSC members took part in the Golden Jubilee of the Gedaref State Farmers Association. They presented PROLINNOVA and

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<sup>3</sup> PELUM: Eastern, Central and Southern African Network in Participatory Ecological Land Use Management

<sup>4</sup> ESAFF: Eastern and Southern African Small-Scale Farmer Forum

had informal consultations with the Head of the Farmers' Association, the Pastoralists' Association, government officials and staff from the Agricultural Research and Technology Corporation and from educational institutions.

#### *Challenges and recommendations*

With the new coordinator appointed and briefed, the CP is set to further expand. Mobilising and activating the NSC – the platform for stakeholder collaboration – is a key priority. In 2006, the CP also intends to invest strongly in capacity building, including the organisation of a ToT course.

### **Tanzania**

#### *Achievements*

Tanzania joined PROLINNOVA only in 2005. The CP is coordinated by PELUM–Tanzania, a network of Tanzanian NGOs, and receives technical support from the NGO INADES (African Institute for Economic and Social Development). Its Coordination Committee is composed of PELUM–Tanzania, INADES and the Institute for Continuing Education at Sokoine University of Agriculture. The Tanzania CP, through PELUM, has been able to raise substantial funding for PROLINNOVA to complement funding available from DGIS. The German NGO donor EED (Church Development Service) has committed €135,000 for the period 2005–07.

In 2005, considerable time was spent on finalising the arrangements between the key participating organisations and hiring (by PELUM) of a full-time project officer. In addition to this, the CP organised early in the year a sensitisation workshop PID among potential partners. Participants were introduced to PROLINNOVA and they shared experiences and challenges in promoting local innovation. They also discussed the way forward for PROLINNOVA–Tanzania, and most organisations showed an interest to be involved, even if it had to be on a resource-sharing basis.

Subsequently, a national planning workshop was organised in November, when 21 participants (eight of them farmer innovators) came together to discuss strategic directions for PROLINNOVA in the country. Participants prepared action plans to promote local innovation in their respective organisations using their (own) available resources. They also agreed on the overall action plan and elected members to the PROLINNOVA–Tanzania multi-stakeholder steering committee.

#### *Challenges and recommendations*

PROLINNOVA–Tanzania is developing its programme by building on previous related programmes, such as Promoting Farmer Innovation (PFI) and Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation (ISWC). The CP will assess results and achievements of these two programmes, re-visit the 60 farmer innovations already mapped through them, and study the work of some of these farmer innovators in terms of development and spread of their innovations since 2000.

The CP still faces the challenge to strengthen the partnership with the different stakeholder institutions and to ensure that they are further exposed to local innovations and PID.

### **Uganda**

#### *Achievements*

While the documentation of local innovation continued in 2005, involving two new organisations, PROLINNOVA–Uganda enabled four farmer innovators to work with formal researchers and extension staff in joint experimentation (see example in Box 2 below). This involves both validation of the innovations and their further development. An MoU has been

developed for the actors engaged in this process. At the end of 2005, the innovators, researchers and extension agents met at a sharing workshop attended by 23 people. Experiences in PROLINNOVA, particularly in joint experimentation, were reviewed and lessons drawn. During the year, the programme coordinator visited four organisations (two NGOs, one research centre and one university) that had been involved in the PID training workshop in 2004, and discussed successes and challenges in implementing their PID action plans. They stressed the need for more capacity building of extension workers, NGO field staff and trainers on PID.

In 2005, policy work has been a major activity. PROLINNOVA–Uganda participated in the General Assembly of the Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) that took place in Entebbe 6–12 June 2005. It also had a stand in the Agricultural Research in Africa exhibition that took place in Entebbe during the same period. Two local innovators currently involved in the joint experimentation process were able to present their work there. PROLINNOVA–Uganda reached an agreement with the Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation at Makerere University to make regular topical presentations on local innovation.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) held four meetings in 2005 and elected a new Chair, Mrs Joyce Muwanga from the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, after the sudden death of the then Chair in May 2005. Fundraising efforts continued to tap into local resources to supplement the DGIS funds. These included contacts with the Nuffic (Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education) programme and proposal development with Makerere University, University of Florida, Nairobi University and CIAT (International Centre for Tropical Agriculture) for IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development). PROLINNOVA–Uganda also participated in writing the proposal for the FAIR project which was submitted to DURAS for funding (see Section III-a).

#### *Challenges and recommendations*

The challenge to realise *true* joint experimentation became evident in 2005. In several cases, the PID resembled classical on-farm experiments with researchers playing a dominant role. Joint experimentation means drawing up a joint agenda and jointly monitoring and evaluating the process and results. PROLINNOVA–Uganda has learned from this experience and will improve its methodology accordingly.

#### **Box 2: Local innovation in Uganda**

The termite problem and potential solution can be summarised as follows: there has been an explosion in termite numbers over the last ten years in the rangelands, which are used on an individual rather than communal basis. The Nakulonge Community Initiatives Association (NACIA) was set up to deal with the problem collectively. A grant from the Small Grant Programme of the UNDP-GEF led to various technical efforts, such as applying insecticide and digging trenches to disrupt the termites' movement, but to no avail. One NACIA member – Mr George William Lubega, a farmer innovator who is around 80 years old – then recollected that a predatory ant had been introduced into his home area near Toro, Western Uganda, from Tanzania, to deal with the problem. The ant is highly effective there and is cultured (or at least protected) by local people, as it prevents termites from destroying buildings. PROLINNOVA–Uganda sponsored a trip by NACIA members to the Toro area so that they could bring back a sample of these predatory ants ("*orukoko*" in the local language). The Biological Control Unit of NARO (National Agricultural Research Organisation) was engaged to be the formal research partner in the joint experimentation.

It was also discovered that the farmer innovator Mr Lubega had an even more interesting story to tell: he had developed a system to rehabilitate rangeland, based on long-term night-corralling of livestock. The corral (kraal or '*boma*') is much larger than normal, and animals

are kept there overnight for several seasons. The result was a thorough incorporation of the dung (aided ironically by the termites), which improved the soil condition and led to re-establishment of stoloniferous grasses – *Cynodon* and *Brachyaria*, in this case.

Source: PROLINNOVA–Uganda 2005 Report

Another challenge remains the limited resources available to the CP. Local fundraising will continue. The demanding schedules of the partners in their own organisations still leads to delays in responding to key issues, re-scheduling of some activities, etc. However, compared to previous years, the commitment at Core Team and NSC level has certainly increased.

In 2006, the CP will strengthen its work in the field, making sure that PROLINNOVA is based on well-grounded results and experiences and, thus, better able to influence policymakers.

## **Conclusions**

At country level, PROLINNOVA showed considerable progress in 2005, as the data shown in Annex 2 confirm. The partnerships at country level were strengthened, training events were organised and farmer-led experimentation was started on the ground. Farmers also became stronger partners at meetings and committees. At the end of the year, the CP partners went through a critical and constructive process of reviewing what they had done and achieved, and very openly discussed their difficulties and challenges. As a result, the CPs are set to further strengthen their work on the ground.

The above shows that the CPs are increasingly focusing on institutionalisation of the PID approach, especially through institutions of higher education. They plan to exchange their experiences about this more regularly in 2006, which may lead to a separate sub-programme on this important aspect. Generally, all countries realise that, in this last year of the first phase of DGIS funding, priority needs to be given to documentation of not only results achieved but also of experiences, methods and approaches used and lessons learnt.

### III. ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

While the main thrust of PROLINNOVA is at the country level, a number of activities are undertaken at the international level. These activities provide support to the CPs and create awareness of PROLINNOVA issues among relevant international agencies. Additionally, several activities focus on programme management. The updated monitoring protocol in annex 2 gives again a detailed overview of achievements as compared to expected outputs. These are summarised below and compared to what was planned for the year.

The International Support Team (IST) – made up of staff members of IIRR (Philippines), LBL (Switzerland) and CIS-VUA and ETC EcoCulture in the Netherlands – plays a major role in these activities. However, where possible, members of CPs are encouraged to be involved in activities at international level, for example, in international policy dialogue and meetings.

#### a. Support to Country Programmes

##### Country backstopping

Each member of the IST is assigned one or two countries to which s/he gives specific attention in the form of “country backstopping”. This enables building of effective and long-lasting relationships with partners in the respective countries, and gaining in-depth insights into the specific circumstances of each country. A large part of the country backstopping takes place through electronic means or telephone consultations. In addition, in 2005, country backstopping missions were undertaken either specifically for this purpose or added onto other work visits by IST members to the relevant countries.

**Table 1: Country backstopping and support**

<i>List of Activities in original proposal</i>	<b>Planned in 2005</b>	<b>Realised in 2005</b>
<i>H1. "Backstopping" individual country programmes: commenting on proposals, reports, etc; advising on implementation of activities; supporting national level M&amp;E.</i>	E-mail communication and support active for all countries. All 9 countries visited once.	E-mail communication and support active for all countries. A total of 13 missions covering all countries, with the exception of Sudan.

The IST also supports partners in other countries in developing PROLINNOVA-type of initiatives. In 2005, Agrecol–Andes, World Neighbors and IIRR–Latin America were given technical advice for initiating a PROLINNOVA–Andes programme. An inception meeting is foreseen in the first part of 2006, a large part of which will be funded by the key stakeholders themselves. Under the name of PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel), several organisations in West African countries have also developed their own regional programme with technical support from the IST. Two donors have expressed serious interest in this initiative and it is expected to be launched in mid-2006. Contacts with interested organisations in Kenya and India were continued in 2005.

##### Fundraising

A second line of country support provided by the IST is in fundraising. This is intended to complement the limited annual budgets available to the CPs through the present core funding. The IST supports local fundraising efforts of individual countries during backstopping missions and coordinates writing of proposals on sub-components for groups of countries expressing interest in the relevant sub-component.

**Table 2: Fundraising activities**

<i>List of activities in original proposal</i>	<b>Planned in 2005</b>	<b>Realised in 2005</b>
<i>H2. Support raising funds for PROLINNOVA activities</i>	Proposal submission for Local Innovation Support Fund (LISF) pilots in 4 countries.	LISF proposal submitted by PROLINNOVA partner in South Africa and funding confirmed by DURAS (€150,000); co-funding by GEF is presently under preparation.
	Participatory Video (PV)	Explorative contacts with World Bank not positive. General PV proposal given to countries for making own proposals and approaching regional/national donors.
	Support CPs' fundraising efforts	Countries supported: Ethiopia (CIDA), Uganda (Nuffic) and Nepal (IUCN Small Grants).
	Co-funding international meeting	Realised from GFAR Secretariat; CTA support was not possible this year.

In 2005, IST members held discussions with several other donors to explore interest in joint initiatives or co-funding of components of PROLINNOVA. These include discussions with IFAD, Rome, on a new programme for capacity building in PID combining distance learning with face-to-face training with coordination by CIAT, Colombia; with Novib regarding cooperation in the field of knowledge management; and with IDRC (International Development Research Centre), Canada, for support to action research in partnership building. No firm decisions have been taken so far in any of these initiatives.

### **Exchange and learning between countries and partners**

Discussion on the Yahoo discussion group continued but with a slightly lower intensity (139 entries compared to 179 in 2004). Among the topics discussed were the use of Participatory Video and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), and giving awards for local innovations. Most other postings to the electronic listserver concerned news items, calls for contributions from journals, and information on publications, workshops, courses, etc. IIRR ran a trial with the Pro-Board bulletin board; first impressions indicate limited use of this facility (a full report from IIRR is under preparation).

**Table 3: International exchange, capacity building and learning activities**

<i>List of activities in original proposal</i>	<b>Planned in 2005</b>	<b>Realised in 2005</b>
<i>I.1. Establishment and facilitation of electronic exchange platform</i>	Facilitation of Yahoo discussion group. Trial with web-based discussion platform	Yahoo group actively used. Trial undertaken; Yahoo group appears more effective so far.
<i>I.2. Programme-wide planning, review and capacity building workshops</i>	International Meeting of CP coordinators.	CP coordinators meetings realised June 2005, report available.
	Second Training of Trainers provisional to raising additional funds	Not realised.



## b. International awareness, analysis and dissemination of lessons learnt

A central challenge for the IST is to create awareness and acceptance of PROLINNOVA's approach at the international level, within international agencies and bilateral donors based in the North. To this end, it undertakes activities to mobilise experiences from the countries, analyse these across countries and share the results widely: (co-)organise international workshops and participate in those organised by others, maintain a website, produce an electronic newsletter, write papers and articles for workshops and journals, and undertake a number of other policy-dialogue activities.

Table 4 summarises the main achievements in 2005. The *PTD/PID Circular* (No. 14) was produced as planned and included a comprehensive list of journals and newsletters which accept articles on local innovation and PID for publication. The website was further expanded and updated. It featured 18 news items compared to 16 in 2004, while the number of visitors increased steadily to 180 hits per day from 14 separate visitors/day. PROLINNOVA's profile on the websites of others also increased and it now features on at least 25 other international resource websites and/or are linked to these (see list in Annex 3). In 2005, members of PROLINNOVA were again very active in writing of papers, articles and other publications, as the 2005 list of publications in Annex 5 shows.

Another important strategy of PROLINNOVA is to spread its message by participating in and contributing to selected international seminars, workshops and conferences. Members of PROLINNOVA are often asked to deliver a keynote address or present a paper, for which costs are covered by the organisers of the event. In 2005, PROLINNOVA was represented at 22 such events, involving 24 IST and POG members (14 female, 10 male) and 22 CP members: 22 (6 female, 16 male). Annex 5 gives a detailed list of events attended.

**Table 4: International awareness raising and spread of lessons learnt**

<i>List of activities in original proposal</i>	<b>Planned in 2005</b>	<b>Realised in 2005</b>
<i>J1. Consolidation of PROLINNOVA website</i>	Continuous effort	Realised; hits increased to 180/day by 14 separate visitors/day.
<i>J2. Compilation and dissemination of electronic newsletter: PTD Circular</i>	1 <i>PTD Circular</i>	<i>PTD Circular</i> 14 compiled and distributed.
<i>J3. Organising international conference on institutionalisation of PID/PTD</i>	Planned for 2007	-
<i>J4. Program-wide analysis and systematisation of experiences in institutionalising PID/PTD</i>	Planned for 2007	-
<i>J5. International dissemination of information of experiences with PROLINNOVA and lessons learnt via other databases, media and international events</i>	Continuous effort (target 2 articles and unspecified number of other publications over 4-year period).	Eight papers published (see list of publications, in Annex 4).

<i>List of activities in original proposal</i>	<b>Planned in 2005</b>	<b>Realised in 2005</b>
<i>K1. Attendance at international meetings, conferences and workshops and/or ensuring attendance by partners in the South</i>	Continuous effort (target 5 events over 4-year period)	22 events attended (see Annex 5)
<i>K2. Other strategic advocacy and policy-dialogue activities at international level, including participation in selected committees relevant for PROLINNOVA</i>	-	-
<i>K3. Preparation and distribution of well-targeted PROLINNOVA policy briefs</i>	Planned for 2006/2007	-

### **Level of awareness and recognition at the international level**

A first impression on the impact that the above-mentioned activities have had on the awareness created on PROLINNOVA and its approach was obtained by a “quick-and-dirty” web search. Using the standard Google search machine in March 2006, the word “PROLINNOVA” generated 825 hits (compared to 89 in March 2005 and 20 in December 2003) and a search on “Participatory Innovation Development” gave 444 hits in March 2006. Using Google scholar, “PROLINNOVA” generated ten hits in March 2006 (as opposed to two in March 2005), and “Participatory Innovation Development” generated 27 (compared to 15 in March 2005). A review of recent NRM policy documents of selected major international bodies is planned for early 2006 as another means of assessing PROLINNOVA’s results in this area.

### **c. Programme management**

Programme management includes the management and administration of funds, governance of the network through the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG), coordination of the IST and programme M&E. Table 5 summarises the main achievements. In 2005, the administration of fund disbursement took place as planned. The Ghana CP received resources for two concrete activities only, in order to finalise previous work and to undertake a number of steps to strengthen internal and external coordination. The MoU with Sudan could not be finalised on account of staff changes in the lead NGO, but ETC agreed to co-fund a number of activities undertaken in 2005 because of the commitment shown by the said NGO to the programme.

**Table 5: Realisation of programme management activities**

<i>List of activities in original proposal</i>	<b>Planned in 2005</b>	<b>Realised in 2005</b>
<i>L1. Network/programme management and administration of funds</i>	Formalise programmes in Tanzania, Sudan, Niger (sign MoU). Transfer resources twice/year.  Mid-year and annual reporting.	Tanzania, Niger finalised; Sudan interim option. Work plans and budgets approved for fund transfers to all countries.  Annual 2004 report and mid-2005 report completed.

<b>List of activities in original proposal</b>	<b>Planned in 2005</b>	<b>Realised in 2005</b>
<i>L2. Formation and facilitation of international Programme Coordination Committee</i>	One POG meeting, further communication via e-mail.	Two POG meetings: South Africa (February) and Uganda (June, back-to-back with CP coordinators meeting and FARA); intensive e-mail contact.
<i>L3. Coordination meetings of International Support Team</i>	IST to meet at PROLINNOVA June meeting in Uganda	Some members met at Uganda meeting; regular communication among all members through Email and Skype.
<i>L4. Programme-wide Monitoring and Evaluation – Quality Management – system designed and implemented</i>	M&E designed at programme and country levels; indicators and data collected and monitored	Regular M&E through progress reporting More comprehensive M&E framework agreed at programme level, not operationalised in all countries. Capacity building on M&E in annual meeting, backstopping missions and by Email from IIRR.

The POG was able to meet twice in 2005, in both cases at little costs as the meetings were organised back-to-back with other events. These two successful meetings allowed the POG to organise itself completely and set policy guidelines on a number of issues (Criteria and procedures for including new countries in PROLINNOVA, Mechanisms for financial transparency and accountability, IPR issues, Procedures and criteria for selecting participants to attend international meetings, Code of practice for PID, and Procedures for including existing CPs in proposals for new projects under PROLINNOVA). A first internal assessment of the functioning of the POG will be made during the PROLINNOVA international meeting of partners in Cambodia in early March 2006.

While the regular collection and compilation of M&E information through the mid-year and annual reporting continued, considerable efforts were made to further strengthen the (participatory) M&E component. A full session of the two-day country coordinators meeting in June was devoted to further training in M&E and operationalising the list of M&E indicators. Within the decentralised design of PROLINNOVA, individual countries have formulated country-level PROLINNOVA objectives based on their own priorities, and each CP therefore has to adapt the general M&E framework to its own situation. To this end, each CP has appointed an M&E focal person who receives technical advice from the IST member IIRR, an international resource organisation in M&E. ETC EcoCulture is making sure that the process continues to generate the information relevant for M&E of the overall programme. After further consultation with DGIS, an overall programme M&E protocol was agreed upon, and was used in 2005 as the basis for Annex 2 of this report.

## IV. OVERVIEW OF FUNDS AND RESOURCES

PROLINNOVA has three main categories of funding sources. The first is that of the programme donors, presently the Netherlands Government through the DGIS-TMF programme. Several donors that fund specific activities or sub-programmes form the second category. In 2005, these included GFAR through FAO. The French Government through its DURAS programme also agreed to co-fund LISF pilots but, because the flow of funds was not realised in 2005, DURAS data are not included here. The third category is the own contribution by PROLINNOVA partners in the countries and at the international level, mostly in the form of staff time and/or provision of facilities. This last category also includes costs of tickets and/or DSA for international advocacy activities paid by inviting organisations or others.

The PROLINNOVA financial report 2005 (Annex 6) gives a complete overview of the income and expenditure in the reporting year. These figures are summarised in Table 6. Generally, expenditures at CP level are below budget. This is in line with the analysis of Section 2 of this report, which shows a delay in implementation in a few countries because of change of staff or internal dynamics. Expenditures at the international level exceed the budget, but this was covered by own contributions in terms of the time of IST member organisations. Actual support requested from DGIS for 2005 at this level, and for PROLINNOVA as a whole, is slightly below budget.

**Table 6: Summary financial report for 2005 (all figures in €)**

	Budget 2005		Expenditures			
	Total***	Budget DGIS	Total	DGIS-TMF	Other donors	Own contribution
Country programmes	260,300	141,500	187,310	118,022		69,288
Across countries	12,000	7,800	12,294	12,294		
International support activities*	249,331	177,307	294,750	162,920	6,216	125,614
Unforeseen**	26,082	11,021	18,807	14,759		4,048
<b>TOTAL 2005</b>	<b>547,713</b>	<b>337,628</b>	<b>513,161</b>	<b>307,995</b>	<b>6,216</b>	<b>198,950</b>
Percentage of funds			100	60	1	39

\* Refers to: country backstopping, lobbying and advocacy at international level, programme management, communication, travel expenses and publication costs.

\*\* Costs of un-budgeted coordinators meeting in Uganda, June 2005.

\*\*\* The budget is the confirmed budget scenario of the 2005 work plan (DURAS funding came too late to be included; extra ToT funds not realised).

Own contributions thus form a considerable part of the resources. While all partners contribute to this, the largest part in monetary terms consists of the own contribution of extra time spent by members of the IST on PROLINNOVA activities. This is a clear indication that the

IST organisations do not consider PROLINNOVA merely as a contracted project but rather as a mission to which they are strongly committed. Extra time of IST members is valued on the basis of daily fee levels as in the agreement with DGIS.

Finally, Table 7 gives the cumulative expenditures figures for 2003–05. PROLINNOVA started operations in 2003 with the inception phase, funded by IFAD and CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation). The table presents the relative importance of the various sources of funding over the whole period and shows the increasing number of donors supporting PROLINNOVA.

**Table 7: Total expenditures 2003–05 (all figures in €)**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>DGIS</b>	<b>IFAD</b>	<b>CTA</b>	<b>Misereor</b>	<b>World Bank</b>	<b>GFAR</b>	<b>Own contribution</b>
Expenditure 2003	<b>200,514</b>		<b>86,350</b>	<b>36,344</b>				<b>77,820</b>
Expenditure 2004	<b>471,200</b>	<b>226,866</b>		<b>8,492</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>9,943</b>	<b>182,899</b>
Expenditure 2005*	<b>513,161</b>	<b>307,995</b>					<b>6,590</b>	<b>198,576</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,184,875</b>	<b>534,861</b>	<b>86,350</b>	<b>44,836</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>16,533</b>	<b>459,295</b>
Percentage of total	<b>100%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>39%</b>

\* DURAS co-funding approved for 2005, but data not included as flow of funds did not start in 2005.

## V. THE WAY FORWARD

With the start of activities in the last of the three initially planned countries, PROLINNOVA is now operational in all the nine countries foreseen and most countries have been able to realise active multi-stakeholder collaboration. In 2005, the PROLINNOVA Oversight Group took shape and started to play an active role, thus strengthening the network governance. A strong basis has been established for expanding the activities.

Because of the changes within DGIS from TMF to MFS, PROLINNOVA implementation has to be accelerated in order to complete a coherent set of activities by the end of 2006, rather than by the end of 2007, as had originally been planned and budgeted. The immediate priority for 2006 is therefore a proper consolidation and documentation of all activities, leading to concrete outputs before the end of the year. To this end, an adapted work plan for 2006 was prepared and forwarded to DGIS.

The interim assessment (internal and external) in late 2005 and early 2006 has generated the medium-term strategic directions for the network. They continue to hinge on an effective combination of on-the-ground collaborative work with farmer innovators and communities as a learning ground, and policy dialogue and institutionalisation efforts to arrive at the relevant institutional changes. Capacity building at farmer as well as institutional level will have an important place.

To ensure continuity of PROLINNOVA, the process of expanding and diversifying its donor group will continue. In the past, DGIS commitment to provide programme funding has been critical, as it provided a minimum basis for partners to mobilise interest of other donors for specific sub-activities. Such basic programme funding will continue to be needed for this catalysing role, and ETC has been asked by its partners to include support to PROLINNOVA in its new proposal to DGIS for MFS funding in the period 2007–10.